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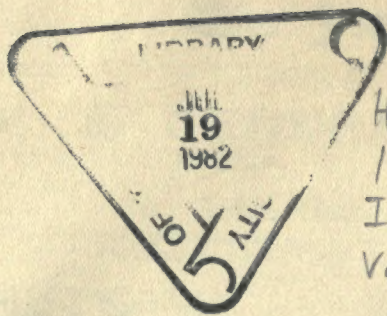
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The Investors' Review.

Well Done Prefretaliators!

Mr. Joseph and Mr. Arthur are doing extremely well—for us. The picture of an empire in danger of dissolution, unless it is welded together by a 2s. per quarter tax on foreign wheat and by the maintenance of Chinese slavery on the Witwatersrand, such as Mr. Joseph Chamberlain drew for the jewellers in Birmingham and an amused nation last Saturday evening, is one surely calculated to inspire every enlightened voter in the three kingdoms to vote against him. Of Mr. Balfour's tight-rope performances on "retaliation" we have really nothing more to say. They are extremely diverting and most useful to those who desire to see the country follow the path of sanity, good will among nations and commonsense, but we must really congratulate him upon his defence of Chinese slavery at Leamington. That is just the kind of speechifying we want. The more the country is led to direct its thoughts towards the unspeakable confusion produced in South Africa by the subservience of the late Government to the cosmopolites who have settled upon the mining wealth of that region and developed it entirely as spoil for their own pockets, the better pleased all lovers of their country will be. Mr. Balfour, on the side of Sodom, is indeed the admired of "the gods." Nothing could well be more grotesque in the eyes of the sane and intelligent than these manifestations of the new Phœnician Imperialism. They obviously please gentlemen like Mr. Benjamin Kidd though, for he has been illuminating the columns of the *Times* with such wonderful deliverances as this:—"We are, therefore, now driven—all half-informed generalities about trade being merely exchange notwithstanding—to fall back on the policy of fighting our own purely defensive economic battle for the large market and equal opportunities, just as we recently felt compelled to back Japan in fighting a purely military battle for exactly the same end in Manchuria." This is delightful, and doubtless Mr. Kidd, out of the profundity of his wisdom, will be able to tell us at what point the bludgeon or the "fighting" in trade has effected a change for the better in the relations between two commercial countries. Has Canada gained anything by clapping an extra 33½ per cent. upon its duties in order to punish the German Empire for the increase in its tariff? Is there an instance to be found in the history of nations where threats, the imposition of vengeful taxation, has done anything except exasperate, provoke, determine the country attacked to hit back? How about Italy and France? Bah! as well ask the long-eared owl his views about the rings of Saturn.

This, however, is just the kind of thing we look for from tariffites; men totally unacquainted with the foundations upon which the commerce of this country has been built up under Free Trade; totally incapable also of treating any subject on lines of plain commonsense. And they have a worthy leader in Mr. Joseph Chamberlain. Just imagine what effect his empire-welding offer of a 2s. duty on wheat by way of preference, by way also of punishment to the Argentine country, most of whose working capital is British, must have upon the minds of the Canadian manufacturer and farmer. To get an idea of what the feelings excited in these quarters may be readers should

turn back to the remarkable article by a correspondent in Ottawa signed "St. Lawrence" and published in our issue of the 23rd ult. If they want further help in comprehension of the grotesque absurdity of Mr. Chamberlain's proposals they have only to take a glance at the existing Canadian tariff. Under the much-trumpeted preference accorded to British manufactures by the Canadian Government, our manufacturers still suffer obstruction to their trade more hampering than most "foreign" nations impose. There are some things, such as silk manufactures of certain qualities, the duties on which, levied on British manufacturers in the interests of the Canadians and paid by the consumers in Canada, amount to 40 per cent. But in many instances where we do get the vaunted reduction or preference amounting to one-third of the maximum duty consumers of our goods pay 20 per cent., among these things being woollen yarns not directly imported by Canadian weavers for their own factories. Canadians still pay from 3½ to 30 per cent. upon certain kinds of imported British cotton tissues, linen handkerchiefs, woollen goods, and so on, plus, of course, the importer's and retailer's profits. Is a 2s. duty on corn offered to the wheat-grower in the Canadian North-West going to induce the manufacturers of lower Canada to open their doors to an influx of British goods by removing these duties? It is much more likely to excite their contemptuous wrath, or to incite them to clamour for more "protection," poor naked ones! And whether or not, this is not the way to bind the Empire together. It is the way to split it in pieces. Assume "preference" to be established on Mr. Joseph's "two bob a quarter" basis and Mr. Arthur's retaliation to be in full swing, will the colonies be less jealous of each other? Of what use is a 2s. duty on wheat to Australia, where the yield per acre varies from four bushels to 14 bushels, and will retaliation induce the Germans to lower their tariff in our favour, or the French, or the Russians, or the people of the United States? The question has but to be asked to reveal the grotesque dishonesty of the whole agitation. It is throughout falsetto where it is not wholly false, and it would end in other fights than those merely of tariffs. If you want rivers of blood to run again, vote for Joseph and Arthur. Oddly enough, we do not hear anything now from these gentlemen or their squires about that Transvaal war costs contribution which as recently as last Budget Mr. Austen Chamberlain trotted out to excite our expectations by. "I hope," he said, "we shall have also available, for the purpose of reducing debt, the first instalment of the Transvaal War contribution." In words appropriate to the dialect of the Witwatersrand we might ask, parodying Hans Breitmann, "Vere is dat Hoffnung now?" The question interests Witwatersrand mine shareholders as well as us poor taxpayers, and might lead them, had they sense, to inquire whether they have got any benefits from that importation of Chinese serfs—we must not call them slaves, Mr. Balfour says, and they differ from the old-fashioned slaves in that some small modicum of wage is given to them, but in other respects their position is more degraded than the slaves maintained in troops by the patricians of ancient Rome or by the Phœnicians who were said to have worked mines in Central Africa. But that question aside, where has the profit on their employment been to the mine shareholders? That the bosses who manage the business have made money on the freights, the provision contracts, and other chances we have no doubt at all; but have the dividends of the outside shareholders increased? Are these shareholders any richer for the labour of these human machines? Not that we can discover. In all our scrupulously exact analyses of the positions of these mining properties we have not been able to discover indications of increased profit, of an out-turn that would justify the prices still current for the mountains of paper manufactured by these cosmopolites and traded off to the unwary multitude at confidence-trick prices. Speakers at public meetings during the

Election might dwell a little upon this aspect of the subject and try to get those who are clamouring for the maintenance of the infamous serf arrangement—an arrangement, let it never be forgotten, by which the hostility of the population of China against us is being stimulated to a dangerous extent—to say what they have gained by the experiment. It is simply lying to maintain that the mines could not be worked without the help of these poor wretches. They were worked without their help before the war, and can be so again, more profitably than ever, provided some measure of honesty is imparted to the control. How are low-grade ores in California and in Australia worked at a profit by white labour, and what are the forces hindering similar success at the Witwatersrand? For the answer go to Mr. J. B. Robinson's excellent letters to the *Daily News*. The dynamite monopoly, to abolish which we went to war with the Boers, is more ruthless than ever, but it is the cosmopolites, the late Government's masters and ours, who profit by it, not the State or the beguiled, befooled, and robbed British taxpayer, not the mine shareholders. But do not they and we deserve all we get if we tolerate a continuance of a system thus vile, thus profitless, except to the gold-smothered helots of Park Lane and their favoured retainers? It is a great cry though—"Chinamen save the Empire."

Mr. W. H. Mallock's Statistical Abstract.

In the December number of the *Nineteenth Century and After*, Mr. W. H. Mallock announces an important discovery to the world. He seems to have lighted upon a number of the "Statistical Abstract of the United Kingdom," the number which brings the summaries of our trade figures down to the end of 1903, and hastens to inform astonished mankind of the fact. That he is not aware of the existence of previous issues of this important statistical compilation would appear to be a fair inference from his dependence upon that highly romantic, not to say purely imaginatively poetical statistician, the late Mr. Mulhall, for most of his figures for earlier dates than 1889, the first year embraced in the solitary number of "Statistical Abstract" Mr. Mallock enjoyed the pleasure of skimming. This dependence leads him into wondrous errors, with some of which we shall deal by-and-by. For the present it is interesting and full of amusement to note the highly patronising manner in which Mr. Mallock handles his precious copy of the "Statistical Abstract" and the public department responsible for its compilation. "The way," he says, "in which the items of information have been put together, especially those which refer to the questions of imports and exports, is so imperfect, so careless, so crude, so perversely unintelligent, that the task of extracting from them any general meaning is more laborious than that of collecting them. It would seem that the object of those responsible for the volume was not, as it ought to be, to give the general public a maximum of digested intelligence in the clearest possible form, but to hide the meaning of the facts by arranging them in the form of a puzzle, which the ordinary reader is defied rather than helped to solve." This is strong language, but doubtless most suitable for an ignorant man to use, because abuse hides the mental vacuity. We say ignorant because obviously Mr. Mallock is unaware of the fact that the "Statistical Abstracts of the United Kingdom," issued each year contain a tolerably complete epitome of our foreign trade figures from 1840 onwards. Also we should judge that this awfully superlative writer, don't y'know, is entirely unaware of the fact that the statistics relating to the trade of the United Kingdom are most carefully and laboriously condensed by the officials of the Statistical Department of the Board of Trade from the Customs House Blue-books, also issued annually, and containing full accounts—and wonderfully full they are—of the trade of the United Kingdom with all parts of the world. It

is almost a pity he did not apply to us for the two volumes containing these statistics covering the five years he condescends to fix his attention principally upon. They cost, to be sure, 12s. 1d., but if he had only let us know that he was busy on a "Tariff Reform," or Brummagem Article Club, discourse, we should have been happy to lend them to him for at least a week. His trained intellect would doubtless have grasped the contents after the style of the essay before us in less than that time.

But the height of this zealous protectionist's academic impertinence is perhaps reached in the following crudely supercilious exhibition of uninformed censoriousness:—

"One of the most important economic questions which claim the statesman's attention is our corn supply, home and foreign, and the proportion borne by imported to the native product. The 'Statistical Abstract' informs us about this question fully in three tables—Nos. 32, 70, and 73; but, though in all these tables it is dealing with the same article—wheat—and is giving us figures about it which are valueless except for purposes of comparison, it expresses the quantities dealt with by three different measures. We have cwts. in Table 32; we have quarters in Table 70; in Table 73 we have bushels."

Upon this we need only quote a note given to us by the acute and trained statistician who first attracted our attention to Mr. Mallock's diverting and, in ways not by him intended, instructive performance.

"The difference in denominations is accounted for by Table 32 of the 'Statistical Abstract,' giving import quantities, whilst Table 70 deals with corn of all kinds as sold in various markets in England and Wales, and therefore adopts the denomination of quantity by which the commodities are generally sold. Equally, Table 73 adopts the usual denomination of quantity when talking of the yield of crops. Mr. Mallock appears to labour under the mistaken apprehension that all the tables in the 'Statistical Abstract' bear relation to each other. If he had looked in the index of contents, he would have seen that, whilst Tables 29 to 58 deal with foreign trade, Tables 70 and 73 have nothing whatever to do with foreign trade."

As a matter of fact, the "Statistical Abstract," imperfect though it may be in some respects, in no way deserves the inept strictures just quoted. Its scope might be enlarged, but as it stands it is an admirable compilation, carefully and conscientiously done, and the groupings of commodities which Mr. Mallock falls foul of are perfectly intelligible to those who know anything about the business of the country or are capable of understanding its intricacies. To an academic gentleman lighting upon the "Abstract" for the first time in his life the tables of mere figures are doubtless full of traps and puzzles, and it is a great condescension on Mr. Mallock's part to bend his cultured mind to the vulgar task of their comprehension and exposition; but that is no reason why one of the best equipped departments of the permanent services should be trounced by a dainty ignoramus. One further example of the kind of criticism he ventures upon may be sufficient to clinch the matter and leave us free to pick up other precious morsels.

"In the table of exports," he says, "the first article mentioned is aerated waters." "In the table of imports," he complains, "there is no corresponding entry; but the same commodity is made to figure under the head of mineral waters, and appears consequently in quite another place," giving a fatigued academic soul trouble to collate the tables. We have never been at Oxford, but that is doubtless why the alphabetical arrangement appears to us to be exactly the right one. Moreover, the two classes of commodities are not the same. We do not export mineral waters at all, only waters artificially aerated; but the imports classed as mineral waters are the production of mineral springs, more or less doctored it may be, but still properly classified under that heading. Does Mr. Mallock now understand? Probably not.

He also falls foul of the method of grouping certain classes of articles. "Our linen manufactures," he says, "are treated and added up as they should be, but our exports of machinery which follow on those of linen are not added up at all." Dear, dear! how sad! "Close on our exports of machinery follow our exports of metals, under which heading are classed rails, anchors, and bedsteads, tubes, screws, and rivets. These are added up and entered as the total of iron and steel." Well, what is there really to cavil at in this arrangement, one, at any rate, which the compilers of the "Abstract" are obliged to follow because it is laid down for them by the Customs House in its annual statement aforesaid? Machinery is of a great variety of classes and qualities, and it is no heavy labour for individuals dealing with this branch of exports to find the separate totals for these if they so desire. They can even do that with linens. Of such stuff are the captious criticisms of a man profoundly ignorant of the subject with which he attempts to deal. Until he felt inspired to come to the aid of Joseph, the trade affairs of the nation were doubtless to him most vulgar and repulsive.

And really Mr. Mallock should not have been so censorious, for when he comes to deal with statistics on his own account he tumbles headlong into all sorts of blunders. Thus he furnishes his readers with a tabulated statement of the exports of cotton cloths and yarn for four different years, beginning with 1880, and ending with 1903. For the years before 1889 he depends upon Mr. Mulhall, and the result is that his values as to yarns are grotesquely wrong. He gives the value of cotton yarn exported in 1880 at £18,000,000, but, according to the "Statistical Abstract," the total was only £11,902,000. For 1887 he puts down the value at £19,000,000. It was actually £11,379,000.

Assume that Mulhall includes sewing threads in his total relating to yarns, and still Mr. Mallock would be wrong, because he includes such thread with tissues in his values of cotton cloths, so that, on this supposition, he counts the same things twice over. The gentleman who doubts whether life is worth living is nearer the mark in 1889, but still his £11,000,000 worth of yarns exported that year was actually £11,712,000, and for 1903 he puts down £7,000,000 instead of £7,408,000. This is the slap-bang, free-handed method of handling statistics common with tariffites and amateur prophets, and it becomes still more grotesque when we find no attention whatever paid to the weights and ton values of the various classes of goods dealt with. To be sure, Mr. Mallock would have had to go through laborious statistical calculations in order to arrive at these, but he might have at least avoided the absurdity of lumping weights of yarns and lengths of cotton together as if they meant the same thing. Moreover, the obliviousness of this side of the question causes Mr. Mallock to overlook the remarkably suggestive lesson conveyed by his own statistics. Take his figures as they stand, and they show an increase of £8,000,000 in the value of cotton cloth exported in 1903 compared with 1889, along with a decrease of about £4,300,000 in the value of yarns exported. The truth is much better than this, but never mind that now. What lesson does this progress convey? It tells us that foreign nations are so diligently developing their own spinning capacity as to be able to materially reduce their demands for British yarn. Yet, in spite of this obvious, natural and wholly unpreventable increase in the competition of foreign producers, our sales of cotton tissues—a much more valuable product than yarns—continue to increase. We have some tables before us compiled with great perspicacity and skill by Mr. Ernest de Rodakowski, for use in his admirable monograph upon the "Channel Train Ferry." In these tables the weight of each particular commodity has been ascertained by elaborate and well-tested calculations, and upon that basis the "ton value" of all articles has been worked out. From this we learn that, taking the latest year alone, 1903, of the period handled by this academic essayist in deca-

dence, the value per ton of cotton yarns exported varied from about £110 to £112, but amongst cotton manufactures we find such classes of goods as lace and patent net, the exports of which are, on the whole, increasing, and the average per ton value of which in 1903 was £1,754. Except unbleached cotton tissues, there is no single entry under cotton piece goods which does not show a higher ton value than those of yarns. Surely there is consolation to us here, in that it proves England's capacity to compete against the most adverse conditions established by tariffs and by the diligence of foreign nations in developing their own capacity to manufacture. Presumably even Mr. Mallock will admit that they have the right to do this if they so please, though the language and attitude of most of the Protectionist band at least imply a denial of this right.

Other tables of statistics and incidental figures relating to the import and export trade are thrown at our heads by this most superior person, and frequently they are wrong; always the inference is forced or misleading. Thus he sets forth a table of the course of trade in haberdashery, cutlery, and other manufactures, by which it is made to appear that we are really losing ground, and being beaten by the foreigner. "Our imports of haberdashery," he says, "comparing 1889 with 1903, have risen £1,000,000, while our exports have fallen off £1,000,000. Our copy of the "Statistical Abstract" does not tell us this, and we cannot make out where Mr. Mallock has found his figures. They were probably evolved by Mulhall out of his inner consciousness. According to the "Abstract" we have at hand the decrease in the value of haberdashery exported, comparing the two years selected by Mr. Mallock, has been barely £350,000, and it contains no entry whatever of imported haberdashery. Mr. Mallock next proceeds to tell us that our exports of cutlery have fallen off £1,000,000, while the imports have risen by £700,000 in the period covered by his copy of the "Statistical Abstract." Here again we cannot find his data or anything approaching thereto. In our copy of the "Abstract" imports of hardware and cutlery are entered together, making one sum total. How, then, does Mr. Mallock arrive at the information that there has been an increase of £700,000 in the imports of cutlery alone? The aggregate increase of the two together since 1897, the first year of their appearance separately in the Customs returns, has been only £740,000. We do, however, get the value of the exports of cutlery stated separately in recent years, and this is one proof of the diligence with which the Board of Trade statisticians endeavour to improve the details given in the "Abstract" whenever they get the opportunity. The two classes of goods, however, are lumped together before 1898, and, adding them up for the later years, so as to give uniformity throughout, we find the decrease to be only about £709,000 instead of £1,000,000, but to a statistician like Mr. Mallock a mere £300,000 is nothing. Having made these discoveries of the writer's carping, offhand style, it hardly seemed worth while to pursue the investigation much further. In some instances we did find the figures approximately accurate, but in others they were not.

For example, we have a table relating to what Mr. Mallock is pleased to call our "metallic" exports, metallic in his mind obviously referring only to iron and steel and the products thereof. He does not realise or suspect that copper, lead, tin, and quicksilver are among the metals, but that is a mere detail, which he doubtless would consider unworthy of his attention. In this table of his he professes to give us the increases or decreases comparing 1889 with 1903, the years embraced within his copy of the "Statistical Abstract" in exports of sundry articles. He tells us, for instance, that exports of tin plates have fallen off in value by £2,000,000 in that time, which is approximately true, but he omits all mention of the blow, meant to be deadly, aimed by the United States at our tin plate trade, to their own enormous loss, and naturally has

never a word to say about the splendid vigour with which our manufacturers, working in freedom, have conquered the field again. The low water-mark of our tin plate export trade was reached in 1898, but it was in the following year that the United States took their smallest consignment. In that year their imports from the United Kingdom fell to about £520,000 worth, as compared with £7,130,000 worth in 1891, these being the United States figures, taken from the "Statistical Abstract" published by the Washington Government, and they probably include freight and Customs duty. A knock-down blow this, if ever there was one, and under it our total exports of tin plates fell from £7,167,000 worth—our "Statistical Abstract" figures this time—in 1891 to £2,744,000 worth in 1898, but Free Trade never failed us or our South Wales manufacturers, and although they suffered, they and their workmen, for years, they began immediately to regain the lost ground. In the succeeding year, notwithstanding a further decrease in the United States orders, as just mentioned, our export values of tin plates rose to £3,169,000, and the total has been mounting ever since, with but one small break back in 1903. If Mr. Mallock had but known about the monthly "trade and Navigation Returns," also compiled under the supervision of that despised Board of Trade Statistical Department, he might have discovered that the figures of tin plate export values for 1904 have again risen to a total of £4,594,000, or only £1,436,000 below the total for 1889, and the United States in 1904 consumed nearly 72,000 tons of our plates, against little more than 48,000 tons* in 1899, but Mr. Mallock, happy in his ignorance, is serenely unconscious of his folly.

Nor does he improve matters much by his other statement and tabulations. Interpreted with knowledge and intelligence, there is surely much to encourage us in the expansion shown by the minor classes of manufactures, giving proof, as it does, of the power of the country to open up fresh lines of export, when, through various causes, the development abroad of native manufactures, among them old branches of our export trade, suffer decay or setback.

It was inevitable that a writer of this description should bear down upon textiles, and in dealing with cotton tissues and yarns—after quoting the false figures about yarns already mentioned, and giving £57,000,000 instead of £50,000,000 as the value of the "piece goods" exported in 1880, and making an understatement of about £6,000,000 in the total for 1887, to go no further, putting also against them £66,000,000 as the figure for 1903, which is only £4,000,000 out—he graciously plays Sir Oracle in this style:—

"These figures have not been picked out with a view to representing the history of the cotton trade as less reassuring than it really is. On the contrary, those years have been chosen which a Free-trader would fix upon who wished to present the facts in the most flattering light. Thus, though in 1880 the value of our cotton exports was higher than it has ever been since—viz., £75,000,000, the quantities in 1887 were greater, though the value was £5,000,000 less. A similar observation applies to 1889, when a further fall in total value was accompanied by a slight increase in quantity."

Without stopping to question the figures, which are queer, why would a Free-trader fix on these years and not on 1890, 1894, 1898, or any other one of the group? Mr. Mallock does not say, and probably does not know. This is merely a tariffite's way of affecting impartiality, and the affectation is naturally followed by this sort of pompous balderdash:—

"If, neglecting quantities, we make our comparison in values, we shall find that out of the thirteen years, between 1880 and 1903, the total value of the exports in nine of them was less than it was in 1880, whilst it was greater in 1903 than in 1899 only in the proportion of 73 to 69, and was less than in 1880 in the pro-

* This figure is from the United States "Statistical Abstract."

portion of 73 to 75. Let us, then, turn and twist the figures in any way we please, it is impossible to escape the fact that the value of our cotton trade has declined since 1880, whilst its volume, in spite of certain ups and downs, has remained practically the same from 1887 to 1903."

Assuming the facts to be so, is it not the case that over this period it is the more expensive classes of tissues or fabrics which have given the most constant proofs of the capacity of our manufacturers to hold their own? Is it not true also that in these very totals, professing to represent yards of cloth alone, thread for sewing to a value varying from £2,693,000 in 1889, the lowest figure in all the period, to £4,000,000 in 1903, and sold by weight, are included by Mr. Mallock amongst the tissues? Was not the export of printed cloths in 1903 greater than for any previous year in the fifteen he surveys, and did not the value of lace and patent net exported rise within the same period of time from £1,914,000 to £3,370,000? All this, and more, is true; but had Mr. Mallock analysed and distinguished, he would have had no scope for writing what for want of a better characterisation must be described as the impertinent nonsense of an academic trifler.

The reader will now begin to see the delectable character of the amusement to be extracted from the performance before us. It is really useless except for amusement to follow Mr. Mallock's play with and upon the figures he befogged himself by. Clearly he is incapable of common addition and subtraction, of distinguishing one commodity from another—and useful arithmetic, to be sure, or acquaintance with practical affairs of any kind, are not branches of education popular at our universities. He thinks, for instance, that there has been an increase of £1,000,000—always over the fifteen-year period embraced in his copy of the "Statistical Abstract"—in the value of pig and bar iron exported, whereas the decrease is only £131,241, comparing 1889 with 1903. We regard this poor progress much as we regard the decrease in the exports of cotton yarns, accompanied as it is by a remarkable development in the higher branches of mechanical engineering and machinery production. In machinery and mill work alone the value of our exports went up about £5,000,000, comparing 1889 with 1903, and it rose fully another £1,000,000 in 1904.

It is perhaps time to turn away from these unsatisfactory groupings and *ad captandum* special pleadings as exhibited in the extraordinary statistical compilations of this ill-informed advocate; but before doing so it may be worth while to ask why when dealing with machinery Mr. Mallock omitted to mention sewing machines? Here is a commodity of which the United States ought to have kept a monopoly, if there is anything at all valuable in tariffs for the "protection" of an industry. It was in the United States that sewing machines were first invented and produced. For a short space of time, moreover, the States held the trade, and we imported all the machines used. Soon, however, American makers, handicapped as they were by their tariff, found the trade slipping away from them. It was transferred in great part to this country, and so successful has the manufacture of sewing machines become here, that in 1904 we exported £2,270,000 worth of this one class of machine, countries in Europe taking nearly £1,800,000 worth of this now pre-eminently British manufacture. Precisely the same thing is happening in the motor-car industry, which originated on the Continent, and is still, after a fashion, flourishing there, especially in France and Belgium; but, according to Mr. Henry Norman, the monopoly of Continental makers is rapidly disappearing, and England is taking rank as one of the greatest producers in the world. He declares in the January issue of his magazine, the "World's Work," that some of the finest cars displayed at the recent Automobile Exhibition in London were of British manufacture.

Now let us look for a moment at what we suppose

should be called Mr. Mallock's law of progression in foreign trade as applied to exports. It is well, however, before doing so to note as a general statement applicable to the whole tone of the essay that no mention is made by him of the deranging influence of the South African War upon our export trade. That war dragged its loathsome length along during the later years embraced in his imposing survey. Thanks to it, the capital of the country which might otherwise have been profitably invested in the expansion of its industries and in the enlargement of its foreign trade was swept away to the extent of quite £350,000,000 in hard cash, at the same time that a depreciation of at least £1,000,000,000 more took place in the market value of pre-existing securities! Surely it was impossible that such crippling disasters could have fallen upon the country without materially reducing the power of its manufacturers to produce and to compete. Many commodities for which the invaded republics had been good and growing customers were altogether deprived of their market for years and have not yet got it back. Imagine any writer professing to deal in an impartial and philosophical spirit with the broader economic aspects of the foreign business of this country venturing to ignore an extraordinary episode like this. He ought to have made it his duty to investigate into the effects produced by the war, the havoc played with our available resources by the contraction of the potential forces residing in the available, the stored capital of the country. We ought to have heard something of the consequences not only to the producer, but to the foreign purchaser, and there is not one word. Mr. Mallock does not condescend even to glance at this cataclysmic period of our history. Instead, he serenely proceeds with an arrogant affectation of impartiality and desire to avoid pushing perverted heresies too far, to deliver himself in this unctuously oracular fashion. "The more carefully the facts"—he calls his hotch-potch of figures facts—"on which we have been dwelling are examined, the more clearly do they show that the industries of this country, as tested by our export and import trade, are absolutely, if we take them as a whole, advancing, and not declining." How very gracious this is, to be sure! But the eager tariffite immediately qualifies. "There is," he goes on, "to a really ominous extent absolute decline or stagnation in certain individual industries. The absolute general advance has not kept pace with the population, and it thus constitutes a relative, though not an absolute, decline. Further, the increase in the importation of many manufactured goods of a kind which we manufacture and also consume ourselves, and which thus compete directly with our own products, shows how the expansion of our industries in respect of these is checked," and he babbles along in this fashion to tell us again that our exports of cutlery have fallen off by £1,000,000, and our imports have increased by £700,000, alleged facts of which we can find no trace in the "Abstract." How does he know that the expansion of our industries is checked by the goods we import? May not the imports be necessary to the prosperity of our native industries, a proof that our population is growing wealthier? How else could it buy? Does the power to buy a commodity imply impoverishment? We never knew that it did. Old-fashioned economics point to another conclusion. Is there no profit to the country in the handling and distribution of foreign-made goods, no employment to natives, no compensation to be found anywhere, not even to the producer of a halfpenny newspaper, who might never have come into existence but for cheap foreign-made paper?

And would a bit of a tariff really help us now to get back that "expansion" which this writer alleges we have lost, ensure expansion in the linen trade, blot out the decline in silks? If so, would Mr. Mallock please illustrate and specify how and where. Let him come down to the definite and authentic, and cease playing with hint and innuendo. What does he know about the ebbs and flows of commerce? If a tariff of the most

ruthless kind has not helped the United States to create and maintain a tin-plate industry of their own, how is a duty on wheat, even a toy one like Joseph's 2s. per quarter, going to reconquer the markets of the Continent and America for our silks and linens, our cotton yarns and common delf ware? Is it not the fact that the United States are now, as always, our best customers for all the finer kinds of linen goods, in spite of a Customs tariff ranging from 30 to 60 per cent. or more *ad valorem* levied by them upon our productions? Is it not also true that while we may send less common pottery to the Union the trade of firms like Doulton's in the finer artistic porcelains is immeasurably greater and more profitable with the States than it was 10 or 15 years ago?

We have never maintained that hostile tariffs do not deflect, depress, and injure international trade, our export trade especially, because it is immeasurably the greatest in the world. They do that precisely as the exactions of the robber barons of the Rhine used to hurt the trade of the Hanse Towns and of Venice in the middle ages; but what we do maintain is that the more free a country's trade is from such wholesale thieving and obstruction as a Customs tariff implies always, the better able is it to overcome the effects of those tariffs imposed by other countries, the stronger is it in the fight. It holds its own in the competitive commerce of the world as no tariff-fettered nation ever can. Not a syllable that this essayist has written in the least degree impugns or indeed touches this contention. The whole preachment of the man is based upon questions begged, on false assumptions, on airily stated implications which usually have about as much to do with the actual affairs of business as the phases of the moon with lunacy.

After much parade of irrelevant statistics—some fairly accurate, others very much astray—Mr. Mallock goes on to inform us that "Free Traders have lately been making much of the increase of certain exports during the past 18 months. That the very party which has so consistently emphasised the worthlessness of single-year comparisons should now resort to them in an exaggerated form is an illustration of the weakness, rather than the strength, of their position." What position? Where is the weakness? Is there a law of progression in relation to the growth of population applicable to foreign trade, and, if so, where is it stated, and how can it be supported? What are the influences governing it? This kind of haranguing is really beneath contempt. Where, we should like to know, has Mr. Mallock any authority for his assumption that exports should progress automatically according to the growth of population, or that all kinds of exports ought to keep step in their onward march, that no changes are admissible, ups and downs and so on, such as fashion may produce, like the substitution of woollen fabrics for silk? Is not his assumption a monstrous begging the question, useful only to disguise the fact that in spite of every difficulty, of wars, of the overloaded condition of many of our foreign customers, of tariffs that rob consumers, and state-subsidised competitors, the trade of this country does grow, expands in all directions, passes from lower to higher grades of manufacture, and vindicates Free Trade principles at every point? The other week we quoted that singular message sent by Bishop Henry C. Potter to the United States, in which he described England as occupying a false position in the commercial strife of the age, comparing it to a boxer fighting with one hand tied. Mr. Franklin Pierce, in quoting this rather disgraceful priestly outburst, points out that Great Britain manufactures enough to satisfy in large part the wants of her 41,000,000 people, and exports annually £220,000,000 worth of manufactured articles, mostly of the higher order of manufactured articles, while the United States, with upwards of 80,000,000 people, export, if we include petroleum and copper, raw materials that is, about £80,000,000 worth. In other words, England, with 41,000,000 people, exports nearly three times as much as the United States do with upwards of

80,000,000 people, and all this she accomplishes with one hand tied. "What tremendous producers these people would be if they could only use both hands," Mr. Pierce adds. With this quotation we may dismiss Mr. Mallock, and recommend to him before he again takes a plunge into the field of practical economics and every-day business to get somebody with a respect for rectitude to coach him and do his sums for him. Also he should endeavour to acquaint himself with better guides than Mr. Mulhall. He might be disposed to consider us unduly rude if we also bade him abate his arrogance, and try the effect of a little honest, painstaking investigation upon the lucidity of his views. Above all, let him invest in a few more statistical abstracts—or borrow them. Last year's one has been out for some months.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

NINE MONTHS' REVENUE.

Its total to be used Imperially paid into the Exchequer last quarter was £31,747,000. Adding on £3,156,000 handed over to local authorities, the aggregate income of the three months ended December 31 was £34,903,000. These figures show as regards that portion of the revenue devoted to Imperial purposes a decrease of £102,489, making the nett decrease for the nine months £76,632, but if we include the local doles there is a nett increase on the quarter of £23,598, and for the nine months of £97,948. Such results must be considered good in spite of the fact that, confining attention again to the revenue stuck to by the Exchequer, the past quarter shows a decrease of £239,000 in the Customs income, bringing the aggregate decrease to December 31 up to £1,315,000, the excise a decline of £210,000 for the quarter, making £530,000 for the nine months, and estate and death duties a decline of £190,000 for the quarter, reducing the increase for the nine months to £660,000. The late Chancellor of the Exchequer, it must not be forgotten, took 2d. off the tea duty, and reckoned to lose £1,550,000 by that generous dole to the tea drinker, in addition to which he reckoned upon a decline of £130,000 upon the general Customs revenue, making a total estimated decrease for the twelve months of £1,680,000. Already £1,315,000 of this has been lost, and it is possible that his estimate will be falsified on March 31, but it will not be very far out here any more than in the excise, the decrease in which was estimated at £560,000 for the year, and the loss on which to date is £530,000, always taking account of the Imperial portion of the revenue alone. Against these declines, however, and a loss to date of £220,000 in the property and income tax, notwithstanding an increase of £40,000 in the quarter just ended, the prosperity of the country's trade and the abundance of dead millionaires ensures compensation. Thus stamps show an increase of £120,000 for the quarter, and of £600,000 for the nine months. The Post Office, again, has given £200,000 more in the past quarter and £500,000 more for the nine months, while the telegraph service, which went up £100,000 in the December quarter, has given for the whole period an increase of £230,000.

It remains the fact, however, that the entire Imperial revenue collected to date, amounting to £89,337,000, leaves nearly £55,000,000 to come in in the final quarter, or to be exact £54,600,000, if the budget estimate is to be made good, and this is about £2,300,000 more than the amount that had to be made up in the final quarter of last fiscal year. From this point of view therefore the income so far received forebodes a deficiency when the year closes at the end of the present quarter, but it is not likely to be a large shortage, and whatever it be, as the new Government is certain to cut down waste expenditure on all hands,

there is nothing even in the worst view of the figures embarrassing for Mr. Asquith. If he is not able to reduce the expenditure for the coming year, with the assistance of Mr. Haldane and Lord Tweedmouth, by at least £10,000,000, we shall be grievously disappointed. Hitherto the income-tax returns have not given evidence of that elasticity of trade which other branches of the public revenue have led people to expect, but all through the year so far gone the revenue from this source has suffered by the efforts made in the final quarter of last fiscal year to get the tax fully collected. This effort may tell to some extent on the receipts for the current quarter, but, on the other hand, it is just possible that the collection of the tax may again be expedited so that the lagging tendency hitherto shown may disappear. In that case it is quite possible that the year may end with an income very little short of the official estimate made in April last. In any event, it is satisfactory to note that the drinking habits of the community appear to be undergoing some measure of reformation, and although it is quite possible that the excitement of the General Election may swell the excise receipts from alcoholic liquors for a few weeks, we hardly think this tendency is going to disappear, to be replaced by a permanent reversion to the old custom. Even at the worst, however, the revenue collected from the people is a prodigious one, a much larger one than it can comfortably furnish. No less than £120,500,000 is expected from taxpayers alone in the current fiscal year. Ten years ago the total was only £85,116,000. These figures, of course, relate to imperial revenues alone. If we add in the estimates for the doles handed over to local authorities, the entire budget of the year provided by taxation will amount to almost £130,000,000, and the gross income from all sources to about £153,000,000. It is appalling and ruinous. The Tories admit it to be so by their raving and plotting after Protection.

TRAITORS TO THE ELECTORATE.

Electors throughout the country should note how completely Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's criticism has been justified by the speeches and election addresses of the leaders of the Tory Party. There is never a word of sympathy vouchsafed to the overloaded taxpayer by either Mr. Chamberlain or Mr. Balfour. They clamour in different keys and yet in unison for more taxes, for power to transfer to us the burden now borne by the income-tax payer and by the limited class which contributes to the revenue through the estate and death duties, and have no thought at all for the great masses who are being pressed down by the existing weight of taxation. The advocate of old-age pensions has forgotten his mock humanitarianism paraded *ad nauseam* in the old days, when he put that fantastic scheme forward as a device to catch votes. The gospel he and his rival now preach is a gospel of rapacity, of ruthlessness, of class domination, and of hatred towards the foreigner. If they are successful it may be a good thing for Kynochs, for Hoskins and Co., and for other businesses in which the Chamberlain family are interested, but it never can be good for the nation. And every day brings evidence which emphasises the hollowness of the outcry about the damage done to our trade by the tariffs of foreign countries. Were it not that the mass of the people are not accustomed to anything like exact thinking, the utter dishonesty of these outcries would be so patent to all as to prevent such play-acting clamourers from getting a hearing before any promiscuous audience in the three kingdoms. Unfortunately, the ordinary newspaper reader is easily befogged, because he has never turned his thoughts to questions of this description. People are misled by the vanity-born jingo snarling about foreign tariffs, and it is represented that we are "handicapped" thereby, that our trade cannot be "free," because these nations put up barriers against it. This is dishonest nonsense; there is no milder phrase for it. As long as our ports are open to the goods of all nations, and as long as our manufactures can be export-

ed from the country without paying customs dues, our trade is free. There is a perfectly unfettered interchange of commodities in the British market, or if any barriers now exist on the large currents of British commerce, they have been put up by the late Government. Thanks to it, British coal is subjected to an export duty of 1s. per ton, and sugar from foreign countries is taxed on its arrival here, but outside these instances of Protectionist retrogression our foreign trade is free, and there is no reason at all why it should not remain free. It is to our advantage that it should do so, and to nobody else's hurt. Witness the subjoined message from the Glasgow correspondent whose communication is printed in this week's *Times* "Engineering Supplement." It must be ugly reading to men like the late Prime Minister and his master the prophet of Birmingham, with his quack nostrums. They surely ought to ask what business British workmen have to employ their strength and to waste their time in producing so many locomotive engines for the foreigner. This, according to their theories, must be an indignity to which the true-born jingo British patriot should never submit. His mission in life is to coerce foreign nations to keep their orders and their goods to themselves. But the correspondent says that our English railway companies make their own engines, and that there is no home market to speak of for the output of our independent engineering firms, and how are Mr. Joseph and Mr. Arthur going to remedy that state of things? The foreigner buys these engines! What an indignity; how dreadfully shocking; and they apparently pay for them with their own productions, which is still worse. As Mr. Burns said at Nottingham, "the whole of this agitation is a farce." It is much worse than a farce; it is a piece of calculated political dishonesty.

The locomotive engine works of Scotland have been well employed during the past year, the North British Locomotive Company, Limited, having had 7,716 men employed, and Messrs. A. Barclay, Sons, and Co., Limited, Kilmarnock, 375 out of 15,087 men employed in this branch of engineering in the whole of the United Kingdom. Not much work was brought forward from 1904, but South American and Japanese orders were received early in the year, and by the month of March there was a steady all-round demand. The home market is no longer the chief outlet for locomotive builders, as so many of the large railway companies now build their own engines, and probably not more than 70 locomotives were constructed by engine builders for home railway companies in the past year. But India ordered 300, Egypt 40, Japan 200, and the several South American countries in all about 500 engines. The Scotch makers begin 1906 with a large amount of work on hand for both South America and Japan, and further contracts are being expected from Japan and China.

THE TRANSVAAL AND ITS PLUNDERERS.

Very opportunely articles are appearing in the still unfettered Press of this country illustrative of the chaos and degradation to which cosmopolite or helot boss rule has brought the Transvaal and, indeed, all South Africa. The *Daily Chronicle* has done much through its special correspondent, Mr. Naylor, to exhibit in its true light the position of the Chinese slave. The *Morning Leader*, through Mr. Bolland's diligence in revealing some of the abominations practised in the mine compounds where Chinese are herded together, has let the British public know the kind of foundation upon which drawing-room and bucket-shop Jingo Imperialism desires to rest, and Mr. Massingham, of the *Daily News*, is now dealing, in the spirit of a broad-minded and enlightened politician, with the larger questions occupying the thoughts of liberal-minded men, British and Dutch, in the annexed Republics. All these contributions to enlightenment are most valuable, but as immediate ammunition in the fight now in progress we are disposed to place first a letter which appeared in Tuesday's *Manchester Guardian* from its correspondent in Johannesburg. It is mildly written and full of instruction. The writer begins by pointing out that under the new system of sham "representative" government the votes will be so jerrymandered as to prevent any honest opinion upon the question of Chinese labour from finding expression. "The

choice of candidates," he says, "the expenses of election, the pressure of commercial interests, and the intense, constant, and immediate influence of the financial houses, most of them alien in membership and mind, will successfully effect the transformation of the popular 'nay' into the assenting 'yea' in regard to these questions." "This is not a British colony," he adds, "except in name; the ruling influences are foreign. The English Governor, the administrative staff, and the language of the newspapers are externally English, but, to all intents and purposes, they live and move and have their being by the favour and inspiration of a few German financiers."

That is to say, in plain English, Wernher, Beit, and Co. are the rulers of the Transvaal, of Lord Selborne, and all subordinate to him must do their bidding or perish. There is no such thing as an independent Press in South Africa, and Lord Selborne himself, gentleman though he be, anxious though he unquestionably is to act fairly, has already been reduced to a state of complete serfage by these ruthless and all-grasping cosmopolites, to whom ze Breeteesh Empeer is but an Aladdin's cave. He has fallen so absolutely under the dominion of the Chamber of Mines that he justifies Chinese labour, and trots out the sophistical and dishonest arguments by which that abomination is sought to be justified. These non-British masters of the country do not permit any independent Press to exist within their dominions. "No newspaper," he says, "can live in the Transvaal beyond a few weeks that ventures on an independent line. The attempt has been made on several occasions, and invariably the newspapers are frozen out. Hence there is a complete unanimity in lying amongst the subsidised Press. No news either comes through from the usual Press agencies that is not doctored, made to bear a meaning often totally antagonistic to the facts, and naturally in nothing is the lying so consistent and stupendous as in all that relates to Chinese labour. Mr. J. B. Robinson is perfectly right in his contention, as expressed by him in his letters to the *Daily News*, that South Africa contains a sufficient native black population to supply all the wants of the mines. Other critics are also right in asserting that the Chinese labour is costly, inefficient, unprofitable; but that view of the subject is left out of sight entirely by the Press in the pay or under the thumb of the cosmopolite magnates, who have fastened upon that part of the British dominions, and are determined to hold the country until they have gutted it, emptied it of everything of any value.

This *Manchester Guardian* correspondent opportunely recalls the language of Lord Milner's commission on the supply of native labour. It said that within five years of the date of its report "no less than 325,000 additional labourers would be required for the mines alone," and now, with 75,000 Kaffirs and about 50,000 Chinese at work, there appear to be more men than the mines want, and the cost of extracting the ores has not been reduced as expected. The truth is that the whole method by which this mining industry is carried on is vicious, corrupt, fraudulent in many respects. It is an industry that brings no benefit whatever to the inhabitants of South Africa. They are robbed and impoverished by it instead of enriched. It brings precious little profit to shareholders in Europe; only the cosmopolite master houses fill their pockets, and are able to flaunt their ill-gotten wealth before our servile peers and peeresses in the West-End of London, to spread corruption wherever they settle in any part of Europe, to suborn the Press, and keep "leading politicians" at their beck and call, like so many court jesters. All that was said about enlarged employment for European whites if the Chinaman came has been falsified, as those who said it meant it should be. There is hunger and suffering indescribable on the Witwatersrand and in Johannesburg at this present hour; hunger also in many an English home, because of the heartless share-conjuring, Press lying, and well-adjusted system of theft, organised

and kept in working order by these cormorants. Are the electors of this country going to vote for a system of this description, to uphold a blight upon what should be one of the fairest, most wealth-yielding portions of this vast Empire? We cannot believe it.

MASSACRE AND USURY.

We suspect there is only too much foundation for the following statement which we quote from the admirable letter printed in Tuesday's *Daily Chronicle*, from its special correspondent in Russia, Mr. Henry W. Nevinson. Dealing with the insurrection in Moscow which he witnessed, he points out that the people seem to have been malignantly goaded by the bureaucracy into premature action. The revolutionary party was unwilling to act, being yet unready. They desired to wait for another month or more, but the Government wanted to demonstrate its strength for the benefit of the money-lenders of the West, and therefore insurrection was fomented, the people provoked until they flew to arms and became the prey of machine-gun and Cossack:—

Soon after midday we heard guns in the city, and returning quickly in my sledge I met the clerks and shop boys, who had gone in by habit, swarming out again because street fighting had begun. In the night, and early that morning, the revolutionists had erected barricades with great rapidity. Why the Government had not stopped them during the process I do not know, unless it was part of its deliberate scheme to bring the movement to a head before it was ready, and crush it amid the applause of other Governments who could then hardly refuse the much desired loan. In my opinion, every soul killed during these disturbances has been sacrificed to the rotten trick of paying old debts by borrowing more. Anyhow, the barricades were erected, and for the last four days I have been spending most of the daylight among them trying to discover why they were made, and why the Government have been spending large quantities of shell in battering them down.

Russia wants more borrowed money, of that there can be no doubt at all. The latest return of the Imperial Bank indicates distress, showing as it does a decrease of £14,500,000 in the bullion reserve. This gold has probably been drawn away in part by private individuals and firms anxious to transfer their portable wealth to other and safer countries, but a large proportion of it has without doubt been sent abroad by the Government, in order to encourage the bankers of Western Europe to maintain its credit upon their markets and to find it another loan. At the same time that the gold is disappearing the note circulation is going up, and now the officials of the autocracy are, thanks to the premature revolt in Moscow and its "triumphant" suppression, proclaiming through all channels of public information the news that order has been restored. This it is doubtless hoped will facilitate the sale of another large loan on Western markets.

To further help this along we have a sort of budget foreshadowed, in which a revenue of 2,000,000,000 roubles or upwards of £200,000,000 is predicted for the current year. No such revenue can be raised, but if the promise of it can induce investors in Germany, France, Belgium, Holland and perhaps the United Kingdom to subscribe for an immediate loan of £50,000,000 or more, the purpose of such estimates will be served. Meantime the Government has no more funds available for saving the hungry populations of Central Russia from starvation. Only £680,000 could be scraped up for that purpose. To add though to the favourable impression unreal budget figures are manufactured to produce, we have the accounts of Russia's foreign trade set forth for the first nine months of the current year. The Customs department has drawn up the statement, and it shows a balance of trade in favour of Russia of about £37,000,000. In 1904 exports were 655,700,000 roubles, in 1905 for the same period they rose to 755,400,000; in 1904 imports came to 437,900,000 roubles, and in 1905 to only 418,500,000 roubles; therefore the balance in favour of Russia, as the fashion is to put it, rose from 217,800,000 last year to 356,900,000 roubles this year. This is wonderful, and not to be believed if one-tenth of the statements

made about the disorders throughout the country, and, above all, about the devastation at Odessa, are true. Meanwhile the urgency of the Government necessities is further shown by the statement that the State Bank has accepted new Government bonds to the amount of about £25,000,000, leaving the balance of the £40,000,000 recently created to be issued abroad, but we thought that balance was merely old debt renewed? Is the whole £40,000,000 fresh money? And how much does Russia really require to liquidate the debts of the war? Probably something between £200,000,000 and £300,000,000. The truth, in other words, is carefully concealed, but "order" has been restored in Moscow, and the prospectus of the new loan is doubtless under consideration. Will the great Jewish houses now eloquently and most charitably appealing for help for their horribly treated race in Russia, touch this loan, make any profit by it?

CHANGES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF UNDERGROUND RAILWAYS IN LONDON.

It is not surprising that the Stock Exchange put up the price of Metropolitan District Railway stock on the first hint of the news published in all Thursday's papers. It did so on two grounds; first, the open identification of the great house of Speyer with the Underground Electric Railways Company by the election of Mr. Edgar Speyer to the chairmanship thereof in the place of the late Mr. Yerkes, and secondly, because of the appointment of Sir George Stegmann Gibb to the deputy chairmanship and managing directorship of that company, and also to be chairman and managing director of the Metropolitan District Railway, posts formerly occupied by Mr. Yerkes. In some respects we heard the news of Sir George's appointment with regret, for he has been so identified with the North-Eastern Railway Company since he became its general manager in 1891, and has instituted so many reforms there, as to make it difficult to realise that he should have abandoned the work he has done so well. Just look at the table appended to this note, and contrast the figures for 1904 with those for 1891, and something will be realised of what Sir George's management of the line has meant to its proprietors and to the public. But the contrasted traffic figures are only a small part of the story, for under Sir George Gibb there has been a great improvement in the passenger rolling stock of the company, in the speed and frequency of the trains, and the goods traffic has been conducted not only with greater expedition, but with enormously increased economy, for Sir George was the first railway manager in this country to realise the value of business statistics. Without the intimate knowledge these gave of the ebb and flow of the traffic, it was impossible to know where waste might exist, and the effect of his careful supervision of the details of the traffic is emphasised by the great decrease which has taken place in the freight mileage concurrently with a substantial increase in the receipts therefrom. During his occupation of the post of general manager of the line the dock accommodation at Hull acquired by the company has been modernised, and many improvements have been effected on those on the Tyne, at Middlesbrough, and at the Hartlepoons. This has necessitated an extension of the company's enterprise into shipping, but none the less has the business been consolidated and improved thereby.

One thing the *employés* of the Underground Electric Company and the District Company may be sure of, Sir George Gibb is a delightful man to work under, suave, firm, yet courteous. Capable of insisting upon having his own way, but never with offensiveness or unreasonable, Sir George will undoubtedly leave the North-Eastern with the sincere regrets of every man of the 45,000 or more *employés* he has ruled there. He has been the friend of the men throughout, and piloted the company through an exceedingly perilous period when, in 1897, a general strike occurred, which might have thrown the North-Eastern district into great confusion. Happily, this was averted by a re-

ference of the questions at issue to Lord James of Hereford as umpire. The company's case was entirely conducted by Sir George Gibb as its arbitrator, and the result was a decision which had the rare merit of giving practical satisfaction to both parties. Sir George has been a pioneer in the application of electricity to railway traction. The North-Eastern Company has electrified 37 route miles of its suburban lines in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, with the result that the train service on these lines has been doubled in frequency, and electric traction proved to be a practical and financial success. But all this means many things to the people of London, and they must not disguise from themselves the fact that Sir George Gibb is a strenuous advocate of corporate development, of joint-stock enterprise as against municipal. He will be sure to back a joint-stock scheme for supplying London with electricity in bulk as against the scheme of the County Council, and in this respect we shall not be on his side. There are defects in municipal management, but no municipal plundering could equal that perpetrated upon communities by the monopoly companies into whose hands they may have fallen. This aside, however, the travelling public will certainly have much cause to rejoice at the changes now made in the control of the underground communications of London, and although we are not sure that the boast of the *Daily News* that "strap-hangers" are to disappear from the District Company's trains can be immediately realised, there can be no doubt whatever that before long the facilities for comfortable travelling on that line will be greatly increased. The mention of this company, however, calls to mind its precarious financial position, and it will take all the ability, not only of Sir George Gibb, but of his deputy chairman, Mr. R. W. Perks, to pull the company's affairs out of the mess in which J. S. Forbes left them.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.
Comparison of Years 1891 and 1904.

	1891.	1904.	Increase or Decrease.	Per Cent.
	£	£	£	
Capital expenditure at June 30 ..	60,347,175	77,172,781	16,825,616	27
Gross revenue	7,182,463	9,308,630	2,126,167	29
Gross revenue per cent. on capital expenditure	11.9	12.06	.16	1.34
Gross revenue—				
Coaching	2,170,309	3,033,801	863,492	39
Goods and cattle	2,322,108	5,046,526	2,724,418	31
Mineral	2,494,544	2,906,607	412,063	16
Miles worked	1,578	1,673	95	6
Train mileage—				
Passenger	11,614,956	15,395,376	3,781,422	32
Freight	15,219,109	12,216,758	3,002,413*	19*
Receipts per train mile—				
Passenger	3s. 8.85d.	3s. 11.29d.	2.44d.	5.4
Freight	6s. 3.9d.	9s. 8.9d.	2s. 5d.	38

* Decrease.

BANKERS' CLEARING HOUSE.

The return of the Bankers' Clearing House, issued with the usual promptitude on January 1 last, and signed for the first time by the new hon. secretary, Mr. R. Martin Holland, discloses some very remarkable figures. For the fifth year in succession the total has exceeded all previous achievements, but on no previous occasion has the increase over the preceding year been so great. The increase, moreover, has been of a very consistent character, each month, if not each week, being better than the last, and the whole story is a striking illustration of the wonderful credit machinery by means of which our unparalleled and wealth-producing commerce is carried on. Within limits, the Stock Exchange has played its part in bringing about the remarkable expansion shown by the table given below, Consol settling days exhibiting an advance of £41,623,000, and the ordinary Stock Exchange account days one of £534,036,000; but, except at spasmodic intervals, neither investment nor speculation has been really active, and it is in a measure due to special causes that the Stock Exchange shows up so well. Under all heads the rise reached the stupendous figure of £1,723,738,000, of which £1,677,262,000 was in the town clearing and £46,476,000 in the country

clearing, and it is interesting to note that the payments on fourths of the months—the date when trade settlements usually take place—shot up by £46,476,000, a fact testifying to the decided improvement in trade recently asserting itself and which the tariff quacks find it such a hopeless task to explain away.

	1905.	1904.	Increase.
Grand total	12,287,935,000	10,564,197,000	1,723,738,000
Town clearing total	11,355,250,000	9,677,938,000	1,677,262,000
Country cheque clearing total ..	932,685,000	886,209,000	46,476,000
4ths of the months	497,070,000	445,251,000	51,789,000
Consols settling days	638,783,000	597,160,000	41,623,000
Stock Exchange account days ..	2,070,622,000	1,636,586,000	534,536,000

What are the principal causes which have led to this prodigious increase? It is a little difficult to say. Apart from the new loans of the Japanese Government, the fresh issues during the year under review were not of an exceptional nature, and the creation of capital for industrial purposes was relatively small, owing in great measure to the general disturbance caused by the Far Eastern war and the succeeding Russian revolution. Even the financing of the Exchequer bond issue, with the subsequent redemption of the old loan, was not a very important operation, but the frequent turnover of Treasury bills no doubt played a part in swelling the figures, more particularly as this class of business largely increases the transactions in the short loan market. Another incident which finds no mention in the return, but which, nevertheless, must have had a considerable influence, was the action of the Bank of England at the end of the year in sweeping huge balances away from the open market at a time when the continuance of the then prevalent fictitious plenty might have been attended with serious consequences. The largest amount cleared on one day in 1905 was £102,780,000 on March 15 last, this being the second occasion only that the daily total has exceeded the round £100,000,000. The previous one was in May, 1901, when we were busy financing the Boer war.

To go at once to the other extreme, we find that the smallest aggregate was on September 9 £23,771,000, but that was £2,386,000 more than the lowest figure touched in 1904. The weekly totals establish a so-called record with £345,370,000 for the period ended April 5, and it is worth noting that no less than 14 weeks exceeded in their aggregate the previous best, £267,593,000, attained during the six days ended July 3, 1901. The smallest weekly total occurred very near the largest, only £139,973,000 being cleared in the week ended April 26; but as both Good Friday and Easter Monday came into this period, the test is hardly a fair one. For a complete week the smallest total was £174,559,000 at the end of August, but it was larger than the smallest similar total in the previous year by £25,168,000. In all cases the monthly totals are higher than in the corresponding period, 1,000 millions being exceeded on no less than seven occasions, and, with only two exceptions, all months were the highest ever reached. The highest amount ever paid on a Consols settling-day was not exceeded during the year under review; that distinction still belongs to July, 1904, with its £66,421,000, but it was very nearly approached, £62,700,000 being touched on April 5, and against that the smallest aggregate was £43,886,000 on August 3. Fourths of the months again show a substantial improvement against 1904, as already indicated. This is attributable to the fact that the Consol settlement twice fell on this day, while on another occasion a large amount of application money in connection with the Japanese loan was returned. The highest total on these special days was £57,444,000 on December 4, and the lowest £27,315,000 on June 3. Coming now to the Stock Exchange figures, always an attractive item on the return, we find the lowest total on June 15 was £72,765,000, but it was larger than the smallest in 1904 by £24,028,000. The largest figure has already been referred to, £102,780,000. As to the country cheque clearing, it records the most satisfactory progress since these figures were first published separately in 1902. The greatest monthly total was £87,094,000, in

October, and the lowest £70,509,000, in February, and the former month also included the biggest weekly aggregate of £21,526,000, the lowest being the Good Friday and Easter Monday period, with £11,287,000. For a complete week the lowest was £14,709,000. For a single day the highest was £5,459,000, on July 5, and the lowest, £2,195,000, on August 28. But the trade of the country is dying, you know, for want of "retaliation" and 2s. a quarter duty on foreign corn.

TRAMWAYS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The Board of Trade Return of Tramways and Light Railways for 1904-5 is rendered much more interesting by the fact that this is the second occasion on which the details have been given in their present form, so that it is now possible to note the progress made. Further alterations might be made in the official form with advantage, as municipal and private undertakings follow each other indiscriminately, rendering a comparison of results a lengthy and laborious operation. That trustworthy paper, the *Municipal Journal*, however, has saved us the trouble on this occasion by making the necessary classification in its issue of December 29, and the comparison between the two thus rendered possible is decidedly in favour of the local authorities. In England and Wales the number of systems owned by corporations has increased by 10 to 161, having 1,196½ miles open against 987 miles in the previous year, and although the total capital outlay is £3,873,578 up at £27,523,043, the cost per mile is £253 smaller at £23,708. Of these undertakings 105 were worked, on which the gross receipts rose by £641,426 to £5,135,927 at a cost of an advance of £372,988 to £3,362,618 in working expenses, the ratio to income being 65.47 per cent. or 1.05 per cent. less than in 1903-4. Nett revenue was consequently £268,438 higher at £1,773,309, representing a return of 7½ per cent. or ¼ per cent. more on the capital. Scotland has 12 municipal systems with 164½ miles, and the capital outlay was on a much heavier scale, amounting to £32,338 per mile or an advance of £3,987. Gross receipts were £62,558 larger, but expenses took 51.77 per cent. of the income against 51.39 per cent., and the nett revenue was only £16,909 higher at £436,110, giving an equivalent return on capital of 11½ per cent. or a decrease of 2½ per cent. In Ireland a solitary undertaking—Belfast—is in corporation hands, but it added 27 miles to its lines at a cost of £47,821, so that the cost per mile worked out as low as £3,463. The line was only in operation for three months, so that the proportion absorbed by working expenses was exceptionally heavy at 74.59 per cent., but in spite of that the nett income was equal to a return of 6 per cent. on the outlay.

Turning now to company-owned lines, we find that these were reduced by four to 115, but capital expenditure went up by £1,460,868, and the cost per mile came to £29,349. Gross receipts showed an improvement of £521,609 at £3,001,381, but working expenses took the unduly heavy proportion of 72.74 per cent. against 71.85 per cent., and notwithstanding an increase of £120,119 in nett revenue the return on capital remained at 4½ per cent. Scottish companies own no more than 40½ miles on which £1,118,958 has been spent, but the cost per mile came down from £34,058 to £27,628. They seem to be more economically managed than the English concerns, the working costs taking 59.47 per cent. compared with 60.84 per cent. in the previous year, so that out of an increase of £55,524 in the gross income £26,606 was returned as nett, but in spite of that the return is ½ per cent. less at 5 per cent. In Ireland 19 companies are in private hands, but the loss of the Belfast system taken over by the Corporation reduced the mileage from 155 to 129½ miles, and the cost per mile has gone up by £661 to £18,692. The progress made does not appear to be altogether satisfactory, gross revenue being only £2,095 larger at £468,945, but working expenses at 63.14 per cent. were much the same as in

the preceding year, and the nett income was equivalent to $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. against $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Taking the United Kingdom as a whole, the corporation-owned systems have risen by 12 to 174 with 1,395 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles, on which £32,964,144 has been spent or £23,616 per mile, while private undertakings are down four to 146, having a length of 721 miles at a cost of £19,711,008 or £27,628 per mile. The number of passengers carried by the corporations rose by 160,584,013, and the average fare per passenger worked out at 1.05d., while the companies carried 108,986,450 and earned 1.21d. per passenger, but notwithstanding this higher average the comparison of results is all in favour of municipal ownership. Corporations can and do work more economically than the companies, and the tendency with them is towards further saving in this direction, while the companies do not seem able to effect a corresponding economy. Last year the ratio of outgo to income on the part of the municipalities was pulled down from 64.08 per cent. to 63.60 per cent., while in the case of the companies it increased by 00.75 per cent. to 70.33 per cent., with the result that in spite of a proportionately greater percentage of increase in gross revenue the companies can only show a return of $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on the capital expended against $7\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. by the municipalities. Various methods are adopted by the corporations in dealing with their nett incomes, and in the year ended March 31 £209,881 was paid over in relief of rates compared with £207,087 in the preceding twelve months. Leeds and Manchester headed the list of towns adopting this plan with grants of £55,000 and £50,000, Liverpool gave £27,109, Hull £19,500, Nottingham £15,000 and Salford and Sheffield £13,000 each. Other towns, again, prefer to pay off borrowed money, and £567,002 or £99,254 more was devoted to this purpose, and as the result of this policy the outstanding local debt for tramways is about £22,000,000, although the total outlay, according to the Board of Trade figures, is £32,964,144.

A FRENCH BANKER ON RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

Our able and witty French banker friend discourses pleasantly and pungently in his latest missive on the position of affairs in Russia. There is often a delightful flavour of literary culture in his notes, and we have been amused by his reference to monetary conditions in the middle ages. During that time, he said, the question of exchange, thanks to the continual variations in moneys, was a source of unending disputes. Thus, when St. Louis in Syria drew cheques on Paris payable at the seat of the Knights Templars, the arbitragists had to be careful to provide considerable margins against contingent loss. The chronicle, he says, is unhappily mute upon this interesting transaction, and does not even tell us whether St. Louis's cheques were guaranteed by Richard Cœur de Lion. This preface introduces us to the position of affairs in Russia. What is going to happen there? If the Government gets the upper hand, the writer points out, as it is necessary to hope, there will be a funding loan, and all will be well. If the republicans, socialists, anarchists, *et hoc genus omne* get "on top," the first thing that we shall see will be forced paper money, and debtors will pay in assignats which will vanish as the French assignat did—23,000 fr. in paper worth one louis-d'or. Here is scope in imagination for exchange variations. Most serious, however, is his estimate of the commercial position in Russia. A moratorium or legal suspension of payments will be inevitable as it was in France in 1848, the writer thinks, and he instances Moscow the centre of the cotton industry of old Russia, of the tea, coffee and other trades in articles of first necessity. It is calculated that in order to meet their engagements the merchants of Moscow ought to receive on an average 2,500,000 roubles a day in payment for goods sold throughout the provinces. Since the commencement of the troubles, "they have received only declarations of the rights of man and rifle bullets." That is not the

money with which debts can be paid, and as in Moscow so in Kief, Odessa and other towns. In support of this significant remark we hear privately from Petersburg that the losses already inflicted upon whole classes of the well-to-do in that city have been so unbearable as to reduce many among them to poverty, and in too many instances to bankruptcy. Therefore the mere suppression of armed revolts, the slaying and beating down of the up-surging masses, is not going to cure the economic cancer which is eating the heart and life out of the Russian empire. Nor will a foreign loan cure it.

THE OUTLOOK FOR NITRATE.

This has lately become a very interesting subject, thanks to the startling news received from Chili at the beginning of last month, that the producers had been unable to reach an agreement for the continuance of the output restriction combine, which will expire on March 31 next. The compact now near its end had a currency of five years, having been inaugurated in 1902, and it seems beyond question that, so far as the finances of the English companies owning the Chilian nitrate grounds are concerned, the combination has been attended with the best results. Never since the palmy days of the so-called Nitrate King, the late Colonel North, has the industry been in such a flourishing condition, the best companies have performed better than ever, moderate ones have become sounder and stronger, and others that seemed hopeless derelicts have somehow been brought to the surface and set afloat once more. Under these circumstances it may appear somewhat remarkable that terms cannot be arranged for the renewal of an agreement of such general advantage, and we must confess that at present no adequate explanation for the breakdown of the negotiations has been received. Some say that the leading companies which, owing to their powerful position, are able to wield considerable influence are dissatisfied with the quotas allotted to them, but it is inevitable that as the production of nitrate is once more seen to be a remunerative business, many companies which had been driven out of the field by the former ruinous competition are now anxious to get to work again, and every fresh one that comes in must automatically reduce the proportion allowed to the others. If it come to fighting, the big companies will, of course, again drive the smaller competitors to the wall, but they are likely to sustain so much damage in the process that we find it hard to believe an agreement of some kind will not be arrived at in time to prevent a flooding of the market. What prospect is there of this taking place should it prove impossible to arrive at a common understanding? Some say none at all. There is apparently no unemployed problem in Chili, none at least in the neighbourhood of the nitrate deposits, and it is said that with the existing labour conditions in Chili the aggregate production would not reach the maximum quota which might be allowed under the combination. In addition, a possible increase in consumption must be considered. In their able review of the nitrate industry just published, Messrs. Montgomery and Co. assert that they have it on good authority that, so far as Belgium and Germany are concerned, the fall in sugar is not likely to affect the consumption of nitrate in the coming spring, a statement which seems to be fairly borne out by the reported extensive buying throughout the autumn months. It may also be said that as a result of a good harvest and better prices the Continental grower of cereals will dress his crops more liberally, and since the agricultural position in the United Kingdom has also somewhat improved farmers here may do likewise. Admitting all these favourable influences, however, and it is still considered absolutely essential for the continued prosperity of the industry that a restriction agreement should be arrived at. The fixing of a maximum quantity for shipment during 12 months is a policy calculated to give confidence to operators all round, always provided that the total is not

ridiculously beyond the known power of the markets to consume it. In this way, it is thought, combination may act upon consumption as if it is rendered certain that the market will not be flooded with the fertiliser buyers are inclined to operate early and more freely, and having bought make haste to distribute. On the other hand, where doubt exists the reverse is the case, and the feeling that what is bought to-day, be it never so cheap, may look dear to-morrow leads distributors to delay purchasing and even to recommend consumers to do likewise. Thus sometimes ground is lost which is never regained throughout the season. That these views prevail with the great majority may be regarded as certain, and it is evidence of the importance of the question that the Government has itself taken steps to bring the leading producers into agreement. Whether the object in view will be effected it is hard to say, but we should think the odds were in favour of an understanding of some kind.

UNITED STATES EQUITABLE PROMISES.

Mr. Paul Morton, the new president of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, has issued a letter to the policyholders full of reassuring statements, and we can endorse these so far as again to advise the existing clients of the company to stick to their policies. Both the English and American firms of accountants have certified the existence of assets aggregating £85,522,215 and of a surplus of £13,797,859, and these should be enough in the worst event to prevent anything like default. Mr. Morton also communicates sundry reforms—the cutting down of expenses by £120,000 per annum for one—and promises an annual audit with other beneficial changes. All this is likewise welcome, but he and his new board will have to go much further if the confidence of people on this side is to be maintained. Why are no steps taken to have an examination of the company's affairs made by first-class British actuaries in order to ascertain, amongst other things, how so great a surplus could have been accumulated concurrently with indulgence in criminal extravagance, robbery and stock gambling by the displaced officials? Without an investigation by British actuaries into points like these we must continue to regard all alien traffickers in policies of life insurance, and especially the three big American ones, with distrust. The economies promised by Mr. Morton amount, after all, to little when compared with the boundless waste and unfathomed speculations of the past, and clients of the company have no real guarantee in the new arrangements against a recurrence of the like turpitude in the future. Mr. Morton emphasises the liberty to be given to policy-holders to "express their preferences in respect of the choice" of men annually chosen as directors. We like his story none the better for that, because he must know how like hollow pretence such a "liberty" is. Will he give policy-holders here a British board to be chosen by British policy-holders and endowed with full powers? If not, we shall have to agitate for the passing of a law forbidding any alien organisation to enter upon life insurance business except on this basis.

Critical Index To New Investments.

AUSTRALIAN SMELTING CORPORATION, LIMITED.

Agreements have been entered into to acquire over four-fifths of £100,000 mortgage debenture stock of the Smelting and Refining Company of Australia (1901) together with options over the copper mining properties in New Caledonia formerly belonging to the Caledonia Copper Company and the principal properties of the Caledonian Mining Corporation. In addition to these the Corporation has secured the benefit of a contract with the Zinc Corporation for the smelting or purchase of the whole output of silver-lead concentrates during a period of five years from the end of 1906, and of contracts with other mining undertakings at Broken Hill for 18,000 to 23,000 tons per annum of silver-lead

concentrates for the same period as well as the benefit of negotiations proceeding for the supply of gold, copper, and other ores from other mines in Australia and New Zealand. For these various interests the Corporation pays certain liabilities of the Smelting and Refining Company and of the Caledonia Copper Company guaranteed not to exceed £22,500, with £15,000 in cash and £15,000 in shares for the purchase of the mining properties mentioned. It also pays to the Share Guarantee Trust a commission of 5 per cent. on the total capital, a further 5 per cent. on all shares subscribed over 140,000, and a percentage of 10 per cent. on the nett profits in each year that a 5 per cent. dividend is paid. The total capital is £350,000 in £1 shares, but only 300,000 are at present issued, and in addition £100,000 5 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, repayable November 1, 1915, is to be created which will be issued in exchange for the above-mentioned debenture stock at par, and for the acquisition of the smelters. Messrs. Bewick, Moreing, and Co., who are to have the management of the new undertaking, enumerate six sources from which profits may be derived, and seem confident that it will have a very successful future.

CAR TRUST REALISATION CO., LIMITED.

Just before Christmas holders of debenture stock of the Car Trust Investment Company were given the first offer of an issue of £250,000 4 per cent. redeemable debenture stock of this company, which has taken over the property and assets. Applications entitled to priority of allotment having been dealt with, the public is now invited to subscribe for what is left of the stock at 99, but the prospectus does not state how much is available. Under the terms of the agreement for the transfer of the property the vendor company is to realise a sum sufficient with the amount to be obtained by a call of £2 10s. per share on its own shares, to provide for the redemption of £220,000 of debenture stock and for the payment of expenses and certain liabilities. This company acquires the remainder of the stocks, funds, securities and assets (except uncalled capital) for £1,012,500, payable as to £250,000 by paying off or otherwise satisfying the remaining debenture stock, as to £25,000 by the transfer to the liquidator of 100,000 5s. shares and as to £737,500 by the allotment of 5 per cent. income bonds. The American assets are valued at £975,220, and the other assets at £32,000, making a total of £1,007,220, but after deducting the value of the assets to be realised the value of the assets taken over only comes to rather more than £800,000. For the past three years the nett revenue before paying debenture interest has averaged £27,000 per annum, and the directors look for the new company to earn about £21,000, or more than enough to pay the interest on the present issue twice over.

Answers to Correspondents.

Mithra.—(1) No, we cannot advise a purchase of these shares. We do not think sufficient profitable business can ever be obtained to justify the huge capital outlay, and the company is steadily weakening its position by neglecting the all-important depreciation question. (2 and 3) Both these interdependent companies may do well years hence, but not for years. We prefer No. 2, but they are at present too speculative to be regarded as lock-ups, and are too much in the hands of gamblers, who are anything but scrupulous in their tactics. (4) We have had no recent information on the subject, but should think the electrification was not finished by July even if it is by now. The competition with the other line is therefore, in a sense, still to come as you suggest, but we see no reason why it should be severely hurt. The dividend ought to be maintained. (5) Of these shares we have a decidedly poor opinion. (6) These have attractions as a lock-up, although the American Government does not seem in a great hurry to come to a settlement. (7) We can see no justification whatever for the existing price of this stock. The capitalisation of the arrears of preference dividend has created another stock in front of the ordinary, and under the best conditions the latter seems a long way off a dividend.

No, we always accept deposits against future queries when tendered. Many thanks.

Sir J. West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I., has been appointed a member of the court of directors of the British North Borneo Company.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for ten days ended December 31, \$4,138, decrease \$707.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 1, \$22,938, increase \$9,485; aggregate from January 1, \$870,006, increase \$188,293.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 2, Rs. 39,306, decrease Rs. 4,889; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 15,70,195, increase Rs. 1,97,186.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for ten days ended December 31, \$130,800, increase \$15,600; total from July 1, \$2,693,200, increase \$594,500.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 2, Rs. 32,389, increase Rs. 8,832; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 5,86,876, increase Rs. 75,412.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 9, £616, increase £5.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 4th week of December, \$23,186, increase \$6,127; aggregate from January 1, \$788,682, increase \$9,712.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 2, Rs. 7,065, decrease Rs. 4,532; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 2,80,465, increase Rs. 25,296.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended December 7 amounted to \$1,900.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending December 30, £1,083, decrease £46; aggregate from July 1, £31,186, increase £32.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending December 30, £720, increase £80; aggregate from July 1, £23,248, decrease £480.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for September, £4,376 decrease £335.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending December 30, £211, increase £3; aggregate from July 1, £9,165, decrease £289.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 29, £1,469, increase £257; aggregate from July 1, £35,920, increase £11,977.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 24, £11, increase £2; aggregate from July 1, £530, increase £17.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 29, £5,472, decrease £74.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending December 29, £31,390, increase £5,314; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £1,410,476, increase £159,412; 442½ miles, against 425½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 23, £1,121, increase £139; aggregate from July 2, £27,880, increase £1,577.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 24, £134, increase £21; aggregate from July 1, £3,603, decrease £36.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for nine days ending December 31, £177, increase £16; aggregate from July 1, £3,268, decrease £15.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 29, £5,149, increase £241; aggregate from July 1, £131,583, increase £101.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 30, £4,895, increase £176; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £251,876, increase £18,870.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 29, £252, decrease £12; aggregate from July 1, £6,385, decrease £473.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 28, £597.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 30, £290, decrease £24; aggregate from October 1, £3,596, decrease £487.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 23, £15,130, increase £3,486; aggregate from April 1, £564,967, increase £77,994. Miles 51 against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 30, £18,480, decrease £1,660; aggregate from July 2, £591,983, decrease £11,444.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 30, £6,141, decrease £153; aggregate from July 1, £199,512, increase £3,229.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 29, £227, increase £32; aggregate from July 1, £5,190, increase £284.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 31, £951, increase £280.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for eight days ending December 31, £17,855, increase £934; aggregate from January 1, £708,807, increase £43,697.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 42,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of November, £10,748, increase £226.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to November 30, \$349,110, increase \$116,627. Nett earnings from July 1 to November 30, \$226,552, increase \$80,989.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending December 31, £3,859, increase £480; aggregate from January 1, £181,276, increase £10,831.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 2, £1,301.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month November, \$277,300.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 30, Rs. 56,853, increase Rs. 12,390; aggregate from July 2, Rs. 11,40,801, increase Rs. 1,42,844.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthagena and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of December, £4,888, increase £762. Total to December 31, £46,034, increase £7,038.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,793, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of November, \$417,218, increase \$63,017; aggregate from January 1, \$4,320,887, increase \$390,457. Nett traffic receipts, \$226,858, increase \$35,361; aggregate from January 1, \$2,359,439, increase \$272,120.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	No. of Weeks	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1904.	
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Dec. 31	£ 2,505	+ 474	26	55,817	— 1,685	
Cambrian	" 31	4,747	— 460	26	180,660	— 8,320	
Central London	" 30	5,281	— 514	26	165,968	— 1,436	
City and South London ..	" 31	2,939	— 282	26	69,303	— 412	
Furness	" 31	9,752	+ 1,203	26	273,886	+ 30,909	
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 31	53,746	+ 4,455	26	1,847,095	+ 132,801	
Great Eastern	" 31	91,700	+ 2,700	26	2,909,300	— 5,800	
Great Northern and City ..	" 30	1,759	+ 49	26	41,450	+ 8,162	
Great Northern	" 30	81,700	— 3,867	+	3,028,888	+ 35,634	
Great Western	" 31	155,700	— 22,600	26	6,327,400	+ 95,900	
Hull and Barnsley	" 31	7,090	— 105	26	253,295	+ 5,851	
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 31	92,707	+ 2,623	26	2,945,261	+ 89,623	
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 30	58,225	— 3,678	26	1,716,012	— 343	
London & North Western ..	" 31	211,000	+ 15,000	26	7,551,000	+ 213,000	
London & South Western ..	" 31	79,000	+ 200	26	2,485,300	+ 24,400	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 31	8,796	+ 86	26	267,732	+ 3,236	
Metropolitan	" 31	17,784	+ 273	26	450,109	+ 3,425	
Metropolitan District ..	" 31	7,656	+ 510	26	186,643	+ 5,090	
Midland	" 30	161,233	— 13,239	26	5,941,446	+ 195,432	
North Eastern	" 30	182,838	+ 17,758	26	4,841,651	+ 107,899	
North London	" 31	7,679	— 417	26	229,996	— 5,116	
North Staffordshire	" 31	18,847	+ 1,546	26	468,795	+ 15,996	
Rhymney	" 31	4,698	— 89	26	147,146	— 1,564	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover	" 30	71,336	— 6,210	+	2,503,193	+ 25,311	
Taff Vale	" 31	14,471	— 1,122	26	470,024	— 8,23	

† From July 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Dec. 31	93,041	+	7,101	22	1,928,821	+	53,370
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 30	35,682	+	2,123	22	778,805	+	7,421
Great North of Scotland ..	" 30	9,538	+	420	22	215,608	+	802
Highland	" 31	8,580	+	579	22	231,721	+	2,214
North British	" 31	95,304	+	6,418	22	2,051,237	+	24,180

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Dec. 29	2,562	+	25	26	83,121	+	2,267
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 29	1,038	+	19	26	46,558	—	730
Great Northern	" 29	14,559	+	56	26	518,128	—	1,025
Midland Great Western ..	" 29	10,144	+	430	26	299,682	—	6,019

GUARDIAN ASSURANCE

COMPANY, LIMITED. Established 1821.

II, Lombard Street, LONDON, E.C.

TOTAL ASSETS over £5,000,000

TOTAL INCOME over £940,000

LARGE BONUSES.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent. on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

The outstanding fact of the week in the Money market is the unsatisfactory position of the Bank of England. Its reserve, in spite of a recovery of £220,000 during the week, amounts to only £17,849,000, and the proportion it bears to the liabilities fell on the week 4 per cent. to 29 $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. This need not matter, people say, because there is plenty of currency to come back from the circulation yet, were it not for the steady exports of gold. These have amounted in the past five weeks to no less than £2,389,000, and there is every prospect that further exports will take place. The Bank cannot stand this drain, and will have to take vigorous steps, not only to stop it, but to draw gold in. This might mean a 6 per cent. rate, and will, we have now hardly a doubt, bring us a 5 per cent. one. To be sure, the weakness of the Bank is only relative, due in the first place to a swelling out of other deposits by the repayment of the money borrowed by the Bank from the market in the middle of last month. This is shown by the increase of £4,590,000 in its Government securities. On balance also the market's debt on other securities is up £2,861,000, compared with a week back, and in these two ways the other deposits have been piled up by £5,885,000 to a total of £50,106,000, at the same time that the Government balances have risen to £9,560,000, an increase of £1,743,000 since the previous Wednesday night.

As about £20,000,000 of miscellaneous dividend and coupon money came out on Monday, and as to-day the British and Indian Government dividends were disbursed, the short credit market has been abundantly supplied all week, and rates for call money have rarely been more than 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., sometimes 2 per cent., however, and sometimes 3 per cent. The seven day rate has also generally been 3 per cent. until to-day, when it was quoted in places at 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. The closing rate, however, was 3 per cent., and such low rates have tended to depress discounts, in spite of the efforts made by the bill brokers to keep quotations up. This will be seen by comparing the rates in our discount table this week with last. They show an all round decline of about $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and the wonder is that the market has kept so strong. It would not have done so but for fears of gold exports.

To-day discount was fairly easy at 3 $\frac{1}{16}$ per cent. on two and three months' bank bills, but short bills were not easy to obtain at that figure, and when the report spread that £500,000 in gold was going out to South America this afternoon, with more to follow next week, brokers again held out for 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. The gold did not go because the ship was said to be "unsuitable," but evidently more gold will go to South America, and we fear the action of the Bank of France in charging 3 per cent. for seven days against immediate advances on deposits of bar gold will do nothing appreciable to stop the competition of French buyers for the metal in the open market. The price of bars went down to-day $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 77s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz., but the competition for

the metal is just as keen at that price as before, and Continental buyers will pay brokerage over and above the figure in order to get the metal. A small amount in from Australia was taken for the Continent to-day. Next week's arrival will probably be bought for abroad, and with sovereigns going out miscellaneous, particularly to South America, the Bank cannot hope to strengthen its reserve by any more expedient of borrowing loose credit from its neighbours or in the open market. It will have to put up its rate, and before long, too, lest a squall overtake it and do mischief.

How long will floating credits remain cheap? Perhaps to the middle of the month, perhaps no longer than the day when the stockbrokers want to arrange their loans to the end of the month account. The market has paid off all the loans due at the Bank up to to-night, and has not been inconvenienced in doing so, but as its bill case empties another week may find the excess supply nearly all swept away, and if the Bank of England decides to borrow again, it will have no difficulty in making short loan rates as tight as they were in the third week of December. Only, as we say, that is not going to bring gold in from abroad.

It is said that the Bank of France is refusing to make free advances on deposited gold until after seven days, because its note circulation is being unduly swollen, and there may be something in this, for the total is now £196,211,000, being £13,576,000 up in one week. We might infer from this that the gold Russia is said to have exported must have gone to France instead of to Berlin, were it not that the stock of gold is £1,000,000 down. But the Imperial Bank of Germany had on December 30, the latest date available, about £4,250,000 less coin and bullion in hand than seven days earlier, the total being only £40,176,000. This is upwards of £6,000,000 less than at the end of December, 1904. Both German and French exchanges, however, are again going against us, and the open market discount rate in Berlin is hardening, so that even should the French demand for gold fall away the German one is almost certain to become once more acute. And if we drew gold from New York the consequence would probably be a panic in the States.

SILVER.

Except for a moderate inquiry on Indian account the market for bars has been without important support, and with a rather larger quantity of silver offering prices dwindled to 29 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz. for spot and 29 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. for future delivery. To-day, however, there was a slight rally on a resumption of the bazaar buying; the final figures were 29 $\frac{3}{8}$ d. and 29 $\frac{3}{16}$ d. per oz. Tenders for the Rs. 1,00,00,000 offered by the India Council on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 4,85,15,000 in bills and Rs. 50,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 50,00,000 were accepted in bills and Rs. 50,00,000 in transfers, applications for bills at 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{16}$ d. per rupee receiving about 10 per cent. and for transfers at 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per rupee in full. Next week another Rs. 1,00,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, January 3, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 45,871,465	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	27,421,466
		Silver Bullion	—
	£45,871,465		£45,871,465

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 17,388,832
Reserve	3,327,170	Other Securities	42,396,444
Public Deposits (including		Notes	16,521,915
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,327,128
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts)	9,559,608		
Other Deposits	50,106,172		
Seven Day and other Bills	88,369		
	£77,634,319		£77,634,319

Dated January 4, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. Jan. 4		Dec. 27, 1905.	Jan. 3, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,307,466	Rest ..	3,273,248	3,327,170	53,922	—
12,366,448	Pub. Deposits ..	7,816,972	9,559,608	1,742,636	—
47,440,776	Other do. ..	44,221,033	50,106,172	5,885,139	—
94,170	7 Day Bills ..	99,413	88,369	—	11,044
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
20,409,872	Gov. Securities ..	12,798,989	17,388,832	—	4,589,843
36,420,181	Other do. ..	39,535,486	42,396,444	—	2,860,958
20,931,807	Total Reserve ..	17,629,191	17,849,043	—	219,852
				7,681,697	7,681,697
				Increase.	Decrease.
£		£	£	£	£
28,607,725	Note Circulation	29,351,060	29,349,550	—	1,510
31,089,532	Coin and Bullion	28,530,251	28,748,593	218,342	—
35 p.c.	Proportion ..	338 p.c.	298 p.c.	—	4 p.c.
3 "	Bank Rate ..	4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £485,000 out.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	5,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
July	1,003,888,000	830,361,000	173,527,000	—
August	1,098,366,000	945,164,000	153,202,000	—
September	879,323,000	678,546,000	200,777,000	—
October	1,006,632,000	861,123,000	145,509,000	—
November	1,187,821,000	1,117,870,000	69,951,000	—
Week ending				
Dec. 6	315,761,000	216,663,000	99,098,000	—
" 13	201,126,000	182,495,000	18,631,000	—
" 20	301,263,000	261,237,000	40,026,000	—
" 27	161,274,000	157,482,000	3,792,000	—
Total for year	12,253,307,000	10,459,068,000	1,794,239,000	—
	1906	1905		
Jan. 3	340,266,000	276,940,000	63,326,000	—

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
2,500,000	3 months	Jan. 23	3 17 6
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 7
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 18 3
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,000,000	3 months	Mar. 7	3 1 8
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
1,800,000	6 months	June 1	3 2 6
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
11,200,000	—	—	—
25,333,000	—	—	—

† Issued privately to the India Council.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Nil.	Wednesday, S. America 25,000
Total Efflux £25,000	Total .. £25,000

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
		Last Week. Latest.
Paris ..	May 25, 1900.	3 3/4 3 1/2
Berlin ..	December 11, 1905	4 1/2 4 1/2
Hamburg ..	December 11, 1905	4 1/2 4 1/2
Frankfort ..	December 11, 1905	4 1/2 4 1/2
Amsterdam ..	November, 1905	4 1/2 4 1/2
Brussels ..	October 30, 1905	4 1/2 4 1/2
Vienna ..	October, 1905	4 1/2 4 1/2
Rome ..	September, 1904	1 1/2 1 1/2
St. Petersburg ..	December, 1904	7 1/2 7 1/2
Madrid ..	August 21, 1901	4 1/2 4 1/2
Lisbon ..	January 11, 1899	4 1/2 4 1/2
Stockholm ..	December, 1905.	5 5 5
Copenhagen ..	October, 1905	4 1/2 4 1/2
Calcutta ..	January 4, 1906	— —
Bombay ..	January 4, 1906	— —
New York call money ..	—	— —

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris ..	chqs.	25'09	25'10	Antwerp ..	short	25'15 1/2	25'18
Brussels ..	chqs.	25'15	25'13 1/2	Italy ..	sight	25'08 1/2	25'13
Amsterdam ..	sight	12'09 1/2	12'08 1/2	Constantinople	3 mths	110.20	110.20
Berlin ..	chqs.	20'40 1/2	20'42 1/2	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	168d.	168d.
Do. ..	3 mths	20'22	20'19	Valparaiso ..	90 dys	147 1/2 d.	147 1/2 d.
Hamburg ..	chqs.	20'39 1/2	20'41	Calcutta ..	T.T.	1/4 1/2	1/4 1/2
Frankfort ..	short	20'37	20'41	Bombay ..	T.T.	1/4 1/2	1/4 1/2
Vienna ..	sight	24'02 1/2	24'02 1/2	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	2/0 1/2	2/0 1/2
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	93'70	93'80	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2/10 1/2	2/10 1/2
New York ..	60 dys	4'82	4'82	Singapore ..	T.T.	2/2 1/2	2/3 1/2
Lisbon ..	sight	50 1/2	50 1/2	Yokohama ..	4 mths	2/0 1/2	2/0 1/2
Madrid ..	sight	31'65	31'45				

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Dec. 31.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs ..	National Debt Services .. £ 370
Excise ..	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Charges .. 59,338
Stamps ..	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion .. —
Property and Income Tax..	Supply Services .. 5,825,900
Post Office ..	Bullion Advances .. —
Telegraphs ..	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands ..	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds ..
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds redeemed
Miscellaneous ..	Uganda Railway ..
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works ..
Uganda Railway ..	Naval Works ..
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts ..
count ..	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts ..	ings) ..
Naval Works Acts ..	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts ..	Act ..
Land Registry Acts ..	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act ..
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Issue of Exchequer Bonds	in reduction of debt ..
under Cunard Agreement	Cunard Agreement .. 70,484
Act ..	Deficiency Advances re-
Ways and Means .. 2,000,000	paid .. —
Deficiency ..	Ways and Means Advances
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	repaid .. —
Issue of Exchequer Bonds..	Increase in Exchequer
Transvaal and Orange River	balances .. —
Colony. Repayment of	
Temporary Advance ..	
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	
tion payments ..	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances .. 1,420,804	
£5,956,092	£5,956,092

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Dec. 10, 1905.	Nov. 30, 1905.	Nov. 10, 1905.	Dec. 10, 1904.
Reserve ..	£ 30,806,000	£ 30,494,200	£ 29,193,520	£ 25,438,760
State notes and small changed	580,200	561,240	468,240	529,080
Discount and loans ..	13,832,560	14,293,840	14,649,960	11,045,080
Public stock and State loans..	8,146,320	8,149,400	8,293,320	8,924,600
Credits ..	6,332,080	6,225,640	6,880,880	6,607,560
Note Circulation ..	39,127,440	40,070,480	40,432,440	36,044,120
Current account ..	2,582,720	2,434,080	2,407,440	3,644,920
Deposits ..	3,896,520	4,259,240	3,983,640	3,276,600

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Dec. 1/14, 1905.	Nov. 8/21, 1905.	Nov. 1/14, 1905.	Dec. 1/14, 1904.
Gold ..	£ 82,217,801	£ 87,449,495	£ 87,618,529	£ 86,993,178
Silver and subsidiary	3,628,507	3,676,338	3,641,494	6,663,900
coin ..				
Advances and bills	55,747,500	42,607,349	42,742,235	40,080,942
discounted ..				
Securities belonging	7,945,559	6,950,420	7,002,926	6,435,446
to the Bank ..	112,492,851	110,706,204	123,557,822	82,873,625
Notes in circulation ..				
Deposits and current	45,095,921	48,420,840	47,416,869	47,211,345
account ..	5,410,130	7,229,194	7,260,276	17,870,129
Treasury account ..				

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Dec. 28, 1905.	Dec. 21, 1905.	Dec. 14, 1905.	Dec. 29, 1904.
Coin and bullion ..	£ 4,768,320	£ 4,806,800	£ 4,840,800	£ 4,801,800
Other securities ..	24,531,160	23,875,480	23,246,800	23,570,240
Note circulation ..	26,665,120	26,918,120	27,118,960	26,748,280
Deposits ..	3,868,440	3,829,800	2,978,000	3,435,760

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Dec. 30, 1905.	Dec. 23, 1905.	Dec. 15, 1905.	Dec. 31, 1904.
Cash in hand ..	£ 40,176,250	£ 44,346,050	£ 42,916,700	£ 46,333,000
Bills discounted ..	61,380,750	51,537,250	47,762,000	50,354,500
Advances on stocks ..	10,217,300	3,710,750	2,923,400	10,752,600
Note circulation ..	82,833,950	70,210,300	66,099,450	79,989,200
Public deposits ..	31,540,350	30,723,950	28,970,200	29,014,850

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Dec. 30, 1905.	Dec. 23, 1905.	Dec. 15, 1905.	Dec. 31, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Gold Reserve ..	44,755,208	44,865,041	44,888,000	48,042,333
Silver reserve ..	12,122,666	12,087,375	12,109,375	12,272,708
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	2,843,458	2,217,666	1,977,500	2,556,333
Note circulation ..	76,958,000	71,374,511	70,354,500	72,070,875
Bills discounted ..	26,719,708	23,523,250	22,796,291	21,318,208

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Dec. 30, 1905.	Dec. 23, 1905.	Dec. 16, 1905.	Dec. 31, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Gold ..	15,027,346	15,022,853	15,019,283	14,902,898
Silver ..	22,816,507	22,852,236	22,887,398	19,906,163
Foreign Bills ..	3,093,541	3,501,741	3,449,532	1,861,542
Discount and Short Bills ..	46,659,609	46,068,898	45,978,235	47,816,769
Treasury Account ..	20,885,772	20,890,234	20,867,840	21,326,809
Notes in circulation ..	62,004,923	61,759,992	61,583,354	63,976,741
Current Account deposits ..	22,620,084	22,078,963	22,114,045	24,382,168
Dividends Interests ..	3,932,587	2,822,369	2,901,317	2,817,446
Government Securities ..	6,275,524	7,403,378	7,443,754	4,490,713

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Jan. 4, 1906.	Dec. 28, 1905.	Dec. 21, 1905.	Jan. 5, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand ..	114,053,360	115,134,200	115,555,720	106,116,240
Silver in hand ..	42,618,840	42,997,120	43,460,120	43,888,840
Bills discounted ..	53,566,120	43,914,720	34,197,920	30,970,360
Advances ..	21,045,640	20,109,240	20,220,640	21,661,000
Note circulation ..	196,210,960	182,635,320	179,703,640	180,384,880
Public deposits ..	10,582,720	15,610,080	15,420,720	5,419,640
Private deposits ..	25,881,400	28,626,480	24,380,680	22,616,800

Proportion between bullion and circulation 83½ per cent. against 86½ per cent. a week ago.

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Dec. 30, 1905.	Dec. 23, 1905.	Dec. 16, 1905.	Dec. 31, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Specie ..	34,002,000	35,242,000	34,844,000	41,710,000
Legal tenders ..	15,140,000	14,840,800	15,142,800	16,228,200
Loans and discounts ..	200,200,000	201,220,000	200,920,000	213,340,000
Circulation ..	10,619,200	10,610,000	10,612,200	8,629,000
Net deposits ..	195,530,000	197,006,000	196,778,000	220,800,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of nett deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £89,500 against an excess last week of £831,300.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Dec. 19.	Dec. 28.	Jan. 2.	Jan. 4.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'2½	12'2½	12'2	12'1½
Do. do.	3 months	12'4½	12'4½	12'4½	12'3½
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'45	25'43½	25'45	25'45
Hamburg ..	3 months	20'69	20'70	20'67	20'68
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'69	20'70	20'67	20'68
Paris ..	cheques	25'11½	25'8½	25'11½	25'11½
Do. do.	3 months	25'33½	25'32½	25'33½	25'33½
Marseilles ..	3 months	25'33½	25'32½	25'33½	25'33½
Switzerland ..	3 months	25'46½	25'47½	25'47½	25'47½
Austria ..	3 months	24'34	24'35	24'35	24'35
St. Petersburg ..	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow ..	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'46½	25'46½	25'47½	25'48½
New York ..	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	36½	37½	37½	37½
Lisbon ..	3 months	50½	50½	49½	50½
Oporto ..	3 months	50½	50½	49½	50½
Copenhagen ..	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'40
Christiania ..	3 months	18'41	18'41	18'41	18'41
Stockholm ..	3 months	18'41	18'41	18'41	18'41

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3½-3½
Three months ..	3½-3½
Four months ..	3½-3½
Six months ..	3½-3½
Three months fine inland bills	3½
Four months ..	4
Six months ..	4-4½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent
Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
" " short loan rates	5
Bankers' rate on deposits	2½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	3
" " 7 and 14 days' notice	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans	2½-3
" " for call loans ..	2½-3

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

What does Mr. Jacob Schiff mean by an "elastic currency?" He says that he cannot endorse the plan of Mr. Shaw, Secretary to the Treasury, which is based upon the theory that all the assets of a bank ought to be available as basis for an issue of paper money, but is his own scheme any better, which would allow notes to be put out against commercial paper. What is commercial

paper? How is the banker to distinguish bills drawn against genuine sales of produce and manufactures from accommodation bills created by financiers to enable them to carry bales of securities at any price they like to put them to? If business is genuine, and the transactions entered into of a solid character, accounts can be liquidated with less and less help from currency. It is only when the inflation of prices on stock markets or produce markets has bulged out credit, distended pawnbroking, the use of borrowed money, to market bursting point, that the cry arises for more and yet more paper money, for another, an additional, form of imposture in order to try and prevent a recoil in the market quotations to something like sane figures. During the past two years the active monetary circulation of the United States has increased by no less than £43,000,000. Does Mr. Jacob Schiff mean to tell us that this is not far more additional money than the United States could possibly require for its everyday legitimate interchange of commodities?

These questions are interesting because Mr. Schiff's wail indicates the real hollowness of speculation on Wall Street more definitely than any recent utterance we have heard of. It is a confession by the head of one of the great international banking houses of the world that there is no longer any fair and honest method available by which to liquidate the swollen speculative account now existing in public securities on United States markets, and that in order to enable the engineers of the rise in prices to escape with their paper gains another and a still more ruin-creating fraud must be perpetrated upon the community in the shape of an issue of paper money based on paper assets, on wind, on "kites," on anything dubbed "negotiable," the real value of which may be ascertainable only of the rag and bone merchant. Therefore, we hope still that the British public will not be lured into the arena. No investor who values his peace of mind, let alone the weight of his purse, should touch an American share of any description at the present time. Those who speculate in them for the rise are almost certain to lose their money, and mere investors are absolutely certain to do so. Leave the players to fight amongst themselves, to strip each other until the inevitable break-down comes. It may not come immediately. We rather think the Yankees will pull through for some months yet, thanks mainly to the immense help they are getting from us. It is a question, however, whether our market can continue to render this help on anything like current terms or at all. Our banking reserve is much too low, and it would be the height of folly for our joint-stock banks and other lenders of credit to lock up their means in these inflated American railroad and copper mine shares to an extent that might cripple them and bring some of them down were the Bank of England reserve to be further depleted by its exports of gold and its rate to rise to 5 or 6 per cent. Wall Street is leaning on London to an extent few people suspect, and the commitments of our banks in American wind finance are something stupendous, greater, we believe, than ever before in the history of British banking. This inclines us to think that the real centre of danger is London much more than New York, and we shall watch the course of events in our market during the next six months with no small anxiety.

About general Stock Exchange affairs there is really nothing to say this week, but the French public have begun to pick up a few dividend-paying South African mine shares, and that, perhaps, is an encouraging symptom. Also the "bears" of Russian bonds have got a very sharp lesson, which will probably keep them away from that market for some time to come. The market for the Russian debt is too international for the small outsider to play in. He will always be liable to burn his fingers whether he buys for the rise or sells for the fall, but especially if he sells. On the whole, however, our markets are overshadowed by the General Election now in full swing, and people's minds are occupied with other matters than the movements of prices on the Stock Exchange. Therefore, we shall not inflict a longer story on readers this week.

The Week's Stock Markets.

Dealers returned to business on Tuesday from the New Year holiday in very cheerful mood, and quickly set to work to give prices a lift all round. They took encouragement from the temporary suppression of the Moscow revolt, and as the heavy dividend payments usual on January 1, and the redemption of the Argentine Funding bonds set free a good deal of credit for investment purposes, business was on a moderately large scale. Not sufficiently good, however, to satisfy those jobbers who laid in considerable lines of stock last year in anticipation of a big public demand when monetary conditions again became easier, and after the initial outburst a disposition was shown to take profits, however slender. A good deal of uncertainty exists as to how long the present credit ease will last, and people of judgment did not at all relish the Bank of England return showing a reserve of under 30 per cent. of the liabilities. Nor is the foreign political outlook altogether clear, and although the feeling has not been reflected on the Paris bourse during the week, there is no doubt that the forthcoming Morocco Conference at Algieras is being anticipated with a good deal of misgiving. Before the end, therefore, all the early bloom was off again, and although just before the close an attempt was made to brighten things, the effort was not very successful, and at the moment the prospects of a New Year boom do not seem very brilliant. Tuesday was contango day for the monthly Consol settlement, and in a good many cases borrowers on stock were compelled to pay $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for their loans, but as the day advanced the easy monetary conditions began to have an influence, and before the finish loans were readily obtainable at $3\frac{3}{4}$ to 4 per cent. On Thursday, which was pay-day, everything passed off comfortably enough, and some credit dealers inside the house were so well supplied with funds that they were offering balances overnight at 2 per cent. Prices, however, did not respond and the tendency throughout was dull, so that despite a sharp rise on Saturday last there is practically no change on balance. Other British Funds were steady to firm, and Annuities, Irish Land stock, National War Loan, Transvaal 3 per cent., and India $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ended slightly better. Nothing worth noting happened in the Home County and Corporation division, but Colonial Inscribed stocks were firm and several gained $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1.

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Consols (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Money)	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Account (Feb. 1)	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	88	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907 ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	89	Irish Land (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Local Loans (3) ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	National War Loan (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Account (Feb. 1) ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	99
308	291 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bk. of England Stck. (9 p.c.) ..	293 $\frac{1}{2}$	293 $\frac{1}{2}$
109	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	India 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stck. red. 1931 ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 p.c. Stck. red. 1948 ..	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stck. red. 1926 ..	80	80
66 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	65 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	66

The Foreign Bonds market attracted a good deal of attention, and in one or two directions dealings were of a rather exciting nature. Russian bonds again shot up several pounds, although closing slightly under the best, and the recovery had a stimulating effect on other Paris favourites, including Portuguese, Spanish, and Turkish. Japanese loans, too, were strong, and Chinese were helped by the news that the Chinese Maritime Customs revenue for last year showed an increase of £500,000 over 1904. In the South American division Argentines and Brazilians received active support owing no doubt to the reinvestment of the money made available by the Funding bond redemption. Peruvians, however, were a very wild market. There appeared to be forced selling in connection with two failures in Amsterdam, where these stocks are particularly favoured, and a story was also spread that a German syndicate had stepped in and secured an important railway contract to the detriment of the corporation. It was also asserted that the

Deutsche Bank had loaned the Government a further £2,000,000, in addition to the £600,000 lately advanced, and it was instantly concluded that if the authorities could so easily obtain supplies of money they would be less likely than ever to come to an agreement with the corporation for a settlement of outstanding questions. All these adverse influences caused prices to break badly, the preference touching $42\frac{1}{2}$, but when a modification of the loan story was put about—of the £2,000,000 half goes to the Government and half to the corporation—quotations quickly rallied, and remained pretty strong to the end. The market, however, is a troublesome one just now. In the Central American group, Venezuelans were particularly firm, and Colombians, Guatemalans, and Honduras marked small gains.

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886 ..	104	103 xd
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	102	101 xd
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	Do. 6 p.c. Funding ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
93	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	87	87 $\frac{1}{2}$
101	94	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	99
106	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	105	104xd
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	82	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	101	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
97 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chilian 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1885 ..	97	95xd
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1886 ..	98	96xd
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1895 ..	94	94
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	102	100 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	96	97
107	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	104xd
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	103	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	99	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	104	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
59 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Costa Rica A ..	53	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B ..	43	42 $\frac{1}{2}$
48 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	Colombian External ..	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	106	107
107	104	Egypt United 4 p.c. ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. pref. ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. State Domain ..	104	104
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	German 3 p.c. ..	88	88
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	Greek, 1884 ..	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	51xd
55 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	52	51 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
44	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	40
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	Do. Funding ..	50	50xd
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
106	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Italian 5 p.c. ..	106	104 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Japan 5 p.c. ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1901-2 ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	97	Do. 6 p.c. ..	102	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	103	102xd
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	70	68 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	82	85xd
83 $\frac{1}{2}$	70	Servian 4 p.c. ..	82	82
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
103	100	Turks 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Tribute ..	102	102
100	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	104	104
92	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. United ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
74 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	Uruguay 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. ..	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$
99	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. ..	96	95xd
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Venezuelan, 1881 ..	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$

The Home Railway market ended the year in a very cheerful frame of mind, dealers being confident that 1906 would open with a very perceptible increase in public interest, but so far these anticipations have not been realised. Outside support continues very meagre, and even professional dealings have been small, with the result that the market is still in uncertain mood. The traffic returns did not help matters much, as too much doubt prevailed as to whether the figures included the end of the year "sweepings" or not, and after opening firm, prices gave way pretty generally, but seemed disposed to rally again later. District stock was a notable exception to the prevailing dullness, and went up with a jump on the announcement that Mr. Edgar Speyer, of Messrs. Speyer Brothers, had been appointed chairman of the Underground Electric Railways Company, and that Sir George Gibb was to become deputy chairman and managing director of that company, and chairman and managing director of the District. The price rose to 37 buyers at one time after the news was published, but it did not hold that figure long, and after relapsing to 36 $\frac{1}{2}$, closed without change on the week.

Home Railway dividend estimates for the past half year do not indicate such variation from the actual distributions of 12 months back as to give great support to

the "bull" campaign recently inaugurated. Thus, Great Central, which gave $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. a year ago on the 1881 5 per cent. preferred, is expected this year to pay that in full, and to have enough over to give 3 per cent. on the 1889 preferred. Great Eastern, however, may pay at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum less than it did a year ago, or it may give the same distribution, $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. On Great Northern deferred

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last com- pleted year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	133	140	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	140
165	152	157	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	157
131	116	126	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	127
120	111	118	Caledonian Ord. (3½ p.c.) ..	119
83	77	78	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	79
41	33	42	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	41
94	88	93	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	94
87	77	87	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	86
17	15	15	Chatham Ordinary ..	16
48	37	45	City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	45
71	51	66	Furness (2 p.c.) ..	66
39	28	37	Great Central Pref. ..	37
19	15	19	Do. Def. ..	18
93	80	87	Great Eastern (3½ p.c.) ..	87
108	98	102	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	102
45	33	44	Do. Def. (1) ..	45
145	135	141	Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	142
56	48	—	Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	49
49	41	46	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	46
112	104	108	Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.) ..	109
100	86	87	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	87
42	33	35	Metropolitan District ..	35
71	66	68	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	68
74	62	73	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	74
83	77	77	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	78
49	43	46	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	46
146	134	144	North-Eastern (5½ p.c.) ..	145
161	147	159	North-Western (5½ p.c.) ..	161
96	84	89	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	89
115	122	128	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	128
60	48	52	Do. Def. ..	53
171	156	164	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	163
111	104	108	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	108
60	52	56	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	56

the expectation is 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., as against 1 per cent. last year. Great Western, however, is looked upon as likely to provide its shareholders with $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. more at $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, and the same holds good of the Leeds Company, on which stock 4 per cent. per annum is expected against $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. On Brighton ordinary the same rate of $7\frac{3}{4}$

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses).	Price last week.	Price this week	
95 ⁷ 108 ³ 120 ³ 102 61 ¹ 193 ³ 40 ³ 93 ³ 54 ¹¹ 87 ³ 80 ³ 167 161 ³ 39 ³ 169 ³ 90 ³ 96 ³ 65 ³ 76 ³ 73 ³ 49 ³ 51 ³ 74 36 ³ 104 ³ 154 ³ 102 ³ 24 ³ 49 ³ 86 ³ 162 ³ 109 112 26 ³ 104 ³ 115 ³ 107 ³ 62 ³ 109 ³	80 ³ 102 104 ⁷ 97 ³ 46 ³ 173 ³ 27 ³ 85 ³ 38 ³ 77 ³ 58 ³ 156 140 ³ 24 ³ 140 ³ 77 ³ 94 41 ³ 67 ³ 40 ³ 46 43 ³ 59 ³ 36 ³ 97 ³ 116 ³ 96 ³ 18 ³ 37 ³ 69 ³ 133 102 ³ 108 ³ 109 ³ 99 ³ 107 ³ 97 41 ³ 106 ³	90 ³ 107 116 100 56 185 ³ 39 ³ 93 48 ³ 81 ³ 75 160 ³ 156 38 ³ 155 86 ³ 95 53 73 ³ 70 ³ — — 68 ³ 36 ³ 102 ³ 155 ³ 106 ³ 21 42 78 179 — 108 ³ 23 ³ 102 114 50 ³ 108 108	Atchison Shares (4) Do. Pref (5) Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) .. Do. Prefd. (4) Chesapeake & Ohio (1) Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) Denver Shares Do. Prefd. (5) Erie Shares Do. Prefd. (4) Do. 2nd Pref. (4) Illinois Central (7) Louisville & Nashville (6) .. Missouri and Texas New York Central (5) Norfolk and Western (3) Do. Prefd. (4) Ontario Shares (3) Pennsylvania (6) Reading Shares (1 $\frac{1}{2}$) Do. 1st Prefd. (4) Do. 2nd Prefd. (4) Southern Pacific Southern Do. Prefd. (5) Union Pacific (4) Do. Prefd. (4) Wabash Do. Prefd. Do. Income Debs. Canadian Pacific (6) Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. Do. Guar. (4) Do. 1st Pref. (5) Do. 2nd Pref. (5) Do. 3rd Pref. Do. Deb. (4 p.c.)	89 ³ 107 ³ 115 ³ 100 ³ 56 184 38 ³ 92 ³ 48 ³ 82 75 179 155 37 ³ 154 ³ 86 ³ 95 52 73 70 47 49 67 36 ³ 102 ³ 151 ³ 101 21 42 78 178 106 ³ 109 24 ³ 102 114 ³ 105 ³ 59 ³ 108 ³	94 ³ 108 ³ 116 ³ 100 57 ³ 186 39 ³ 93 ³ 49 ³ 82 ³ 76 180 157 ³ 38 155 ³ 88 ³ 95 53 73 ³ 73 ³ 47 49 68 37 ³ 103 153 ³ 101 21 42 78 179 106 ³ 109 26 ³ 102 115 106 61 ³ 107 ³

per cent. is expected, but that will give the deferred $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. less at 5 per cent. for the year than it got for 1904, because the distribution on the ordinary for the first half of the year was $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum less. On North-Western stock 7 per cent. per annum, against 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., is looked for; on South-Western, $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 8 per cent., as against 8 per cent.; on Metropolitan, $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 per cent., against 3 per cent.; on Midland deferred, $3\frac{1}{2}$

to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., against 3 per cent.; on North-Eastern, 6 to 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., against 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; on South-Eastern preferred, the same rate of 4 per cent.; and on Hull and Barnsley, $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., against $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; while North Staffordshire may, the market thinks, pay at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., against $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. a year ago.

Yankee Railroad shares were likewise influenced by visions of better conditions after the end of the year, when Wall Street confidently expected a return to more normal monetary conditions. Quotations here consequently opened over parity under the lead of Union Pacific shares, which were put up fully \$1 above, but the market soon settled down to await developments in New York. Money there proved to be not so cheap as had been expected, call loans frequently touching 60 per cent. on Tuesday, and the disappointment had a very unsettling effect. Wall Street promptly sold all she could and prices dwindled, but picked up again on the news that the Treasury was so far coming to the help of the market that it would anticipate \$1,700,000 of interest on Government bonds due on February 1. Local sales on this side checked the recovery for a time, and the engagement of \$2,000,000 gold for export to Mexico or South America helped to keep prices down. Money, however, fell to 10 and 15 per cent. at times, and this encouraged the "bulls" of Atchison to make a vigorous demonstration, which was afterwards extended to Union Pacific and one or two others. Arbitrage houses bought Atchisons largely against sales of Union Pacific, and Wall Street rallied to the support of the latter, but all this energy fails to bring in the longed-for public on either side of the water.

Highest and Lowest last Year.		Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last com- pleted year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
222½	128	212	Antofagasta (10)	212	213
321	144½	—	Do. Def. (15)	310 x	310
131½	105	127	Argentine Gt. West. (6)	128	130
131	113½	127½	Do. Prfd. (5)	129	131
84½	77	83½	Bahia Blanca Prefd.	84	85
148½	134½	138½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	140	144
133½	126	126½	Do. Prefce (5)	127	128
143½	117	131½	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	133	134
118½	108½	116½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	118	118
110½	99½	105½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	107	108
115½	101½	114½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	115	115½
110	92½	109½	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	110	111
176½	161	164½	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	165	166
109½	103½	106	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	106 xd	108
142½	127	134	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	134	136½
93	79	87	Central Uruguay (4½) ..	87	90
109	100	106½	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	107	109
95½	88	91½	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	92 xd	92
76½	58	71½	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	72½	73½
2½	2½	2½	Costa Rica	2½	2½
78½	54½	61½	Cuban Central	61½	61½
107½	101½	111½	Do. Pref. (5½)	112	112½
12½	104	—	Do. Deb. (4½)	105	105
95½	72	93½	East Argentine (4½)	93	93
78½	51½	56	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	6	6
84½	64½	82	Leopoldina (3)	83	84½
99½	86½	99	Do. Deb. (4)	99	97½ xd
110½	106	—	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	111	108 xd
108½	104½	—	Do. "B" (6)	106	104 xd
29½	19½	23½	Mexican Ord. Stk.	23½	25½
121½	103½	117½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½)	118	119½
57	36½	47½	Do. 2nd Pref.	47½	50½
69½	48½	53	Mexican Southern (2½)	53	55
17	10½	14½	Nitrato Ord. (5½)	15	14½
19½	16½	18½	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	19	19
220	178	204	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	204½	207
226	122	211½	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	211	187½ xs

Grand Trunk stocks were recently taken in hand by New York, and the ordinary and third preference in particular were pushed up in the usual style, but the good traffic return gave the "bulls" a chance to secure profits, and final prices were under the best. Canadian Pacific shares were dull for a time, but did not remain long at the lower level touched, as the increase of \$261,000 in the traffic figures for the last ten days of December was considered satisfactory. Further strength was given to the market by the fact that Canadian things generally are very much in favour at the present time, and it is confidently predicted that they will reach much higher prices in the near future.

Argentine Railways are again well to the front in the popular fancy, and a good deal of buying has been scattered throughout the list. The traffic returns were not considered altogether satisfactory, but were soon forgotten, and business became brisk in such things as

Buenos Ayres Great Southern ordinary, Buenos Ayres Western, Cordoba and Rosario first preference, and Villa Maria preference shares. Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary, on the other hand, was offered pretty freely and closes with a small loss on balance, a loss which was shared by Argentine North-Eastern preferred stock. Brazilian stocks were decidedly higher under the lead of San Paulo ordinary, and Uruguay issues also showed fair gains. Mexican Railway second preference improved substantially, the ordinary and first preference following with fractional advances, and Mexican Southern ordinary put on 2. United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock is now quoted ex scrip for bonus, and, taking this as worth 20, the stock shows a rise of $2\frac{1}{2}$ on the week. Business was active in Arica and Tacna shares, and they finish nearly £2 up.

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
27	15	20½	Allsopp Ordinary.. ..	21	21
71	40	—	City of London Ord. ..	57½	57½
566	505	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	530	540
27½	19½	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40) ..	19½	19½
2½	2½	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22) ..	2½	2½
3½	3	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	3½	3
68½	48	57	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4) ..	58½	57½
35	15	16½	Do. Def. Ord. Stock ..	17	17
105	99	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4) ..	99	99
78½	56½	—	Do. Def. Stk. (3½) ..	59	59
6½	5½	6½	Aerated Bread (32½) ..	6	6
7½	6	6½	Apollinaris Ord. (5) ..	6½	6½
6½	5½	1½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½) ..	6½	6½
1½	1½	25/3	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7) ..	1½	1½
3½	1½	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2	2
8	5	—	Brunner Mond (35) ..	7½	7½
11½	9½	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½) ..	11½	11½
5½	4½	11/-	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½) ..	5½	5½
50½	48½	49½	Coats Ordinary (20) ..	49½	49½
1½	1½	20/6	Do. Pref. Ord. (20) ..	1½	1½
1½	1	22/9	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nll) ..	1½	1½
8½	5½	6½	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4) ..	8½	8½
23½	10½	—	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	23½	23½
4½	3½	4½	Henley's Telegraph (15) ..	13	13
18	12	1½	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	18	18
111	106	109	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½) ..	109	107½
14	10	1½	Do. Debenture (4½) ..	14	14
6½	5	5½	Lipton Ordinary (7) ..	6½	6½
18	17	26/9	Lyons, J. & Co. (30) ..	18	18
8	5½	—	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	7½	7½
15½	13½	—	Russian Petroleum ..	15½	15½
105	102½	104½	Savoy Hotel (5) ..	104½	102½
89	49½	81½	Sweetmeat Automatic ..	82	82½
51½	38½	44½	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10) ..	45½	45½
106½	99½	106	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	107	107½
11½	10½	11½	Do. Pref. Stock (6) ..	11½	11½
8½	6½	6½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4) ..	8½	8½
13½	10½	11½	Hudson's Bay Co. (58½) ..	13½	13½
104½	95½	—	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½) ..	102½	103
134½	126½	—	Do. Debentures (6) ..	133	133
34½	34	35½	National Discount (10) ..	34	34
58	34	34½	Union Discount (11) ..	58	58
14½	14	14½	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8) ..	14½	14½
42½	26½	41	City of London Elect. Ord. (6) ..	42½	41
109½	93½	108½	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4½) ..	108½	109
249	214½	—	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	249	248
47	38½	—	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	47	47
93½	8	—	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	93½	93½
110½	101½	109½	Brown, J. & Co. Ordinary (10) ..	110½	110
18½	10	17½	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½) ..	18½	18½
147½	134½	145½	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	147½	146½
147½	133	148	United States Steel Ordinary ..	147½	148
113½	100	108½	Do. Preference (7) ..	113½	111½
147½	133	148	Vickers Ordinary (12½) ..	147½	148
102	76	8½	Cunard Steam ..	102	102
129	99	—	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13) ..	129	129
102	98	—	Royal Mail ..	102	102
			Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ord. (5) ..		
			Anglo-American Telegraph— ..		
			Do. Pref. Ord. (2½) ..		
			Do. Def. Ord. ..		
			East. Telegraph Ord Stock (7) ..		
			Eastern Extension (7) ..		
			National Telephone Def. (5) ..		
			Western Telegraph (7) ..		
			British Elect. Traction Ord. (6) ..		
			Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8) ..		
			London General Omnibus (8) ..		
			London United Trams Pref. (5) ..		

Miscellaneous markets were not entirely without interest, and in some directions a fair amount of activity developed. Hudson's Bays, after touching 84½, gradually fell away, despite the excellent figures published in respect of operations for the first nine months of last year, and closed well down on the week. Pekin Syndicates were also unable to maintain an initial advance, and other Chinese land and exploration shares followed the lead given. Argentine land shares, however, were harder. Nitrate things were picking up again on the growing hope that a restrictive agreement of some kind will be arrived at. Iron and Steel shares kept firm, particularly

Vickers, and most textiles showed slight gains. Apart from Lyons' shares, which were dull, Catering issues were disposed to harden, and a rally took place in Spiers and Pond on "bear" closing. Nelson's and other Meat shares also picked up, but Breweries were again heavy, with notable exceptions in the case of Guinness and Bieckerts ordinary. Ind-Coope debentures also went back sharply, and the debenture issues of Salt and Co. collapsed when it became known that the interest would not be forthcoming. Telegraph and Telephone securities were good as a rule, but Anglo-Americans fell away on the less sanguine views now prevalent concerning the forthcoming dividend. A little while ago 7s. 6d. or even 10s. was talked of for the deferred, but a much smaller payment is now looked for, and in view of the fact that before very long the laying of a fresh cable will probably have to be undertaken, some dealers would not be surprised if no distribution at all were made. The decline was helped by a good deal of selling against unexercised options, but the close was not at the worst. Nobel Dynamites were good, likewise Gas Light stock, and Russian Oils continue to recover, but London Motor 'Bus shares were somewhat dull on talk of a protective combination between the four largest horse companies. B. E. T. shares were disposed to harden, and in the Shipping division Royal Mails improved on the announcement referred to elsewhere.

Nothing happened to-day in the stock markets. Telephonic communication with Paris was partially interrupted, and very little arbitrage business went on between the Bourse and the Stock Exchange. Yesterday, however, the French bought dividend paying Kaffir shares, and to-day they were disposed to sell. On the whole, though, securities closed firm with a recovery in Consols and another hoist after a period of flatness in Yankee rails. Anaconda Copper shares have been flying about like shuttlecocks, but we are glad to note that the public does not seem to be touching that dangerous stuff.

Passing Events.

Like most of the other Indian tea companies whose approximate results have lately been made known, the well-managed and flourishing Assam company found the 1905 season quite a good one. The crop totalled 4,030,160 lbs., or 215,533 lbs. larger than in 1904, and the quality was so much better that 2,142,000 lbs. which have been sold to date realised an average of 9.35d. per lb. as against 8d. per lb. for 2,056,866 lbs. disposed of in the corresponding period. Expenditure was larger because more money was spent in importing new labour, and upon manuring and improving the old cultivation, but owing to the larger crop, causing the outlay to be more widely spread, the increase was entirely neutralised. The total cost per lb. of production works out at just under 7½d., or the same as in 1904. The strength of the labour market has been more than maintained, and the general manager in Assam reports favourably on the general condition and prospects of the gardens, which have been well cultivated and kept in a thoroughly efficient state. In accordance with a wish expressed by certain shareholders at the last general meeting, the board has arranged for an independent report upon the properties in Assam by Mr. Grey, a planter of considerable experience intimately associated with the Suddia Road district of Assam. The result of the report will be communicated to the shareholders as soon as received.

Now we know the reason of the recent considerable selling of Spiers and Pond shares which drove the ordinary back to 1½ and the preference below 5. A brief circular has just been issued by the directors intimating that it is in the best interests of the proprietors that the cash resources of the company should not be reduced by the payment of an interim dividend on the preference shares due 1st inst. Therefore, the payment will remain in abeyance. Probably this news is no worse than shareholders expected after the steady

retrogression of the past few years, and despite changes in the directorate and the appointment of a new general manager it will be wise not to look for much at the end of the financial year. Indeed, if the directors are really anxious to set the enterprise on its feet again, they will not think of paying dividends for many years to come, because unless the finances can be immediately and materially strengthened the end must be complete breakdown and reorganisation. Considerable capital expenditure is still going on at the Criterion and New Central restaurants and at other establishments, and we know that already the burden of outlay is a lot greater than the company can bear. For our part, we think the capital account should be immediately closed, and all future outlays be charged direct to revenue lest the company drift to irretrievable disaster.

We trust that the once prosperous business of the Mazawattee Tea Company is not to go hopelessly to the bad, but current events seem to be pointing that way. At the end of last year the old managing directors were removed at the instance of Mr. John L. Densham and others, and two new ones took their place; but apparently the fresh men found themselves utterly unable to cope with the position they found, and have sought the assistance of the principal shareholders in deciding on a future policy. We gather that on investigation a really disastrous condition of affairs was brought to light, which is no more than we expected and predicted, and the directors decline to take the responsibility of deciding what shall be done without a kind of mandate from the big proprietors. Every day which passes before some definite policy is decided upon means a considerable loss to the shareholders they say, and it is quite impossible to defer consideration of the matter, even until the general meeting held in February. Hence the summoning of those chiefly interested to a special and secret conclave on Wednesday last. Exactly what transpired we have not yet been able to learn, but presumably the discussion chiefly turned on those elaborate and costly failures, the shops. It has been suggested that these should be turned into cafés, but if matters are really as bad as that those who embarked upon this ruinous shop policy ought to be made personally responsible for the huge sums of money lost, because the company was hopelessly committed to the venture before the shareholders were even consulted.

We had something to say a few weeks back regarding certain important Chilean railway projects, and now learn that a company has been formed locally with a capital of 10,000,000 pesos, with a view to constructing a line from Arica to La Paz. No mention is made of the Arica and Tacna Railway which certain cocksure people told us would be bought up for the purposes of the new system, and those who followed the "tip" to buy the shares of this company on the idea that the system would be taken over on the basis of £10 per share can make up their minds that the good thing is not to come off. We are glad to find that the money for construction is to be raised locally, thus retaining within the country all the benefits likely to accrue. Some little political friction has unhappily occurred in connection with the line, the very proper course taken by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of coming to an understanding with Bolivia regarding the neutrality of the railway being opposed by the Chilean Parliament. Both Chambers are understood to desire that Chili should have the free use of the line for the transport of troops in case of war, and we gather that public opinion is being stirred up in support of this view. There is talk of asking Bolivia to agree to a revision of the protocol, but we hope that country will take a firm stand in the matter and do nothing of the kind. The system is wanted for commercial interchange between the two countries giving equal benefits to each, and should never be put to other uses.

While on the subject of Chili we might as well record the latest scrap of news concerning the nitrate restricting combine. According to a Reuter from Santiago, it

is believed that a union of all nitrate companies will be formed in February, and that steps are being taken with this object. We assume this intelligence to mean that a new compact, if it can be agreed upon, will embrace not only the Chilean companies, but those working in neighbouring countries as well.

Up to the present nothing but disheartening failure has attended the efforts of the directors of Showells Brewery to devise an acceptable plan for the reorganisation of the capital account, and they have been driven back on the scheme originally formulated, as long ago as February last. It seems that at the recent ordinary general meeting the wish was expressed that a further attempt should be made to adjust the rights of the three classes of shareholders, so as to enable the deficiency existing on the balance-sheet to be written off the capital, and the additional necessary money to be raised. So the matter was again accorded very careful consideration, with the result that nothing materially differing from the former proposal can be devised, and proprietors are again asked to express either their assent to or dissent from this scheme, in order that the directors may determine whether a sufficient number of each class approve to justify them in now proceeding with it. As an alternative, it is suggested that separate meetings be called of each class of shareholders, who should nominate directly or by a committee a qualified expert, and that the experts so chosen should meet under the presidency of the company's auditor, to endeavour to agree upon a scheme which all can recommend to their respective constituents, the ordinary, preference and guaranteed shareholders. This idea seems to provide a way out of the present difficulties, and as the only alternative is that of making good the deficiency from profits, and thereby indefinitely postponing the resumption of dividends, shareholders will be well advised to intimate which course they prefer. The apathy displayed by so many greatly hampers the board in its difficult task, and it is certainly time that a serious attempt was made to get the finances straightened out.

From the brief statement of operations for the nine months to December 31 last just issued by the Hudson's Bay Company, we infer that this wealthy enterprise can get along quite well enough without the gratuitous booming and fanciful land value calculations in which certain so-called financial writers are wont to indulge. During the period mentioned the sales of farm lands and town lots amounted approximately to £320,800, payable over a term of years, and cash receipts to £213,500, as compared with sales of £112,000 and cash receipts of £164,200 for the corresponding period of last year.

Sir Henry Tyler and his co-directors have bowed to the inevitable, and have handed in their resignations, at the same time announcing that they have elected the following as the new board of the Le Roi Company:—Messrs. A. J. McMillan, G. W. Wilson, Charles Dunderdale, and T. D. Grimke-Brayton. In a letter from the solicitors of the late directors to the solicitors acting on behalf of Mr. McMillan it is admitted that the polling papers (now unofficial) which have been lodged at the offices of the company, together with the show of hands and the proxies at the recent meeting, were in favour of Mr. McMillan and his party; hence the resignations. This means that the amalgamation scheme has been dropped, and upon this defeat of the Americans we think shareholders are to be congratulated. We ourselves were opposed to amalgamation many months ago, long before it came to the late critical stage, and it is gratifying to see that common-sense has triumphed. The incident is also important as demonstrating what shareholders can do in concert, and it should serve to inspire others. It now remains to be seen what Mr. McMillan can achieve in an unfettered position, and if he can make good many of his promises.

The *National Review* for January publishes a lengthy article on the Chinese question from the pen of Mr. F. Drummond Chaplin. As this gentleman is one of the

joint-managers at Johannesburg of the Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa, he can hardly be described as a disinterested student of the question which he discusses with such self-satisfaction. Thus he is not able to take either an unbiassed or original view of the problem, for which reason his views are of little or no value. His answers to the many objections urged against the indentured employment of coolies are those we have heard over and over again from similar interested advocates. They are such ancient and trite replies as that it is a party agitation; that the greater the number of Chinese employed the more whites are engaged; that the slaves are wonderfully well treated; that they benefit the country by spending a considerable portion of their wages therein, and so on and so forth. These arguments can impress those only who are eager to be impressed, who will not trouble to note the fallacies. We have dealt with them all till we are tired of the weary repetition, and begin to think it a disgrace to any English journal to be the medium of conveying such absolute rubbish to its readers. But the most convincing answer is that the bosses themselves are tired of the Chinkees, and will eagerly grasp at a decent excuse to get rid of them and welcome their old friends—the blacks.

A certain news agency almost breaks its neck in its haste to tell the world that of the dividends distributed by Rand mines in 1905, amounting in the aggregate to £4,750,000, a sum of £366,250 is directly attributable to mines making their first declaration since the war and employing Chinese. Prodigious! A vast sum, indeed, is that £360,000; but, after all, incommensurable though it be, it is insignificant in comparison with the losses suffered to gather it. The mouthpieces of the mine bosses do not care to remind us of those tremendous losses. They ignore them. They talk frothily of gains as though they can thereby persuade the ruined investor that he has been enriched. Such is the ignorance of these unscrupulous robbers. They have a profound contempt for the intelligence of the ordinary man. They have learnt little from the fact that the ordinary man, be he Tory or Radical, has ceased to dance to the bosses' piping. Investors have lost their millions in the Kaffir pit, and a paltry £360,000 alleged to be gained is not enough to give a dry crust to the starving. What would have been gained had the money spent on Chinese been paid in dividends; had the bosses relied upon black labour? They wanted neither black nor white. But as the yellows have brought them no boom, have failed as a decoy to the foolish, let them go. What gain do slaves bring if the public here will not be gulled any more?

The dividends announced by the directors of the De Beers Consolidated for the half-year to December 31, of 10s. per share, or 20 per cent., on both preference and deferred shares, are at the same rate as for the corresponding period of 1904. There is little doubt, of course, that the directors will strive their utmost to keep up the figures as long as they possibly can, though profits have been steadily dwindling for the past three or four years. The announcement is unaccompanied by any details as to earnings and profits, but it is most unlikely there has been any change for the better in the twinkling of an eye.

There are many good things in the January number of the *Book Monthly* which we should like to discourse about did space permit. As it is, we can only mention the interesting notes by the editor, Mr. James Milne, on the literary character of the new Cabinet. Until we read his London letter we really had not thought how strong on its literary side Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's Ministry is. Everybody knows that Mr. John Morley is, as Mr. Milne says, one of the first writers of his time, one of the living masters of English style. We know, too, that Mr. James Bryce is a distinguished man of letters for his "Holy Roman Empire," first published in 1864, reminds us of that, as well as his less known work on the American Constitution and his recent volume of essays and appreciations. Mr. Augustine Birrell, too, has long been before the public

as an utterer of witty and penetrating thoughts, but we had forgotten that Sir Edward Gray is the author of "one of the most brilliant books on fly fishing," and Mr. R. B. Haldane's distinction as a great intellectual lawyer and the translator of Schopenhauer has not been impressed upon us as it should have been, because his work has lain mostly outside our range, so Mr. Milne does well to emphasise it. Mr. Winston Churchill, amongst the younger members of the Government, is an author of note, and Mr. John Burns, although he has never given us a book as Mr. Milne says, is the author of many detached essays and essentially a man of letters, self-educated but probably all the more excellently cultivated for that. The number is throughout interesting.

France is in an extremely nervous state about the attitude of the German Emperor over this Moroccan question, and we cannot help thinking that her guides exaggerate the danger. After all, there is something in Mr. Labouchere's contention in this week's *Truth* to the effect that France, with the connivance of Lord Lansdowne, did not go the right way about settling her disputes with Morocco. It would have been better to have taken Germany into her confidence at the outset, or, rather, to have laid the proposed measures before all the Powers together, Morocco being an independent State. But it would be folly to follow up one mistake by perpetrating another, and a greater one by treating Germany to outbursts of jealous suspicion and ascriptions of sinister motives. Germany cannot afford, on any ground, to quarrel with France about Morocco. It is not to her interests to do this at the time when her Polish provinces stand in danger of an upheaval in sympathy with the Poles in Russia. Nor are the vast commercial interests of Germany capable of enduring the shock of a conflict with France, which might lead also to one with England. The safety of France from any attack seems to us assured, therefore, and that is all the more reason why French statesmen should continue to handle the ticklish question of Morocco gently, straightforwardly, and without trace either of bullying or subservience.

Was the New Reform Club acting with its usual wisdom in giving opportunity for fantastic performances by Mr. G. K. Chesterton and Mr. G. B. Shaw on Wednesday night? These two exceedingly clever gentlemen attracted a great audience of the "super-man" order of both sexes, but neither of them appears to have said anything in the least likely to help the Liberal cause at the present crisis. Mr. Chesterton was graciously pleased to inform his hearers that the "peace, retrenchment, and reform" watchwords of the Manchester school, as he sneeringly called them, were not so gracious to his mind as the older motto of "liberty, equality, and fraternity," under which France was united to usher in the reign of terror and the despotism of Napoleon Buonaparte. This is interesting, perhaps, to the decadents, but has no bearing on practical politics at the present time. Nor was Mr. Super-Shakespeare Shaw's mysterious information that he himself is the one and only "Protectionist" of any more value. What good can sneering and snobbish arrogance do just now? Is it a help to tell us that the Prime Minister and the Liberal Party are intellectually against metaphysics? The New Reform Club will doubtless do better next time.

The year 1905 was not counted an exceptional one in the matter of new capital creations, nor was it; but it will probably surprise a good many people to learn that the number of fresh issues averaged more than one a day, the total being just four short of 400 for, say, 300 working days. Of these, 207 were emissions by existing companies, 69 were mining issues, 64 commercial, and 9 financial, the balance of 47 consisting of loans by governments, corporations, &c. March gave us the largest aggregate, £44,072,000, and September, always a quiet month, the smallest, the total for the whole year reaching the huge figure of £171,935,070. Does anyone ever pause to consider the difficult task involved in financing this

immense amount of paper, and is it not probable that the disruptions in the money market so constantly being witnessed may sometimes have their source in this everlasting multiplication of credit?

Will Mr. Horatio Bottomley be so good as to explain to the Hackney electors the present position of his Hansard Union benevolent fund? He promised the victims, shareholders in that disastrous speculation, a free gift of £250,000. How much of this promise has been made good, and what is the balance remaining unpaid? Was there not a Mr. George Wreford connected with the fund, and what has become of him?

Another gentleman from whom much valuable information about the working of companies limited by guarantee might be solicited is Mr. H. W. Hyndman, the far shimmering socialist leader. Did his West African ventures in that line turn out profitable to participants therein? Mr. Hyndman might confide to the constituency he is working as an ardent overturner how many companies he has helped to form from first to last; by how much they have profited him, and what the gains have been of their other shareholders.

So the great McCall has followed the dainty Alexander, the exquisite Hyde, and the sumptuous McCurdy into retirement, and the New York Life Office will have work for a new president. But we have not heard that he has as yet followed the tired McCurdy's example and settled property worth £600,000 on his wife. Perhaps he has neither the time nor the money. But they all three presidents are very broken and ill, poor shunted grandes of "the Street," Hyde alone being happy and handsome as ever, and there does appear to be a considerable moral sense left among the American people which tells with crushing effect on the found out. Do they no longer regard the dollar as their one and only lord god.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company is about to extend its operations to the Australian trade, thus affording additional evidence of the enterprise which has characterised the management since it assumed control about two years ago. It appears that the company takes over as from January 1 last the interest which the Pacific Steam Navigation Company has in the Orient Pacific Line, owned jointly by the Orient Steam Navigation Company and the Pacific Company. In other words, the four steamers hitherto forming the Pacific Company's half of the service have been purchased by the Royal Mail, the company in future to be known as the Orient-Royal Mail Line. Messrs. F. Green and Co. and Messrs. Anderson, Anderson and Co. will continue to act as managers under slightly modified conditions. Terms of purchase have not yet been announced.

Too late for adequate treatment this week, we have received the report and accounts of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company for the 17 months ended August 31 last. The document is called the "fifth annual report," but the previous statement was for the nine months ended March 31, 1904, and it is extremely difficult to make any adequate comparison. We may just mention, however, that the directors declare a dividend of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares, which will take £E18,000, while the nett profit brought out for the 17 months is only £E12,034. Gross earnings were apparently on a better scale than in the preceding nine months, at the rate, say, of £E3,196 per month, as against £E2,970 in the earlier period, but current expenses rose in much greater proportion, so that the nett profit for the long period is actually about £E2,500 less than for the short, but there are many intricacies in connection with the story and figures which we will take time to look into.

Another interim report, the fourth, has been issued by the debenture holders of the Beira Railways, and is crowded with statements which go to pile up the indictment formulated against the Chartered Company and its dependent railways. All sorts of petty and other examples of chicane are hinted at or alleged, and if half what is stated is true, the debenture and share

holders of the company ought to support the committee as one man. The committee continues to insist that the interests of the Beira line are sacrificed to those of the Mashonaland line and of the British South Africa Company. We shall doubtless have to return to this subject.

Few people will be surprised at the latest brewery collapse. For a long time past the debenture stocks of the Burton business of Thomas Salt and Co. have stood at prices which foreboded something evil, and the announcement just made that the company is unable to provide the debenture interest due January 1 is not worse than we have long expected. In the circular issued to the debenture-holders the directors say they have been trying hard to bring about an amalgamation with other brewery firms with the object, of course, of decreasing working expenses and establishment charges and providing working capital. The negotiations, it appears, have extended over a long period involving considerable expense, but unexpected difficulties have arisen at the last moment and it has been found impossible to carry out the original scheme without modification. The directors are hopeful that they may presently smooth out the difficulties now in the way and carry out a scheme on "firm and successful lines," but meanwhile the debenture interest cannot be paid, and an application will be made for the appointment of a receiver and manager. From a communication sent by a "Burton correspondent" to the Press we gather that there is a disposition in some quarters to make light of the present troubles, the suspension being described as a "precautionary measure" due to certain financial adjustments rendered necessary by the acquisition of the Albion Brewery and Bell and Co. Be this as it may, the serious step of postponing debenture interest payments would not have been taken except under the greatest stress, and if things are as described by the "Burton correspondent" the board would surely have taken care to make the facts plain. The company is one of the many that never allow a balance-sheet to see the light, so that we have not been able to examine its financial position, but we suppose a statement of a sort will be published now. The company has a debenture debt of about £800,000, of which £400,000 is now defaulted upon and a share capital of £195,950.

Goldfields of Matabeleland.

It is not in the least amazing that the directors of this prominent Rhodesian concern present distressing results of another year's working; or, perhaps, we should say of watching, for, as far as we can see, this has been the kind of labour done. Twelve months ago the directors were quite hopeful that the Rhodesian market would improve, and not only give them more opportunities for profitable share dealing, but cause their paper rubbish to appreciate. The improvement has not come, we need hardly say, and the directors have been gazing through the office skylights for signs of a break in the Rhodesian gloom. Unfortunately for the shareholders, the gloom has deepened, and has been heavier since the Chartered directors declared it was getting lighter. The outlook for this company is as hopeless as the prospect for the majority of Rhodesian companies, and it is better to face this fact than to hug the delusion that things are not what they seem. This statement finds ample substantiation in the document before us. Dealing first of all with the financial results, the agency business brought in £11,324, interest and dividends gave £1,866, transfer fees £87, whilst the directors managed to make a profit of £14,252 on the sale of some shares, less balances written off. What these balances are, whether small or large, shareholders are not informed. But the revenue credits total £27,530, and after deducting expenditure, including such items as £2,447 of bad debts and £1,785 spent on abandoned claims, a profit of £2,971 is shown. The directors proceed to write £15,965 off the cost of shares and debentures,

which, the report explains, represent losses incurred by the reconstruction of the Lingham Company and the failure of the Inkerman mine to realise expectations. By utilising the reserve account of £6,991 the debit carried to the balance-sheet is only £6,093. According to the report of the auditors other substantial losses by way of depreciation have not been faced, so the share assets are given inflated values. "The shares and debentures which have a published price, rather less than one-half of the whole (£409,931), showed at June 30, in the aggregate, a considerable depreciation. No evidence as to the value of the remainder has been produced to us." Probably they have no market value whatever, and are precisely what we have described them—rubbish. Shares and debentures—probably those having published prices—entered at £154,854 are in pledge as security for loans from brokers and others of only £60,000, which shows at a glance what their realisable value is. With other obligations the company's current liabilities are nearly £78,966 against which cash is a mere £2,440, with £10,683 owing by debtors. Could the financial position be more deplorable? Money will have to be raised somehow to replenish the company's exhausted coffers and keep it going, but how? There are about 96,000 shares unissued out of a nominal 500,000, but who would take them up? The directors? We think not. There remains reconstruction, and if shareholders are still bleedable, why not bleed them? Why not attempt it, at any rate? During the twelve months the capital was increased by £30,048, due mainly to the issue of 30,000 fully paid shares in payment of the assets taken over from such a sorry concern as Crewe's Rhodesia Development. A schedule shows that the mining claims held at June 30 numbered 270, but no work was done on these during the year. As the consulting engineer reported unfavourably upon 140 claims these were abandoned. As other companies are also throwing up valueless claims by hundreds, aggregating many thousands, what further evidence do we need of the worthlessness of Rhodesia as a payable gold field? Whence are shareholders to get their dividends? Since this note was written the meeting of the company has been held, at which the chairman expressed his dislike of reconstruction. He prefers debentures, and suggested an issue of £100,000, carrying 5½ or 6 per cent. interest. He does not think the question of the security need be raised. No fool would raise it. What sounder security could such wish for than the company's depreciated assets? Only the prudent would disdain it.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

. Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

When the market reopened on Tuesday after Monday's holiday insiders tried to make a demonstration in favour of Kaffirs, eager to give the new year a brave start. The transitory cheapness of money was in their favour, together with the collapse of the revolt in Moscow, and if they could only put prices higher there was just the possibility that the public might come in. Accordingly quotations were hoisted, and the word went round that there was a great improvement in this particular section. It was but momentary. When it was seen that no genuine support came forward dealers exhibited their usual timidity, and down prices flopped. Meanwhile one or two cheerful stories were circulated just to put heart in the weary. Mr. Balfour's speech on Chinese labour was declared to be a "bull" point, whilst the Cape and Paris were said to buy more than they had sold. It was also stated that a prominent house, hitherto regarded as a pronounced "bear"—the Barnatos, is it?—was buying back in order to close recent transactions. These stimulating tales and reports failed to put any real vigour into buying, so prices finished below the best, though in some cases 5s. or so above Saturday's figures. Later in the week Paris sold with considerable freedom, owing to apprehensions in regard to the Moroccan outlook, but the erstwhile "bear" shop continued to absorb as much paper as it could, thus checking what would probably have been a more serious decline. Despite this, many of the losses in the leading specialities were heavy. Modderfontein have been particularly conspicuous, going up several shillings one day, only to lose them on the next.

Rhodesians have given way with Kaffirs. At the end of last week the directors of the Goldfields of Matabeleland issued their report and accounts, which we deal with fully. They reveal a distressing state of things, and have made a most unfavourable impression. The meeting of the company was held on Tuesday, at which the chairman expressed his dislike of reconstruction. As more capital is necessary to keep some semblance of life in the wretched concern, he suggests that it be raised on debentures to the extent of another £100,000, to carry interest of 5½ or 6½ per cent. The security? What is the use of talking about security if there are fools enough ready to part with whatever directors choose to ask for? It will probably all be lost, security or none. Tanganyikas were manipulated upwards at first, but soon reacted with the all-round weakness.

In the diamond section the principal movement has been a big fall in Premier deferred; for no reason that has come to the surface.

Egyptians and West Africans have continued to droop, no support forthcoming from any quarter.

In the West Australian department Paris is again throwing out Horseshoe shares, the reason for which mystifies the market. So the price continues to decline, and other shares have given way in sympathy. Copper shares have shown much irregularity. Anacondas are still the most prominent, but the upward flight is not continuous, for they have fluttered up and down as the strings have been jerked from behind by the Yankee manipulators. Rio Tintos have been similarly erratic; strong one day, flabby the next. Cape Coppers have weakened, Mount Lyells have reacted and Spassky's are a trifle better.

Indian shares have mostly hardened. The one important exception has been Champion Reefs, which have weakened daily on persistent sales. The market is quite ignorant of the reason for this selling, for nothing official has been published to account for it. It is, of course, well known that the company is treating a lower grade of ore than hitherto. The price has recovered a little towards the close.

There is still considerable excitement in the Broken Hill group. Several fresh dealers have gone into this market, which, it is declared, is getting bare of stock. It is a dangerous place, however, for the outsider. After a sharp advance, prices gave way from profit-taking and banging tactics. In the metal market, lead has hardened a little, but silver is inclined to weakness, whilst zinc is unchanged.

EAST RAND PROPRIETARY GROUP.—The directors of the East Rand Proprietary Mines have issued a circular saying they are glad to inform shareholders that the forecast made at the last annual meeting as to the date of the erection and completion of the Angelo and Cason mills will prove correct. The consulting engineer advises that the Angelo company will be able to start crushing at its own mill towards the end of January and the Cason company at the end of March. In so far, therefore, as the reduction plants are concerned, the total complement of stamps—820—apportioned 220 each to the Driefontein, Angelo and Cason companies and 160 to the New Comet, will be available next March, "but on the question of the supply of labour and efficiency depends the fact as to whether it will be possible at that date to employ the full number of stamps." Does it? Well, we can assure Sir George Farrar, on the authority of such a well-informed man as Mr. J. B. Robinson, that there is plenty of labour in South Africa if the bosses will try properly and strenuously to get it. The Driefontein, it appears, is to run with natives, the Angelo and Cason with a mixture of yellows and blacks. At present there are, roundly, 4,000 Chinese on the property, of which 3,000 are classed as efficient. The others are going through the probationary period. The balance of 5,000 coolies said to be required are to arrive between now and April next. "As it takes some little time before the imported labourers become efficient workers it may not be possible to run all the mills at their full capacity on their completion. Still, it is confidently anticipated that by the middle of 1906 the labour then available will permit of the employment of every stamp." The directors say they desire to impress upon shareholders the fact that, until the companies are on a sound and settled basis in regard to their labour requirements, it is impossible to obviate considerable fluctuations in grade and cost. "When the full mills are running," they add, "with an assured and steady supply of labour, the results which will be obtained will amply justify the capitalisation of the companies." As the directors are not infallible men, and are liable to miscalculate just like ordinary folk, it may be that the results will justify nothing of the kind. We must wait and see. At any rate, let them see to it that market inflation is discouraged.

VEREENIGING ESTATES.—Work at this company's two mines during the year ending September 30 resulted in the extraction and sale of 280,968 tons of coal. The gross profit on coal winning and farming amounted to £38,315, in addition to which rents brought in £2,783, royalties £2,595, sundry revenue £1,119 and the settlement of a royalty suspense account £3,969. Net profit carried to the appropriation account was £22,451, increased to £136,122 with the balance of £110,671 from 1904, and £3,000 representing the retransference of a sum provided for contingent losses. Owing to the necessity, however, of writing off large amounts, the greater part of this disappears. On May 24 last it was discovered that a fire had broken out in some of the old and disused workings of the Central Mine, resulting in serious loss to the company, directly and indirectly. Owing chiefly to this misfortune, and to the fact that no satisfactory settlement has been obtained of the company's claims against the Imperial Government in respect of matters arising from the late war, which claims the directors deem it no longer advisable

to include amongst the assets, the depreciation and writings off total no less than £72,095, and leave a credit of £64,026 to carry forward. Though the amount owing to creditors of £51,327 is almost covered by the £50,174 owed by debtors, cash is very low at a mere £46. As the Central Mine is again working and good profits are being earned, the empty coffers should quickly be refilled. Contracts have been secured for the supply of coal to the Cape Government railways and the Central South African railways administrations. The directors believe there is every reason to hope that the revenue from the farming and estate operations will increase year by year. They are considering a scheme for carrying on sheep farming. On the other hand, the boring operations undertaken to ascertain if the Witwatersrand beds occur on the Estates at a workable depth have been disappointing, Dr. Hatch deciding that the work is far too costly to be carried out at the present moment.

MAIN REEF EXTENSIONS.—In their report for the twelve months to September 30 the directors admit that owing to the conditions which have recently existed in connection with all South African mining enterprises, especially in regard to new propositions, it has not been found possible to deal with any of the company's properties. We grieve to hear such a tale of woe, and sympathise with the victims as sincerely as we can. "With the knowledge," the message proceeds, "that a highly payable reef runs through the Elandshevel mynpachts, it is confidently expected that, given a return of enterprise to the mining industry, a satisfactory deal can be arranged with regard to this property." This was penned before the Prime Minister's announcement on Chinese labour, which may tend to modify the sentiments of the Micawber-like directors. Advices have come to hand, we are further told, that an option has been taken on Rheebofontein—it is pleasing to see how fond the directors are of places with lyrical names—which adjoins Elandshevel, on terms which are decidedly encouraging to this company's prospects. Are they, indeed? It would be amazing to hear the board confess that a bargain they had made was discouraging. Then the Gembokfontein farm continues to attract considerable interest—from whom? Not from cows and pigs only, surely? Maybe from tramps. "Recently it was reported that tin had been discovered." It is remarkable how sensational whisperings of this kind reach the ears of the directors in far off London, even though they may not know exactly how the report originated. As the prospects of the Nootgedacht property failed to realise the anticipations formed of it at the time the option over it was taken, the directors tried to obtain a reduction of the sum to be paid for the renewal and of the purchase consideration. As their efforts were unsuccessful the option was abandoned. "For reasons of economy, and having in view that but little business was being transacted in Johannesburg, the services of the advisory committee have been dispensed with, and the general manager in Johannesburg has accepted a considerable reduction in his fees." So it is an ill wind that is not tempered to the bleeding ones.

UNITED SOUTH AFRICA ASSOCIATION.—This concern was one of the promoters of the Premier Diamond Mining Company. It appears that the directors have been gravely concerned about the recent fall in the deferred shares of the above. In deference to numerous inquiries addressed to them by some people, they "thought it right to ascertain the views of your Johannesburg managers in regard to the prospects, and they have instructed me (the secretary) to inform you that their advices are very encouraging." According to Mr. Bieloch, who has recently visited the property, the falling off in grade is entirely due to the large proportion of nearly barren surface soil which has had to be treated, and he anticipates that as soon as this overburden has been worked off the yield should materially improve, and ultimately reach the grade originally obtained from the mine. The usual difficulties experienced in starting new plants, the circular proceeds to say, have been encountered in the case of the Premier, but the Association's managers are of the opinion that they are now nearly overcome. They expect a slight improvement in yield almost immediately, and a substantial one within the next two months. These reassuring statements are, of course, welcome, but they are tardy, and come after much mischief has been done. There is not the slightest reason in the world, as far as we can see, why a similar message should not have been issued a week or two ago, either by this promoting company or by the directors of the Premier. Some people on the market seem to know a vast deal more than the shareholders, and are able to use this knowledge to their pecuniary advantage.

GOLD FINANCE COMPANY.—This company has been very unfortunate in its investments, the poor judgment displayed resulting in heavy losses. In the year ending September 30 "profits realised" amounted to £3,153, but as the directors had to write off the balance of the amount spent in connection with the Champion Proprietary mine (£8,560), and to allow £23,708 for depreciation on shares, the nett result is a loss of £33,366, which is reduced in the balance-sheet, after allowing for the previous credit, to £33,024. The working option on the Wellington mine, New South Wales, in which the company had an interest, was abandoned during the year, as the results obtained by further development work were unsatisfactory, and did not justify the purchase price payable in the event of the option being exercised. The company also has large holdings in the Cosmopolitan Proprietary and Bellevue Proprietary. In the Cosmopolitan the values at depth have for some time past been disappointing, but a promising new chute of ore has been encountered. The Bellevue has also had an anxious time of it, and the financial

position has been severely strained. In view of the possibilities of the rubber industry the directors have bought a block of land in Ceylon, where they intend to cultivate the plant. The financial position is tolerably comfortable.

YMR GOLD MINES.—The two principal shareholders in the Ymir Gold Mines are the West Australian Gold Fields, Limited, and the British Columbia Gold Fields, Limited. These concerns decided to obtain an independent examination of the property to determine whether they were justified or not in providing funds to cover the expenditure on development work which the engineers of the Ymir company advised should be carried out as speedily as possible. Accordingly, Mr. Gilman Brown was commissioned to make a report, and he has concluded that the Ymir vein is of great strength, and shows no tendency to pinch out in depth, even in the deepest workings; that the Bonanza ore chute, from which the major part of the profits have come, was not an enrichment due to surface conditions; that the development along the strike has not been sufficient to disprove the existence of other ore bodies; and that there are strong indications of there being a valuable ore chute on an, as yet, undiscovered vein lying to the north of the Ymir vein. Mr. Oliver Wethered, the chairman, also writes:—"Having had the advantage of visiting the mine twice, of discussing the position very fully with Mr. Gilman Brown and the manager in British Columbia, and with Messrs. Hooper and Speak, the company's consulting engineers, both of whom are thoroughly acquainted with the mine, I feel that there is every reason to expect that the Ymir mine will again yield large returns and handsome profits." In a lengthy report on the work done during November, Mr. E. M. Hand, the manager, says:—"I think now that the future for the mine is very bright, and this month should certainly give us a very good idea of what we have. I hope to have the mill going before the 15th, and if the ore holds as it promises now, we shall certainly make a good showing. I regret the expenses have been so heavy, but it was absolutely necessary to open up the territory to the west or abandon the enterprise." It must be admitted that the hopes thus held out are but shadowy. Though the company in the past has paid £60,000 in dividends, its career has been most disappointing and hardly gives one encouragement to sink further large sums of money in the property.

MILL'S DAY DAWN UNITED GOLD MINES COMPANY.—The output in the six months ending October 18 was 7,322 tons for 4,143 ozs. of gold, worth £14,391; 532 tons of concentrates, of a value of £10,574; and 6,790 tons of residues, worth £2,512. In addition, nearly nine tons of frill ore were treated at the smelting works, and gave a nett return of £190. Thus the total output was 7,331 tons of a value of £23,668, equal to £3 15s. 5d. per ton, which was an appreciable advance upon the figures of the preceding term. The profit was £8,212, which reduces the debit to £9,133. This company has not paid a dividend since October, 1895, and it is impossible to say if or when it will pay another. The directors say future operations will include the extension of several levels, and though an increase of the output will be possible, the policy will include the proportionate extension of development works, with the object of establishing the mine as a permanent producer.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

This bank did very well in the half-year ended September 30. After providing for bad and doubtful debts, fluctuations in the value of investment securities, reducing the valuation of bank premises and including recoveries from debts previously written off as bad, the profit is returned at £135,928 or £5,721 more than in the corresponding period, but the balance brought forward was less by £1,754 at £16,270, so that the total credit is £152,197 compared with £148,231. Rebate on bills not due was £8,965 or £807 less, and besides maintaining the dividend at the now usual rate of 10 per cent. per annum, the directors add £25,000 or £5,000 more to reserve and carry forward £18,232. Reserve will now be £1,425,000, £750,000 of it invested in British Government securities, and the balance employed in the business, against a paid up capital of £2,000,000. The balance-sheet reveals some important movements. There is only a very small increase in the note circulation to £960,477, but the deposits have increased by £2,226,988 to £23,320,148, an increase which really took place in the preceding six months when payments were made for produce sold. Bills payable, &c., are less by £223,338 at £2,564,816, owing to smaller importing requirements, and on the other side we find a big increase of almost £1,250,000 in the coin bullion and cash balances to £5,789,252. That is a very large advance, and it is not improbable that some of the gold will find its way to the home market in the near future. Money at call and short notice is larger by £790,000 at £990,000, thanks to the high rates lately current, investments in British and Colonial Government securities have been increased £157,664 to £1,724,246, and in municipal and other securities by £28,374 to £157,238, while the bills receivable and remittances in transit show a decline of £56,994 to £1,881,315, the total "cash assets" being £10,749,340 against £8,654,555. Bills discounted, loans and advances, on the other hand, are a trifle down at £18,942,298, and bank premises figure at £706,000 against £693,500, making an aggregate

balance-sheet of £30,953,892 compared with £28,850,089, including contingent liabilities of £556,254 with their *per contra* entry.

E. W. TARRY AND CO., LIMITED.

This business of mining machinery manufacturers enjoyed a fair measure of prosperity during the year ended August 31 last, "in spite of bad trade ruling throughout the Transvaal and the Cape Colony and of the whole period under review being one of great depression." The improvement anticipated a year ago has been fully verified, and without making any reference to the question of Chinese labour the board expresses the belief that business in South Africa is slowly but steadily getting better and sounder. The new works are in full working order and are more than able to deal with the volume of orders placed, the expenses have been reduced, and in all ways the position gives greater satisfaction than was possible with the old works. Gross profits are returned at £69,212 or £701 more than in the previous twelve months, and sundry receipts came to £3,648, so that from all sources the income was £72,860 compared with £79,110, credit being taken a year ago for profit on sales of land to the amount of £6,668. Expenses, however, were less by £6,686 at £52,816, a special charge of £6,076 coming into the previous accounts in connection with the removal and re-erection of the machinery at the new works, so that the nett balance of £19,944 is larger by £336. Sum brought forward was £8,656, making £28,600, and after providing the preference dividend with £9,000 the directors again distribute an aggregate dividend on the ordinary shares of 10 per cent. at the cost of a reduction in the carry forward to £4,600. This is the second year in succession that the directors have drawn on the free balance for dividend purposes, but if their ideas with regard to the future are justified by events the revenue account may later on have a better story to tell. Reserves again receive no addition, but on the contrary are reduced by £2,559 for bad debts written off, leaving them at £46,940, which includes share premiums of £12,500. In other ways the financial position is fair as against £74,611 owing to sundry creditors or on bills payable, the book debts and bills receivable come to £61,996. Goods held are valued at £216,262, and cash stands at £11,549. Including new works the freehold and other properties are valued at £116,520, machinery, plant and tools at £25,887, and rolling stock, wagons, horses, &c., at £1,474, the last two items being very fairly depreciated so far as we can see. The board still has power to issue 100,000 ordinary £1 shares, created in February, 1904, but holds the opinion that at the present time it is not desirable to raise further capital.

JOHN CROSSLEY AND SONS.

Without the slightest doubt the balance-sheet issued by this Halifax carpet manufacturing business is the most meagre we have ever encountered. The assets side consists of just one item. It amounts to the huge sum of £1,385,780, and consists of freeholds, plant, stock-in-trade, book debts, minerals, &c., including the amount of interim dividend paid in August last. Is it quite fair to treat shareholders in this fashion? Surely those who have invested their money in the business are entitled to a little more consideration. As things are it is quite impossible to learn anything useful about the financial position of the undertaking, whether this asset or that appears too heavy, or whether the allowance for depreciation seems too small. It is quite true that the company's reserves aggregate £265,000, which should be sufficient for all ordinary purposes, but the whole is involved in the business, and the floating liabilities look very big at £246,569. In the twelve months to December 9 the profit earned was £40,548 and £2,084 was brought forward, making the total for disposal £42,632. From that the interim dividends on the preference and ordinary shares absorbed £20,789, and the directors now propose to complete the preference dividend with £14,849 and to pay a final dividend of 1s. per share on the ordinary shares, making 2s. or 5 per cent. for the year, and carrying forward rather more than £1,000 less at £1,053.

NEW CIVIL SERVICE CO-OPERATION, LIMITED.

At last the directors of this unhappy enterprise have thrown up the sponge. Lamenting the neglect shown by the great body of shareholders in not extending to the stores that support and custom which it had a right to expect, they ask authority to sell the valuable leases and practically to wind up the business. No wonder, for the total sales for the twelve months ended August 31 amounted to only £59,838, and the gross profit on that business was but £2,631. This was not nearly enough to meet the working expenses, and accordingly the loss on the year's trading was £6,424, which, added to the deficit brought forward, makes the total shortage to date £12,421. As the co-operation has no funds to draw upon it is only plunging into hopeless debt by continuing a business thus unprofitable, and in the balance-sheet a loan of £7,000 from the bank makes its appearance. The co-operation also enjoys the use of £2,941 representing deposits by its customers, but its cash at the date of the balance-sheet was little more than £2,220. Altogether the display is a most distressing one, and we are very sorry for the directors who have fought a long fight without encouragement. Why the business should have turned out so badly it is not for us to say, but one reason undoubtedly is that local traders have imitated the policy of the stores, thereby inducing customers at a distance to transfer their trade to shops more easily reached than the stores in Queen Victoria Street. Still, other great co-operative retail trading companies appear to flourish and prosper notwithstanding this competition, and the

only thing we can say is that the New Civil Service Co-operation never seems to have "caught on" with the general public.

THE NORTH QUEENSLAND INSURANCE COMPANY.

This small company does a fire and marine business, and seems to be modestly prosperous, although its working expenses for the year ended September 30 last amounted to fully 35 per cent. of the nett premium income. Its losses, however, only took about 58 per cent., so that the whole business of the year swallowed up little more than 93 per cent. of the income. Therefore a profit of £8,527 was realised, which, added to the balance of £8,527 brought forward, gave £11,479 of free revenue. Out of this the shareholders get 8 per cent., absorbing £4,300, £5,000 is added to the reserve, raising it to £40,000, and a balance of £2,179 is left to be carried forward, or nearly £800 less than the balance brought in.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Since markets opened on Tuesday they have ruled steady and firm, in sympathy with America, and speculative positions advanced on news of rain in the Argentine and frost in India. English wheat has been rather sparingly offered this week both at London and provincial markets, and has occasionally gone a shade dearer, while foreign has been quiet at late rates. Last week farmers' deliveries were 57,984 qrs. averaging 28s. 3d., imports were 274,493 qrs., and the estimated quantities of wheat and flour on passage are 2,010,000 qrs. against 1,980,000 last week. American markets were also influenced by the bad weather in the Argentine and India, and also by light Russian shipments, and had a steady, quiet time until Bradstreet's estimates of visible supply brought a reaction, and gave a bearish tone towards the close. The quantities in sight east of the Rockies is given at 69,867,000 bushels against 66,349,000 last week.

WOOL.—Markets are firmer and business expanding, but the struggle in values still keeps speculation within narrow limits. Even so, transactions are numerous if not large, and users' supplies in hand are not sufficient to cope with the large demand without coming into the market and paying high rates for their present needs. All English wools are firmly held, and also merinos and fine crossbreds, only medium and poor sorts showing any signs of a slight decline in values, and even here no substantial drop is anticipated. The yarn market keeps firm and satisfactory, and in piece goods there seems every indication that the coming season will prove a good one.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The week under review has been rather quiet in our market. Merchants have been somewhat slow in getting back to active operations after the recent holidays. The year has opened with a fairly encouraging feeling as regards piece goods for export. Calcutta and Bombay buyers have dealt in goods of a various character, and Madras also has not been quite out of the market. The outlook for our Dependency is considered hopeful. Nothing fresh can be said of China, which continues inactive. It is reported that re-sales of goods bought for export are taking place. The smaller markets on the whole are healthy. The Levant and Egypt provide orders of fair extent. The outlets in South American, however, are rather quiet at the moment. Practically all makers of cloth are pretty well engaged for some little time, and they have plenty of work to go on with. Home trade American yarns have moved in odd lots, and the total sales of the week have been disappointing to sellers. Spinners are again complaining loudly of their narrow margin, and to buy cotton to-day and sell yarn is a very poor business. The supply of cop twist is decidedly abundant, and weft can generally be delivered quickly. Export bundles are quiet in demand at current rates. Some business has been done for Japan, but it does not amount to much. A fair weight has been put through in cops for the Continent. Yarns made from Egyptian cotton are not very active in demand. Users are pressing spinners for quicker deliveries. Quotations are firmly held owing to deep engagements.

In New York futures at first declined slowly, owing chiefly to the weakness in Liverpool. Selling was likewise attributed to Mr. Price's brokers and others, whilst the market was also influenced by tight money and fears that the ginners' forthcoming report will be bearish in character. Occasionally there were rallies on covering, but they were nothing to speak of. Towards the close of the week, however, the market became much firmer, prices advancing 13 to 15 points. After a partial decline on realisations the market steadied again. Closing prices are:—January-February, 6.10d.; February-March, 6.13d.; March-April, 6.17d.; April-May, 6.20d.; May-June, 6.23d.; June-July, 6.24d.; July-August, 6.25d.; August-September, 6.17d.; September-October, 5.92d.; October-November, 5.85d.; November-December, 5.82d.

COAL.—Prospects of the trade are fairly encouraging. Wales still shows some anxiety as to whether after the holidays are over there will be any permanent improvement, but even here a more satisfactory state of affairs is in evidence. On both Cardiff and Swansea 'Change best steams touched 13s. and 13s. 3d., and business is firm all round. In the North of England gas contracts have already been placed at rates from 6d. to 1s. per ton better than last year's, house coals are unusually quiet for January, but steams to the Humber ports are still being called for, the mild weather keeping foreign ports open, and the demand on account of steam trawlers is becoming an increasingly important item in that branch of the trade.

COPPER.—This market opened quietly, and although there was some demand for February and early March for covering purposes very little was done in forward metal, and values were

disposed to give way. The fortnightly statistics, however, brought about a rally, and later on the market became strong on active speculative support and further closing by the short interest, but the tendency again became easy at the close, final figures being at 79½ spot, 79¼ three months. Messrs. H. R. Merton and Co. give the visible supply as 12,983 tons against 13,600 tons at the end of November. The total supplies for December amount to 25,646 tons, and the deliveries to 26,353 tons, against 21,333 tons and 23,365 tons respectively for November. Stocks in England and France are 5,683 tons, compared with 5,740 tons a month ago, and the Chile charters aggregate 2,500 tons.

TIN.—Firm advices from the East and an active speculative demand imparted a strong tone to this market, and shortly after the opening a fair recovery was brought about. Estimates of the American consumption for December differ materially, some putting the figure as high as 3,400 tons and others as low as 2,500 tons, but from the strength of the market it seems likely that the higher figure is the right one. The fortnightly statistics were considered favourable to the "bulls," and as transactions continued on a large scale prices rose rapidly. As frequently happens, however, the advance led to heavy forward sales, and the market became wild and excited, finishing at 163¾ spot and 163⅞ three months. Messrs. A. Strauss and Co. give the visible supply as 13,606 tons against 13,254 tons at the end of November. The quantities on the spot and landing amount to 3,450 tons against 2,696 tons a month ago. December deliveries in London amount to 726 tons, and in Holland to 894 tons, aggregating 1,620 tons, compared with 2,741 tons for November. Straits shipments total 4,885 tons, of which 2,930 tons are for London, 1,340 tons for America and 615 tons for the Continent.

IRON AND STEEL.—Business continues very brisk in most departments of the iron and steel trade, new orders coming forward with freedom, whilst expiring orders are being quickly replaced. Many consumers desire extended deliveries, which, however, makers are not over eager to book, as they anticipate getting better prices. The home demand is still full and regular, whilst inquiries for shipment are most satisfactory, with every probability of business in this line becoming heavier. A large trade is done in bar iron in the Midlands, and activity characterises the black sheet trade, with prices tending upwards. In steel several months' work has been given out by constructive firms. The demand for pig-iron is in excess of the supply, and several firms have raised their prices by 1s. to 1s. 6d. per ton. Trade is likewise very active in Glasgow and Scotland generally, but towards the close prices reacted on heavy realisations.

TEA.—This year's markets have opened with a better tone than characterised those of last January. The last few months have shown a steady improvement in the trade, and at present, according to Messrs. W. J. and H. Thompson's circular, "with satisfactory deliveries buyers can afford to operate with some degree of confidence in the future." Indian offerings were comparatively small, only 33,381 packages, and these were well bid for, an advance of ¼d. per lb. being frequently paid for the better class of medium teas. 27,886 packages were sold, and the average obtained was 7.05d. against 6.51d. a year ago. Ceylon auction comprised 24,320 packages, and here also medium and better teas were well competed for, with an occasional advance of ¼d. per lb., and commoner sorts kept up to the prices ruling before Christmas. The average obtained on the week's sales was 7.63d. against 6.38d. in 1905. The Java market had an accumulation of two or three weeks, and offered 4,294 packages for sale. But this did not adversely affect prices, which showed the same tendency as in the other markets. Commoner teas steady, better grades slightly advanced.

SUGAR.—The sugar market continues steady, the holidays having tended to make things quiet. There has been frost on the Continent, and the insurance companies refuse to cover risks on the Elbe for the moment, but lately the weather has been a little milder. As Mr. Czarnikow points out, no fresh facts have come to light regarding production, and the next sowings continue to be eagerly discussed. In Germany a shortage is expected of barely 10 per cent., and in Austria of less than 7½ per cent. The market in America has improved, and though the quotation for Centrífugals remains unchanged, there are no sellers at the price, and buyers would probably pay a fraction more, but owners of sugar are holding out for an advance of about ¼ per cent. Weather conditions in Cuba are still unfavourable, and have thus retarded general grinding. Landings in the three ports for the week were 7,000 tons, and meltings 20,000 tons, reducing stocks to 181,000 tons.

MINING RETURNS.

Associated Northern Blocks (W.A.).—Milled 3,565 tons ore; treated 638 tons slimes; yield, £16,033 sterling.

Balaghât.—4,400 tons, 3,502 ozs.; obtained from plates, 302 ozs.; 2,750 tons tailings (cyanide), 313 ozs.; total, 4,117 ozs.

Bogoso Gold.—214 ozs. from 539 tons crushed; assay value of tailings, 3 dwts.

Brilliant Central.—Crushed 2,400 tons, 1,598 ozs.; cyanide, £153; concentrates, £1,489.

Brisels Tin.—Black tin cleaned up, 76 tons 19 cwt., in addition to No. 1 Company 23 tons 4 cwt.; Brisels Company's proportion of total output, 90 tons 8 cwt.

British Broken Hill Proprietary.—2,376 tons crude ore produced 436 tons concentrates, containing 257 tons lead and 11,772 ozs silver.

Champion Reef.—19,720 tons, 15,522 ozs.; 16,566 tons of tailings cyanide, 2,183 ozs.; total, 17,705 ozs.

Chinese Engineering.—Output of coal, 20,500 tons; sales, 19,500 tons; consumption, 1,425 tons.

Elandslaagte Collieries.—Output, 13,908 tons.

Gaika Gold.—Mill crushed 1,326 tons, 620 ozs.

Gibraltar Consolidated.—Tributers crushed 166 tons of ore, 160 ozs.; 6 tons of concentrates produced, containing as per assay value, 39 ozs.; total, 199 ozs.

Glencoe (Natal) Collieries.—Output 7,824 tons, profit £800.

Golden Pole Gold.—Crushed 1,320 tons, 936 ozs.; 1,190 tons of sands, 314 ozs.; 773 tons of slimes, 263 ozs.; sundries, 79 ozs.; and slags smelted, 94 ozs.; total, 1,685 ozs.

Hutti (Nizams').—Crushed 2,000 tons, 851 ozs.; tailings 2,000 tons, 273 ozs.; total, 1,124 ozs.

Koffiyfontein.—Output, 2,900 carats of diamonds.

Lace Diamond.—Leads of blue ground floored, 48,792; total loads of blue ground on floors, 715,006.

Mitchell's Creek Gold.—Crushed 405 tons, 280 ozs.

Mysore Gold.—16,650 tons, 15,403 ozs.; 14,741 tons of tailings (cyanide), 1,820 ozs.; from plates, 1,005 ozs.; basebar, 240 ozs.; total production, 18,468 ozs.

Mysore West and Mysore Wynaad Gold.—Crushed 1,879 tons, 1,018 ozs.; cyanide 2,304 tons, 122 standard ozs.

New Hillgrove.—Crushed 350 tons, yielding 1,065 ozs. of bullion and 47 tons of concentrates, value 20 ozs.; the cyanide works treated 180 tons, yielding 20 ozs. of bullion.

New Vaal River.—Diamonds registered by the diggers on the Vaal River Estate, £5,950.

North Broken Hill.—Treated 2,075 tons crude ore, producing 410 tons concentrates, containing 282 tons 2 cwt. lead, and 7,380 ozs. silver.

Nundydroog.—7,000 tons of quartz, 5,186 ozs.; from plates, 282 ozs.; 7,290 tons of tailings produced 650 ozs.

Ooregum.—10,176 tons, 4,611 ozs.; 10,098 tons of tailings (cyanide) 918 ozs.; total, 5,529 ozs. of gold.

Premier (Transvaal) Diamond.—From all the gears 152,018 loads treated, yielding 41,016 carats diamonds; percentage, 27.

Raub Gold, Malay Peninsula.—590 ozs. from 3,690 tons of ore St. David's Gold.—Crushed 1,162 tons, 161'95 ozs. crushed.

St. John Del Rey.—Gold produce, £23,000; yield per ton, 58 of an oz. troy.

Sons of Gwalia.—Ore crushed 10,579 tons, 3,814 ozs.; tailings treated by canide 6,390 tons, 899 ozs.; concentrates 212 tons, 594 ozs.; total, 5,397 ozs.

Spassky Copper.—Production, 6,000 poods (96'77 tons) of copper.

Tanganyika Concessions.—Ruwe, output of gold by sluice boxes 398 ozs.

Tasmania Smelting.—Silver-lead bullion shipped contained about 860 tons of lead, 150,000 ozs. of silver, and 295 ozs. of gold.

Transvaal Coal Trust.—Output 33,000 tons.

Transvaal Gold Mining Estates.—From mills: Crushed 8,992 tons, 1,919 ozs.; Central cyanide, 3,815 tons, 817 ozs.; Central slimes, 2,780 tons, 415 ozs.; Kameel's cyanide, 1,365 tons, 219 ozs.; Kameel's slimes, 800 tons, 156 ozs.; from old slimes, 960 tons, 271 ozs.; total 3,797 ozs.

Victorian Cornish Gold.—Crushed 800 tons, 598 ozs.

Wankie (Rhodesia) Coal.—Output 10,693 tons; sales 7,962 tons.

Selukwe.—Crushed 6,530 tons, 1,753 ozs.; cyanide, 4,698 tons, 631 oz.; total, 2,384 oz.

Burma Ruby.—143,000 washed rubies, valued R.143,000; royalties, 17,000.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

BANKS.

Bank of Calcutta.—On the preference and ordinary shares at the rate of 6 per cent. and 5 per cent. respectively, placing Rs.75,000 to reserve, and carrying forward Rs.67,500.

Bank of Madras.—10 per cent. per annum for the past half-year, placing Rs.50,000 to reserve, and carrying forward Rs.141,000.

Bradford District.—4s. 9d. per share, being at the rate of 11½ per cent. per annum.

Capital and Counties.—Interim for the past six months at the rate of 18 per cent. per annum.

Lancashire and Yorkshire.—Usual at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, placing £10,000 to reserve and carrying forward £16,561.

London and South-Western.—At the rate of 16 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31, writing £15,000 off premises account, and carrying about £40,000 forward.

London and Westminster.—6½ per cent. for the half-year ended Dec. 31 last, making 13 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £29,500.

London City and Midland.—At the rate of 18 per cent. per annum, transferring £20,000 to bank premises redemption fund, £5,000 to officers' pension fund, carrying forward £119,002.

London Joint Stock.—At the rate of 11 per cent. per annum, placing £5,000 to reduction of building account, £5,000 to super-annuation allowance fund, and £21,900 forward.

Lloyd's Bank.—For the past half-year at the rate of 18½ per cent. per annum, making a total for the year of 18½ per cent., with £30,000 placed to bank premises account; about £59,000 carried forward.

Manchester and County.—At the rate of 15 per cent. per annum for the past half-year, placing £10,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £13,645.

National Discount.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £11,700.

North and South Wales.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum and a bonus at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for the past six months, making for the year 15½ per cent., placing £7,000 to reserve, applying £5,300 in reduction of premises account, and adding £2,000 to officers' pension fund.

Union Discount of London.—For the past half-year at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum, placing £10,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £53,770.

Union of Manchester.—12s. per share for the past half-year, placing £2,000 to premises reduction account, £3,000 to reserve, £2,500 to pension fund, carrying forward £4,298.

Union of London and Smiths.—15s. 6d. per share, equal to 10 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 1s. 6d. per share, equal to a further 1 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £121,459.

Williams Deacon's.—For the half-year ended Dec. 31 of 10s. per share, together with a bonus of 2s. per share, making 13½ per cent., placing £25,000 to reserve, £5,000 to buildings depreciation fund, and carrying forward £10,600.

Bank of Bengal.—For the past half-year at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, with a bonus of 1 per cent., placing Rs.400,000 to reserve, Rs. 50,000 to pension fund, Rs.100,000 to bank premises account, and carrying forward Rs.344,351.

National Bank of South Africa.—8 per cent. for the year 1905.

MINES.

Brilliant Central Gold.—6d. per share, payable Jan. 15.

Camp Bird.—Interim of 1s. per share for the quarter ending Jan. 31, payable Feb. 3.

Weardale Lead.—Interim of 3d. per share, payable 16th inst.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Assets Realisation.—Final on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended December 31 at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, making 6 per cent. for the year.

Brisbane Electric Tramways Investment Company, Limited.—The traffic receipts of the Brisbane Tramways for the month of December, 1905, amounted to £12,460. Corresponding month of last year, £12,110; increase, £350.

Country Life.—At the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum on the preference shares for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Edmundson's Electricity.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Sept. 30.

Fore Street Warehouse.—Further of 2s. per share, making 4s. per share for the year, carrying forward £384.

George Newnes.—Usual preference at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Great Northern Railway (U.S.A.).—Quarterly of 1½ per cent. on the preferred capital stock, payable Feb. 1.

Imperial Tea.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares for the half-year ended June 30.

James Dunlop and Co.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the cumulative preference shares for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

London Produce Clearing House.—4s. per share on the ordinary shares, making 12 per cent. per annum, and £25 per share on the founders' shares, carrying forward £18,000.

Main Colliery.—Interim of 6s. per share on the ordinary and preference shares in respect of the past half-year.

Montgomerie and Co.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Oct.

Raffety, Thornton, and Co.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Trustees' Executors' and Securities Insurance.—Interim for the half-year to Nov. 30 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the registered ordinary stock and ordinary shares, calculated on the amounts for the time being called up.

Westlake's Brewery.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Sept. 30.

Lovell and Christmas.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the six months ended December 31.

Peel River Land and Mineral.—Final of 3 per cent. and a bonus of 1 per cent. for the year, payable on January 23.

RAILWAYS.

La Gaaira and Caracas.—Interim at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, payable January 20.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, JANUARY 8.

Charterland Gold Fields.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9.

Dortmund Breweries.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.

Lisbon Berlyn.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10.

Cooper, Cooper, and Johnson.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

Van Ryn Gold Mines Estate.—Winchester House, noon.

Mathieson's "Handbook for Investors" for 1906, published at 2s. 6d., is crammed full of valuable information concerning the movements of fluctuating Stock Exchange securities during the past 10 years. Highest and lowest prices are shown together, with dividends paid, particulars of capital, and other information which anyone interested would desire to know. The book is strongly bound, is a very handy size for the pocket, and is cheap at the price. The firm's "Mining Record" for the same period is also issued, but as it deals with a smaller number of securities, it can be obtained for 1s.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and December 31, 1905:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS			
	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Dec. 31, 1905.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Dec. 31, 1904.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£	£ 6,352,909	£ 3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	26,045,000	27,360,000
Excise	30,200,000	22,990,000	23,520,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	9,700,000	9,040,000
Stamps	8,000,000	6,030,000	5,430,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	510,000	630,000
Property and Income Tax....	31,000,000	7,490,000	7,710,000
Post Office	16,500,000	11,300,000	10,800,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	3,150,000	2,920,000
Crown Lands	470,000	370,000	370,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans..	1,034,000	679,205	609,652
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	1,072,870	1,024,055
*Revenue	142,454,000	89,337,075	89,413,707
Total, including balance.....		96,767,353	93,677,549
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		480,000	510,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		550,000	820,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902		191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903		1,675,000	1,419,500
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901		945,408	1,400,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900		23,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		115,000	98,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		—	5,695,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905		9,854,604	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904		1,000,000	—
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..		—	1,000,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		—	5,600,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £8,000,000 Treasury Bills, in 1904-5)		8,000,000	20,000,000
Total		119,601,957	136,675,539
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	89,337,075	89,413,707
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	120,847	126,042
Excise	5,291,000	3,802,851	3,676,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	3,086,839	3,053,242
Total	9,756,000	7,010,537	6,835,957
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	96,347,612	96,249,664
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.			
	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Dec. 31, 1905.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Dec. 31, 1904.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£ 28,000,000	£ 18,797,874	£ 18,391,018
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	1,231,714	1,228,631
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	654,966	654,927
Supply Services	111,304,000	80,305,309	84,309,946
Expenditure	142,084,000	100,989,863	104,584,522
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		440,000	370,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		135,000	—
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		10,000,000	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		600,000	450,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1903		2,483,000	2,539,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901		900,000	2,550,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		148,000	109,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		426,917	29,000
Deficiency Advances repaid		—	5,600,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		750,000	11,500,000
		116,895,780	134,273,022
Balances in Exchequer:—	1905. Dec. 31.	1904. Dec. 31.	
Bank of England	£ 2,106,948	£ 1,786,113	
Bank of Ireland	599,229	616,404	
	2,706,177	2,402,517	
Total	119,601,957	136,675,539	

Treasury, January 2, 1906.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

CENTRAL URUGUAY EASTERN EXTENSION RAILWAY.

An extraordinary general meeting was held on Thursday at River Plate House, Mr. Henry Bell in the chair, to consider resolutions for "authorising the board to carry into effect, in such shape, and with such modifications, if any, as they may deem desirable, an *ad referendum* agreement with the Government of the Republic of Uruguay dated November 9, 1905," for increasing the capital to £1,500,000 by the creation of 50,000 new shares of £10 each; and for altering the articles of association.

The chairman stated that in 1889 the company was formed to construct a line from Toledo to Nico Perez, thence to the Brazilian frontier, with a branch to Trienta y Tres. The line was to have a 7 per cent. guarantee of the Uruguayan Government, but in 1891, owing to the financial conditions then ruling, the Government found it impossible to continue paying 7 per cent., and a new agreement, generally called the "Ellaury agreement," was entered into, by which the guarantee was cut down to 3½ per cent. This reduction had made it impossible since then to raise the money necessary to continue the line beyond Nico Perez, and this completed portion was accepted by the Government, and the guarantee had since been punctually paid in respect of it. The working agreement entered into with the parent company—the Central Uruguay Railway Company—in 1889 provided for their railway being worked by the Central Company on the basis of a sliding scale of so much per cent. of the earnings, but the Government refused to accept this scale for guarantee purposes, and demanded that they should only have debited against them the actual expenses of the Eastern Extension line. It was, of course, found impossible to split many of the general charges pertaining to the combined Central Uruguay system among the several lines with any degree of exactitude, with the result that any economies exercised by the Central Company in working the various lines controlled by them operated adversely as regarded the eastern section and the worse it became for the shareholders in the latter, for, according to the Government method of calculation, the Eastern Company simply showed greater surpluses, and in one instance they had to pay a considerable amount back again to the Government on account of guarantee advances in the past. Under the Ellaury arrangement the guarantee was only a limited one, in this way—that the Government paid it if the company did not earn enough themselves, but if they earned more than the amount guaranteed the surplus beyond went towards repaying former advances, and, as at June 30 last they had already received £230,970 in guarantee, they had this amount, sooner or later, to repay if earned above the guarantee. Having given a practical illustration of how this arrangement had worked in the past, quoting the results of the working of the line for each of the last three years, he stated that, in order to remove these unfair conditions, the directors approached the Government to have the agreement modified to act more fairly. In view of the sacrifice made by the company in having their guarantee, he might almost say, forcibly reduced from 7 per cent. to 3½ per cent., he thought that their representations might have been more sympathetically received, but they were denied. The directors then considered if a fresh agreement could not be drawn up equitably with the parent company, but it was soon seen that as they themselves benefited so the parent company would lose in any alteration in this company's favour, and the shareholders of the two companies were so different that the directors could not put forth such a proposal. Then the last revolution took place, and the Government, finding the value of the existing railways for moving troops and the need of more lines, approached the company to make extensions, and the board saw their opportunity. Mr. Henderson, one of the directors, who had been about to return home from Buenos Ayres, went to Montevideo, and the *ad referendum* agreement now before them was the result. The board strongly advised its adoption, because it would give the company results, as far as expenses were concerned, almost the same as their working agreement gave. The figures of the past three years' working showed that for the year 1902-3, instead of receiving £3,853 for guarantee in respect of that year and having to pay back to the Government £6,214 on account of previous advances, they would have received from them £7,280; in 1903-4 the company received only £1,522 in guarantee, instead of £8,535, as the amount would have been under the new arrangement; and in 1904-5 they did not receive any guarantee, nor would they have done so under the new arrangement. It was when the line was doing well and the shareholders got less dividend that they all felt the hardship of the present arrangement, as was particularly the case in 1902-3. The new arrangement would entirely obviate this in the future. Summing up the proposed arrangement, he stated that the advantages to the company were as follows:—A fixed and more fair basis was secured by them for calculating the expenses for guarantee purposes; instead of being allowed to retain 6 per cent. only on the guarantee capital they would have the right to a third of anything earned between 6 per cent. and 8 per cent.; and they would obtain an extension of the concession privileges for 15 years—from 1926 to 1941. Against this they had now to construct 172 miles of railway and a further 75 miles when the completed line to the Brazilian frontier earned, exclusive of guarantee, for one year 3½ per cent., and the Government had the right of intervention in the tariffs when

the net profits were equal to 8 per cent. on the real capital instead of 12 per cent., as under the original concession.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and the other resolutions were also agreed to.

INDUSTRIAL AND GENERAL TRUST.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Industrial and General Trust, Limited, was held on Thursday at Winchester House, E.C., for the purpose of submitting resolutions providing for the conversion of the present capital stock into two classes, and the creation of £525,000 of new capital. Mr. Alexander Young (the chairman) presided.

The secretary (Mr. W. Sandford Poole) read the formal notice.

The Chairman, after dealing with and refuting a suggestion which has been made a good many times in certain quarters, that the present board, which has been in existence for about eleven years, profited very largely by reason of their taking over securities at the commencement of their career at a very low valuation, said: In regard to the scheme now submitted, I would like to state that we as a board are entirely in the same boat with yourselves, and we think the time has really come when it is desirable to adopt a plan of the kind indicated. We are of opinion that this is the right moment, and that it would be more difficult if we were to defer the matter to any future year. The Trust occupies an excellent position for raising and employing more capital whereby some additional profit may be made for the shareholders without really incurring any substantial addition to the expense, and whereby, in particular, some additional value may be created on the capital held by you. Assuming that the present holders all take up their proportion of the small additional amount of £275,000 proposed to be issued, every shareholder would have secured for himself what we desire and hope he will be able and willing to secure for himself—namely, the full benefit of participating in all future profits and the advantages which may arise from the adoption of this scheme. When we have split the stock and issued the first £275,000 of the new stock, the converted capital will stand thus: it will be £500,000 of 4½ per cent. cumulative preference issued and £750,000 of ordinary stock. The remaining £250,000 of 4½ per cent. preference is reserved for subsequent issue, and we shall, when that is issued, be in the position of having £750,000 of each class of stock, in which I hope every present shareholder will be a full participator. Then, when the proper time arrives, another operation of a valuable character, as I conceive it to be, can be entered into. I refer to the power which we should then have acquired to issue £525,000 more debentures, as we are entitled for every £1 of stock or shares to issue £1 of debenture stock, and we think we ought to be able to secure the issue of this additional debenture stock at a satisfactory price when the time arrives. In the past we have been most regular with regard to our dividends. No profits have been made by fits and starts, but the whole thing has gone steadily in one direction. We want to continue that system, and, being desirous of finding ourselves in the position in which we can pay you a dividend which we have good reason to believe we can continue, we now by the operation of this scheme are reducing that large amount of ordinary stock to £750,000. The effect is that it will be more easy to pay an extra dividend of 1 per cent. than it was before. I personally do not see that it would be very easy work to get from our present comparatively limited capital anything further for your benefit. In other words, in all probability 6 per cent. would be high water mark as regards payment of dividend on this stock without overstraining matters; and if that be so, I must expect to see my stock standing in the market at no higher than £120. On the other hand, though I am not going to prophesy, we having limited our ordinary stock to a sum of £750,000, in my opinion the dividend upon this new stock should not remain very long limited to 6 per cent. In conclusion the Chairman stated that proxies to the number of 496 had been sent voluntarily to the board in favour of the scheme, and only two against. He then moved the first resolution.

Mr. Lindsay Smith seconded the resolution, which, after a brief discussion, was, with the other necessary motions, carried by the requisite majority. A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT
4½ PER CENT. STERLING LOAN.

SECOND SERIES.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Coupons, due 10th January, 1906, attached to the Scrip issued by Parr's Bank, Limited, 4, Bartholomew Lane, E.C., The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, 31, Lombard Street, E.C., and the Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, 120, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C., will be paid on and after WEDNESDAY, the 10th January, 1906 (Saturdays excepted), at the respective banks indicated on the Scrip between the hours of eleven and three.

Coupons must be left three clear days (excluding Saturdays) for examination previous to payment, and be entered in numerical order upon lists, which may be obtained upon application.

Provincial holders should forward Coupons through their Bankers for collection, as they will not be paid through the post.

London, 4th January, 1906.

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The Investors' Review.

A Nobler Ideal than that Born of Blue Funk and Bankruptcy.

More than once we have drawn attention to the fallacy lying at the root of all the raving about the "tied up" condition of British trade in relation to foreign tariffs; but as the public continues to be diligently and unscrupulously misled upon this point by parrot speakers and a degraded and servile Press it may be advisable to deal with it once again—to establish the truth. It is altogether false to say that our own trade is not free because foreign tariffs exist. We can have nothing to do with the adjustment of foreign tariffs unless we are prepared to take the nations imposing them by the throat and force them to close their own factories and to buy our goods, and the most truculent, craven jingo will hardly agree to do that. Our trade is free, except so far as the Tories have shackled it by their additions to the Customs duties, not only on the import but on the export side. There is, this reservation allowed for, absolute freedom to the interchange of commodities in the market of the United Kingdom. All the world is welcome to buy here, and we are free in return to purchase anything we please abroad. The British merchant, no matter to what country he goes, knows that the goods he sells there will, unless it be coal, be cleared from British ports without a farthing of duty levied upon them by the Home Government in the interests of the military faction and other spendthrift agencies. Also he knows that if he purchases in exchange any of the products of the country he has sold to they will, unless they consist of sugar, tea, tobacco, or alcoholic drinks, to take the leading commodities only, come in without being subjected to any tax here. What could be more free than this, what position more impregnable? To assert that our trade is "shackled" in the face of liberty such as this is to maintain what is the reverse of the truth, and any infringement of this liberty would be an undermining of the nation's strength, a robbery of master and man, of producer and consumer alike.

Why then all this clamour? There are various motives prompting the reactionary parties to indulge in it, and one of these is that kind of moral cowardice which is the attribute of the bully, of the soured jingo eager to screen his craven-mindedness. Who, we should like to know, gave us the authority or the strength to go to other nations and say to them, "Look here! if you do not abate your Customs duties in our interests we will smash you"? Are we going to war with these countries? If not, what is the meaning of the minatory and provocative language indulged in by the traitors among us and their debased Press? Are we going to send to conquer the nations such generals as those who ordered the Scottish brigade to destruction at Magersfontein, or massed columns of helpless victims to hurl them against entrenched rifle-men at Paardeburg? Will we assail Germany—the pet bogey of the blue-funkists at the present moment—under the leadership of the man who told us, just in time for Chamberlain's Khaki election in 1900, that "the war was over" and who now enjoys a gift of £100,000 bestowed upon him out of the money of the taxpayer or out of the National Debt for doing that

and for destroying £50,000,000 worth of property in South Africa? No, there is no intention among the braggarts of doing any such thing. Our Jingoës are essentially arrant cowards. They bluster and rave in order to hide and cover over their shivering terrors, their past misdeeds, and there is no greater moral coward living than the domineering "drummer" of Birmingham, the man who ruthlessly crushed out small screw manufacturers in the days when he was a trader. Where they are not mere abject cowards these tariffite betrayers of their country are the slaves of unclean bands of alien capitalists who care no more for England than they do for Kamtchatka, except in so far as her wealth and industry may contribute to their enrichment, or that of the sporting and spendthrift lords of the soil, or their creditors.

How can any sane being suppose for a moment that threats of retaliation or ostentatious parade of colonial "preference" is going to change the commercial policy of any other nation great or small? Why should Germany, our greatest European customer, abandon her efforts to extend her foreign trade, to rival us in neutral markets, at our bidding? Rightly viewed, no British producer or merchant would wish her to do so, because the more Germany ties the hands of her producers and merchants by a tariff, the less able are they to compete with us, the more are they driven back upon shoddy in trying to beat us. In vain therefore do philosophers like Mr. Balfour philosophise and split hairs and turn dialectic somersaults in the hope that they will lead the nation astray. There is too much common-sense amongst the people of this country to permit them to be misled and betrayed by exhibitions of this kind. The delicate, over-refined philosopher in practical affairs is usually a fool, and all the demonstrations made by the academic protectionists serve only to emphasise and bring to ridicule the perfect ignorance and insolent presumption of this class of guide.

But cowardice is not the only motive underlying this agitation, cowardice and intellectual futility, nor is the desire to hide the crimes of the past the only governing motive of the average protectionist politician. There is another driving force which, with many of them, is even more potent, and that is the dread of their own impending bankruptcy. We never see a man prominent in the industrial or mercantile affairs of this country avow himself a protectionist, a retaliator with Mr. Balfour or a preferrer of the colonies with Mr. Chamberlain, without looking up his record to see whether there may not be some motive in his business position impelling him to take this step. And generally, the average parrot apart, it is not difficult to discover why these men have adopted the protectionist creed. Many of them are mere company guinea-pigs, one of the most useless class of parasites known to modern business. Others are connected with industries which have been allowed to drift into decay, which have been more or less grossly and dishonestly over-capitalised, or which are through the lethargy of their conductors disappearing before the march of modern invention and industrial development. It is natural that such people should, just like the unenterprising spendthrift, starved out landowners and mere slaves of the usurer, raise a deafening noise about the decay of the country. Their own affairs are in decay, and being narrow-minded, they jump to the conclusion that because bankruptcy is impending over them the whole country must be going to the dogs. This is the view of the agitation which should be most insistently impressed upon the minds of the electorate at this crisis in our history. The object of the so-called protectionist agitation, no matter what form it may take, or what formula it struggles to make way under, is to save the plotter's hide by stealing something at the expense of the public, to rob in order that the individuals prompting and swelling the outcry may be safe, may fill their pockets, or escape the Bankruptcy Court. There is no care whatever for the welfare of the Empire, for the good of the population of this country, in this agitation. On the

contrary, everything is scorned and ignored which might be for the public benefit. It is selfishness, the cowardliness of those who have failed, or are about to fail, that lies behind it all, cowardice and insolence, the insolence of the unteachable Jingo of all ranks and classes, of the creature who vapours and boasts about "Empire," doing nothing whatever either to sustain that Empire or to prevent it from falling into decay. And the masters of these people through their organs in the Press show the vulgarity of their character by styling the Prime Minister a "Forfarshire sumph." That type at least of the baser form of German aggressive insolence is going to be routed at the polls. No mercy should be shown to the helots who thus reveal their innate brutality when the hour to record the votes strikes, and none will be.

For the entire repellant horde is redolent of decay. The lie triumphs for a time often, with the nation as with the individual, but the greater its transitory success the more profound the abyss into which those who believed it, above all, those who invented and disseminated it, are plunged when truth asserts its supremacy. Long and sorrowful has the path of the nation been since it came under the spell of the non-descript horde that settled on the wealth of South Africa and fed us up with lies to its own enrichment and our and Africa's undoing. By the capture of all channels of information, by the immoral subservience of the then most trusted and influential portion of the British Press, by the weakness and the corrupt affinities of the Home Government, by the lures of the gaming-house and the morality-sapping indulgence in share-dealing, by every device known to the disreputable, preying adventurer, this horde misled us into a criminal war, a war even against women and children, a war of devastation, into debt and extravagance, into a belief that wrong and right are things indifferent so long as the bully prospers in robbery. And now the liars and their tools are seeking to bind this free country itself with the chains of monopoly, and to bring upon it the grinding misery for the many so successfully imposed upon South Africa. But they will not succeed. Their evil deeds are finding them out, and they and their politicians and Press slaves are about to come up for judgment. The very futility of their lying seems to indicate a dawning consciousness on their part that they are ripe for judgment. It did not, for instance, require the brilliant experiments in advertising of some enterprising Yankees to proclaim to the nation that the *Times* is numbered among the things that must perish; leading fountain of moral poison as it has been, it has already fallen into derision among upright men, a warning to others, its imitators.

No, the lie does not live for ever, else would mankind long ere now have perished from the earth. The men and the organs now so busy endeavouring to herd and hound the nation back into slavery, the most abject and soul-killing of all, the slavery of the impotent multitudes overborne by the grasping monopolist few, are but proclaiming their own degradation, their moral and material bankruptcy. "The Prime Minister has enunciated no policy," harps the *Times* and all of its class, and in so harping they merely lie, as they have lied these many years back. But falsehood like this, open, brazen, defiant, base, misleads only those who by their own esuriance in swallowing whatever abomination begotten of human greed and inhuman hatred of all that is noble and true was offered for their consumption have been qualifying for the doom of the self-deceived. Forsaken by its guides, betrayed by the majority of its priests and moral teachers, deceived by its once trusted politicians, cynically mocked by the bulk of its Press, the nation is still sound at the heart, and will vindicate itself in the sight of the Empire and of mankind. "Our Empire," it will tell the horde of its betrayers, "is not as the Empire of the Cæsars nor even as the autocracy of Russia; it is the Empire of the free, an unfettered federation of self-governing communities united, not by bribes, doles, and monopolies, but by equity and mutual regard, by the love of true

liberty and the cultivation of good will among all the nations of the earth." Long have we suffered injury at the hands of the dishonoured and unclean, the blood-spiller and the oppressor, but we at length witness the dawning of the better day.

British Foreign Trade in 1905.

Those who are fighting with monopolists and Brummagen bemoaners against the ruin of this country and the break up of its Empire are naturally jubilant about the figures of our foreign trade for the past twelve months; and, all drawbacks allowed for, such as those exemplified in the sudden increase of demand from Japan and China consequent upon the Russo-Japanese War and the cessation thereof, the trade of the country has been magnificent in 1905. In the month of December imports did not increase more than $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., the value being £53,120,462, or an increase of £275,120, but exports went up 2 per cent. by £580,060 to £28,652,194, and the reshipments of foreign and colonial merchandise increased by more than 10 per cent. or £652,833 to a total of £7,093,109. This is fine, but for the year the increase in the value of our imports was £14,240,774 or $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., making the total £565,279,402. And the increase in the exports of British and Irish produce was more striking still at £29,312,427 or 9.7 per cent., bringing the total up to £330,023,467. At the same time the expansion in the reshipments of foreign and colonial merchandise to other countries rose by £7,494,240 or fully $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to £77,798,521. Naturally, figures of this description put the tariffites in a rage, and we see the egregious Mr. Benjamin Kidd immediately to the fore with a howl that, although our business has been so great and expansive in the past year, it has not progressed with the speed of that of foreign countries. What has this got to do with Free Trade or Protection? Foreign countries started in the race much later than we did, and none but the uninstructed would ever imagine that their growth, for a time at any rate, must not necessarily be greater than ours. But whether or not, are the chances of a horse who is falling behind in racing increased by augmenting the weight he has to carry?

As, thanks to the "deadbrokes," the question before the country is one of Free Trade v. Protection, it may be well to confine our attention to that aspect of the figures in dealing with them, and to ask a few questions which we should be glad to see Protectionists squarely and straightforwardly attempting to answer. The country does not want such rubbish as that implied in the assertion made by the writer just alluded to that Germany, unlike Great Britain, had no "natural resources to help her, no enormous capital lent to the world, no colonies, no India, no command of the sea, and no profitable and world-wide carrying trade, an inheritance from past generations," to help her in overtaking us—Germany, at the bidding of Joseph, being the present object of the hatred of our decadents. This assertion of the wreckers of empire is to a large extent false, but in regard to the carrying trade it is partly true, and we should like to know how far the great expansion of German carrying trade by the lavish subsidising has profited the country, how far the people of Germany are enriched by that forcing system? Our own trade is doubtless subsidised to a small and irregular extent, but in all essentials it is free, and its free strength is shown by the shipping figures for the past year. In that period the capacity of British ships entered with cargo was 27,994,875 tons, and of foreign 12,001,054 tons. Compared with the previous year our shipping entered with cargo showed an increase of 188,000 tons and the foreign shipping a decrease of 134,000 tons. Foreign shipping did better in the matter of "clearing with cargoes"—that is to say, leaving British ports loaded—but that was simply because our export trade was last year so much larger, and because, latterly, Japan-

ese ships have resumed work. The figures are:—British ships cleared with cargoes 32,764,251 tons, foreign cleared with cargoes 16,860,664 tons, the increase in the British portion of this enormous carrying trade being about 870,000 tons, and in the foreign of about 288,000 tons. Note these figures, and then proceed to consider what the effect would be upon this overshadowing and world-wide carrying trade of ours if protective duties were imposed on foreign imports.

IMPORTS.

	December.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as compared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
General merchandise	£ 52,319,618	£ 52,845,366	£ 53,120,486	+ 275,120
Gold	3,187,751	3,823,034	2,191,508	- 1,631,586
Silver	1,355,361	1,134,611	1,239,618	+ 105,007
	56,862,730	57,803,011	56,551,612	- 1,251,399

EXPORTS.

	December.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as compared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
Brit. & Irish Produce	£ 24,612,503	£ 28,072,134	£ 28,652,194	+ 580,060
For. and Col. M'dse..	5,820,501	6,440,276	7,093,109	+ 652,833
Gold	3,920,629	3,101,479	3,744,912	+ 643,433
Silver	1,539,709	1,193,127	1,506,177	+ 313,050
	35,893,342	38,807,016	40,996,392	+ 2,189,376

IMPORTS.

	Year ended December 31.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as compared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
General merchandise.	£ 542,600,289	£ 551,038,628	£ 565,279,402	+ 14,240,774
Gold	28,657,393	33,876,588	38,567,895	+ 4,691,307
Silver	10,310,330	11,687,339	12,992,014	+ 1,304,675
	581,568,012	596,602,555	616,839,311	+ 20,236,756

EXPORTS.

	Year ended December 31.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as compared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
Brit. & Irish Produce	£ 290,800,108	£ 300,711,040	£ 330,023,467	+ 29,312,427
For. and Col. M'dse..	69,573,564	70,304,281	77,798,521	+ 7,494,240
Gold	27,766,512	33,039,138	30,829,842	- 2,209,296
Silver	11,466,726	13,263,694	14,561,677	+ 1,297,983
	399,606,910	417,318,153	453,213,507	+ 35,895,354

VISIBLE BALANCE OF TRADE.

	December.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as compared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
Imports	£ 56,862,730	£ 57,803,011	£ 56,551,612	- 1,251,399
Exports	35,893,342	38,807,016	40,996,392	+ 2,189,376
Excess value of imports over exports	20,969,388	18,995,995	15,555,220	- 3,440,775

	Year ended December 31.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1905 as compared with 1904.
	1903.	1904.	1905.	
Imports	£ 581,568,012	£ 596,602,555	£ 616,839,311	+ 20,236,756
Exports	399,606,910	417,318,153	453,213,507	+ 35,895,354
Excess value of imports over exports	181,961,102	179,284,402	163,625,804	- 15,658,598

The values of the imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

The values of the exports represent the cost and charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

It must not be overlooked that the great strength of our position as an ocean carrier lies in the fact that we are able to pick up miscellaneous cargo in every port of the world, and we do this mainly because our own

ports are tax free to most of the commodities of the whole world, so that there is no restriction whatever upon the buyer or shipper. Look at wheat. Mr. Chamberlain—who told the people at Wednesbury the other day that he had given up small ambitions and wished to distinguish himself before he dies—wishes to put a trial duty, as we might call it, of 2s. per quarter upon foreign wheat for the benefit of our colonies. Well, last year, Australia, New Zealand and Canada together sent us about 17,000,000 cwts. of wheat out of a total of nearly 98,000,000 cwts. imported. In spite of revolution, Russia sent us a larger quantity than in either of the two previous years, and the Argentine Republic and British India came next, the United States falling far behind. Are we going to block the wheat trade with Russia, Roumania, the United States, the Argentine Republic, and other countries by putting a fine upon them for sending us their grain? If so, where will the advantage come in to our carrying trade? If we add in wheat meal and flour, the weakness of the colonies as a source of supply becomes still more marked, for Canada sent us only 1,330,000 cwts. of wheat meal and flour out of nearly 12,000,000 cwts., the total import. The same remark applies to other cereals, most of which come to us from foreign countries. Russia, for instance, is the principal source of our oat supply, and has competed in the past year for the supply of pease, although generally British India leads in this commodity, but the trade is altogether too small to be worth consideration by Imperial tariff reformers. None the less does this parcelling out of the sources of imports help our export trade, reducing outgoing freights, multiplying ports of call, giving us business where most other nations have none.

Doubtless the land owners in this country would be pleased to see a duty imposed upon Argentine mutton; but why limit it to the Argentine? Is not New Zealand mutton a formidable competitor? It is true that Argentina is now rapidly overtaking that colony, and will probably, its resources being immeasurably greater, soon wholly overtake and pass it, but New Zealand mutton still cheapens sheep in the British market just as effectually as Argentine, and are we going to destroy the Argentine trade, and penalise the £300,000,000 odd of British capital invested there, in order to sustain the business of New Zealand, whose small population is living extravagantly on borrowed money; sustain it, too, without a penny of advantage to the Chaplins, Sutherlands, Abercorns, or Bedfords? Behind the prominent articles of our oversea food supply there are a number of commodities most of which come to us from foreign countries. We only got 24 per cent. or so of our supply of butter last year from British possessions. Canada is the principal source of our cheese supply, but that is no reason why we should deprive our ships trading to the Netherlands and France, the United States and other foreign countries of such freight as they can pick up merely to lift Canadian dairymen along. Let them cultivate amity with their next-door neighbour. And, anyway, if they bring butter to us they are pretty certain to take something back, tariff against us or no tariff.

Let us pass now to raw metals, or rather to sundry categories among what is called "raw materials and articles mainly manufactured," amongst which iron and steel and copper are entered with some detail in the returns. Germany has had no "natural resources" to help her, the Protectionist philosopher intent on compassing his country's ruin alleges; but how about the iron ore? Is it not the case that we are dependent upon Spain for quite 75 per cent. of our supplies of this vital commodity? Where would our manufactures be without this material, out of which we make so much of our iron and steel? Are we going to penalise Spain, as we must do if we adopt Protection with syndicates as our policy, so as to drive her to send her ore to the competing German rather than to us? Would not his "natural advantages"

then come out on top? How, in that event, is the labourer at home here going to be benefited?

Let us note further how the class of goods entered as "partly or wholly manufactured" is made up. The protectionists of the rich are continually howling about this category, pointing to it as an example of the ruin which they allege is overtaking the country. Is not Sir Thomas Wrightson a fanatical anti-dumper? Well, in the past year we imported under this head about £4,540,000 worth and exported £23,268,000 worth. But of the imports thus classed, pig-iron of all kinds, puddled bars, castings, forgings, wrought iron in bars, angles, rods and sections, wire rods, billets and nuts, rails, tyres and axles, steel ingots, blooms, &c., steel castings and forgings, with many other articles, are really to us unmanufactured, and therefore misleadingly classed. So far as our labour is concerned, they are commodities demanded by our industries, and utilised by our workmen in the higher-classed finished products they make for sale at home and abroad. The confusion therefore is in the description or general heading applied to these commodities, and that tariffites should fasten upon this class of imports and belabour it as something indicative of our falling behind and approaching extinction as a manufacturing country is only one more proof that they have never honestly looked into the subject, that their eagerness to prove their case compels them to shut their eyes to facts. There is not a single article, not even the bridge work or the tools imported, which is not of use to our workmen, helping them in their struggle to keep their hold over the world's markets, to earn their living at home. We may be quite sure no tool would be imported if it did not serve this good purpose. Talking of tools, however, it is worth noting that last year we imported £79,178 worth of cutlery and exported upwards of £664,000 worth. Is this also a mark of decay?

Amongst other articles imported to an extent which quite alarms the craven-hearted Protectionist are silk and woollen fabrics, yarns, and so forth of all descriptions, cotton manufactures and jute manufactures. Well, the aggregate value of the whole of these imported in the past year, excluding thrown or spun silk, was about £15,400,000, and the value of our exports of cotton yarns and piece goods alone was £81,134,000. Add to this about £30,000,000 as the value of woollen and worsted yarns and fabrics exported, and we get upwards of £110,000,000 as our export of tissues and threads of all kinds against the above-mentioned import. Is this also an instance of decaying trade? In these figures just given, however, we have not included the value of haberdashery exported, which was small last year at £1,266,000; of jute yarn, meaning another £601,000, showing a large increase; of jute manufactures, worth £1,979,000, principally to the United States of America; of linen yarns to the value of £928,000; of linen piece goods, whose aggregate exports were worth £6,340,397, of which the United States took £2,535,000 worth, and no other single enumerated country, not even Australia and Canada, as much as £300,000 worth.

Reverting to shipping, is it not a valuable thing for the iron and steel industries of this country, for the machine and tool makers, that we should last year have sold ships to foreign buyers to the value of £5,429,292? Can the trade of the country be said to be decaying when our exports of locomotives last year rose to nearly £2,385,000, of mining steam engines to £1,099,000 and of miscellaneous steam engines to £2,312,403? The aggregate exports of this class of machine was about £5,796,000, and in other machinery not steam engines we sent away, of agricultural £1,047,272 worth, of sewing-machines £1,967,505 worth—against an import of these same sewing-machines of £337,637 worth. Our exports of mining machinery came to nearly £833,000 last year, and of textile machinery to no less than £5,607,436, so that altogether this class of exports is highly valuable, aggregating £23,268,000, representing great skill,

splendid equipment of shops and much inventive ingenuity. And we might do better still therein if we attended to such hints as are contained in the latest number of United States Consular reports. The Consul of the United States in Buenos Ayres points out that his country supplies the greater portion of the agricultural machinery used in that Republic, but laments that the machines supplied are too light, wear out too soon. The complaint, however, made by users against our machines is that they are too heavy and, worse than that, they are not made after a fashion that allows them to be easily repaired. An American machine is constructed with all the parts interchangeable, so that if the blade of a harvester gets broken, or a wheel, it can be immediately replaced at the nearest store, whereas English machines, solidly and beautifully made as they generally are, require to be sent away, perhaps to Buenos Ayres or some great centre, to be elaborately repaired, involving extra cost and waste of time. Why cannot English agricultural machine makers note this hint, and set to work to capture the Argentine trade? They could easily do it, and no tariff at all is necessary to enable them to gain the victory.

Much more might be said upon these trade figures, and we shall doubtless have more to say by and by, but we thought it expedient amid the present crisis to dwell upon certain aspects of the figures useful to those who wish to obtain an intelligent conception of what the business of this country implies. And once more may we insist upon the marvellous variety of that business, the wonderful extent of what may be called the small wares trade we do, a trade doubtless kept up by the fact that our ports are free, that, as we have said, our ships can wander all over the world, shifting cargo from one port to another, picking up everywhere little parcels of commodities to bring home, or highly expensive consignments of British manufactures to be taken abroad. There is no trade in the world comparable to ours in its extraordinary variety, in the extent of its ramifications, and it is thus distinguished because ours is a country where all the world can buy and sell unfettered.

The "Times" and the Rand Mining Industry.

Last Monday's issue of the *Times* Financial and Commercial Supplement contained an article from "a correspondent" dealing with certain aspects and statistics of the Witwatersrand mining industry. As this contribution is dated December 9, 1905, it does not cover the whole of the past twelve months, so we must allow for some of the mis-statements therein. The writer deals with the period from November 1, 1904, to the end of October last and speaks broadly of the following disabilities from which the industry has suffered and is still alleged to be suffering:—"(1) The scarcity of black labour and the initial cost of importing and housing Chinese; (2) the lower grade of the ore which has been put through the mills; (3) and the proper caution displayed by directors in strengthening the financial position of their companies before dividing all the profits amongst the shareholders." Let us examine these statements one by one and see the precise value of each.

Is the writer ignorant of the fact, or does he choose to forget it, that at the close of the war the mine bosses immediately proclaimed that the wages of the natives would be reduced? Upon this policy of theirs we have commented so frequently that we are heartily sick of it, yet it seems absolutely necessary to prod bad memories and answer ingenious scribes who still seek to mislead the public by their sophistries and casuistries, not to say their deliberate falsehoods. What could be the object of the bosses in cutting down the wage of the black? They must have had an object or they would not have done it. What inference would an ordinary intelligent man deduce from it? Either

that they expected such a great supply of blacks that they could adopt this policy with impunity, or that they were determined to discourage black labour, to place an insurmountable obstacle in its way so as to manufacture a plausible excuse for importing Chinese, whom they hoped to get cheaper still. In whatever light we may regard this act, it was most stupid, yet these men and their scribes are bewailing the inevitable consequences of their stupidity, or their villainy, whichever way one cares to look at it. Did these cosmopolites care one cent what shareholders would suffer from their action? If they had the least desire to benefit their shareholders they would not have done this; at any rate, would not have done it so impulsively, before the ink on the peace treaties was dry. Is it an injustice to such men to conclude that they had made up their minds long before then to have Chinese labour and were resolved to commit any iniquities to get it? Intelligent shareholders and investors now know what was aimed at, such knowledge explaining their apathy this past two or three years and their increasing contempt for and distrust of the bosses and their methods up to this hour. As the writer in the *Times* points out, the cosmopolites have had their Chinese, but at what a cost! "The initial cost of importing and housing Chinese." Quite so, and have not shareholders paid for their coolies dearly? What has their recompense been? The consciousness that they have benefited an alien race? The feeling that the bosses have had their desires granted, had extra chances of commissions, fuller opportunities for establishing a profitable truck system in the compounds? Is all this worth facing ruin for? What says Mr. J. B. Robinson? He declares that no right effort has been made to get blacks; that there has been no real desire to get them, and that any amount of such labour is procurable with the help of a Government who will officially approach the chiefs, and, he might have added, "see fair play."

The second disability alleged, viz., the depreciation in the grade of the ore, is much more serious and is one we have dealt with frequently in the past twelve months. With all their cleverness the bosses cannot for ever juggle successfully with nature, make poor ore rich, nor replace that worked out—"pick eyes" when none are left. We all know now the reasons for the high profits and big dividends of the early nineties. The mine managers then worked the richest ore they could find and left the poor ore for later years, after the bosses had made their fortunes from market booms and a stream of company promotions. Having become millionaires in this easy fashion by stripping the mines and "working the market," they can now afford to regard with equanimity the losses of those who come after, who have bought their scrip from them at alpine elevations. And still they would like fresh booms, for they have hundreds of new mines, of the Coronation Reef sort, to float yet, and it is more profitable to float them than to walk round the deserted places hands deep in pockets. Having disgusted the public, however, the cosmopolites are at their wits' end to know how to work up a boom and do not yet realise that their Jesuitry, their howling, their hostility to free whites, their rapacity of management are displays of no use whatever for their purpose. As the ore is declining in value year by year there is no encouragement for the prudent man in the threadbare expedient of the past. And it seems the silliest act imaginable to pay hundreds of thousands for Chinese slave labour when economy is so essential.

The third reason assigned by the *Times* correspondent for poor profits is really a comical one, not so creditable as it might be to his intelligence. Is it a disability to display caution and to strengthen the financial position of a company? Would shareholders suffer more from this than from imprudence and neglect of sound finance? The writer seems to argue so. Had he analysed the accounts and balance-sheets published by South African companies he would not be so incautious in exposing his ignorance. Is he aware that

the companies of the Wernher Beit group make no allowance for depreciation and mine redemption and never dream of building up reserve funds? Is this "proper caution"? Is this "strengthening their financial positions"? Is he aware that the companies of the Barnato group and some of those of the Farrar group pay dividends out of share premiums? Was he ever told that the capitals of 90 per cent. of the Rand companies have been ruthlessly watered? If he be ignorant of such facts it would be more to his credit were he to acquire knowledge and meanwhile abstain from attempting to instruct the public out of an empty mind.

Other portions of the ignorant and misleading article before us deal with the labour position more fully. The writer gives statistics of those employed on the mines, which are quite irrelevant to his argument, for they are the effects of the bosses' policy. He explains that many companies have not paid dividends because of their heavy indebtedness, owing to war losses and capital outlays on tube mills, &c. But the war was of the magnates' own seeking. At their bidding we also wanted it, and it is but justice that the stirrers-up of strife should suffer the consequences thereof. Wars are not waged with impunity, and if those who wage them wantonly lament the consequences, they must blame the laws of nature, which mercilessly compel us to reap as we have sown. Whilst the grade of the ore has fallen working costs have increased, and this mean result is attributed mainly to Chinese labour by the *Times* contributor, as though the importation of Chinkees had been a sad necessity rather than a deliberate white-man-hating choice. As a telling illustration of the heartrending consequences of this trouble he gives the following list of companies which "have declared no dividends since the war":—

	October Profit.		October Profit.
Consolidated Langlaagte	£5,504	New Goch...stopped temporarily	
Consolidat'd Main Reef	9,274	North Randfontein....	£7,700
Durban R. Deep.....	4,034	Porges Randfontein ..	8,400
French Rand	2,027	Princess Estate	1,795
Knight's Deep.....	5,956	Robinson Randfontein	5,750
Lancaster	1,700	Rodep'rt Central Deep	3,145
Lancaster West	3,084	Simmer East	4,112
Langlaagte Deep	6,532	Village Deep	2,997
New Comet	8,075	Vogelstruis Estate..Not declared	
New Kleinfontein	4,770	Windsor	£77
New Moddeefontein ..	3,756	Wolhuter	Mill burnt down
New Unified	1,534	Witwatersrand	£5,024
		Witwatersrand Deep..	15,160

"Many of these companies are now free from debt, and will shortly be paying dividends."

It happens, however, that since he wrote his article many of these companies have paid dividends, as the reader will see if he compares the above list with the table we give in this issue of dividend-payers in 1905. But the sorrowful scribe is not gloomy and pessimistic. He is writing in favour of the industry, specially pleads on behalf of the unfortunate (*sic*) magnates, and therefore winds up quite cheerful. "In the foregoing remarks I have endeavoured to explain some of the reasons for the disappointing results obtained by the Witwatersrand mines since the war and it will be acknowledged that the industry has been labouring under many difficulties, which are, however, not permanent, and are now gradually disappearing." His "endeavours" leave much to be desired, and those who test them may not find themselves compensated for their labour. After all, the writer, in his lack of originality, has but repeated the dodges of dozens of others—attempted to throw dust in the eyes of observers to obscure their outlook. And, like the others, he also has failed to blind the intelligent. But he is a very good man for the *Times*.

At the annual general meeting of the Life Offices' Association, held on Monday last, Mr. C. D. Higham (actuary and manager of the London Life Association) was elected chairman and Mr. G. H. Ryan (general manager of the Pelican and British Empire Life Office) has become deputy chairman for the year 1906.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

MR. MASSINGHAM ON CHINESE LABOUR.

Monday's *Daily News* contained a further letter from Mr. H. W. Massingham dealing with Chinese labour. It happens to answer, in unconscious anticipation, Mr. Raymond Schumacher's manifesto issued to the Press on Tuesday. Mr. Schumacher is a member of the firm of Messrs. Eckstein and Co., which is practically the Johannesburg branch of Wernher, Beit, and Co., and one cannot reasonably expect a disinterested statement from such a source. But we always like these patriots best when they come out into the open. So let us look briefly at the points raised by this noble Anglo-Saxon. They are that the supply of native labour is inadequate; that Chinese labour is dearer than Kaffir; that the bosses therefore would not employ it if they could help themselves; and that the number of whites at work has steadily increased since the coolies came. We have exploded these speciosities over and over again, and do so once more this week in another article. What are the true facts? That the magnates deliberately caused an artificial scarcity of blacks by lowering their wages and otherwise putting obstacles in the way of their employment, not caring probably what alien labour cost, as shareholders will have to pay for it; and that forty thousand more whites could be employed if the Chinese were sent home to-morrow. But the bosses do not want liberty-loving Englishmen, that liberty for which Mr. Schumacher's friends told us we went to war. This was confessed in a letter written by the late Mr. Percy Tarbutt to Mr. F. H. P. Creswell, who preferred to sacrifice his high and remunerative position rather than be a party to the employment of coolie slaves. This expert declared again at a meeting at West Islington on Tuesday that as long ago as 1896 he hired white men to do the same work as is now done by Chinese and never has experienced the least difficulty in getting them to do it. So much for that part of the cosmopolite story. Mr. Schumacher also denies as strenuously as his prejudices will permit him that the Chinaman is only a slave. Let us hear what Mr. Massingham has to say upon this:—

"The evidence seems to me overwhelming that the Chinaman is discontented with his present lot on the Rand. It would be strange, indeed, if he were not, for nearly every possible mistake has been made in handling him. He was treated as if he were first cousin to the submissive, child-like Kaffir. But he retorted on kicks and blows with stones and 'jumpers,' and since then the white miner has gone in wholesome fear of him. That he has terrorised the Rand is beyond question. 'In view of the recent outrages in Johannesburg,' says the *Transvaal Leader*, the most widely-circulated of the organs of the mine-owners, 'a large proportion of the white population, more especially the married section, are arming themselves. Outside Johannesburg the mining population, disturbed by the Chinese outrages, have lost no time in purchasing revolvers. So great has been the demand for weapons in Johannesburg that one of the best known firms of gunsmiths has completely disposed of its entire stock of revolvers.'

"'I dare not spend a night from home,' said a well-known resident of a township eight miles from Johannesburg. 'They are all round my place. There have been many unreported outrages and attempts to break into houses.'

"What, in fact, is life in a compound, Kaffir or Chinese?" Mr. Massingham asks. "I am bound to say," he answers, "I think Mr. Jamieson, the able Superintendent of Foreign Labour, will agree with me that one or two of these buildings are fit only for destruction. On the North Randfontein mine the heat of the sleeping-places was only less endurable than that of the dining-hall, which the coolies did not use.

I entered it on a hot day, and could not stand its temperature for five minutes. . . . But consider the physical and moral conditions of this existence. The system of indenture is declared to be no worse for the Chinaman than the Kaffir. Is that the case? The Kaffir, at least, is in his own land; if he survives drink, scurvy, syphilis, pneumonia, blasting accidents, and the other blessings of the coloured miner's life, he may return in a few months to his kraal, a landowner, a farmer, the head of a family. The Chinaman is on a strange soil. Few of his white overlookers really understand his tongue. On one great mine a single European controls over 4,000 Chinamen. He is universally hated and feared by the white population.

The idea that any form of family life was designed for him, or was possible under the Ordinance, may be dismissed. The British public was grossly deceived on that point. The Chinese wife, as the Superintendent of Foreign Labour explained to me, forms part of the family system of China, and could not accompany her husband to a distant land, where he can never have a home, never own a yard of the soil, and never exercise the shopkeeping, or agricultural, or industrial crafts in which he excels. Many coolies told me that they had no idea their wives could come; others laughed when I put the question through my interpreter, and said they had nothing with which to pay their wives' passage or keep them when they came. Furthermore, the coolie likes roaming about, and his liberty is strictly curtailed. He has no tea-gardens or restaurants; gambling and opium-smoking are his distractions, and the authorities are now trying to put them down.

Answering the question as to how the Chinaman has been treated, Mr. Massingham records the admissions of Lord Selborne, Mr. Jamieson, and even those of the mine-owners and their agents. These are:—

That the Chinamen did not in great numbers understand the nature of the work they were going to do. My own inquiries among them convinced me that they were often deliberately deceived by the recruiters; in some cases it is possible that carelessness and the coolies' own ignorance were responsible for the error. This concealment of the character of the work, accompanied by the semi-penal system under which the men live, brings the system perilously near actual slavery, for the element of full consent is absent.

That they have been freely flogged.

That the evil peculiar to the Northern Chinese, and dreaded by the Archbishop of Canterbury, prevails in the compounds, the only excuse being that it also exists among the Kaffirs. To a minor extent this is probably true; this evil being inseparable from the herding together of hundreds of compulsory bachelors in the promiscuous life of the compounds.

That Oriental punishments, such as the stocks and the cangue, or head-collar, have been in use among the coolies.

That the Ordinance has been violated in various particulars.

The authorities believe that under the new organisation of Dr. Jamieson's department these evils are or will be cured. My own conviction is that, considering the character of the Chinese, and the conditions of indentured labour, this happy result cannot occur. I take one example before I close this article. Lord Selborne assured me that all flogging in the mines had ceased. Everyone who knows Lord Selborne is convinced of his intellectual sincerity, and there is abundant evidence of his desire to stamp out the abuses of indentured labour. But within a day or so of his statement I visited a mine, taking with me Mr. Bianchini, an Italian gentleman, and a former compound manager associated with the Witwatersrand Gold Mining Company, who left his employment voluntarily because he objected to the treatment of the Chinamen under his charge. The Government did not, I believe, accept Mr. Bianchini's views, but they regarded him as an honest witness. While I was examining the coolies, through Mr. Bianchini's help, a tall Chinaman limped painfully in and, throwing aside some bandages, disclosed a large wound, which I find described as follows in my notebook:—

Dark purple marks and weals on back and thighs, with large, raw, open wound in the centre. Coolie says he was beaten by a policeman because he only drilled 18 inches (spreading out his hands three times). Manager, who was with our party, proposed to arrest him at once, for purposes of inquiry, though this quite unnecessary. Later on he stated that the coolie had been beaten for stealing dynamite—a serious offence. He insisted (like all the mine managers) that without flogging it was impossible to control so large a number of coolies (2,000), and that the Government would have to resort to flogging, as the Chinese were indifferent to imprisonment.

I forwarded an account of this case to Mr. Jamieson, who, with his usual promptitude, ordered an inquiry. Here is the report of the Inspector:—

The coolie's name is Tsai Ku Sheng, Government Passport No. 5,196.

I examined this man on 8th instant, at the North Randfontein Mine. He said that about a week ago two "big men" (i.e., Mr. Bianchini and myself) from Johannesburg met him, and one of

them asked him in Chinese rather difficult to understand why he was limping, and whether he had been beaten by a white man. He said, "I have been beaten and I have marks."

I asked him who had beaten him; he said, "One of the Chinese police, but I don't know his name; I only know it was a policeman."

I asked in half a dozen different ways and half a dozen times whether he would like to prosecute the policeman, and told him that I would help him. He said he did not want to prosecute, and that he was quite satisfied. The presumption is that he deserved a licking, and knew it; and got it.

(Signed) R. PURDON,
Inspector, Foreign Labour Department.

I am bound to make one or two comments on this very strange report. I say strange, because Mr. Purdon, a Government official specially ordered to put down flogging as improper and forbidden by his Department, could only remark when a breach of these orders was reported to him that the "presumption" was that the coolie—a free labourer forsooth—"deserved a licking, and knew it, and got it." I know of no sound "presumption" in this case. It is not unnatural that the man shrank from prosecuting the mine official under whose rule he would have to live, willy-nilly, for three years without much hope of protection from any outside authority. How many English workmen shrink from prosecuting an employer under the Factory Acts? And is that a "presumption" that no offence has been committed, or that the workman is a specially guilty person? In any case, Mr. Purdon had nothing to do with what the coolie "deserved." His business was to stop flogging, not to express sympathy with it, and to discover the identity of the policeman who flogged Tsai Ku Sheng—not, I should imagine, a difficult task.

But Mr. Purdon is doubtless a man after Mr. Schumacher's own heart.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S ADDRESS TO THE NATION.

It is not surprising that the reactionaries cursed and blasphemed at this address. It is straightforward, and nothing exasperates people of that class so much as the unadorned truth. There is not a word of mere rhetoric in it from beginning to end, but the enumeration it gives of the ghastly condition in which the affairs of this country and of the Empire have been left by the people who lately held office is irresistible in its ruthlessness and truth. "It seems enough," Sir Henry says, "to remind you that the late Prime Minister now declares to us that, as the result of a policy which involved such sacrifices on the part of the people of this country, South Africa has been reduced to a condition in which loss of prosperity, nay, even ruin, can only be avoided by the use of servile labour imported in unlimited quantities from China." Yes, and we were asked to spend our blood and uncouthed treasure in order to bring this glory upon the Empire. No wonder it is liberty, freedom, light these African masters of ours dread, and it is in order to prevent the light penetrating that they and all their Press servants continue to deluge the country with falsehoods about labour difficulties and many things else. Doubtless the bosses would not like to contemplate an examination of their books by a Government Commission to see how much of the gross proceeds of the mining industry they had applied to their own profit. Nor would they care to open their share registers, the records of their "reptile fund" for the discovery of the origins of what is foulest and most snakish in the current fashion of Imperialism.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman is equally emphatic about Free Trade and equally definite. There can be no mistaking his meaning at any point. Frankly he says he cannot follow the argument of those agitators who have arrogated to themselves the name of "tariff reformers" with the usual cunning of the betrayer. There is no "reform" but plenty of ruin in their proposals. "Nothing," he says, "in the experience of other countries leads me to suppose that by limiting our imports we shall increase our exports, that by raising prices no matter by what kind of tariff expedients we shall assist in equalising the conditions of international competition, or in enlarging the area of employment." That is the plain, common-sense view, and we are delighted to think that it is the view likely to triumph at the polls. "An Empire united on a basis of food taxes would be an Empire with disruptive

forces at its centre, and this is a prospect with the realisation of which both in the interests of the colonies and the mother country we can have nothing to do." This surely is a different kind of utterance from the word-spinning dialectics to which the late Prime Minister treats his audiences, or from the lamentable wailings or spiteful yappings of the soured and ghost-haunted hero of Birmingham. And the Prime Minister is just as definite about what his Ministry is going to do. Its first work, a work of years, will be to endeavour to repair the mischief wrought during the past ten years by the party now being driven from power. There will be no nagging at foreign powers, no waving a big stick in the style of President Roosevelt against the weak. We shall behave like decent people to all the world. The principles of peace, economy, self-government and civil and religious liberty, these are to be upheld by the new Government, and their upholding means much, means that the spirit and purpose of the new Government are wide as the heavens away from those of the ministry which slunk off like a thief in the night.

MR. BALFOUR AND CHINESE LABOUR.

The ex-Prime Minister is exhibiting to his critical audiences in Manchester such a poor skill in dialectics that any indignation his performances might excite is dissolved in pity. Arguments such as he advances are unworthy of the traditions of the Codger's Hall debating club. It is therefore the reverse of surprising that he is caught out at every point by his audience. Two assertions are relied upon by Mr. Balfour in his attempts to justify the presence of Chinese serfs on the Witwatersrand; one is that the Liberals are just as bad as the Unionists in having allowed indentured labour in British Guiana, and the other that any way the presence of the Chinese was sanctioned, even demanded, by the white population of the Rand. Neither of these statements will bear examination. We are not seeking to justify indentured coolie labour in Guiana, but none but a man driven desperate to defend an untenable position would for a moment attempt to put the conditions of such labour on all-fours with those surrounding the unfortunate Chinese coolies in the Transvaal. The Guiana coolie is not deprived of his civil rights, he is not under a contract for repatriation, nor during his term of service is he kept shut up in a compound, deprived of all family influence. He cannot be beaten in the brutal manner described by Mr. Massingham in a remarkable letter, quoted elsewhere, published last Monday by the *Daily News* and by many other correspondents. Whatever crimes he commits render him amenable to the ordinary courts of justice in the colony, not to the caprice of the Chinese or white overseer. Moreover, the Guiana coolie is not bereft of his wages by a truck system, by fines and arbitrary deductions of the kind Mr. Boland and other correspondents have described. To stand up therefore before an intelligent English audience and shout "You're another!" at the Liberals, as Mr. Balfour does, is a species of word trickery to which we prefer to avoid giving its right name.

Still more audacious is the assertion that the white population of the Transvaal not only sanctioned but asked for the importation of these unfortunate and ill-used serfs. That population never was allowed an opportunity of expressing an opinion upon the point. A sham opinion was organised by the hiring Press of the mine bosses and sham meetings were held in order to give colourable excuse for assertions such as Mr. Balfour indulges in, but there was never any open vote taken, no attempt whatever made to allow free expression of opinion. It must never be forgotten that the Transvaal, at any rate as long as Lord Milner ruled there, was exactly in the position of a Russian province under martial law, even to the extent of a passport system. No white was allowed to enter the sacred territory of the mine owners without a permit. To this hour the white population is despotically

governed, has no constitutional rights, no means therefore to make its opinions effectively known. For an English statesman, or one who professes to be such, to stand up before an audience of his fellow-countrymen and assert that a population thus dragooned and gagged gave free expression to its opinions about Chinese labour and made demands for its importation is one of the most astounding exhibitions of perversity in our modern political history. Was Tuesday's Cape Town meeting all faction and sham? It should be unnecessary to say more, but we trust that on polling day Mr. Horridge will give the ex-Prime Minister the soundest thrashing any man of his standing ever received at the hands of his constituents.

From whatever point of view it is approached, this Chinese slave labour system is an infamy, and it is not surprising that Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman should have expressed to his audience in Liverpool indignation at the trick, for it is nothing else, by which the hands of his Government are tied for a time, so far as the further importation of these unhappy serfs is concerned. The correspondence published on Tuesday relating to this colonial gangrene ought to lead to the impeachment of those immediately concerned in signing 16,199 permits for further coolies to be imported, after Mr. Lyttelton had telegraphed on October 27 that it would be good policy for the mine owners "voluntarily to stop importation." These permits were signed during the months of November and December at a time when it was becoming obvious to everybody that the days of the Balfour Ministry were numbered, and represented an aggregate of over 8,000 per month as against a monthly average importation hitherto of about 2,400. It is a pity that the whole of these permits cannot be cancelled, but doubtless the Government would be pestered by claims for compensation which, although totally without equitable warrant, might involve a long and troublesome dispute. What Lord Elgin, however, doubtless will do is to see that coolies are not enlisted in China on such false representations as Mr. Massingham sets forth in the letter already alluded to. The mischief done in China by this infamy is already great enough, and ought not to be increased. Not only will Lord Elgin have to protect the Chinese from imposition at the time of their enlistment, but he will have to ask Lord Selborne to see that the brutal ill-treatment to which the coolies already in the compounds and in the mines are still subjected is effectually put an end to, and that they are not robbed by the magnates of Johannesburg. This last step is required not only in the interests of the coolies themselves but in the interests of the non-indentured traders of that town and throughout the Transvaal who are being starved out by the monopoly of supplies which the said mine masters have grasped for themselves, as they have grasped the source of wealth everywhere in that unhappy territory.

MR. BURNS ON MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S STATISTICS.

The following letter is so good, exhibits such frank, straight hitting that we make room for it here. If Mr. Chamberlain continues to manufacture statistics in the style thus so completely exposed the day is not far distant when no self-respecting newspaper editor will be found to print his dishonest harangues. That he should have made a statement of the kind now refuted is quite what we should expect from him, but none the more creditable for that:—

Sir,—In his speech at Derby on the 4th inst. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain is reported to have said:—"We see that the pauperism of the country is rapidly increasing. There are at the present time something like one million able-bodied men, or men not at all events in old age, who are being maintained at the expense of the rates of the country in your workhouses and infirmaries."

These statements are so grossly inaccurate and misleading; especially coming as they do from a gentleman who was once President of the Local Government Board and who should know where to look for reliable figures on the subject, that they certainly should not be allowed to go unchallenged.

In 1849 the mean number of paupers of all classes (indoor and outdoor) in England and Wales was 1,088,650, or 62.7 per

1,000 of the estimated population. In 1900 the figures were 792,367, or 25 per 1,000.

In 1849 the adult able-bodied paupers (indoor and outdoor), excluding vagrants, were 13.2 per 1,000 of the estimated population. In 1900 these were three per 1,000.

It is true that since 1900 there has been an increase of, roughly, 100,000 in the number of paupers of all classes—men, women and children—but the connection between a rise in pauperism and the termination of a long and costly war is too well known to require explanation. This increase, however, merely raises the ratio per 1,000 from 25 to 26.2, whilst the number of able-bodied men—and this seems to be the point of Mr. Chamberlain's argument, if it has any point at all—remains at the low figure of 3.4 per 1,000.

Again, the total pauperism for England and Wales on July 1 last, excluding 107,728 lunatics and 14,920 casual paupers, is, according to the published return, 747,662. Of these, 532,778 were in receipt of outdoor relief, thus leaving 214,884 indoor paupers.

Of the 214,884 indoor paupers, only 40,366 were ordinarily able-bodied men and women, and, of these, 24,856, or 62 per cent. were sick or temporarily disabled on the date to which the return relates. Lastly, if we compare the sick or temporarily disabled, who numbered 13,332, with the ordinarily able-bodied men in health, we find that the latter, as stated in the return, numbered 7,615. What, then, becomes of the million able-bodied men in the workhouses and infirmaries?

It may be of interest in this connection to point out that, of all our paupers receiving relief from rates (again excluding insane in asylums), the children under 16 years of age are about 30 per cent. of the total, the women between 16 and 65 about 20 per cent., the women 65 years of age and over about 26 per cent., the men 65 and over about 14 per cent., while the men between 16 and 65 are but 10 per cent. of the total.

The above figures relate to England and Wales, but, assuming that Mr. Chamberlain intended to include the figures for Scotland and Ireland, it may be pointed out that the daily average number of men receiving indoor relief in Ireland not classed as sick, aged, and infirm, children, lunatics, and epileptics is about 2,200; whilst in Scotland there are scarcely any able-bodied men in receipt of indoor relief. On the most generous estimate, 11,000 to 12,000 able-bodied men in workhouses would be an outside figure.

In these days, when the controversialist appeals more and more to the statistician, figures should be something more than illustrations. They should illuminate the real facts, which in this particular matter are as above.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

January 9.

JOHN BURNS.

SOME CANDIDATES WHOM WE HOPE TO SEE WIN AND LOSE.

First amongst the winners, because of the interest attached to the contest, we hope to see Mr. Felix Schuster and Sir West Ridgeway in the City of London. So far as we have been able to test opinion in that rather benighted quarter, these two Free Trade candidates would probably stand triumphantly at the head of the poll were there no livery company votes in the way. That is to say, if there were a straight poll, without dual voting of this and other kinds, Free Trade would win in the City. As it is, the fight is certain to be a good one. Many who have hitherto voted with the Tory party will support Mr. Schuster and Sir West Ridgeway this time. We hope they will both get in, and Mr. Schuster, above all, deserves well of his fellow-citizens, for he is one of the most enlightened men of business in the City, honourable and trusted as he deserves. Next to him we hope to see Mr. Leonard Courtney at the head of the poll in his division of Edinburgh. He has fought an uphill fight there and fought it with his usual brave independence. It would be a great misfortune were the new Parliament to be deprived of the assistance of a man of this stamp. And, naturally, we also hope to see all the ministers re-elected with greatly increased majorities. Mr. Burns' "plurality," as the Americans call it, in Battersea ought to run well over four figures, and the opposition to the others to be everywhere beaten. The Lord Advocate ought to have no difficulty in sending Sir Conan Doyle back to his romance-spinning. Indeed, we trust all the Tory story-telling tribe of candidates will be sent to the right about. We hope, though, that the young man who has gone to Coventry will take root there. Among those we hope to see soundly beaten Dr. Rutherford Harris stands first. That any English constituency should submit to be represented by a man so intimately mixed up with the Jameson Raid, a man who on January 2, 1895, sent the following telegram: "Rumour from Johannesburg states

Jameson has had a fight and won. I believe he is now safe with his friends in Johannesburg. You may be quite sure that none who knows him will leave him even with fifty proclamations against him," thus defiantly proclaiming himself a rebel, does not inspire pride.

Is it too much to hope that Mr. Outhwaite will beat the "hustler" in Birmingham? We shall be satisfied with nothing short of that, and Mr. John Morgan should give Mr. Austen a happy release from East Worcestershire. From Manchester and Salford we look to welcome a united band of Free Traders, and from the rest of the country such a majority as will prevent a single Liberal from expressing regret should Lord Hugh Cecil win at Greenwich and Mr. Gibson Bowles at King's Lynn. But London ought not to spare room for Bowles the younger, and we could well do without Sir Frederick Banbury, Sir G. T. C. Bartley, Sir M. M. Bohnaggee, Sir Thomas Wrightson, Major Jessel, Sir Henry Kimber, and even Mr. Arnold-Forster. We have not room for half the names we should like to miss amongst those fighting constituencies in the provinces, but in the number are some of those labour candidates who by striving to divide the Liberal vote serve the Opposition. Dry-hearted and hard-mouthed patriots everywhere can be dispensed with at this time. As between Mr. Harry Marks and his Tory opponent there should be no necessity for us to choose in Thanet; both will be happy, we trust, away from Westminster, but we confess we should miss Mr. Arthur Elliot, and it would from some points of view be almost a pity were we to be deprived of the valuable assistance of a man like Colonel Kenyon-Slaney as an awful example. The editor of the *Spectator*, Englishman and Anglo-Indian Imperialist though he be, will make a first-rate representative of the Edinburgh and St. Andrews Universities, until they and their like are disfranchised. We hear with delight that Mr. Mackarness is going to win Newbury, and have no fear of Mr. Rufus Isaacs at Reading, and of the final result we have far less doubt than many of those fighting with us for Free Trade. It is going to be a rout of the nondescript horde marching beneath the flag of what it is pleased to call "tariff reform," which is brigandage. That horde we regard as the worst enemies of the country from every point of view, and they are revealing their character by the lies they unscrupulously disseminate, the travesties of fact they put forth with which to beguile the electorate. We never remember falsehood so gross exhibited in the eyes of the people, not even in the Khaki election of 1900, which we have hitherto regarded as marking the lowest depths of moral degradation reached by a political party in modern times.

RUSSIAN FINANCE.

It appears that the Russian Finance Minister, Mr. Kokovtsoff, is in Paris, and has been trying to raise there a loan of £32,000,000. According to some writers, he went to the French Prime Minister, M. Rouvier, to try and get him to bring pressure upon the finance houses to raise this loan, but M. Rouvier declined to interfere, and the big finance houses did not see their way to undertake the public issue of any such loan at the present time. The *Matin*, to which we owe most of these particulars, says that the rashness was recognised in existing circumstances of attempting any such feat. All the same, these financial firms and banks cannot avoid coming to the help of Russia. They are not able to transfer Russian promises to pay to the small investor at the present time, but if Russia does not get money from somewhere her debt will be defaulted upon, and then both small investor and big financier will be brought to grief. So it is said that the banks in Paris are going to advance gold provided out of their own resources to sustain the Russian exchange. The French financial firms without exception would, the *Temps* says, be prepared to consider an advance to the Russian State Bank, on certain guarantees, of the gold necessary to maintain the rouble at

the rate of fr.2.66, and Mr. Kokovtsoff boasts that the exchange has been rigid through all the war time and since. We do not think any the better of the Russian financial position for that because the exchange can only have been maintained by artifices, by a concealment of the increase in the paper money and of the drain of gold. We wish the French houses joy of this enterprise, and are not surprised at the keenness of the French demand for gold in the London market. It will not be £10,000,000 nor £20,000,000 that will suffice to sustain the exchange value of the Russian rouble while revolution rages from one end of the Empire to the other, while the foreign trade of Russia is becoming more and more disorganised, and while famine gnaws at the heart of uncounted millions of the Russian people. It is interesting, however, to note Mr. Kokovtsoff's information about the ideas of borrowing entertained by his Government at the conclusion of the peace. He and his colleagues then contemplated, he told Mr. George Villiers, of the *Temps*, issuing a loan for £50,000,000 in Paris, Berlin, London, America, Holland, and Russia itself. This attempt was abandoned when revolution broke out, but the Minister confesses that the budget for 1906 showed a deficit of £48,300,000. What the deficit for 1905 was he does not seem to have mentioned, but we shall be surprised if the shortcoming for the two years does not amount to quite three times that sum, and necessarily the gap is widening because of the confusion existing within the Empire.

PREPARING FOR THE ELECTRIC MONOPOLISTS.

The threatened municipal and other competition is evidently causing some of the existing electric lighting companies no little anxiety, and a few of the wide-awake ones are already taking steps to so consolidate and strengthen their positions that they may present a formidable opposition to any new schemes, and prove active rivals if the fresh proposals come to maturity. In furtherance of this line of action the Notting Hill Electric Lighting Company is seeking authority from its shareholders to promote a Bill in Parliament, having for its object the establishment of a community of interests between itself and such other powerful concerns as the St. James' and Pall Mall, the Kensington and Knightsbridge, the Westminster, and the Metropolitan. The new arrangement is apparently only connected with the supply of current in bulk, power being sought for linking up the bulk supply stations belonging to the respective companies with a view to the interchange of current. Compulsory authority is also asked for the purchase of two sites on the banks of the Thames, for the purpose of erecting further stations if found necessary, and the directors say that the resources then available would enable the federated companies to supply not only all the companies and borough councils having powers of distribution in the so-called residential districts of London, but any future possible demand for power for industrial or traction purposes. It is not anticipated that any important capital expenditure will be involved, and the shareholders will no doubt readily agree to the proposal, but it will not be an easy matter to get the Bill through Parliament, in view of the opposition certain to be encountered by the promoters of new schemes.

MR. G. H. RYAN ON LIFE INSURANCE.

It must have been worth going to the dinner of the Imperial Industries Club on Wednesday last to hear this address alone, for Mr. Ryan possesses a gift of literary expression that enables him to clothe the dry bones of life insurance business with substance, so that he instructs instead of befogging those who listen to him or read what he has to say. The most interesting point in his address was that in which he dealt with the difference between American life office methods and British. He came down with emphasis, but by no means unjustly, on the "one man power" method of

conducting life offices which has brought so many evils upon American life business. The contrast between the condition of affairs disclosed in the course of the investigation, too abruptly closed by expiry of mandate, in New York and that afforded by the history and actual position of life insurance business here for the last thirty-five years is full of warning and instruction. Perhaps Mr. Ryan exalts somewhat beyond warrant the power of control exercised by boards of directors in this country, but he is perfectly right in the view that these boards do prevent despotism in management here, and he is also right in saying that "whatever powers may be held by or delegated to the chief manager as regards the commercial side of the business, the care of the funds, partaking so largely of the nature of a trust for a vast number of members and future claimants, should be the sole and undivided responsibility of a board quite independent of the executive, and should not be delegated by them to anyone, though, of course, the board will act on the best expert advice available." That is sound doctrine, and, moreover, it expresses the established usage of all the best life offices in this country, in this respect affording the greatest possible contrast to the loose and immoral methods which have come to prevail in the United States. And British life insurance business has prospered beyond that of any other country in the world, for we do not regard the staggering totals exhibited by the big American offices as evidence of real solid prosperity. Since 1871 the funds of British life offices have multiplied almost threefold to a total of about £300,000,000, securing existing contracts of life insurance which Mr. Ryan thinks would not be less than £700,000,000.

We have not space to deal with his discussion of the reasons which led some of our life offices to give additional element of security to their business by cutting down the rate of interest on which their future accumulations are calculated to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but there can be no question that, taken in the aggregate, the reserves of British companies which have been built up and increased from time to time under the system in which this step was only an incident, are upon a level of strength unknown and unrivalled in any other part of the world. Nevertheless there are some imperfections which have been introduced in recent years, and although the Act of 1871 has proved to "one of the wisest, most useful measures of legislation ever carried through Parliament," we agree with Mr. Ryan in thinking that it might be amended in some directions, so as to give it wider scope—to include bond investment companies, for instance, and other alleged thrift agencies also, so as to give the Board of Trade greater power of effective interference. Mr. Ryan suggests that a Royal Commission should be appointed to investigate the present condition of life insurance business, and especially of such excrescences and unsound developments as these. But to this view Lord Rothschild demurred. "An ambitious Chancellor of the Exchequer," he said, "and a Radical President of the Board of Trade would say: Here are rich companies with large sums invested; what can we do better than to order them to restore British credit and to give unlimited sums to municipalities to spend?" That was hardly fair of his lordship. We should ground our objection to a Royal Commission on the established fact that bodies of that kind seldom lead to any practical result; although what other means have we of focussing the facts and clarifying public opinion? That something must be done has long been our conviction, and we are therefore glad to see this suggestion brought forward and supported by a man of the authority of Mr. Ryan. There is no danger to life offices in this country either from an ambitious Chancellor of the Exchequer or a Radical President of the Board of Trade, and Lord Rothschild ought not to seize every opportunity he can get to throw discredit upon a Ministry which he seems to dislike. Has the new Chancellor of the Exchequer refused to be his humble pupil?

RAND MINES' DIVIDENDS IN 1905.

Below we give our customary table of the dividends declared by the outcrop and deep level companies of the Rand during the past twelve months. It will be noted that they aggregate over five millions and a quarter, by excluding the Glynn's Lydenburg, an increase of about one and a half million over 1904. As the total output for the year was 4,897,200 ozs., of a value of £20,773,000, the dividends paid and declared work out at 25 per cent. only. The remaining 75 per cent. has gone goodness knows where. This is hardly a good record, but it would have been a much better one had many tens of thousands gone into the pockets of shareholders instead of into those of the Chinese slaves and their drivers. Despite these millions the country seems to be none the richer, whilst the Kaffir market itself becomes gloomier. It is, indeed, significant as manifesting the general disgust of the public, that in such a year prices should fall to levels lower than they have reached for many years. Outsiders have recognised that in spite of the dividends paid values are still, in the majority of instances, inflated, looking to the probable lives of the mines. So the distributions, however high, are not remunerative; investors pay more for them than they are worth. The list is swollen by several new payers, notably some of the leading subsidiaries of the Randfontein Estates, of the Robinson group. Thus the North Randfontein, South Randfontein, Porges Randfontein, and Robinson Randfontein, with 10 per cent. in each case, are newcomers. Other fresh ones are the Glen Deep, Nourse Deep, Jumpers, and Robinson Central Deep, of the Wernher, Beit group; the New Comet and New Kleinfontein, of the Farrar group; the Transvaal Gold Fields, the Witwatersrand (Knight's) company, and the New Heriot. It may be recalled that for the first half of the year the Wemmer directors did not pay a dividend, and as only 40 per cent. was paid for the second half, this compares most unfavourably with the 125 per cent. declared in 1904. The Ginsberg, too, made only one distribution, the mill having been damaged by fire. Three weeks ago the directors of the Roodepoort United Main Reef, of the Albu group, declared they were unable to pay a final dividend for the year because of the expense of getting Chinese, though the money was earned. Thus the aggregate payment is 10 per cent. less than that for the previous twelve months. As a separate company the Henry Nourse has paid its last dividend. It has now become merged into the Nourse Deep, with a larger capital and the new name of the Nourse Mines. The Bonanza will soon cease to exist. The following is the list:—

		Divs.	Issued	Amount.
		%	Capital.	£
Anglo	June....	25	625,000	156,250
"	Dec....	18½	"	114,062
Bonanza	June....	25	200,000	50,000
"	Dec....	32½	"	65,000
City and Suburban	June....	5	1,360,000	68,000
"	Dec....	5	"	68,000
Comet (New)	Dec....	12½	500,000	62,500
Crown Deep	June....	30	300,000	90,000
"	Dec....	40	300,000	120,000
Crown Reef	March..	100	120,000	120,000
"	Sept. ..	110	"	132,000
Driefontein Consols	June....	12½	625,000	78,125
"	Dec....	10	"	62,500
Durban Roodepoort Gold	March..	15	125,000	18,750
"	Aug. ..	15	"	18,750
"	Sept. ..	15	"	18,750
"	Nov. ..	15	"	18,750
Ferreira	June	125	95,000	118,750
"	Dec....	137½	"	130,625
Ferreira Deep	March ..	12½	910,000	113,750
"	Sept. ..	17½	"	159,250
Geldenhuis Deep	June	30	300,000	90,000
"	Dec....	20	"	60,000
Geldenhuis Estate	June	35	200,000	70,000
"	Dec....	40	200,000	80,000
Ginsburg	June	12½	175,000	21,875
Glen Deep	July	10	600,000	60,000
Henry Nourse	June	40	125,000	50,000
Heriot (New)	Dec....	20	114,800	22,960
Jubilee	March ..	25	50,000	12,500
Jumpers	July	20	100,000	20,000

		Divs.	Issued	Amount.
		%	Capital.	£
Langlaagte Estate	June....	20	470,000	94,000
"	Dec....	20	"	94,000
May "Consolidated	June....	20	288,750	57,750
"	Dec....	20	"	57,750
Meyer and Charlton	June....	25	100,000	25,000
"	Dec....	30	"	30,000
New Kleinfontein	Dec....	7½	900,000	67,500
New Primrose	June....	15	325,000	48,750
"	Dec....	20	"	65,000
New Reitfontein Estate..	Dec....	10	611,000	61,100
Nigel	June....	15	223,100	33,465
"	Dec....	20	224,000	44,800
Nourse Deep	July	15	450,000	20,000
North Randfontein	Dec....	10	450,000	45,000
Porges Randfontein	Dec....	10	500,000	50,000
Robinson	June....	8	2,750,000	220,000
"	Dec....	9	"	247,500
Robinson Central Deep..	June....	15	440,000	66,000
"	Dec....	25	"	110,000
Robinson Deep	June....	15	950,000	142,500
"	Dec....	35	980,000	343,000
Robinson Randfontein ..	Dec....	10	600,000	60,000
Roodepoort United	June....	10	295,000	29,500
Rose Deep	June....	15	425,000	63,750
"	Dec....	10	"	42,500
Salisbury	March ..	20	100,000	20,000
"	June....	10	"	10,000
"	Dec....	10	"	10,000
Simmer and Jack	March ..	2½	3,000,000	75,000
"	June....	2½	"	75,000
"	Dec....	5	"	150,000
South Randfontein	Dec....	10	450,000	45,000
Treasury (£4)	April ..	6½	540,000	33,750
Transvaal Gold	April ..	15	300,000	45,000
Van Ryn	June....	10	500,000	50,000
"	Dec....	10	"	50,000
Village Main Reef	June....	20	400,000	80,000
"	Dec....	20	"	80,000
Wemmer	Dec....	40	80,000	32,000
Witwatersrand	Dec....	15	412,500	61,875
Total				£5,369,587

OUTSIDE MINE.

Glynn's Lydenburg	Jan.	10	167,500	16,750
"	July	15	"	25,125
Total				£5,411,462

BEARING FALSE WITNESS STILL.

In view of the probability that the white population of the annexed republics in South Africa will soon once more be allowed to vote freely upon questions affecting their interests, the following from the *Times* "Own" in Johannesburg, seems worth preserving:—

Johannesburg, January 10.

The announcement that the Home Government finds itself unable to interfere with the Chinese permits relieves the tension which has existed in the colony for the past fortnight. The intelligence, however, has been received as calmly as was the Cabinet's first utterance regarding the stoppage of Chinese labour and with an entire absence of malicious pleasure. Herein the colony affords an object-lesson to the more irresponsible members of the Liberal Ministry as well as to its supporters in the Press. The calmness that prevailed throughout the "crisis" is attributable partly, no doubt, to a consciousness of the unassailable position of the permits, but at the same time there is another and a more important factor in the situation. The general attitude of the colony at the present moment towards the new Cabinet is one of studied coolness. As the *Star* points out, the past record of the Home Government justifies the view that Imperialism and official Liberalism are mutually incompatible, but it remains to be seen whether the policy of the Liberal party towards the colonies is going to become oppressive instead of merely indifferent. The *Star* echoes the feeling of the colony in recording its appreciation of Lord Selborne's championship of Chinese labour.

But bearing in mind that this is the paper, the welfare of whose "Flora" the late Cecil Rhodes was so solicitous about—"Let Flora have her shares," he wired—and also the paper which printed, by arrangement with the gang, and perhaps with the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Chamberlain's, connivance, the forged Johannesburg letter of appeal concocted to give colourable excuse for the thievish enterprise led by Dr. Jameson; also that never during all the years from 1895 until now have any but mine boss' interests found advocacy in its columns, and that it still hints darkly about "reptile funds" fed out to its opponents, as if its own record were spotless, its motives ever humane and pure, it seems advisable to reduce the swelling

impudence and false assumption of representative comprehensiveness paraded in the above to their real significance and proportions thus:—

The announcement that the Home Government finds itself unable to interfere with the Chinese permits relieves the tension which has existed among the monopolists for the past fortnight. The intelligence, however, has been received as calmly as was the Cabinet's first utterance regarding the stoppage of Chinese labour and with an entire absence of malicious pleasure. Herein the "Corner House" affords an object-lesson to the more irresponsible members of the Liberal Ministry as well as to its supporters in the Press. The calmness that prevailed throughout the "crisis" is attributable partly, no doubt, to a consciousness of the unassailable position of the permits, but at the same time there is another and a more important factor in the situation. The general attitude of the "Corner House" at the present moment towards the new Cabinet is one of studied coolness. As the *Star* points out, the past record of the Home Government justifies the view that brigand Imperialism and official Liberalism are mutually incompatible, but it remains to be seen whether the policy of the Liberal party towards the raiders and their gang is going to become oppressive instead of merely indifferent. The *Star* echoes the feeling of the cosmopolites in recording its appreciation of Lord Selborne's championship of Chinese labour.

Critical Index To New Investments.

HOKKAIDO COLLIERY AND RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

Subscriptions were invited by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China for an issue of £1,000,000 first mortgage 5 per cent. sterling bonds of this Japanese company at the price of 98½, and the appeal met with such a favourable response that the lists were closed the day before the advertised date. With an authorised share capital of 27,000,000 yen, or £2,756,250, of which 18,000,000 yen has been issued, the company owns 212 miles of railway running between Otaru and Muroran, the principal ports of the Island of Hokkaido, as well as about 100 square miles of coal concessions. The bonds are repayable in 1921 and are secured by a first mortgage on the railway, rolling stock, steamers, collieries, mines, and certain other properties, rights and assets. Nett revenue for the year ended December 31, 1903, was £225,053, in the following year the surplus amounted to £221,303, and for the first half of 1905 it was £126,871, so that the interest on the bonds seems amply provided for. The proceeds of this issue, together with those of the shares recently created, will be utilised to increase the output of coal and the carrying capacity of the railways, to build additional steamships, to extend mines and improve the harbours of Otaru and Muroran, all works calculated to enhance the security for the loan.

RHYMNEY IRON COMPANY, LIMITED.

Established as far back as 1836 and registered as a limited company in 1871, this undertaking has not had a very prosperous career and in 1881 was in such low water that an issue of 73,062 £5 shares was made at a discount of 50 per cent., the illegality of this proceeding being subsequently got over by the promotion of a Bill in Parliament making the 50 per cent. callable in the event of liquidation. At present the company is engaged in sinking four new pits, two to the steam coal measures and two to the house coal measures known as the Brithdir seam, and has spent about £150,000 on the work, of which £115,000 was provided out of revenue and £20,000 has been advanced by the chairman, Sir Henry W. Tyler. The company has £322,000 debentures outstanding which are in course of redemption by annual drawings of £4,000, and now offers at par an issue of £150,000 forming part of a total of £200,000 5 per cent. first mortgage new pits debenture stock secured upon the whole of the properties and fixed plant of the new pits—valued by Messrs. Wm. Armstrong and Sons at £345,845. Profits for the past ten years are said to have averaged £63,158 per annum, but the dividends paid during that period were for 1895-6, 1 per cent.; for 1896-7, nil; for 1897-8, 3 per cent.; for 1898-9, 1 per cent.; for 1899-1900, 5½ per cent.; for 1900-1, 7½ per cent.; for 1901-2, 5 per cent.; for 1902-3, 3½ per cent.; and for 1903-4 and 1904-5, 2 per cent.—a

record which is not very inspiring. It is estimated that with an output of 1,000,000 tons per annum and a profit of 1s. per ton the additional profits earned would be £50,000 per annum, and a promise is made that after the expiration of five years £5,000 per annum will be set aside to form a redemption fund for this debenture stock. That is quite right.

EGYPTIAN ESTATES, LIMITED.

Out of a total capital of £500,000, divided into 499,000 ordinary £1 shares and 20,000 deferred 1s. shares, 301,606 ordinary and all the deferred shares have been issued, and the company claims that since its incorporation in March, 1905, it has entered into many important transactions. It has become possessed of various properties, comprising agricultural land partially cultivated, building land, house property, &c., in various parts of Lower Egypt, as well as of building sites and other properties in Cairo, Alexandria, and Mansourah. Several of these, the directors state, could be sold at a considerable profit, but they apparently prefer to raise the further funds they think can be profitably employed by inviting subscriptions at par for £150,000 out of a total of £300,000 5 per cent. first debentures. All the information vouchsafed as to the present position of the undertaking is an approximate statement of how the funds are invested, showing that the company has £228,000 in building estates, town properties and agricultural estates, £50,000 in mortgages at interest averaging 7 per cent., and £20,000 in cash and loans at short notice, in addition to which there is a first lien in properties sold representing an ascertained profit of £57,000. Although the company has been fully nine months in existence not a word is said of actual profits earned, so that a purchase of these bonds would be something of an act of faith.

Answers to Correspondents.

Salop.—We cannot recommend a purchase, as we fear the price is more likely to go down than up.

Nomen.—The company you name does not seem to be conspicuously well managed, but apart from that we cannot see any prospect of improvement in this or other companies of the same kind so long as the exodus of the population continues on its present scale.

J. C. J. D.—Our notice was copied from the "Winchester House" weekly list of meetings to be held, and its accuracy appears to be confirmed by the "Weekly Official Intelligence" of the Stock Exchange published on the same day as the "I. R." How the blunder arose we cannot guess, but it is none of ours.

T. B.—(1) We cannot advise a purchase of these shares. (2) These are very speculative, and if you buy you must be prepared to hold profitlessly for an indefinite period, and face constant market fluctuations. (3) These are well spoken of, but similar advice holds with respect to these as to No. 2.

T. G. (Wareham).—We cannot trace either the addresses or any information respecting Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 in the usual reference books. They appear to have disappeared long ago. (5) The address of this company is 63, Cornhill, E.C., but little is known about its present position. If you have any documents relating to any of these you might send them up, and we will make further inquiries. (8) This institution is doing well, according to hearsay, but it issues no financial statement to the Press in the usual way. Thanks for your remittance, but we have treated your questions as three, and therefore hold 17s. to your credit.

Nopir.—(1) You have a good profit to take, so you may as well take it whilst you can. The recent considerable fluctuations in the price are not satisfactory, though from all accounts the dividend is likely to be maintained. (2) You had better hold on, despite the fall, as this week the directors have issued what seems to be a reassuring statement. (3) From the latest developments we are beginning to fear that this company is going hopelessly to the bad, and think your best course is to get clear.

The January *Strand* continues in most spirited fashion to chronicle Sir Nigel's early history, which so far promises to be quite as entertaining as his earlier doings. Herein also the mutiny of the *Potemkin* is told to the finish, an interesting account of an abortive revolution. Mr. W. W. Jacobs flourishes as usual in a slight, we will not say feeble, Jacobean sketch, and Sir Gilbert Parker grows intense on "The Stroke of the Hour." Messrs. Jerome K. Jerome and Rudyard Kipling are both to the fore in this number, but for humour the "Strand Club" has it. The *Sunday Strand* follows in the wake of its elder brother and more sentimental mood, and is better to our thinking in its out-and-out serious articles than in its lighter vein—but tastes differ. As for the *Captain* and the *Wide World*, it is enough to mention that they are still going strong, the former especially keeping in the front rank of boys' papers.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended January 7, \$3,043, increase \$580.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 8, \$23,017, increase \$8,403; aggregate from January 1, \$893,024, increase \$196,696.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 9, Rs. 66,848, increase Rs. 8,535; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 16,41,970, increase Rs. 2,10,647.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 7, \$78,800, increase \$18,600; total from July 1, \$2,772,000, increase \$613,100.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 9, Rs. 28,769, increase Rs. 5,313; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 6,17,360, increase Rs. 82,440.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 9, £616, increase £5.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 1st week of January, \$12,431, increase \$4,141; aggregate from January 1, \$12,431, increase \$4,141.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 9, Rs. 7,429, increase Rs. 74; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 2,87,132, increase Rs. 24,608.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended December 31 amounted to \$13,500.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending January 6, £1,140, increase £33; aggregate from January 1, £1,140, increase £33.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending January 6, £650, increase £48; aggregate from January 1, £650, decrease £48.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for September, £4,376, increase £335.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending January 6, £402, decrease £67; aggregate from January 1, £402, decrease £67.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 5, £1,309, increase £187; aggregate from January 1, £1,309, increase £187.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 5, £7; aggregate from January 1, £7.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 5, £4,718, increase £139.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending December 29, £31,390, increase £5,314; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £1,410,476, increase £159,412; 442½ miles, against 425½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 23, £1,121, increase £139; aggregate from July 2, £27,880, increase £1,577.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 7, £93, decrease £4; aggregate from January 1, £93, decrease £4.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 5, £64, decrease £16; aggregate from January 1, £64, decrease £16.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for five days ending January 5, £3,536, increase £158; aggregate from January 1, £3,536, increase £289.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for six days ending January 6, £5,391, decrease £48; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £5,391, decrease £48.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 5, £197, decrease £30; aggregate from January 1, £197, decrease £30.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 4, £365.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 6, £216, increase £2; aggregate from October 1, £3,812, decrease £485.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 30, £13,933, increase £1,419; aggregate from April 1, £578,900, increase £79,412. Miles 51 against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 6, £20,591, decrease £1,446; aggregate from January 1, £20,591, decrease £1,446.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 6, £6,872, decrease £318; aggregate from January 1, £6,872, decrease £318.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 5, £222, increase £18; aggregate from January 1, £222, increase £18.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 7, £679, increase £155.

FOREIGN

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for eight days ending January 7, £15,669, increase £1,299; aggregate from January 1, £15,669, increase £1,299.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 42,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of November, £10,748, increase £226.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to November 30, \$349,110, increase \$116,627. Nett earnings from July 1 to November 30, \$226,552, increase \$80,989.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending January 7, £4,059, increase £568; aggregate from January 1, £4,059, increase £512.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 9, £1,430.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month November, \$277,300.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 6, Rs. 62,024, increase Rs. 13,186; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 62,024, increase Rs. 13,186.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of December, £4,888, increase £762. Total to December 31, £46,034, increase £7,038.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of November, \$417,218, increase \$63,017; aggregate from January 1, \$4,320,887, increase \$390,457. Nett traffic receipts, \$226,858, increase \$35,361; aggregate from January 1, \$2,359,439, increase \$272,120.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			No. of Weeks.	Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	£		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	£
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Jan. 7	2,075	+	8	I	2,075	+	8
Cambrian	" 7	4,725	—	180	I	4,725	—	180
Central London ..	" 6	6,985	—	30	I	6,985	—	30
City and South London ..	" 7	3,149	—	30	I	3,149	—	30
Furness	" 7	7,737	+	1,223	I	7,737	+	1,223
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 7	64,702	+	745	I	64,702	+	745
Great Eastern	" 7	83,200	—	1,600	I	83,200	—	1,600
Great Northern and City ..	" 6	1,831	+	53	I	1,831	+	53
Great Northern	" 6	92,300	—	1,105	I	92,300	—	1,105
Great Western	" 7	200,300	—	4,100	I	200,300	—	4,100
Hull and Barnsley	" 7	8,789	+	218	I	8,789	+	218
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 7	87,656	+	1,167	I	87,656	+	1,167
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 6	58,568	+	1,994	I	58,568	+	1,994
London & North Western ..	" 7	226,000	+	3,000	I	226,000	+	3,000
London & South Western ..	" 7	71,600	—	1,800	I	71,600	—	1,800
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 7	7,850	+	426	I	7,850	+	426
Metropolitan	" 7	17,284	—	90	I	17,284	—	90
Metropolitan District ..	" 7	8,130	+	602	I	8,130	+	602
Midland	" 6	205,735	+	5,564	I	205,735	+	5,564
North Eastern	" 6	141,538	+	4,526	I	141,538	+	4,526
North London	" 7	9,313	—	385	I	9,313	—	385
North Staffordshire ..	" 7	15,472	+	417	I	15,472	+	417
Rhymney	" 7	5,311	—	358	I	5,311	—	358
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 6	88,616	+	2,913	I	88,616	+	2,913
Taff Vale	" 7	17,796	+	571	I	17,796	+	571

† From January 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Jan. 7	60,136	+	2,354	23	1,988,957	+	55,724
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 6	26,296	+	713	23	805,101	+	8,134
Great North of Scotland ..	" 6	8,654	—	220	23	224,262	+	582
Highland	" 7	7,088	—	160	23	240,809	+	2,054
North British	" 7	70,871	+	1,833	23	2,122,108	+	26,018

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Jan. 5	2,497	—	34	I	2,497	—	34
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 5	1,020	—	151	*	1,020	—	151
Great Northern	" 5	15,286	+	193	I	15,286	+	193
Midland Great Western ..	" 5	7,770	—	440	I	303,231	—	,908

* Five days only

† Dec. 31, 1905.

Established 1824.

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LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

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The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
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HUGH LEWIS, General Manager.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent
on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

In the first half of this week the market was under the influence of fears about a rise in the Bank rate, which looked probable enough. Not only was gold leaving the Bank for abroad still, but the reports of further large export orders were current in high quarters and generally believed. Last week's Bank return, besides, was so eloquent of inability to continue to bear the strain of an export gold demand, that the market naturally felt apprehensive. Yesterday, however, all this was changed, and a better Bank return than had been hoped for contributed not a little to dispel the prevailing fears. To begin with, the reserve was up £967,000 in spite of an export of 350,000 sovereigns during the week and an increase of £83,000 in the note circulation. Then the liabilities of the Bank on deposits, both Government and market, had decreased, the Exchequer balances by £1,469,000 and the other balances by £2,133,000, so that the proportion of reserve to liabilities rose $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to $33\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The reserve is still low at £18,815,000 but there is now some hope that it may be strengthened because part of the South American gold demand is said to have been shifted to New York and because Continental exchanges, especially those of Paris and Berlin, have risen to an extent that enabled the Bank of England to secure to-day £116,000 worth of bar gold in the open market at 77s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. We only need gold to come in to be all right so far as home requirements are concerned, and if this happy change continues we shall have active and cheerful money and stock markets in the coming spring.

Thanks to the swift transformation scene in the money market bankers have since Tuesday last only secured

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as a rule on seven-day advances. Call money has fluctuated between 2 and 3 per cent., rising on Thursday, which was Stock Exchange pay day, to the highest of these figures, but only now and then, the bulk of call money being then lent at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. To-day as the market begins to feel the effects of the repayments to the Bank call money sometimes rose to 3 per cent. The India Council, however, which at best only got 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on some renewals for a month, had to go down yesterday to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. To-day it was calling in. The Stock Exchange had to pay 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for its loans to the end of the month and grumbled.

As usual discount rates became weak in anticipation of easy money, and bill brokers have been struggling all the week against the decline. They have been beaten, partly by foreign competition, for while our market was asking 3 $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent., and even 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., on two, three, and four months bank bills, Paris banks were taking them at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. Rates accordingly came down first to 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. for bills of all usage up to four months and to-day to really no better than 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., although some houses quote 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ to 3 $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. Joint-stock banks got 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. on the paper they took from the brokers in the early part of the week, but to-day they could not get 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., and the Continent was buying at 3 $\frac{7}{16}$ per cent. if not less. It is in this tendency of the discount market to slip down that any danger of a sudden rebound upwards in rates lies. If the discount market breaks back to low rates, exports of gold will be resumed, and we shall have the Bank of England coming into the market again to wrench it up. Happily it is likely to be in control of rates for some time to come without the use of forcing tactics, not only through the emptying of its own bill case, but because of the collection of the taxes which, in another week even, ought to begin to have a sensible influence in restricting the vagaries of the open market.

Calls on new issues will also have their effect, and they are decidedly heavy next week, amounting as they do to upwards of £3,000,000, including £200,000 on Land Bank of Egypt new ordinary shares due to-morrow. £827,000 becomes payable on Monday, consisting of £200,000 on B.A. and Pacific ordinary shares, £250,000 on National Bank of Egypt new shares, and other miscellaneous calls. Then on Tuesday £1,125,000 falls payable on Kansai and Hokkaido issues for Japanese companies. The London County Council comes for a call of £375,000 on its new stock the day after, and another £500,000 falls due at the end of the week. These payments will help to make the market harder in spasms.

It was announced to-day that the Secretary of State for India had bought 300,000 sovereigns due here on the 20th inst., against telegraphic transfers sold, and a report was circulated earlier in the week that 3,000,000 sovereigns altogether will be shipped from Bombay, partly, it is assumed, to help in restoring strength to the Bank of England. As indicating the tendency of events the price of gold fell to-day to 77s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz., a decline of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on the previous price and of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. on that of a week back.

SILVER.

The interruptions to the cables in the end of last week caused a practical suspension of business on Saturday, and prices for bars went back to 29 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per oz. for cash and 29d. per oz. for future delivery, but on Monday there was rather a rush to buy, and a sharp rebound followed. A little profit-taking ensued on the rise, but the demand for India was strong, as next week's shipment will arrive in time for the February settlement there, and quotations improved to 30 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and 29 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz. Business has now slackened off again, but the market closes firm at 30 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and 29 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz. Tenders for the Rs.1,00,00,000 Council drafts on India offered this week amounted to Rs.6,95,75,475 in bills and Rs.75,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs.25,00,000 were allotted in bills and Rs.75,00,000 in transfers, applications for bills at 1s 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per rupee receiving about 2 per cent. and for transfers at 1s. 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. in full. Next Wednesday Rs.1,20,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, January 10, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued ..	£ 46,914,555	Government Debt ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	28,494,555
		Silver Bullion ..	—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 18,339,473
Reserve ..	3,457,927	Other Securities ..	37,015,725
Public Deposits (including		Notes ..	17,512,285
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,303,303
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	8,090,486		
Other Deposits ..	47,972,865		
Seven Day and other Bills	96,593		

Dated January 11, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. Jan. 11		Jan. 3, 1906.	Jan. 10, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,428,929	Rest ..	3,327,170	3,457,927	130,757	—
8,514,743	Pub. Deposits ..	9,559,608	8,090,486	—	1,469,122
41,754,789	Other do. ..	50,106,172	47,972,865	—	2,133,307
86,045	7 Day Bills ..	88,369	96,593	8,139	—
				Decrease.	Increase.
19,408,041	Gov. Securities ..	17,388,832	18,339,473	—	950,641
26,510,635	Other do. ..	42,396,444	37,015,725	5,380,719	—
22,418,830	Total Reserve ..	17,849,043	18,815,588	—	966,545
				5,519,615	5,519,615
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Assets.	£	£	£	£
27,945,230	Note Circulation ..	29,349,550	29,432,270	82,720	—
51,914,000	Coin and Bullion ..	28,748,593	29,797,858	1,049,265	—
44½ p.c.	Proportion ..	29½ p.c.	33½ p.c.	—	—
3 "	Bank Rate ..	4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £350,000 out.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	155,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	966,566,000	235,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
July	1,003,888,000	830,361,000	173,527,000	—
August	1,098,366,000	945,104,000	153,262,000	—
September	879,323,000	678,546,000	200,777,000	—
October	1,006,632,000	861,123,000	145,509,000	—
November	1,187,821,000	1,117,870,000	69,951,000	—
Week ending				
Dec. 6	315,761,000	216,663,000	99,098,000	—
" 13	201,126,000	182,495,000	18,631,000	—
" 20	301,263,000	261,237,000	40,026,000	—
" 27	161,274,000	157,482,000	3,792,000	—
Total for year	12,253,307,000	10,459,068,000	1,794,239,000	—
	1905	1905		
Jan. 3	340,266,000	276,940,000	63,326,000	—
" 10	228,921,000	215,432,000	13,489,000	—
	569,187,000	492,422,000	76,765,000	—

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
2,500,000	3 months	Jan. 23	3 17 6
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 7
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 18 3
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,000,000	3 months	Mar. 7	3 1 8
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
1,800,000	6 months	June 1	3 2 6
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
† 1,200,000	—	—	—
25,532,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Friday, Bars ..	Saturday, S. America ..
Net Efflux ..	Thursday, ..
Total ..	Total ..

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris ..	3	May 25, 1900.	3 27½
Berlin ..	3	December 11, 1905	4½ 4
Hamburg ..	6	December 11, 1905	4½ 4
Frankfort ..	6	December 11, 1905	4½ 4
Amsterdam ..	3	November 11, 1905	4½ 4
Brussels ..	4	October 30, 1905	2½ 2½
Vienna ..	4½	October, 1905	3½ 3½
Rome ..	5	September, 1905	4 4½
St. Petersburg ..	7	December, 1904	5 5
Madrid ..	4½	August 21, 1901	7½ 7½
Lisbon ..	5½	January 11, 1899	4 4
Stockholm ..	5½	December, 1905.	5 5
Copenhagen ..	5	October, 1905	4½ 4½
Bombay ..	8	January 4, 1906	—
New York call money ..	3	January 4, 1906	—

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chs.	25'10	25'12	Antwerp	short	25'18	25'18½
Brussels	chs.	25'13½	25'17½	Italy	sight	25'13	25'14
Amsterdam	sight	12'08½	12'09½	Constantinople ..	3 mths	110'20	110'20
Berlin	chs.	20'42½	20'44½	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	16d.	16d.
Do.	3 mths	20'19	20'23½	Valparaiso	90 dys	14½d.	14½d.
Hamburg	chs.	20'41	20'43	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4d.	1/4d.
Frankfort	short	20'41	20'41	Bombay	T.T.	1/4d.	1/4d.
Vienna	sight	24'02½	24'02½	Hong Kong	T.T.	2/10½	2/10½
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	93'80	93'80	Shanghai	T.T.	2/10½	2/10½
New York	60 dys	4'82	4'83½	Singapore	T.T.	2/3½	2/4½
Lisbon	sight	50½	50½	Yokohama	4 mths	2/0½	2/0½
Madrid	sight	31'45	31'05				

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Jan. 6.)

REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£		£
Customs	574,000	National Debt Services ..	4,957,820
Excise	279,000	Other Consolidated Fund	
Estate, &c., Duties ..	135,000	Charges	40,588
Stamps	166,000	Payments to Local Taxa-	
Land Tax and House Duty.	70,000	tion	10,000
Property and Income Tax..	937,000	Supply Services	190,000
Post Office	—	Bullion Advances	100,000
Telegraphs	—	Treasury Bills (net amount)	—
Crown Lands	—	Advances for Interest on	
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	383,750	Exchequer Bonds	—
Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	Exchequer Bonds redeemed	—
Miscellaneous	—	Uganda Railway	—
Bullion advances repaid ..	—	Military Works	—
Uganda Railway	—	Naval Works	—
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-		Telegraph Acts	—
count	—	Land Registry (New Build-	
Telegraph Acts	150,000	ings)	—
Naval Works Acts	500,000	Public Buildings Expenses	
Military Works Acts	317,000	Act	—
Land Registry Acts	—	Public Offices Site (Dublin)	
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	33,000	Act	—
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	—	Suez Canal drawn Shares	
Issue of Exchequer Bonds	—	in reduction of debt	—
under Cunard Agreement Act	—	Cunard Agreement	—
Ways and Means	—	Deficiency Advances re-	
Temporary Advances Defi-		paid	400,000
ciency	2,000,000	Ways and Means Advances	
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	—	repaid	1,150,000
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	—	Increase in Exchequer	
Transvaal and Orange River		balances	—
Colony. Repayment of			
Temporary Advance	—		
Adjustment of Local Taxa-			
tion payments	—		
Decrease in Exchequer			
balances	1,303,658		
	£6,818,408		£6,848,400

* Exclusive of £105,000 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure making the total of such payments to date £7,115,537.

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Dec. 10, 1905.	Nov. 30, 1905.	Nov. 10, 1905.	Dec. 10, 1904.
Reserve ..	£ 30,806,000	30,494,200	29,193,520	25,438,760
State notes and small changed	580,200	561,240	468,240	529,080
Discount and loans ..	13,832,560	14,293,840	14,649,960	11,045,080
Public stock and State loans ..	8,146,320	8,149,400	8,293,320	8,924,600
Credits ..	6,332,080	6,225,640	6,880,880	6,607,560
Note Circulation ..	39,127,440	40,070,480	40,432,440	36,044,120
Current account ..	2,582,720	2,434,080	2,407,440	3,644,920
Deposits ..	3,896,520	4,259,240	3,983,640	3,276,600

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Dec. 1/14, 1905.	Nov. 8/21, 1905.	Nov. 1/14, 1905.	Dec. 1/14, 1904.
Gold ..	£ 82,217,801	87,449,495	87,618,529	86,993,178
Silver and subsidiary	3,628,507	3,676,338	3,641,494	6,663,900
coin ..				
Advances and bills	55,747,500	42,607,349	42,742,235	40,080,942
discounted ..				
Securities belonging	7,945,559	6,950,420	7,002,926	6,435,446
to the Bank ..	112,492,851	110,706,204	123,557,822	84,873,625
Notes in circulation ..				
Deposits and current	45,095,921	45,420,840	47,416,869	47,211,345
account ..	5,416,130	7,229,194	7,260,276	17,870,129
Treasury account ..				

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Jan. 4, 1906.	Dec. 28, 1905.	Dec. 21, 1905.	Jan. 5, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Coin and bullion	4,847,000	4,768,320	4,869,800	4,993,640
Other securities	25,028,280	24,531,160	23,875,480	23,938,040
Note circulation	27,598,640	27,665,120	26,918,120	26,621,080
Deposits	4,549,480	3,868,440	3,829,800	4,324,680

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Jan. 6, 1906.	Dec. 30, 1905.	Dec. 23, 1905.	Jan. 7, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Cash in hand	42,701,600	40,176,250	44,346,050	48,414,950
Bills discounted	51,790,300	51,380,750	51,587,250	42,407,550
Advances on stocks	5,694,600	10,217,300	3,710,750	4,797,050
Note circulation	75,765,300	82,833,950	70,210,300	72,235,300
Public deposits	26,224,800	31,540,350	30,723,950	25,551,500

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Jan. 6, 1906.	Dec. 30, 1905.	Dec. 23, 1905.	Jan. 7, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Gold Reserve	44,874,541	44,755,208	44,865,041	48,140,916
Silver reserve	12,080,250	12,122,666	12,087,375	12,282,208
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	2,540,291	2,843,458	2,217,666	2,446,541
Note circulation	73,156,625	76,958,000	71,374,541	69,197,833
Bills discounted	24,670,320	26,719,708	23,523,250	18,812,166

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Jan. 6, 1906.	Dec. 30, 1905.	Dec. 23, 1905.	Jan. 7, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	15,030,986	15,027,346	15,022,853	14,908,097
Silver	22,844,826	22,836,567	22,852,236	19,859,109
Foreign Bills	2,997,464	3,093,541	3,501,741	1,693,251
Discount and Short Bills	47,217,141	46,659,609	46,068,898	50,378,191
Treasury Account	20,830,210	20,885,772	20,890,234	21,348,328
Notes in circulation	62,306,025	62,004,923	61,759,992	64,132,349
Current Account deposits	23,331,884	22,620,084	22,075,963	24,722,045
Dividends Interests	2,918,664	3,932,587	2,822,369	2,662,348
Government Securities	6,024,954	6,275,524	7,403,378	4,179,108

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Jan. 11, 1906.	Jan. 4, 1906.	Dec. 28, 1905.	Jan. 12, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand	114,740,680	114,053,360	115,134,200	106,392,240
Silver in hand	42,583,120	42,618,840	42,997,120	43,804,440
Bills discounted	41,364,600	53,566,120	43,914,720	27,611,080
Advances	20,384,600	21,045,640	20,109,240	20,286,480
Note circulation	190,125,400	196,210,960	182,635,320	177,583,280
Public deposits	9,361,880	10,582,720	15,610,080	4,748,040
Private deposits	24,443,520	25,881,400	28,626,480	20,578,480

Proportion between bullion and circulation 82½ per cent. against 83½ per cent. a week ago.

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Jan. 6, 1906.	Dec. 30, 1905.	Dec. 23, 1905.	Jan. 7, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Specie	33,468,000	34,602,000	35,242,000	40,736,000
Legal tenders	15,834,200	15,140,000	14,840,800	17,043,000
Loans and discounts	200,940,000	200,200,000	201,220,000	213,940,000
Circulation	10,582,600	10,619,200	10,610,000	8,634,400
Net deposits	196,748,000	195,530,000	197,006,000	221,840,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of nett deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £115,200 against an excess last week of £899,500.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Jan. 2.	Jan. 4.	Jan. 9.	Jan. 11.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam ..	short	12'2	12'1½	12'1½	12'1½
Do. do. ..	3 months	12'4½	12'3½	12'3½	12'4
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'45	25'45	25'43½	25'43½
Hamburg	3 months	20'67	20'68	20'67	20'68
Berlin & German B. Places ..	3 months	20'67	20'68	20'68	20'68
Paris	cheques	25'11½	25'11½	25'11½	25'11½
Do. do. ..	3 months	25'33½	25'33½	25'33½	25'33½
Marseilles	3 months	25'33½	25'33½	25'33½	25'33½
Switzerland	3 months	25'47½	25'47½	25'47½	25'47½
Austria	3 months	24'35	24'35	24'33	24'32
St. Petersburg	3 months	24'8	24'8	24'8	24'8
Moscow	3 months	24'8	24'8	24'8	24'8
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'47½	25'48½	25'48½	25'48½
New York	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P. ..	3 months	37½	37½	37½	38
Lisbon	3 months	49½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto	3 months	49½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'40	18'40
Christiania	3 months	18'41	18'41	18'41	18'41
Stockholm	3 months	18'41	18'41	18'41	18'41

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

Per cent

Thirty and sixty day remitted bills ..	3½-3¾
Three months	3½-3¾
Four months	3½-3¾
Six months	3½-3¾
Three months fine inland bills ..	3½-3¾
Four months	3½-3¾
Six months	4-4½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

Per cent.

Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	4
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	5
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	2½
Current rates for 7 and 14 days' notice ..	3
" for 7 day loans ..	2½-3
" for call loans ..	2½-3

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

This week's number is so crowded, owing to the topics pressed to the front by the General Election, that no space is available for discourse about the Stock markets. Happily no particular developments have occurred there during the current week, and now that the settlement has been got quietly over, and that the outlook in the Money market is less perturbed, nothing important may happen until the cauldron of politics has ceased to boil. After all, too, the most striking aspect of Stock markets at the present time is afforded by the consummate skill with which rival bands of Condottieri raid each other without doing sufficient damage to make either or both sides share in a general upset one day due. The object of all bands is to get possession of the money of the outsider, just as that of the old mercenary armies in mediæval Italy was, and this object would not be attained in any satisfactory way were the slaughter of the master players to become general.

Prices are good just now everywhere. Yankee securities, railroad and other, sail away in the upper strata of the financial atmosphere regardless of banking conditions, credit symptoms, or anything else. Russia is going to get a temporary loan to meet coupons abroad, and the Kaffir Circus is pluming itself on having got the better of the new Government in the matter of Chinese labour, thanks to the supine connivance of the old. We have always looked upon the policy of the cosmopolites in this regard as signal proof of their folly, and even the least intelligent of mine shareholders will see that we were right. But probably by this time next week things will just be much where they are to-day, so we can let the homily wait.

The Week's Stock Markets.

Apart from the detail work connected with the adjustment of the fortnightly account, dealers in the Stock Exchange have not found much to absorb their attention during the past week. Business, indeed, has been distinctly slow, and although an early revival is looked for in some quarters most people will probably decide to await the outcome of the Moroccan Conference before again taking a hand. Not only that, but the prevailing extravagant prices are in themselves quite sufficient to effectually check any really pronounced outburst of speculation. The monetary situation is also an unsettling influence, and although the prospect is now thought to be a little clearer it is by no means certain that the market is yet out of the wood. For fortnightly loans bankers had no difficulty in securing 4½ per cent., and as much as 4¾ per cent. was frequently paid, decidedly

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS, &c. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week
91½	87½	Consols (2½ p.c. Money)	89½	89½
91½	87½	Do. Account (Feb. 1)	89½	89½
90½	86½	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	88½	88½
100½	99½	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907 ..	100½	100½
95½	80	Irish Land (2½) ..	99½	99½
101½	96½	Local Loans (3) ..	99½	99½
99½	97½	National War Loan (2½ p.c.) ..	98½	98½
99½	97½	Do. Account (Feb. 1)	98½	98½
101½	97½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	99	99
308	291½	Bk. of England Stock (9 p.c.) ..	293½	294½
109	103½	India 3½ p.c. Stock red. 1911 ..	103½	105
99½	94½	Do. 5 p.c. Stock red. 1918 ..	94½	96½
85½	79½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stock red. 1926 ..	80	80
66½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66	66

onerous rates for the first settlement of the year. Consols were distinctly dull until just before the end, when a rally took place, and other British Funds can be described as steady, with little business passing. A new

issue of Local Loans stock, some say as much as £5,000,000, to be offered at 98½, is shortly expected. A few movements of £1 either way took place in the Home County and Corporation division, and several Colonial Inscribed stocks were put up as the result of a moderate demand. The continuation charge on these was 4½ to 5½ per cent.

The varied stories concerning the negotiations for the latest Russian loan have given an interest to the Foreign bond market, and Russian stocks have fluctuated accordingly as the prospect of the Government obtaining further credits seemed favourable or otherwise. All kinds of rumours have been in circulation, but apparently French bankers are willing to lend about £10,640,000, on short Treasury bonds maturing December 31, 1906, and bearing interest at 5½ per cent. No special guarantees will be allocated, and although the bankers receive a commission of 1 per cent., a portion of

Japanese 1902, the two 6 per cent. series and Peruvian debentures, but Japanese sterling was done at 1 to 3 per cent., and the 4½ per cent. at 3 to 5 per cent. Peruvian preference after starting at 5 to 6 per cent. finished at 2 to 4 per cent. In the European division Russian were continued at 1 to 3 per cent., and Spanish and Turkish at 2 to 4 per cent. Making-up prices were a good deal affected by dividend reductions, but there was a nearly all-round improvement of ½ to 2½ in Argentines, and gains of ½ to 3 in Brazilians. Several Chinese were up ½ to 1½. Cuban 5 per cent. rose 1½, and Japanese showed advances of ½ to 1. The most striking improvements, however, were in Russians, which jumped 3½ to 5.

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104½	100½	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886 ..	103xd	103
102½	97½	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	101xd	101
106½	100	Do. 6 p.c. Funding ..	—	—
104½	98½	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	102½xd	102½
93½	85½	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	90½xd	91½
93	85½	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	90½	90½
92½	85½	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	90½	90½
104½	99½	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	102½	103½
92½	82½	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	87½	87½
101	94	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	99	100½
106	102½	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	104xd	104½
91½	82	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	86½xd	87
102½	92½	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	101½	102½
97½	87½	Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885 ..	95xd	96
99	89½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1886 ..	96xd	96
96½	88½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1895 ..	94	95
102½	96	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	100½xd	101
98½	91½	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	97	97
107	100½	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	104xd	104½
106½	100½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	103½	104½
100½	92½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	99½	99½
106½	97½	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	104½	104½
59½	28½	Costa Rica A ..	52½	52½
51½	24½	Do. B ..	42½	43
48½	20½	Colombian External ..	44½xd	45½
109½	104½	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	107	107½
107	104	Egypt Unified 4 p.c. ..	104½	104½
103½	95½	Do. 3½ p.c. pref. ..	102½	102½
106½	102½	Do. 4½ p.c. State Domain ..	104	104
91½	80½	German 3 p.c. ..	88	88
54½	47	Greek, 1884 ..	51xd	51
55½	48½	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	51½xd	52
44	38½	Do. 4 p.c. Renties ..	40	40
54½	47	Do. Funding ..	50xd	50
100½	95½	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	95½xd	95½
106	102½	Italian 5 p.c. ..	104½xd	104½
104½	88½	Japan 5 p.c. ..	103	103
103½	88½	Do. 1901-2 ..	101½	101½
93½	76½	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	91½xd	91½
104½	97	Do. 6 p.c. ..	102½	102½
105½	102½	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	102xd	103
70½	62½	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	68½xd	68½
95½	72½	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	85xd	84
83½	70	Servian 4 p.c. ..	82	82
94½	89½	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	91½xd	91
103	100	Turks 3½ p.c. Tribute ..	102	102
106	100½	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	104	104
92	82½	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	90½	90½
74½	62½	Uruguay 3½ p.c. ..	70½	71½
99	86½	Do. 5 p.c. ..	95xd	95
51½	42½	Venezuelan, 1881 ..	51½	51½

this will be given to the public in order to bring the interest to 6 per cent. On this intelligence existing Russian bonds picked up, and other Continental securities, such as Spanish, Turkish, and Portuguese, showed strength. Japanese and Chinese have been good throughout, and in the South American division leading Argentine and Brazilian things are still feeling the benefit of an investment demand. Peruvians fluctuated very widely, and there is no longer doubt that the Peruvian Government is being pretty liberally financed by German interests. Operators, however, do not seem to be particularly alarmed at the prospect, and it is noteworthy that a big absorption of stock took place at the settlement. Uruguays were a little dull at one time, but rallied again, and in the Central American division Colombians and Venezuelans closed better. Latest intelligence concerning the Buenos Ayres Cedula settlement was not considered particularly encouraging, and the bonds further went back. With such stiff charges for loans from bankers there was not much opportunity for profitable lending in this market, as even on Central American stocks rates did not go above 5 to 6 per cent. Leading South Americans were taken in at 4 to 6 per cent. along with

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	133	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	140	140
165	152½	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	156	156
131½	116½	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	127½	128
120	111	Caledonian Ord. (3½ p.c.) ..	120	121
83½	77½	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	79	79½
41½	33½	Do. Def. (3 p.c.) ..	42	42
94½	88½	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	95	96
87½	77	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	86½	87½
17½	15½	Chatham Ordinary ..	16	16
48	37½	City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	45	44
71	51	Furness (2 p.c.) ..	67	68
39½	28½	Great Central Pref. ..	37½	37½
59½	15½	Do. Def. ..	19	19
93½	80½	Great Eastern (3½ p.c.) ..	88½	87½
108½	98½	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	103½	103½
45½	33½	Do. Def. (1) ..	45	45
145½	135½	Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	142½	142½
50½	48	Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	49½	49½
49½	41	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	47	47
112½	104	Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.) ..	109½	109½
100	88½	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	86½	87½
42½	33½	Metropolitan District ..	30½	30½
71	66	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	69	70
74½	62½	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	73½	74
83½	77	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	78	78
49½	43½	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	46½	46½
146½	134	North-Eastern (5½ p.c.) ..	145	145
161½	147	North-Western (5½ p.c.) ..	160½	160½
96	84½	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	90	90
135½	122½	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	128	128
60½	48½	Do. Def. ..	53½	53½
171	156	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	163½	162½
111½	104½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	108	108
60½	52½	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	50½	50

The Home Railway market has not been overburdened with business, but, in spite of this lack of public support, quotations have as a rule been fairly well held, and in a few cases even show fair gains on the week. Brighton deferred improved a fraction or two as the fact that a £5 dividend is expected to be taken off the price at the next settlement makes the stock

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
95½	80½	Atchison Shares (4) ..	94½	97½
108½	102	Do. Pref. (5) ..	108½	106½xd
120½	104½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	116½	117½
102	97½	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	100	101
61½	46½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	57½	58½
193½	173½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	186	188
40½	27½	Denver Shares ..	39½	41½
93½	85½	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	90½xd	91½
54½	50½	Erie Shares ..	49½	50
87½	77½	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	82½	83
80½	58½	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	76	76
187	156	Illinois Central (7) ..	180	180
161½	140½	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	157½	156½
39½	24½	Missouri and Texas ..	38	41
169½	140½	New York Central (5) ..	155½xd	158
90½	77½	Norfolk and Western (4) ..	88½	90
96½	94	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	95	95
65½	41½	Ontario Shares (3) ..	53½	54½
74	67½	Pennsylvania (6) ..	73½	74
51½	43½	Reading Shares (1½) ..	73½	73xd
49½	46	Do. 1st Prefd. (4) ..	47	7
51½	43½	Do. 2nd Prefd. (4) ..	49	49
74	59½	Southern Pacific ..	68	70
39½	28½	Southern ..	37½	38½
104½	97½	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	103	103
154½	116½	Union Pacific (5) ..	153½	158½
102½	98½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	101	101
24½	18½	Wabash ..	21	21
49½	37½	Do. Prefd. ..	42	42½
80½	69½	Do. Income Debs. ..	78	78
182½	133	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	179	180½
109	102½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	106½	106½
112	108½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109	109½
26½	19½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	26½	27
104½	99½	Do. Guar. (4) ..	102½	102½
115½	107½	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	115	116
107½	97	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	106	106½
62½	46½	Do. 3rd Pref. ..	61½	62½
109½	106½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	107½xd	108

look cheap, and Furness improved 1 also on dividend prospects, the market talking of a distribution at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum compared with 1 per cent. a year ago. Midland preferred and deferred both

met with a fair inquiry, Metropolitan, too, is higher and Central London ordinary and deferred went up on talk of a working agreement with the Baker Street and Waterloo line, but Great Eastern was heavy owing to a disappointing traffic return, South-Western ordinary and deferred were both pressed for sale and City and South London receded. Making-up prices on Tuesday revealed little sign of the re-investment of dividend money usually looked for at this time, and the largest increase was an advance of 3 in Central London ordinary caused by the report mentioned above. District rose 1 on the announcement of Sir George Gibb's appointment, Great Northern preferred and North-Western also put on 1, Furness was $1\frac{1}{2}$ up and North Staffordshire 2 up. Great Eastern, Great Western, Hull and Barnsley and Midland preferred all improved $\frac{3}{4}$, and Great Northern deferred, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Metropolitan and South-Eastern deferred were $\frac{1}{2}$ higher. South-Western ordinary, however, fell 2 and the deferred $\frac{3}{4}$, Brighton preferred lost 1 and South-Eastern $\frac{1}{2}$, while Charing Cross, Euston and Hampstead and Great Northern, Piccadilly and Brompton debentures were both marked 2 down and City and South London receded 1. Caledonian ordinary and deferred gained $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$, but North British issues were only $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ higher. Contangoes ruled much about the same as in the end of the year at 5 to 6 or $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but the account was easily arranged, and rates tended to ease off a little before the close.

Highest and Lowest last year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
222 128	213	Antofagasta (10)	213	214
321 144	—	Do. Def. (15)	310	315
131 105	129	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	130	129
131 113	131	Do. Prfd. (5)	131	131
84 77	86	Bahia Blanca Prfd.	85	86
148 134	143	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	144	144
133 126	128	Do. Pref. (5)	128	128
143 117	133	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	134	134
118 108	118	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5)	118	119
110 99	108	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5)	108	109
115 101	116	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	115	116
110 92	110	Do. do. Deferred (6)	111	112
170 161	166	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7)	166	167
109 103	108	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	108	109
142 127	136	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7)	136	138
93 79	90	Central Uruguay (4)	90	92
109 100	109	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	109	110
95 88	92	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	92	94
76 58	73	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3) ..	73	74
4 2	3	Costa Rica	2	2
7 5	6	Cuban Central	6	6
12 10	11	Do. Pref. (5)	11	11
107 104	—	Do. Deb. (4)	105	105
95 72	93	East Argentine (4)	93	93
7 6	6	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	6	6
84 64	84	Leopoldina (3)	84	85
99 86	97	Do. Deb. (4)	97	97
110 106	—	Manila Bonds "A" (6)	108	108
168 104	—	Do. "B" (6)	104	105
29 19	26	Mexican Ord. Stk.	25	26
121 103	121	Do. 1st Pref. (5)	119	123
57 36	53	Do. 2nd Pref.	50	53
69 48	54	Mexican Southern (2)	55	57
17 10	14	Nitrate Ord. (5)	14	14
19 10	19	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	19	19
220 178	207	San Paulo Brazilian (12)	207	208
226 122	187	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	187	188

Having recovered from their fit of the "blues" induced by Mr. Jacob Schiff's speech in the end of last week, the Wall Street magnates discovered that, after all, that gentleman meant nothing by his remarks beyond a vague warning of what might happen if the Government did not help the poor gambler to get out of his mess whenever it was called upon. Such a contingency as this help being refused was regarded as improbable, and the cliques were soon busy hoisting prices in the good old style, regardless of any outside influence. A start was made with Union Pacific and Baltimore, but the necessity for a demonstration required by the unsatisfactory position disclosed in the return of the Associated Banks led the cliques to extend their operations first to Atchison and Missouri and then to Denver and Southern Pacific. The play in Missouri especially was so vigorous that, in spite of good selling from this side, the price was lifted several dollars. It was reported here on Thursday afternoon that the Argentine demand for gold had been transferred to New York, but the news had no effect in checking the enthusiasm of the professionals, nor were

there any indications of anxiety being caused by the knowledge that large blocks of stocks shipped from Europe were due to arrive next week. Fortunately for itself, the public still holds off the market, whether here or in New York, and it is to be hoped it will continue to do so. The account carried here was said by some to have been reduced substantially, but in other quarters it was said that it showed a slight increase, and in any case money was very much wanted right up to the end, although the charge was seldom more than 6 per cent. and nowhere exceeded $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. As the result of the vigorous demonstrations in Wall Street, Atchison ordinary finished with a rise of $6\frac{1}{2}$ on the fortnight, and Union Pacific were $5\frac{1}{2}$ up. These were the largest movements in the list, but Great Northern and New York Central both showed substantial gains of \$4, Reading improved $3\frac{1}{2}$, Chesapeake, Milwaukee, Norfolk common and Southern common advanced from 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ and Atchison preference, Baltimore ordinary, Erie issues and Louisville were from 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ up, but Southern Pacific preference, on the other hand, lost 3.

Highest and Lowest last year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
27 15	19	Allsopp Ordinary	21	19
71 40	—	City of London Ord.	57	52
566 505	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	540	550
27 19	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	19	17
2 2	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22) ..	2	2
3 3	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	3	3
68 48	56	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4) ..	57	56
35 15	16	Do. Def. Ord. Stock	17	16
105 99	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4) ..	99	99
78 56	—	Do. Def. Stk. (3)	59	58
6 5	6	Aerated Bread (32)	6	6
7 6	6	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	6	6
6 5	12	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5) ..	6	6
1 1	25/9	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	1	1
3 1	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2	2
8 5	—	Brunner Mond (35)	7	7
11 9	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12) ..	11	11
5 1	12/	Calico Printers Ordinary (2) ..	5	5
50 48	104/	Coats Ordinary (20)	53	53
50 48	497/	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	490	500
1 1	20/3	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil) ..	1	1
1 1	23/9	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4) ..	1	1
8 5	6	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	6	6
13 10	—	Henley's Telegraph (15)	13	13
1 1	4/8	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20)	4	4
1 1	27/	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5) ..	1	1
11 106	107	Do. Debenture (4)	107	107
1 1	1	Lipton Ordinary (7)	1	1
6 5	5/8	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	5	5
1 1	33/	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	1	1
8 5	—	Russian Petroleum	7	7
1 1	14/6	Savoy Hotel (5)	7	7
15 13	—	Sweetmeat Automatic	15	16
1 1	11/9	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10) ..	15	16
1 1	17/9	Welsbach Ordinary Stock	17	18
105 102	102	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	102	102
89 49	81	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4) ..	82	82
51 38	47	Hudson's Bay Co. (58)	47	47
108 99	107	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1) ..	107	108
9 8	—	Do. Debentures (6)	9	9
11 10	—	National Discount (10)	9	9
11 10	—	Union Discount (11)	11	11
8 6	6	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8) ..	6	6
13 10	11	City of London Elect. Ord. (6) ..	11	11
104 95	—	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4) ..	103	103
134 126	—	Gas Metro. Gas Ord. (5)	133	135
3 3	3	Armstrong, Whitworth (15)	3	3
59 32	33	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	34	34
1 1	1	Brown, J. & Co. Ordinary (10) ..	1	1
1 1	—	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7) ..	1	1
14 13	13	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	13	13
109 93	109	United States Steel Ordinary ..	44	44
2 2	—	Do. Preference (7)	109	110
14 11	—	Vickers Ordinary (12)	2	2
249 214	—	Cunard Steam	232	239
47 38	—	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13) ..	47	48
9 8	—	Royal Mail	47	48
110 101	110	Union-Castle Mail Steamship ..	82	83
18 10	17	Ordinary (5)	110	110
147 134	147	Anglo-American Telegraph— ..	147	147
14 13	14	Do. Pref. Ord. (22)	14	14
13 100	111	Do. Def. Ord.	14	14
14 13	14	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7) ..	14	14
10 7	8	Eastern Extension (7)	14	14
10 7	8	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	14	14
10 7	8	Western Telegraph (7)	14	14
10 7	8	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6) ..	14	14
129 99	—	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8) ..	111	113
10 9	—	London General Omnibus (8) ..	92	92
10 9	—	London United Trams Pref. (5) ..	92	92

Canadian Pacific shares were comparatively neglected until late on Tuesday afternoon, when a strong inquiry sprang up for them, with the result that they jumped to 180 $\frac{1}{2}$. They dipped a little below that figure soon after, but the relapse was never serious, and with a renewal of the demand the closing price was about the best. Grand Trunk stocks were likewise very

much sought after, and the ordinary and third preference in particular were lifted steadily until they show gains of £1 or more. The fluctuations in Canadian Pacific shares resulted in a nett loss of $\frac{1}{2}$ on the fortnight, but Grand Trunk stocks are still in high favour with the "bulls" and the ordinary and third preference improved about $2\frac{1}{2}$ and the first and second preferences $1\frac{1}{2}$. Alberta Railway capital and prior lien debenture stocks fell back 1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$, and amongst other Colonial Railways Northern of the South African Republic declined 2. Indian Railways were heavy, Bombay and Baroda and East Indian deferred annuities "D" receding 3 and Scinde "B" annuities 1. Burma and Madras, however, advanced 1 each. Continuation rates on Grand Trunk stocks again ruled about 5 to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

The public both here and on the Continent has been buying Argentine Railway stocks freely, and the inquiry has been scattered pretty widely throughout the whole group. Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary and deferred continue, perhaps, to hold the first place in the popular fancy, but Cordoba and Rosario first and second preferences have also been very largely dealt in, and show gains of considerably greater magnitude. Uruguay issues, too, were supported, and to a less extent Brazilian things, but the latest choice of the speculator is Arauco shares, which were run up from £1 to over £2. Another low-priced share seized upon and hoisted in a somewhat feverish fashion was Lima, while Manila preference shares and 6 per cent. debentures were also pushed up. With so much activity in this section, Mexican Railways also became buoyant, and the first preference of the old company rose $3\frac{1}{2}$, carrying the ordinary and second preference up from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ with it. Mexican Southern ordinary and second mortgage debenture and Mexican Eastern debentures were also from 1 to 2 higher and Inter-oceanic preference shares gained $\frac{1}{2}$ or so. Antofagasta ordinary and deferred were marked up 1 and 5, and United Railways of the Havana ordinary, although now much less dealt in, rose 1. The scrip for bonus of the last-named company is now quoted officially at 24-5, and dealings were recorded on Thursday at 25. The enthusiasm displayed over Argentine Railways is reflected in an almost unbroken list of substantial improvements headed by one of $5\frac{1}{2}$ in Buenos Ayres Great Southern ordinary. Argentine Great Western ordinary and preference rose 2 and $3\frac{1}{2}$, Argentine North-Eastern preference and debentures $3\frac{1}{2}$ and 3, Bahia-Blanca and North-Western preference $2\frac{1}{2}$, Buenos Ayres and Pacific issues were $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ up and Buenos Ayres and Rosario stocks $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$. Buenos Ayres Western, Cordoba Central first and second preferences gained 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$, Entre Rios ordinary and first preference $3\frac{1}{2}$, and Cordoba and Rosario first preference and 6 per cent. debenture stock 5 and $2\frac{1}{2}$, while Cordova and North-Western debentures put on $5\frac{1}{2}$. Amongst other South American things, Central Uruguay advanced $3\frac{1}{2}$, Uruguay Northern preference $1\frac{1}{2}$, Leopoldina $2\frac{1}{2}$, San Paulo ordinary 3 and Antofagasta ordinary 1, but Guayaquil and Quito Railway bonds relapsed $3\frac{1}{2}$ and Leopoldina debenture stock and Colombian National first mortgage debentures dropped $1\frac{1}{2}$. Mexican Railway ordinary put on $2\frac{1}{2}$ and the two preferences $3\frac{1}{2}$ and $5\frac{1}{2}$, and Mexican Southern ordinary and second debentures were $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$ higher. United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock was marked "ex rights," and this deduction accounts for the greater portion of the decline of $24\frac{1}{2}$ shown in the making-up price. Money on Foreign Railways as a rule cost 6 per cent. against 6 to 7 or 8 per cent. a fortnight ago.

A fair amount of activity has been noticeable in the Miscellaneous markets, but the tendency was rather irregular, profit-taking towards the end causing several securities to close dull. A considerable demand sprang up for meat shares, particularly James Nelsons, and prices spurted sharply, but best figures were not held. Catering things were steady as a rule with a recovery in Lyons, but Spiers and Pond preference again fell away. Breweries were very flat, and a large number were

marked down, some of them in a substantial fashion. The market is still one to avoid. Telegraph and Telephone securities were good, and optimists are still talking of a 10s. dividend on Anglo "A." Tramways and Omnibus also showed strength in places, and B.E.T. issues sharply recovered. London Generals and Road Cars kept steady, but London Motor 'Bus were decidedly weak. Hudson's Bays fluctuated within narrow limits. Chinese Land and Exploration shares were firm, although without much change; Royal Mails and Cunards were better in the Shipping division, and London Docks deferred fell back slightly. Textiles seemed a trifle better in places, as did Iron and Steel things, and nearly all the movements in the Nitrate list were favourable. Nobel Dynamites were somewhat easier. Sweetmeat Automatics proved in some request, and rallied a shilling or so. Rates in this department were much the same as last time, that on Hudson's Bays, however, being stiffer, and the making-up list shows gains of $\frac{3}{8}$ in B.E.T. ordinary and $\frac{1}{2}$ in the preferred, $\frac{3}{8}$ in California Oilfields, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in Coats preferred stock, $\frac{1}{4}$ in Eastman's ordinary, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ in several Nitrate shares, 6s. 3d. in James Nelson's shares, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in Underground Electric notes, and 9 in Bieckert's Brewery ordinary. The Pekin Syndicate ordinary were up $2\frac{1}{2}$ and the deferred 15, Eastern Telegraph $1\frac{1}{2}$, National Telephone deferred $2\frac{1}{2}$, and Commercial Union $1\frac{1}{2}$. On the other hand, Allsopps stocks were 1 to 2 lower, Watney Combe fell $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1, and Ocean Marine Insurance lost $\frac{3}{8}$.

Stock markets have been very cheerful to-day, and the rise in Consols and Indian Government securities, as well as in Home Railway stocks and other sensitive things shown to-night, is eloquent of the instant relief experienced by the removal of fears about the course of money rates. The Kaffir Circus, too, was buoyant, and there was strong local buying met by a smaller stream of French selling than usual. Indeed, a few French "bears" bought back at a loss shares they had sold at lower prices earlier in the week. One cause of the strength of the Kaffir market is said to be the entry of the Cason mine into the active group. It will commence crushing almost immediately. Business was better, and if the money market does not again frighten us, the promise is of a quite lively spring. To-night Yankee things left off buoyant in the street with an excited market and prices rising. Atchison ended nearly at 99, Union Pacific at $161\frac{1}{2}$, Eries at $51\frac{1}{2}$, and Steel (common) at $45\frac{1}{2}$. In the Home Railway market a higher dividend is looked for on Brighton deferred than we estimated last week, $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. instead of 5 per cent.

Passing Events.

An old subscriber, who says he "has followed with intense interest the career of the INVESTORS' REVIEW ever since it started in 1892, and is very grateful for the excellent teaching he has derived from the columns of the much-appreciated newspaper (however *bonâ fide* mistaken the editor may have been in his views on the future of Argentine Government securities and railway investments in the very dark years, 1890-1894) "desires to present anonymously all the volumes of the REVIEW from its origin, "very nicely bound" to some club, institution or library "where they would be of use and constantly consulted, not put away in a lumber-room." The subscriber is now almost constantly travelling and has little house-room for the volumes. We are glad to have the means of making his generous wishes known, and shall be pleased to consider and transmit any applications made for the series. The earlier ones in particular are now very rare, and contain more material relative to the history of latter-day finance than any other books of the kind in existence.

We print the following letter as we receive it, and it does not seem to require any introductory homily. All we should like to know is whether this Electrical Company, Limited, which so openly offers a bribe in order to secure a contract, is in any way connected

with the Allgemeine Elektrizitäts-Gesellschaft of Berlin?

SIR,—We are to-day forwarding you our quotation on locomotives, and have taken the liberty of including for a 5 per cent. commission for yourself.

We trust that you will now be in a position to favour us with your esteemed order, and thanking you in anticipation, we remain,

Yours faithfully,

THE ELECTRICAL CO., LIMITED,
C. ROSSNER.

A shrewd correspondent has written to us with reference to the way in which money collected by the Exchequer through the death duties is utilised as revenue. "I have often," he says, "been surprised that more objection has not been taken to the estate duties being used as income." Well, we have continually objected, but might as well have imitated the mad dog and bayed at the moon. These estate and death duties are unquestionably slices of capital, and ought not to be spent as revenue at all. Their proper destination is reduction in the public debt; but how is it possible for any Government to act according to principle in a matter of this kind while the expenditure of the nation is kept up at its present monstrous height?

We are sorry to see still another addition made to the debt of Japan. According to what Mr. Takahashi, the Japanese Financial Commissioner, has been saying in America, another £43,000,000 of Japanese State bonds is to be issued, £15,000,000 thereof to be handed to those who have rendered service during the war with Russia and the remainder to be used in assisting to meet expenditure incurred in connection with the war. Of this remainder, £20,000,000 is to be offered to the people of Japan and £8,000,000 taken up by the Government Savings Bank. When is the full cost of that awful conflict to be provided for?

News from India continues ominous of famine. The total number on relief works was on December 23, the latest date which the Viceroy seems able to give in his telegram, dated January 8, 98,032, and of this total 61,251 are in Ajmer and Rajputana and 29,733 in the United Provinces. But rain is wanted everywhere, and the condition of the people must have become steadily worse since that date. We hope that one of the tasks which the new Ministry will have to tackle, with what energy and manfulness it can muster, is not going to be another ghastly famine in India, a country always half hungry.

The City Editor of the *Pall Mall Gazette* continues to keep us well informed concerning the latest Mazawattee developments, and although no official announcement has been made, is able to relate all that is essential about that meeting of "big" shareholders which took place on Wednesday of last week. It appears to have been attended by about 20 proprietors out of a total register of nearly 5,000, and after the remarkable escapades of the past 12 or 18 months it will probably not astonish many people to learn that a decision was come to to close the retail businesses so recently acquired, and on which so much good money has been recklessly squandered. That the venture into the retail trade would be a dismal failure we never had the slightest doubt, but bearing in mind the vast outlay involved in fitting up the shops, is it altogether wise to abandon the business without a fair trial? A good many of the new premises, if not most of them, have been open for a very few weeks only, and it is not impossible that with perseverance and thoroughly capable and economical management some of them might be made to pay. If not, we really do not know what is to become of the company, because the tactics lately pursued must have half ruined the wholesale trade, and the actual loss of capital all round must have been enormous. The next balance-sheet, due some time next month, ought to create a stir.

The sudden death of Lord Ritchie within a month of his elevation to the peerage casts a shadow of melancholy over the stirring political conflict of the hour. He was not a great man, but he was an honest poli-

tician and a man capable of making sacrifices for his convictions. We remember him many years ago as an awkward speaker, hesitating, slow; remember him also as a man who toyed with fair trade illusions when on a previous occasion the Protectionists made an effort to put fetters upon the people of the country in their own interests. But he was too honest to be misled by the lying of that time, and grew to be a convinced Free Trader, to whom all these sophistries were hateful. He will be missed from the House of Lords, where he unquestionably would have stood by the side of the present Ministry in resisting all efforts to shift the burden of taxation on to the shoulders of the multitude and increase it.

Last week's Revenue figures are not very cheerful, showing, as they do, that in order to meet the charges on the National Debt amounting to £4,958,000, only £190,000 was paid out on supply services, and yet the Bank balances of the Exchequer were reduced by £1,304,000, in spite of increased borrowings during the week amounting to £150,000 under Telegraph Acts, £500,000 under Naval Works Acts, and £317,000 under Military Works Acts. Another small item of £33,000 was added to our debt on account of public buildings, and the nett borrowings for deficiency exceeded the repayments under Ways and Means and deficiency accounts by £450,000. Altogether, therefore, the nett debt of the nation was increased through last week's operations by £1,450,000, notwithstanding the above-mentioned reduction in the Exchequer balances, but the income-tax will doubtless put it all straight for a time.

We trust no time will be lost in reprinting the excellent article on "Welsh tin plates and tariffs," by Sir J. J. Jenkins, published in Wednesday's *Westminster Gazette*. A more effective election pamphlet we could not wish to see. Sir John Jenkins is one who speaks with ample authority upon this important branch of industry, and he has written telling articles thereon before now, but no previous contribution has been so thorough, so crushing, so perfectly unassailable as this, and it ought to be utilised to the utmost in the present conflict. Most striking of all is his illustration of the remarkable increase in the wages earned which has taken place concurrently with a reduction in the price of the finished article, and a great improvement in the mechanical economies of production.

Perhaps the best proof that the Chinese indentured slaves have been imported into the Transvaal against the wishes of the white inhabitants thereof is to be found in the terms of the ordinance itself. If the whites, British and Boer, had desired Chinese labourers, there was nothing to hinder an influx of free labourers of this race under a poll tax or unfettered by any conditions, nothing except the miscalculating greed of the cosmopolites and their knowledge that their action was resented by every honest man in the land.

Those professional man-killers of ours who cannot sleep comfortably o' nights without a bogey, and in whose haunted imaginations Germany has taken the place until recently occupied by Russia and France, cannot be expected to know anything either about the potent influences of increasing commercial and social intercourse between the peoples of modern nations or about the financial demands imposed by the modern system of warfare. If they understood the simplest rudiments of finance, and had a glimmering of the laws governing the decay of nations under the régime of war-fed usury, they might be cured of their German and other nightmares. Look at Germany herself. In a time of profound peace her military system is fast wearing down her strength, and deficits in the budget are chronic and becoming larger. What had the Prussian Finance Minister to confess on Tuesday? That the smaller states in the Germanic federation cannot pay their full quota of the contribution levied by the Empire to keep its fighting materials in condition. Prussia is still able to pay up, but if the smaller

states were asked to do so "they would be compelled to raise loans for the purpose." If this be the case in time of peace, what would happen if Germany, regardless of her commerce, went to war with France and England? Already the Imperial Government is at its wits' end for money, and the Reichstag is wrangling over new taxes. Where could the Kaiser borrow if French and English money markets were closed to him?

In making a sort of apology to Mr. Burns for his glaring falsehood of "a million able-bodied paupers" maintained out of the rates, Mr. Chamberlain said the difference between that and the 10,000 or 12,000 which is the real number, made no difference to his argument." Of course not, for his "argument" was equally commercial traveller's bluff, paupers or none.

The latest news about the efforts of Russia to borrow is to the effect that Paris bankers will grant the Tsar's Government a loan of about £11,000,000 on short term Treasury notes, bearing $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. interest, and charged with 1 per cent. commission, half the commission to be surrendered to outside participants. This little sum will not carry the Tsar very far. The budget for the current year is now said to reveal a deficit of more than £50,000,000.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

. Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

The past week opened on Monday with the carry-over. Continuation rates on the whole differed little from those ruling at the previous settlement. On Gold Fields the charge was a little higher at 6-7 per cent., and also on Rand Mines at the same figure. Such favourites as East Rands and Randfonteins were carried over at $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., compared with $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the latter being the contango on Modders, Gedulds, T.C.I.'s, Johnnies Investments, Simmer and Jacks and Gold Trusts. The general rate was $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. De Beers were carried over at 5-6 per cent., and Jagers and Premiers at $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. In the Rhodesian market Chartered were continued at $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., Charter Trusts at $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and Rice-Hamiltons at 6-7 per cent. In fact, 6-7 per cent. was the prevailing charge in this, the West African and the Egyptian sections. There were again givers of 7 per cent. on most Westralian shares. On Sons of Gwalia the rate was 4-6 per cent., and on Oroyas 5-7 per cent. At first Great Fingalls were carried over at 5-7 per cent., later at 6-8 per cent. Of the Americans Esperanzas were again done at 7-9 per cent.

Changes in the making-up lists were irregular. Amongst South Africans Ferreira's moved up a point, the other principal gains being $\frac{3}{4}$ in Montrose Diamonds, $\frac{5}{8}$ in Modderfonteins, $\frac{1}{2}$ in East Rand Proprietary and Crown Reefs, $\frac{1}{4}$ in Rice-Hamiltons, $\frac{3}{8}$ in Apex, New Heriot, Rhodesia Explorations, Bankets and Tanganyikas; $\frac{1}{8}$ in Anglo-French, Gold Trusts, Cason Blocks, Geldenhuis Estates, Jumpers and Knights; 9-32 in Northern Coppers and Transvaal Estates, and $\frac{1}{4}$ in Chartered, Rand Mines, Central Minings, Crown Deeps, French Rands, Lomagundas, Robinson Central Deeps, Rose Deeps, Villages and Welgedachts. The heaviest falls were $1\frac{1}{2}$ in Premier Diamond, $\frac{3}{4}$ in South African Gold Mines, $\frac{1}{4}$ in Cinderella Deeps, and $\frac{1}{8}$ each in City Deeps, Klip Deeps and Village Deeps. Amongst West Africans the rises about balanced the falls, neither of any importance. One or two Egyptians made up fractionally better. In the Westralian section Great Fingalls dropped $\frac{1}{8}$, Horse-shoes $\frac{3}{8}$ and Ivanhoes $\frac{3}{8}$. Anacondas, amongst copper shares, rose $1\frac{1}{8}$, but Tintos lost $\frac{3}{8}$, Tharsis $\frac{1}{4}$ and Cape Coppers $\frac{1}{8}$.

Though for the new account genuine business has again been lacking, insiders are still trying their hardest to make the Kaffir market look cheerful. They are making the most of the statement that existing contracts for the importation of Chinese will not be interfered with, and as these are declared to affect over 16,000 coolies, they say they will keep the mining industry going for some time to come—at the cost, of course, of the shareholders, though they naturally do not say so. To push prices higher, however, and maintain them at such altitudes needs more strength than the magnates and professionals can continuously display, accordingly quotations fly up and down in a most erratic way. Paris is lending no support. No share can be singled out as being a favourite gambling medium. One day Modders are selected, the next Crown Reefs, and on the third Ferreira's, the choice being quite capricious. The Rand output for the last month of the year, which is dealt with below, was a record, yet it failed to impart vigour to the market. Here and there a share improved $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$, but these advances could be maintained only with difficulty. Investors know they benefit no more from records than they do from Chinese or rigging.

The November report of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines states that the number of coolies employed on the mines at the

end of October was 45,901. None were distributed during November and as 77 died and 20 were discharged the number was reduced in that month to 45,804. The s.s. *Katherine Park* reached Durban on the 5th inst. with 1,907 coolies, the whole being allotted to the East Rand Proprietary mines. During December 1,890 arrived, 73 died, and 403 were repatriated, so the number was raised by the end of that month to 47,218. A further 1,949 are in transit on board the *Indravelli*.

In the diamond group Premiers were for some days conspicuously weak, though rumour says that private cables received from the mine are of a satisfactory character. The heavy fall was attributed to a "bear" raid; we give the report for what it is worth. Some say the mine is doing well, others that it is in a bad way, and it is difficult, practically impossible, to get at the truth of the situation. Rumour says the De Beers crowd have been depressing the shares in order to get control, and it looks a plausible story. Towards the close of the week the price recovered smartly, though after many violent fluctuations. But buying predominated, and covering by "bears" helped the upward movement.

Movements in the Rhodesian section have been nothing to speak of, the majority of the shares being a trifle easier. One or two West Africans are a little better on balance, on inside manoeuvring, whilst Egyptians are as idle as ever.

Broken Hill descriptions, after their prolonged excitement, have developed weakness, the fall in the price of lead evidently inducing many to rush in and take their profits at the high prices.

Amongst West Australians Great Fingalls have shown a tendency to recover from their recent relapse, the managers this week having issued a somewhat reassuring statement in regard to the ore reserves. Golden Horseshoes are likewise a little better, but many of the others are easier.

In the copper group Anacondas have continued the most conspicuous counter. The price has again fluctuated considerably, because it is a purely artificial market, but, if anything, quotations are slightly better on balance. Rio Tintos have been steady, no more, and Cape Coppers have strengthened. Spasskys have firmed up a little.

In the miscellaneous list Esperanzas have been irregular; Nundydroogs strong, and Champion Reefs erratic.

TRANSCAAL GOLD RETURNS.—The Rand output for December was announced on Wednesday afternoon, but it failed to arouse the least enthusiasm. Evidently the bosses had made up their minds that it should be a record, should end the year in glory, and a record it is, but John Bull knows he is not one penny the richer. From the mines working on the Rand proper the output amounted to 414,421 ozs. of fine gold, the outsiders contributing 17,173 ozs., making a total of 431,594 ozs. The value was £1,833,295, and the increases over November are 6,837 ozs. and £29,042 respectively. This brings the aggregate for the year to £20,802,074, exceeding that of the previous year by £4,747,265. This is the first time it has reached £20,000,000. The labour returns for the same month show a nett loss of natives of 2,008, reducing the number employed to 80,954. In our introduction we give the number of coolies employed at the end of the year, with those on the seas.

NOURSE DEEP.—It has been definitely decided by a meeting of shareholders in Johannesburg that this member of the Wernher, Beit group and subsidiary of the Rand Mines shall amalgamate with the Henry Nourse Gold Mining Company, one of the leading outcrops, the property and undertaking of the last-named being acquired for 225,000 fully-paid shares. So the capital of the Nourse Deep has been increased from £450,000 to £675,000 by the creation of 225,000 new £1 shares. The same meeting also confirmed the provisional agreement with the New Heriot Gold Mining Company for the sale to it of 34,741 claims for 45,000 New Heriot shares; the right to subscribe for a *pro rata* proportion of 35,000 working capital shares to be issued by that company at £3 15s. per share, and the transfer to the Nourse Deep of the 6,127 claims belonging to the New Heriot. This particular scheme has been severely criticised from the moment it was first mooted, for it looks to be one greatly in favour of the Nourse Deep. Evidently the directors of the New Heriot have not found it easy to persuade their shareholders to accept it, for, as we announced last week, the meeting to consider it has been postponed until March. As a consequence of the fusion between the Nourse Deep and the Henry Nourse, the title of the new company will henceforth be the Nourse Mines, Limited.

EAST RAND DEEP.—In the twelve months to September 30 the total revenue amounted to £5,384, whilst outgoings aggregated £4,838, showing a deficit of £546. This is deducted from £1,531 brought forward, thus reducing the credit balance to £1,077. During the year a sum of £906 was spent on boring operations, but this really forms part of the work reviewed in the report for 1904. No fresh boring operations have been undertaken since. The consulting engineer has visited Johannesburg, and has discussed the question of the future development of the claims with the local directors and the company's technical advisers in South Africa. As the result of these deliberations, he has advised the directors to await the further opening up of the adjoining properties before deciding upon plans for the future development of the mine. It looks as if, later on, a policy of amalgamation with a neighbour may be advised, an inference to be deduced from the following statement:—"Experience on the Rand during the last few years has shown that it is more economical to open up large combinations of claims, and to effect this under concentrated manage-

ment, and the company's technical advisers are considering the best means of bringing about this result."

BULUWAYO TOWN-STANDS SYNDICATE.—Expenditure for the year ending August 31 amounted to £778 in London and Buluwayo, to which have to be added £23 for depreciation on furniture, £500 further reserve for depreciation of buildings, and £50 for bad debts, making a total of £1,351. As the revenue was only £572, there was a nett loss of £779, which raises the debit in the balance-sheet to £2,315. Conditions prevailing in Buluwayo have not improved during the year, the directors have to confess, so the buildings and stands owned by the company remain the same as a year ago. Mr. John Eustace has retired from the board, and the directors do not propose to fill the vacancy.

TATI CONCESSIONS.—The directors of this concern have just issued new rules for the encouragement of small workings. According to these the resident general manager may grant permission to work for profit any block of gold claims not exceeding ten in number, with a mill of not more than five stamps. The quantity of ore so milled must not exceed 750 tons a month. A claim holder may arrange for the crushing of his ore in a central mill of greater capacity, but shall not be at liberty to crush more than the above-mentioned quantity. Nor is he to be allowed to sub-divide his ten claims or less for milling purposes. Other minor conditions are laid down, but, judging by the poverty of the country worked by this company and its subsidiaries, the new rules are not likely to give much impetus to gold mining, or greatly increase the gold production of the territory.

NEW ELECTRIC POWER SCHEME FOR THE RAND.—It is stated that a scheme is under consideration for the installation of an electric generating station at Vereeniging, capable of developing 100,000 horse-power, for supplying the needs of the Witwatersrand. Vereeniging is 32 miles in a straight line from the Rand, and it is intended to utilise the coal fields in this district, where a plentiful supply of water is also available. The promoters of the scheme contemplate the provision of electricity for power purposes and for the supply of light and heat to the whole reef, including Johannesburg and the neighbouring towns. They anticipate that it will enable large economies to be effected in capital expenditure and working costs.

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY, BLOCK 14.—In the half-year to the end of September the principal work done was in connection with the partial remodelling of the lead mill, the re-opening of the sulphide ore bodies, the stoping and sale of carbonate ore, the production of zinc concentrates, and the sale of the tailings dumps. The remodelling of the mill is almost completed, and it should shortly be in good working order. Zinc concentrates realised £15,882, silver-lead concentrates £950, carbonate ore £9,932, and sundry sales £122, making a total of £26,887. Gross profit was £7,155, to which the tailings account added £16,758 and dividends unclaimed and forfeited £54. After deducting Melbourne, Adelaide, and Sydney expenditure £1,491, depreciation £620, and the old debit of £222 the nett profit remaining is £21,633, out of which the accumulated interest on the preference shares is being paid, absorbing £4,835, so that in future all preference shares will rank alike. Attention is called to the fact that in the balance-sheet the plant and machinery are over-valued, and the directors promise to write off a fair proportion during the current year, so it is impossible to foresee when dividends can be paid on the ordinary shares. "All things considered," says the chairman, "the future of your property is most satisfactory, and when it is recollected that the mine twelve months ago was waterlogged, and the financial position embarrassed, your directors feel that they have done something during the period that has since elapsed to put the property on a new and better footing." The financial position is tolerably comfortable.

BROKEN HILL JUNCTION MINING.—The report of the directors covers the half-year to the end of September. Mining operations were suspended in the middle of June, and since then development work by ordinary mining and drilling has been carried out, with more encouraging results, the report says, than was anticipated. Fifty-five feet of good ore has been proved in the drive, south from the Junction north boundary, at the 837 ft. level. Some ore has also been found on the east side of the workings, irregular both in size and value, and since the close of the half-year a lode has been cut on the west the existence of which was only suspected. From April 1 to the date of the closing down of the mill, 8,477 tons of crude ore, of a value of 10.45 ozs. of silver, 13.89 per cent. of lead, and 8.8 per cent. of zinc were treated, producing 1,252 tons of concentrates, assaying 30.7 ozs. of silver, 62.66 per cent. of lead, and 4.83 per cent. of zinc. In addition 121 tons of friable ore, worth 38 ozs. of silver, 32.8 per cent. of lead, and 21.6 per cent. of zinc, were sold. The average prices of silver and lead during the six months were 2s. 3½d. per ounce, and £13 8s. per ton respectively. An agreement was entered into with the British company, under which ore from their workings near the boundary is hauled through McIntyre's shaft. During the half-year two calls of 6d. per share each were made. The question of the disposal of the accumulated heaps of tailings and slimes is under consideration by the directors.

THE REEF NO. 2.—The position and prospects of this company appear to be gradually improving. Three years ago the mine was shut down, but since then the new management has succeeded in changing things for the better. In the twelve months ending September 30 the total amount of ore and waste raised from the mine was 31,082 tons, whilst 3,126 tons were taken from the surface dumps, making a total of 34,208 tons, but hand-picking reduced the quantity to 22,915 tons. There were shipped

12,237 tons, the contents being 14,494 ozs. of gold; 28,369 ozs. of silver and 885,992 lbs. of copper, the grade being about 45 per cent. better than in the previous year. Throughout the year 10,678 tons were crushed, averaging 0.166 ozs. of gold, .306 ozs. of silver and .545 per cent. of copper. Although the grade of the ore treated was lower, the returns were higher, the improvement being the result of coarser crushing, a better understanding of the ore treated and more favourable smelting rates, and the directors hope to improve even upon last year's results. The ore realised £69,173, the concentrates £4,620, the ore dumps £481, whilst £860 was received from interest and £77 from transfer fees, making a total revenue of £75,212. This is good, considering that the manager had orders to restrict the output during five months of the year. After allowing for expenditure, £39,911 for mine development and £3,924 for depreciation, the nett profit is £29,810. The sum brought in was £16,090, giving the directors an available balance of £45,901. A dividend of one shilling per share was paid last October and a final distribution of 3s. per share is now recommended, making 4s. per share for the year, and leaving the goodly balance of £20,701 to be carried forward. Mining expenses were reduced from \$4.45 per ton to \$4.22 per ton. The company possesses ample cash resources, the balance-sheet leaving little to be desired. As regards the future, the consulting engineer speaks most hopefully. There is every prospect, he thinks, of finding ore bodies within the limits of the large areas of ground still unexplored, and of discovering an enriched zone in depth.

ASSOCIATED NORTHERN BLOCKS (W.A.).—Considerable progress was made by this leading West Australian company in the past financial year to the end of September. In that period 40,146 short tons of ore were treated and 3,095 tons of slimes were re-treated, yielding a total of 46,605 ozs. of bullion, realising £183,095. Working expenditure and depreciation absorbed £99,373, and the gross profit was £83,722. Dividends on investments produced £3,915, and other income brought up the total credits to £88,986. After deducting administration expenses in South Australia and London, dividend duty, reserve for contingencies, &c., the nett profit is £71,889, which compares with £40,638 in the year 1903-1904. The amount brought forward was £63,546, making a total disposable sum of £135,435. An interim dividend of 2s. per share was paid last July, and the directors recommend a final payment of 3s. per share, making 25 per cent. for the year against 15 per cent. in the preceding year. The higher distribution reduces the balance carried forward from £63,545 to £47,935. The company has investments in Consols, Bank stock and Local Loans of a book value of £139,362, the financial position being exceedingly strong. There has been a further reduction in working costs. Ore reserves are estimated at a total of 89,399 tons, containing 100,001 ozs., of an average value of 22.37 dwts. per ton. This is an increase upon the preceding year's figures of 22,417 tons, but there is a decrease of 2 dwts. per ton in the grade.

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY BLOCK 10.—Work at the mines during the half-year ending September 30 was interfered with by troubles in connection with the cages, thereby impeding hauling arrangements, and to a movement or creep in an adjoining mine. Neither were the milling operations as satisfactory as might have been expected, but improvements have been made in the extension of the vanner plant, which the general manager reports will add considerably to the profits. The quantity of crude ore treated was 79,073 tons, producing 12,236 tons of concentrates, having a contents of 7,790 tons of lead and 412,082 ozs. of silver. Assays of the crude were 14.1 ozs. of silver, 15.1 per cent. of lead and 18.5 per cent. of zinc, whilst the recoveries were 36.96 of silver and 65.12 per cent. of lead. Average prices were: Silver 2s. 3½d., lead £13 8s. and spelter £24 7s. 6d. It is with much satisfaction, the directors state, that after lengthy negotiations sales have been made of the following:—100,000 tons of zinc tailings for £31,250, less 2½ per cent. commission; £5,000 has been paid, and the balance, £26,250, was due on November 23, 1905; 59,599 tons of slimes for £29,799; £5,000 has been paid and the balance is to be paid in quarterly instalments, the first being due on April 24, 1906; and 3,000 tons of jig middlings and vanner tailings, the product of the new mill, for £1,000. In addition, an option of purchase has been given to the purchasers of the 100,000 tons of zinc tailings until August 23, 1906, over a further quantity of about 520,000 tons at 5s. per ton, equal to about £130,000, less 2½ per cent. commission. Should the option be exercised, payment is to be made in equal quarterly instalments, spread over a period of five years from August 23, 1906. Concentrates realised £114,301, and the nominal value of the by-products was £2,211; total, £116,512. Working expenses took £74,649, leaving a gross profit of £41,863. A balance of £70,190 is brought from the previous half-year, and the profit and loss account is further credited with £72,964 profit made on slimes and tailings. After deducting income-tax and depreciation, a sum of £15,000 is distributed, and £159,871 is taken to the balance-sheet. Free assets substantially exceed the company's liabilities. The general manager points out that the costs of ore dressing are still high, but it is expected that a material reduction will be made in this department.

DOLORES, LIMITED.—The company was registered on January 22, 1904, and is the holder of 320,965 shares of \$5, fully paid, in the Dolores Mines Company, incorporated under the laws of the State of Maine, U.S.A. At present there are no profits, as the American company has not yet declared a dividend. All expenditure is for the present capitalised, to be eventually written off to a profit and loss account as soon as that account can

be opened with dividends from the American concern. According to the accounts submitted by the latter, a nett profit of \$8,997 was earned in the two months ending June 30 last.

NEW ELKHORN MINING COMPANY.—The directors announce that in accordance with their policy laid down in December, 1903, they do not propose to hold the annual meeting this year. No change has occurred in regard to the properties at Leadville. The company's representative at this place recently informed the board that the largest combination in the vicinity, known as the Fryer Hill Mines Company, is not producing very much, but that large bodies of low grade ore have been exposed, and the manager of that property believes that a pyritic smelter would make the mine profitable. The expenses incurred during the past twelve months consist of the payment of the company's representative and of taxes, &c., at Leadville, also London office outlays, amounting to £66 after deducting interest, &c. In December of last year the directors purchased on the company's behalf £1,012 of Natal 3½ per cent. Consolidated Inscribed stock, 1934-44, at 96½ per cent. No audited balance-sheet or profit and loss account is presented.

EAGLEHAWK CONSOLIDATED GOLD MINING COMPANY.—The directors issue an interim report for the half-year to September 30, in which they state that the returns from the quartz treated from the upper levels continue to show an average return of a shade over ½ oz. to the ton, including sand and slimes, 5,883 tons having been treated for the period for a yield from all sources of 3,144 ozs., the last three or four returns showing an improvement. They have nothing exceptionally encouraging to say of the outlook. The 750 ft. level is being extended north, but has not yet cut anything payable. In his report the mine manager can only say that there is a fair amount of payable stone in sight, which may be augmented at any time should payable gold be met with in the various levels now being developed.

MOUNT ZEEHAN (TASMANIA) SILVER-LEAD MINES.—During the financial year ending June 30 the work done has been principally directed to the development of the Silver Queen mine at the second level, the results being considered successful. Operations on what is called the Spray section were for a time seriously impeded by the difficulty of dealing with the increase of water met with on the intersection of No. 3 lode by the cross-cut from No. 1 lode at the third level. The corrosive character of the water interfered with the efficient working of the pumps, and for nearly six months the company was deprived of all revenue from the fourth level on No. 1 lode. This difficulty was subsequently overcome, so that work was resumed at all points at the beginning of March. Since then there has been no interruption, and further delay is not anticipated. The profit earned amounted to £20,157. After paying the 20 per cent. dividend on the preference shares there remains £11,341, divisible equally amongst the ordinary and preference shares. This will admit of a dividend of 9d. per ordinary share and 2s. 9d. on each preference share, and leave a small balance to be carried forward.

LANCEFIELD GOLD MINING COMPANY.—The directors have issued a letter received from Mr. Hoover, in which he gives his views on prospects, and discusses the problem of the best treatment of the ores. He says the mine can produce over 20,000 tons per month, and there is no other mine in West Australia that can show so much ore for every 100 ft. in depth. "Given the treatment difficulty overcome, it is bound to take a position as one of the largest mines on the field." He advises dry crushing, and estimates the cost of a new plant at £42,000 for a capacity of about 9,000 tons monthly. To raise the money he suggests the issue of 100 shares at a par value of 12s. giving £60,000, such shares to be entitled to one-third of the profits.

PUSING LAMA TIN MINES.—The directorial report of this concern, covering the period from incorporation, January 16, 1904, to June 30 last, states that the cost of the company's installation amounted to £20,132. Owing to various delays active work on the property was not commenced until the middle of April last. Since the formation of the company two additional blocks of land, comprising some 34 acres, have been acquired for the purpose of affording additional dumping facilities, &c. Reciprocal dumping facilities have also been arranged with the proprietors of the adjoining property. It is considered that the machinery on the mine is sufficient for present requirements. The directors say they are advised by the consulting engineers and the manager that certain modifications and additions to the existing plant may be necessary in the future in order to increase the output of tin, and to enable the property to be worked on a more profitable basis. The complete installation has cost more than was originally expected, and in order to provide the necessary additional capital to complete, the directors obtained, on their personal guarantee, a loan of £3,500 from the company's bankers. This has since been paid off out of the profits, and there is now no charge on debenture against the property. According to cables from the manager, the development of the mine is proceeding satisfactorily. Finally, the directors say there can be no doubt that a valuable property has been secured, "which, with efficient management, will return good dividends for many years to come." An interim dividend on account of the profits for the current year has been paid at the rate of 6d. per share.

GREAT FINGALL CONSOLIDATED.—In their December statement the general managers report that experience in breaking the ore from the various stopes indicates that Mr. Rolker's estimate of the tonnage of ore in reserve will prove very much under the actual amount. The estimate of ore reserves to December 31 is

now being made, and will be published in due course. At the present time and for a few months to come there must, it is intimated, be fluctuations in the output. Various improvements are being made in the treatment plant, which, it is expected, will shortly increase its capacity to 20,000 tons per month.

SANGLI GOLD MINES.—In a circular to the shareholders the directors announce that in consequence of the number of shares applied for being insufficient, they have decided to return the application moneys. As, however, the funds are exhausted and additional capital is needed, they think the best method of raising it is by reconstruction, involving an assessment of 6s. per share. A meeting to consider the proposal is convened for the 18th inst.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

LONDON, CITY, AND MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED.

The decline in profits notified by this important bank for the six months ended December 31, 1904, was rather more than recovered during the past half-year, the total of £317,571 showing an advance of £25,675. Balance brought in was up a little to £109,287, making the total available £426,858 against £399,718, and after again providing a dividend at the rate of 18 per cent. per annum the directors place £20,000 to bank premises' redemption fund, and £5,000 to officers' pension fund, carrying forward £119,002 against £109,718. The absorption of the Nottingham Joint Stock Bank, as from December 31, 1904, has raised the paid-up capital and reserve to £3,142,850 each, and the deposit, current, and other accounts have grown from £47,672,356 to £50,259,088. Acceptances are up nearly £2,000,000 to £4,115,867, so that the balance-sheet now totals £61,062,513 compared with £56,205,364. On the assets side the principal movement is the increase of £2,652,510 to £27,402,317 in the advances on current accounts, loans on security, &c., other increases being £191,662 to £7,291,651 in the money at call and short notice, and £388,443 to £4,713,333 in the bills of exchange. Cash in hand and at the Bank of England shows a decline of £344,555 to £8,795,945, and the investments held are less by £62,736 to £7,392,592. Branches have been opened at Fleet Street, E.C., and Fulham, S.W.

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL BANK, LIMITED.

The gross profit of this bank for the half-year ended December 30 was £288,521, or £9,305 more than in the corresponding period, and there was an increase of over £4,000 to £40,997 in the sum brought forward, so that the total revenue is £329,518 against £315,944. Current expenses were just a little less at £113,321, but the charges for interest rose £5,601 to £77,310, so that the nett balance was larger by £8,106 at £138,887. Dividend at the rate of 18 per cent. per annum takes £72,000, a sum of £10,500 goes to reserve, £5,000 to the officers' pension and gratuity fund, and £10,000, or £5,000 more, in reduction of premises account, leaving £41,387 against £38,363 to be carried forward. The financial position, as usual, is a strong one. Reserve fund, the whole of it invested in Consols at 85, now amounts to £1,405,000 against a paid-up capital of £800,000, and the auditors point out that the investments and the premises account are entered well below market value, and that the provision for bad and doubtful debts largely exceeds the amount estimated to be at present required. An increase of £432,778 to £13,791,345 has taken place in the current deposit and other accounts, most of which is reflected in an advance of £356,057 to £8,994,811 in the loans, advances bills discounted, etc. Cash at head branches and agents is moderately large at £1,857,754, just £100,000 less at £1,000,000 is lent at call and short notice, and the investments have been increased from £3,933,766 to £4,056,393.

MANCHESTER AND LIVERPOOL DISTRICT BANKING CO., LIMITED.

This strong northern bank found the half-year just closed an excellent one for business, and reports its gross profits at £229,503 or £1,344 more than in the corresponding period of last year. Sum brought forward was larger by £1,839 at £36,291, so that the entire credit is up over £3,000 to £265,794, and notwithstanding a small advance to £82,967 in the general expenses, the nett balance is £178,345 compared with £176,780 after providing the smaller sum of £4,482 for income-tax. As before the dividend will be 21s. per share for the six months, with another £10,000 carried to reserve, and an improvement from £35,530 to £37,095 in the sum carried forward. Compared with the end of December, 1904, there is an increase in the current, deposit, and other accounts of £430,979 to £15,869,253, and the acceptances have gone up by the big sum of £645,777 to £1,679,778. On the other side cash in hand and at Bank of England has advanced £100,000 to £1,967,263, and £89,152 more at £1,813,805 is lent at call and short notice. Investments show very little change, although they are higher at £3,317,974, the holding of Consols being taken at 85, and there is likewise a very slight movement in the bills of exchange standing at £3,307,380. Advances on current accounts, &c., however, have been increased by £249,891 to £8,656,528, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is £21,042,729 compared with £19,945,072. Reserve fund is now £1,825,000, and the paid-up capital amounts to £1,500,000. Shareholders will learn with regret that Mr. Wm. Tipping will retire from his position of managing

director almost immediately, but will also be gratified to hear that Mr. P. J. Ramsay, the manager at the head office, has been elected to a seat on the board with a view to his appointment to the vacant post as the colleague of Mr. Andrew Bennie.

MANCHESTER AND COUNTY BANK, LIMITED.

After making provision for bad and doubtful debts this bank earned a gross profit during the half-year ended December 31 of £141,250 or £722 less than in the corresponding period of last year, and as the working expenses were slightly higher at £55,577 the nett balance is rather over £1,000 less at £85,074. There was also a decrease of £585 at £13,147 in the credit brought in, so that the sum for disposal comes to £98,821 compared with £100,451. The difference, however, is not sufficiently important to affect the dividend, which will again be at the rate of £1 5s. 6d. per share, or 15 per cent. per annum, and a further £10,000 goes to reserve, but £1,500 less at £1,000 is placed to the superannuation fund, and the rather smaller sum of £13,645 is carried forward. Reserve fund of £990,000 is now considerably in excess of the paid-up capital of £928,234, and all round the position looks pretty strong. A sum of £9,379,480 or £727,507 more is owing on current, deposit, and other accounts, and acceptances are a good deal larger at £839,321, while the cash on hand at call and short notice is moderately larger at £2,600,646. Investments in British Government and other stocks, the former held a long way below market prices, have been increased by £205,345 to £1,502,700, and bills of exchanges, advances, and loans now reach £7,124,613 compared with £6,647,172. Bank property still stands at £175,000, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is nearly £1,000,000 larger at £12,242,280.

YORK CITY AND COUNTY BANKING CO., LIMITED.

This is a pretty big bank possessing a paid-up capital of £780,000, and a reserve fund of £700,000. At the end of 1904, however, the reserve stood at no less than £848,539, and the directors tell shareholders that in view of the uncertainty of future values they have considered it advisable to write down Consols and other investments. Not only that, but it is deemed prudent, with the object of making the fullest provision for doubtful debts, to increase the contingent fund, and we find that these two operations involve very nearly £150,000. That is a very important sum, and we should like to know how much was used for reducing investments and how much for making good doubtful accounts. The Merchant Banking Company has just undergone a somewhat similar experience, and that two incidents of the kind are made known in one week is not altogether pleasant. This bank no doubt is sound enough, but the coming to light of important possible losses is quite in accordance with what might be expected after the harassing half-dozen years we have just gone through. Notes in circulation are quite small at £69,280, and the current and deposit accounts at the end of December last showed an increase of £504,538 at £11,088,544 compared with the same date in 1904. There is a big increase of £451,130 to £2,483,090 in the cash in hand, at bankers, at short notice, and secured advances to brokers and, notwithstanding the writing down, investments are £375,337 up to £2,382,464. Bills of exchange show an increase of £127,217 at £622,780, but current accounts and advances have been reduced by £608,532 to £6,727,024. In consequence of the opening of new sub-branches the bank premises have increased from £408,218 to £423,805, while the properties yielding rent are down by £3,840 at £91,268. After making provision for bad and doubtful debts the nett profit for the year 1905 is returned at £145,943 or £4,165 less than in the previous twelve months, but the balance brought in was £4,107 larger at £22,627, so that the total for disposal is very little different at £168,572. It is therefore proposed to repeat the dividend of 11s. per share of which 5s. has been already paid, to transfer £3,000 to officers' pension fund, and a similar sum to bank premises account, and to carry forward £19,572. Sir Edward Grey resigned his seat at the board on taking office in the Government.

CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE.

This bank is now growing into a very important institution, and has come to be the second largest operating in the dominion. During the year ended November 30 last 20 new branches were opened, bringing the number to 132, and we sincerely hope the business to be secured will justify such vigorous expansion. The capital has, of course, largely increased, being £2,045,000 compared with £1,787,000, and the addition proposed on account of the past year will raise the reserve to £924,000. Notes in circulation have gone up £217,340 to £1,795,617, and the deposits now appear at £15,282,224 compared with £14,477,949. On the other side the coin bullion and Dominion notes are very slightly larger at £1,699,133, only £82,192 has to be deposited with the Government for security of note circulation, and notes of and cheques on other banks show a decline of £28,473 to £718,462. Balances due by agents in Great Britain are less by the large sum of £700,517 at £510,756, and in foreign countries smaller by £218,084 at £214,155. Investments, too, are heavily lower at £1,173,514, but the loans at call and notice have increased by £162,788 to £2,312,122. The largest movement of all, however, is in the current loans and discounts up from £10,573,595 to £13,212,954, and may, perhaps, be taken to indicate the commercial activity in the Dominion of which we hear so much. We hope it is not the mere stock gambling activity. The balance-sheet now aggregates £20,214,164 against £17,125,046 at November 30, 1904. No profit and loss account is issued, but the nett profits, after providing for bad and doubtful debts are returned

at £282,774 or £51,615 more than in the previous year, to which are added the balance brought forward of £5,903, and premiums on new capital issues of £116,095, making £404,772 in all. From that the directors again provide a dividend at 7 per cent. per annum, with £45,048 written off bank premises, £5,137 transferred to pension fund, £205,479 placed to rest or reserve, and £12,097 carried forward.

UNION DISCOUNT COMPANY OF LONDON.

All things considered, this company did remarkably well in the half-year ended December 31 last, although its profits were not so large as in the corresponding half of 1904, in spite of the fact that it is obviously doing a considerably greater amount of business. The surprising thing, however, is that profits should be so good, because the last two months at least of the half-year were extremely adverse to the discount market. Money was on the average dear, while discount rates generally failed to respond, and the jerks given to the short loan market were now and then disconcerting in the highest degree. The gross profit of £178,161 is, therefore, good in the circumstances, although it does show a decrease of £5,748 compared with the corresponding half in the previous year, and it enables the directors not only to add £10,000 more to the reserve fund, raising it to £430,000, but to pay a dividend at the usual rate of 11 per cent. per annum, tax free, leaving £53,770 to be carried forward, against £53,031 brought in. This the directors are able to do, because the balance brought forward was £5,610 greater than that held to credit of nett revenue a year ago. Thus the decrease in the gross profits was almost completely wiped out. Then, although the amount set aside for rebate on current bills was the handsome total of £108,136, it was none the less £4,678 smaller than in the corresponding half-year, so that the amount available for distribution was really £3,525 up at £105,020. The balance-sheet shows considerable increases in several directions. Bills discounted, for instance, at £15,816,185, are nearly £1,613,000 more than at the corresponding date. Of these bills £5,865,486 have been rediscounted, or £1,635,000 more than at the end of December, 1905. Loans and deposits, including provision for contingencies, have also gone up £1,166,000 to £14,849,382, but the largest increase so far as the assets go is in loans on securities at call and short dates, and other accounts, the total of which is now £2,926,802, an increase of £1,068,000 on the corresponding half-year, and of £1,909,000 compared with the figures of December 31, 1903. Investments in Consols, Exchequer bonds, Indian Government stocks, and other securities have risen by only £121,000 to £2,798,292, and there is again a decrease of £952 in the value of the freehold and leasehold premises, fittings and furniture, which now stand at £107,276. Cash in hand amounts to £480,298, against £470,372 at the end of the previous year. The balance-sheet thus shows increased totals of various kinds, and a larger business, which we trust will be handsomely profitable in the current half-year.

NATIONAL DISCOUNT CO., LIMITED.

Last half-year this conservatively-managed business did well. The gross profits came to £118,390, which was nearly £16,000 more than in the corresponding half of 1904. The directors, however, wisely stick to the same dividend at the rate of 10 per cent., and strengthen the position by carrying £64,171 to rebate on bills not due. This is also nearly £16,000 more than a year ago, so that when all charges have been met and the dividend paid, the balance to be carried forward is, at £11,775, only about £300 more now than then. This is working very closely to previous records, and the figures of the balance-sheet are of the same character. Bills discounted are much the same at £10,449,000, and the only creditor item in which there is much movement is loans at call, short and fixed dates, which, at £2,370,000, show an increase of over £401,000. Deposits and sundry balances remain at £10,356,000, within a few thousands of last year's figures, and bills re-discounted are down but about £20,000 at £3,263,484. Investments, though, have shrunk by about £471,000 to £1,831,000, this decline more than balancing the increase in loans, but then cash at bankers, £171,500, is about £56,000 more than it was at the same date a year back.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS, LIMITED.

Although in many directions this undertaking has undoubtedly made a good deal of progress during the year ended September 30, it must be confessed that the final outcome of the operations is decidedly disappointing. During the year an additional 15 miles of line were opened for traffic and the company also took over 25 miles from the Metropolitan and Cairo-Helouan, the average mileage open being 550 against 507½, with the result that the gross receipts expanded by £44,673 to £207,947. Proper comparison of the individual items of traffic cannot be made because comparative figures of the Helouan branch are not available, but it appears that practically the whole of the improvement was due to this line. Working expenses came to £127,473 or 61.31 per cent. of the receipts compared with £91,329, being 55.94 per cent., and nett revenue therefore only gains to the extent of £8,529 at £80,474. Sundry adjustments reduce this to £79,643 and after adding £2,055 brought in and other revenue items the aggregate for disposal is £92,059. From that the fixed charges, dividend at 5 per cent. on the preference shares issued in connection with the Helouan Railway, income-tax, £4,315 placed to reserve and interim dividend at 4 per cent. per annum on the preference shares absorbed £73,461 leaving £18,598. It permits a final dividend on the preference shares of 2 per cent. only, making 4 per cent. for the year, or 1 per

cent. less with a balance carried out of £1,173. Besides the railway the company is interested in the Cairo Lime Stone Quarries and the Egyptian Delta Land and Investment Company, and negotiations with the Government for extensions in the Menoufieh province are still proceeding. It is hoped that official sanction for the new lines will be received shortly, as the company is ready to commence construction immediately. Fresh capital was raised during the year by the issue of 18,538 $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. £10 preference shares at £2 10s. premium and £10,000 4 per cent. debentures, and the proceeds ought to keep the company going for some time.

THE EGYPTIAN SALT AND SODA CO., LIMITED.

A fuller examination of the report of this company does not carry us much further. Frankly, we can neither make head nor tail of the facts presented by the directors. That is to say, the real position of the company and the true character of its profits are not discoverable from the report of the directors, and the figures in the balance-sheet. We do see that there are now thirteen directors as compared with three in what is called the fourth annual report, which related to a time preceding the absorption of the Huilleries and Savonneries Company. This, doubtless, accounts for an advance of £2,239 in the directors' and auditors' fees to a total of £2,069. Also the share capital of the company has been increased from £301,000 to £435,825 by the price paid for the Savonneries Company. This company was estimated to be worth £115,000 stock, lock, and barrel, and by market manipulation the price of the Salt and Soda Company's shares were forced up to about 42/6d. for the £1 share. It was about this time that the owners of the Huilleries and Savonneries Company got 90,000 £1 Salt shares at 32s. per share, and a call of a further 60,000 shares which they intended to issue at the same price, so that these shareholders would be the happy possessors of a profit of £36,000 if the thing came off. In the meantime, however, the Salt Company's shares fell back to 19s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and it is to be hoped that the allottees of the new shares still have them. The rise proved that manipulation had been applied to the market, and the fall is at any rate natural, because the monopoly which the Salt and Soda Company holds from the Egyptian Government lapsed on January 1 of the present year. Not content, a correspondent reminds us, with the deal which the directors made over the issue of their new shares, these men now calmly credit the company with £62,247, which they carry to a special reserve, being the estimated surplus of assets over liabilities taken over from the Huilleries Company. This includes the profits made by that company since the date of its taking over by the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company. "If," he adds, "they had made a profit, surely they would have been only too pleased to state it, instead of including it in an amount which looks fictitious, and which can only lead the public to suppose that they do not wish to show a loss." The balance-sheet is certainly peculiar, however we look at it. The Salt and Soda concessions and Wadi plant now stand at £224,630, as against £168,805, after deducting depreciation taken from the reserve fund. There is no mention, however, of an additional expenditure of £76,000, part of which is no doubt made up of £23,492 for salt stock taken over by the Government on November 1, 1899, but not paid for by the company at that time, as it represented a stock of salt remaining at the time when the company took over the sale of salt on behalf of the Government. Surely this asset must have been realised in a very short time at a profit to the Government and the company, and the item should long ago have disappeared from the accounts. Hitherto the company has not paid rent on its various depôts and shunas, but the Government has now assessed the rent which it will be charged, and this consequently is an expense in the future which will have to be provided for. In preparation for this the company has already given notice to leave the Alexandria and Cairo depôt and offices because it cannot afford to pay the rent asked. The Mex plant stands at £11,648, less £850 written off for depreciation, against £1,285 at the date of the previous balance-sheet to March 31, 1904. This increase is said to be due to the fact that the company at the start paid nothing for the Mex workshops, plant, &c., which the Government has now agreed to sell for £10,000. The Kafr Zayat is reduced by £4,000, stocks are approximately the same at the two dates, and so is the investment account. Discounts and expenses in connection with the debenture issue have been written off. Cash stands at £111,600 against £15,875, the difference being represented in the issue of 60,000 new shares at 32s. each, which means £60,000. The profit and loss account shows a trading profit for the seventeen months, amounting to £53,874, against £26,733 for the nine months ended March 31, 1904. This shows a slight improvement, but as no details are given it is difficult to say to what it is due, whether entirely to salt or whether Kafr Zayat have shown expansion. There is a reserve of £2,000 for bad and doubtful debts in the new accounts, which does not appear in the old. Interest on debentures has risen to £6,604, against £750 in the previous accounts, £12,034 has been written off concessions, and £6,008 off railway material and office furniture. Some effort would thus seem to be made to bring the accounts into a clean condition, but until we have further details it is impossible to say how the company is likely to fare now that it is no longer in the enjoyment of a Government monopoly.

UNITED LANKAT PLANTATIONS CO., LIMITED.

Business was again quite good for this excellent company during the year ended October 31, the profit from the 1904 crop

being no less than £78,098, or an increase over that shown a year ago of £23,411. Interest, transfer fees, &c., of £4,359 built this to £82,457, and after providing London expenses, discount, income-tax, depreciation, and £17,181 or £5,140 more as commissions to Sumatra staff, the nett revenue is £56,292 compared with £38,757. Add £10,978 brought in, and the sum for disposal is £67,270, from which the preference dividend takes the trifling sum of £1,911. Already an interim dividend and bonus of 5 per cent. each have been paid on the ordinary shares, and the directors now propose to pay a final dividend of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 10 per cent., making 25 per cent. in all, or 15 per cent. in excess of the previous year. We believe this to be the largest dividend ever paid. On the previous occasion when profits were exceptionally generous, the directors paid 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and placed £27,000 to reserve, but in view of the exceptionally powerful financial position already built up they evidently think it unnecessary to further add to the savings at the present juncture. And it is hard to disagree with them. General reserve amounts to £100,000 apart from the fund for depreciation on leases of property of £119,000, and as the company has cash on deposit to the amount of £127,000 it must be conceded that these fine accumulations are kept separate from the business. Other cash balances come to £8,085, and it is of no consequence whatever that debtors are only £11,094 against floating liabilities of £44,449, because the expenditure on the crops of 1905 and 1906, a large part of which will doubtless soon be realised, amounts to £80,725. Leasehold property in Sumatra is valued at £170,423, a wonderfully modest figure, and the buildings, stores, cattle, light railway, &c., are considered worth £36,638. The 1905 crop from 1,283 fields about to be shipped home amounts to 13,427 piculs, or 1,678,375 half kilos, and the latest advices from the estates concerning the 1906 crop, which is being cultivated on 1,275 fields, are satisfactory. Needless almost to say, the directors are not losing sight of the possibilities connected with the cultivation of rubber, and announce that a portion of the property unsuitable for the cultivation of tobacco is being planted with rubber trees. The plantation will extend to some 400 acres, and will contain about 90,000 trees. Prospects, therefore, seem excellent all round, and the recent considerable advance in the price of the shares seems to have a good deal of justification.

COOPER, COOPER, AND JOHNSON, LIMITED.

The annual report of this unfortunate business made up to June 30 last is of some interest because its issue follows closely upon the consideration of Sir Christopher Furness's proposals for the re-organisation of the company's finances. That reconstruction is absolutely necessary if the company is ever again to become a really profitable undertaking is beyond all question, and we think share and debenture-holders unwise to pay much attention to the opposition of Mr. Nathaniel Spens. To begin with there is a deficiency account of £161,032 to be wiped away, and the company is groaning beneath a burden of debt which threatens to break it down unless the strain can be very quickly removed. On debentures the company owes about £240,000, all of which would be paid off at certain percentages under the scheme, and on loans £43,393 or £273,000 in all, a crushing weight which is squeezing the life out of the company. In addition, there is the share capital of £323,590, and against liabilities under all heads aggregating £616,770 the assets, even if balance-sheet figures could be realised, are not worth more than £455,738. These figures are surely an unanswerable argument in favour of re-organisation at the earliest possible moment. Outturn of tea during the twelve months was 2,500,904 lbs. against 2,329,458, the average cost being a trifle less at 4.70d. per lb., while the selling price was only 6.34d. against 6.75d. The yield of cocoa was good, but selling prices were also slightly lower and the company can produce a profit of no more than £16,245. This provides debenture interest, interest on loans and advances, and general expenses, with a balance over of £316, of which £95 is carried to the reserve and £221 is applicable to repayment of agents' loan. Prospects for the current year seem fairly encouraging, the production of tea showing an increase of about 70,000 lbs. over the corresponding period. Cocoa promises well, and the cultivation of rubber is not by any means being neglected.

FORE STREET WAREHOUSE.

In a sense this company had a better experience during the year to December 19 last than in the previous twelve months, but the directors have lately grown wiser, and the return to the shareholders is very much less. In 1904 it may be remembered the directors paid as interim dividend a great deal more than the profits of the entire year proved to be when the accounts were made up, and in order that shareholders should not be disappointed in a final dividend it was necessary to take £7,000 from reserve to provide this and make up the difference between dividends and profits. That kind of thing could not, of course, be allowed to happen again, and the interim distribution on account of the period under review was restricted to 2s. per share. A further return at the same rate is now proposed, making 4s. for the year, or 3s. less, although the profits come out £2,508 larger at £6,274. Sum carried forward is £384 against £110 brought in. The balance-sheet does not strike one as indicating a very strong position, but there is apparently no goodwill to weaken the company, and the freehold and leasehold premises may not appear extravagantly valued at £151,172, exclusive of furniture and fixtures entered at a further sum of £9,908. Total trade and other liabilities come to £116,685, but

£248,332 is due by customers alone, bills receivable amount to £4,373, cash is £8,706, and the stock of goods is valued at £160,690. Reserve fund remains at the slender figure of £17,000.

MINING RETURNS.

Abbotiakoon Block 1.—Treated, 5,140 tons, 2,751 ozs. Abosso.—Crushing 4,074 tons (of 2,000 lbs.), 2,521 ozs.; cyanide 3,329 tons (of 2,000 lbs.) of tailings, 954 ozs.; total production, 3,475 ozs.

Akrokerrri (Ashanti).—Crushed 1,670 tons, 1,760 ozs. amalgamation; 1,000 tons of sands, 100 ozs.; total, 1,860 ozs.

Alaska Mexican.—Crushed, 19,543 tons; value, \$31,659; saved, 353 tons sulphurets; value, \$26,748.

Alaska Treadwell.—Crushed, 81,760 tons; value, \$83,668; saved, 1,630 tons sulphurets; value, \$87,905.

Alaska United.—Crushed, 19,670 tons; value, \$29,503; saved, 319 tons sulphurets; value \$11,255.

Angelo.—Tons milled, 13,625; ozs., 4,332; tons of sands, 9,802; ozs., 3,268; tons of slimes, 2,408; ozs., 365; total, 7,965 ozs.

Ankobra (Taquah and Abosso).—Total production, 219 ozs.

Anterior (Matabele).—Crushed, 1,200 tons, 815 ozs.; cyanide, 644 tons, 170 ozs.

Associated Gold of W.A.—Milled, 7,590 tons; treated, 3,343 tons of slimes; yield, £19,920.

Ayrshire Gold.—2,055 ozs. from 10,008 tons crushed; 1,008 ozs. from 6,688 tons cyanided.

Barrett.—433 ozs., valued at £1,750.

Bibiani.—Crushed 2,502 tons, 1,768 ozs.; 3,240 tons of tailings, £3,282.

Bonanza.—Crushed, 8,600 tons, 2,694 ozs.; cyanide and slimes, 8,828 tons, 1,781 ozs.; total, 4,475 ozs.

Briseis Tin.—Shipped, 21 tons of tin, including four tons belonging to New Brothers Home No. 1.

Broken Hill Proprietary Block 10.—10,692 tons, producing 1,564 tons concentrates, containing 969 tons 14 cwt. lead and 50,048 ozs. silver.

Broomassie.—Crushed 1,117 tons, 1,525 ozs., and 2 2-5 tons of concentrates, value £35 15s. per ton.

Burma Ruby.—£43,000 loads washed, producing rubies value Rs. 143,000; royalties, Rs. 17,000.

Burbanks Birthday.—Tons crushed, 2,218; ozs., 446; tons cyanided, 1,413; ozs., 52.

Cape Copper.—Ookiep—1,009 tons, of 15 per cent., equal to 151 tons fine copper. Nababeep—3,732 tons of 4.3 per cent., equal to 160 tons fine copper.

Cerro Muriano have sold 147 tons of copper ore, realising £1,351 15s. 8d.

Chillagoe.—2,547 tons copper ore, producing 141 tons copper matte, containing 111 tons copper and 11,161 ozs. silver.

Chinese Engineering.—Output of coal, 20,000 tons; sales, 18,000 tons; consumption, 1,450 tons.

City and Suburban.—Ozs., 9,549; tons crushed, 24,700.

Commonwealth Jumbo.—Crushed 375 tons, 174 ozs.

Consolidated Main Reef.—Crushed 17,755 tons, 6,273 ozs.

Copiapo.—Dulcinea Mine 620 tons copper ores, averaging 12 per cent.

Coronation Colliery.—Output, 14,000 tons.

Crown Deep.—Tons crushed, 30,022, 6,893 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates, 20,800, 3,982 ozs.; tons of slimes, 8,199, 585 ozs.; total, 11,460 ozs.

Crown Reef.—Crushed, 21,155 tons, 6,476 ozs.; from sands and concentrates, 3,378 ozs.; from slimes, 1,280 ozs.; from dump process, 348 ozs.; total, 11,482 ozs.

Day Dawn P.C. Gold.—148 tons, 127 ozs.

Driefontein Consolidated.—Tons milled, 22,429; ozs., 4,909; tons of sands, 16,738; ozs., 3,238; tons of slimes, 6,111; ozs., 672; total, 8,819 ozs.

Durban Roodepoort.—Milled, 10,625 tons, 3,362 ozs.; tailings, 7,725 tons, 1,064 ozs.; total, 4,426 ozs.

Durban Roodepoort Deep.—Tons crushed, 10,050, 2,439 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates, 6,940, 1,402 ozs.; tons of slimes, 2,740, 256 ozs.; total, 4,097 ozs.

Durham Prospect.—New Prospect ore, 687 tons crushed; rubble, 235 tons crushed, 268 ozs.

Eaglehawk Consolidated.—189 ozs. from cyanide.

East Gwanda.—East Gwanda crushed 4,425 tons, 1,131 ozs.; concentrates, 124 tons, 309 ozs. Geelong—Tributed, 462 ozs. West Nicholson—Cyanide, 122 ozs.; total, 2,024 ozs.

Elandslaagte Gold.—Milled, 2,300 tons; cyanided, 2,000 tons; total, 442 ozs.

Ferreira.—Crushed, 20,950 tons, 7,880 ozs.; concentrates, 1,120 tons, 654 ozs.; sand, 13,160 tons, 2,774 ozs.; slime, 6,327 tons, 899 ozs.; from dump, 136 ozs.; total, 12,343 ozs.

Ferreira Deep.—Tons crushed, 19,104, 8,112 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates, 13,000, 3,049 ozs.; tons of slimes, 5,869, 620 ozs.; total, 11,781 ozs.

Forest Creek (Victoria).—163 ozs.; 530 tons; copper plates, 155 ozs.; and concentrates, £1,300.

French Rand.—Tons crushed, 17,300, 3,432 ozs.; tons tailings, 17,578, 2,467 ozs.; total, 5,899 ozs.

Goldenhuis Deep.—Tons crushed, 23,440, 5,719 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates, 16,105, 3,598 ozs.; tons of slimes, 7,233, 656 ozs.; total, 9,973 ozs.

Goldenhuis Estate.—Crushed, 17,150 tons, 4,367 ozs.; from tailings, 2,204 ozs.; from slimes, 729 ozs.; total, 7,300 ozs.

Glen Deep.—Tons crushed, 15,720, 3,425 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates, 9,480, 1,975 ozs.; tons of slimes, 5,699, 436 ozs.; total, 5,836 ozs.

Globe and Phoenix.—Crushed, 6,410 tons, 3,525 ozs.; cyanide, tons, 3,800, 520 ozs.; total, 4,045 ozs.

Glynn's Lydenburg.—Crushed 2,100 tons, 568 ozs.; cyanide, 1,470 tons, 562 ozs.; slimes, 630 tons, 221 ozs.; total, 1,351 ozs.

Golden Horseshoe.—Treated, 20,106 tons, 13,564 ozs.

Great Boulder Perseverance.—Treated, 13,504 tons for 7,926 ozs. fine gold and 1,047 ozs. fine silver; tailings and slimes—treated, 633 tons for 226 ozs. fine gold and 55 ozs. fine silver; total, 8,152 ozs. fine gold, 1,102 ozs. fine silver.

Great Boulder Proprietary.—12,186 tons, 13,510 ozs.; tailings (old) 2,539 tons, 625 ozs.; total, 14,135 ozs.

Great Fingall Consolidated.—19,521 short tons, equal to 17s. per ton; output, 11,790 ozs.

Hainault.—Crushed 4,511 tons, 1,724 ozs.

Hannan's Reward and Mount Charlotte.—Tons crushed 393, 354 ozs.

Hannan's Main Reef.—Mined 549 tons, crushed 810 tons, 269 ozs.

Henry Nourse (in Liquidation).—Tons, 11,120, 3,617 ozs.; tons sands and concentrates, 7,580, 1,143 ozs.; slimes, 3,219 tons, 306 ozs.; dumps, 119 ozs.; total, 5,185 ozs.

Ida H. Gold.—1,300 tons crushed, 1,027 ozs.

Ivanhoe.—16,610 tons crushed, 3,244 ozs.; 7,990 tons of sands, 2,136 ozs.; 7,480 tons of slimes, 3,043 ozs.; 1,140 tons of concentrates, 2,283 ozs.; total, 10,706 ozs.

Johannesburg Consolidated Investment.—New Primrose: 7,279 ozs., 15,631 tons. Glencairn Main Reef: 3,986 ozs. New Rietfontein: 4,526 ozs., 8,782 tons. Ginsberg: 3,145 ozs., 7,708 tons. Consolidated Langlaagte: 5,634 ozs., 15,950 tons. New Unified Main Reef: 2,670 ozs., 8,875 tons. Buffelsdoorn: 538 ozs. from 2,674 tons slimes.

Jubilee Gold.—1,236 ozs. from 5,461 tons crushed; cyanide, 727 ozs. from 3,993 tons.

Jumpers.—Crushed, 11,756 tons, 3,015 ozs.; from concentrates, 269 ozs.; tailings, 1,237 ozs.; total, 4,521 ozs.

Jumpers Deep.—Tons crushed, 15,723, 3,234 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates, 10,720, 2,266 ozs.; tons of slimes, 4,779, 376 ozs.; total, 5,876 ozs.

Kalgurli.—Treated, 9,171 tons, 6,642 ozs.

Kelantan Gold Dredging Company (No. 1).—Total, 180 ozs. gold.

Killarney Hibernia Gold.—Crushed, 3,400 tons, 1,363 ozs.

Knights Deep.—Tons, 22,373, 7,702 ozs.

Komata Reefs.—Crushed, 1,300 tons, £2,650.

Lake View Consols.—10,098 tons, 3,169 ozs.; 3,120 tons old tailings, 563 ozs.; total, 3,732 ozs.

Lancaster Gold.—Crushed, 13,700 tons, 2,929 ozs.; cyanide, 9,474 tons, 1,516 ozs.

Lancaster West Gold.—Crushed, 6,507 tons, 1,605 ozs.; cyanide, 4,991 tons, 705 ozs.; total, 2,310 tons.

Langlaagte Deep.—Tons crushed, 19,355, 4,402 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates, 14,118, 2,096 ozs.; tons of slimes, 4,956, 268 ozs.; total, 6,766 ozs.

Langlaagte Estate.—Crushed, 27,288 tons, 5,144 ozs.; concentrates (cyanide), 545 tons, 724 ozs.; tailings (cyanide), 16,720 tons, 1,834 ozs.; total, 7,702 ozs.

Le Roi Mining.—6,925 tons, containing 2,772 ozs. gold, 5,300 ozs. silver, 205,700 lbs. copper.

Maryborough Leviathan.—Crushed 392 tons, 121 ozs.

May Consolidated.—Crushed, 14,010 tons, 3,695 ozs.; cyanide, 9,500 tons, 1,993 ozs.; slimes, 3,820 tons, 273 ozs.; total, 5,961 ozs.

Merton's Reward.—Crushed, 2,362 tons, 619 ozs.; 1,212 tons of sands, 162 ozs.; 1,380 tons of slimes, 191 ozs.; total, 972 ozs.

Meyer and Charlton.—3,688 ozs. from 11,011 tons crushed; 1,118 ozs. from cyanide; total, 4,806 ozs.

Morven Rhodesia.—Crushed, 1,015 tons, 700 ozs.

Mount Boppy.—5,000 tons, 1,287 ozs.; cyanide, 3,068 tons, 1,089 ozs.; slimes, 1,570 tons, 606 ozs.; concentrates, tonnage, 20, 150 ozs.; total, 3,132 ozs.

Mount Lyell.—31,223 tons treated. In addition 2,040 tons of purchased ore and metal-bearing fluxes; converters produced 753 tons of blister copper, containing copper 744 tons, silver 56,686 ozs., gold 2,102 ozs.

Mount Morgan (Queensland).—Tons chlorinated, 19,846, 9,875 ozs.

Mount Zeehan (Tasmania) Silver-Lead.—380 tons silver-lead ore, containing 200 tons lead and 30,000 ozs. silver.

New Comet Gold.—Tons milled, 15,360, 3,458 ozs.; tons of sands, 9,858, 2,847 ozs.; total, 6,305 ozs.

New Goch.—1,449 ozs. from 15,430 tons crushed; 3,517 ozs. from cyanide; total, 4,966 ozs.

New Kleinfontein.—Tons milled, 26,810, 6,351 ozs.; tons of sands, 18,908, 2,488 ozs.; total, 8,839 ozs.

New Modderfontein.—Crushed, 9,770 tons, 3,637 ozs.

New Rhodesia.—Crushed, 575 tons, 297 ozs.

New Zealand Crown.—Crushed, 1,502 tons, £2,126.

Nigel.—Ozs., 3,456; tons crushed, 6,260.

Nigel Deep.—Tons, 3,009, 1,041 ozs.

North Broken Hill.—1,550 tons, producing 300 tons concentrates, containing 208 tons 10 cwt. lead and 5,310 ozs. silver.

North Randfontein.—Ore crushed, 15,814 tons, 3,369 ozs.; concentrates (cyanide), 1,410 tons, 538 ozs.; tailings (cyanide), 8,695 tons, 1,820 ozs.; slimes, 4,542 tons, 544 ozs.; total, 6,271 ozs.

North White Feather.—Mill crushed, 1,580 tons, 867 ozs.; cyanide, 1,518 tons, 179 ozs.; total, 1,046 ozs.
Nourse (formerly Nourse Deep).—Tons crushed, 14,610, 3,908 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates by cyanide, 9,978, 2,279 ozs.; tons slimes, 4,189, 379 ozs.; total, 6,566 ozs.
Oroya-Brownhill.—Crushed 10,534 tons, 12,804 ozs.

Penhalonga Proprietary.—Crushed 4,850 tons, 579 ozs.; 84 tons of concentrates, 412 ozs.
Porges Randfontein.—Ore crushed, 13,729 tons, 3,732 ozs.; concentrates (cyanide), 1,122 tons, 488 ozs.; tailings (cyanide), 8,316 tons, 1,455 ozs.; slimes, 3,612 tons, 390 ozs.; total, 6,065 ozs.

Princess Estate.—Crushed, 5,551 tons, 1,844 ozs.; cyanide, 4,314 tons, 794 ozs.; total, 2,638 ozs.

Rhodesia Consolidated.—Nelly: 1,575 tons crushed, 652 ozs.; 1,024 tons by cyanide, 305 ozs. Sabi: 594 tons crushed, 131 ozs.; 449 tons by cyanide, 228 ozs.; total, 1,316 ozs.

Rice Hamilton Exploration.—Sabiwa: Crushed, 2,850 tons, 596 ozs.; cyanide, 1,400 tons, 217 ozs.

Robinson Gold.—Crushed, 28,500 tons, 11,583 ozs.; tailings, 4,953 ozs.; concentrates, 855 ozs.; slimes, 1,578 ozs.; total, 18,909 ozs.

Robinson Central Deep.—Tons crushed, 14,780, 5,791 ozs.; tons sands and concentrates, 10,800, 3,139 ozs.; tons slimes, 3,219, 361 ozs.; total, 9,291 ozs.

Robinson Deep.—Tons, 20,545; ozs., 14,877.

Robinson Randfontein.—Ore crushed, 15,100 tons, 3,497 ozs.; concentrates, cyanide, 1,360 tons of 2,000 lbs, 449 ozs. tailings, cyanide, 8,190 tons, 1,326 ozs.; slimes, 5,301 tons, 422 ozs.; total, 5,694 ozs.

Roodpoort Central Deep.—Crushed 7,730 tons, 2,110 ozs.; cyanide, 5,485 tons, 960 ozs.; total, 3,070 ozs.

Roodpoort United.—2,820 ozs. from 9,640 tons crushed, 1,379 ozs. from cyanide; total 4,199 ozs.

Rose Deep.—Tons crushed, 25,600, 5,220 ozs.; tons sands and concentrates, 16,812, 2,814 ozs.; tons slimes, 8,857, 775 ozs.; total, 8,809 ozs.

Salisbury.—1,980 ozs.; tons crushed, 5,350.
St. David's.—Tons crushed, 1,162, 162 ozs.

Selukwe.—Crushed, 6,530 tons, 1,753 ozs.; cyanide, 4,698 tons, 631 ozs.; total, 2,384 ozs.

Sheba.—2,316 ozs.

Simmer and Jack East.—Tons, 16,578; ozs., 5,498.

Simmer and Jack Proprietary.—Tons, 53,000; ozs., 20,104.

Sons of Gwalia.—5,307 ozs.; value, £22,498.

South Kalgurli Gold.—Crushed, 7,380 tons, 3,350 ozs.

South Randfontein.—Ore crushed, 14,707 tons, 3,549 ozs.; concentrates, cyanide, 1,470 tons, 455 ozs.; tailings, cyanide, 8,180 tons of 2,000 lbs., 1,275 ozs.; slimes, 4,760 tons of 2,000 lbs., 547 ozs.; total, 5,826 ozs.

Sulphide Corporation.—Central, 18,598 tons milled, producing 3,308 tons of lead concentrates, also 3,913 tons of middlings and 7,298 tons tailings treated, producing 1,280 and 2,355 tons of zinc concentrates. Cockle Creek—yield, 2,174 tons of lead, containing 169,572 ozs. of silver and 11,630 ozs. of gold; 303 tons of zinc concentrates produced 82 tons of spelter.

Talisman Consolidated.—Tons, 3,200; value, £13,673.

Taquah and Abosso.—600 tons, 413 ozs.; 500 tons of old tailings, 115 ozs; total, 528 ozs.

Theta Gold.—Crushed, 1,260 tons, 737 ozs.; 627 tons by cyanide, 140 ozs.

Tomboy.—Crushed, 9,200 tons; value, \$49,500; concentrates shipped, 465 tons; value, \$32,500.

Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Colliery.—Output, 31,000 tons.

Treasury.—Crushed, 7,330 tons, 2,354 ozs.

Tyee Copper.—Smelted, Tyee ore, 2,036 tons; Customs ore, 223 tons; total, 2,259 tons. Matte produced, 234 tons; gross value (copper, silver, and gold), \$33,460.

Um Rus.—623 tons crushed, 410 ozs. produced; value, £1,421.

Van Ryn Gold.—Crushed, 22,040 tons, 5,451 ozs.; cyanide, 22,800 tons of tailings, 2,606 ozs.

Victoria Proprietary (1903).—236 ozs. from 470 tons crushed.

Village Deep.—Tons crushed, 18,363, 3,644 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates, 14,850, 2,245 ozs.; tons of slimes, 5,055, 456 ozs.; total, 6,345 ozs.

Village Main Reef.—Crushed, 25,525 tons, 6,500 ozs.; 18,005 tons of sands and concentrates, 2,594 ozs.; slimes, 6,654 tons, 460 ozs.; total, 9,554 ozs.

Vivien Gold.—1,381 tons milled, 346 ozs.; 1,080 tons tailings, 100 ozs.; 301 tons current slimes, 24 ozs.

Vogelstruis Estates.—Milled, 5,410 tons, 1,549 ozs.; tailings, 3,550 tons, 373 ozs.

Waihi Gold.—18,148 tons; value, £40,930.

Wanderer (Selukwe).—Cyanide, 13,020 tons, 2,343 ozs.

Wemmer.—Crushed, 8,800 tons, 2,323 ozs.; 5,720 tons sands, 602 ozs.; 2,160 tons slimes, 133 ozs.; 206 tons concentrates caught, average assay value, 80 dwts.; total, 3,883 ozs.

West Rand Central Gold.—Crushed 2,575 tons, 531 ozs. bullion; 2,150 tons by cyanide, 571 ozs.

Willoughby's Consolidated.—Crushed 1,402 tons, 538 ozs.

Windsor.—Crushed 4,950 tons, 691 ozs.; Cyanide, 4,095 tons, 767 ozs.; total, 1,458 ozs.

Witwatersrand Deep.—Crushed 26,010 tons, 7,188 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 26,153 tons, 3,234 ozs.; total, 10,422 ozs.

Witwatersrand Gold.—9,497 ozs., 28,750 tons treated.

Worcester Exploration.—498 ozs.

Zeehan-Montana.—Output, 345 tons of silver-lead ore, containing 200 tons of lead and 25,000 ozs. of silver.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

La Guaira and Caracas.—Interim at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, payable 20th inst.

Midland Great Western of Ireland.—Three per cent. per annum on the Consolidated Stock for the half-year ended Dec. 31, placing £2,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £13,500.

North and South-Western Junction.—At the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £73.

BANKS.

Bank of Liverpool.—Half-yearly, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum to Dec. 31.

Birmingham District and Counties.—For the past half-year at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, placing £2,500 to officers' superannuation fund, and carrying forward £26,624.

Bradford.—3s. 6d. per share, making 7s. per share for the year, being at the rate of 11½ per cent., carrying forward £4,700.

Bradford Old.—Nine per cent. per annum, carrying forward £6,687.

Halifax Commercial.—Interim, at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Halifax Joint Stock.—Twelve and a-half per cent. for the year.

Hongkong and Shanghai.—£1 15s., and a bonus of £1 per share for the half-year to Dec. 31, adding \$1,000,000 to reserve, carrying forward \$1,700,000.

London Trading.—For the past half-year at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Metropolitan (of England and Wales).—For the past half-year at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, transferring £2,262 to bank premises redemption fund, £2,500 to officers' pension fund, writing £5,000 off bank premises account, and carrying forward £20,861.

National Provincial of England.—Further of 9 per cent., making 17 per cent. for the past year, writing £10,000 off bank premises, placing £15,000 to the Knaresborough and Claro Bank purchase account, and carrying forward £90,216.

Parr's.—For the past half-year at the rate of 19 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 1 per cent., placing £10,000 to bank premises account and £5,000 to officers' pension and provident fund, carrying forward £100,953.

Wilts and Dorset.—20s. per share.

INSURANCE.

London and Provincial Marine and General.—Five per cent., making 10 per cent. for 1905.

Merchants' Marine.—Interim of 1s. 6d. per share, making 6 per cent. for the year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A. and S. Henry and Co.—On the ordinary shares at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Nov. 30, making 7 per cent. for the year, placing £20,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £36,970.

Assets Realisation.—Final on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Dec. 31 at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, making 6 per cent. for the year.

Belgravia Dairy.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Nov.

Bristol Brewery, Georges, and Company.—At the rate of 15 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31, making 15 per cent. for the year.

Debenture Corp.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the six months ended Dec. 31, making 6 per cent. for the year.

Debenture Corporation Founders' Share.—At the rate of 1½ per cent. for 1905.

Distillers.—Interim for the current year at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, payable Feb. 1.

Globe Telegraph and Trust.—Interim of 2s. per share on the ordinary shares.

Ivanhoe Gold.—Third quarterly of 5s. per share, making 15 per cent. for 1905.

Lancashire and Yorkshire Wagon.—Interim of 6s. per share.

Liebig's Extract of Meat.—Interim of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, being 10s. per share, payable Feb. 15.

Liverpool Grain Storage and Transit.—Final of 3 per cent., making 5 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31.

Lomagunda Development.—Interim of 10 per cent., payable Jan. 13.

Lovell and Christmas.—Interim for the six months ended Dec. 31 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

Main Colliery.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on both preference and ordinary shares for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

New Tivoli.—Interim at the rate of £8 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Peel River Land and Mineral.—Final of 3 per cent. and a bonus of 1 per cent., making 6 per cent., and bonus of 1 per cent. for the year.

Ramsbottom Paper Mill.—3s. per share, making 10 per cent. for the past year.

Staffordshire Financial.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Messrs. Richardson and Glover, of 6A, Austin Friars, E.C., announce that they have taken into partnership Mr. Douglas Howard Gwyther, who has been associated with them for some years.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Business has been of only moderate dimensions throughout the week. Values hardened occasionally under the influence of good American advices, and reduced U.K. shipments had some effect in steadying them early in the week, when Dornbusch's estimates put the quantities on passage at 1,965,000 qrs. against 2,010,000, but otherwise markets have been dull and rather sluggish. Farmers' deliveries for the week were 30,065 qrs., averaging 28s. 4d., and imports were 345,613 qrs. against 456,073 in the same week last year. American markets receded after the first opening owing to large world's shipments, especially from Russia, but recovered later on bad news of weather from Argentine and India, and except for a slight set-back due to increased visible supply figures on Monday—45,226,000 bushels against 42,951,000 last week—and a weakness in interior markets, have kept fairly steady all the week. Bradstreet's estimates of the quantities in sight east of the Rockies showed a smaller increase than was expected, 71,634,000 bushels against 69,867,000 last week.

WOOL.—The irregularities and uncertainty that have characterised markets of late seem to be gradually disappearing. On Monday topmakers raised their quotations and have since stuck firmly to their demands, without apparently lessening the desire of buyers to do business. In view of the next London sales on Tuesday, 16th inst., some efforts are being made to place contracts at lower prices, but spinners are not taking any such terms, and at present at any rate there is little reason to anticipate any important decline in values. Manufacturers also showed a marked improvement, and orders for the spring are increasing now not only in numbers, but in size, foreign and colonial orders on the whole proving very satisfactory.

LINEN.—This is generally supposed to be the dulllest season of the year, but for once it cannot be considered so in this trade at any rate. The markets have recommenced after the Christmas break with unabated vigour, and the advancing prices do not apparently check demand in any direction. In yarns spinners are so well booked ahead that they are withdrawing their lists, and decline for the present to take any orders, no matter at what quotations. Ordinary line wefts are now 4s. 7½d. compared with 4s. 6d. a fortnight ago, and in finer counts the advance has been during that time from 1½d. to 3d. per bundle. Manufacturers' reports on brown linens, &c., are all that could be hoped for. Unions, housekeeping goods, handkerchiefs, all keep up to the average of the past few weeks, and prospective orders promise well. Bleached and finished goods on home account have been quiet because of half-yearly stocktaking, but foreign orders are making steady improvement.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The market during the week under review has been generally firm with a slight tendency for prices to harden. The quotation in Liverpool for American cotton (middling) on the spot on Monday was 6.07. An advance of 6 points was registered on Tuesday, and a reduction of 3 points on Wednesday. The rate on Thursday was advanced 4 points, bringing the quotation to 6.14. The United States Census Bureau has just issued a report giving the number of bales ginned up to the 1st inst. as 9,721,000. These figures have not had much effect on our market here. It is generally believed that there will be sufficient cotton to go round for all concerned. Mr. Henry Neill still sticks to his estimate for the American crop of 11,500,000 bales. In piece goods for export an encouraging amount of inquiry has been in the market. Calcutta buyers have shown a fair amount of activity, and business has also been arranged for Bombay and Madras. Most orders are for low stuff. The better-class goods have also been dealt in. The outlook for China is not promising, and new orders to make are scarce. The stocks of piece goods in Shanghai are very heavy. The minor outlets are generally healthy, and numerous small transactions have been arranged for the Levant and Egypt, and also the outlets in South America. Some manufacturers are better engaged than a few weeks ago, and quotations are firmly held. Home trade American yarns have been discouraging in point of sales to spinners. The demand from users has only run on small lines. The margin, say, for 36's twist is decidedly narrow. Ring yarn is abundant in supply, and users have not much difficulty in getting coarse weft quickly. Export bundles have been in some inquiry, but the transactions of the week have not been important. A little business has been done in doubled 42's for Japan, but India is quiet. Crops for the Continent have not been very active. Egyptian yarns as spun in the Bolton district are firmly held by producers, but the amount of business coming round is not of an extensive character.

The statistical bureau in its census report gave the number of bales ginned up to January 1 at 9,721,773 bales. The market immediately became bullish; great excitement prevailed, and prices rushed upwards. Shorts covered hurriedly. Subsequently the market became steadier, and prices gradually gave way. Traders evinced some nervousness regarding the Southern Cotton Growers' Convention, but selling prevailed. Later on liquidation became more general, and the market closed quiet. Closing prices are:—January-February, 5.93d.; February-March, 5.96d.; March-April, 5.98d.; April-May, 6.01d.; May-June, 6.04d.; June-July, 6.06d.; July-August, 6.07d.; August-September, 5.99d.; September-October, 5.75d.; October-November, 5.68d.; November-December, 5.65d.

COAL.—The improvement in trade may now be looked upon as fairly well established, and except in the house varieties, which keep dull with the mild weather, there is general activity and stiffening prices. Business at Cardiff in Welsh steams is now being done at 13s. 9d. to 14s., and Monmouth semi-

bituminous is quoted at 12s. 9d. to 13s. for best. Swansea figures are slightly lower, but they also are better than the past few weeks, and the Harbour returns for that port during 1905 are encouraging, as they show an increase over 1904 in both exports and imports. The figures, which we take from the *Engineer*, are as follows:—Exports, 1905, 3,625,747 tons against 3,458,732 in 1904; imports, 859,669 tons in 1905, 855,208 in 1904. The Hull Chamber of Commerce returns for the year also show a pleasing increase over 1904, 3,831,024 tons being sent to that port, chiefly from South Yorkshire, the largest quantity since 1900 and greater by 278,992 tons than in 1904.

COPPER.—The market has suddenly become very quiet, and very few warrants have changed hands throughout the week. Speculative business was almost at a standstill, and the demand from consumers seems to be affected by the electoral campaign. Nevertheless prices have been pretty strongly held, any break in quotations being prevented by the strong advices from America and the reserved attitude of sellers. Towards the end the tendency became a little dull and irregular, but the close is only a trifle worse at 79½ for cash and 78½ three months.

TIN.—Great activity has again characterised the market for tin, owing largely to big covering purchases by those who sold short last week. Eastern advices were also very strong, the sharp rise in exchange being a helpful influence, and although later in the week there was a slight reaction the improvement compared with last Friday is substantial, final figures being 168 spot and 168½ for three months.

IRON AND STEEL.—Business continues brisk throughout the leading centres. Quarter-day inquiries have been very animated, and marked bar makers in the Midlands have advanced their prices by 10s. per ton. It was said that this was rendered necessary by the higher cost of pig-iron and the large amount of new business coming in. Common bar makers have abundance of orders on hand, and are considering the advisability of raising their prices. The future is regarded with considerable confidence in most branches, orders coming into the second quarter in a most encouraging way. In Lancashire and the North of England generally the same conditions prevail. A steady business is done in the hematite trade, with every likelihood of its continuance. Manufacturers are well employed and are easily disposing of their product. In fact, in some instances they are behindhand with their deliveries. This market has been further strengthened by reports of a renewed inquiry for new shipping and the actual placing of several orders.

TEA.—Messrs. Gow, Wilson, and Stanton's (Limited) report this week gives the figures of home consumption of tea during last year as 259 millions against 256½ millions in 1904, an increase due in a great measure to the reduction in the duty. But further reduction is still needed to bring the consumption per head up to that of 1901, when it reached 6.16 lb. against 5.99 lb. in both 1904 and 1905. This week's auctions in India were heavy, 45,766 packages, and the market eased somewhat under the strain. Broken between 8d. and 1s. dropped sometimes ¼d. or ½d. per lb., but Assams, on the other hand, advanced occasionally in the same proportion, and the average for the week on 38,946 packages sold was 7.23d. against 6.42d. a year ago. Ceylon auctions showed very little change, though also heavy, 32,607 packages being offered. Common teas went a little weaker but otherwise the average obtained was 7.49d. against 6.49d. last year. The Java sale, as usual, followed the line of the other markets, and the better grades of Broken sold a little easier. 3,000 packages were offered, among them being some good liquoring sorts, averaging 9½d. and 8½d. per lb.

SUGAR.—The market here has followed the tendency in America, where an advance of ½ cent, with an active demand, has been the feature. The principal cause of this improvement on the other side is to be found in the unfavourable weather recently prevailing in Cuba. This has arrested crop operations, and as United States refiners were working on small stocks, reckoning on the early arrival of new Cuban sugars, they found it necessary to cover their requirements by purchases of stored parcels at higher values. Better weather has now been cabled, and the tone has become quieter. There is still very little disposition manifested, as M. Czarnikow points out, to enter into any important speculative commitments here, operators being influenced by the continuous offerings of the next crop of beet, especially from Austria, at what can only be considered moderate prices. It goes without saying that the future of the market is dependent upon next sowings, about which nothing reliable can be known for some time to come. As already stated, the New York market is a little quieter. Landings in the three ports for the week were 6,000 tons and meltings 25,000 tons, reducing stocks to 162,000 tons.

LONDON AND GREENWICH RAILWAY COMPANY.

The issue of the half-yearly railway accounts commences very modestly with the publication of this small company's statement. It shows that the rent received from the South-Eastern Company for the six months to December 31 was the usual amount of £22,500, and as a slight drop in the transfer fees was made good by an increase in interest, &c., the total income comes to £22,570 compared with £22,563. General and law charges absorb £381, leaving £22,189, which is increased to £22,357 by the balance brought forward, so that after providing debenture and mortgage interest and adding £100 to reserve, sufficient is left to meet the preference dividend and make a distribution at the usual rate of £1 8s. 3d. per cent. on the ordinary stock, carrying forward £109.

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The Investors' Review.

Is it Indeed Revolution?

It is interesting to observe the attitude of the defeated leaders of the Protectionist party at the present time. Mr. Balfour is still the head of that party, in spite of the fact that he is for the present seatless, and he has been endeavouring to keep up the spirits of his routed followers by talking of the good time coming, when they will again get control of the spoils, and be able to make away with the earnings of the people unchecked. It is well to have hope, and "never" is a word which should never be used by the political prophet; yet we are inclined to think that should the present Government disappoint the swelling majority of electors who have sent men to support it in the House of Commons, the next reaction will not be towards antiquated Toryism, privilege, and the policy of dividing the spoils and making wars to divert people's attention while their pockets are being rifled. Much more likely is the reaction to be in the direction of peremptory revolutionary demands, such as the abolition of the House of Lords, the complete breaking down of privilege and monopoly in every form, including the disestablishment and disendowment of the State Church, the appropriation for popular use of ancient educational and corporate endowments hitherto grasped for the benefit of the well-to-do, and the throwing of the main burden of taxation on to the classes whose incomes are not the product of their own exertions. This seems to us a fair inference from the general character of the Liberal and Radical victories, and, above all, the Labour victories. Should labour be disappointed by the new Ministry, it will not revert to Toryism of the Cecil family party type, but turn towards Socialism of the German, and, to some extent, of the French type, increase the number of its representatives in the House of Commons, and proceed to overturn many things.

The Stock Exchange is already alarmed at this Socialistic outlook, as it takes the alliance of Liberalism and Labour to mean, and thereby displays its usual shortsighted perceptiveness. Its habits of business prevent the mass of its members from seeing an inch beyond the tip of their noses on any political question. If they were able to grasp the meaning of the great overturn now taking place in English political life, they would see that so far mere Socialism has not triumphed at the polls. What has triumphed has been the sturdy common-sense of the average British working man and working citizen, not beings in any appreciable degree sympathetic for Socialism, not more so than the average French Republican. The electorate has voted solidly and stolidly against the imposition of a Customs tariff upon food, knowing that this first step would mean the gradual destruction of the worker's independence, the reduction of his means of living, and of opportunities to rise in the world, because one step in Protection always leads to others until a nation's toilers lie helpless in the hands of the monopolising capitalists. He will press none the less for changes tending to emancipate him

and to give him a larger outlook on life. In the Prime Minister he has a loyal friend. All Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's speeches ring true. He said at Stirling that the policy of his Cabinet would be directed to social reforms, "not sham social reforms, but reforms which would go to the root of the evil; Radical reforms if they liked, and no mere tinkering and tampering with great questions." We have not the slightest doubt that he will do his utmost to fulfil this pledge, but should he be thwarted by a reactionary section of his followers, by the lukewarmness of some members of his Government, then it will not be to the Tories, let us repeat, that the disappointed multitude of the electorate will turn. They are much more likely to go to Mr. John Burns, whose triumphant return in Battersea, in spite of every insidious and corrupting influence brought against him, marks him out as the chosen and trusted leader of labour throughout the kingdom, and say to him, "You must overturn and clear the way for us."

The City has acted much as we feared towards Mr. Felix Schuster and his Liberal colleague, but we hardly expected the majority against them to be so overwhelming, and, as far as we can gather, it arose mainly from two causes; first, the corrupt livery company vote, to which we alluded last week, and secondly, to the funk of the Stock Exchange about Socialism. Many who had been inclined to vote for Mr. Schuster turned round frightened by the great sweep of Liberal triumphs, and voted the other way. This was to follow the traditional ostrich policy of the City, but good may result, and in ways it hardly expects. If, for example, this crushing defeat of the Free Trade candidates gives the necessary courage to Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's Ministry to refuse the Lord Mayor's dining invitation for November 9 next, a large stride will have been taken towards that necessary and urgent reform of the rotten and bloated Corporation of the City, and consequent release of its misspent wealth for public uses. If the desertion of Liberalism and Free Trade by what should be the centre of enlightenment at a critical time like the present strengthens the hands of the large number of new members of the House of Commons in tackling the abuses of City finance, good will come out of the defeat. We can fancy the members of the Stock Exchange pausing at this sentence, and commencing to fulminate in their usual manner against *THE INVESTORS' REVIEW*, but let them think again. Would it be to the benefit of the market as a whole and to the bulk of the members there, or to their disadvantage, were laws enacted tending to put a stop to the depredations of men of the Hooley and Whitaker Wright type? We select these names not because they have been the most successful amongst the depredators, but because their career rendered them the most notorious. Something will have to be done to protect the innocent public from the wiles of the disreputable company promoter of all grades, and that should be for the good of the market and of the community. Has the Stock Exchange as a body ever gained anything by the long career of successful imposture practised by the South African crowd? Has it not been robbed, its clients impoverished in all directions, and would it not be a good thing were the law relating to the initiation and promotion of public companies to be so strengthened as to materially curtail, if not to destroy altogether, the opportunities of the transient adventurer to plunder the community? The House of Commons may also tackle the bucket-shop nuisance, notwithstanding the fact that some bucket-shop keepers may have been returned at the poll, and if irresponsible gambling with loaded dice, such as is practised by these agencies, is put a stop to, surely the Stock Exchange will have cause to rejoice, and not to curse and swear and shake its head, as it is now doing.

Loud were the expressions of disgust in the crowded smoking-room of the National Liberal Club on Wednesday evening when the triumphant victories of the Chamberlainites at Birmingham were announced and

remarks the reverse of complimentary to that great centre of industry were bandied about. "What could you expect," some enthusiast exclaimed, "of a place that makes idols for the heathen six days a week and prays fervently in its churches and chapels on the seventh?" "Joe has given its manufacturers stupendous profits by his wars in the past few years," was another remark, "how could it be expected to desert him now?" This is unkind, and Birmingham hardly deserves such taunts. After all, and the blight notwithstanding, Liberalism has made progress there during the past ten years as everywhere else and there is a good side to the victories of Chamberlain. They show loyalty to their hero great enough to induce many a citizen to sacrifice his convictions. We believe that if Birmingham had polled last Saturday without knowing the overwhelming triumph of Free Trade in Manchester and Salford the poll given to the Opposition candidates would have been larger than it is. But even as they stand the figures are not so discouraging. All the eight constituencies, if we include Aston Manor as we should, were not polled at the last General Election, one, Edgbaston, has not been fought since 1885, but taking the latest previous dates for which figures are available and adding up the total votes of the eight constituencies at those dates and comparing them with Wednesday's returns, we find an increase of rather less than 24½ per cent. in the Chamberlainite vote, while the Liberal and Free Trade vote has gone up about 53½ per cent. The total poll of the Liberals for the latest dates available before this Election was rather less than 15,000, and on Wednesday it was 22,938, while the total poll of the Chamberlainite faction has gone up only from 41,345 to 51,658. There is progress here, and if Mr. Chamberlain is now treated with some of the wholesome neglect which the Liberal Press has so judiciously meted out to Horatio Bottomley during the present contest, his popularity in Birmingham will gradually disappear. It is thanks in no small measure to the zeal of the Liberal Press and its leading cartoonist, Mr. Carruthers Gould, that the popularity of Mr. Chamberlain has been spread abroad and carried to its present height in Birmingham. They have made the people of that city proud of their hero whom they regard as the greatest man in the Empire, not for anything he has done in the way of constructive legislation but for his unrivalled capacity as a wrecker of parties. Let him alone therefore; he never says anything very wise, he never speaks with consistency, shows no perception of ideals broad or high, is wholly regardless of principles, and only aims, like the good commercial traveller he is, to sell his latest notion at the best price he can get. We can well do without long reports of his harangues in the future. Leave him to Birmingham. And there is no fear whatever that the triumph of this man in his chosen city is going to constitute him leader of the Tory Party. The Tories would not have him at any price, for he has wrecked their party far more completely than he ever succeeded in wrecking the Liberal Party. He has destroyed it, swept it out of existence for the time being as a masterful or efficient force in British politics. And he has done this because it has been a party without leaders of conviction. As Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman said, "The late Ministry conducted the government of the country in a spirit of flippancy, levity, cynicism, and indifference to higher principle. Their treatment of politics was as if it were a game like bridge or football, a game in which the great object was to score against adversaries at any hazard and as if there was nothing more serious involved." That is an exact description of the methods indulged in during the Cecil régime, and acting thus Mr. Balfour and his colleagues made it easy for Mr. Chamberlain to destroy them and their party. Whoever leads that party in the future we may therefore be perfectly sure it will not be the autocrat of Birmingham.

No victory of the week has pleased us more than that of Mr. Berridge at Warwick and Leamington. The defeat of Mr. Alfred Lyttleton brings a feeling of satisfaction, of consolation, to every sincere well-wisher of

his country; for if Mr. Balfour and others of his colleagues played at politics as if they were playing a game of bridge, Mr. Alfred Lyttleton always seemed to his opponents to be a player whose methods were prone to descend to the level of an adept at the three-card trick. There was a lack of sincerity, an evidence of trickery, of mean resort to subterfuge in his handling of the great questions affecting the welfare of the white population of South Africa which excited contempt and indignation. We congratulate Mr. Berridge on defeating this man, and trust that henceforth Mr. Lyttleton will exercise his talents away from the sphere of politics, he and the renowned Mr. St. John Brodrick also among the outcasts, the shrill, strenuous mediocrity.

It is impossible for us to go through the list of triumphs or to note the rare defeats because that would be going wholly outside the province of THE INVESTORS' REVIEW which, in spite of the outcries of those who sometimes curse its frankness sticks to the economic and genuinely imperial side of politics and to the furtherance of urgent and practicable domestic reforms. But we cannot help congratulating the Lord Advocate on the increase of more than 200 per cent. in his majority in the Hawick boroughs. Sir Conan Doyle will now be free to write the romance of an election defeat and will doubtless be able to adorn it with proper ballads in the jingling, bravura style of which he is such a master, so making it worthy to consort with his merry flights in the field of the statistician. Also we are delighted to see that Sir Henry Cotton has triumphed in Nottingham, for he is one of the most consistent, self-sacrificing, and enlightened friends that our Indian dependency has. We hope he will be able to accomplish some portion at least of the good he seeks in the position of M.P. to effect.

And London has done well, has far more than redressed the Chamberlainite triumph in Birmingham. The East-end has not been misled by the outcry and false statistics about aliens. It has not been captured by the specious falsehoods regarding the increase of employment as a product of increased taxation, and it has spoken for the first time with something like a united civic voice. Henceforth London is going to have its affairs attended to. Quite a troop of the best Progressive members of its County Council have been returned at the head of the poll, and a great majority of its new representatives are of a good type.

So far as country polling has gone, it indicates that the rural districts are going to follow the examples of towns, and clinch the civic revolt of the down-borne. We say revolt because these rurals have evidently a definite object in turning against all old traditions, forsaking the lead of the farmer and the squire, turning their backs upon the parson, in order to assert themselves and to put in men of their own way of thinking. They want the deadly grip of feudalism to be taken off the land, and unless the affairs of the new Parliament are mismanaged to an extent greater even than those of the Parliament just gone, a catastrophe we see no ground whatever to look for, the elections soon to be concluded ought to mark the beginning of the resettlement of England and Scotland. But we hold this to be good for a country. Security for investments, to use the common market phrase, does not lie in binding a community down, but in giving it liberty. Adequate security for the wealth of a country is not to be found in barren and deserted fields, tumble-down villages rapidly being forsaken by their population, and the reversion of the cultivated land to a state of nature. True security comes from a land apportioned among and filled with industrious workers, and there is no reason, were the dead hand and the blight of privilege removed from the soil of this country, why the produce of its soil should not be quintupled on an average of years within less than a generation. It is the obstructives, the men who, from selfishness, always purblind, or, from force of habit, block the way, put barriers up, and raise false issues, who are the revolutionaries, not the men who press forward and seek to rise.

The Rout of the Antediluvians— and After.

We expected a rout of the party of privilege, reaction and interest-endowment, and it has come more completely than we anticipated. Remembering the powerful influence exercised by the Chesters-Thompson Brewery in Mr. Arthur Balfour's constituency, we were doubtful whether Mr. Horridge, obviously splendid though his fight was, could capture the seat, but it would appear that publicans are no longer so profoundly enamoured of the Tory party as they used to be before the brewers were doled at their expense, and at any rate brewery interests are now emphatically at a discount in North-East Manchester. So the ex-Prime Minister has gone under and will have time to meditate upon his past career, with profit to himself let us trust. In all directions the tide of popular indignation has risen and swept away members of the late Government and its more conspicuous supporters along with the indistinguishable mob of nonentities. It is such an upheaval of polling-booth wrath as in former days would have betokened approaching revolution, and really we cannot wonder. For nearly 20 years, with intervals brief as the sunshine of a winter's day, the forces of reaction have held power in this country, and for the last ten years predatory class interests have had a free hand with the results all now know—wars, increase of debt, class legislation of the most bare-faced and grasping character, enormous increases in the public burdens, and at the end once more a clamour for Protection, the inevitable outcome of decades of riotous extravagance.

It is well, and we are delighted at the proof the country has given of its true-hearted uncorrupted manhood. But we hope the constituencies who have given such emphatic expression to their detestation of plutocratic rule, of class speculation, are not now going to settle down and go to sleep. That is an unfortunate habit of the English people. They rise up in a great burst of anger and turn out the party that has displeased them and then go back to their studies of cricket averages, football goals, the odds on the race-course, or to discuss the triumphs of the golfer. Acting thus they are caught napping and in a little time find themselves again in the grasp of the reactionaries, again mulct of their savings, pinched in their expenditure, and the whole process has to be gone through again, after a more or less prolonged period of rioting and wantonness in public affairs. And the worst of it is the bulk of the newspaper Press nowadays encourages this kind of apathy. It serves up highly-spiced fictions for the daily consumption of the people, spreads over its pages the lures of sport and gambling, or when it takes to discussing public affairs indulges in chicane and falsehood to an extent that makes one marvel at times whether there is any political intelligence left in the minds of the people. If the masses are really determined to secure such changes in our land laws as will release the soil from the grasp of feudalism, such improvements in taxation as may equalise the burdens now laid most heavily upon those least able to carry them, the spirit displayed at these elections must be nurtured and kept alive. Clubs of earnest citizens ought to be organised in every constituency on different lines from the party clubs of the past. They should not be places where members can meet to drink and gamble, places of amusement leading to demoralisation, but centres of discussion and information and nothing else. Social clubs for the working classes in most of the great cities are, as a rule, little but centres of corruption, or become that after a few years. In Manchester alone these clubs formerly did infinite mischief to the citizens, helping to keep them in the hands of the reactionaries. All that must be done away with and a spirit of seriousness take its place. Citizens must be attentive to their responsibilities and duties at other times than on polling day or during the excitement of a fiercely-contested election under penalty of one day losing their liberties altogether.

As a distinguished member of the new administration remarked to us before the fight began, "the late Government has left us an awful job." For a time this "job" will be tackled with earnestness and zeal by the newly-elected members fresh from contact with the super-heated energy of their constituents, but unless these constituents diligently maintain their interest in public affairs and cultivate an intelligent comprehension of the bearings of the reforms desired, this zeal will gradually cool off with nothing great accomplished, and the permanent bureaucracy will, as always hitherto, reassert its power to weaken or nullify the efforts of reformers to bring about beneficial changes. Already we notice in some quarters a Treasury inspired disposition to deprecate the cry for reduction in the public expenditure, yet without this reduction the great victory now so triumphantly secured in all parts of the United Kingdom may end in partial barrenness—cruel disappointment. At the root of the whole mischief lies the enormous expansion in the national expenditure and to some degree in the local as well. Therefore the first duty of the new Government must be, and it is an imperative one, to systematically work for a restoration of the habit of economy in the management of public affairs. The new Chancellor of the Exchequer ought at once, when the House meets, to carry out Mr. Gibson Bowles's suggestion, and surround himself by a strong committee of the House to deal with the estimates. We can quite understand that it may be difficult in the coming fiscal year to effect one-half of the reforms and reductions required if the country is to be saved from an early recrudescence of the protectionist agitation and much other vexation. The late Government has doubtless done its best to tie the hands of its successors in home expenditure, as it has done in the matter of Chinese slave labour in South Africa. The new Government, therefore, will be powerless to stop at once the monstrous outlay upon the fleet, upon public works of various descriptions, mostly useless. It will also probably find itself comparatively powerless to reduce the monstrous waste upon the army, but it must make a beginning, and that beginning will be best made possible through a diligent and minute overhaul of every portion of the estimates by the most skilful committee the new House can furnish. If we had our way we should erect such a finance committee into a sessional institution the members of which should be highly paid for their services, so as to be able to give their close attention to the complicated masses of figures put before them. And we are perfectly certain that even without this an intelligent body of men, endowed with the power to bring the permanent officials before it for cross-examination upon the meaning of this entry and of the next proposed outlay, would discover that millions of money are every year systematically wasted—disappear no one knows where. That form of use and wont, wardrobe and larder stripping, could begin to be stopped forthwith, and it will be the first duty of the new Finance Minister. If he is zealous therein and loyally seconded by his colleagues, if also steps are at once taken to release the garrison in South Africa, we firmly believe that at least £10,000,000 might be knocked off the prospective demands of the permanent services in the coming fiscal year, without throwing arsenal, dockyard or steel yard workmen out of employment.

There are many other domestic questions which will require the most careful and zealous attention of the new House of Commons, questions relating to land tenure, to the incidence of both Imperial and local taxation, the cure of the unemployed canker, the recovery of barren parts of the United Kingdom for the cultivator, the regulation of rents levied upon the humbler classes of the people by monopolist landowners, the extinction of the floating debt, the abolition of sectarian dominance over education, and many other subjects in which the democracy has at this election shown a more or less intelligent interest and a considerable amount of determination. But the most troublesome of the non-domestic questions which the new Ministry will have to face is still ravaged South

Africa, and very strong measures indeed will be required there if the territories devastated by Mr. Chamberlain and his cosmopolite associates is to get a chance of recovery.

The Chinese labour question has powerfully influenced the minds of constituents all over the country. It is just one of those questions that the multitude thinks it sees to the bottom of, concrete and obvious as it is in its main aspects. We must not, however, forget that the compounds of Chinese slaves on the Witwatersrand are not the only slave compounds in South Africa, nor is the monopoly of the cosmopolite bosses now cursing that country confined to the exclusive supply of these Johannesburg compounds. The compound system has been in existence at Kimberley at least ever since the late Cecil Rhodes and Barney Barnato consolidated the various mining companies there and brought the De Beers monopoly into existence. For more than a dozen years, therefore, the black population of South Africa has been subjected to the same tyranny, the same demoralising influences in Kimberley that the Chinese are now subjected to in the Transvaal, for the mine boss—the cosmopolite—is a one-ideaed creature. The whole system must be swept away, and it is one of the most difficult questions to solve ever faced by a Government. In the interests of South Africa the power of the monopolists there must be broken. They control the Press and every channel of public opinion, they are perfectly unscrupulous in their use of means to blind the nation to their misdeeds, to put false glosses upon their motives, and they held the late Government in the hollow of their hands. It did their bidding with an absolute and unvarying humility that even the wretched Chinese do not sink down to—a humility that often made us speculate upon the extent to which the helots of Park Lane held the politicians in their grip for money lent or salary paid.

What is to be done with a position thus created? We cannot yet formulate a remedy, but one or two considerations present themselves, and first of all there is that question of the £30,000,000 contribution to the cost of war which the maker of the war came back from Africa to dangle before us in his cynical, cold-blooded way. Not a penny of that contribution has ever been found or ever will be found unless the new Government takes the matter in hand with a resolution not to be baulked. But, obviously, we have no right whatever to impose this £30,000,000 upon the ruined people of the late South African Republic. They never sanctioned the promise or had anything whatever to do with it. Their poverty is such that they are much more in need of £30,000,000 to be bestowed upon them than to be ordered to contribute their quota of that sum towards our war costs. What, then, is to be done? The £30,000,000, or as much more as seems reasonable, must be demanded from the mine, the dynamite, the beef and mutton, and the newspaper monopolists of South Africa to be paid by them out of their own pockets. They beguiled us into the war; it is for them to pay, and them alone. They can charge the sum to the cost of Chinese labour if they like. The burden involved by this contribution, whatever its amount, ought to be paid by the cosmopolites themselves, and if they are unable to offer adequate security, it should constitute a first charge upon the revenues of the mines. If the mine controllers will not consent to this then we are inclined to think that the Imperial Government, in the interests of South Africa, should declare its determination to take the control of the whole mining industry of South Africa entirely out of the hands of these cosmopolites, and place it in the hands of a joint commission partly nominated by us, partly by the freely-elected representatives of the South African peoples. Kimberley, equally with the Witwatersrand and all other mining centres in South Africa, should be taken under direct Imperial and local State control, and all mines be worked, first in the interests of the countries in which the mines are situated, next in the interests of the British public who have lost so much money by that "miners' war" of Mr. Chamberlain's,

which was a monopolists' war wholly in the interests of his cosmopolite masters. The shareholders would thus come last, but we are satisfied that were the robberies of the monopolists done away with, were their commissions, their enormous plunder out of dynamite, out of the trading organisations of all kinds they have set up, cleared out of the way, a greater profit would be available for the mine shareholders out of the gross proceeds of the gold and diamonds than they have ever fingered before. Unless we are very much misinformed and mistaken the saving to be effected by honest and capable management and by the abolition of monopolist régime in South Africa would amount to at least 30 per cent. of the gross production of the mines, and it might turn out to be more than that. Such a margin would not only give money to the people in South Africa to help them in slowly restoring some of the old prosperity to their burnt homesteads and devastated lands, but would furnish enough to meet the interest and sinking fund upon a considerable addition to the £35,000,000 load of debt already imposed by the late Government upon the afflicted people with a margin over that should add perhaps a million or more to the sum available for the dividends, now grudgingly doled out by way of bait to the victimised mine shareholders. What short-sighted fools these shareholders have been, short-sighted and trustful! But the people of South Africa have not been much better, for is not the Ministry of Cape Colony at this hour the creatures of De Beers?

The High Labour Costs on the Rand.

We devoted much space in our last issue to the question of Chinese labour on the Rand, and to the high working costs there despite the employment of cheap (?) coolies. So important is this subject from the point of view both of equity and economics that we make no excuse for dealing with it again. To the shareholder in South African companies it is too vital a question to be dismissed with levity and indifference, for he is the heavy loser, the boss the sole gainer. The market speculator is impatient with argument. He does not depend for his income or his living upon dividends, but upon stripping the foolish individual who gambles with him. He is too ignorant to see that it is even to his interest to know whether or not the man he plays with has already been robbed by others, and has little to lose; or whether he may fear to speculate again at all, having already lost so much. If the professional wants a boom, or wants a little money—and he has been craving for both this past two or three years—it is necessary first of all to restore that confidence in the controllers of the industry which dishonesty has forfeited. Until outsiders can feel assured the bosses are sincerely striving their best to benefit them it will be hopeless to appeal to them for further capital. It is ridiculous to say this agitation has been worked up for party interests. If the ordinary man feels that the employment of Chinese will benefit him personally mere party principle will dominate him less than his greed, or what he conceives to be the legitimate profit derivable from his investment. There could not possibly be a unanimous feeling or sentiment amongst the multitude of investors throughout the country, made up, as they are, of all parties, to restrain themselves from accepting dividends or market profits did they feel that Chinese labour is an abomination, an iniquity. It would be pleasant to feel that such righteousness did animate the individual, liberal, tory, or unionist, but gold is more potent than any notion of humanity. British and Continental holders sell their Kaffirs because they know by the instinct of selfishness that it is not profitable to keep them; others will not buy because, as we have demonstrated for months past, the bosses want 30s. to 60s. for their sovereign. This passion is altogether distinct from political zeal. You cannot convince men who are not fools that Chinese labour brings them gain when their pockets tell them it brings loss. If it brought them gain 99 per cent. of the capitalists throughout the country

would applaud, at any rate, would approve of the employment of coolies, convincing themselves that their individual gains would be to the economic advantage of the country.

It is from this economic standpoint that we have steadfastly looked at it from the beginning. The working men of this country urged on the war, clamoured for it, and they must suffer for their folly. They have been disillusioned since they have known what the secret motives of the mine bosses were. But the working men are not investors. Neither are they speculators, and they themselves cannot influence the Kaffir Circus one way or another. But the investor really looks at the problem in the same light as we do. He can learn from the reports sent to him what he himself has paid, and must still pay, for Chinese labour. He asks himself why the bosses reduced the wage of the Kaffir the moment the war ended, and still expenses kept high. Instead of costs being reduced he has seen them mount to figures higher than they stood at prior to the war. Why is this? The mine-owner answers: "Because black labour is scarce, and white labour too dear." If black labour was scarce why further discourage it by cutting down the price of it, and then offering three or four times as much for alien labour? Where is the consistency in the reason for this proceeding? Can it impress the least intelligent, apart from the statements made by Sir Gordon Sprigg's ministry and by Mr. J. B. Robinson, and others, that no sincere efforts have been made to get Kaffirs? If the bosses were sincere one would expect to see some evidence of it in their actions and policy. But such evidence is altogether lacking. Was it proof of sincerity to lower the Kaffir wage? It may seem absurd to labour at what is so obvious, but the labour is less absurd than is the obtuseness or prejudice of certain minds. It is no joy to us to talk to such. We plead on behalf of higher interests, and could we note some attempt at honest trading on the part of the magnates we would only too gladly proclaim it. But who can point to any single instance of equitable consideration for the humble outside shareholder? If any man can produce it, we will give him every facility for making it public.

As to the other plea, that white labour is far too dear, we have the experiments made by a man of ability and of conscience in the person of Mr. F. H. P. Creswell, regarded by the bosses, until his veracity and candour provoked their hate, as one of the most eminent experts on the Rand. We have the confession of the late Mr. Percy Tarbutt. In addition, there is the experience of other goldfields and of other mines on which white men alone are employed. In Western Australia, where the facilities for economical working are not equal to those on the Rand, the cost of mining is less than it is in the Transvaal. On the Ivanhoe it averages 19s. 8d. per ton, on the Kalgurli 20s. 6d., on the South Kalgurli 19s. 6d., and on the Associated Northern Blocks 21s. a ton. Here are four typical mines using the same processes as those adopted on the Rand, and worked by white labour. With Chinese the cost per ton has been on the average considerably higher than this, about 25s., much higher on some of the mines, a little lower on others, and this compares with an average of about 20s. in Western Australia. In such a far off place as Alaska there are mines which extract gold at a cost of only 7s. a ton, from ore which assays as low as 12s. a ton, yet these mines pay high dividends. The Alaska Treadwell and the Alaska Mexican are well-known instances. Surely Rand Mines could be worked at the same cost as in Western Australia? But study Mr. Massingham's figures of cost given elsewhere, and think it over. Surely mines that can pay colossal dividends can afford white labour? Why the need of colossal dividends? They do not benefit the outside buyer of shares. He only pays a higher price for them, and gets no larger return. High dividends, though, facilitate theft by the company promoter who buys a property low and sells it high. The difference goes in his pocket. Were this class of controller to employ whites, there would be

less facilities for getting plunder. Do these men sincerely wish to benefit the outsider first? Are they such Christian philanthropists? If they are, why have they watered their capitals so? The mines of the Transvaal are chiefly worked for the profit of robbers.

Mr. Massingham on the Cost of the Chinese.

A further brilliant and instructive article on Chinese labour, from the pen of Mr. H. W. Massingham, appeared in last Monday's *Daily News*. At the top of it he quotes the following admission of Mr. Solly Joel, head of the Barnato firm, which will amaze a great many who believe that the denunciations come solely from Radical agitators. "These labourers (18,000 new Chinese coolies) have been gradually settling down to work, but I regret to say that even now it can scarcely be said that they are fully efficient. Mr. Johns, our consulting engineer, is satisfied that working costs are considerably higher than if native labour had been available. This is the experience of most mines employing Chinese."

Mr. Massingham proceeds to substantiate this statement by indisputable facts in the shape of figures collated from official records. The magnate wants to attract capital for working deep level mines, but, Mr. Massingham pertinently asks: What hope has he of presenting the public with a tempting proposition when he is admittedly relying on the least efficient form of labour known to the Rand? He instances, at random, some of the mines of the Farrar group. At the Angelo the mean cost per ton before the war, with Kaffirs, was 24s.; with Chinese coolies it is 28s. At the New Comet it was also 24s., now it is 24s. 9d. "Or examine the following tri-monthly comparison of working costs and stamps for 1904 and 1905, the ante-Chinese and the after-Chinese periods. They will enable my readers to get a good idea not merely of the dearness of the Chinese coolie, but of the real costliness of cheap coloured labour at its best."

JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER, 1904.

Name of Mine.	Natives.	Tons Milled.	No. of Stamps.	Cost per ton Milled.
City and Suburban	1,455	64,200	150	—
Henry Nourse	806	30,900	75	23/11.4*
Village Main Reef	813	65,870	158	—
Ferreira Deep	828	30,348	65	25/4.8
Crown Reef	1,072	54,245	120	30/-*
Crown Deep	1,108	60,753	145	20/7.4
Goldenhuls Deep	1,190	64,334	172	19/-
Rose Deep	1,027	68,843	158	16/9.7
Glen Deep	747	49,730	100	20/4.5
Totals	9,056	480,223	1,153	—

* Yearly report.

JULY, AUGUST, AND SEPTEMBER, 1905.

Name of Mine.	Natives.	Coolies.	Total Coloured.	Tons Milled.	No. o Stamps.	Cost per Ton Milled.
City and Suburban	2,008	—	2,008	74,300	160	—
Henry Nourse	140	1,251	1,391	34,345	80	26/0.6
Village Main Reef	2,190	—	2,190	74,150	160	—
Ferreira Deep	2,000	—	2,000	59,868	120	20/6
Crown Reef	1,777	—	1,777	56,981	120	26/10.9
Crown Deep	2,922	—	2,922	83,874	200	19/9
Goldenhuls Deep	1,207	1,806	3,103	70,350	180	24/-
Rose Deep	1,352	1,950	3,302	75,763	200	21/8.8
Glen Deep	28	1,874	1,902	47,486	100	23/7.6
Totals	—	—	20,597	577,117	1,340	..

Thus the results of the employment of coolies, deduced from the above figures, are briefly these:—1. That in each case where the Chinese have been employed the working costs have greatly increased. 2. That the number of coloured men per stamp has greatly increased, and though Lord Selborne has very strangely refused to give Mr. Creswell the figures for white labour for each individual mine, there is no reasonable doubt that the number of white men per stamp has greatly decreased. As for coloured labour the figures are remarkable. In the first period the number of coloured men per stamp was 7.9. In the

second it is 15.4. 3. That the addition of 11,000 coloured workers—nearly 7,000 of whom were Chinese—has only secured the addition of 187 stamps, which on the former labour basis would have been served by 1,477 additional natives. Could there be a more appalling waste of labour? 4. That the production per man has greatly decreased. In the former example the tons milled averaged 53 per native employed. In the latter they were only 28. Or take the continuous story of a single mine where Chinese have been employed. It yields the same general moral, namely, the rise of working costs.

GLEN DEEP.

Tons Milled.	Cost per Ton Milled.	Yield.	Quarter Ending—
20,169	27/ 4.284	32/9.653	31. 1.03
29,240	23/ 7.803	31/7.665	30. 4.03
38,150	21/11.17	31/5.68	31. 7.03
40,000	21/ 8.455	36/4.9	30. 4.04
40,730	20/ 4.546	35/5.27	31. 7.04
38,380	25/ 8.31	37/6.922	31.10.04*
43,250	24/10.279	37/6.067	31. 1.05
44,380	23/11.657	36/5.396	30. 4.05
47,480	23/ 7.13	33/3.260	31. 7.05

* 1,900 Chinese imported September, 1904.

Coming to the next step in the controversy—the displacement of the white worker—"the resort to Chinese labour and the increasing reliance on native labour necessarily imply that the alternative of a fair employment of white unskilled or semi-skilled labour is rejected. This again carries with it the assumption that while the actual number of white skilled workers may slightly increase, the proportion of white to black and coloured must continually and rapidly decrease." This is precisely what we have pointed out from time to time. Mr. Schumacher and other apologists for the cosmopolites have striven to appeal to sentiment by showing that the whites employed have gradually increased since the advent of the coolie. They necessarily must increase, because in some departments white intelligence is essential. This, however, is not the vital point of the dispute. The proportion tends to decrease, and will further decrease as time goes on, for the boss will not employ one more Englishman than he can help. He will reduce the number to a minimum, consistent with his own personal advantage. Of this, says Mr. Massingham, no honest controversialist on the capitalists' side denies the truth. "The proportion of whites to blacks has risen as high as 1 to 5. Mr. Chamberlain, who, to do him justice, made an effort when he was at Johannesburg to stem the flowing tide of Chinese labour, asked why the proportions should not be 1 to 2, or even 1 to 1. But there were black looks at such a notion, and Sir Percy Fitzpatrick frankly admitted to me that skilled opinion in the mining camps thought one white man to 12, or even 15, coloured helpers represented proportions up to which the management would have to work. This, therefore, is the outlook for white labour on the Rand." And for the shareholders the outlook is still blacker.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

RUSSIAN FINANCE.

Will the Government of the Tsar succeed in raising a large new loan? That is the one important question of the hour for the Russian people. Should it do so, then reaction will probably again triumph for a time, and the people will be flung back into their hopeless misery. Should the Government fail to raise a large loan the reactionaries will find themselves once more confronted by the indignation of a down-trodden people and may soon be powerless to resist its demands. A frightful responsibility therefore rests

upon the financiers of Western Europe in this matter. Are they going to invite the free people of France and the United Kingdom and the half-free people of Germany to contribute another £50,000,000 or £100,000,000 out of their means in order that Russian autocracy may once more triumph over the miserable inhabitants of the Russian Empire? If they are, they cannot escape the doom of the blood guilty. It will be a loan raised amid the blood and tears of an afflicted people, and no good can come of it either to the launching bankers or the subscribing multitude. We, however, are inclined to think that even if they were willing the bankers of Paris, Berlin, and London will not succeed in raising enough money to restore the finances of the autocracy to anything approaching a semblance of health. They will not get the loans subscribed and at this hour they are in the difficulty of men at the mercy of their creditors. They have been obliged to find the means to pay coupons on the older debts of Russia falling due, and as long as they find this money out of their own pockets we cannot raise any objection. Should some of them be ruined in the process it will not be for the injury of the people they have misguided into many a questionable financial transaction in the past.

But, obviously, the demands of Russia are going to be so enormous during the next two or three years that unless the savings of Western peoples can be sucked into the vortex through the blandishments of the bankers of Paris, Berlin, and London, the coercionists will be obliged to stop. A fancy budget has been issued by the new Finance Minister, Mr. Shipoff, indicating that the total requirements of the autocracy for the current year will be £251,000,000. This, he says, will involve a deficit of £48,000,000, to be provided by "impending credit operations." We do not believe, however, that these figures are anything like the truth. The expenditure is probably much greater than is here estimated, and he has taken no notice whatever of the huge deficits of the past two years, deficits partly covered by increases in the paper rouble forced into circulation. He looks for a revenue of upwards of £200,000,000, and Russia is in no condition to furnish any such sum. There is famine in the land for the relief of which £3,000,000 is to be provided in the budget, and the last famine cost £15,000,000. Moreover, much of the revenue of Russia is drawn from indirect sources, and does anybody believe that £50,000,000 or more will be furnished by drink in the current year, furnished by a hungry people, a people impoverished, ravaged, robbed, devoid of employment? The revenue is obviously much over-estimated, and the expenditure under-estimated because the Russian officials, so far as we can see, have never squarely faced the cost of the war. The year 1906 is said to involve an expenditure of £52,000,000 more than 1905, and an increase of £4,000,000 in the drink revenue is looked for, of £1,500,000 from sugar, £800,000 from the land tax, and of £840,000 from the Customs House, against which a decline of £4,000,000 in the receipts of land redemption dues and of £730,000 from the naphtha excise is set down. These estimates must be for the most part dishonest guesswork, but we fear there can be no doubt about the increase in the expenditure. Interest on loans takes £3,000,000 more, the army £3,000,000 more for "improved maintenance" as it is called, the police £3,000,000 more, the railway employees £2,000,000 more, and the devastated naphtha industries of the Baku £1,500,000 more. Altogether the army, navy, and debt demand in the current year £82,000,000 out of the revenue of Russia. That fact alone indicates the almost hopeless financial condition of the autocracy. It is so bad as to make us entertain the hope that the loanmongers of the West will be unable to prevent a breakdown. In that breakdown lies the hope of liberty for the Russian people, the hope also of the creditors of Russia. Autocracy means default, ruin; liberty recuperation, and growth.

Meanwhile, the country is progressing steadily towards the old vicious *régime* of forced paper currency. The borrowed gold reserve has been depleted, partly

by the export of bullion to meet some of the autocracy's debts abroad, partly by the transfer of Russians' private wealth to foreign countries, and also by the absorption of metallic money in the circulation, for hoarding probably. So while the gold has fallen off from a total of £134,000,000, the highest figure to which it was swollen in September last by the proceeds of foreign loans, to £98,000,000 now, or at the beginning of the current Russian year, the note circulation has risen from £104,000,000 to £143,000,000. These processes have only to go on to bring the whole autocratic machine to a dead stop, and then will come the people's opportunity. If the new Imperial Duma which is about to be elected is composed of men of intelligence and capacity, such as most of those displayed who gathered in the house of the Princes Dolgorouki to discuss the country's affairs, the financial weakness of the Tsar's Government will be an opportunity which, if seized and wisely used, may lead far towards freedom.

PITY THE POOR RAND POTENTATES, WITH £15,000,000 TO SPEND.

Does not that memorandum put forward by the mine bosses of Johannesburg prove a little too much? They are anxious to show that it is impossible to conduct the mining industry without indentured Chinese labour, but could they not employ Indian coolies if the terms offered were fair, and is it really true that no native blacks can be secured if fair wages are offered? The magnates are careful always to conceal this point about wages and yet it is notorious that, barring the effects of the war, the short-sighted and cruel system of sweating down wages paid to the blacks lies at the root of the whole shortage, and we have a strong suspicion that the recent decrease in the number of blacks employed at the mines has been deliberately brought about with a view to intimidate people here into consenting to a prolongation of the Chinese ordinances. We shall want very strong evidence that it is otherwise before believing a word these people or their organs say. Meantime it is surely a little too strong to tell us that during the next twelve months it was intended to erect 3,740 more stamps at a cost of £10,103,207 with spare machinery, stores, etc., to an amount of £2,181,000 more during the present year. All this is to give additional employment to 5,912 European skilled labourers and is intended to provide a local annual expenditure of £5,918,424. These totals are much too neatly rounded off to be believed. What was to hinder the bosses from erecting these stamps earlier and so giving employment to the people now tramping the streets of Johannesburg hungry and desperate? We do not believe their tale at any point. Where was the money to come from to provide these new stamps? It will be well for the new Government to refuse credence to every statement made by these people without cross-examination and absolute proof. They always have stuck at nothing in the way of lying. We do not believe anything that the recruiting agency under the control of the Chamber of Mines, the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association as it is called, may tell us about what it has cost to recruit natives or anything else. What are the rates of wages paid to these labourers compared to the scale in existence before that "miners' war" which was to make us all so desperately rich?

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

In electing the dignified President of the Senate, M. Faillières, to the Presidency of the Republic in succession to M. Loubet the French Congress has done well, has once more given proof to the world of the fine conservatism which dominates all things in French domestic affairs. We are surprised that his principal rival, M. Doumer, the President of the Chamber of Deputies, polled so well as he did, for French Republican conservatism has the same instinctive dread of this pushful young man—he is still comparatively young—that we have about Mr. Joseph Chamberlain. The majority of M. Faillières, however, was sufficient

at 78, he receiving 449 votes against M. Doumer's 371, and the accession of another educated man of peasant stock to the chief magistracy in France is in all ways an incident to rejoice over. Like the retiring President, who has been the best the Republic has ever hitherto had, M. Fallières is the friend of peace, full of goodwill towards England, and not only towards England, but towards the people of every other State. No propaganda of chauvinist militarism will find countenance from him. Instead, whatsoever helps forward a better, a more friendly, and intimate understanding between peoples will have his support. The showy apeing of regal State, which tended to make the late M. Felix Faure ridiculous in the eyes of his countrymen, and, in some measure, to mankind outside France, will no more attract the new President than it attracted M. Loubet. Nothing, indeed, can be finer than the example of simple modesty afforded by the retiring President. No second term for him, he said. So anxious was he to make it perfectly sure that he would entertain no such suggestion that he was careful to insert his new private address in the Paris directory issued towards the end of last year—"At the Elysée up to February 18, after that at flat so-and-so, such a street." Both M. Loubet and his successor are men who reveal to us the true strength of France. It is not the flashy orator of revolutionary times, the intriguer who lays hold of reaction at one time and boasts of liberal sentiments at the other, the restless, pushing politician of any type, who really represents the spirit and aims of the French people. The strength of France lies in its sturdy, independent, narrow-minded it may be, but consistently pacific peasant class, shrewd, materialistic, practical, but eminently sociable and friendly. Is there not in this fact something calculated to soothe the minds among us now flurried over the dazzling success of the Government at the elections? "A flood is rising that may sweep us all away," the timid investor, credit-user, privilege-holder exclaims. Nonsense; look at France. Is the peasantry of France, solidly emplaced in the soil of the country, bent on overturning? Ask M. Loubet; ask M. Fallières.

THE HOME LABOUR MARKET.

Contrasted with the position in Germany and the United States as far as can be ascertained that of our working-class appears something to be envied. Compared with a year ago the Board of Trade returns indicate that employment has considerably improved in nearly all the principal trades, the building trade alone showing no change. In 270 trade unions whose total membership is about 582,000 and from which returns have been received only 4.9 per cent. of the members were unemployed at the end of December, as compared with 4.7 per cent. at the end of the previous month, and 7.6 per cent. at the end of December, 1904. The slight increase in December was merely the result of the Christmas holidays. Employment in the coal mining industry has improved both on the month and on the year. Iron mining has been in good case, better on the whole than in November, although only about the same as a year ago. Employment continues good also in the pig-iron industry and much better than it was twelve months back. The same is true of iron and steel works, and although tinplate manufacture showed a slight decline on the month, chiefly owing to the execution of repairs, it was in much better position than at the end of 1904—that is to say, 417 mills were working in December as against 397 mills at the end of December, 1904, and 427 mills at the end of last November. Engineering trades generally have been good with employment much better than a year ago, so that the percentage of unemployed was only 3.7 per cent. as compared with 8.4 per cent. twelve months earlier. Things have also been good in the cotton trade, returns having been received from firms employing 130,389 work people, showing an increase of 2.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last week of November, and of 7 per cent.

compared with the year before. The employment in the woollen trade was also very good, better than a year back, and the same remark applies to the glass trade, although in pottery work was slightly worse than a month earlier. Still, it was better than twelve months earlier, and that is the general conclusion. The only permanent out-of-works are the tariffites.

A TEST ACTION AGAINST BOTTOMLEY.

Four of the subscribers to Horatio Bottomley's series of stock operations alleged to be carried out for the benefit of the shareholders in his Joint Stock Trust Corporation have sufficient courage to announce their dissatisfaction to the world. They have issued a circular, in which they state they were induced to part with their cash under the following representations put forward by the Joint Stock Trust:—(1) That the said Trust had decided upon a stock operation in view of an opportunity afforded by the present condition of the market and in the hope that it might be the means of benefiting shareholders; (2) that the inaugural stock operation was closed with a profit of 100 per cent.; (3) that the Corporation had good reason to anticipate a very big success; (4) that the second stock operation was going through with complete success, showing a profit of anything from 25 to 50 per cent. upon the amount invested; (5) that such profit would be materially augmented by further investment; (6) that the inaugural and second stock operations had been crowned with remarkable success. On the faith of these representations the signatories subscribed to the operation, and subsequently received a report and certificate of an accountant certifying that the operation consisted in: (a) the acquisition of debentures in the Selected Gold Mines of Australia, Limited; (b) the exchange of such debentures into fully-paid shares in the said Selected Gold Mines of Australia, Limited, under the provisions of Clause 15 of the conditions endorsed upon the said debentures. Being extremely dissatisfied with the whole transaction, they placed the matter in the hands of Messrs. Charles S. Glover, solicitors, 71, Queen Street, Cheapside, who, after investigation, have made the following report:—

(1) That there were no bonâ-fide stock operations such as were represented by the circulars as intended to take place. The money subscribed was not devoted to any market operations for the benefit of the subscribers; (2) that no debentures in the Selected Gold Mines of Australia (Limited) were acquired for the subscribers to the operation; (3) that no exchange of such debentures into fully-paid shares in the said Selected Gold Mines of Australia (Limited) under the provisions of Clause 15 of the conditions upon the said debentures took place; (4) that the shares in the Selected Gold Mines of Australia (Limited) attempted to be palmed off on the subscribers to the operations already belonged to the Corporation and formed part of the shares allotted to them between the months of March and June, 1904; (5) that the certificates of the shares in the Selected Gold Mines of Australia (Limited) were issued to the subscribers as the nominees of and at the request of the Corporation.

Messrs. Glover say they commenced proceedings in December on behalf of a subscriber to the "second" stock operation. The Corporation did not contest the claim and submitted to judgment for the full amount of their client's subscription, with costs. Other subscribers are now invited to unite in bringing a test action, and it is to be hoped the invitation will be accepted with alacrity. We described the whole bold fizzle in THE INVESTORS' REVIEW of November 19, 1904.

ANOTHER URUGUAYAN CONVERSION.

The unhappy population of Uruguay is once more to be made the sport of the financier. As we have frequently said, the latest revolution there has left a legacy of debt, and upon this has been based a new conversion scheme, the result of which will be an increase of nearly £4,000,000 in the aggregate debt of the poor little republic, and, of course, in the operation there must be some plunder for the managing financiers, so existing 6 per cent. debts to the amount of \$12,304,000 are to be wrapped up with the new unissued debts aggregating nearly \$19,000,000, the whole to be consolidated into a 5 per cent. loan. But

there is little or no saving to the people even on the old debt by this operation, or a saving, the *Monte Video Times* calculates, of a mere 0.45 per cent., for the terms under which the new bonds are to be issued are profitable only to the financiers. They get the 5 per cent. bonds at 90, but the bonds are debited to the National Government at 92½, the extra 2½ per cent. being the commission charged. It is hoped, moreover, by the financiers that they may be able to issue these bonds to the public at 97, in which case their additional profit would be another 4½ per cent. Whether they will succeed in this or not we cannot say. We hope they will fail, and that the whole thing will come to a stop, because here likewise if it could be made impossible for the Government of Uruguay to raise more money the country might begin to prosper, and revolution would certainly cease to pay. In this loan the war "indemnity" of \$9,000,000 is to be included, and this and other debts were going to be issued in 6 per cent. bonds, which will now be arbitrarily cut down to 5 per cent. It is a distressing business however looked at.

Subsequent advices from the same newspaper convey the information that the Banque de Paris et de Pays Bas is going to be sponsor for the loan on this side, and great play is made with the argument that the Paris market will in this way be opened up to trafficking in the whole of the debts of the Republic. This may be a good thing or it may not; all depends on how long the Republic keeps up the effort to appear solvent by borrowing or otherwise providing the interest upon its debt. We also learn that holders of the 6 per cent. bonds outstanding are to receive a cash bonus of 3 per cent. to induce them to convert, and connected with this bonus there is the question of the ultimate issue price. It is reckoned that if that price is under 97 there will be a rush to demand redemption, and the bankers will be called upon to take the maximum quantity of bonds or \$13,681,000, on which they will get a commission of 3½ per cent., or about \$479,000, whereas if the price were 97, the 6 per cent. bondholders would not demand redemption so readily. In that case it is reckoned that although the bankers would receive a higher commission the amount of bonds handed in might be very much smaller, under \$7,000,000, thus depriving them of about \$209,000 of the amount they would be likely to pocket should the whole of the 6 per cent. bonds be tendered. This is not a very interesting point to the public here, but it is worth mention. When the loan is to come out we have not yet been told, but doubtless as soon as Russia and Japan will permit.

THE NATURAL FRUIT OF PROTECTIONISM.

The resolution of United States cotton growers to hold their crop for a price of 7½d. per lb. and to restrict the area put under cultivation in the current year is one of the most striking recent examples of the fruits of protectionism. In any such step no consideration is shown for any interest except that of the particular group instituting it. These cotton growers do not care a farthing for either the cotton spinners and weavers of New England and Georgia or for those of other countries. Their sole object is plunder, no other word can be found for it. If they can prey upon their neighbours by exacting an excessive price for the commodity they have to sell they consider themselves moral fellows, exemplary citizens, worthy of commendation. That is precisely the spirit nurtured by protectionism everywhere, a spirit of unrelieved self-seeking, and as the United States are cursed by a system of protection more ruthless in some respects than that of Russia, it is natural and inevitable that one monopoly should prey there upon another. This kind of savagery will go on until the United States fall back into the moral condition of the Red Indian tribes that roamed over it before the advent of the white man, unless the moral sense of the nation arises in its wrath and puts an end to the whole abomination. We hope for that uprising one of these days, but

there are few signs of it as yet, and in the meantime Lancashire will more and more endeavour to find its supplies of raw material in other countries than the United States. Probably the plot in this case will come to an ignominious end before many months are over, but the same device will be tried again and again, just because the minds of all classes of producers in the United States have become warped into a devouring selfishness which blinds them to their real interests, and makes them the victim of every imposture. What a beautiful illustration of the tariffite motto, "Protection gives more employment to the working man," this action of the cotton growers gives, does it not?

OUR FROZEN MEAT TRADE IN 1905.

One of the most striking changes in this trade revealed in Messrs. W. Weddel and Co.'s review of the past twelve months was the way in which the Argentine Republic beat all competitors with its shipments of frozen beef and mutton and chilled beef. Ten years ago the Republic could hardly be regarded as a source of supply for beef, as the total imports were only 10,337 qrs. compared with 304,780 qrs. from Australia, but it has made rapid strides since then, and last year followed up an advance of 223,467 qrs. to 789,109 qrs. with a further increase to 1,168,133 qrs., while Australian shipments dwindled to 10,276 qrs. In addition to this a good deal of attention has been devoted to exports of chilled beef, a branch of the business in which the Australasian colonies were unable to compete, and from a start with 24,919 qrs. in 1901 the receipts have risen to 402,195 qrs. At the same time imports from the United States fell to the lowest aggregate since 1896, partly because of the increased consumption there, but also largely because of Argentine competition and the unexpectedly good quality of the meat from that country. New Zealand made an attempt to secure a share of this branch of the trade, and made two small shipments, but one of these arrived frozen and the other was seized by the health authorities and the experiment was abandoned.

In frozen mutton, too, Argentina is well to the front, exports from the River Plate having risen from 1,630,448 carcasses in 1895 to 3,030,130 carcasses last year, while New Zealand shipments have only gone up from 1,676,928 to 1,751,229 carcasses, and Australian have dropped from 922,246 to 461,902 carcasses. Compared with 1904, these figures show improvements of 299,570 carcasses from Argentina and 340,103 from Australia, and a decline of 229,410 from New Zealand. Two new sources of supply were tapped last year, shipments of fairly satisfactory quality being received from Uruguay and Patagonia, but Messrs. Weddel give no hint as to the size of these shipments, and the figures apparently are included in the returns of the River Plate. The Argentine shippers have never gone in very largely for lamb and in 1905 sent only 173,080 carcasses against 207,141 in 1904, but this decrease was offset by an advance of 48,745 carcasses to 1,953,337 from New Zealand, and the Australian trade showed a remarkable expansion from 328,524 to 906,536 carcasses.

Prices at Smithfield Market remained at a comparatively steady level throughout the year for most descriptions of meat. Best grades of Australian mutton ranged between 4d. in January and 3d. in November, and River Plate meat between 4½d. and 3½d., but New Zealand mutton varied between 5½d. in April and 3½d. in November, the average for the year being about 4½d. per lb. For lamb the top quotations were about 6½d. in February and 4½d. in November, but the high prices ruling at the opening of the New Zealand season checked the demand, and during May, June and July, which are usually the best months, trade was decidedly slack, and in October old stocks became almost unsaleable as buyers preferred to take freshly arrived Australian parcels. In spite of this, however, Australian lamb followed a similar course to New Zealand. Quotations in January touched 6d., but fell

away to 5d. by April, and when the new season opened in October the price was only about 4d., and although there was a slight recovery towards the end of the year the bulk of the heavy December arrivals still remain to be dealt with, and values are expected to prove disappointing to shippers. River Plate lambs seem to have varied considerably in quality, and although they suited the trade in certain country districts, little attention was paid to them in the London market. The frozen beef market was practically controlled by the River Plate importers and prices were less subject to the violent fluctuations noted in previous years. At no time of the year was the demand really active, but the supplies were readily absorbed at the rate of nearly 100,000 quarters per month, and the extension of this branch of the trade may be gauged from Messrs. Weddel's remark that it has more than doubled since 1903.

THE PREMIER DIAMOND MYSTERIES.

Who are the "bears" who have, with such consistent success, depressed the price of Premier Diamonds? Whoever they are, they are a most powerful group, able to do what they please with this market, and rout the "bulls" with ridiculous ease. The depreciation in the price represents immense losses to the shareholders, who can only gaze helplessly on the *débauché*, wondering how it will all end. Their suspense must be great, indeed. Last year the top price reached was 18½, and it never fell below 11½, whilst in the past fortnight it has been forced down almost to 9. It is impossible to say if it has reached bottom yet. No man knows if the "bears" are satisfied or not, or what their plans are, whilst the directors and other officials of the company seem utterly indifferent to the mental distress of the victims. On the contrary, their actions have played directly into the hands of the "bear" party. For many weeks past all kinds of rumours adverse to the mine have been circulated, and those who have spread them either seem to have been wonderfully well informed, or destiny has unconsciously aided them. After paying colossal dividends, the directors suddenly intimated that they could pay nothing for the past half-year, and we characterised their plea as too trifling to be accepted with satisfaction. A certain amount of damage has been done to the machinery, the water supply has been defective, and on the top of this heavy rains have filled the mine with water, temporarily stopping operations. Malign fate seems to be working on behalf of the "bears," who are declared to be no other than the ubiquitous all-powerful De Beers crowd. It is said they are plotting to get control of a powerful rival, that as they have failed to get it by fair means they are trying the other. We cannot vouch for the truth of this story, being as unable to see behind the scenes as other people; we can only say the story is not preposterous. Another sinister rumour is that the company will never pay another dividend, because the blue ground which underlies the yellow, in which the big finds have been made up to the present, is too hard to be treated by the ordinary methods. All that can be asserted without hesitancy is that the situation is very mysterious. That being so, it is the duty of the directors to attempt to throw some light upon it if they can, and not allow the shareholders to suffer unnecessary anxiety. Their inscrutable silence is not to their credit, and exasperation with it is thoroughly justified. According to a cablegram to the *African World* the developments in the mine are the general topic of conversation locally. A meeting of the directors was held a week ago. This was private, but it is declared that heated speeches were made thereat. Some of the directors are said to have advocated the immediate issue of an explanatory statement, but the majority were against it. A further meeting was to be called for last Saturday to decide upon the course to be followed. At the first meeting the chairman himself was not present, being at the mine. Our contemporary's representative says it is admitted that the overburden in the part of the mine recently worked is

over 30 ft. thick, and that the manager declines to commit himself to any statements as to the future grade, as the difficult conditions do not permit of anything definite being said, the Premier pipe having the typical variations of other mines. "But," he adds, "the general feeling is one of confidence that the present troubles will only be temporary." Such an opinion is of no value. To describe a clever "bear" raid as a kind of accidental and transitory trouble is to trifle with words and facts, to obscure the situation. How can one have confidence in the dishonest and unscrupulous? Is there anything clean in South Africa?

The above happened to be written before the cable came to hand from Johannesburg. Evidently the directors have met again, it may be after another heated discussion—for to decide upon their duty to the shareholders appears to be a terrific problem for these men—and the result of a further expenditure of what they are probably pleased to call mentality is this:—"Board of directors retain implicit confidence in the mine and state definitely present yield does not reflect true value of the mine." What a clear, vivid picture this gives us of the whole situation and how penetrating a light it throws upon the machinations of the "bears"! Could any message be more flattering to the intelligence of the shareholders? What imaginations the directors must believe the shareholders to possess! And happy as the message is in its clever vagueness, one wonders why as much could not have been said weeks ago, immediately after the slump in the price commenced. However, here is what the directors have decided to remit to this side as a reassuring statement, but we fear it will evoke more derision than gratitude. And who could wonder at that? If these men in control have such unshaken confidence in the future of the mine, the plea they offered for the non-payment of the dividend seems more unreasonable than ever.

RHODESIAN DIAMONDS.

If ever a country was blest it is Rhodesia. At any rate, the Chartered directors and other magnates, who have irretrievably lost tens of millions of our money since this slice of territory was added to the glorious British Empire, have told us so, and continue to tell us so. Blest as they allege it to be as a country of illimitable wealth, malign or other fate has hitherto foiled all their efforts to get it. Despite the millions spent and millions appropriated, their search for gold and other metals and minerals both in profitable quantity and quality has been futile. The search, however, has not been as ruinous to the magnates, nor so wearying and disappointing, as to the victims they have persuaded to bear the terrible cost of it. Of the scores of gold mining companies formed since the late Cecil Rhodes declared the country to be one of the richest goldfields in the world not one has been successful, and no man with an open mind and with the weight of evidence before him can have any well grounded hope that a payable gold mine will now be found. However, no sooner does the gold industry prove a snare than the magnates, conscious of the impossibility of floating new companies, forthwith announce new discoveries. So we have had the "banket" find, the "alluvial" discovery at Victoria, and the alighting upon Wankie coal and copper deposits, which have not yet earned a penny profit for shareholders. Now, Sir John Willoughby, in whose numerous companies investors have already lost incalculable sums, announces that he has made a wonderful diamond discovery, believing probably that his good fortune may solace those who have lost so much in his other enterprises. He made his momentous announcement at a meeting of the South African Option Syndicate a week ago, prior to which he took care to make the holding of such a meeting as widely known as possible. In his speech he enlightened his audience upon many matters. First of all, they learnt that this syndicate was formed two years and a-half ago, and probably it has been a shrinking modesty that has kept it so silent all this

time. It appears that the syndicate from time to time acquired interests in many enterprises, which had subsequently to be abandoned, not to our surprise. It was not until November, 1904, that it tumbled on "reputed diamond discoveries in Rhodesia," a concession, having previously been obtained from the Chartered Company granting to the discoverers or concessionaires, the right to locate 200 square miles in one or more prospecting areas, and to work the same for precious stones, free of royalty, licence, or any other charge up to July 31, 1907, with the further right to finally select, at the end of that period, twenty square miles. This concession has been recently extended until December 31, 1909. The discovery was described by Sir John as phenomenal. "At first," said he, "it was supposed that a huge diamondiferous field had been discovered, but the extensive work since undertaken and completed has convinced us that such is not the case, and that the occurrence of diamonds and other precious stones is entirely local, and due to the existence of a pipe or mine in the immediate vicinity." After this touching outburst of candour he gradually worked himself up to a "feeling of assured success, replacing mere patient hopefulness." He went on by degrees to work up his hearers to a condition of enthusiasm, possibly of greed, only to damp their expectations by warning them against "undue speculation in the future value of our discovery." Unctuous Sir John! But—ingenuously—"you will probably have realised that we have made a very wonderful find, how greatly so we cannot tell." Tantalising man! Still, having made this discovery, it was his duty to take the whole world into his confidence! Such martyrdom to duty we never find in the City without fearing much, and perhaps Sir John will make greater sacrifices still for duty by returning out of the coming profits the money lost to the shareholders in the old and worn companies. The poor people believed in him, and what have they hitherto got? Surely much prophetic eloquence. It was for those who heard him, he now said, to weigh his information and his counsel, to decide for themselves what the chances are, and so on, and should they exaggerate the possibilities of the find, wonderful though it be, and lose money, "the responsibility will be theirs, not mine." Is that so, Sir John? But the world was not at all anxious to hear about your discovery. It already has more diamonds than it can afford to buy, as the De Beers crowd know full well, and it would have been none the poorer in pocket or knowledge had you kept your secret another twenty years. You have quite an exaggerated idea of duty. Do you ever spare a few thoughts and a little pity for those poor fellows who have lost their thousands in your companies? Is that not a far higher duty than that you now once more perform? What is the meaning of this payment of a dividend of 5s. per share simultaneously with a call of 5s. per share? And in whose interests is the syndicate negotiating with the De Beers Company "for the pooling or amalgamation of our diamond interests"? Is it to benefit the public or the millionaires, or the hungry company promoters?

ILL-MADE FOREIGN GOODS.

This week's Engineering Supplement of the *Times* contains an interesting article upon "foreign rolling stock for British railways," from which we gather that the importation of passenger coaches for the District Railway has not proved a success, nor are the steel cars imported for the Baker Street and Waterloo Railway of a prepossessing description. They seem to be the product of unskilled labour, and bear the appearance such labour might be expected to give them. These observations are from a letter of a correspondent quoted in the article, and he goes on to say that the Caledonian Railway in 1902 ordered 30 steel wagons from the American company which had supplied the Baker Street and Waterloo cars, and that these wagons arrived in "such a hopeless state of careless and clumsy construction" as to compel the Caledonian

Company to summarily reject them and to make a resolve to support home industries in future. Most interesting of all, however, is the evidence brought forward in the article to show that the late Mr. Yerkes and his representatives rather unworthily boycotted British manufacturers, and deliberately gave a false reason for so doing—viz., that the British manufacturers had formed a car trust to keep up prices. This these manufacturers emphatically deny. They were not given the opportunity to tender. No sort of collusion existed between them, and the main subject of disagreement between the English manufacturers and the Underground Electric Railways Company's management was the objection of manufacturers to the turning out of a class of work which in their judgment they claimed would be nothing more nor less than "jerry building." This is highly interesting and instructive, and the same evidence has been given often before of the unsatisfactory quality of the work turned out by sweated labour in Protectionist countries. Probably enough Yerkes was a shareholder in the American shops he gave the orders to. Be that as it may, our mechanics are the best, the most capable and honest in the world, because they are the most free; therefore foreign countries prefer British railway coaches, engines, wagons, and other appliances to those made elsewhere, in spite of the fact that the initial cost of British articles may often be somewhat higher. The real cost measured by capacity to stand wear and tear is always very much less. Proof of this is found in the fact that we last year sent £585,000 worth of agricultural steam engines to European countries, and £324,000 worth to countries in South America, £370,000 worth of miscellaneous engines to countries in Europe and £330,000 worth to countries in South America, £649,000 worth of miscellaneous agricultural machines to countries in Europe, and £251,000 worth to countries in South America, all notwithstanding the fierce competition from manufacturers in Protectionist countries. Our position in the matter of textile machinery is supreme over the whole world, and ever tends to become so in machinery of all descriptions. Is that not so, Sir Thomas Wrightson, defeated Protectionist of St. Pancras? The British manufacturer has never any need to "dump;" he profits by the distressful dumping of countries ground to the dust by tariffs.

SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD TRUST.

The market has been sadly disappointed with the annual report of the directors of the South African Gold Trust, the ally and relative of the Consolidated Gold Fields, and, in their chagrin, the professionals have banged the shares, the drop since Tuesday afternoon being heavy. Disappointed though the gamblers might be, as it gives a blow to many of their rapid hopes, shareholders must be considerably more dissatisfied, for, despite a larger revenue, they receive no dividend. As usual, the report and accounts are set forth with extreme, though not admirable, brevity, thus obscuring facts and details to which shareholders are entitled. The income from speculating, from dividends, interest on loans, and underwriting amounts to £153,706, compared with £143,679 in 1904—the financial year ending December 31—whilst transfer fees were a trifle more at £404, giving an aggregate of £154,110, against £144,046. Ordinary expenditure shows little change, the nett profit being some £10,500 higher at £128,746. As £162,799 was brought in, the total surplus is £291,545, out of which a dividend of 25 per cent. could be paid with ease. This time, however, the directors have decided to meet heavy losses in the way of depreciation, writing off as much as £210,153, and carrying forward £48,850 only, after paying the preference interest and taxes. In reference to this, they say, with fine economy of language, "the profit on the year's operations has been altogether nullified by the heavy fall in the market value of South African shares." True, the market was dead dull throughout 1905, but it has been life-

less this three years past, yet the directors paid a dividend of 3s. per share in 1904 and 2s. 6d. per share in 1903. The inference seems to be that hitherto they had not made proper provision for depreciation, from motives that may be left to individual conjecture. Even now we doubt whether the whole of the losses in this direction have been covered, for, judging by the mass of heterogeneous paper held, we should say a considerable portion of it is unrealisable. But before we glance at such assets, let us examine the balance-sheet. On the debtor side a loan of £150,000 has been liquidated—a mysterious-looking achievement—whilst the amount owing to sundry creditors has been reduced from £191,631 to £92,984. How has this been accomplished? The reserve account stands at £500,000, half of it invested hitherto in the National War Loan and half in Consols. In the past these were separately entered in the balance-sheet, but this year the National War Loan is included amongst the hot-potch of speculative shares, so it clearly looks as if the above liabilities have been discharged by the sale of Consols; in other words, out of reserve. Thus half the reserve is now a mere book entry, together with the premium account of £400,000, and the financial position has been weakened to that degree. Despite the shares sold during the year and the writing down, the holdings still stand at £1,859,520, including the War Loan, against £1,664,141, exclusive of that loan, in 1904, so the change is but trifling. Presumably, some more stuff has been bought, but there is nothing in the report to help one to know. As, however, advances and mortgages have been reduced from £269,455 to £164,455, the £100,000 odd paid off may have been utilised in the purchase of an agglomeration of shares—Rhodesian and other. Sundry debtors, too, owe only £46,917, against £123,966, and this has given the directors another large lump with which to support the tottering companies under its control, and, indirectly, the market. Contango loans are but slightly lower at £112,004, and cash nearly £3,000 higher at £52,046. Thus, in addition to the sale of Consols, the directors have received £180,000 odd, which, it is apparent, has been invested in other shares. Further evidence of this is shown in the increase of £8,000 in contingent liabilities to £59,518.

After the example of the Consolidated Gold Fields, the directors now give a list of the shares held. These are: 47,025 African Land and Investment, 36,825 African City Properties Trust, 2,500 Angelo Gold Mines, 11,666 British Cyanides, 92,464 Consolidated Gold Fields, 23,652 Consolidated African Copper Trust, 25,000 Cape Town Consolidated Tramways, 27,500 Camp Bird, 7,500 Consolidated Mexican Syndicate, 19,387 Durban Navigation Collieries, £3,000 ditto debentures, 2,500 Driefontein Consolidated, 17,311 Enterprise Gold Mining, 150 East India Construction Syndicate, 11,558 Falcon Development, 16,443 Giant Mines of Rhodesia, 10,000 I.R. Syndicate, 10,359 Jupiter Gold, 47,669 Knight's Deep, 5,720 Lomagunda Development, 3,000 Lace Diamond, 9,893 Mayo (Rhodesia) Development, 10,750 Nigel Deep, 120,482 New Gold Coast Agency, £7,000 Northern Copper debentures, 735 North American Transportation and Trading, 10,000 Oroville Dredging, 55,563 Robinson Deep, 72,325 Rand Victoria Mines, 22,115 Rand Mines Deep, 24,555 Simmer and Jack East, 202,963 Simmer and Jack Proprietary, 21,476 South Rose Deep, £43,000 Simmer and Jack East second debentures, £32,000 South Rose Deep bonds, £11,800 United Rhodesia Gold Fields debentures, 3,950 United Electric Tramways of Monte Video, 220 ditto preference, and 12,743 Wassau shares. In addition, it is said, sundry South African and miscellaneous shares are held, of which £42,829 is the value of the quoted portion, the remainder having no market quotations. The company also holds a small interest in two unfloated South African properties. Such is the exhibit. Not altogether a pleasurable one for the unfortunate shareholders, is it, now?

Passing Events.

The figures of the trade of sundry foreign countries have now been issued by the Statistical Department of the Board of Trade down to the end of November, and in the main they continue to show that the wave of prosperity in international commerce, due partly to a return of peace, is touching most of these countries and lifting their figures up. The exceptions are Egypt and Japan, but in neither instance is the decline of exports worth mentioning, and Japanese and Egyptian imports have gone up along with those of the other countries enumerated. These are Belgium, France, Spain, Italy, Austro-Hungary, Egypt, the United States, to name the whole of them, Japan, British India, Canada, and the United Kingdom. We shall examine the returns with greater interest when they are before us for the entire year, but in the meantime it may be worthy of note that the increase in the exports of the United Kingdom, domestic products alone, has been greater in proportion than those of any one of the other countries. Oddly enough, too, tariffs do not seem to stop imports when a country is flourishing, and the increase in the imports of the United States during the first ten months of the past year was nearly 16 per cent. That, too, in the face of the deadly tariff. Clearly tariffs are merely methods of brigandage.

The interim report of the British Indian Tea Company is not a very inspiring one for the shareholders. According to the directors cultivation was well kept up, but there were scarcely any good flushes of leaf throughout the past season, and the total crop consequently only amounted to 1,059,395 lbs. or 53,405 lbs. under the estimate, and 91,651 lbs. less than the out-turn of 1904. A better price was obtained for the tea from the Assam gardens, but this was neutralised by a falling off in value at the Cachar estates, with the result that the 536,780 lbs. sold to date realised the same average of 5.97d. per lb. as that obtained on the 634,025 lbs. disposed of in 1904. With a short crop the cost of production was naturally heavier, and the directors regret that the result of the season's working does not promise to be very satisfactory.

A good word must be said for the *Financial Reform Almanack* for the current year. It is, as usual, full of most valuable facts and tables of statistics of interest to the community, and this issue contains an admirable poll book which should make its popularity greater than ever. This portion of the Almanack was issued separately in time for the pollings, and we regret that its appearance was not mentioned last week, but there is still time to get the complete book, which is altogether the best thing of the kind we have, much superior, for instance, to the poll-book issued by the *Daily Mail*.

The *Tribune*, which has made its appearance this week and seems to be going strong—indeed, it overwhelms with the mass of excellent reading matter it supplies—has begun an interesting series of articles upon Chinese labour in South Africa. They should be useful and valuable, but surely the writer is a little astray when he says "no sane man who looks upon things as they are, and not as an inexperienced fancy would paint them, would apply the term 'yellow slaves,' to the coolies. . . . They have a fair time, decent accommodation, proper wages, and ample measure of good food." What has that to do with it? We doubt, to begin with, whether their wages are fair; the bulk of the reliable evidence is to the contrary, and are they any the less slaves because they have liberty to work seven days a week, to eat so that they may thus work, and to sleep a certain number of hours in the twenty-four? We must believe the poor crimped wretches to be bondsmen and nothing else, until those who defend their employment in compounds and deprived of the society of their women can point out to us what single attribute of free human beings they possess.

Sir Frank Lascelles, the British Ambassador to Germany, never did a better piece of representative work

in his life than when he attended a dinner given on Tuesday last by the Berlin Chamber of Commerce in furtherance of amity with England. The speech he made at that dinner was excellent in substance and spirit. As he pointed out, commercial rivalry did not necessarily imply estrangement between peoples. On the contrary, each party might desire the prosperity of the other, if only to have security for the payment of goods delivered. He dwelt upon the enormous value of the trade between England and Germany as a help towards a better understanding between the two peoples, and pointed out also that the establishment of good relations between the two countries does not require the abandonment of other friendships by either. That is excellent doctrine. Our business is to be friends with all the world, cordial, honest, honourable friends.

Australia's ambitions are youthful in their far-reaching enthusiasms, and it may be interesting to note as a symptom of the fruits of Protectionism that some people have been meeting in Melbourne and "resolving," by means of tariffs, to convert Australia into the woollen manufacturing country for the whole world. We wish them joy of their endeavour, and have not the least feeling of either apprehension or jealousy. Durable prosperity was never built up by tariffs in any country. We wish, though, the Australians would pay what they owe us before they start this arduous undertaking.

In buying up the Devon and Cornwall Banking Company the resourceful Lloyds Bank is taking over an institution of some importance. The Devon and Cornwall was established as far back as 1,832, and possesses 91 branches in inland and coast towns in the South-West of England, besides the head office at Plymouth. Its nominal capital is £1,250,000, of which £250,000 is paid up, and at the end of December, 1904, the latest date for which a balance-sheet is available, the reserve was £350,000, and £4,216,862 was owing on deposit, current, and other accounts. Advances on security stood at £2,401,812, investments reached £1,767,066, including £600,000, Consols at 85, and the cash balances amounted to £549,661. For the past 16 years the annual dividend and bonus have aggregated 20 per cent., and Lloyds will give 3 £50 shares with £8 paid for each £100 share with £20 called up. All the present directors of the Devon and Cornwall will continue their services as a local committee, and the present staff will be retained. Moreover, one of the directors of the acquired bank will go on to the board of Lloyds, and the general manager will become district manager. On the whole a very satisfactory arrangement, and shareholders will no doubt accept the terms however much they may regret to see the nominal end of such an old-established institution.

According to a report from Manchester, the Bleachers' Association has just carried through an important acquisition, having purchased for £475,000 its chief competitor, the River Etherow Bleaching Company, Limited, Glossop, North Derbyshire. These works were established three years ago only by Mr. J. H. Gartside, formerly chairman of the Calico Printers' Association, and are reported to be equipped with modern machinery and to command important water rights. It appears that a good deal of price-cutting has lately been prevalent, but now that competition has been removed unremunerative contracts will not, of course, be renewed. The method of payment is not mentioned, but it is stated that no public issue of capital will be involved in the purchase.

It seems not improbable that, after all, the Arica and Tacna Railway Company may be bought up in connection with the Chilian-Bolivian Railway projects. An extraordinary general meeting has been called for Thursday, February 8, for the purpose of considering an offer for the purchase of the undertaking. Nothing further than this is known at present, no terms being mentioned, but bearing in mind the company's record, there is no doubt that anything at all substantial will be readily accepted.

We are sorry that Edinburgh failed to do itself honour by returning Mr. Leonard Courtney, but doubtless the *Scotsman* newspaper has not become less venomous in its declining days, and clannish pride and class dourness did the rest. And bad though the West-End behaved in this matter, Edinburgh as a whole did well, better than we had hoped, and Scotland as a whole is going to be in the forefront of the coming battle. Hardly a reactionary or anarchy-fomenting politician in it will be left standing when the fight is over.

The wheat crop of Victoria (Australia) for this season is estimated at 23,000,000 bushels, being an increase over last year's return of 1,456,850 bushels. The amount required for home consumption is 6,500,000 and for seed 1,900,000, leaving about 14,000,000 bushels available for export. With present market prices at about 32s. per quarter—equal to 4s. per bushel—3s. 3d. per bushel would be realised after defraying freight, commission, and exchange, making the value of the wheat available for export £2,275,000.

May we venture to hope that the breach made in the adamant wall of the United States Customs tariff by the new Philippine tariff is the beginning of the end of protectionism in that fiscally benighted and mediæval country? Perhaps. At any rate, the House of Representatives passed the President's Bill for reducing the duties levied at United States ports on Philippine produce by 258 votes against 71. This bill provides for a reduction of three-fourths in the sugar duties levied under the Dingley tariff, and apparently provides for the complete abolition of these duties in the course of a few years. An object lesson will, therefore, be furnished to the people of the United States in the benefits of Free Trade should this bill pass the Senate and become law. We can hardly imagine it possible for the monopolists to maintain the Dingley tariff for many years more in the face of this precedent. At the same time, Protectionists in the United States need not run away with the idea that we are eager from any selfish point of view to see their country liberated. The longer they keep the submissive millions of their countrymen under the harrow by their monopolies the better it is for our foreign trade. We can beat them everywhere, beat them in their own markets with many of the higher qualities of our manufactures. In the interests of human progress, however, we trust the Philippine tariff bill marks the beginning of the end.

Another Rand amalgamation! The newest scheme of amalgamation conceived by the mine bosses is to effect the absorption of the Wemmer Gold Mining Company by the Village Main Reef, the amalgamation, it is said, to come into being from the 1st inst. According to this plan the 20,000 Wemmer shares owned by the Village Main Reef are to be cancelled, and the capital of the buying out concern is to be raised from £400,000 to £472,000 in order to satisfy the remaining 60,000 shares out of the Wemmer's capital of £80,000. Thus Wemmer shareholders will receive six Village Main Reef shares for every five held. A meeting of the Wemmer Company is convened for March 29 to consider this proposal.

The Bank of Montreal has opened a branch at Fenelon Falls, Ontario.

RAND DIVIDENDS IN 1905.—In our list of dividends given last week we accidentally omitted the declaration of the jubilee of 25 per cent. last September, making a total of 50 per cent. So another £12,500 has to be added to the aggregate, making it £5,382,087.

Mr. Arthur G. Hooper, the recently elected member of Parliament for Dudley, is the deputy-chairman of the Central Insurance Company.

We have received Messrs. Spottiswoode and Co.'s *Stock Exchange Hand-Book for 1906*, price 1s. 6d., its seventeenth annual publication, and can again commend it to private investors interested in public securities. A long and representative list of these, from Consols, Foreign Government stocks, Home and American railways, banks, industrial companies, steamship companies, and others, is embraced in the book, which gives particulars of their finance and the highest and lowest prices for five years back.

GUARDIAN ASSURANCE

COMPANY, LIMITED. Established 1821.
II, Lombard Street, LONDON, E.C.

TOTAL ASSETS over £5,000,000
TOTAL INCOME over £940,000
LARGE BONUSES.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

The Bank of England did intervene in the end of last week to prevent the short loan market from being swamped by unemployed credits. Judging by the return issued yesterday, and allowing for the repayments of temporary Exchequer borrowings, the Bank seems to have allowed the clearing-house banks interest— $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., it is said—on their surplus balances left with it to an amount of between £3,000,000 and £3,500,000. Whatever the sum was, its absorption in this way had instant effect in bracing up short loan rates outside. Instead of dragging around at $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 per cent., the rates for call money rose to $3\frac{1}{2}$ and 4 per cent., and have remained thereabouts ever since, while seven-day money has generally cost $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. At the same time, business once more drifted to the Bank—first, chiefly in bills which it discounted at its minimum rate, and also to a considerable extent to-day in seven-day loans at 5 per cent. We hear that the Bank arranged with the clearing-house banks for the control of their spare balances up to the 24th inst., it being calculated that by that time the revenue collection will have so lessened the supply of banking credits as to keep the market from slipping away if left to itself.

This bracing up of the loan market has been hard upon the bill brokers, who have not been able to screw their buying rates up to anything like an extent corresponding to the rise in the price of short loans. All week they have struggled towards $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as their working rate on two and three months' remitted bills, but they had to take $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. and $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., partly because the competition of Continental banks has continued more or less active throughout the week. French banks have bought three months' bills at $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., and were inquiring after long-dated paper at $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. Yesterday, moreover, the market was depressed by the news that the Reichsbank had lowered its discount rate to 5 per cent. Bill rates were therefore weak and there is little temptation to the discounter to buy paper at prices which involve him in an immediate loss. Some houses are disposed to speculate in long bills, going so far even as to buy six months' remitted paper at $3\frac{5}{16}$ per cent., but it is not a very tempting business in view of the probability that money rates will be against the operation for probably the remainder of the current quarter. Not that the mere collection of the revenue will keep the market stiff throughout February and March. There would probably be seasons of cheapness in the middle of the month or at the beginning of February and the first ten days or so in March if it were safe to allow the market to drift its own way. But this is just what the Bank of England dare not allow with all sorts of probable calls upon its insignificant stock of bullion in prospect.

No doubt gold will be available in the open market to meet some of the Continental, South American, and

other demands certain to be felt here during the next three or four months, but until the Bank's own stock has been sensibly augmented we can only look at imports from abroad as an aid to lightening the pressure, not as a guarantee of cheap or steadily easy money. Next week, moreover, there is only about £150,000 of new gold coming in and India is likely to take the bulk of that for small bars. The price, however, in the open market has fallen to 77s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz., and there is no indication of an immediate revival of demands from the Continent, but we can never tell when it may become active. About £1,000,000 is to arrive in the week after next, and if the Bank of England could only get that £1,000,000 and a few others, we might then look for a more comfortable Money Market throughout the spring and summer. Calls next week are insignificant, apart from £650,000 due on the Japanese loan.

Large changes are shown by the Bank return, but apart from the great decrease of £5,500,000 in other securities, the most striking change is a reduction of £6,836,000 in the other deposits. How was this brought about? First by the reduction in Government securities, which absorbed market balances to that extent either directly in the manner above described or through the transfer of Treasury balances to the Bank in repayment of Treasury short loans. Then the market had succeeded up to Wednesday night in redeeming £3,817,000 more of its pledges or its bills due at the Bank, that being the amount by which other securities are down, and had it not been for an increase of £2,196,000 in the reserve due to a liberal reflux of notes and coin from the active circulation the decline in the other deposits would have been severe enough to put the market helplessly at the Bank's mercy. As it is the total of the other deposits is now only £41,137,000, which is within £1,000,000 of what we call "poverty line."

SILVER.

The Indian Government has been a vigorous buyer of silver all week, but the demands from other quarters were more irregular and prices have fluctuated sharply. Quotations rose to 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. for cash and 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. for future delivery on the above mentioned support coupled with a little inquiry from the bazaars, but relapsed again to 30d. and 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. respectively on some speculative sales of forward metal. The Government support, however, continued strong and a fresh rally carried prices up to 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. Applications for the Rs. 1,20,00,000 India Council drafts on Wednesday reached a total of Rs. 7,08,00,000 in bills and Rs. 1,94,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. The amounts allotted were Rs. 55,11,000 in bills and Rs. 64,89,000 in transfers, tenders at Rs. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and Rs. 4 3-32d. per rupee respectively receiving about 7 per cent. Next week another Rs. 1,20,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, January 17, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued ..	£ 48,023,840	Government Debt ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	£ 7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	£ 29,573,840
		Silver Bullion ..	—
	£48,023,840		£48,023,840

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 12,839,473
Reserve ..	£ 3,507,184	Other Securities ..	£ 33,198,421
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	£ 7,733,329	Notes ..	£ 19,609,685
Other Deposits ..	£ 41,136,641	Gold and Silver Coin ..	£ 1,401,675
Seven Day and other Bills ..	£ 119,100		
	£67,049,254		£67,049,254

Dated January 18, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. Jan. 18		Jan. 10, 1906.	Jan. 17, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,448,924	Rest ..	3,457,927	3,507,184	49,257	—
8,788,970	Pub. Deposits ..	8,090,486	7,733,329	—	357,157
42,351,035	Other do. ..	47,972,865	41,136,641	—	6,836,224
134,790	7 Day Bills ..	96,508	119,100	22,592	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
19,408,041	Gov. Securities ..	18,339,473	12,839,473	5,500,000	—
25,873,180	Other do. ..	37,015,725	33,198,421	3,817,304	—
23,995,438	Total Reserve ..	18,815,588	21,011,360	—	2,195,772
				9,389,153	9,389,153
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
27,649,165	Coin and Bullion	29,432,270	28,414,155	—	1,018,115
33,194,603	Proportion ..	29,797,858	30,975,515	1,177,657	—
46 1/2 p.c.	Bank Rate ..	3 3/4 p.c.	4 1/2 p.c.	9 1/2 p.c.	—
3 "		4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £5,000 out.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	155,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
July	1,093,888,000	830,361,000	273,527,000	—
August	1,098,366,000	945,164,000	153,202,000	—
September	879,323,000	678,546,000	200,777,000	—
October	1,006,632,000	861,123,000	145,509,000	—
November	1,187,821,000	1,117,870,000	69,951,000	—
Week ending				
Dec. 6	315,761,000	216,663,000	99,098,000	—
" 13	201,126,000	182,495,000	18,631,000	—
" 20	301,263,000	261,237,000	40,026,000	—
" 27	161,274,000	157,482,000	3,792,000	—
Total for year	12,253,307,000	10,459,068,000	1,794,239,000	—
	1906	1905		
Jan. 3	340,266,000	276,940,000	63,326,000	—
" 10	228,921,000	215,482,000	13,439,000	—
" 17	287,646,000	254,259,000	33,387,000	—
	856,833,000	746,681,000	110,152,000	—

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders for Treasury Bills to the amount of £1,000,000 will be received at the Bank of England on the 23rd inst. The Bills, which will be in part replacement of bills falling due on the 29th inst., will be dated Jan. 29th, and will be payable six months after date.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
2,500,000	3 months	Jan. 23	3 17 6
2,500,000	6 months	Jan. 29	1 18 7
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 18 3
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,000,000	3 months	Mar. 7	3 1 8
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
1,800,000	6 months	June 1	3 2 6
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
11,200,000	—	—	—
25,333,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.			WITHDRAWALS.		
Monday, Bars ..	£20,000		Monday, Java ..	£50,000	
Tuesday, " ..	32,000		Wednesday, S. America ..	10,000	
Wednesday, " ..	150,000		Friday, Lima ..	10,000	
Friday, " ..	15,000		Friday, S. Africa ..	10,000	
			Friday, S. America ..	30,500	
			Net Influx ..	106,500	
Total	£217,000		Total	£217,000	

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25 1/2	25 1/5	Antwerp	short	25 1/8	25 20
Brussels	chqs.	25 1/2	25 1/9	Italy	short	25 1/4	25 1/6
Amsterdam	chqs.	12 1/2	12 1/11	Constantinople ..	3 mths	110 20	110 25
Berlin	chqs.	20 1/4	20 1/6	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	16 1/2	17 3/4
Do.	3 mths	20 2/3	20 2/5	Valparaiso	90 dys	1 1/4	1 1/2
Hamburg	chqs.	20 1/4	20 1/5	Calcutta	T.T.	1 1/4	1 1/2
Frankfurt	short	20 1/4	20 1/4	Bombay	T.T.	1 1/4	1 1/2
Vienna	chqs.	24 1/2	24 1/4	Hong Kong	T.T.	2 1/2	2 1/2
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	93 1/2	93 1/2	Shanghai	T.T.	2 1/2	2 1/2
New York	60 dys	4 8 1/2	4 8 1/2	Singapore	T.T.	2 1/2	2 1/2
Lisbon	chqs.	50 1/2	50 1/2	Yokohama	4 mths	2 1/2	2 1/2
Madrid	short	31 1/2	31 1/2				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris	5	May 25, 1900.	2 1/2 2 1/2
Berlin	5	December 11, 1905	4 3 1/2
Hamburg ..	5	December 11, 1905	4 3 1/2
Frankfort ..	5	December 11, 1905	4 3 1/2
Amsterdam ..	3	November, 1905	2 1/2 2 1/2
Brussels ..	4	October 30, 1905	3 1/2 3 1/2
Vienna	4 1/2	October, 1905	4 4
Rome	5	September, 1904	5 4
St. Petersburg ..	7 1/2	January, 1906	7 1/2 7
Madrid	4 1/2	August 21, 1901	4 4
Lisbon	5 1/2	January 11, 1899	5 5
Stockholm ..	5 1/2	December, 1905.	5 4 1/2
Copenhagen ..	5 1/2	October, 1905	4 1/2 4
Calcutta	8	January 4, 1906	—
Bombay	8	January 4, 1906	—
New York call money ..	4 1/2	—	—

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.
(For week ended Jan. 13.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
£	£
Customs	National Debt Services ..
Excise	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Charges
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion
Property and Income Tax ..	Supply Services
Post Office	Bullion Advances
Telegraphs	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds ..
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds redeemed
Miscellaneous	Uganda Railway
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works
Uganda Railway	Naval Works
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts
count	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts	ings)
Naval Works Acts	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts ..	Act
Land Registry Acts ..	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Issue of Exchequer Bonds	in reduction of debt ..
under Cunard Agreement Act	Cunard Agreement
Ways and Means	Surplus Revenue, 1904-5 ..
Temporary Advances Defi-	ciency Advances repaid ..
ciency	Ways and Means Advances
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	repaid
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	Increase in Exchequer
Transvaal and Orange River	balances
Colony. Repayment of	
Temporary Advance ..	
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	
tion payments	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	
£4,537,686	£4,537,68

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Dec. 16/29, 1905.	Dec. 1/14, 1905.	Nov. 8/21, 1905.	Nov. 1/14, 1905.
Gold	£73,703,856	£82,217,801	£87,449,495	£87,618,529
Silver and subsidiary				
coin	3,279,056	3,628,507	3,676,338	3,641,494
Advances and bills				
discounted	63,169,111	55,747,500	42,607,349	42,742,235
Securities belonging				
to the Bank	7,950,626	7,945,559	6,950,420	7,002,926
Notes in circulation ..	119,500,981	112,492,851	110,706,204	123,557,822
Deposits and current				
account	45,549,278	45,095,921	48,420,840	47,416,869
Treasury account ..	6,285,740	5,416,130	7,229,194	7,260,276

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Jan. 11, 1906.	Jan. 4, 1906.	Dec. 28, 1905.	Jan. 12, 1905.
Coin and bullion	£4,732,000	£4,847,000	£4,768,320	£4,776,760
Other securities	24,110,160	25,028,280	24,531,160	23,386,040
Note circulation	28,074,440	27,598,640	27,665,120	26,978,280
Deposits	3,265,600	4,549,480	3,868,440	3,209,200

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Jan. 15, 1906.	Jan. 6, 1906.	Dec. 30, 1905.	Jan. 14, 1905.
Cash in hand	£46,280,950	£42,701,600	£40,176,250	£50,801,200
Bills discounted	44,559,850	51,790,300	61,380,750	39,276,850
Advances on stocks ..	4,289,300	5,694,600	10,217,300	2,649,800
Note circulation	68,235,750	75,765,300	82,833,950	67,419,700
Public deposits	27,934,050	26,224,800	31,540,350	26,641,550

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Jan. 13, 1906.	Jan. 6, 1906.	Dec. 30, 1905.	Jan. 14, 1905.
Gold Reserve	£45,208,833	£44,874,541	£44,755,208	£48,241,458
Silver reserve	12,294,000	12,080,250	12,122,666	12,391,000
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	2,038,708	2,540,291	2,843,458	2,000,250
Note circulation	69,723,791	73,150,625	76,958,000	67,653,208
Bills discounted	21,164,458	24,670,333	26,719,708	16,066,771

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Jan. 13, 1906	Jan. 6, 1906	Dec. 30, 1905	Jan. 14, 1905.
Gold	£ 15,037,612	£ 15,030,986	£ 15,027,346	£ 14,914,161
Silver	22,949,453	22,844,826	22,836,567	19,954,036
Foreign Bills ..	3,041,665	2,997,464	3,093,541	1,677,787
Discount and Short Bills	47,140,883	47,217,141	46,659,609	49,737,239
Treasury Account ..	20,457,751	20,830,210	20,885,772	21,334,124
Notes in circulation ..	62,321,173	62,306,025	62,004,923	64,336,388
Current Account deposits	23,570,475	23,331,884	22,620,084	25,028,718
Dividends Interests ..	3,814,601	2,918,664	3,932,587	2,370,141
Government Securities ..	6,124,399	6,024,954	6,275,524	4,003,258

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Jan. 18, 1905.	Jan. 11, 1906.	Jan. 4, 1906.	Jan. 19, 1905.
Gold in hand ..	£ 114,522,800	£ 114,740,680	£ 114,053,360	£ 106,884,240
Silver in hand ..	42,493,640	42,583,120	42,618,840	43,930,410
Bills discounted ..	41,684,160	41,364,600	53,566,120	27,011,480
Advances	20,342,480	20,384,600	21,045,640	20,379,960
Note circulation ..	191,291,400	190,125,400	196,210,960	177,317,680
Public deposits ..	7,682,920	9,361,880	10,582,720	5,140,080
Private deposits ..	24,055,960	24,443,520	25,881,400	20,362,440

Proportion between bullion and circulation 82 per cent. against 82½ per cent. a week ago.

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Jan. 15, 1906	Jan. 6, 1906	Dec. 30, 1905	Jan. 14, 1905.
Specie	£ 35,666,000	£ 33,468,000	£ 34,602,000	£ 43,118,000
Legal tenders ..	16,756,200	15,834,200	15,140,000	17,731,600
Loans and discounts	201,000,000	200,940,000	200,200,000	212,860,000
Circulation	10,598,200	10,582,600	10,619,200	8,604,400
Net deposits	199,442,000	196,748,000	195,530,000	223,840,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of nett deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £2,561,700 against an excess last week of £115,200.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Jan. 9.	Jan. 11.	Jan. 16.	Jan. 18.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'1½	12'1½	12'1½	12'1½
Do. do.	3 months	12'3½	12'4	12'4½	12'4½
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'4½	25'4½	25'4½	25'4½
Hamburg	3 months	20'6½	20'6½	20'6½	20'6½
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'6½	20'6½	20'6½	20'6½
Paris	cheques	25'11½	25'11½	25'13½	25'13½
Do. do.	3 months	25'3½	25'3½	25'3½	25'3½
Marseilles	3 months	25'3½	25'3½	25'3½	25'3½
Switzerland	3 months	25'4½	25'4½	25'4½	25'4½
Austria	3 months	24'3½	24'3½	24'3½	24'3½
St. Petersburg	3 months	24'½	24'½	24'½	24'½
Moscow	3 months	24'½	24'½	24'½	24'½
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'4½	25'4½	25'4½	25'50
New York	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	37½	38	38	38½
Lisbon	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen	3 months	18'40	18'40	18'42	18'42
Christiania	3 months	18'41	18'41	18'43	18'43
Stockholm	3 months	18'41	18'41	18'43	18'43

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

Per cent

Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3½-3½
Three months	3½-3½
Four months	3½-3½
Six months	3½-3½
Three months fine inland bills	4-4½
Four months	4-4½
Six months	4-4½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

Per cent.

Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
" " short loan rates	5
Bankers' rate on deposits	2½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	3
" " 7 and 14 days' notice	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans	3½
" " for call loans ..	3½-4

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Stock market interests are still overshadowed by the absorbing interest excited by the General Election, and it is again useless to occupy much space with the movements in prices this week. One thing, however, may be noted—business has been better during the current elections than at previous seasons of the same kind. Evidently, therefore, the public is not disturbed as members of the Stock Exchange themselves are disposed to be by the alleged "upheaval of socialism." Much money has been made in the past year and seeks investment. Those who possess this money are consequently looking around for safe placements, and the stream of orders has been good all through the turmoil of the fight. This should be encouraging to those who

are now frightened by what they think an oncoming of anarchy. No class of citizens is so timorous as the moneyed class, and if it had been really disposed to take fright at the determined effort of the electors to be done once for all with reaction and class monopoly in the management of public affairs the Stock Exchange would have been howling out that the country was on the verge of ruin.

Prices have not risen very much, but there has been a wonderful elasticity in all the leading departments outside Government stocks, and in some particular favourites the speculation has been more vigorous than for a long time back. Some of these special points are dealt with in our general market article, but it may be noted here that the public has once more refused to follow the lead of the African mine swayers when they put up the price of Kaffir shares. This is wise. Stick to the advice of THE INVESTORS' REVIEW, and sell out when prices are in the ascendant, all except possessions in dividend-yielding properties held at figures which make them fair speculative investments. The wild cat and deceptive creations of the Kaffir and Rhodesian company promoters ought not to be touched at all now any more than at previous seasons when a factitious activity has been given to them, but if you are so unfortunate as to have been drawn into the net by some specious tale take the opportunity of the "boomlets," at least to reduce your holding.

Continue also to give the Yankee market a wide berth. We have no share in Mr. Thos. Lawson of Boston's syndicates, and whether he makes a loss or profit is of no interest to us whatsoever. All the more, therefore, are we to be believed when we say that in our opinion his diagnosis of market symptoms is as accurate as could be expected from a man of his prepossessions, and much in accordance with ours. It is a hollow and manipulated market to an extent quite rivalling that of the Kaffir Circus, and there is not going to be any opportunity for safe purchases of railroad shares or shares in United States industries until Wall Street has passed through another cleansing panic. Many bonds may be all right, good enough for the interest promised and might not fall much in price did a number of the banks and financiers now leading the play on the stock markets get swept away by the tempest they are doing their best to raise, but shares of all kinds are to be avoided as purchases at current quotations.

The Week's Stock Markets.

The elections have naturally occupied the most prominent place in the public mind this week, and few people have been disposed to pay much attention to ordinary business affairs in any form. Dealing in the Stock Exchange has therefore been at a very low ebb, but the absence of trade gave all the more opportunity

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91½	87½	Consols (2½ p.c. Money)	89½	89½
91½	87½	Do. Account (Feb. 1)	88½	90
90½	86½	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	88½	88½
100½	99½	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907 ..	100½	100½
95½	89	Irish Land (2½)	90½	91
101½	96½	Local Loans (3)	99½	99½
99½	97½	National War Loan (2½ p.c.) ..	98½	98½
99½	97½	Do. Account (Feb. 1)	98	98½
101½	97½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.)	99	99½
308	291½	Bk. of England Stek. (9 p.c.) ..	294½	294½
109	103½	India 3½ p.c. Stek. red. 1931 ..	105	105½
99½	94½	Do. 3 p.c. Stek. red. 1948 ..	96½	96½
85½	79½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stek. red. 1926 ..	80	80½
66½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper	66	66

for political reflection, and on most days the House was pretty full of excitement. Not of the kind, of course, which prevailed when the country was swept by the Khaki fever, little more than five years ago, and sad must have been the thoughts of many when they dwelt upon the glorious times and fortunes quickly made then so freely predicted, and the actual events since 1900. The Stock Exchange, however, is proverbially Conservative, and all kinds of fearful things were fore-

lift the quotation by about £3, while Brighton deferred rose £2, carrying the ordinary up 1 with it. South-Eastern preferred and deferred advanced on hopes that the Managing Committee's statement promised for Friday would prove favourable. The Tilbury dividend, on Thursday, provided a very unpleasant surprise, as it was $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. down, with a drop of £7,000 in the carry forward, and the price was promptly marked down $4\frac{1}{2}$. No sellers, however, came into the market, and other stocks in this group were not appreciably affected.

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
222½	128	Antofagasta (10)	214	224
321	144½	Do. Def. (15)	315	325
131½	105	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	129	129
131	113½	Do. Pref. (5)	131	131
84½	77	Bahia Blanca Pref. (5) ..	86	86
148½	134½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	144	143½
133½	126	Do. Pref. (5)	128	128
143½	117	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	134	133½
118½	108½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	119	120
110½	99½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109	109
115	101½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	116½	117
110	92½	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	112	112
176½	161	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	167	168
100½	103½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	109	108
142½	127	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	138	138
93	79	Central Uruguay (4)	92	92
109	100	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	110	110
95½	88	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	94	94
76½	58	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	74½	73
28	2½	Costa Rica	2½	2½
12½	10½	Cuban Central	6½	6½
107½	104	Do. Pref. (5½)	111½	111½
95½	72	Do. Deb. (4½)	105	105
74	52½	East Argentine (4½)	93	93
84½	64	Inter-oceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	6½	6½
99½	84½	Leopoldina (3)	85	84½
110½	106	Do. Deb. (4)	97½	97½
108	104½	Manila Bonds "A" (6)	108	108
20½	19½	Do. "B" (6)	105	105
124½	103½	Mexican Ord. Stk.	26½	26
57	36½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½)	123	123
69½	48½	Do. 2nd Pref.	53½	53½
17	10½	Mexican Southern (2½)	57	57
19½	16½	Nitrate Ord. (5½)	14½	14½
220	178	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	199	199
226	122	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	208	209
		United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	188½	188½

Wall Street claimed that public interest in America had at last been aroused, and that the buying had enabled the magnates to convert into cash some of their paper profits. It cannot be said, however, that there is very much evidence of outside support in the daily records, which have told the old familiar story of brilliant gains in a few selected stocks taken in turn, while the rest of the market lay quiescent. On this side dealers have remained content to act as spectators to the pyrotechnic display, and while they express a belief that prices will reach a much higher level, they frankly admit that they are afraid to take a hand in the game. Business consequently has dragged whenever the New York pressure was withdrawn, and although the changes on the week in many instances are large, the movements are due entirely to Wall Street. Attention there was devoted at first to one or two out of the way things easily influenced, and under cover of the brilliant display made with them the cliques proceeded to secure profits elsewhere. Denver shares were first taken in hand, and rushed up, but the hoisting operations were gradually extended until Illinois Central, Louisville, Reading, Union Pacific, and Wabash issues, and to a less degree Baltimore, Chesapeake, Milwaukee, and Southern common and preference, all felt the influence of the manipulator.

Canadian Railway securities went back sharply in the beginning of the week, and continued dull until Wednesday, when the increase of £8,300 in the Grand Trunk traffic return brought about a rally. The recovery in the ordinary stock was only just sufficient to wipe out the earlier loss, and in the third preference it did not quite do that, but the first and second preferences both finished with moderate gains. Canadian Pacific shares, after being about \$1 down, also closed without appreciable change on the week.

Speculation has broken out again in Antofagasta stocks, and the ordinary and deferred both advanced 10 on a revival of the talk of a splitting arrangement. Argentine Railway things continue their upward move-

ment in a steady fashion without much sign of a recoil in any of the principal issues, although the traffic returns were considered rather less satisfactory than usual. Amongst other South American things Uruguay stocks also improved, and all San Paulo issues were harder; but Leopoldina ordinary stock relapsed a fraction or two, and Arauco ordinary and preference shares lost a good part of last week's gains. Arica and Tacna shares remained firm on the calling of a meeting to consider a provisional agreement entered into for the sale of the railway to the syndicate which secured the contract for the new line from Arica to La Paz, and the £20 shares touched 9½. Mexican Railway stocks were driven down by "bear" sales, but rallied after the traffic return came out, and the two preferences closed with small gains on balance. The United Railways of the Havana now includes the

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
27	15	Allsopp Ordinary	19	19
71	40	City of London Ord.	54½	50½
566	505	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	550	550
27½	19½	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	17½	18½
2½	2½	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22) ..	28	28
37½	3	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	3	3
68½	48	Watney, Combe, P. Or. St. (4) ..	56½	54½
35	15	Do. Def. Ord. Stock	16	15
105	99	London & Ind. Docks P. St. (4) ..	99	99
78½	56½	Do. Def. Stk. (3½)	58	61
6½	5½	Aerated Bread (32½)	6½	6½
7½	6	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	6½	6½
12	12	Ass'd. Portland Cement P. St. (5½) ..	6½	6½
1½	1½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	1½	1½
3½	1½	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2	2
8	5	Brunner Mond (35)	7½	5½
11½	9	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½) ..	11½	11½
104	104	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½) ..	104	104
502½	483½	Coats Ordinary (20)	500	500
1½	1½	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	1½	1½
104	20/3	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nll) ..	104	104
1½	1	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4) ..	1½	1½
104	6½	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3)	6½	6½
13½	10½	Henley's Telegraph (15)	13	13
4½	4½	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20)	4½	4½
18	12	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½) ..	18	18
111	106	Do. Debenture (42)	107	108
1½	1½	Lipton Ordinary (7)	1½	1½
6½	5	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	5½	5½
104	33/	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	104	104
8	5½	Russian Petroleum	7½	7½
15½	13½	Savoy Hotel (5)	15½	15½
105	102½	Sweetmeat Automatic	105	105
89	49½	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10) ..	16	16
57½	38½	Welsbach Ordinary Stock	57½	57½
108½	99½	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	108	108
98	98	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4) ..	102½	102½
11½	10½	Hudson's Bay Co. (58/-)	82	80
84½	64	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. P. St. (1½) ..	47½	51½
13½	104	Do. Debentures (6)	108	108
104½	95½	National Discount (10)	9½	9½
134½	126½	Union Discount (11)	112	112
36½	34	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8) ..	6½	6½
59	38	City of London Elect. Ord. (6) ..	11½	11½
19	18½	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (48) ..	103½	103
12	12	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	133	133
148	92	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	3½	3½
42½	26½	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	3½	3½
109½	93½	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10) ..	11½	11½
21½	21½	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½) ..	11½	11½
14½	11½	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	13½	14
249	214½	United States Steel Ordinary ..	44½	40½
47	38½	Do. Preference (7)	110	112½
93½	8	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	22	22
110½	101½	Cunard Steam	14	14½
18½	10	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13) ..	239½	240½
147½	134½	Royal Mail	40	53½
147½	134	Union-Castle Mail Steamship ..	8½	8½
113½	100	Anglo-American Telegraph ..	110½	112½
147½	134	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½)	17½	16½
102	7½	Do. Def. Ord.	147½	147½
93½	7½	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7) ..	147½	147½
129	99	Eastern Extension (7)	147½	147½
102	98	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	111½	111½
		Western Telegraph (7)	14½	14½
		British Elect. Traction Ord. (6) ..	8½	8½
		Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8) ..	98	8½
		London General Omnibus (8) ..	113½	115½
		London United Trams Pref. (5) ..	92	91

figures of the recently acquired Cardenas line in its weekly return, but does not give the results of a year ago, so that comparison is impossible; but last week's return was not considered very satisfactory, and the ordinary stock receded sharply, dragging other Cuban things down a fraction or two with it.

Miscellaneous markets were not characterised by much activity, but some of the movements possessed interest. A feature was the pronounced weakness in Brewery issues, a considerable number of stocks and shares falling severely, and we do not know that the decline can be expected to stop just yet. Very bad

reports continue to be issued, and immense capital losses are constantly coming to light, so that all round there is a feeling of pronounced depression. Investors are evidently becoming alarmed, and if they really set their minds on getting clear, the consequences look like being disastrous. Bank shares were firm and frequently higher, and things like Trusts, Insurance shares, and Gas securities were firm, although Gas Lights slipped back at the end on the dividend statement showing a big reduction in the carry-forward. Telegraphs were also hard as a rule, particularly Easterns on the excellent report, but no movements of consequence took place amongst Tramways and Omnibus. Hudson's Bays were rather flat, but Chinese Land and Explorations recovered and kept steady. Pease and Partners and Ebbw Vale were particularly good in the Iron and Steel group, and Textiles held their ground with little going on. London Docks deferred firmed up on bear covering, dividend day being near, but nothing of particular interest happened in the shipping list. An incident was the weakness in Lipton securities, the debentures falling no less than 7 to 102. Quite recently these were run up to 110, on rumours that the company would amalgamate with the Home and Colonial Stores, as they are repayable under certain conditions at 110. The story, however, proves to be without foundation, and prices quickly collapsed. Catering shares were pretty steady, but Nelsons continue to recede after their recent sharp rise. Nitrate shares occasionally improved, while Russian Oils were inclined to ease off.

Not much of consequence happened in the Stock Exchange to-day, which was rather slack, and without much business. Home Railway stocks were inert, and Foreign bonds only so-so. American Railroad shares, however, were buoyed up in the usual style, and showed further improvements at the close, Canadian Pacific shares being included in this observation. Kaffir shares were flat, and several of them put down sharply on a report that Mr. Dale Lace had committed suicide in Johannesburg. We could get no confirmation of the report, and there is nothing in the condition of the market to keep prices up. Paris, moreover, endeavoured to sell when it found our market weak.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

*. Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

The spurt in prices which distinguished the market a week ago was but transitory, for during the past week the Kaffir Circus has been invariably dull. Insiders profess to be stupefied and depressed by the series of Liberal victories throughout the country, but such a feeling is not a deep one. Gloomy, lugubrious expressions are assumed because they fear the public at large will be sad and will not buy until we have another Conservative Government. It is a strange opinion, an astonishing conclusion to come to that every man who speculates or invests in South African shares is a Tory and that the country at large is acting against its convictions and its interests. But market professionals will not care a cent for the result of the elections if only the public will gamble and give them a chance, and they would be joyous men to-morrow if they could only see some indication of this. It is exceedingly difficult to knock it into their heads that the public seek for honest dealing both from them and the mine potentates, and having been ruthlessly stripped so many times they are not yet fools enough to come forward to be stripped again. No business has been done on behalf of outsiders this week, the progress and development of the election absorbing all interest. But how is it possible to revive confidence in the public by further incidents such as the report of the South African Gold Trust, which we analyse fully elsewhere, and by the action of the directors of the Premier Diamond Company, upon which we also comment in the present issue? Are not these, following upon so many others, sufficient to make a profound and lasting impression upon intelligent minds? Try to imagine what shareholders in the Premier Company have lost by the slump in the shares this past four or six weeks, a slump the directors seem to have regarded with callous equanimity. Look, too, at the losses suffered by the shareholders in the South African Gold Trust, and now they have the chagrin of seeing a further heavy fall in their shares. Move-

ments in this market have been spasmodic and erratic, just as the gamblers have willed, and they are of no significance as an indication of the business done. The following dividends have been declared, without making a perceptible difference to the weak condition of the market:—

	Div.	Issued Capital.	Amount.
	%	£	£
Jumpers.....	20	100,000	20,000
Glynn's Lydenburg.....	10	167,350	16,735
Nourse Mines.....	12½	675,000	84,375
Glen Deep.....	7½	600,000	45,000
			166,100

Though the Rhodesian output for December is a record for this field, it has not evoked enthusiasm; it would have been remarkable if it had, for shareholders in Rhodesian companies see that dividends are not made more probable thereby. Accordingly, this section has also been heavy, with hardly a genuine bargain done.

Extreme quietness has ruled in the Egyptian market, but another attempt has been made from the inside to put some life into West Africans, for some fair rises have been recorded. This is of no importance unless it tempts outsiders, which it is hardly likely to do. In the Westralian group Associated have latterly been lifted upwards on the cable from the manager announcing a marked improvement in three points of the mine. Otherwise torpor has characterised this market.

Elsewhere the most important movement has been the continued fall in Broken Hill shares, on real selling and "bear" attacks, the weakening of the metal market being one of the incentives. On the whole, Indian shares have been firm. Yankee Anacondas have moved within narrow limits, and, if anything, are lower on balance, but Rio Tintos have been consistently weak.

CINDERELLA DEEP.—A cable announces that the Main Reef has been intersected in the borehole sunk from the bottom of the shaft (3,900 ft.) at a distance of 113 ft., the total width of the reef matter being 114 in. It is computed that the shaft will have to be sunk about another 160 ft. before it intersects the Main Reef series. The assays are said to be favourable, but this will be tested when details are published. In September last a leader was intersected in the shaft at a depth of 3,658 ft., whose similarity to a leader passed through by the original borehole at 3,190 ft. led the consulting engineer to estimate that the Main Reef would be encountered in the shaft at about 3,859 ft. At this depth it was observed that the formation suddenly steepened from an angle of 45 degrees to 65 degrees, from which the consulting engineer assumed the existence of a fault and the possibility that the reef was carried down through barren country. Consequently sinking was stopped at 3,900 ft., and preparations were made to put in horizontal boreholes north and south from the sides of the shaft at varying depths, in order to pick up the reef either to the north or south of the faulted plane. Before doing this a borehole was started from the bottom of the shaft at an angle of 45 degrees, in order to test the theory that the steepening of the formation had carried the reef to a greater depth than was anticipated. This has been proved by the striking of the reef at the point above-mentioned. A later cable says the borehole discloses a solid body of 6 ft. of conglomerate, the reef giving an assay value of over 1 oz. to the ton.

LANCASTER GOLD MINING COMPANY.—The following important statement is issued with the announcement of the December results:—"Recent estimate based on survey shows that in Botha Reef mine 109,000 tons of payable ore developed and in Battery Reef mine 41,000 tons of payable ore developed, while 50,000 further tons partly developed, totalling 200,000 tons. Some blocks opened out in previous years classified payable from assay results in drives and rises proved unpayable on actual stoping, and certain percentage of ore developed during 1905 likewise proved unpayable. Occurrence of a series of faults, together with higher additional cost of Chinese labour in initial stage, increased cost of working. Management is pushing on shaft sinking and development in both reefs with a view to getting into more satisfactory ground, of which there are some prospects, according to results obtained in adjoining property of Lancaster West Gold Mining Company."

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

*. The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

For the past half-year gross receipts came to £3,199,206 or £5,849 more than in the second half of 1904. Working expenses, however, fell off £13,504 to a total of £1,878,215, so that the proportion of expenses to receipts also declined from 59.24 per cent. to 58.71 per cent. The company has therefore a larger net revenue, and as already intimated is able to distribute a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock as against 4½ per cent. in the second half of 1904. Nothing fresh has to be said about the traffic figures, but it is pleasant to note that considerable

economy in train mileage has been effected, both goods and passengers having run a shorter aggregate distance last year than in the corresponding half-year, with no injury to earnings. There is doubtless a good deal more to be done in this way. Amongst the items of expenditure, rates and taxes show an increase of £4,000, maintenance of way is fully £5,000 up, but locomotive power is down by upwards of £12,000, and traffic expenses by more than £9,000. Capital expenditure during the half-year was moderate at £115,598, of which £27,037 went into new rolling stock and £17,283 into Parkstone quay and Lowestoft harbour. The nett income from the Continental steamboat service was fully £7 up at £17,515, still meagre enough. At the end of the half-year the capital account was overdrawn by £1,067,258, and as the various trust funds in the hands of the board amounted at the same date to about £906,000 after deducting £939,000 set forth as specially invested, presumably outside the business, the board may soon be face to face with a necessity to make another issue of capital. Probably the money borrowed from savings bank, steamboat sinking funds, superannuation funds, pension funds and so on costs the company less than new capital obtained directly from the outside public would do, but we are none the less glad to see so much of the trust funds specially laid aside. The directors say that they are taking the necessary steps to secure the interest of the Great Eastern proprietors in the matter of the proposed absorption of the Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast by the Great Central Railway. Warrants for the dividends will be posted on February 14.

LONDON, BRIGHTON, AND SOUTH COAST RAILWAY.

In the December half-year this company's gross receipts came to £1,806,777 or £7,910 more, and working expenses to £971,339 or £4,702 more than in the half-year ended December 31, 1904. The progress these figures show is not very great but the line is not within what might be called a progressive district, nor can it be said to be progressively managed. It follows the old vicious system of a multiplicity of fares, most of them quite excessive if the business is to be rapidly extended. Goods rates also are high. Working expenses came to 53.73 per cent. of the gross receipts and there does not seem to have been any special attempt to save money in any direction. Maintenance of way is, indeed, fully £3,000 less and locomotive power more than £5,000 less, but traffic expenses are much about the same and general and law charges both are higher. Carriage and wagon repairs, too, have risen by fully £8,000. Train mileage, including motor service mileage, has risen in the half-year, taking passengers and goods together, by less than 50,000 miles, most of which is to be ascribed to the increase in the motor services, and the directors say that these services on the coast lines have yielded very satisfactory results and will be extended as occasion may arise. That is as it should be. In the past half-year capital expenditure amounted to £141,171, of which nearly £17,000 went into the Grosvenor Hotel annexe and £21,282 into various station improvements. The expenditure on Victoria Station and the widenings of the approaches thereto was only £44,276 in the half-year. At the date of the balance-sheet the capital account was overdrawn by £912,965 in spite of the recent issue of new stock, but as the trust funds in hand amount to upwards of £1,000,000 another issue of stock is not quite urgent. It cannot, however, be long postponed, and the market had better take due note of the fact. Thanks to the slight increase in the nett revenue and the absence of any marked expansion in the working charges the directors, as already intimated, were able to pay a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the past half-year, or $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more than had been looked for, and this gives $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. for the year to the deferred ordinary stock, or the same as 12 months back. A balance of £30,800 will be left to carry forward against one of £30,242 brought in. Dividends are payable on Friday, February 9.

METROPOLITAN RAILWAY.

Gross revenue for the six months ended December 31 £444,343, increase £4,747, working expenses £214,951, increase £822, ratio of expenditure to receipts 48.38 per cent., against 45.71 per cent. With the disappearance of second-class carriages after the electrification was completed the number of passengers of this class carried went down 1,973,460, meaning a shrinkage in receipts of £27,041, but, on the other hand, the first-class rose 660,471 in number and £11,000 in revenue, and in the third-class the increases were 2,675,678 and £21,802. From all sources, therefore, the passenger business yielded £3,326 more, and there were also improvements in season tickets, parcels, horses, carriages, &c., minerals, live stock and miscellaneous, but merchandise yielded rather less. On the expenditure side the most interesting item is the locomotive and generating expenses, which were really up by about £11,000, but the reserve fund provided £8,000, so that the actual rise is reduced to about £3,000, similarly with the traffic expenses. There the advance was £2,523, but a credit of £1,000 from the savings brought it down to £1,523. On maintenance of way and works £4,405 less was spent, and carriage and wagon repairs were down slightly, while under general charges there was a saving of £1,684. Rates and taxes were up, of course, the increase being £2,177, but expenses of joint lines and stations showed a reduction of £853. Nett revenue—£229,392—is better by £3,925, but other credits show a large reduction. Sum brought forward was down fully £15,000, bankers' and general interest declined £3,000, and City lines and extensions revenue over £1,000, while last year £10,480 was received, being a sum set aside for a contingency and not required. Railway estates revenue and interest on the Hammersmith and City debenture account yielded more, but all told the available balance is down by £24,385 at £260,321. Then fixed charges were slightly higher,

and although nothing is set aside as the equivalent to £10,000 provided last year for renovation of stations, &c., and £7,070 is saved on account of the Harrow and Uxbridge Guarantee account, the sum available for dividends is down over £8,000 to £180,444. Moreover, preference dividends this time take £13,125 more, and the directors are obliged to cut down the dividend on the ordinary stock from 3 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum, carrying forward £11,448, against £11,286. On Surplus Lands stock the distribution will be at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., against $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. Thus the first fruits of the electrification are not very encouraging and we are not sure that early improvement can be looked for, even though the immediate capital outlays are not important. For the current half-year the expenditure is put at £42,580, money which can be readily provided because there is a credit to capital account of £34,236. In the past six months the expenditure was nearly £630,000, but a credit of £297,600 was received on account of the Harrow and Uxbridge line, so that the nett amount was reduced to £332,200. Dividends payable February 6.

UNION OF LONDON AND SMITHS BANK, LIMITED.

One of the most powerful institutions of its class in the Kingdom, this well-known bank earned excellent profits in the half-year ended December 31 last. The gross amount was £672,035, or £78,929 more than in the corresponding period of 1904, and there was an advance of £32,354 in the sum brought forward to £88,342, making £760,378 in all, against £649,094. Interest allowed to customers was up no less than £41,803 to £207,705, and this movement taken in conjunction with the rise in gross revenue, goes to prove that comparatively high rates for money ruled during the period covered. Salaries, including contributions to pension fund, required £13,678 more at £204,405, and after allowing £31,869 against £23,051 for rebate the nett balance is £316,399, or an increase of £46,985. The directors, however, do not propose to restore the bonus to the former rate of 3s. per share, but again add 1s. 6d. to the regular dividend of 10 per cent. per annum, making the return for the half-year 17s. per share. Balance carried forward will therefore be £121,459 against £74,474. Capital, £3,554,785, and reserve £1,150,000, remain as before. The balance-sheet shows an increase £2,272,633 to £36,609,883 in the deposits and current accounts, and there is a striking advance of about £1,900,000 to £4,057,289 in the acceptances and guarantees, and as other liabilities are also higher, the total of the balance-sheet is £46,276,561, against £41,950,982. Actual cash in hand has been slightly increased to £3,356,054, but the balances at the Bank of England are lower, at £3,271,977, the total of the two items being £6,628,031, or a decline of £329,212. Money at call and short notice, £7,496,379, is larger by £1,215,738, and there is a rise of £553,407 to £6,288,554 in the investments, including the Consols and other British Government stocks held at low prices on account of the reserve. Bills discounted have been increased from £5,163,244 to £5,965,248, but there is a very small rise to £14,397,688 in the loans and advances. Bank premises chiefly freehold, are valued at £1,255,372, or an increase of £41,128

LLOYDS BANK, LIMITED.

At the close of last year this great bank had liabilities on current, deposit, and other accounts of £57,609,599, an increase compared with the end of 1904 of £1,445,884, and when the absorption of the Devon and Cornwall Banking Company is completed it is to be assumed that the figure will be a long way over £60,000,000, a total never before reached we imagine by a single institution. The incident naturally attracts considerable attention, as people begin to wonder to what length the policy of amalgamation and consolidation will be carried. Bills accepted or endorsed are larger by £325,777 at £3,894,901, and the total of the balance-sheet is now £68,077,943 compared with £66,271,050. Reserve fund remains the same, £2,600,000, but there is a small increase on the share capital to £3,551,600 in consequence of the acquisition of the old-established business of Messrs. Hedges, Wells, and Co. of Wallingford. Movements on the assets side although general are nowhere exceptional. Cash in hand and at Bank of England is about £250,000 larger at £9,960,616, but there is a decline of nearly £300,000 to £4,419,852 in the money at call and short notice. Bills of exchange, £7,374,926, show an increase of £378,847, Consols at 85, and other British Government securities are up by £307,492 to £6,452,411 and other investments have been increased by £195,515 to £4,204,707. Advances to customers, etc., are £30,194,805 against £29,586,942, and bank premises are valued £37,880 higher at £1,575,663. Net profits show the modest expansion of about £3,000 to £708,368, and after providing two dividends aggregating 18 $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. the directors write off another £30,000 from bank premises account and carry forward £59,049 against £57,586 brought in.

PARR'S BANK, LIMITED.

This powerful bank found the half-year ended December 31 last a very profitable period, partly due, no doubt, to its participation in the important loan operations of the Japanese Government, the gross revenue being returned at £389,665 or £17,439 more than in the corresponding period of 1904. Against that the current expenses were up £6,695 to £167,204, and a little more was required for rebate at £15,096, so that with the additional £15,016 at £87,980 brought forward, the available balance is over £25,000 larger at £295,346. Therefore the dividend will be at the rate of 19 per cent. per annum with a bonus of 1 per cent., £5,000 going to officers' pension and provident fund and £10,000 to bank premises account, the carry forward being £100,954 compared with £75,647. As with other leading institutions the public liabilities show a large increase, £30,791,746 being due on current, deposit, and other accounts, including the small Isle of Man note issue, against £28,867,653

at the corresponding date, and there is a moderate advance to £3,774,327 in the acceptances. On the other side the cash in hand and at the Bank of England shows the splendid rise of £826,150 to £5,590,504, while the money at call and short notice is up only £133,774 to £5,992,426. Including £1,000,000 of Consols at 85, which are thus entered at £850,000, the investments have increased from £3,167,620 to £3,472,808, and bills discounted are larger by £47,484 at £2,432,197. In loans and advances to customers the rise is £636,534 at £16,179,889, and it is to be noted that the additional resources have been very evenly spread over all items. Reserve remains at the same figure as the paid up capital, £1,708,500, and the balance-sheet aggregates £38,330,371 against £36,128,578.

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN BANK, LIMITED.

A moderate expansion has taken place in the balance-sheet figures during the past six months, the total at December 31 last being £16,464,070 as compared with £15,670,389 at the end of 1904. Reserve fund now figures at £1,000,000, an increase of £50,000, equalling the paid up capital, which is larger by £25,000. Current and deposit accounts have risen £759,645 to £13,925,387, and on the credit side there is a striking advance of £279,678 to £2,058,186 in the cash in hand and at Bank of England, and another of £317,165 in the money at call and short notice to £1,288,630, the aggregate of the two items being £3,346,817 against £2,749,816. Investments £3,965,430 are larger by £93,085, bills discounted are up a few thousands to £935,179, and an additional £111,156 at £7,428,417 has been used in loans and advances. Premises account now stands at £553,219 against £524,638. In the half-year the gross profits reached £271,688 or an improvement of £23,189, to which must be added the much larger sum of £36,849 brought in, making the total credit £308,538 compared with £278,602. Interest £39,563, current expenses £123,758, and rebate £7,686, all advanced by more or less substantial sums, and after adding £2,500 to the staff retirement and benevolent fund, the directors provide an additional £4,000 for dividend at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum, write off £15,000 or £5,000 more from bank premises account, and carry forward about £10,634 more at £40,030.

LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK, LIMITED.

Allowing for a decline of £2,424 to £20,322 in the credit brought forward the gross profit of this bank for the half-year ended December 31 last showed an increase against the corresponding period of £6,363 at a total of £261,637. Current expenses were just a trifle up at £109,704 and rebate was heavier by £1,777 at £21,032, so that after allowing £5,000 each for reduction of premises account and superannuation allowance fund against only one appropriation a year ago the available balance is £120,901 compared with £119,012. The directors therefore propose a dividend for the past six months at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum, the same as before, with an increase from £20,012 to £21,901 in the sum carried forward. An important advance of about £2,500,000 to £18,850,083 has taken place in the deposit and current accounts, circular notes, etc., and on the other side there is a rise of not quite £1,000,000 in the bills discounted, loans, and securities to £9,469,621. Money at call and short notice, always a big item with this bank, is up by £1,302,613 to £5,878,365, this rise coming on top of an important increase shown a year ago. Cash in hand and at Bank of England is moderately larger at £2,597,866, and while the holding of Consols remains the same at £1,275,000, other investments have decreased by £140,825 to £2,257,938. Freehold and leasehold premises are larger by £19,458 at £453,226, and the balance-sheet adds up to £23,175,838 against £20,628,691.

BARCLAY AND CO., LIMITED.

In declaring the usual interim dividend of 12s. per share, being at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, the directors of this powerful bank submit a balance-sheet for the half-year ended December 31. Compared with the statement rendered for the corresponding period there is the great increase of £6,953,175 to £43,345,592 in the current deposit and other accounts which finds principal reflection in the items of bills discounted and advances. These are now entered separately, the bills at £4,267,058 and the advances at £20,686,924, against an aggregate of £21,395,081 at December 31, 1904. We are glad to have the additional information. Investments, £10,563,611, are larger by £1,914,296. Cash in hand, at Bank of England and with other bankers has been increased by £1,383,377 to £6,406,560, and an additional £469,500 at £4,592,000 has been lent at call and short notice. Reserve fund, all kept in British Government securities, amounts to £1,500,000 against a paid-up capital of £3,096,608, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is £48,135,743 against £40,580,909. Bank premises and adjoining property are valued at £1,326,047, or an increase of £77,101.

WILLIAMS DEACON'S BANK, LIMITED.

The profits of this strong bank for the 12 months ended December 31 varied but slightly from those of the previous year. Gross amount was £306,877, or £3,106 more, and after providing an extra £2,673 at £136,341 for expenditure the nett balance is £170,534 compared with £170,041. With £7,560 brought forward, the sum for disposal is £178,101, and the directors again distribute two half-yearly dividends of 6½ per cent. each and add a 2s. bonus to the last one, making the total return for the 12 months 13½ per cent., the same as before. Then

£25,000 is placed to reserve, £5,000 is allocated to the buildings depreciation fund, and £10,601 is carried forward. The amount due on current deposit and other accounts is not very much larger at £11,531,776, and there is a decline of £137,126 to £1,753,429 in the cash in hand and at the Bank of England, partly in consequence of a sharp rise from £1,290,944 to £1,743,467 in the money at call and short notice. The holding of Consols at 85 remains the same, £944,444, but other investments are slightly less at £1,374,598. Bills of Exchange, however, show a large and satisfactory increase of £335,118 to £2,414,103, while advances and loans are lower by £432,879 at £4,680,737. Two new branches have been opened during the 12 months and other premises are being erected, so that the value of the bank premises has been raised from £368,773 to £380,939.

NATIONAL BANK, LIMITED.

This London-Irish bank had a note circulation of £1,039,345 at December 31 last, being a slight decrease compared with the end of the previous year, but the amount due on deposit and other accounts was larger by £344,596 at £11,869,898. With the exception of investments, which are somewhat lower at £1,630,053, all the principal assets show increases, cash on hand and at Bank of England being greater by £88,364 at £1,582,845 and the money at call and short notice up by £33,756 at £2,004,373. In advances and loans the rise is £216,532 to £5,839,601, and bills discounted have been increased £29,125 to £3,691,082. Bank premises, £304,499, are less by £7,854, and the balance-sheet adds up to £15,194,354, against £14,856,312. Gross profits for the half-year came to £192,309, or a decline of £5,390; rebate required a little more at £11,652, and general expenditure rose £3,140 at £90,200, so that notwithstanding an increase of £4,769 to £21,102 in the sum brought in the disposable balance is down £3,847 to £111,559. Dividend at 10 per cent. per annum takes £75,000 and bonus at 1 per cent. per annum £7,500, and after placing £5,000, or £5,000 less, to "rest" account the credit carried forward is increased from £22,906 to £24,059.

METROPOLITAN BANK (OF ENGLAND AND WALES), LIMITED.

This bank's profits for the past year show the modest increase of £1,744 to £87,213, compared with the preceding 12 months, but the sum brought in was substantially larger at £15,598, and the aggregate for distribution reaches £102,811, against £97,425. So after providing two dividends, making the usual 13½ per cent. for the year, and paying income-tax, the directors add £2,263 to bank premises redemption fund and £2,500 to officers' pension fund, writing off £5,000 from bank premises account and carrying forward £20,861. The balance-sheet discloses an increase of £233,282 to £8,547,550 in the current deposit and other accounts, accompanied by an advance of £59,453 to £833,915 in the cash in hand and at Bank of England. Money at call and short notice is substantially lower at £1,409,378, investments have gone down from £1,315,885 to £1,257,191, and bills of exchange show a small increase to £668,167. Loans and advances, £4,996,436, are up by £312,112, and bank premises are moderately less at £345,060. Against them there is a redemption fund of £44,034, and the guarantee or reserve fund is £350,000, compared with a paid-up capital of £500,000.

BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT AND COUNTIES BANKING CO., LIMITED.

The full effect of the amalgamation with the Midland Counties District Bank, which took place during the previous year, was apparently felt in the twelve months to December 31 last, as the nett profit shows an improvement of £6,504 at a total of £112,610. Balance brought forward, however, was down nearly £2,000 to £26,192, and the aggregate for disposal is £138,812 against £134,317. An interim dividend on 165,625 shares of 6s. per share absorbed £49,687, or the same as the final payment for 1904, but the dividend now to be declared of the same amount is on 200,000 shares and requires £60,000. The directors are, therefore, unable to make any contribution to reserve from profits against £10,000 allocated a year ago, and after adding £2,500 to the officers' superannuation fund, the sum carried forward is slightly increased to £26,624. Reserve fund apparently gets the benefit of share premiums, having been increased by £206,250 to £681,250, while the paid up capital is up by £137,500 to £800,000. Liabilities to the public on deposit, current, and other accounts are less than £200,000 higher at £6,737,150, but the cash in hand, at Bank of England, and at agents shows a decline of £201,716 at £688,106. All other assets, however, are higher, investments being up £107,735 to £1,223,009, bills of exchange and promissory notes by £125,753 to £1,042,903, and loans and advances by £495,212 to £4,905,732. During the year a considerable number of branches and sub-branches have been opened, and the value of the bank premises, &c., is now entered at £310,800 against £292,770.

BANK OF IRELAND.

During the six months ended December 31 this bank earned a gross profit of £248,128 or £2,894 more than in the corresponding period, and there was a small increase to £13,197 in the sum brought forward, so that the total revenue is up by £3,297 to £261,324. Against that, however, the total expenditure shows an advance of £2,618 at £88,494, and the improvement in the nett balance is very slight at £172,830. The dividend for the half-year will again be 5½ per cent., being at the rate of 11½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £13,599 against £12,920. There is a slight decline to £2,420,862 in the notes and bills in circulation and a shrinkage of £574,025 to

£9,590,519 in the deposit current and other accounts, but Government and other public deposits are larger by £229,620 at £2,441,857. Paid up capital £2,769,231, and the rest £1,034,000, remain the same. Very little change has taken place in the bills discounted and advances to customers, and that part of the investments consisting of Government debt and Government stock is down by £55,200 only to £4,251,485, but other securities have been reduced by a substantial sum, being £458,261 less at £3,888,110. Cash in hand and at Bank of England shows an increase from £1,067,552 to £1,101,017, and money at call and short notice is up from £622,019 to £684,766.

MERCHANT BANKING CO., LIMITED.

The report of this small bank for the year ended December 31 last will come as a disagreeable surprise for the shareholders. Not only has a further heavy decrease taken place in the profits, gross and nett, but some rather severe losses must be faced, and proprietors are called upon to forego a final dividend and witness the almost complete disappearance of the reserve: Decidedly an uncomfortable state of affairs. Including about £900 less at £1,532 brought forward, the gross revenue is returned at £20,677 or £10,481 less than in the previous twelve months, and after providing £8,534 for current expenses and £3,863 for directors' remuneration, auditors' fees, and income-tax, the nett balance is no more than £8,280, a shrinkage of £8,252, practically 50 per cent. From that an interim dividend of 2½ per cent., absorbing £7,500, has been already paid, leaving £780, a sum which is, of course, quite useless for dividend purposes, and shareholders must be content with the modest distribution already received. But this, unfortunately, is not the worst. The directors tell us that owing to a recent decision of the Court of Chancery, certain securities held by the bank have been rendered valueless for the time being, and to meet this contingency, and make ample provision for all doubtful debts, it has been necessary to transfer £20,000 from the reserve and place it to a contingency fund. We are rather anxious to learn the name of this particular security, and to what extent the bank is interested. How much of the £20,000 is involved in the Chancery Court decision and how much is required for other "doubtful debts." Reserve fund is now down to £5,000, and we think the best thing for the bank would be to get itself swallowed up by one of its powerful neighbours. According to the balance-sheet, the acceptances against credits and securities, and amount due to customers are £1,048,018 or nearly £300,000 less compared with the end of 1904, and on the other side the bills receivable, loans, &c., show a decline of £222,341 at £1,118,992. Investments in Consols and other Government securities have been increased by £14,681 to £85,729, but the cash in hand, at bankers, at call and short notice, has fallen by £115,826 to £137,327. The subscribed capital consists of 75,000 shares of £9 each, of which £4 per share is called up.

EASTERN TELEGRAPH CO., LIMITED.

This magnificent company continues to easily hold its own against all rivals, and again reports an increased revenue for the six months ended September 30. From messages and other receipts, including dividends and interest on investments in kindred undertakings, the income was £590,212, or an improvement of £18,358 compared with the corresponding period, which in turn was £25,405 in front of 1903. Interest on deposits and reserve fund investments, transfer fees, &c., gave a further amount of £17,492, making £607,703 in all, against £589,386. Working expenses were just a little heavier at £181,399, and cable maintenance, depreciation of spare cable, and income-tax payable abroad absorbed more between them at £49,849, so that the nett balance is up £7,186 to £376,455. With £1,148 brought forward, the credit for disposal is £377,603, and after providing £88,131 for debenture and loan interest, preference dividend, and income-tax, the sum remaining is £289,471. From that the two quarterly ordinary stock dividends of 1¼ per cent. each require £100,000, and while placing £2,000 less at £10,000 to maintenance ships reserve, the directors add £15,000 more at £140,000 to the general reserve fund, and increase the carry forward from £35,632 to £39,471. However looked at, this is a brilliant display, and the powerful position built up renders the company's securities particularly sound investments. But, like all good things, they are not to be acquired cheaply. Compared with the end of March, the general reserve is slightly down at £972,523, as £140,000 has been applied towards cost of new cables, and not quite a couple of thousands went in other directions as compared with total additions to the fund of £141,088. All told, the aggregate savings reach no less than £1,551,340, of which £1,144,542 is separately invested, and as the loan from the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company has now been finally liquidated by the payment of £200,000 during the period under review, the company's floating liabilities are only £327,291, a very moderate sum for an enterprise of such magnitude. On the other side, traffic and other debit balances alone reach £472,245, spare cable and other stores are worth £229,663, expenditure on new cables, &c., figures at £115,000, and the cash balances come to £176,918.

FOSTER, PORTER, AND CO., LIMITED.

A slight recovery of £659 to £12,685 took place in the profits of this business for the year ended December 31 compared with the previous 12 months, and as the sum brought in was a trifle higher at £23,585, the balance for disposal is £36,270, an improvement of £685. An interim dividend of 5s. per share has been already paid, and the directors now propose to distribute

another 8s., making 13s. in all, or 1s. more, carrying forward rather less at £23,270. The balance-sheet does not present any striking characteristics, the most important, perhaps, being the absence of reserves, apart from a trifle of £471 standing to the credit of the buildings account. Floating liabilities are heavy at £147,347, as with all companies of the class, but debtors owe the big sum of £237,001, and stocks are valued at £127,627. Cash, bills receivable, &c., add up to £28,437, and freeholds and leaseholds are entered at £62,072, apart from fixtures and furniture considered worth £9,322.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—With the exception of one day, when advices of improvement in Argentine weather and easy America cables generally had a bearish effect, the influences have been of a bullish tendency, and the market in consequence has maintained a firmer tone. More business has been done also, even buyers in the London cargo market showing a little more animation. Speculative positions have risen in value, and spot parcels, though not in great request, have been steadily held. English wheat at some of the country markets has been scarce, and farmers have occasionally secured an advance of 6d. on their prices. Foreign, too, has shown a hardening tendency. The same influences have affected American markets, which opened higher on unfavourable Argentine and Indian weather news and then declined on better reports from these countries and also on liberal realising and increasing stocks. Better cables later gave a reassuring tone, and with moderate fluctuations markets kept fairly steady. Bradstreet's estimates give the quantities in sight east of the Rockies at 72,863,000 bushels against 71,634,000 bushels last week, and Dornbusch places the quantities of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom at 2,090,000 qrs. against 1,965,000 qrs. last week.

WOOL.—So far the London sales, which opened on Tuesday, have justified those who maintained that prices could not fall. Opening quotations were quite up to December finals, and except in faulty sorts, which are a shade easier, there is still a hardening tendency. In country markets the outlook is considered satisfactory. Bradford values, if anything, show an upward tendency, not for colonial wools alone, but for home-grown produce also, and demand is increasing. Yarns have been more active and the piece trade is fairly good for the time of year. Huddersfield exports of all makes of woollen goods show an improvement in most markets, particularly Canadian and South American, but there are still complaints to be heard on the difficulty of obtaining prices sufficiently profitable to counteract the high values of raw material.

LINEN.—The position is practically the same as a week ago, the same steady increase in business, the same hardening tendency in prices. Yarns, in fact, have been touching "records" in one or two low and weft lines, and if business shows any signs of slackening here it will be because spinners will not see values pushed further and have no use for contracts which they cannot tackle for months ahead. Home supplies are still offered in fair quantities, but show signs of tailing off, and their scarcity does not lessen their value, prices ranging from 5s. to 9s. per stone. Nor are our imports up to last January's figures, when in the first fortnight of the year 1,632 tons arrived, whereas this year's quantity amounts to only 886 tons. Of manufacturing goods there is little to say. Orders are far above the average for the season, and if the home demand is still less animated than could be wished, exports promise to do as well or better than in 1905, which year in its turn compares favourably with 1904. In December last year deliveries to the United States alone showed an increase in value of £26,498 over December, 1904, and to all countries the total value of exports for the year was £4,840,727, an increase of £522,517 over 1904.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—We have experienced during the week under review a firm market, with a healthy tone in most directions. In spite of the high prices in the raw material an increasing amount of business in piece goods for export has been done. The raw material has been fairly steady, but with a slight tendency to advance. The quotation in Liverpool on Monday, the 15th inst., for American middling on the spot was 6.20d. Tuesday saw an advance of 2 points, to be followed on Wednesday by a further rise of 6 points, and on Thursday a reduction of 7 points was registered, bringing the official quotation to 6.21d. Egyptian cotton has shown very little change. On Monday an advance of ¼ was made in several grades. The forward movement of the American crop is causing some interest, and it is generally expected that there will be plenty of cotton to go round. In cloth for export a pretty fair weight of business has been done for Calcutta. Buyers for this outlet have operated pretty freely in shirtings, dhooties, and jaconettes. The better class of goods seem to have been almost entirely neglected, buyers not being able to pay the present high prices. Bombay has done a little, but Madras and Karachi have been quiet. Some business is reported for China, but it cannot be said to be general. The Levant and the outlets of South America have been open for goods of a miscellaneous character. The smaller markets generally have been healthy in tone, and where the necessary delivery can be given orders have been booked. Some manufacturers are now extensively engaged, and in certain makes of cloth early delivery cannot be obtained. It is almost unnecessary to say that quotations are very firmly held.

Nothing fresh can be said of home trade cloths, but the distributing houses are pressing manufacturers for quicker deliveries. Home trade American yarns have been in some demand and a few large lines have been offered to spinners. Sellers, however, find it very difficult to improve their position. In the better qualities the margin is narrow owing to the high prices to be paid for suitable cotton. The production of common cop twist is not easily cleared. Export bundles have been well held by spinners, but the demand has not been very great. A small weight has been entered for Japan, but India and China have not done very much. Cops for the Continent have moved rather slowly. Producers of gassed yarns and extra hard descriptions are very well sold, and in some cases more money is wanted. Egyptian yarns, as spun in the Bolton district, maintain their strong position. The demand is mostly for early delivery, which cannot easily be undertaken. Producers hold firmly to quotations owing to their deep engagements.

In New York quotations at first rose slowly on Liverpool's unexpected advance, and also on reported good buying on this side. This was followed by a reaction, Mr. Price attacking the market and selling freely. The market was likewise affected by liquidation on the part of others. A rally succeeded on renewed local covering, but prices again declined for a brief period under "bear" pressure, and selling by houses with foreign connections. They again recovered on support from the New Orleans "bull" party, a bullish ginners' statement and general buying. There are rumours that the National Ginners' Association will show only 186,000 bales ginned since January 1. Closing prices are:—Jan.-Feb., 6.20d.; Feb.-March, 6.21d.; March-April, 6.23d.; April-May, 6.26d.; May-June, 6.28d.; June-July, 6.29d.; July-Aug., 6.30d.; Aug.-Sept., 6.23d.; Sept.-Oct., 5.95d.; Oct.-Nov., 5.88d.; Nov.-Dec., 5.85d.

COAL.—Coming so quickly on the late depression business now seems unusually active, and from almost all quarters come reports of steady and increasing trade. In the North of England the improvement is stated to be due in some measure to Germany's demands for British coal of varied assortments, steams, gas and coking, but demand from elsewhere is also larger. Best steams are now quoted at 11s., gas at 9s. 6d. and sometimes 10s., and best coking at 10s., all f.o.b. In Scotland the shipping department this week shows an increase of 89,297 tons over last, and 57,270 tons more than in the corresponding week of 1905. Lancashire shipping is quiet, but home requirements maintain a steady market. South Yorkshire is kept busy in both steam and household coals, and in Wales, in spite of elections and of agitations about the abolition of the coal tax, prospects seem to please, and a general revival of trade not confined to either one port or one coal seems to be well on its way. Last week Swansea despatched 56,547 tons, Newport 74,255 tons, 60,000 of which were for foreign ports, and Russia is again in the market with a small request for 35,000 tons.

COPPER.—The political excitement tended to keep business in check on this market, and no real activity developed throughout the week. Both consumers and speculators showed an indisposition to trade, and the apathy displayed caused prices to become rather dull at one time, a feature being the expansion of the "back" on future metal to over £2 per ton. When the fortnightly statistics appeared showing a heavy reduction in stocks a steadier tone set in, despite rather easier advices from America, and final figures were 77½ for cash and 77½ for three months. Messrs. Henry R. Merton and Co. give the visible supply at 11,190 tons against 12,983 tons a fortnight ago. The total supplies for the first half of December were 11,436 tons and the deliveries 13,229 tons. The stocks in England and France amount to 5,240 tons against 5,685 tons on December 31. The Chili charters total 550 tons.

TIN.—This market opened firm, despite a sharp reaction in the Straits exchange, and a good deal of activity developed, partly attributed to American orders. Lower Eastern quotations, however, and reduced outside support quickly drove quotations down again, and as the Straits exchange continued to fall away it was difficult to bring about a recovery. Prices are, therefore, substantially down on the week at 162¾-168¾ for cash and 163¾ for three months.

IRON AND STEEL.—Though business has been interfered with by the progress of the elections, it has nevertheless been fairly active in all the leading centres. In the Midlands the demand continues strong, and many specifications are coming forward which buyers were unable to place a week ago. New offers have been made to manufacturers for a large bulk of work, but they find it anything but easy to arrange for the execution of the orders. For common bars orders are in hand to cover the output up to the end of March, and makers are asking for more than the new minimum basis, whilst buyers show a readiness to pay 5s. advance. Steel manufacturers report a considerable business on hand, with an active inquiry for forgings. For pig-iron the buying is still very keen, many consumers being prepared to buy up to June. At Birmingham the holding of the quarterly meeting last week resulted in the liberation of a large number of orders which had been held in abeyance. In all departments the market is very firm, but there are no further advances in raw material. Iron founders have raised their prices 10s. per ton to meet the increased cost of pig-iron. In Scotland pig-iron warrants have been inactive, and prices have given way a little on "bear" hammering and the absence of support.

TEA.—Indian and Ceylon sales together have during the past fortnight amounted to 160,145 packages, and not unnaturally under such a heavy load prices have weakened. Indian offerings this week were 46,267 packages, and all grades except medium leaf went easier, sometimes as much as ¼d. to ½d. per lb. 37,166 packages were sold averaging 6.93d. against an average of 7.23d. last week and 6.47d. a year ago. In the Ceylon market the weakness was more noticeable still, for even the better teas declined. The sales, comprising 34,661 packages, were, according to Messrs. W. J. and H. Thompson's circular, the heaviest put forward in any one week since last June, and some invoices showed a decidedly inferior quality, so the easiness of prices cannot be all put down to the large supplies. Average price obtained on the week's sales was 7.08d. against 7.49d. last week and 6.48d. last year. Java supply of 2,213 packages received a fair competition, but the tone generally was affected by the other markets.

SUGAR.—There have been but moderate fluctuations during the past week, and as the trade have again only supplied their bare wants, business for home consumption has been unusually small. A satisfactory feature is the continued demand for India, a fair quantity having been taken at 10s. 6d. to 10s. 4½d., f.o.b., in double bags, according to deliveries, which in some cases extend until August. As regards sowings no definite news is to hand yet. Germany sends contradictory reports, but will in all likelihood have some reduction. As to France, a large reduction may be expected. In connection with the question of next year's production, it is necessary to bear in mind, says Mr. Czarnikow, that the yield in 1905-6 was an unusually prolific one, and, in addition, the acreage planted in 1905 was probably larger than stated, which caused, on the average, the most favourable results on record. A repetition of such conditions is scarcely to be relied upon. The American market has been quieter, and refiners have been less eager to purchase.

MINING RETURNS.

African Gold Dredging.—304 ozs.; value, £1,216.
British Broken Hill Proprietary.—5,180 tons produced 851 tons concentrates, containing 519 tons lead and 22,977 ozs. of silver.
Brilliant and St. George United.—Crushed 2,192 tons 1,575 ozs.; residues value £4,196.
Cecil Syndicate.—1,400 tons of tailings for £825.
Cerro Muriano.—Sold 147 tons copper, realised £1,350.
Chinese Engineering and Mining.—Output of coal, 17,500 tons; sales, 14,000 tons; consumption, 2,700 tons.
Cobar Gold.—Mill, 920 tons, 116 ozs.; tailings, 600 tons, 331 ozs.; total, 447 ozs.
Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand.—Progress: Crushed 5,019 tons, value £6,889. Golden Fleece: Crushed 1,000 tons, valued £1,905. Wealth of Nations: Crushed 980 tons, value £2,004.
Copper Cliff of Montana.—Shipments of ore: 48,500 lbs. running to 15.23 per cent. copper; 47,340 lbs., running to 12.58 per cent. copper.
Day Dawn Block and Wyndham.—986 tons crushed, 337 ozs., 1,419 tons tailings, value £1,300.
Durban-Roodepoort.—Milled, 10,625 tons, 3,362 ozs.; tailings treated, 7,725 tons for 1,064 ozs.; total, 4,426 ozs.
El Oro.—Crushed 18,122 tons, producing U.S. \$161,422; from old cyanide plant, U.S. \$2,315.
Henry Nourse Gold.—11,120 tons, 3,617 ozs.; sands and concentrates, 7,580 tons, 1,143 ozs.; slimes, 3,219 tons, 806 ozs.; dumps, 119 ozs.; total, 5,185 ozs.
Hyderabad (Deccan).—Output, 38,787 tons.
Inverness Coal.—9,760 tons.
Lachlan.—Crushed 550 tons, £980.
Mill's Day Dawn United Gold.—Crushed 2,227 tons.
Mitchell's Creek Gold.—305 ozs.; concentrates, 24 tons; value, £280.
Mount Lyell Blocks.—1,933 tons for 15 tons 14 cwts. fine copper.
Mount Roudny Gold.—Crushed 3,410 tons, 361 ozs.; concentrates, 113 tons, 265 ozs.; tailings, 1,606 tons, 37 ozs.; total, 663.04 ozs.
Mungana (Chillagoe).—495 tons, containing 38¾ tons copper, 5,070 ozs. silver, and 63 tons lead shipped to smelting works.
New Heriot.—3,670 ozs., 9,060 tons crushed.
North Broken Hill.—1,900 tons, producing 340 tons concentrates, containing 234 tons 12 cwts. lead and 6,426 ozs. silver.
Palmarejo and Mexican.—Crushed 2,775 tons, treated 2,000 tons, producing \$9,550 gold, \$26,340 silver.
Red Hill, Westralia.—Crushed 953 tons, 548 ozs., value £2,100.
Salisbury.—1,980 ozs., 5,350 tons crushed.
San Francisco Del Oro.—506 tons shipped; value, £1,494.
Sulphide.—18,598 tons, producing 3,308 tons lead concentrates, 3,913 tons middlings, and 7,298 tons tailings treated, producing respectively 1,280 and 2,355 tons of zinc concentrates; 3,041 tons lead concentrates, 447 tons residues, and 3,767 tons purchased ores smelted, yielding 2,174 tons lead, containing 160.72 ozs. silver and 11,630 ozs. gold; treated 303 tons zinc concentrates, producing 82 tons spelter.
Um Rus of Egypt.—623 tons, 410 ozs. of tailings, average assay value of 3 dwts. per ton.
Worcester.—408 ozs.

Acting on the advice of the Financial Advisers of the Government of Victoria (Australia), the Agent-General cabled to the Government to the effect that the proposed transference of stock from Melbourne to London would be unwise. In reply, the Agent-General has received a cable stating that the stock is made transferable only from London to Melbourne.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

SANGLI GOLD MINES, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Sangli Gold Mines, Limited, was held on Thursday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., under the presidency of Mr. Malcolm Low, J.P., the chairman of the company.

The Secretary (Mr. John Ponsford) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—It will be in your recollection that when we met last, some two and a-half months ago, we decided that before taking any more drastic steps to provide the company with requisite additional funds it would be proper to make an attempt to issue our unissued shares. That attempt, as our circular informs you, was not successful; the applications were insufficient, and the application money was returned. I hazard the opinion—and it seems to me probable—that many of our shareholders looked at the matter from this point of view, that, though they themselves were quite willing to subscribe, yet they felt apprehensive that many other shareholders might not do likewise, and that if that were so then it would be somewhat unfair to one set of shareholders to put their hands in their pockets for the benefit of others, whose hands were not finding their way to their pockets at all. (Hear, hear.) I myself, as you know, was at first disinclined to take that view; I hoped that the shareholders generally would take their proportion. But we have to look at facts as they are, and there is no need to make a long speech about the matter. We have now either to submit to the disagreeable necessity of finding the money or else to altogether abandon an enterprise which, through the means of money already expended on it, has now been proved beyond all question to have most excellent prospects, and your directors do not doubt for one moment what choice you will make between those two alternatives. You have no doubt carefully considered and digested Mr. Bullen's report. There is no mining man on the Indian goldfields who is better known or more respected for his professional ability and personal worth than Mr. Bullen. What he does not know about Indian mining is not worth knowing, and what he says he believes. Just a word about the scheme of reconstruction. You will not need to be told how much care and thought your directors have given to this scheme in all its details and bearings. In its entirety, as you now have it submitted to you, it has the unanimous approval of the whole of your board, and is the very best plan that we have been able to devise in the interests of us all. No doubt we are a small company, and accordingly the assessment of 6s. per share seems to bear heavily upon us, but without an amount equal to that we feel we should not be doing our enterprise full justice. On the other hand, we must always remember that, being such a small body of shareholders, so much larger will be the share of success, for each individual proprietor, which we believe now stands immediately before us. We shall make the instalments fall as easily as possible in point of time—1s. on application, 1s. on allotment, and the remaining 4s. in instalments of 1s. each at intervals of not less than two months. In conclusion, I can only say that we have the utmost confidence in asking for your support to this scheme, and I beg now formally to propose the adoption of the first resolution: "That it is desirable to reconstruct the company, and that with a view thereto the company be wound up voluntarily, and that Mr. John Ponsford, of 6, Queen Street Place, in the City of London, be and he is hereby appointed liquidator for the purpose of such winding up at an agreed remuneration of 75 guineas."

Mr. Henry C. Taylor seconded the resolutions, and strongly urged upon the shareholders to subscribe the funds required. He had no hesitation in giving it as his opinion that the enterprise was attended with every prospect of success. (Applause.)

After a little discussion the resolution was put and carried unanimously.

The remaining resolutions were likewise carried unanimously, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

MERCHANT BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The eighteenth annual general meeting of the shareholders in the Merchant Banking Company, Limited, was held on the 16th inst. at the offices, 112, Cannon Street, London, Mr. Arthur J. Fraser presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. C. E. Greenwood) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in dealing with the accounts, said that the board regretted the necessity which had arisen for providing for considerable actual and possible losses during the past six months. One of these was of quite an exceptional nature. Several years ago they accepted the account of a company which was introduced and recommended to them by a firm in whom they had the highest confidence. This account was personally guaranteed by the managing director of the company referred to, a gentleman reputed to be very wealthy. In addition to the guarantee the directors took other securities, among them some second debentures, which differed from the first issue only, so far as they were aware, in the element of priority. All the securities were examined by the solicitors of the bank and passed as being perfectly in order. Some time later, when the directors considered that the account was not working satisfactorily, they called up the guarantee. This had the effect of putting the guarantor in the Bankruptcy Court, while the company went into liquidation. It then transpired that several years pre-

viously, but subsequent to the issue of the second debentures, the first debenture holders passed a resolution empowering the company to borrow money for the purchase of materials, such money to rank in priority to the first debentures. That resolution, however, was passed without the knowledge of the second debenture holders, who naturally contended that they were not bound by it. But the Court of Chancery had ruled that the money so borrowed, which was owing at the time of the company's suspension, was in the nature of a sale of materials, and the judge decided that the claim of the bank, as second debenture holders, came after both those prior charges. Should this decision, against which they had appealed, be upheld, it was unlikely that they would receive any portion of their claim. It had been considered better, therefore, to make provision for the whole amount, as well as for some other losses occasioned by the failure of some very old customers of the bank, and in order to do this, the board asked the shareholders to sanction the appropriation of £20,000 from the reserve fund. Undoubtedly, the best way of meeting the situation was to write off every semblance of a bad debt, and so leave their capital intact, as it stood in the balance-sheet. In July last an interim dividend equal to 2½ per cent. for the year was paid, and the directors regretted that a further dividend could not now be recommended; they did not, however, think that the cessation of dividend would continue beyond this half-year. In conclusion, the Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Matthew G. Megaw (director) seconded the motion.

The Chairman, in reply to Mr. Ames, said that so far as he was aware, the capital of the bank was intact. To his knowledge there was not a penny of deficit in the capital.

Mr. N. Smith remarked that, according to the statement of the chairman two years ago, the realisable assets of the bank were sufficient to cover the £4 per share paid up. That being so, and seeing that the shares were quoted at only 2½, it was doubtful whether it was for the benefit of the shareholders that the business should continue to be carried on. He did not advocate winding up as a matter of necessity, but rather of advisability. Apart from the fact that their shares, said to be worth £4, were saleable only at about £2 10s., there was the liability of £5 per share hanging over their heads.

The Chairman said he could only repeat that the £4 per share was intact. As regarded winding up the bank, neither the board nor the largest shareholders—who had already been consulted on the subject—were of opinion that it was at all advisable to take that course. He considered that there was a very good future in store for the bank. The discount at which their shares were quoted did not represent the appreciation of the bank's credit in the market, as their acceptances were very readily negotiable.

The resolution was then submitted to the meeting, and unanimously agreed.

Some formal business having been transacted, a vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding terminated the proceedings.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22.

Soudan Mines.—Winchester House, noon.
Wm. Buckler.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23.

Birmingham District and Counties Banking.—Birmingham, 2 p.m.
East London Railway.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Lisbon Berlyn.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.
Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank.—Manchester, noon.
National Bank.—13, Old Broad Street, 12.30 p.m.
Robert Campbell and Sons.—Winchester House, noon.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24.

Alliance Assurance.—Bartholomew Lane, noon.
Cuban Land and Development.—Winchester House, noon.
Halifax and Huddersfield Union Banking.—Huddersfield, noon.
London and Provincial Bank.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
National Discount.—Cannon Street Hotel, 11.30 a.m.
Omnium Investment.—Winchester House, noon.
South American Light and Power.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
Union of London and Smith's Bank.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25.

Anglo-French Quicksilver and Mining Concessions.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
Borax Consolidated.—Winchester House, noon.
Egyptian Cotton Mills.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
Great Western and Metropolitan Dairies.—Paddington, 1 p.m.
Metropolitan Railway.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Metropolitan Trust.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
Parr's Bank.—Cannon Street Hotel, 1 p.m.
Stock Conversion and Investment Trust.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
South African Gold Trust.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26.

Crosfields.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
Foster, Porter.—47, Wood Street, E.C., 11 a.m.
Kent Collieries.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Lloyds Bank.—Birmingham, 12.30 p.m.
London City and Midland Bank.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Law Debenture Corporation.—Winchester House, noon.
North-Eastern Banking.—Newcastle-on-Tyne, noon.
Sheffield Banking.—Sheffield, 11 a.m.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended January 14, \$3,377, increase \$867.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 15, \$20,380, increase \$3,686; aggregate from January 1, \$913,404, increase \$199,783.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 16, Rs. 72,380, increase Rs. 17,316; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 17,19,984, increase Rs. 2,33,597.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 14, \$85,900, increase \$27,100; total from July 1, \$2,857,900, increase \$640,200.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 16, Rs. 30,843, increase Rs. 7,449; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 6,48,567, increase Rs. 90,253.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 9, £616, increase £5.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 2nd week of January, \$11,797, increase \$2,949; aggregate from January 1, \$24,228, increase \$7,090.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 16, Rs. 6,553, increase Rs. 1,132; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 2,92,626, increase Rs. 24,681.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended December 31 amounted to \$13,500.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending January 13, £1,108, increase £21; aggregate from January 1, £2,248, increase £54.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending January 13, £712, increase £85; aggregate from January 1, £1,363, increase £133.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for September, £4,376, increase £335.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending January 13, £497, increase £75; aggregate from January 1, £899, increase £8.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 12, £1,279, increase £192; aggregate from January 1, £2,588, increase £379.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 14, £7; aggregate from January 1, £14.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 12, £4,686, increase £25; aggregate from January 1, £9,404, increase £164.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending December 29, £31,390, increase £5,314; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £1,410,476, increase £159,412; 442½ miles, against 425½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 13, £1,148, increase £154.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 14, £94, increase £4; aggregate from January 1, £187.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 12, £95, decrease £11; aggregate from January 1, £159, decrease £27.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 12, £4,686, increase £178; aggregate from January 1, £8,222, increase £397.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 13, £4,760, increase £354; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £1,015, increase £306.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 12, £197, decrease £39; aggregate from January 1, £394, decrease £70.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 11, £399.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 13, £248, increase £10; aggregate from October 1, £4,060, decrease £475.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 6, £13,872, increase £1,183; aggregate from April 1, £592,773, increase £80,590. Miles 50½ against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 13, £21,246, decrease £528; aggregate from January 1, £41,836, decrease £1,975.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 13, £7,243, increase £105; aggregate from January 1, £13,495, increase £262.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 12, £185, increase £9; aggregate from January 1, £407, increase £27.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 14, £706, increase £222; aggregate from January 1, £1,384, increase £377.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 14, £14,424, increase £901; aggregate from January 1, £30,093, increase £2,200.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 42,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of November, £10,748, increase £226.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to November 30, \$349,110, increase \$116,627. Nett earnings from July 1 to November 30, \$226,552, increase \$80,989.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending January 14, £3,335, increase £79; aggregate from January 1, £7,394, increase £680.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 16, £1,176.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of December, \$292,000.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 13, Rs. 49,415, increase Rs. 5,403; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 111,439, increase Rs. 18,589.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of December, £4,888, increase £762. Total to December 31, £46,034, increase £7,038.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of November, \$417,218, increase \$63,017; aggregate from January 1, \$4,320,887, increase \$390,457. Nett traffic receipts, \$226,858, increase \$35,361; aggregate from January 1, \$2,359,439, increase \$272,120.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	% of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	% of Weeks.
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Jan. 14	£ 2,166	+	94	£ 4,241	+	102
Cambrian	" 14	4,426	—	110	9,151	—	290
Central London	" 13	7,010	—	352	13,995	—	382
City and South London ..	" 14	3,024	—	38	6,173	—	68
Furness	" 14	9,059	+	1,202	16,796	+	2,425
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.)	" 14	70,020	+	3,588	134,722	+	4,333
Great Eastern	" 14	88,900	—	500	172,100	—	2,100
Great Northern and City ..	" 13	1,802	+	32	3,633	+	85
Great Northern	" 13	103,600	+	4,015	195,900	+	2,910
Great Western	" 14	206,700	—	3,500	407,000	—	7,600
Hull and Barnsley	" 14	8,951	+	407	17,740	+	625
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 14	90,553	+	3,833	178,209	+	5,000
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 13	52,108	—	607	110,676	—	1,387
London & North Western ..	" 14	252,000	+	8,000	478,000	+	11,000
London & South Western ..	" 14	78,400	+	500	150,000	—	1,300
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 14	8,118	+	135	15,968	+	561
Metropolitan	" 14	17,413	+	47	34,697	—	43
Metropolitan District ..	" 14	8,267	+	528	16,397	+	1,130
Midland	" 13	212,675	+	740	418,410	+	13,504
North Eastern	" 13	136,752	+	2,316	278,290	+	6,842
North London	" 14	9,595	—	73	18,908	—	458
North Staffordshire	" 14	16,077	—	82	31,549	+	335
Rhymney	" 14	5,913	—	446	11,225	—	804
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 13	75,147	+	93	147,343	+	2,929
Taff Vale	" 14	18,277	+	130	36,073	+	701

† From January 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Jan. 14	72,894	+	4,926	24	2,061,851	+	60,650
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 13	28,653	+	2,244	24	833,754	+	10,378
Great North of Scotland ..	" 13	8,517	+	307	24	232,779	+	889
Highland	" 14	7,289	+	341	24	248,098	+	2,395
North British	" 14	80,301	+	5,068	24	2,202,409	+	31,086

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Jan. 12	2,130	—	17	§	3,859	—	292
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 12	1,259	+	71	§	2,279	—	80
Great Northern	" 12	15,902	+	53	2	31,188	+	246
Midland Great Western ..	" 12	8,247	—	550	§	16,017	—	990

§ From January 1.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
Angelo	5 1/2	5 3/4	May Consolidated	3 1/2	3 3/4
Anglo-French Ex.	2 1/2	2 3/4	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 3/4
Apex	5 1/2	5 3/4	Modderfontein	8 1/2	8 3/4
Aurora West	1 1/2	1 3/4	Do. B.	1 1/2	1 3/4
Bantjes	3 1/2	3 3/4	New Goch	1 1/2	1 3/4
Block B.	2 1/2	2 3/4	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 3/4
City and Suburban, £4	4 1/2	4 3/4	Nigel	2 1/2	2 3/4
Comet (New)	2 1/2	2 3/4	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 3/4
Cons. Goldfields	2 1/2	2 3/4	Ocean Consolidated	1 1/2	1 3/4
Do. Pref.	2 1/2	2 3/4	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 3/4
Crown Reef	12 1/2	12 3/4	Rand Mines (New)	7 1/2	7 3/4
Durbanfontein	3 1/2	3 3/4	Randfontein	2 1/2	2 3/4
Durban Roodepoort	3 1/2	3 3/4	Robinson Gold, £4	8 1/2	8 3/4
East Rand	6 1/2	6 3/4	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 3/4
East Rand Extension	1 1/2	1 3/4	Roodepoort United	2 1/2	2 3/4
Ferreira	20 1/2	20 3/4	Salisbury	1 1/2	1 3/4
French Rand	1 1/2	1 3/4	Sheba (New)	9 1/2	9 3/4
Geord	5 1/2	5 3/4	Simmer and Jack, £1	1 1/2	1 3/4
Goldenhuis Estate	4 1/2	4 3/4	S.A. Gold Trust	3 1/2	3 3/4
Ginsburg	1 1/2	1 3/4	Steyn Estate	2 1/2	2 3/4
Glencarn	1 1/2	1 3/4	Transvaal Development	1 1/2	1 3/4
Harmony Proprietary	9 1/2	9 3/4	Transvaal Gold Estates	1 1/2	1 3/4
Henderson's Transvaal	3 1/2	3 3/4	Treasury	2 1/2	2 3/4
Nourse Mines	3 1/2	3 3/4	Van Ryn	2 1/2	2 3/4
Heriot	3 1/2	3 3/4	Vereniging Estate	1 1/2	1 3/4
Johannesburg Con. In.	1 1/2	1 3/4	Vogelstruis	5 1/2	5 3/4
Jubilee	3 1/2	3 3/4	Welgedacht	5 1/2	5 3/4
Jumpers	3 1/2	3 3/4	Wemmer	5 1/2	5 3/4
Klenfontein	1 1/2	1 3/4	West Rand Consols	1 1/2	1 3/4
Knight's	4 1/2	4 3/4	Woluter, £4	2 1/2	2 3/4
Lancaster	2 1/2	2 3/4	Worcester	3 1/2	3 3/4
Langlaagte Estate	2 1/2	2 3/4			

DEEP LEVELS.

Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 3/4	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 3/4
Bonanza	1 1/2	1 3/4	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 3/4
Cinderella Deep	1 1/2	1 3/4	Robinson Deep (new)	5 1/2	5 3/4
Crown Deep	1 1/2	1 3/4	Roodepoort Cn. Deep	1 1/2	1 3/4
Durban Roodepoort	2 1/2	2 3/4	Rose Deep	5 1/2	5 3/4
Do. Deep	2 1/2	2 3/4	South Rose Deep	1 1/2	1 3/4
Goldenhuis Deep	8 1/2	8 3/4	Village Main Reef	4 1/2	4 3/4
Knight's Deep	2 1/2	2 3/4	Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/2	3 3/4
Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 3/4			

RHODESIANS.

Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	1 3/4	Northern Copper	2 1/2	2 3/4
Chartered B. S. A.	2 1/2	2 3/4	Rhodesia, Ltd. (5/ pd.)	3 1/2	3 3/4
Charter Trust and Agency	15/6	15/3	Do. Exploration	3 1/2	3 3/4
Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 3/4	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 3/4
Lomagunda Development	1 1/2	1 3/4	Selukwe	5 1/2	5 3/4
Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1 3/4	Tanganyika	5 1/2	5 3/4
Mayo (Rhodesia)	2 1/2	2 3/4	Wankie Coal	12 1/2	12 3/4
			Willoughby	15/6	15/3
			Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 3/4

DIAMONDS.

De Beers Deferred	18 1/2	18 3/4	Koffyfontein	8 1/2	8 3/4
Do. Preferred	17 1/2	17 3/4	Lace Diamond	2 1/2	2 3/4
Eland's Drift Diamond	4 1/2	4 3/4	Orange Free State Diamond	9 1/2	9 3/4
Frank Smith Diamond	1 1/2	1 3/4	Premier Diamond Def.	8 1/2	8 3/4
Jagersfontein Deferred	7 1/2	7 3/4	Do. do. Pref.	8 1/2	8 3/4
Do. Preferred	4 1/2	4 3/4			
Kamersdam	4 1/2	4 3/4			

WEST AFRICAN.

Abbottiakoon	17/	19/	Gold Coast Agency, new	8/6	11/6
Abosso	1 1/2	1 3/4	Do. Amalgamated	3 1/2	3 3/4
Ankobra	1 1/2	1 3/4	Gold Coast (Wassau)	6/9	6/9
Ashanti Consols, 2/ paid	3/3	3/3	Deep	6/9	6/9
Do. Goldfields	13/6	13/6	Goldfields East'n Akim	1/	1/
Ashanti Sansu	5/	5/6	Human Concessions	7/	7/
B. Banti, fully paid	1 1/2	1 3/4	Obbuss Syndicate	2 1/2	2 3/4
Brit sh Gold Coast	1 1/2	1 3/4	Prestea	8/	9/
Broomassie	23/	27/	Sekondi and Tarkwa	1/	1/
Effuente (Wassau)	7/	6/6	Taquaah and Abosso	2 1/2	2 3/4
Fanti Consolidated	14/6	15/	Wassau	1 1/2	1 3/4
			W. A. Gold Trust	4/6	4/6

AUSTRALIAN.

Anglo-Aus. Exploration	1 1/2	1 3/4	Ida H.	8/	8/
Associated	2 1/2	2 3/4	Ivanhoe Gold Corp.	7 1/2	7 3/4
Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	1 3/4	Ivanhoe South	3 1/2	3 3/4
Bellevue Proprietary	4 1/2	4 3/4	Kalgurli	9 1/2	9 3/4
Boulder Deep Levels	2 1/2	2 3/4	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 3/4
Brownhill Extended	8/6	8/6	Lanceland	1 1/2	1 3/4
Chaffers 4/	1/9	1/6	London & W.A. Exploration	13/	12/6
Comstock in Pr. pty.	8/3	7/6	Mount Boppy	4 1/2	4 3/4
Golden Horseshoe, New	6	6	North Kalgurli	2 1/2	2 3/4
Shates	6	6	Oroya-Brownhill	2 1/2	2 3/4
Golden Links	1/9	2/6	Peak Hill	1/9	1/9
Golden Pole	1 1/2	1 3/4	South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 3/4
Great Boulder, 2/	24/3	24/3	Sons of Gwalia	2 1/2	2 3/4
Do. Perseverance	12/6	12/9	W. A. Goldfields	2 1/2	2 3/4
Great Fingall	5 1/2	5 3/4	W. A. Goldfields	2 1/2	2 3/4
Hannant	1 1/2	1 3/4	White Fe'th'r M'n Rf.	1/6	1/6
Hannington Plains	2 1/2	2 3/4			
Hannan's Star	3/	3/			

MISCELLANEOUS.

Anaconda, 25 dols.	13 1/2	13 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	3 1/2	3 3/4
Belaghat, full pd.	35/	35/6	Mount Lyell	35/6	34/6
Brimham and St. George	12/	12/	M't. Morgan	3 1/2	3 3/4
Broken Hill Prop.	3 1/2	3 1/2	Mysore, 10s.	6 1/2	6 1/2
Camp Bird	1 1/2	1 1/2	Mysore Goldfields, 15/6	3/3	2/6
Cape Copper, £2	5 1/2	5 1/2	Do. West, 19/	11/	11/6
Champion Re. 1, 10s.	28/6	27/	Do. Wynaad, 19/	11/	11/6
Con. Gold N.Z.	4 1/2	4 1/2	Nanauqua, £2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Copapo, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Nile Valley	8/	5/6
Comandul 19/6 pd.	3/	2/	Indydrag, 10/ shares	20/	18/6
Esperanza	5 1/2	5 1/2	Do. egum	18/6	18/6
Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
Frontino and Bolivia	13/6	12/6	Rio Tinto, £5	6 1/2	6 1/2
Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	t. John del Rey	10/	10/
Do. (No. 2)	1 1/2	1 1/2	Thasus	5 1/2	5 1/2
Litona, £5	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wahli	6 1/2	6 1/2
Llanes, £3	5	5	Ymir	8	8

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.		In. or Dec. on 1904-5.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904-5.
		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904-5.			
Alcoy and Gandia	Jan. 13	Ps. 20,000	—	Ps. 600	**	Ps. 29,400 — P. 9,500
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia	Dec. *	\$1,480,000	+ \$552,000	**	\$12360000	+ \$3049000
Argentina Gt. Western	Jan. 12	10,487 +	1,641		348,437 +	60,099
Algeiras (Gibraltar)	" 6	Ps. 33,172	+ Ps. 2,578		Ps. 872,462	— Ps. 83,283
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	" 13	30,608 +	8,997		765,795 +	220,594
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o and Cen. Argentine	" 13	68,512 +	4,263	**	114,914 —	6,961
Buenos Ayres G. Sthn.	" 14	77,169 —	704		1,944,555 +	324,726
Do. Western	" 14	29,482 +	1,713		860,305 +	140,794
Do. Ensenada	" 14	262 —	135		9,364 +	5
C. Urig'ay of Mte. Vid.	" 13	8,618 +	2,258		223,731 +	3,891
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 13	2,952 +	999		50,816 —	2,999
Do. Northern Ex.	" 13	1,269 +	98		30,832 —	5,719
Do. Western Ex.	" 6	1,114 +	375		32,823 +	4,971
Cordoba Central	" 14	2,620 +	250	**	5,020 +	95
Do. Northern Ex.	" 14	6,025 +	980	**	11,045 +	830
Do. N. W. Arg'n. Ex.	" 14	1,615 +	370	**	2,880 +	465
Cordoba and Rosario	" 14	3,800 —	1,330		122,135 +	5,110
Costa Rica	" 14	6,485 —	4,751	**	117,125 +	12,093
Cuba Central	" 13	6,902 —	4,560		137,558 +	10,319
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 13	12,068 —	3,504		20,989 +	5,746
Entre Rios	" 13	4,012 —	577		86,568 +	15,222
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico	" 14	\$119,500 +	\$6,250		\$3,228,000 +	\$59,380
Leopoldina	" 13	11,769 —	4,534		26,105 —	2,674
Mexican	Nov.	\$512,300 —	\$15,200	**	\$2,599,800 +	\$122,860
Do. Southern	Nov.	\$132,000 +	\$16,200	**	\$2,599,800 +	\$122,860
Do. Central	Nov.	\$25,426 +	\$5,531	**	\$40,593 +	\$7,562
Do. Do.	Nov.	\$2,171,540 +	\$161,537	5*	\$112,044 +	\$974,067
Manila	Jan. 13	\$549,106 +	\$48,619	5*	\$3,374,035 +	\$302,177
Nitrate	Dec. 31	\$28,583 +	\$277	**	\$54,543 +	\$84
Ottoman	Jan. 13	23,366 —	3,404	**	530,304 +	97,308
Peruvian Corporation	Dec. *	\$704,350 +	\$88,950	5*	\$3,768,673 +	\$400,575
San Paulo	Jan. 7	17,541 +	2,000	**	17,541 +	2,000
Salvador	" 13	\$30,750 +	\$3,250	**	\$59,000 +	\$3,750
Union of Havana	" 13	17,864 +	3,694	**	252,890 +	29,523
Villa Maria & Rufino	" 13	1,012 +	118	**	1,915 +	221
Western of Havana	" 13	3,446 —	459	**	119,716 +	2,928

* Month ended. † Fortnight ended. ‡ Nett. § From July 1, 1905.

** From January 1, 1906.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.		In. or Dec. on 1904.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904.
		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904.			
Bengal Nagpur	Dec. 16	Rs. 5,31,208 +	R. 83,978	†	R. 1,02,26,836 +	R. 19,96,109
Bengal & N.-W.	" 16	Rs. 2,42,430 +	R. 48,640	†	Rs. 50,86,287 —	R. 1,80,681
Bombay & Baroda	Jan. 13	Rs. 3,89,000 +	R. 26,000	†	R. 7,25,000 —	R. 9,000
Do. State Lines	" 13	Rs. 5,41,000 —	R. 68,000	†	R. 10,15,000 —	R. 1,57,000
Burma	Dec. 16	Rs. 2,74,317 +	R. 1,231	†	R. 62,45,480 +	R. 20,347
Delhi Umballa	Jan. 13	Rs. 72,500 +	Rs. 58	†	Rs. 72,500 +	R. 9,357
East Indian	Jan. 13	Rs. 16,24,000 +	R. 50,000	†	Rs. 30,10,000 +	Rs. 58,000
Gt. Indian Penin.	" 13	Rs. 30,99,500 +	R. 5,84,256	†	R. 30,99,500 +	R. 5,84,256
Indian Midland	" 13	Rs. 5,00,600 +	R. 85,796	†	Rs. 5,00,600 +	R. 85,796
Madras	" 13	Rs. 49,317 +	£7,086	†	£ 49,317 +	£ 7,086
South Indian	Dec. 16	Rs. 2,82,000 +	Rs. 13,280	†	Rs. 58,65,912 +	R. 29,433
South Behar	" 23	Rs. 9,583 +	Rs. 318	†	Rs. 2,58,055 —	Rs. 15,540
S'thern. Mahratta	" 23	Rs. 2,36,888 +	Rs. 30,113	†	Rs. 51,91,300 +	R. 5,35,279
Southern Punjab	Jan. 6	Rs. 47,270 —	Rs. 2,848	†	Rs. 47,720 —	R. 2,848

* Thirteen days. † From July 1, 1905. ‡ From Jan. 1, 1906.

UNITED STATES AND CANADIAN RAILWAYS.

UNITED STATES AND CANADIAN RAILWAYS.							
NAME.	Period ending	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904-5.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904-5.	
		dols.	dols.		dols.	dols.	
Canadian Pacific ..	Jan. 14	1,022,000 +	275,000	\$	33,374,000 +	4,697,000	
Canada Atlantic ..	" 14	5,135 —	1,110	\$	10,412 —	1,074	
Chicago Gt. Western ..	" 14	151,243 +	25,383	\$	4,861,418 +	622,343	
Denver & Rio Grande	Dec. 31*	476,000 +	50,000	\$	9,057,000 +	1,163,000	
Gr. Trk., Main Line.	Jan. 14	£170,290 +	£8,427	£	£199,590 +	£19,550	
Gr. Trk., Western ..	" 14	£21,825 +	£842	£	£39,530 —	£1,800	
Do. Det., C. H. & Mil.	" 14	£6,938 +	£322	£	£10,831 —	£1,627	
Louisville & Nashv'le	Dec. 31*	1,039,000 —	26,000	\$	20,046,000 +	972,000	
Miss. K., & Texas ..	Jan. 14	339,416 +	33,550	\$	11,983,993 +	461,937	
Southern ..	" 7	974,000 +	102,000	\$	—	—	
Wabash ..	" 14	476,000 +	70,000	\$	13,586,000 —	889,000	

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The Investors' Review.

Mine Boss Rapacity and Chinese Labour.

If it be true, as reported in Wednesday's *Daily Chronicle*, that Mr. Haldane, the new Secretary of State for War, said "if the Transvaal declared in favour of Chinese labour we would wash our hands of it, the thing was theirs and not ours," then this gentleman's education has been neglected. Whatever Chinese labour may be, it is not a South African "thing." The white population of South Africa, outside those directly under the tyranny of the mine bosses, have never had any say about Chinese labour or any hand in bringing these unfortunate victims of company promoting rapacity into the country, and we cannot escape from our responsibility towards the white natives and permanent white settlers of South Africa on any such plea as Mr. Haldane advances. The responsibility is ours. It was the Imperial Government acting through the boss-controlled autocratic administration of the Transvaal that sanctioned the importation of these slaves. It will therefore be the duty of the Imperial Government to remove from South Africa this pestilential alien institution and to restore health to the body politic there. There is no possibility of getting out of this duty, and if the Government of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman follows the line indicated by its War Secretary it will soon find itself in as great a mess as the late Government wallowed in. But we do not believe Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman will permit any such deviation from the plain path of duty, and it is obvious enough that the bosses in South Africa fear the future. They see a probability that the hand of justice may reach them. Accordingly, among other symptoms of fear, their Johannesburg Press fugleman in the *Times* cries out that the Government must hasten the first elections for the new constitutional Government. No doubt that would suit the devices of the "corner house," the Wernher, Beit, Eckstein Company dependents, down to the ground. These cosmopolites would like to see an election farce perpetrated under their management on a jerrymandered franchise, with every obstacle placed in the way of the people as a whole who claim the right to record their judgment. There must be no hurrying up of this important step. The people of the Transvaal require to be protected, and it is our duty to protect them against the monstrous system of imposture and imposition under which they have suffered so long, the blighting misrule of the alien capitalist intent upon filling his own pockets and emptying everybody else's.

Upon this point readers should study an important letter printed on another page of this issue. THE INVESTORS' REVIEW has throughout consistently and determinedly opposed the whole system of South African mining finance as established by a small knot of cosmopolites with no genuine human interest whatever in South Africa or in the British Empire apart from those connected with the aforesaid pocket-filling enterprise. And throughout THE INVESTORS' REVIEW has been right, curse it as ye may. British shareholders, shareholders all over the world, have been the victims of these adventurers, the African vampires, from the very first. The corruption practised by these alien nondescripts has

throughout been shameless and stupendous. Instead of pouring wealth into this country or into South Africa as the result of the working of valuable mineral deposits in the Transvaal and in Cape Colony, they have so arranged the business as to impoverish both the mother country and its dependent provinces. And they have impoverished the shareholders in most of their "mines" by a system of company capital inflation and of loaded dice gambling upon the stock markets unparalleled in the history of joint-stock finance, in the history of the world. And in the process of enriching themselves at the expense of the public through their share creating and dealing machinations they have succeeded in debasing the public conscience and the habits of mind of the majority of those who have come within reach of their blighting influences. A needy and extravagant aristocracy has been their tools in effecting this corruption, and sometimes, we may suppose, has shared in the swag. Were it not for the demoralisation which has overtaken the British public in regard to the mining shares of all kinds, and South African mining shares in particular, through wild play and tip-swallowing, would it have been possible for such transactions to be perpetrated as Mr. Massingham describes in his ninth letter on South Africa, published in Wednesday's *Daily News*? He there gives in outline the story of what is called the Turf Mines' promotion, a story of a kind with which the readers of THE INVESTORS' REVIEW have long been familiar. The magic "reef" was said to run under the land owned by the Johannesburg Turf Club, and forthwith a company was organised with a share capital of £1,500,000, of which 600,000 shares were allotted to the vendors, mostly to the Eckstein firm—that is to say, to Wernher, Beit, and Company and associates. This same firm provided the board of directors and managed the whole "flotation," as it is called. They undertook, it seems, to "guarantee" the subscription at par of 900,000 shares less 200,000 to be taken by the members of the Turf Club. All the money on that Turf Club lot of 200,000 shares has been called up, but on the 700,000 allotted to or guaranteed by Messrs. Eckstein, unless Mr. Massingham is misinformed, only 10 per cent. has been paid up—that is to say, £70,000, leaving £630,000 yet to be found and no work to speak of has been done in the way of proving the "reef." Probably enough there is no reef to work. The whole thing lies derelict, and outside shareholders, of whom there must now be a good many since the Wernher, Beit favoured ones doubtless sold as many of their first-skim-o'-the-market shares as they possibly could, are left to marvel at their own folly. We are heartily sorry for all such victims, and always have been sorry, even when they may seem to be themselves to blame. They are absolutely powerless, all South African shareholders are powerless against these monopolists. They cannot get at the share lists, so as to combine for redress—as we have lamented these many years back—no information worth a green medlar is vouchsafed to them about the origins of the costs of working; capital is manipulated without their consent; sham shareholders' meetings are held in Johannesburg to pass this and the other resolution in the interests of the controlling bosses, and the shareholders here must accept blindfold whatever is tendered to them. The whole system is abominable, a blot upon the financial probity of England, and the new Government must deal with this canker and deal with it thoroughly before taking any steps to give genuine self-government to the white settlers and natives of the annexed republics. It would be a downright cruelty to leave these cosmopolites in control of the great, if transitory, source of wealth in these territories, for it would mean the spread of slavery among all classes of the community.

More than once of late we have insisted that the first step to be taken is to lift the mining industry on to a new plane altogether, to make it a national busi-

ness and not a business controlled by a few aliens of no character or position and whose interests in the British Empire are not merely selfish but basely, meanly selfish. We should have some hope of doing without imperial help in this direction could any reliance be placed upon public spirit amongst victimised shareholders at home. But a long and painful experience has taught us almost to dread the advent of the aggrieved shareholder in any important dispute. Whatever his zeal at the start, he is almost invariably bought off when he becomes troublesome, and with their minds debased, racked, and bamboozled as they have been by the profit-hunting game into which they have been drawn and at which they have so generally lost, it is hopeless to expect shareholders to combine together and loyally insist upon such reforms as will not only restore the gold mining industry to a state of health but materially increase the profits accruing to those who, like our correspondent, "Bitten," have genuinely staked their money in the adventure. The gambling spirit, however, once it lays hold makes each man who succumbs for the time of its sway a pure Ishmaelite. He does not then buy shares with a view to enter into a community engaged in the conduct of a legitimate industry, but in order to be in a position to fleece the next man by selling at a profit. He copies, in short, the morals of the master players. Dominated by such a spirit the mining market, as it is called, resembles nothing so much as a den of thieves. This is strong language, but it is the only language which fitly expresses the position. Directly a man entering the arena to gamble becomes a victim of the designs and plots of the South African gang he either clears out, accepts his loss, and holds his tongue about it, or he plunges and plunges again until he is half ruined or perhaps ruined altogether in the insane hope of getting back from some fool greater than himself the money he has already lost. What hope is there of doing any good thing by the help of miscellaneous, ever-changing mobs of this description? They are like disbanded gangs of dacoits, and hate each other, or act as if they did, instead of drawing together and endeavouring to lift the industry—a great industry, a most profitable industry as it might be—in which they have become involved out of the degradation into which it has sunk. Among such people the small minority of genuine shareholders and speculative investors are isolated and helpless atoms.

Therefore we are compelled to fall back upon the Imperial Government because with it the ultimate responsibility lies. Thanks to its supineness in the first instance, the mining monopolies were allowed to grow up. Most people have forgotten the story of the brilliant swindle by which the Orange Free State was deprived of Kimberley and the diamond mines there, but although they have forgotten it they can yet see something of what followed—the capture of the Cape legislative engine by the men who got control of this boundless wealth and the degradation of public life in that colony, a degradation so great as to make it willing to submit at the present hour to a De Beers administration. Also the nation as a whole begins to understand the gold mining problem. It sees that although upwards of £20,000,000 worth of gold was extracted from the bowels of the earth in South Africa last year, hunger and want indescribable brood over Johannesburg, paralyse the efforts of the farmers, British and Dutch, throughout the Transvaal and Orangeia to build up some measure of prosperity again; that all over the country there is decay, or at the best inertia, inanition. How is this to be remedied? The only thorough, complete, and lasting remedy that we can see is the expropriation of the mines, complete elimination of the boss capitalist domination, and the control and management of the industry in the public interests by a body partly appointed from home, partly selected by the free votes of the white population in annexed republics. Short of this the gangrene will spread, and after a Constitution has been granted, the last state of these South African territories will

probably be worse than the first. Were they to receive mere justice at the hands of the Imperial Government they have beguiled, drawn into a monstrous war, and upon which they have imposed enormous obligations and a heavy debt, the interests of these South African finance potentates would simply be confiscated. That would open the way to some chance of getting part of our money back; but we should not go so far as this because it would be impossible to punish the authors of the evil without hurting many thousands of more or less innocent victims. Therefore some method must be devised for dealing equitably with all interests, and we should only insist upon a severe cutting down of the claims of the bosses wherever possible. Space does not permit us to enter this week into any detailed sketch of the suggestions that we have been thinking over for some time, but an early opportunity will be taken to lay them before those interested in South Africa for discussion.

We cannot leave this subject without one more remark upon Chinese slavery. It is prompted by an extraordinary letter published in Wednesday's *Times* as an answer to Principal Forsyth's temperate and cautious criticisms on this subject. At foot of it there are only initials, so we have not the least idea with what authority the writer speaks, but his statements are to the effect that the Free Churches in South Africa are "solid" against the view put forth by Dr. Forsyth and all opponents of Chinese slavery in this country. Apparently, too, he gives proof of the truth of his statement. On March 4, 1904, he says 33 members of the Free Church Council in Johannesburg—12 of them ministers, 6 Wesleyan, 3 Congregational, 3 Presbyterian—and the chairman of the Baptist Union of South Africa passed the following resolution:—"That while expressing no opinion on the economic questions involved, this meeting strongly deprecates the Home Free Church Council's agitation against Chinese labour and thinks that fuller knowledge will modify its views regarding the conditions of service which are voluntary and similar to conditions which have long prevailed in South Africa. The meeting suggests that the Free Church Council's efforts should be directed to securing perfect freedom for Christian work amongst the Chinese." For rank hypocrisy this resolution beats most things we have seen in recent years, beats even the unctuous blood-lust of the late Hugh Price Hughes and other clerical supporters of the South African war. It is quite true, though, that the Chinese are in South Africa on conditions of service such as have long prevailed elsewhere in South Africa, the conditions illustrated by the black labour compounds of Kimberley, but two blacks do not make a white even so. We should just like to be dictator in the Transvaal for six months so as to be able to give these Free Church representatives in that country an opportunity to experience the benefits of freedom as enjoyed by the Chinese. We should put every one of these men into the compounds and set them to work at the tasks imposed upon the Chinese, separated from their wives and families, deprived of all intercourse with the outer world, and forbidden to indulge in any privilege usually enjoyed by free men, except that we should leave them all liberty to preach their peculiar Christianity to whomsoever would listen. We should further endow them with the proud wage of 48s. 2d. per month, including 14s. 8d. for food, provided at the Boss monopolists' truck prices. That, according to the latest return, is the wage bestowed upon the Chinese, and surely if they are free and happy under such treatment the parsons of the Free Churches so zealous in the interests of this system would be delighted to experience similar delights. It is impossible to print the language we should be disposed to use towards men who thus apparently with all deliberateness betray mankind. After all, however, probably the account books of Messrs. Eckstein, of the "Corner house," and its associates would if fully opened somewhat explain the peculiar zeal exhibited by these liveried servants of a, to us, strange god.

The Meaning of the Great Upheaval.

The Prime Minister does well to emphasise the grave responsibility thrown upon him and his colleagues by the unprecedented success of Liberal candidates at the polls, a success far surpassing our highest anticipations, sanguine though these looked before the event. Unquestionably the more the Liberal majority swells the greater becomes the pressure upon the Government to legislate with judicious thoroughness so as to secure permanence for urgently needed reforms. Most remarkable of all has been the upheaval of the rural voter. For the first time since Labour in the counties had the franchise it has determinedly broken away from the overaweing domination of the landlord and the State parson and asserted the right of the citizen to an equal chance in the struggle to live. Doubtless the supreme influence impelling voters everywhere to poll for the Liberal candidates, generally in overwhelming numbers, has come from Free Trade. People have not been beguiled by the falsehoods, cooked statistics, and generally unscrupulous misrepresentation of the Tariffites of all schools from that supported by the academic trifler to the mere played-out industrial or mortgage and jointure-smothered landowner. They have recognised, as Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman says, that "when Protection comes in at the door honesty flies out at the window, that the whole thing is dishonest, that the whole principle is dishonest, and that the alleged purpose of the Protectionist agitation is not the real purpose." It is not a system humanely designed to give the people better wages, fuller employment, more to eat, better houses and clothing, it is an attempt to establish here the tyranny of trusts and monopolies now ruthlessly and defiantly dominant in the United States over law-making institutions, executive, and people alike, and with unmistakable emphasis our voters have said that they will have none of it. They are not going back to the days when, as the *Manchester Guardian's* cartoonist wittily put it, our smugglers were the only "free traders."

Behind this leading motive, however, many others crowd forward, and the revolt of the rurals warns the Government that it will be impossible any longer to postpone a thorough overhaul of our land system, to avoid in other words a determined effort to abolish feudalism in land tenure with much that hangs thereto. Mere "allotments" for labourers will not do. The whole diminished army of those who cultivate the soil must be set free, from the smallest crofter to the largest farmer in the country. Not only must they be delivered from vexatious feudal restrictions but they must be at liberty to buy land if they so desire in such portions as they desire at a fair market price. In other words, the landowner must himself be emancipated. This indeed is a formidable undertaking, quite enough for one Parliament, it may be thought, but it is only a beginning. On all hands demands for the redress of wrongs, the abolition of privilege, the equalisation of the burden of taxation and rates, will be pressed upon the notice of the new House of Commons, urged upon the Ministry. And the difficulty will be to select from amongst the multitude of questions coming after retrenchment in the public expenditure and revision of the land laws which are the abuses the Government must first take in hand. How is it going to deal with ill-treated London, for example? Will it be able to equalise rates there and to impose upon the supreme ground landlords an equitable share of the public burdens? Will it tackle the corruptions of the square mile in the centre and liberate the enormous misapplied revenue dishonestly retained there? To do this would mean a deliverance of the multitude of the rent and rate payers from what amounts to not merely a gross injustice but a glaring exercise of feudal and dead-hand tyranny. We do not know whether the Cabinet or Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman will succeed in this and other undertakings, but sure we are that it will try to do so. It must try. There is no help for it. Such a pressure of

public opinion is now behind the Government and the Parliament as will impel them forward to effect reforms in all directions, reforms in some instances amounting to a pacific revolution.

We are inclined to think that Mr. W. T. Stead made an excellent suggestion in Monday's *Daily Chronicle* to the effect that sectional reforms touching the body of the constitution should be initiated and in the first instance elaborated by the members for the particular districts or divisions of the kingdom concerned. In this way the House of Commons as a whole would be relieved not only from an intolerable flood of oratory but from the necessity of giving imperfect and casual attention to the great questions in their raw state before they have been dealt with and digested. Were the Irish members to be formed into a committee specially to deal with Irish affairs, the Scotch likewise and the Welsh for Scotch and Welsh affairs; were London members put in charge of the preliminary work of drafting measures for the better government of London, and, as we have often suggested in echo of Mr. Gibson Bowles—a man whom we sincerely regret to see turned out of his seat at King's Lynn by Tariffite meanness—were the estimated expenditure of the country to be taken in hand by a powerfully-constituted committee, the business of the House would be facilitated to a degree never before attained, and much practical work would be done which it as a whole would only be called upon to revise and pass.

All this implies, however, that the House of Commons is first restored to its old freedom. During the long reign of the Tories its liberties have been gradually, and often spitefully, clipped away and curtailed. It has been tied up on this hand and that until its efficiency even as a mere debating society became half extinguished, while as a legislative machine it was rapidly getting reduced to a position of perfect impotence. All this must be changed, and we agree with Mr. Stead in thinking that the old hours of assembly and of sitting must be restored for lack of better. There must be no dinner-hour break either, nor yet any complete holiday except on Saturday. Probably the House cannot meet before two o'clock on the four principal business days, but it should begin its public work then, and go on steadily until the business of the day is finished. An end ought to be put to the abuse of the system of "blocking" motions, or such restrictions put upon the device as will prevent it from becoming a source of mischief and a screen to hide abuses. The House must be once more completely untrammelled in all that pertains to its highest functions and in its trust, set free to attack its business and dispose thereof in a thorough and workmanlike fashion. Also we lean to the view that an early effort must be made to throw off the paralysing incubus of the House of Lords veto. A friend has suggested that a law should be passed at once, advantage being taken of the enormous, the irresistible, momentum behind the House just after the Election, taking away from the House of Lords its present absolute power of veto and giving in place thereof a limited suspensory power for one year. That is to say, supposing the House of Commons passed a law imposing a direct share of the burden of rates upon ground landlords everywhere, compelling owners of empty houses in town or country to pay a portion of the local rates as an acknowledgment of the ameliorations procured for such houses by the expenditure of public money, and were such a law to be thrown out by the House of Lords, as it probably would be when first presented, then that House should only have power to block this law for twelve months. At the end of that time, if the House of Commons by a vote without further debate affirmed its position of the previous year that vote should make the act operative, and it ought to receive the royal signature without further reference to the Upper House. This seems to us an excellent suggestion, and one in the right direction. It is not revolutionary, and yet it would

effect the most important and efficient revolution in the working of the British legislative machine ever introduced.

Everywhere amongst the beaten reactionaries we note the attempt made to raise the cry of "confiscation," "property in danger," and so on. Do these people wish the nation to regard them as men who are conscious of possessing property to which they have no right, property not honestly acquired, and held by them in defiance not only of common honesty but of private equity? If not, they had better hold their tongues. There is nothing to fear, as we have again and again insisted, from the uprising of the working classes and their assertion of a right to share in the law-making of the country, unless a blind opposition to reasonable demands is exhibited by the classes hitherto privileged. It is not, as Mr. W. R. Cremer and many others have pointed out, with any idea of destroying property by appropriating what is not theirs that the labourers in the country and the artisans and labourers in towns have asserted themselves on the one day, as the late Mr. G. H. Holyoake said, when they are free to vote at the polls. They only want justice and fair play, a chance to get out of the deadly rut in which they mostly live, to rise above the miseries which the progress of civilisation tends to heap upon them; and wise men, rich or poor, should rather welcome the assistance of the representative of these men in redressing acknowledged wrongs than seek to drive them back upon the methods of the revolutionary Socialist in Germany or of the Russian bomb-thrower in their efforts to attain the end sought. Depend upon it, the liberation of the soil of the United Kingdom, the sweeping away of unjust privileges, product of theft too often in the past, and the equalisation as far as practicable of the burden of civilisation and Empire so as to make the broadest shoulders carry the heaviest load would not weaken the value of property or destroy it in any measure. On the contrary, justice creates and consolidates property; equity between man and man is the one sure and durable foundation upon which wealth can rest.

Mr. Felix Schuster on the Inadequate Gold Reserve.

In his wide survey of the state of banking in London and its relations to the banking position in foreign countries, Mr. Schuster, at the half-yearly meeting of the Union of London and Smiths Bank, took occasion once more to emphasise the really dangerous weakness of our gold reserve as exhibited in the Bank of England return. At the close of last year, he said, the Bank of England held £28,500,000 of gold, a decrease of £17,000,000 compared with the total of ten years back. In the face of this fact it seems sanguine on his part to hold that the effects of the South African war are disappearing. They are being buried in credit, but they cannot really disappear until a material reduction has taken place in the obligations the war laid upon the market, until, for example, the enormous floating debt has been dealt with and put out of the way, put in a condition that will ensure its early redemption. And we have lost gold because of the waste upon that war, not because of any change for the worse in our commercial position, for the low bullion reserve is also a war legacy, and some other figures which Mr. Schuster gives illustrate the danger into which our credit system has been brought by that deadly blight. The Bank of France, for instance, holds, at about £115,000,000, some £37,000,000 more in gold than it held ten years ago, and even the German Reichsbank in spite of a diminution of £4,000,000 in its stock of the metal during the decade still holds £12,000,000 more than the Bank of England. The circumstances of the various foreign banks—those of the United States, for instance, where in addition to the £150,000,000 in gold held by the United States Treasury the gold reserve of other descriptions amounts to about as much again, but where the note

circulation is enormous—differ materially from ours. In all the great countries of the world there is a formidable liability on uncovered note circulations, such as does not exist in this country. The history of the Bank of France, for example, is most suggestive of contrast in this respect. Only the other day a proposal was laid before the French Chamber of Deputies having for object an increase in the maximum note issue of the Bank by £32,000,000, raising it to £232,000,000. This may look from the point of view of the British banker a dangerous step, but it is not necessarily that, because in France the bank note occupies the place of the cheque here. In reality the Bank of France has been managed with marvellous skill almost throughout its history, certainly since the crisis it had to face after the Franco-German war. At the beginning of 1870 the note circulation of the Bank of France was about £58,000,000, and the stock of coin and bullion, gold and silver, was about £49,000,000. After the war was over and France had paid the bill or borrowed the credit with which to pay it, say at the beginning of 1874, the note circulation had risen almost to £115,500,000, while the stock of coin and bullion, the terms again including gold and silver, had sunk to a little more than £30,000,000. Only the most judicious system of control and unceasing vigilance could have prevented such a lopsided position from developing into a ruinous crisis. Not only was this avoided, but in the succeeding years the Bank gradually strengthened its position until at the beginning of the present year, while its note circulation had risen to upwards of £196,000,000, its stock of gold alone had expanded to over £114,000,000. And the more its notes multiply the more gold it must accumulate.

We do not require a gold reserve here quite in this sense because our system of banking credit does not rest upon an enormous fiduciary circulation in the form of bank notes. We do, however, emphatically require a large reserve for another reason, a reason disclosed in the remarkable figures of the London Clearing House quoted by Mr. Schuster in his address. The overturn of that institution in 1905 reached the stupendous total of £12,287,000,000 (twelve thousand two hundred and eighty-seven millions), and the whole of this aggregate of receipts and payments turned upon the minute gold reserve of the Bank of England. That reserve is so small that were any large failure to occur—one of our gigantic banks to stop payment, or even to become suspect—the gold in the Bank would vanish in a week and we should be face to face with a stupendous crisis. Whose fault is it that we have no better national gold reserve? We think it to no small extent the fault of the great joint-stock banks themselves, and yet their position is such in relation to the Bank of England as to make it most difficult for them to do anything effective or permanent to strengthen the general bullion reserve in the Bank of England. Unless some compact can be arranged between the Government Bank and the other banks which would have the effect of preventing the Bank of England from employing in its own current business the contributions of the other banks to its bullion reserve it is quite hopeless to look for any improvement. The only other course open to the joint-stock banks is, as we have so long urged, the formation of private gold reserves of their own, and some of them have made considerable progress in this direction. They are all rich enough to have done considerably more, but until a method can be lighted upon of securing the joint-stock banks against competition by the Bank of England with their own moneys, the true strength of our gold reserve cannot be ascertained. The other banks hide their private hoards. We trust Mr. Schuster will hammer away at this vital subject until he has brought about reform. We have left no space to dwell upon the admirable exhibit of his own bank for the past half-year, and can only mention that its figures were the largest in its history, its profits higher, and its general position by all available tests excellent.

Another chairman who held forth to his shareholders on Wednesday was Mr. Henry C. Hambro, who presided at the half-yearly general meeting of the London and Westminster Bank. His duty was not a particularly gracious one, since the profits of this grand old bank for some mysterious reason continue to dwindle. He frankly admitted the fact, as he could not avoid doing, but insisted that the bank had not done so badly, after all, and certainly the directors of the London and Westminster have always squarely met the position created by stagnant or diminished profits, never hesitating to bring the dividend down when necessary, never falling back upon any draft upon reserve or upon balances forward in order to make a false show. Thus for the past half-year although there was a decrease of £4,500 in the profits the directors manage by keeping the dividend down to the figure of the previous two half-years to carry forward £10,000 more of undivided profit than they did a year ago. Also they provide a larger rebate, and looking at the decrease of £2,250,000 in the current account balances, the outcome was by no means bad, especially as the trade of one district of London where the bank has an important branch has been bad throughout the year, a condition which obliged the directors "to make ample provision for several accounts which were adversely affected in consequence." This indicates prudent management, and we have never a word of complaint to utter against any bank board which displays that quality. There is one remark, however, in Mr. Hambro's speech which puzzles us. In accounting for the decline in the deposits of his bank he observed that "during the last six months money had been very usable and consequently the deposits were lower." Is this cause and effect? Does the using of money, of the credit money of bankers, involve its destruction or diminution? We thought not. It is the attribute of banking credit to be irreducible as long as it is not destroyed. It may move from one resting-place to another, but the mere increase in its employment does not affect its mass. Perhaps Mr. Hambro means that balances were drawn off from the London and Westminster and confided to other banks through the natural operation of its customers' business without compensating inflow, and if that is what he means there is nothing to cavil at. But as he puts it the remark is beyond our comprehension.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

AND THE TIDE ROLLS ON.

It is a spring tide, the greatest ever seen, harbinger, we trust, of a bounteous harvest of healing, of empire consolidating measures to come. From all parts of England, Scotland, and Wales, except Tammanyised Birmingham and the benighted dominion of London City's unreformed corporation, the victors come, borne in upon the ever-swelling tide of popular indignation over a long betrayal of every form of popular right, of equity of conditions between man and man. Wales stands solid, and Scotland would have been so but for a borough group or two and "splits." The result will be a Parliament newer in membership than any that ever assembled, at any rate since the first called into existence after the Reform Bill of 1832 became law. Therefore we expect the House of Commons to break away from many old traditions. It will create new precedents for itself, invent new instruments calculated to give it a real control over the affairs of nation and Empire alike. But it is not going to be a Socialist Parliament, as the broken fragments of the defeated faction would have us believe. Nothing, indeed, has been more satisfactory in the elections than the practical rout of the Socialist wing of the Labour party, for it shows that the common sense of the electorate is not to be misled by the gospel of salvation through a deified bureaucracy. The

democracy is individualist, and, therefore, Liberal. Whether the Labour candidates who have split the reform vote, and allowed Tories to capture seats in Scotland, are Socialists or not we do not know, but it is ever the province of that class of candidate to betray the cause of the people. The ostentatious hostility invariably displayed by its leaders to the Liberal and Radical parties is one of the ugliest incidents in our modern political life, and marks the whole body as one in no sense to be trusted. Only by the grossest mismanagement of our affairs can such a faction ever grow to be a power for mischief in the state.

So the City may dismiss its fears, and enjoy without drawback the delight of possessing Mr. Arthur Balfour as one of its members. His habits of quasi-theological casuistry notwithstanding, he is just the man for it, a coiner of phrases with the fondness of the dilettante for the newest new notion. The City likes to take its politics in bolus form—in pills washed down with choice and sweet smelling phraseological vintages easy of mental digestion. "Unity of Empire"—spell it with a "y," Sammy, spell it with a "y"; it fills the mouth better and adds unction—"necessity in the interest of the people for cheap labour in the African mines"—never mind if it is likewise nasty. "The duty of all good citizens is to uphold the Constitution," "Dangerous Socialist tendencies," "Attacks on the sacred rights of property." Oh, there is a whole sackful of them whose plausible savour will just fit the mind intent upon sixty-fourths and thirty-seconds; the latest thing in "tips," the art of working the market in the interests of self and company promoter. And, this apart, it is well that the Tory party should not be left wholly derelict in the House, a prey to the surprises of the wrecker from Birmingham. Better an academic dawdler of brains than a pushing drummer of "cheek" with quack nostrums to vend. We welcome Mr. Balfour then, and if things go on as they are doing will soon be altogether content. The Liberal party wants somebody to play with, some relief to the monotony created by its intentness upon business, a victim to bait now and then.

For it is a strong party and will have much to do. It will, perhaps, have to fight the Irish among its tasks for that was anything but a fair or friendly spirit which the Irish leaders exhibited towards Lord Rosebery's son, Lord Dalmeny, in Midlothian, a seat we rejoice to see he so triumphantly won, and we are not at all sure if the Nationalist members are Free-traders. Radical newspapers, we note, class the Redmond and o her "ites" of the party as such; our recollection of the sentiments popular among Nationalist members of all shades in the old Parnell days was that they decidedly leaned towards the United States system of protection, if for nothing else, as a means of "revenge" on England. It would not in the least surprise us, therefore, to find them, or a majority of them, one of these days ranged behind the deft but futile plotter from Birmingham. Happily their attitude—never disclosed, by the way, in Ireland during the election—can only have a speculative interest for us, since no form of local self government that Ireland may be endowed with will ever give its representative body the slightest power over the Imperial Customs or excise revenue. Self interest, however, may keep the Irishmen on the right side, for they may be sure that the great and all-powerful Liberal and Labour majority is not going to let itself be dictated to either by Tariffites, Tories, Nationalists, or Socialists. It is going straight ahead to redress wrongs, to remove grievances, to broaden the foundations of liberty, to lighten the burdens of the poor without oppressing the rich. Do not be alarmed, therefore, good, timorous citizen! You were never impoverished by economy, or ever made the richer by the wealth accumulated under unjust laws and inequitable usages. The Labour party is not "Socialist," and, unless your folly makes it so, never will be.

HOW THINGS ARE WORKED IN JOHANNESBURG.

Thursday's *Times* contained another of those misleading and sophistical messages from its Johannes-

burg correspondent. From this we learn that the well-worn stage machinery for befoozling public opinion here is again being called into operation. Meetings are to be held for the purpose of "protesting" against tampering with what the correspondent calls "the cardinal principles of the Constitution," a jewel of freedom we did not know the Transvaal possessed. Already a meeting has been called in Pretoria, and a requisition is being signed by "many leading commercial and professional men and officers commanding volunteer regiments"—that is a suggestive item of information—to be handed to the Mayor, asking him to summon a meeting in Johannesburg, an example, we are told, that will be followed by towns on the Witwatersrand. All this is done in the boss patent style, in order to create a false impression as to the real opinion of the white inhabitants of South Africa. The whole proceeding embodies a shameless and dishonest imposture, quite on a par with that of the forged letter utilised to justify the Jameson raid. It is of a piece with the entire behaviour of these South African cosmopolite pests, and we trust the people of this country are not going to be any longer misled by tricks so clumsy. Lest they should be, it may be well to keep the facts in view, and to this end we reprint here a letter opportunely published in Thursday's *Daily Chronicle*. It was sent to that newspaper by a brother of the man who wrote it, and who has been many years resident in Johannesburg. Obviously, it has not been written with a view to publication, and is consequently in all probability the unvarnished truth. Not only does it show the Johannesburg Tammany ring as it works when organising a sham "public opinion," but the feelings of the white people in the long-suffering Transvaal. Also it throws light on the peculiar zeal for Chinese slavery displayed by Baptists and other sectaries, and animadverted on in an article on another page, an article in the printer's hands before the following was published. "A Transvaal Constitution." Yes, when all the resident whites in that country have a free, unfettered vote, which they can exercise uncoerced, we shall be content to accept its verdict. But the "opinions," the decisions procured by the knavish methods here described we shall not accept. What is the position and occupation of the *Times* correspondent in Johannesburg?

I see from the newspapers which you have sent to me that in the home country the defence of the importation of the Chinese is based largely on four points, which I should like to be home to deal with, as they could so easily be answered. However, briefly I can tell you that we Britishers in South Africa, apart from those under the control of the mine owners, are to a man opposed to this labour Ordinance. Your Unionist party argue that it was passed by the Legislative Council of the Transvaal! Surely you know that Lord Milner had the power to reject anything he saw fit, and not in one instance of the remaining 29 members nominated to the Council were the people, either British or Dutch, allowed to have a representative. Hence it was quite impossible for this nominated council to voice our views—which are those of the general public. The majority of these nominated members are directly connected with the big mining houses, and their sole aim was Chinese labour.

It is also argued that the Nonconformist bodies of the Transvaal were in favour of Chinese indentured labour. Evidently this statement is based on the cable sent home by the executive of the Church Council. This was engineered by certain gentlemen closely allied with the mining houses. The Council of the Executive were not even consulted on the matter. Why, I ask, was there such secrecy? The congregations were not consulted; not in a single instance was the question even broached to them, neither a petition presented, nor a referendum taken by any church of any denomination.

Further, it is being advanced that petitions came from the people here, urging the necessity of the Chinese being admitted. Such petitions were got up solely by the mining houses, who wanted the Chinaman, the signatures being obtained by the following methods:—The mining houses obtained a certain number of unemployed, and gave them a sovereign a day so long as they could obtain signatures to the petition. The mine managers also had petitions given them for the signatures of their men, and had any of the latter refused to sign, it was well known that they would be marked. Had the mining houses been so anxious to let the home people see that we wanted Chinese, why, I would like to ask, did they not take a referendum of this colony, as the people wished?

Are you Britishers at home aware of the fact that a meeting was held at the Wanderers in November, 1903, to pass a resolu-

tion in favour of a referendum of the colony being taken? At that meeting Mr. J. W. Quinn, our present mayor, was for three hours refused a hearing by a band of ruffians, hired at 15s. per head. They were given instructions to break up the meeting, and this task they accomplished. It is well known here who hired these hooligans—viz., the big mining houses who wanted Chinese.

The Dutch are absolutely en masse dead against the Chinaman. I also emphatically say that a large majority of the British people were against his introduction. However, we do not say it would be wise to repatriate the Chinamen en bloc now we have them here. As you can quite follow, if 50,000 labourers were suddenly withdrawn it must cause a great depression. Hence we say, stop further importations until the people here can speak through a responsible Government of their own.

Naturally you ask, who are to take their places? Kaffirs, as before the war, when this country was far more flourishing than it is at present, in spite of the 50,000 Chinamen. There are many more points I could touch on the question—slavery, bad treatment, rewards for catching runaway Chinamen, immorality, imported diseases, murder of unprotected Dutch farmers, etc. If the Chinese are not in a state of slavery, I ask by what name can we call it? I hope, from the Chinese point alone, good old England will rise to the occasion and return the Liberals.

VAN RYN GOLD MINES ESTATE.

The Van Ryn Gold Mines Estate is one of the prominent members of the Albu group of companies, and has only recently entered the dividend list, paying its first dividend in 1904. Though the distributions so far have been moderate, nevertheless the share is one of the few in the Kaffir Circus whose price does not seem inflated, but which will give a buyer a chance of getting a fair return on his investment. The company distinguished itself, too—though not admirably—by being one of the first to employ Chinese. Its experience of the coolies has been anything but a happy and beneficial one, for in the early days there were several outbreaks on the mine, while the cost of training them has been, directly and indirectly, severe. This is much bewailed by the officials in the report for the financial year to the end of June. For instance, "the restrictions imposed upon the employer are so onerous, and the opportunities given to the employed for shirking work so easy, that it is almost impossible for the management to get the full efficiency in the labour which they otherwise might, and to which, it may be observed, they are properly entitled. This has a serious and very detrimental effect upon the working costs." Quite so, but the bosses deliberately made their choice of underpaid slave labour, and they must abide by the consequences. They were not compelled to employ crimped Chinese. It was their own policy, with the view to clinch their monopoly, to discourage both the blacks and the whites, and to threaten all kinds of disasters if they could not get Chinamen, and they should be the last to bemoan the consequences of their short-sighted folly. The word "slavery" excites the indignation of such men, yet here they are complaining because ordinary humane conditions of living are insisted upon by their victims. They can earn and pay high dividends, yet growl if they are compelled to spend a few thousands in training, housing, and feeding the aliens. Had they been endowed with ordinary business intelligence, they would have foreseen all these disabilities, troubles, and expense, but the only mental cleverness they have ever exhibited is to know how to feather their own nests. Their grief that they cannot also feather the nests of their beloved shareholders is of the canting and hypocritical kind, and their tears are the ready ones of the pusillanimous. Mr. Denny, the consulting engineer, who before the war used to make elaborate calculations of the profits this company would earn when it had once reached the crushing stage—there was no talk of Chinese then—is now in quite an indifferent, don't-care-a-blooming-cent-what-becomes-of-the-mine kind of mood. He has no control over the Chinaman, cannot make him a perfect workman in a day, cannot learn his language in five minutes, cannot get a high efficiency out of him, and so forth, so that "in dealing with your future yields I am unable," he says, "to forecast any immediate improvement upon the results obtained in the period under review."

Let us now inspect those results. The quantity of ore crushed was 221,010 tons, and the total fine gold recovered from the mill was 59,308 ozs., of a value of £251,090, equalling 22s. 8d. per ton. By the cyanide plant 189,552 tons were treated, the total value of the gold won therefrom amounting to £96,980. Including sundry revenue, the income for the year came to £355,544, and the nett profit was £106,537, to be added to £20,518 brought in, making a total disposable balance of £127,056. Two dividends of 10 per cent. each were paid, making altogether 20 per cent. for the year, absorbing £100,000, and, after the directors have pocketed their percentage of £2,500 on this amount, there remains £24,556 to be taken to the current accounts. A comparative analysis shows that the results were not so good as those for the previous year, when the yield per ton averaged 27s. 7d., against only 22s. 8d. in the past 12 months. "It must be borne in mind," the consulting engineer explains, "that in the period under consideration the whole cost of training the entire staff of the Chinese had to be borne, and this entailed such heavy cost as to very seriously affect the results obtained from the working of the mine." Nevertheless, there was an appreciable reduction in the working costs, which averaged 20s. 11d., compared with 26s. 3d. in 1903-4, but the profit fell from 12s. 8d. per ton to 11s. 1d. per ton. In connection with this, it is worth recalling that in October, 1904—that is, soon after the arrival of the Chinese—the profits fell to the tiny figure of 3s. 3.75d. per ton. And this is what Mr. George Albu has to say:—"The anticipated maximum profits have not yet been reached, for the reason that the grade is slightly lower than estimated, and it has not yet been possible to bring down the working costs to the level we have marked out. Every endeavour is being made to reduce the operating expenditure, but obviously a great deal depends upon the standard of efficiency eventually attained by the coolie labourers." Here is a fine chance for some inventive mind to conceive a method of making the Chinkee a more efficient and virtuous mortal under coercion than nature has made him, and no doubt the bosses would offer a half-crown to any man with a good practical idea. For instance, much could be saved in slave "keep" if the tailings dumps could be made palatable to him, or if a nourishing soup could be stewed out of the abandoned slimes. The pity is that the man does not leave his stomach behind him, as well as his inefficiency and deplorable vices and habits. Otherwise, if the controllers of this particular show can get only £2,500 percentage on dividends, in addition to their magnificent salaries and all-round commissions, what can save them from the workhouse? Ruin is inevitable, and no one seems to be conscious of the fate threatening the millionaires, or to care a sou whether they starve or feed, live or die. As it is, the shares at their present prices yield 7 per cent., good enough for any man of ordinary greed, and they would yield not one penny more if 40 per cent. dividends were paid, for the price would promptly be doubled, and the purchaser would be no better off. In fact, their dearer price would put them more out of reach of the small investor. Only the magnates and their pals, who hold the great bulk of the shares, could possibly be enriched by higher dividends. Yet many dull minds cannot see this.

JAPANESE FINANCE.

Some interesting particulars of the state of Japan's financial affairs at the close of the war are given in the Financial and Commercial Supplement of the *Times* this week from its Tokio correspondent. Some of the facts have already been made public, and have been dealt with in these columns, but they have never been brought together with the fulness of this letter. Briefly, it would seem, from the figures presented, that the cost of the war with Russia to Japan, in money alone, without counting the horrible cost of human life sacrificed, is represented by an increase of £175,000,000 in the Japanese Debt. This is not the

real cost, because in preparation for the war all the money of the indemnity obtained from China has been swallowed up, along with a most onerous increase in the taxation of the people. As recently as 1889-1890 the total expenditure of the empire, ordinary and extraordinary, was only about £8,000,000, and in 1895-1896 the total is officially given as little more than £8,500,000, say £9,000,000 in round figures. From this it suddenly jumped up in the succeeding year to £17,000,000, and in 1902-3 to £29,000,000, almost the whole of the increase being devoted to military purposes, and now, after the war, the normal expenditure of the empire is put at £23,504,000. Were this all, we might say Japan had come out of the struggle triumphant and uncrippled, but it is not all. For the current year the war burden imposed amounts to £80,154,000, in round figures, making the entire estimated outlay £103,659,000 for this period. As the ordinary revenue is only estimated at £23,506,000, it follows that there is a deficit of about £80,000,000.

This will be partly covered by £16,100,000, receipts of war taxes, by various old surpluses, to the amount of £3,965,000, by some small returns from sales of spoils of war and superfluous stores, amounting to £990,000, by £246,000, representing income from Manchuria, and by £15,000,000, the portion of the foreign loan now lying in London. Even so, there will be a deficit of nearly £44,000,000 to be covered, and, as intimated last week, this has been provided by the issue of an internal loan, £15,000,000 of which is to go in interest-bearing bonds as gratuities and rewards to those who took part in the war. The cost of bringing home the army is put at almost £38,000,000, garrisons in Manchuria and Korea will cost £2,000,000—a permanent addition to the country's burdens—and about £5,250,000 will be devoted to re-equipments for the Army and Navy. Surely this is a formidable burden for the young empire—young in the modern sense—to assume, and we cannot avoid the fear that it may for a time prove too much for the energetic little people. Much will depend upon what Japan is able to do in developing Manchuria and Korea. Obviously, without a large income from these territories, of which Korea alone will be absolutely in Japanese hands, and an almost indefinite extension of the foreign trade of Japan with China, the United States, and other countries, the load of debt and the added burdens of maintaining an armed peace will tend to crush her down. The service of the war debt alone will amount to £11,000,000, according to the estimates put forth, and the increase of other expenditures on the Army and Navy, on pensions and annuities, on tax collection, and so on will bring the total permanent burden under these heads and the debt together up to £17,340,000 per annum, or more than twice the entire revenue of Japan 10 years ago. And over and above there is all the ordinary outlays to be met, outlays constantly increasing as the requirements of the country under Western civilised standards expand and multiply. The Japanese Government apparently hopes to get at least £5,000,000 from Russia in liquidation of the cost of maintaining the Russian prisoners of war, and we hope this money, which is doubtless more than all due, will come to her; but it cannot come this year, for Russia is in no position to meet her war deficits, let alone to hand over such a sum as 50,000,000 roubles to Japan. As far as we can see, the internal condition of Russia promises to be bad for years to come, and will certainly not be consolidated and pacific enough in the current year to permit the Autocracy to exercise the dangerous privilege of floating large loans abroad. We are thus, for many reasons, sorry for Japan, and can only hope that the energy of her brilliant and resourceful people in discovering new sources of wealth, in opening up new channels of trade, and increasing the output of field, mine, and workshop within the islands forming the heart of the empire will prove equal to the task now laid upon them. We have but one consolation—the conflict between Japan and Russia has been a warning to onlookers of discernment. Under modern con-

ditions, war on a gigantic scale cannot be waged by Powers, however magnificent, without risk of impotence as the reward alike for victor and vanquished.

LISTER AND CO.

Even this capital-swamped business seems to have derived some benefit during the past year from the flourishing trade conditions in the north, and actually brings out a profit of over £100,000. The exact figure is £107,458, an increase over the preceding 12 months of nigh on £30,000, and the directors must have marvelled greatly when the results were placed before them. With the addition of £7,149 brought forward, the credit for disposal is £114,652, and, after deducting all prior charges, that is debenture interest and preference dividend, the directors propose to pay a dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, being double the amount disbursed a year ago, adding £10,000 to reserve, against nothing, and carrying forward £14,819, an advance of £7,725. Nothing quite like this has been experienced for a longer time than we care to look back to—say 15 or 16 years—and but for its fearful over-capitalisation there might be some hope for the Lister enterprise yet. But 10 years of solid genuine prosperity would not make the company really strong, because there has never been a proper attempt to build up substantial reserves against the ponderous mass of assets, solid and watery. Not infrequently sums have been filched from the savings, in order to provide dividends or for other purposes, and we dare not forget that the reserves, so called, are really capital, the shares having been issued at a premium of 10 per cent. With the £10,000 now added, the total comes to £100,000, an altogether insufficient amount against goodwill, trade marks, freehold premises, and machinery standing at the huge figure of £1,334,620. They were increased during the year by £9,350, and reduced by £23,000, a hopelessly inadequate sum, showing how great is the poverty of the company even in its best years. We note a sharp increase in stocks, which are up from £468,842 to £487,614, sundry debtors owe £19,401 more at £167,981, and cash and bills have increased by £10,957 to £120,863. On the other side, creditors are not particularly heavy at £77,759, leaving the company with a pretty good excess of liquid assets, but this, unfortunately, is about the only good point, and while we trust it will not be so, shareholders may have to wait some time for another 5 per cent.

GEDULD PROPRIETARY MYSTERIES.

The gamblers have been playing a merry game these three or four weeks past with Geduld Proprietaries. To them it may have been a delightful diversion, this shuttlecock play with the shares, but to those who own them it has been anything but pleasant, far too much damage has been done. In the middle of December the price relapsed heavily on the report of the splitting up of the reef where struck in the shaft, and because assays were not cabled. These came subsequently, and as they happened to be as high as 28 dwts. per ton on the average up flew the shares again, and some fortunate people pocketed big sums by taking prompt advantage of this fortuitous (?) circumstance. Of course, the delay in publishing the assays was explained "as due to the necessity of taking check assays," as though the other news could not have waited also, but we said at the time, and have less reason than ever to recall our words, "the violent movements up and down look somewhat suspicious." Since then, for a week or so, the shares continued one of the strongest spots in the weak Kaffir Circus, but for some days past they have again been sliding away in a mysterious manner. This decline has now been made comprehensible, but our suspicions are strong that some people had more than vague knowledge of what was happening. For the following cablegram came to hand on Wednesday afternoon, which explained the heavy fall in the price on that day:—"Samples from small development so far accom-

plished in crosscut and drive gave poor assays. Shaft has therefore been re-sampled where walls not removed for station. Assays new samples lower, in some cases much lower, than first samples. Check assays not yet completed; details to follow. Directors investigating with regard to first samples. All samples taken, of course, refer only to small area, therefore no indication of value of property. Development progressing as quickly as possible. Publish at once." The cable is not as clear to the ordinary shareholder as it might be, but it is clear enough to show how destiny or human caprice is playing both with his feelings and his money. Destiny has mighty little to do with it, for market gamblers do not get from destiny alone their foreknowledge of events. Neither does any remarkable intuition assist them, for they are not endowed with any such rare gift. They get their knowledge from sources inaccessible to shareholders, who have just cause for resentment that they are the helpless victims of the more fortunate and unscrupulous. So later assays are very poor, much lower in value than the first high assays. Well, this is not so wonderful, after all, seeing how common an experience it is on the Rand. It may or may not be comforting to the victims to learn that the directors are investigating, for there is no absolute assurance in such intimation that investigation will discover the rogues. There are no rogues? It is merely one of Nature's illusions, apt to deceive the cutest eye? Well, well. It matters little to us personally how reputed experienced experts are so easily deceived by appearances. If there are no rogues about, how is it that gamblers have such certain prescience of coming events?

The following cable came to hand on the afternoon of the following day, showing in detail considerable discrepancies between the first and the later assays, thus further emphasising the necessity of the very strictest investigation:—

"Owing to stations cut following samples only could be taken in Shaft:—No. 1, footwall leader and slate contact, 8.5 dwts. over 5 ins., against previous result 34.9 dwts. over 3 ins. No. 2, lower sandstone, 2 dwts. over 6 ins., against 5 dwts. over 10 ins. No. 3, middle leader, $\frac{3}{4}$ dwt., against 1.7 dwts., in both cases over 4 ins. No. 4, top leader, $\frac{3}{4}$ dwt., against 2.8 dwts., in both cases over 6 ins. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, taken from south-east face, but only half distance compared with first samples owing to station. No. 5, total section, middle south face, traces, against 16.7 dwts. over 54 ins. No. 6, total section, middle north face, traces, against 5.7 dwts. over 39 ins. No. 7, footwall leader and slate contact, 2.75 dwts. over 5 ins., against 92.6 dwts. over 6 ins. No. 8, lower sandstone, traces, against 19.5 dwts. over 10 ins. No. 9, middle leader, 1.75 dwts., against 2.8 dwts., in both cases over 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. No. 10, top leader, 0.8 dwts., against 2.55 dwts., in both cases over 6 ins. Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10, taken from north-west face, but they could not be taken exactly at original places as shaft wall has been cut back by about 4 ft. in the average for purposes of station. Samples taken in crosscut, footwall leader with contact slate, gave following results, ranging from 1.5 dwts. to 7 dwts., average 5.3 dwts., over 4.8 ins. Samples taken in drive, footwall leader with contact slate, 20 dwts. over 6 ins., and over length of 8 ft."

THE JOINT STOCK TRUST AND FINANCE CORPORATION.

In our last issue we alluded to the steps taken by Messrs. Charles S. Gover, solicitors, on behalf of certain shareholders, with the view to recover money lost in the "stock operations" of Mr. Bottomley's Joint Stock Trust and Finance Corporation, and expressed the hope that shareholders would come forward and assist such efforts. Since then the Corporation has issued a lengthy circular in reply, together with copies of some correspondence which passed between Messrs. Gover and Mr. Dalton Easum, the Corporation's accountant. In a final letter from Mr. Easum he says:—"You have taken upon yourselves the responsibility of challenging my distinct statement that my certificate was based upon the examination of the books of the company, various Stock Exchange contracts, and other documents. I must, therefore, decline further correspondence with you." In its circular the Corporation says a meeting is about to be convened, when the fullest information will be afforded, and certain impor-

tant proposals will be submitted by the chairman (Mr. Bottomley), "who has been busily engaged for some time past in your interests." And the threat is held out that no one who has identified himself with Messrs. Gover's agitation will be admitted to the holy conclave. This is ludicrous, and quite consistent with the preposterous history of the whole concern. However, those who knock at the door in vain need not weep, but may sit on the steps and laugh heartily at the farce enacted inside, for it need not be seen to be vividly imagined, with Horatio stump-orating in his own inimitable style. They can meanwhile divert themselves by reading the following correspondence, which speaks for itself. We borrow it from the P.M.G.:—

IN THE MAYOR'S COURT, LONDON.

Sharp v. the Joint Stock Trust and Finance Corporation (Limited).

January 11, 1906.

It is ordered by consent that the plaintiff be at liberty to sign judgment herein against the defendants for the sum of £50 debt and £15 agreed costs, and thereupon that all further proceedings herein be stayed, the defendants undertaking to pay the said sum of £50 debt and £15 costs in manner following; that is to say, on or before January 31, 1906. And it is further ordered by the like consent that if default be made in the payment of the said sums of £50 and £15 in manner heretofore mentioned, then that the plaintiff or his executors or administrators, in case of his death, be at liberty to issue execution for the whole of the said sums of £50 and £15, or such part thereof as shall then remain unpaid, together with the costs of execution, officer's fees, and all other incidental expenses.

Finsbury House, Blomfield Street, London, E.C.

January 11, 1906.

To WILLIAM SHARP, Esq.

Stamp 6d.

SIR,—Yourself v. The Joint Stock Trust and Finance Corporation (Limited).

In consideration of your staying proceedings against the defendants in the above action, and allowing them until the 31st of the present month for payment of £65, the debt and costs therein, I hereby guarantee the due payment of that amount by the said defendants.—Yours truly,

(Signed) HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

Witness: W. H. Holland, Finsbury House, Blomfield Street, E.C., secretary.

We certify the above signature to be that of Horatio Bottomley.

(Signed)

JENKINS, BAKER, AND CO., Chapel-place, 3r, Poultry, E.C.

Passing Events.

We are very glad to see that Mr. Burns, the President of the Local Government Board, has instituted a Departmental Committee to inquire into the accounts kept by local bodies. It is to report upon the systems in use and to indicate the changes necessary to bring them into uniformity and clearness. We hope also it will see to it that something like regularity and promptness is displayed in the rendering of these accounts. Hitherto it has been an annual complaint of ours that the figures presented by the Local Government Board as summarising the operations of municipalities and other local spending bodies throughout England and Wales have been antiquated, dealing with a period two and sometimes three years back. Also we have complained that the Local Government Board appeared to have no control whatever over the local expenditure of Scotland and Ireland. Perhaps it is just as well it has no such control, but surely without this imperial authority it ought to be able to procure from the Scottish and Irish authorities intelligible and comprehensive abstracts of the local accounts relating to these kingdoms. We ought to know what is going on all over these islands in the matter of local outlays so as to have some conception of what the people are called upon to pay in the way of rates and of what is being done with the money borrowed for local enterprises. It is, however, an important step to have got this committee instituted, and we have no doubt that, backed up as it will be by the strong personality of the President of the Board, it will be able to pave the way for valuable improvements. Its motto should be, "Lucidity in accounts furthers thrift."

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain has been graciously pleased on more than one occasion to make known his joyful anticipations of amusement as one among the ragged remnant of the late Government of spend-and-pawn-all who will find their way into the new House of Commons. We also feel a thrill of delight when we think of him and his son there, and hope from outside to get much entertainment at their expense before all is over and the curtain rung down on the South African and other tragedies the hustling Joseph put upon the world-stage. Oh, it would have been an imperishable sorrow to us to have beheld the shadows of oblivion closing already around the form of Rhodes's friend and "Flora's," the ultra-correct constitutionalist of the Raid, solicitous for Mrs. Kruger's health, the hour-glass man, the man of the "squeezed sponge," the bluffer who played his game until he waded knee-deep in human gore. No, we have not done with Mr. Joseph Chamberlain yet, not by a long way. Did "Jumpers" really turn out a profitable investment? And how much of the sinews of war supplied to the tariffite swarm under Joseph's lead comes from the masters of South Africa? Rhodes said the business of politics was expensive, and in all its branches we rather think it costs the South African horde quite £250,000 per annum year in and year out.

Japanese trade returns are likely to be interesting for some time to come. During November the exports reached 31,295,875 yen, or 3,397,590 yen less than in the corresponding period of 1904, the decline being entirely in manufactured articles half wrought, while for the 11 months to date the shrinkage is 5,258,335 yen, at a total of 284,993,283 yen. Imports are also beginning to grow smaller in some directions, November's total of 32,224,579 yen going against 33,598,231 yen in 1904, but in one item alone, raw cotton, the falling off was no less than 5,410,565 yen. For 11 months the total foreign purchases amounted to 454,679,889 yen, or an advance of 121,907,438 yen, the excess of imports over exports being 127,165,773 yen higher at 169,686,606 yen, the product, not of vast accumulations of wealth as in this country, but of ruinous loan operations, rendered necessary by a devastating and capital-destroying war. Happily, the export of gold has been checked, the return showing a decline for the month, 2,502,303 yen, and for 11 months of 88,896,453 yen, while the imports are down 84,336 yen for the month and up 14,930,132 yen for 11 months.

According to the preliminary estimates prepared by the Director of the United States Mint the gold and silver output of the United States in 1905 was a "record" for the Republic. The total is given at nearly \$86,338,000, an increase of \$5,614,000, or about 6.95 per cent. over the yield in 1904. Colorado is still easily first amongst the gold-producing States, for it turned out \$25,333,000 worth of gold, California coming next with \$17,503,000, and Alaska third with \$14,650,000. The Californian figures show a decline of no less than \$1,607,000, whilst Colorado has improved her return by \$937,000. As regards actual progress, however, Alaska is considerably ahead, for the output from this State exceeded that of the preceding year by \$5,346,000, or 57.5 per cent.

A circular has been issued by the Central Insurance Company in which the Board announce their decision to become a tariff office, in other words, to join the sacred ring. A couple of years ago the company became, in its foreign department, associated with the Fire Offices' Committee, better known as the tariff companies, whilst continuing to operate as a non-tariff company in the home section of its business. The circular sets forth the advantages the company will henceforth enjoy from the adoption of this policy. After lengthy negotiations, an agreement has been arrived at whereby the Central enters into full membership, "under which the interests of all the company's present agents and policy-holders are satisfactorily provided for, the Fire Offices Committee hav-

ing recognised the special circumstances attending the origin and history of the company." Both the Central and the Committee are to be congratulated on coming to terms.

It appears that a notice has been issued by the directors of the Beira Railway Company convening a meeting on the 30th inst. of the holders of the 4½ per cent. first mortgage debentures for the purpose of considering an agreement providing, amongst other things, for the prevention of any debenture holder from taking proceedings to recover his interest for six years; for suspension of the sinking fund, and for paying the coupons by deferred interest warrants, except so far as each year's nett profits will allow them to be paid in cash. This agreement has evidently not been submitted to the debenture holders' committee, who are of opinion that either the notice does not validly describe the agreement, or that, if validly described, it will not achieve the objects aimed at. They are of opinion that there may be grounds for passing some resolution temporarily suspending, on reasonable terms, the operation of the existing debenture trust deed, "but the directors' proposal seems quite unwarranted." Accordingly they urge the debenture holders either to attend the meeting personally, or to place their debentures in the hands of the committee, or of someone else who will attend the meeting, that thus their interests might be protected.

A cablegram of the usual Yankee style has been received this week by the English Association of American Bond and Share holders from the President of the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railway. The alleged improved credit of this concern has, it says, enabled the management to secure on favourable terms the capital required for the payment of its equipment obligations and the rehabilitation of the older part of the line. This contemplates the retirement of the outstanding equipment notes and bonds, reformation of alignment, reduction of grades, etc. So it has been resolved to create \$20,000,000 general mortgage 4½ per cent. sinking fund gold bonds to mature in 1936, of which half are to be issued immediately and the balance to be reserved for future issue. The entire subscription has been underwritten by Messrs. Speyer and Co. As London agent for this railway the English Association of American Bond and Shareholders notifies that it has been authorised to receive shares for registration up to February 2 in order that the rights of the new issue may be secured, likewise to receive subscriptions up to March 12 for transmission to New York. Here's an opportunity to make or lose money.

When dealing with the reports of the Indian railway companies, we have frequently called attention to the grave shortage of rolling stock on some of the lines and fear that the matter is now assuming a very urgent aspect. Advices from Calcutta state that the Mining Association has written to the Railway Board pointing out that the shortage of wagons is steadily becoming greater and that some factories being unable to obtain coal supplies owing to the fact that there are not sufficient cars to bring the coal from the mines, are working short time. It is further stated that in some cases steamers have only been given a supply of fuel sufficient to take them to the next port, and the position looks like becoming exceptionally bad when the seed season begins, inasmuch as the inadequate supply of wagons may be expected to partially spoil the trade. It would be difficult to exaggerate the serious character of this news, and we begin to wonder how it is that the Railway Board, so recently appointed and with such good intentions, has permitted arrears to accumulate in this fashion.

An interesting analysis of the accounts of the banks whose head offices are in Manchester was published in Tuesday's *Manchester Guardian*. From this we learn that the aggregate nett profits of the six banks dealt with fell off during the year 1905 by £7,489, but their aggregate was still £841,000, so that a difficult year

was really passed through with wonderfully little scathe, and no single dividend was affected. Thus the Manchester and Liverpool District Bank distributed 17½ per cent., the Williams Deacon Bank 13½ per cent., the County and the Lancashire and Yorkshire each 15 per cent., the Union 11 1-11 per cent., and the Palatine 2 6-7 per cent. in both years. These dividends, with the exception of the last-named, look big, but as the *Guardian* reminds us, as we should never forget, they are only calculated upon the actual paid-up capital of the banks, and include the earnings of the reserves, as well as the profits upon the general business done. We hope, however, the banks will not increase the dividends in the prosperous year now entered upon. We think it is going to be prosperous because Lancashire is alert and busy, and because the resources of the banks have increased during the past year by no less than £2,389,000 to a total of £50,370,000, of which nearly £16,000,000 stands to the credit of the District, and over £11,500,000 to the credit of Williams Deacon, the County and the Lancashire and Yorkshire holding upwards of £9,000,000 each, and the Union £4,317,000. With larger resources and a rapidly expanding business, there ought to be money over this year to build up reserves with, after paying dividends as good as the shareholders received for the past year.

The directors of A. Darracq and Co., Limited, announce that they have agreed to the formation of an Italian Darracq company with a capital of £180,000 in £1 shares, of which 44,000 are to be handed over presumably for patent rights, and 16,000 are to be issued to the Italian promoters for their services. Of the remaining 120,000 shares, 60,000 have been subscribed for by the Italian group, conditionally, on the balance being taken by the English company and its associates. The directors propose that £20,000 shall be invested by the company, and they offer the other £40,000 to shareholders with a promise of a bonus of 10 per cent. in shares to be paid out of the £44,000 purchase price. In so many words, this means that part of what should belong to all the shareholders is to be distributed among a favoured few, and although the sum involved is only £4,000, such a proceeding is unwarrantable and unfair.

We are told that the banking account of the Birmingham tariffites, calling themselves Tariff Reform Leaguers, is overdrawn to the extent of £50,000. What bank has allowed these adventurers to get so deep in its debt? Was it a Birmingham bank or a London one, and does the bank have a guarantee? If so, who are the guarantors? What has been the expenditure of the league during the past two years, or the last six months even? Will Mr. Chamberlain see that its accounts are published, and let the nation know who are the men by whom this attempted fraud upon the British Empire and British industries has been perpetrated. After all, £50,000 will not go very far in the kind of propaganda the leaguers have been busy with.

Critical Index To New Investments.

RANGOON ELECTRIC TRAMWAY AND SUPPLY CO., LIMITED.

Messrs. J. W. Darwood and Co., having secured certain concessions for electric light and traction for Rangoon, purchased the steam tramways of the city, and now transfer the whole of their interests to this company. The capital of the new company is £500,000, divided into 50,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £5 each and 250,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, of which 30,000 preference shares were offered for subscription, with £150,000 4½ per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, to provide funds for the conversion of the tramways and other works. Messrs. Darwood and Co.'s terms seem reasonable enough, as their price for the tramways and concessions is only £65,000 in ordinary shares, and they are subscribing for another 85,000 of these, practically meeting the cost

of the new central station, on which it is proposed to spend £83,000. A new track of 24 miles is to be built for an expenditure estimated at £188,500, and the establishment of the distributing system is put at £73,500, so that the company will have £40,000 out of the present issue to provide for the cost of formation and for working capital and extensions. Profits of the existing tramways during the four years ended December 31, 1904, rose from £6,357 to £9,999, but it is calculated that after conversion a nett profit of £27,000 should be earned from this source, while the electric supply branch is estimated to produce another £9,714. Against this, the amount required to meet debenture interest and preference dividend is £19,000, and, as Rangoon is a progressive city, the company appears to have very fair prospects.

MALACCA RUBBER PLANTATIONS CO., LIMITED.

This company has been formed with a capital of £300,000, divided into 115,000 7½ per cent. participating cumulative preference and 185,000 ordinary shares of £1 each to acquire the Bukit Asahan Estate, in the Settlement of Malacca, now the property of the Malacca Rubber and Tapioca Co., Limited, of Singapore. The estate, which is held in perpetuity under statutory land grants from the Crown, consists of 4,310 acres, of which over 3,300 acres have been planted with rubber, and, in addition, a grant of another 6,000 acres has been made to the old company which will be included in the sale. Of the purchase price of £225,000 asked, £160,000 is to be satisfied by the allotment of 140,000 ordinary and 20,000 preference shares and the balance is payable in cash. The remaining ordinary shares have been subscribed for by the vendors and others, and the present issue consists of 95,000 preference shares, participating *pari passu* with the ordinary shares after 7½ per cent. has been paid on the latter. It is estimated that 421,581 Para-rubber trees, ranging in age from one to seven years, and 63,795 Rambong trees, of from one and a quarter to five and a half years, have been planted, and the directors believe that the company will soon be earning sufficient profits to enable satisfactory dividends to be paid on the whole of the share capital. In the meantime, Mr. Tan Chay Yan, the largest shareholder in the old company and one of the vendors, has deposited £15,000 to provide for any deficiencies in the preference dividend for 1906 and 1907, on condition that he is recouped with interest out of subsequent profits in excess of 10 per cent. per annum on the total capital. The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation is acting as banker to the company, which should be a sufficient guarantee that the issue is a straightforward one.

TENOM (BORNEO) RUBBER CO., LIMITED.

This company acquires from Mr. Frank Bost, of Glasgow, a concession obtained from the British North Borneo Company of 10,000 acres for the purpose of planting Para rubber, of which 4,000 acres may be selected in the Pudid Valley and the remaining 6,000 acres out of lands in other accessible parts of the State of North Borneo. Included in the concession is a guarantee of a dividend of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the first six years, with a provision that should the company in any one year earn sufficient profits to pay more than 6 per cent. the surplus is to be paid over to the Borneo Company until the amount paid under the guarantee has been liquidated. The price payable for the concession is £10,000 in cash and in addition the vendor takes the deferred shares, which are entitled to 15 per cent. of the surplus profits after paying 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, as his profit on the transaction. The capital of the company is £100,000, divided into 99,950 ordinary shares of £1 each and 1,000 deferred shares of 1s. each, of which 60,000 ordinary shares are offered for subscription. It is proposed to open and plant about 300 acres in the first year and at an increasing rate thereafter. Capital expenditure during

the non-productive period it is estimated will not exceed £20 per acre, and profits are expected to begin to accrue during 1912, commencing with about £6 10s. per acre in the seventh year and rising to £15, £23, and £31 in the three succeeding years. These figures are based on an average price of Para rubber of only 3s. 4d. per lb., against the present price of 6s., and a yield of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per tree at six years, 1 lb. at seven years, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. at eight years, and 2 lb. at nine years; but these estimates are considered to be low.

Rubber has been grown in an experimental fashion by the Sapon Tobacco and Rubber Company for four or five years, and is said to be doing splendidly, so that this company may have a chance. Of the shares offered 40,000 have been underwritten for a commission of 5 per cent. and an over-riding commission of 1 per cent.

DENNY, MOTT, AND DICKSON, LIMITED.

For family reasons, prompted by the recent death of Mr. Mott, long so well and favourably known in the City, this timber merchants' business, established upwards of 30 years ago, and registered as a private company in 1900, is now converted into a public limited liability company. Its share capital is £300,000 in £10 shares, divided into 10,000 ordinary and 20,000 preferred ordinary shares. The 10,000 ordinary shares are taken by the vendors in part payment, and are non-transferable for a period of five years from the date of registration. All the 20,000 six per cent. preferred ordinary shares, less 700 retained by the directors as their qualification, are offered for subscription at par. No promotion money or underwriting commission has been paid, and the new company is paying nothing at all for goodwill while the present issue provides £32,835 for additional working capital. The gross valuation of the assets is £435,310, and after deducting trade creditors and loans £168,145, the nett value is £267,165. The vendors guarantee the amount of the bills receivable and the book debts. They also state that the stock-in-trade, £207,616, is taken over at a lower price than the realisable value thereof. The preferred ordinary shares are entitled to a 6 per cent. dividend, and after a like payment has been distributed on the ordinary shares, the two classes of shares will divide the balance; and as no debentures, debenture stock, or preference shares are in existence, these preferred ordinary shares form a first charge on the property, and appear to be a good investment.

ISSUES BY TENDER, &c.

Croydon Gas Co.—A sale by auction of £5,000 "C" stock of this company is announced for February 1. The last dividend paid on this stock was at the rate of 10½ per cent. per annum, but under the company's Act of 1904 the distributions in respect of the half-year commencing July 1, 1907, and of subsequent half-years are to be at the same rate as on the "B" stock, on which the rate for some years past has been 11½ per cent. per annum.

Answers to Correspondents.

G. R. D.—We do not think the shares are a promising lock-up.

B. H. P. J.—(1) This institution is now doing a very big business, but we fear it is largely speculative, and, therefore, dangerous. (2) You do not say which issue of bonds you mean, but they are all safe enough, the only difference being in the yield.

Subscriber.—(1) We do not think there is the slightest justification for the present scare, and would advise you to hold on to your debentures in the meantime. (2) It is true we do not like the methods of creating companies of which this is an example, but the guarantee behind it is all right, and the undertaking may yet do very well. How is this Government going to have a bad effect on a business of this kind, which has its energies spread out into so many parts of the country?

G. M. Ingatestone.—The reply you enclosed was the only one that could be sent without disloyalty to colleagues. And there is no need to put a sinister interpretation on the incident, which does not alter the fact that the business is the best of the kind in the kingdom.

B. W. J.—(1) We agree with you that your friend's fears are baseless, but, apart from that, we are not sure that the shares are really suitable for the investment of trust funds as the company is so constantly adding to its capital commitments. (2) The

new company should have a fair chance of success, and you might invest the small amount you name.

Oliver.—These shares have only recently returned to the dividend-paying list, so that a purchase must be looked upon purely as a speculation and a very "long shot" at that.

T. C. W.—(1) Yes, we think you will be much better off in the long run if you cut your loss. (2) Do not average. Wait, if you care to do so, but it will have to be a long one. (3) We cannot advise averaging these, but we know of no reason why you should sell. (4) There does not seem to be very much room for improvement at the present price of these shares. (5) Far from it. We do not believe the thing can become a commercial success until it has been very greatly improved upon. (6) We are sorry, but as it is against our rules to mention securities in this column we cannot answer this question, and, therefore, hold 3s. to your credit.

Nomen.—(1) This company's profits and business have been falling so severely of late years that we begin to have doubts regarding the future. Competition is of the keenest, but the financial position is fair, and a very few shares might be bought as a speculative investment. (2) The reduction in profits a year ago was common to most companies of this class, but at bottom this concern is fairly good, and we see no reason to doubt that its position will improve with the revival of business activity. Thanks for the offer of the book, which we should like to see.

Algeciras.—The preference shares appear reasonably safe, but the ordinary are somewhat speculative. You might invest the amount mentioned.

Alexis.—(1) We do not think these will go much higher, so you may as well make up your mind to lose in any case. (2) We also think poorly of the prospects of this concern, but you might hold on a little longer in the hope of getting a better chance of clearing out. (3) This appears to be a very speculative thing, but, as it was only formed last year, you must either give it a chance—a very long one, in any case—or sell out and cut your loss. (4) These are also speculative shares, but the gamblers may at any moment give you an opportunity of clearing out at a profit. (5) It will, in all probability, be a very long time before this company can hope to pay dividends, so there is little prospect of your getting much out of it. You might as well clear out, and put your money into something more remunerative. (6) These may be held for possibly better chances later on. (7) Similar advice applies to these shares. (8) According to rumours and such things, there is a good future awaiting this company, but that future may be a long way off. (9) This is a struggling and most uncertain company, the shares of which are hardly worth holding. (10) We fear this company will never pay a dividend, and the shares have but a slight value. (11) This company is doing fairly well, and the outlook is still promising, so you might continue to hold. (12) A highly speculative undertaking, of which we have no high opinion. (13) We do not view this security with much favour. It should be all right for a time, and may improve in value to a small extent, but the security behind it is, on the whole, poor. Must not be regarded as a permanent investment. (14) A good, well-managed enterprise, but the present is about the full value of the shares. (15) Whenever you see a chance of selling at a small profit, or even at a slight loss, accept it, as we are not at all hopeful of the future. (16) We fear this is quite hopeless, and think complete break-up or another reconstruction not far distant. Get what you can for the shares. (17) The chances of this over-belauded company are extremely doubtful, if not gloomy, and it is most improbable that your loss will be recouped. (18) Very speculative indeed, with only the remotest probability of earning a dividend.

F. C. C.—We are reluctant to say sell, but we fear the shares will shrink still further in value, as the company's methods of doing business are so unsatisfactory and the management of its capital account so lax.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND.—Liabilities on December 30, consisted of £52,684,137 on simple contracts and £441,569 on notes or bills, against which were held cash in hand and at Bank of England £8,205,154, money at call and short notice £4,806,046, English Government and other securities £15,618,013, and bills of exchange, promissory notes and advances to customers £29,796,493.

T. W. Dobson, Esq., of Croydon, Surrey, the recently-elected Member of Parliament for Plymouth, is a member of the Southern Counties Local Board of the Central Insurance Company, Limited.

From Messrs. F. C. Mathieson and Sons and Messrs. Effingham Wilson we have to acknowledge the receipt of sundry handbooks too well known for their accuracy and comprehensiveness to require elaborate eulogy. Their names are sufficient. "Mathieson's Highest and Lowest Prices," the 21st complete record, price 2s. 6d.; "Mathieson's Provincial Highest and Lowest Prices," the 14th year of issue, also 2s. 6d.; both these being brought up to the end of last year. Then we have "Mathieson's Half-Yearly Traffic Tables," indispensable to those who follow closely the movements of Home Railway stocks on the markets; "Mathieson's American Traffic Tables," which fulfils the same function for the lines of the United States; and "Mathieson's Monthly Mining Hand-Book" for mid-January, which covers the whole field of mining—a very wide one in these days. The prices of these volumes are 6d. each for the British and American Traffic Tables, and 1s. for the Mining Hand-Book, but they can be subscribed for at a lower figure.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—This week's markets have been dull, and after the first day or two, when values slightly stiffened, in spite of heavy shipments, have tended downwards, any improvement that appeared on the day not being maintained. Foreign wheat has occasionally been offered for less money. English firm, and when supplies have been scarce, 3d. to 6d. up has been paid. Farmers' deliveries this week were 66,020 qrs., averaging 28s. 5d. against 45,646 qrs., averaging 30s. 5d. the same week last year. Imports were 289,730 qrs. against 335,790 last year, and Dornbusch's estimate of the quantities of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom is 2,305,000 qrs. against 2,090,000 last week. American markets opened quiet and firm, and then went lower on the large increase in visible supplies, 48,779,000 bushels being quoted against 47,021,000 last week, while Bradstreet's estimate the quantities in sight east of the Rockies at 73,993,000 bushels, against 72,863,000 last week. Heavy realising by large houses helped still further to depress the tone, but unfavourable news from the Argentine, together with a good export trade, helped to send prices up again, though, even so, fluctuations the last day or two have been pretty sharp.

WOOL.—Any hope that the beginning of this year would see a definite decline in values, as the end of last year seemed to indicate, is now given up, and it is not thought likely that the next three months or so will see a lower level than ruled last year. Markets for wool are firm, and show increasing signs of activity, though as yet there is very little of a speculative quality. Home-grown wools also participate in the improvement, though here some difficulty in dealing with the produce is experienced, because in many cases the clip has already been secured by America. Spinners are well employed, are buying more freely at the higher rates, and themselves raising prices against the manufacturer. With regard to the last branch there is little to note at present. It is undoubtedly checked by the advance in values, and home orders are not coming in as rapidly or as largely as could be wished, though in one or two instances mills are reported to be working overtime. The shipping trade generally is quiet.

LINEN.—Markets continue to show the same improvement from week to week without any special changes taking place. The hesitancy of spinners to sell, noticed last week, has become, if anything, more pronounced, and where business has been done almost all descriptions of yarns have secured the highest prices reached for many years. Ordinary line worst 90 to 130 lea is quoted at 4s. 9d. per bundle. 30, 35, and 40 lea worst tow at 5s. 10½d., 5s. 7½d., and 5s. 6d. Foreign yarns also remain at extreme points. In manufactured goods the most noticeable feature of last week has been the increased demand for unions, and the *Belfast Linen Markets* says that "there are more unions on order at the present time than in any previous period in the history of the trade." Brown power looms also are in strong request, and, of course, at advancing prices. Advances from abroad point to an increasing demand for business of every description, from the United States, from Canada, and from South American markets. Barnsley trade concerns itself chiefly with exports of drills to these countries, the home trade being still far from brisk, especially for finer qualities.

COTTON (from our Manchester Correspondent).—A firm market has been experienced during the week, and an increasing demand has been felt in piece goods for export. Makers of cloth are decidedly better engaged than at the beginning of the year, and prices show a tendency to harden, in spite of the rather easier state of the raw material. American cotton in Liverpool has fluctuated towards the end of the week, the quotation on Saturday last being 6.28. No change was made on Monday or Tuesday, but owing to the weakness in New York, as a consequence of the Bureau Ginnings' report on Wednesday, a decline of 10 points was registered. A further reduction of 4 points was made on Thursday, bringing the quotation down to 6.14. The general opinion in Manchester seems to be that the American crop will amount to about eleven million bales. In any case it seems to be assured that there will be a sufficient supply of the raw material for everyone concerned. Egyptian cotton has hardened, and the quotation for fully good fair brown on Thursday was 8½d. In cloth for export a pretty large business has been done for several markets. India buyers have again operated pretty freely. Most of the minor markets have given support. The Levant seems to be decidedly healthy, and the outlets in South America have also done something. China continues rather quiet, although some offers are reported. Manufacturers of nearly all kinds of cloth want very long time for delivery. Home trade American yarns have not moved very well, and the sales of the week cannot be described as important. Spinners have endeavoured to improve their margin, but users who had orders to place have not had much difficulty in finding easy sellers. A small business was done at the beginning of the week in export bundles for India, but the demand during the last few days appears to have fallen off. Producers in this section are very firm in quotation, and the difficulty of giving the necessary delivery stops business. Egyptian yarns as spun in the Belton district are very strong in tone. The demand seems to be increasing, and extreme rates have been paid for early delivery. Spinners are being pulled out of the place to make quicker deliveries. Quotations for futures in New York at first advanced slowly. New Orleans bought, the spot markets were steady, and bad weather was reported. This was followed by a decided reaction on receipt of the Government report that 9,998,111 bales had been ginned up to January 16, which was 75,000 to 100,000 bales more than was generally expected. The market in New York has been exceedingly weak up to the close, though at the moment of going to press it is a little steadier on the whole. Closing prices are:—Jan.-Feb., 6.02d.; Feb.-March, 6.02d.;

March-April, 6.05d.; April-May, 6.08d.; May-June, 6.10d.; June-July, 6.11d.; July-Aug., 6.12d.; Aug.-Sept., 6.05d.; Sept.-Oct., 5.81d.; Oct.-Nov., 5.74d.; Nov.-Dec., 5.71d.

COAL.—The activity of this week has not been quite so marked but at the same time there is no cause for complaint. House varieties have been duller, owing partly to the open weather and partly to increased output, but without change in quotations. North of England trade in steamer has been rather checked by the gales, which have curtailed shipments, but sales to Germany still continue a strong feature, and prices for some coals have risen further. For Durham: coking, 10s. 6d. to 11s. is asked; foundry coke, 18s. 6d. to 19s. f.o.b.; and 17s. 6d. per ton for medium coke delivered at Middlesbrough. Steam trade from South Yorkshire to the Continent is also larger than usual, and the home demand increases in importance. Scottish shipments show still further expansion, the aggregate since the beginning of the year amounting to 77,000 tons, and in Wales anthracite, steam, and house coals continue to improve in both demand and price.

COPPER.—Although a slightly easier tendency has been noticeable in this market during the last week or so, due to a number of extraneous causes, the position is still considered a very sound one, and at the opening this week a moderate amount of speculative buying brought about an improvement in prices. "Bears" were also disposed to cover, knowing how easily the market is manipulated, and although the demand from consumers is not very important the tone was fairly good, closing quotations being:—79½ for cash, and 77½ three months.

TIN.—Good speculative buying caused prices for this metal to open at a sharp advance, and as America was absorbing somewhat freely the improvement was fairly easily sustained. The early activity was followed by a period of dullness, but business was again disposed to broaden out as the week advanced, and a few big lines changed hands, so that prices continued good to the end, closing figures being:—164½ spot and 164½ three months.

IRON AND STEEL.—Business everywhere is still on a satisfactory scale, orders coming in well for makes of all kinds. Manufacturers continue busy and home demands are increasing. In the Midlands rolled iron and steel are in very good request, so as to meet orders from abroad. There is a brisk demand for bar iron. Activity also characterises the structural steel trade, and there is work in hand for several months ahead. Pig-iron, on the other hand, is a trifle slow, some makers declining orders and the deliveries being heavy. In Lancashire the hematite market has been a little weaker, orders not being given out with the freedom that has been so apparent of late. Thus prices have weakened a little, but there is a fairly confident belief that they will further advance and the demand will grow. In Yorkshire a similar hopeful sentiment prevails. Nearly all departments of the heavy industries are employed at full pressure, and the confidence in general and the improvement will be maintained.

TEA.—This week's supplies were more moderate, but as yet the markets have not recovered from the heavy offering of the past two or three weeks, and prices again went lower in some descriptions. Of the 35,959 packages of Indian 32,630 were sold, averaging 6.95d.; about the same as for last week, but broken of all kinds were cheaper, and common teas in poor demand. Ceylon auctions amounted to 20,316 packages, and here the weakness was general for all but whole leaf suitable for export. Foreign demand in these showed some improvement, one or two orders came in from Russia and Pekoes, in some instances slightly advanced. The average obtained for the week was 7.03d., against 7.08d. last week, and 6.61d. a year ago. Java market brought forward 2,053 packages, which had a fair sale at about last week's rates. Since January 12, 263 packages of these teas have been sold on garden account, averaging 5.93d., against 12,217 packages, averaging 5.52d. in January last year.

SUGAR.—Inactivity continues to characterise the market on this side. Distributors' business has been interfered with by the elections, and the trade generally finds little inducement to operate beyond its daily wants. Even the small receipts in Cuba and the reports of rainy weather there did not cause more than a farthing rise. Prolonged rainy weather would, as Mr. Czarnikow points out, tell gradually on the canes, particularly those already ripened, though those of less forward growth may so far have benefited. Prices here are sustained by fabricants and by the Eastern demand, irrespective of statistics, and of continued offers of next crop beet at a fraction over 8s. 9d., but in the face of these forward offerings it is difficult to raise values, especially as factories are reported to be bidding higher prices for roots. Reduced sowings in Europe are expected. The American market is very dull. Landings in the three ports for the week were 16,000 tons and meltings 30,000 tons, reducing stocks to 138,000 tons.

JOHN HOWELL AND CO., LIMITED.

A moderate improvement took place in this company's profits for the year ended January 6, compared with the previous twelve months, the total, after making provision for bad debts and redemption of leases and premises, coming out at £13,246 compared with £12,335. There was a sharp decline, however, of £2,666 at £59,280 in the sum brought in, and in order that this credit should not be further unduly treasured upon, the directors make another cut in the dividend, which will be 5½ per cent. for the year, against 6½ for 1904, and 7½ per cent. for the year before that. The balance now to be carried forward is £59,026. Floating liabilities are fortunately still light at £41,146, against which the company has debtors of £180,984, cash £24,183, and bills receivable £3,033, while stock does not seem excessive at £83,282. On the whole, then, the financial position is not unsatisfactory, although the reserve of £1,230 against leases and premises valued in the balance-sheet at £44,826 does not seem very startling. Fixtures, furniture, &c., are entered at a further sum of £11,364.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and January 20, 1906:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Jan. 20, 1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Jan. 21, 1905.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£ —	£ 6,352,009	£ 3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,569	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	27,582,000	29,350,000
Excise	30,200,000	24,510,000	25,297,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	10,290,000	9,536,000
Stamps	8,000,000	6,411,000	5,841,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	970,000	1,100,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	11,902,000	12,094,000
Post Office	16,500,000	12,680,000	12,140,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	3,460,000	3,210,000
Crown Lands	470,000	420,000	420,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	1,062,955	992,846
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	1,141,095	1,097,722
*Revenue	142,454,000	100,829,050	101,078,548
Total, including balance		108,259,328	105,342,390
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		580,000	510,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904 ..		1,000,000	970,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..		791,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905 ..		2,175,000	1,819,500
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1904 ..		1,262,408	1,800,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		148,500	148,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900 ..		—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..		—	5,905,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905 ..		9,854,604	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		1,000,000	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares		8,461	7,460
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..		—	1,000,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		2,000,000	8,600,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £4,500,000 Treasury Bills in 1905-6) and £13,500,000 in 1904-5 ..		8,000,000	21,800,000
Total		134,002,393	154,357,840
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	100,829,050	101,078,548
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	140,767	148,063
Excise	5,291,000	4,551,851	4,633,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	3,349,839	3,359,242
Total	9,756,000	8,042,457	8,140,978
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	108,871,507	109,219,526

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Jan. 20, 1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Jan. 21, 1905.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£ 28,000,000	£ 24,024,444	£ 23,520,394
Other Consolidated Fund:			
Services	1,620,000	1,444,035	1,435,853
Payments to Local Taxation			
Accounts	1,160,000	743,067	743,927
Supply Services	111,304,000	81,009,031	88,357,023
Expenditure	142,084,000	110,221,475	114,057,197
OTHER ISSUES.			
or Advances for Bullion		640,000	370,000
or Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..		180,000	45,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) ..		—	300,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900 ..		10,000,000	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904 ..		600,000	600,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905 ..		2,483,000	2,539,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1904 ..		900,000	2,550,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		140,000	149,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		426,917	29,000
Surplus Revenue 1904-1905 applied to reduce Debt ..		1,413,907	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares, applied to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1898 ..		8,461	—
Deficiency Advances repaid		586,093	6,100,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		3,500,000	18,500,000
Total		131,130,953	151,780,697
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	£ 2,442,029	£ 1,944,595	—
Bank of Ireland	629,511	632,348	—
Total		3,071,540	6,577,143
Treasury, January 25, 1906.		134,202,493	154,357,840

Letter to the Editors.

"JOHNNIES."

SIR,—The Johannesburg organs of the Randlords are crowing loudly over the collapse of the opposition to the amalgamation of "Johnnies" and "Barneys" (I use the market terminology for convenience). One of those "disinterested mouthpieces of public opinion" exults in the fact that only 7½ per cent. of the capital declared against the proposals, and indecently and disingenuously sneers at the great bravery which shareholders exhibit in the Press contrasted with their marked timidity in the board-room. Upon this point permit me to make one or two observations of a general character. By this time shareholders are sickened of attending meetings, the majority of which are packed with hirelings and *claqueurs*, whose mission is vociferously to cheer directors and their tactics, however nefarious, and with equal vigour to howl down genuine shareholders. This remark is of general application, but much of what follows is pertinent to the meetings recently held in Johannesburg. The controllers of South African concerns, with that cunning and subtlety which characterise their dealings with the public, take care to hold their meetings where opposition must needs prove ineffective. Is it reasonable to suppose that shareholders resident for the most part in England and France, will add to the huge losses they have already sustained by journeying to Johannesburg to take part in cut and dried proceedings? True, they might have lodged their protests with the board, but to what end? After ten years of costly experience, we know something of magnate methods, and are well aware that they will put forth no proposals which they are not in a position to carry by *force majeure*, hence the futility of opposition on our part. We are powerless now, but our day will come when the board generously give us the privilege—*vide* the chairman's speech—of subscribing additional capital "for the development of the mining assets of the united companies." Yes, our laugh will come in when the directors discover that they have killed the geese which laid the golden eggs.

But the board and their champions have little to crow about in the low percentage of the proxies lodged against their scheme.

What the proprietors and the market thought about it is eloquently shown by the inexorable logic of facts. When the directors sprang this surprise upon us, the shares were selling at £2 10s., and they have since been a weak market at 30s. to £2 10s.; they had previously fallen from the giddy height of £7. Perhaps the board—like so many boards—argue thus: "It will be all right soon; shareholders have short memories." Have we? For ten years the magnates have piped, and we have not danced, and if they pipe for another decade we shall not respond. Superhuman efforts have repeatedly been made to regalanise the Kaffir market into life, and to-day it is in a more discredited and demoralised state than ever. If, with our shares on the way to zero, the board expect the proprietors to subscribe additional capital, one can only say they give fresh point to the dictum, "Hope springs eternal in the human breast"; indeed, their faith is more than faith, it is crass credulity. By the way, we are all anxious to know when the "Johnnies" dividend—months overdue—is to be declared. To many of us—I am inclined to think to most of us—the dividend yield of the last ten years barely averages ten shillings per cent. on the cost of our holdings. When dividends are of such microscopic proportions, they should at least be paid promptly. But enough of the sordid story of "Johnnies" and "Barneys."

In concluding, I would like to hazard a few remarks on the Kaffir market generally, and the slough of discredit into which it has sunk. To-day the public can hardly hear the names of the Randlords without a feeling of nausea, and an inclination to vomit. The aristocracy and middle-classes have been stripped and pillaged, fleeced and skinned, and one of the main causes of the existing depression is the diversion of wealth from the pockets of thousands to those of a gang to be counted on your fingers. When the former possessed money, they spent it freely, and the fertilising stream flowed into innumerable channels to the great good of the community at large, but the small group into whose beds this river of Pactolus has been diverted have so dammed it that henceforth it will benefit few except themselves. I am a large holder of Kaffirs, and could not, under the most favourable circumstances, escape without the loss of half my invested capital, while to realise *now* would involve the loss of quite three-fourths of it. Hence my only chance of "getting out," even at a loss of 50 per cent., is that boom which has been predicted for years, and has not materialised yet. But the public are wise in avoiding a market where countless pitfalls are dug for their destruction. Better that I and my brother shareholders lose our last shilling than that the Randlords should "rope in" a new set of victims. Although dead against my interests, I hope the new Government will compel the payment to the last shilling of the thirty millions promised by the magnates towards the war expenses, and will prevent the "dumping" of any more Chinese into a land that is baptised in the blood of our gallant soldiers. And this I say, despite the fact that I have always been a Conservative and Unionist.

BITTEN.

January 8, 1906.

SOUTH AFRICAN MINE RETURNS.

A remarkable achievement was that for December, and the mine potentates are to be congratulated on the way in which they wound up the year 1905, no matter how they managed it. It may seem strange to many people that for some months previously poor outputs were the rule, that the figures fluctuated as though

they were intelligent entities, not controlled by human caprice or "pile" makers. Suspicion may thus be aroused in many minds that the December return was a little too wonderful to be the result of ordinary progress and circumstances, but we know how far above suspicion the bosses are, how honourable and righteous their acts and motives. Let us be thankful, then, for the "record," marvel at it, and neither be curious to know how it was done nor doubt that any of us are benefitted thereby. If we are not enriched personally, is it not delightful to imagine that the magnates may be, whether it be in a legitimate, honest way, or by dipping their greedy paws in plunder? The total for the last month of the year reached 431,594 fine ozs., which compares with an output of 424,757 ozs. for November, and is thus an increase of 6,837 ozs. The value was £1,833,295 compared with £1,804,253, an increment of £29,042. It is remarkable that this increase was obtained despite a reported loss of 2,008 in the natives employed, and also in a period when comparatively few coolies arrived on the Rand, though many are on the way there. Thus for the year the aggregate was 4,897,221 ozs., and the value £20,802,074, showing increases of 1,117,600 ozs. and £4,747,265 respectively over 1904. "Hurrah! we have rushed beyond the twenty million mark!" cried the punters, in simulated enthusiasm, "No need for more worry now. The future is bright with hope and promise! Come in, all you with ready cash, much or little, and buy, bargains are going ridiculously cheap!" But as no one has stepped in to purchase a "bargain" on any such invitation, being reasonably suspicious of the bona-fides of the merchants, the latter have ceased to shout and are again sitting moodily inside. The continued low profit of the Durban Roodepoort is attributed to the fact that the grade is still low, whilst the reduction in the output of the Langlaagte Estate is declared to be the result of the lack of labour and to the fact that eighty per cent. of the ore sent to the mill had to be broken by machine rock drills. The cause of the slight decrease in the Robinson Deep's yield is due to the No. 1 shaft being under repair for six days.

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
January	80,785	—	70,340	199,279	288,824	369,258
February	64,408	—	81,405	196,513	289,502	363,811
March	84,546	—	104,127	217,465	308,242	399,823
April	54,772	—	119,588	227,871	305,946	399,166
May	64,249	74,488	138,602	234,125	314,480	416,395
June	—	19,779	142,780	238,320	308,219	412,317
July	—	25,960	149,179	251,643	307,840	419,505
August	—	28,474	162,750	271,918	312,277	428,581
September	—	31,936	170,802	276,197	312,286	416,437
October	—	33,393	181,439	284,544	325,625	415,527
November	—	39,075	187,375	279,813	336,167	424,757
December	—	52,897	196,023	286,061	362,264	431,594
Total ..	348,760	238,992	1,704,410	2,963,749	3,779,621*	4,897,221

Includes 7,949 ozs. not previously declared

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
January	—	—	293,786	846,489	1,226,846	1,568,508
February	—	—	345,782	834,739	1,229,726	1,545,371
March	1,457,684	—	442,303	923,739	1,309,329	1,698,340
April	—	—	507,980	967,936	1,299,576	1,695,550
May	—	31,271	588,746	994,505	1,335,826	1,768,734
June	—	84,014	606,493	1,012,322	1,309,231	1,751,412
July	—	110,269	663,674	1,068,917	1,307,621	1,781,944
August	—	120,953	691,322	1,155,039	1,326,468	1,820,496
September	—	135,654	725,522	1,173,211	1,326,506	1,769,124
October	—	147,848	770,706	1,208,669	1,383,167	1,765,047
November	—	165,986	795,922	1,188,571	1,427,947	1,804,253
December	—	224,692	832,652	1,215,110	1,538,800	1,833,295
Total ..	1,457,684	1,014,687	7,259,888	12,589,247	16,054,809*	20,802,074

* Includes £33,766 not declared previously.

WEST AUSTRALIAN CRUSHINGS.

For the month of December the quantity of gold received at the Perth branch of the Royal Mint for coinage amounted to 115,686 ozs., whilst 46,405 ozs. were exported, making a total of 162,091 ozs. of a value of £688,518, compared with 163,249 ozs., and £693,437 respectively for November. For the corresponding month of 1904 the figures were 197,516 and £701,180, accordingly a big decline is shown. The following table shows the monthly record for the whole year compared with the returns for the preceding twelve months:—

	1905.		1904.	
	Ozs.	Value.	Ozs.	Value.
January ..	165,452	702,797	176,653	750,374
February ..	154,033	654,290	162,402	689,840
March ..	160,918	683,534	136,834	591,236
April ..	172,136	721,187	180,999	768,836
May ..	157,685	669,362	160,280	680,826
June ..	155,150	661,387	167,446	711,266
July ..	166,001	705,504	160,718	682,688
August ..	174,681	742,394	168,432	715,455
September ..	163,297	693,643	165,852	704,493
October ..	160,623	682,282	174,607	741,686
November ..	163,249	693,437	193,933	696,343
December ..	162,091	688,518	165,072	701,180
Total ..	1,955,316	8,305,651	1,983,228	8,424,223

	October.		November.		December.	
Name of Company.	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.
Associated G. M. of W. A. ..	8,040	19,355	7,229	19,750	7,590	19,920
Associated Northern Blocks	3,417	15,320	3,288	15,809	3,365	16,033
Bellevue Proprietary ..	3,760	2,672	3,337	1,620	3,400	1,604
Burbank's Birthday ..	2,302	692	2,123	677	2,218	498
Cosmopolitan Proprietary ..	8,780	2,482	8,276	19,180	8,599	9,553
Golden Horseshoe ..	19,720	13,434*	19,442	13,220*	20,106	13,504*
Golden Pole ..	1,650	2,309	1,677	2,043	1,320	4,685
Great Boulder Perseverance.	14,160	8,369*	13,485	7,336*	13,504	8,512
Great Boulder Proprietary ..	12,004	13,732	12,327	14,065	12,186	14,135
Great Fingall ..	18,150	12,559*	18,451	12,482*	19,521	11,790*
Hainault ..	4,481	1,900*	4,495	1,761*	4,511	1,724
Hannan's Reward ..	324	330	605	311	394	354
Hannan's Star ..	2,478	1,112	—	—	—	—
Ide H. ..	1,400	1,112	1,400	1,118	1,300	1,027
Ivanhoe ..	16,610	10,525*	16,410	10,613*	16,601	10,736*
Kalgurli ..	8,290	6,121*	8,503	6,207*	9,171	6,642*
Lake View Consols ..	10,646	3,989*	10,325	3,935*	10,098	3,732*
Menzies Consolidated ..	1,517	3,469	1,552	3,565	1,553	3,240
Merton's Reward ..	2,829	1,165	2,543	1,132	2,362	972
North Kalgurli ..	1,860	1,154	1,900	1,106*	1,580	873*
Orya-Brownhill ..	10,360	12,902*	10,067	12,784*	10,534	12,804*
Peak Hill Goldfield ..	5,485	879	5,341	1,177	—	—
Queensland Menzies ..	—	676	1,514	602	—	—
Red Hill ..	10,885	5,305*	10,916	5,338*	10,579	5,307*
Sons of Gwalia ..	7,190	3,369*	7,110	3,310*	7,380	3,350
South Kalgurli ..	1,472	707	1,528	580	1,381	346
Viwen ..	2,685	1,340	2,557	1,117	2,448	1,066
Westralia and East Extension	3,793	1,468	1,620	930	—	—
Westralia Mount Morgans ..	1,262	573	1,048	367	822	244
White Feather Main Reefs ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Fine Gold.

	September.			October.			November.		
MINE.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.
	Tons.	Ozs.	£	Tons.	Ozs.	£	Tons.	Ozs.	£
Angelo	14,290	8,217		13,853	7,965	16,678	13,625	7,965	16,050
Barrett		541	1,000		395	450		433	600
Bonanza	8,475	4,314	7,813	8,350	4,903	10,026	8,600	4,475	10,600
Buffelsdoorn Estate ..		472	1,170		502	1,276		538	1,310
City and Suburban ..	19,200	7,392	9,039	23,705	8,688	13,362	24,700	9,549	16,300
Comet, New	15,129	6,317		15,702	6,517	9,175	15,360	6,305	8,270
Cons. Langlaagte	16,300	5,615	5,504	16,472	5,656	5,826	15,950	5,634	6,217
Cons. Main Reef	18,092	6,511	9,273	17,505	6,339	8,809	17,755	6,273	8,561
Crown Deep	29,110	12,131	23,150	29,482	11,770	21,250	30,022	11,460	21,600
Crown Reef	18,891	11,471	25,160	19,588	11,454	25,300	21,155	11,482	25,053
Driefontein	20,163	8,065		20,058	8,027	10,724	22,429	8,819	12,303
Durban Roodepoort ..	11,550	5,161		11,195	4,699		10,625	4,426	8,300
Do. Deep	9,470	4,354	4,050	9,600	4,171	3,150	10,050	4,097	3,500
Ferreira	20,400	12,450	28,471	20,100	12,404	28,552	20,950	12,343	28,574
Do Deep	19,588	12,102	30,050	19,154	12,050	30,300	19,104	11,781	30,000
French Rand	17,800	2,037	1,061	18,300	6,204	3,796	17,300	5,899	3,515
Geldenhuis Deep	24,450	10,392	14,750	24,050	10,241	14,100	17,150	7,300	15,990
Geldenhuis Estate ..	17,138	7,272	13,880	16,825	7,188	15,950	13,440	7,973	14,550
Ginsberg			6,951		3,084	2,717	1,708	3,145	2,642
Glencairn	13,139	3,845	4,503	12,704	3,905	4,784	13,222	3,980	5,066
Glen Deep	15,660	5,926	7,000	15,140	5,952	7,150	15,720	5,830	7,100
Glynn's Lydenberg ..	2,240	1,515		2,050	1,256		2,100	1,351	
Goth New			1,785		3,321		15,430	4,966	4,473
Henry Nourse	12,036	5,928	10,171	11,286	5,704	9,956	11,120	5,185	
Heriot	8,855	3,460	3,721	8,770	3,586	3,846	9,060	3,670	3,555
Jubilee	5,321	2,002		5,094	1,806		5,461	2,063	
Jumpers	12,020	4,544	5,022	11,360	4,556	5,031	11,756	4,121	5,089
Jumpers Deep	15,951	5,109	450	15,079	5,504	1,650	15,723	5,376	2,950
Knight's	25,500	7,970	4,017	28,250	8,942	8,020	28,250	9,497	10,038
Knight's Deep	20,566	7,283	8,557	21,181	7,570	8,701	22,373	7,702	9,814
Lancaster	13,102	4,647	1,700	14,234	4,648	1,957	13,700	4,545	585
Lancaster West	6,660	2,340	3,084	6,350	2,370	2,967	6,507	2,310	3,479
Langlaagte Deep	19,923	6,834	6,550	19,007	6,733	6,650	19,355	6,766	6,450
Do. Estate	27,326	8,243	9,400	26,588	7,651	8,200	27,288	7,702	7,530
May Consolidated	13,840	5,991	12,072	13,650	5,992	11,907	14,010	5,961	12,221
Meyer and Charlton ..	11,040	4,547	8,050	3,214	4,685	8,100	11,011	4,806	8,164
Modderfontein	19,472	7,628	3,750	9,575	3,621	3,464	9,770	3,837	3,623
New Kleinfontein ..	23,605	7,698		24,001	8,003	4,377	20,810	8,329	5,612
New Unified	8,907	2,772	1,530	8,610	2,735	1,285	8,875	2,670	1,222
Niekerk									
Nigel	6,150	3,658	6,285	6,024	3,411	5,378	6,260	3,456	5,559
Nigel Deep	2,860	2,021	1,926	2,925	1,856	1,055	3,000	1,941	1,748
North Randfontein ..	15,322	6,126	7,700	14,342	5,975	7,000	15,109	6,271	8,200
Nourse Deep	14,900	6,884	8,850	14,740	6,776	8,550	14,610	6,566	8,000
Porces Randfontein ..	13,523	5,842	8,400	13,121	5,868	7,200	13,729	6,065	9,900
Primrose	15,890	7,277	13,503	15,403	7,106	13,551	15,631	7,279	13,950
Princess Estate	5,788	2,901	1,795	5,600	1,263	971	5,551	2,638	884
Rietfontein New	8,320	4,437	8,602	8,523	4,559	8,965	8,872	4,526	5,574
Robinson	29,000	18,506	47,418	11,541	18,590	47,429	28,500	18,969	49,065
Robinson Cent. Deep ..	13,980	9,360	25,342	13,994	9,221	25,150	14,780	9,291	25,158
Robinson Deep	29,697	14,958	33,002	29,055	14,905	33,244	29,545	14,577	32,400
Robins'n R'nd'ntein	15,122	5,060	7,170	14,277	5,526	5,800	15,109	5,900	
Roodepoort Central ..									
Do Deep	7,693	3,185							
Roodepoort United	9,120	4,075	3,145	7,472	3,039	2,967	7,730	3,070	2,978
Roos Deep	26,500	9,163	5,350	9,140	4,611	5,201	9,940	4,199	4,969
Salisbury	5,300	1,820	1,030	26,500	9,017	11,650	25,600	8,809	11,600
Sheba		3,426	1,920	5,400	1,860	2,275	5,350	1,980	4,295
Simmer East	16,590	6,959		3,240				2,316	
Simmer and Jack	32,600	12,020	4,219	15,520	5,174	3,537	16,578	5,498	4,384
South Randfontein ..	15,022	5,982	31,590	15,700	19,648	56,997	53,000	20,104	33,991
Transvaal Gold	8,530	3,774	7,250	13,332	5,888	6,756	14,707	5,826	5,500
Treasury			8,994	3,757			6,992	3,804	
Van Ryn	22,440	8,915	4,017	8,100	2,906	3,054	7,330	2,354	1,019
Village Deep	16,000	5,544	12,699	22,010	9,795	16,351	22,400	8,057	10,760
Village Main Reef	25,250	9,610	2,997	16,059	5,981	3,841	18,363	6,345	4,763
Vogelstruis Estates ..	5,150	2,081	14,570	24,700	9,352	14,597	25,252	9,554	14,556
Wemmer		4,966	2,350		5,250	2,035		5,410	1,922
W. Rand Central		2,575	1,144		8,480	3,675		8,800	3,893
Windsor	4,700	1,372		7,500	890	1,250	2,975	1,102	1,325
Wt. Deep	46,300	16,363	27	7,404	1,168	252	4,950	1,458	1,432
Worcester		1,081	15,160	25,500	10,404	15,993	26,010	10,422	15,583
					757			498	

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended January 14, \$3,377, increase \$867.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 22, \$22,893, increase \$2,205; aggregate from January 1, \$936,298, increase \$201,988.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 23, Rs. 68,219, increase Rs. 2,727; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 17,91,455, increase Rs. 2,39,577.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 21, \$84,400, increase \$20,100; total from July 1, \$2,942,300, increase \$660,300.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 23, Rs. 34,008, increase Rs. 7,471; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 6,84,830, increase Rs. 99,979.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 9, £616, increase £5.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 2nd week of January, \$11,797, increase \$2,949; aggregate from January 1, \$24,228, increase \$7,090.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 23, Rs. 7,546, increase Rs. 853; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 3,00,351, increase Rs. 25,713.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended January 7 amounted to \$2,775.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending January 20, £1,176, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £3,424, increase £65.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending January 20, £698, increase £46; aggregate from January 1, £2,061, increase £179.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for November, £4,099, decrease £203.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending January 20, £436, decrease £4; aggregate from January 1, £1,335, increase £4.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 19, £1,343, increase £379; aggregate from January 1, £3,931, increase £758.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 21, £5, decrease £1; aggregate from January 1, £19, decrease £1.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 19, £4,913, increase £612; aggregate from January 1, £14,317, increase £776.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending January 19, £27,081, increase £6,384; aggregate from January 1, 1905, £73,128, increase £13,909; 440½ miles, against 420½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 20, £1,036, increase £154; aggregate from January 1, £3,336, increase £370.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 21, £86; aggregate from January 1, £273.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 19, £80, decrease £6; aggregate from January 1, £239, decrease £32.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 19, £4,556, increase £265; aggregate from January 1, £12,779, increase £630.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 20, £4,458, increase £386; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £14,609, increase £692.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 19, £194, increase £3; aggregate from January 1, £588, decrease £67.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 18, £399.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 20 £230, increase £26; aggregate from October 1, £4,290, decrease £449.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 13, £13,987, increase £1,387; aggregate from April 1, £606,760, increase £81,963. Miles 51 against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 20, £20,837, increase £1,641; aggregate from January 1, £62,674, decrease £334.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 20, £7,179, increase £839; aggregate from January 1, £20,674, increase £1,044.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 20, £195, increase £35; aggregate from January 1, £602, increase £62.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 21, £674, increase £248; aggregate from January 1, £2,058, increase £625.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 21, £14,499, increase £1,540; aggregate from January 1, £44,583, increase £3,740.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 43,391; increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of November, £10,748, increase £226.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to November 30, \$349,110, increase \$116,627. Nett earnings from July 1 to November 30, \$226,552, increase \$80,989.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending January 21, £3,509, increase £476; aggregate from January 1, £10,903, increase £1,060.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 16, £1,176.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of December, \$292,000.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 20, Rs. 43,486, increase Rs. 2,391; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 1,54,925, increase Rs. 20,980.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of December, £4,888, increase £762. Total to December 31, £46,034, increase £7,038.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of November, \$417,218, increase \$63,017; aggregate from January 1, \$4,320,887, increase \$390,457. Nett traffic receipts, \$226,858, increase \$35,361; aggregate from January 1, \$2,359,439, increase \$272,120.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Jan. 21	£ 2,126	+ 98	3	£ 6,367	+ 200	
Cambrian	" 21	4,460	— 140	3	13,611	— 430	
Central London ..	" 20	7,030	— 395	3	21,025	— 777	
City and South London ..	" 21	3,059	— 85	3	9,232	— 153	
Furness	" 21	9,149	+ 1,401	3	25,945	+ 3,826	
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 21	69,239	+ 5,030	3	203,961	+ 9,363	
Great Eastern	" 21	92,300	— 700	3	264,400	— 2,800	
Great Northern and City ..	" 20	1,798	+ 13	3	5,431	+ 98	
Great Northern	" 20	102,000	+ 688	3	297,900	+ 3,598	
Great Western	" 21	205,800	+ 3,000	3	612,800	— 4,600	
Hull and Barnsley	" 21	9,659	+ 691	3	27,399	+ 1,316	
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 21	97,231	+ 2,850	3	275,440	+ 7,850	
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 20	49,828	+ 720	3	160,504	+ 2,107	
London & North Western ..	" 21	251,000	+ 6,000	3	729,000	+ 17,000	
London & South Western ..	" 21	74,400	+ 800	3	224,400	— 500	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 21	7,748	+ 259	3	23,716	+ 820	
Metropolitan	" 21	17,488	+ 109	3	52,185	+ 66	
Metropolitan District ..	" 21	8,151	+ 403	3	24,548	+ 1,533	
Midland	" 20	208,163	+ 2,583	3	626,573	+ 15,887	
North Eastern	" 20	165,726	+ 8,992	3	444,016	+ 15,834	
North London	" 21	9,492	— 20	3	28,400	— 478	
North Staffordshire	" 21	17,687	+ 1,234	3	49,236	+ 1,569	
Rhymney	" 21	5,806	+ 125	3	17,031	— 678	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 20	75,495	+ 331	†	222,838	+ 3,260	
Taff Vale	" 21	19,172	+ 900	3	55,245	+ 1,600	

† From January 1.

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Jan. 21	74,500	+ 2,042	25	2,136,350	+ 62,692
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 20	28,652	+ 2,813	25	862,406	+ 13,209
Glasgow North of Scotland ..	" 20	8,348	+ 375	25	241,127	+ 1,264
Highland	" 21	7,764	+ 746	25	255,866	+ 3,141
North British	" 21	80,697	+ 5,189	25	2,283,106	+ 36,275

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Jan. 19	2,145	+ 68	§	6,004	— 224
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 19	1,402	+ 97	§	3,681	+ 17
Great Northern	" 19	14,476	+ 155	3	45,664	+ 401
Midland Great Western ..	" 19	8,730	— 1,105	||	24,747	— 2,095

§ From January 1.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, Jan. 22.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, Jan. 22.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
5 1/2	Angelo	5 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	May Consolidated	3 1/2	3 1/2
5 1/2	Anglo-French Ex.	5 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
5 1/2	Apex	5 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Modderfontein	4 1/2	4 1/2
5 1/2	Aurora West	5 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Do. B.	4 1/2	4 1/2
5 1/2	Bantjes	5 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	New Goch	4 1/2	4 1/2
5 1/2	Block B.	5 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	New Primrose	4 1/2	4 1/2
5 1/2	City and Suburban, £4	5 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Nigel	4 1/2	4 1/2
5 1/2	Comet (New)	5 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	North Randfontein	4 1/2	4 1/2
5 1/2	Cons. Goldfields	5 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	4 1/2	4 1/2
5 1/2	Do. Pref.	5 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Crown Reef	12 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	7 1/2	7 1/2
12 1/2	Driefontein	12 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	Randfontein	7 1/2	7 1/2
12 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	12 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4	7 1/2	7 1/2
12 1/2	East Rand	12 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	Do. Randfontein	7 1/2	7 1/2
12 1/2	East Rand Extension	12 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	Rodepoort United	7 1/2	7 1/2
20	Ferreira	20	19 1/2	19 1/2	Salisbury	19 1/2	19 1/2
20	French Rand	20	19 1/2	19 1/2	Sheba (New)	19 1/2	19 1/2
4 1/2	Geduld	4 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1	3 1/2	3 1/2
4 1/2	Goldenbuls Estate	4 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Ginsburg	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Steyn Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Glencarn	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Development	1 1/2	1 1/2
9 1/2	Harmony Proprietary	9 1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates	9 1/2	9 1/2
3 1/2	Henderson's Transvaal	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Treasury	3 1/2	3 1/2
3 1/2	Heriot	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Van Ryn	3 1/2	3 1/2
3 1/2	Johannesburg Con. In.	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	3 1/2	3 1/2
2	Jubilee	2	2	2	Vogelstruis	2	2
2	Jumpers	2	2	2	Welgedacht	2	2
1 1/2	Kleinfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wemmer	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Knight's	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	West Rand Consols	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Lancaster	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wolthuis, £4	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Langlaagte Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Worcester	2 1/2	2 1/2

DEEP LEVELS.

1 1/2	Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Bonanza	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Rand Victoria	2 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	Cinderella Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Robinson Deep (new)	2 1/2	2 1/2
13 1/2	Crown Deep	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	Rodepoort Ch. Deep	13 1/2	13 1/2
13 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	Rose Deep	13 1/2	13 1/2
2	Goldenbuls Deep	2	2	2	South Rose Deep	2	2
2 1/2	Knight's Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Village Main Reef	2 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	Nigel Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2

RHODESIANS.

1 1/2	Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rhodesia, Ltd. (5/ pd.)	1 1/2	1 1/2
14 1/2	Charter Trust and Agency	14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	Do. Exploration	14 1/2	14 1/2
1 1/2	Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Lomagunda Develop.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Selukwe	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Tanganyika	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wankie Coal	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2		1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Willoughby	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2		1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2

DIAMONDS.

1 1/2	De Beers Deferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Koffyfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Preferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Lace Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Eland's Drift Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Orange Free State	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Frank Smith Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Jagersfontein Deferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Premier Diamond Def.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Preferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Kamlersdam	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			

WEST AFRICAN.

1 1/2	Abbottiakoon	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Gold Coast Agency, new	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Abooso	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Ankobra	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau)	1 1/2	1 1/2
13 1/2	Ashanti Consols, 2/- paid	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	Deep	13 1/2	13 1/2
13 1/2	Do. Goldfields	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	Goldfields East'n Akim	13 1/2	13 1/2
1 1/2	Ashanti Sansu	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Human Concessions	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Obuassu Syndicate	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	British Gold Coast	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Prestea	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Brommassie	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sekondi and Tarkwa	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Efluenta (Wassau)	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Taquaah and Abooso	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Fanti Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wassau	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2		1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	W. A. Gold Trust	1 1/2	1 1/2

AUSTRALIAN.

1 1/2	Anglo-Aus. Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ida H.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Associated	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ivanhoe, Gold Corp.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ivanhoe South	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Bellevue Proprietary	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Kalgurli	3 1/2	3 1/2
2 1/2	Boulder Deep Levels	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Lake View Cons.	2 1/2	2 1/2
8 1/2	Brownhill Extended	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	Lancefield	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	Chaffers 4/-	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	London & W.A. Explor.	1 1/2	1 1/2
7 1/2	Cosmopol'n Pr'p'ty	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	Mount Boppy	7 1/2	7 1/2
6	Golden Horseshoe, New	6	6	6	North Kalgurli	6	6
2 1/2	Shares	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	2 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	Golden Links	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Peak Hill	2 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	Golden Pole	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	South Kalgurli	2 1/2	2 1/2
24 1/2	Great Boulder, 2/-	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	Sons of Gwalla	24 1/2	24 1/2
5 1/2	Do. Perseverance	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	W.A. Goldfields	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Great Fingall	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	W'str'ia Mt. Morgans	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	White Fe'th'r M'n Rf.	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Hampton Plains	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2			
3 1/2	Hamman's Star	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2			

MISCELLANEOUS.

14 1/2	Anaconda, 2/-	14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	14 1/2	14 1/2
35 1/2	Balaghat, full paid	35 1/2	35 1/2	35 1/2	Mount Lyell	35 1/2	35 1/2
13 1/2	Brilliant and St. George	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	M't. Morgan	13 1/2	13 1/2
3 1/2	Broken Hill, Prop.	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Mysore, 10s.	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Camp Bird	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Mysore Goldfields, 15/6	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Cape Copper, £2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	Do. West, 19/-	5 1/2	5 1/2
27 1/2	Champion Reef, 10s.	27 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2	Do. Wynaad, 19/-	27 1/2	27 1/2
1 1/2	Con. Gold N.Z.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Namaqua, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Copapo, 1/-	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Nile Valley	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Coromandel 19/6 pd.	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	N'ndydrong, 10/ shares	2 1/2	2 1/2
5 1/2	Esperanza	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	Oreogum	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
12 1/2	Frontino and Bolivia	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	12 1/2	12 1/2
1 1/2	Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	St. John del Rey	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. (No. 2)	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Tharsis	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Libiola, £5	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Waibi	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Linares, £3	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	Ymir	5 1/2	5 1/2

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE		
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904-5.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904-5.
		£	£		£	£
Alcoy and Gandia	Jan. 20	Ps. 18,500	- Ps. 6,500	**	Ps. 47,900	- P. 16,000
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia ..	Dec. *	\$1,480,000	+ \$552,000	**	\$12360000	+ \$3049000
Argentine Gt. Western	Jan. 19	9,816	+ 1,076		358,253	+ 59,023
Algebras (Gibraltar) ..	" 20	Ps. 30,715	+ Ps. 1,347		Ps. 936,202	- Ps. 81,809
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	" 20	31,161	+ 8,621		796,976	+ 229,215
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o and Cen. Argentine	" 20	74,807	+ 4,826	**	189,741	- 2,675
Buenos Ayres G. Stn.	" 21	77,159	+ 1,995		2,021,714	+ 326,721
Do. Western	" 21	33,712	+ 1,195		894,017	+ 141,989
Do. Ensenada	" 21	375	+ 61		9,739	+ 127
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	" 20	9,840	+ 481		233,571	+ 3,410
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 20	2,757	+ 63		53,573	- 3,062
Do. Northern Ex.	" 20	2,757	+ 369		32,103	- 6,088
Do. Western Ex.	" 20	1,346	+ 61		34,171	+ 4,910
Cordoba Central ..	" 21	3,360	+ 380	**	8,380	+ 475
Do. Northern Ex.	" 21	6,680	+ 1,460	**	17,725	+ 2,290
Do. N. W. Arg'n. Ex.	" 21	1,310	+ 105	**	4,190	+ 570
Cordoba and Rosario	" 21	5,630	+ 460	**	126,755	+ 3,640
Costa Rica	" 20	5,872	+ 3,484	**	122,997	+ 15,577
Cuban Central	" 20	7,093	+ 2,728	**	144,621	+ 7,591
Gt. West. of Brazil ..	" 20	11,763	+ 2,646	**	32,752	+ 8,392
Entre Rios	" 20	4,642	+ 501	**	91,210	+ 14,721
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico	" 21	\$131,400	+ \$26,270	**	\$3,282,590	+ \$108,840
Leopoldina	" 20	12,113	+ 3,541	**	38,068	- 6,215
Mexican	Nov. *	\$512,300	- \$15,200	4*	\$2,599,800	+ \$122,860
Do. Southern	Jan. 21	\$146,700	+ \$38,400	**	\$403,200	+ \$59,800
Do. Central	Nov. *	\$2,171,546	+ \$161,537	5*	\$112,042	+ \$974,067
Do. Do.	" 21	\$549,106	+ \$48,619	5*	\$3,374,035	+ \$362,177
Manila	Jan. 20	\$33,185	+ \$2,442	**	\$87,728	+ 3,526
Nitrato	Dec. 31	23,366	+ 5,404	**	530,364	+ 97,308
Ottoman	Jan. 20	4,728	+ 1,365	**	14,339	+ 5,841
Peruvian Corporation ..	Dec. *	\$704,350	+ \$88,950	5*	\$3,768,675	+ \$460,575
San Paulo.	Jan. 14	23,575	+ 2,157	**	41,116	+ 4,157
Salvador	" 13	\$30,750	+ \$3,250	**	\$59,000	+ \$3,750
United of Havana	" 20	20,829	+ 5,820	**	273,179	+ 35,343
Villa Maria & Rufino ..	" 20	1,127	+ 169	**	3,042	+ 330
Western of Havana	" 20	3,667	+ 113	**	123,383	+ 2,810

* Month ended. † Fortnight ended. ‡ Nett. § From July 1, 1905.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.										GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.			
NAME		Week ending		Amount.		In. or Dec. on 1905.		Amount.		In. or Dec. on 1905.			
Bengal Nagpur..	Dec.	31		Rs. 6,44,899	+	R. 77,648	†	R. 1,09,21,485	+	R. 21,23,506			
Bengal & N.-W..	"	23		Rs. 2,43,500	-	R. 78,383	†	Rs. 53,29,787	-	R. 2,59,064			
Bombay & Baroda	Jan.	13		Rs. 3,89,000	+	R. 26,000	†	R. 7,25,000	+	R. 9,000			
Do. State Lines	"	13		Rs. 5,41,000	+	R. 68,000	†	R. 10,15,000	+	R. 17,57,000			
Burma	Dec.	16		Rs. 2,74,317	+	R. 1,231	†	R. 62,45,480	+	R. 20,347			
Delhi Umballa ..	Jan.	13		Rs. 72,500	+	Rs. 58	†	Rs. 72,500	+	Rs. 9,357			
East Indian	"	20		Rs. 16,29,000	+	R. 21,000	†	Rs. 46,45,000	+	Rs. 37,000			
Gt. Indian Penin.	"	20		Rs. 16,17,700	+	R. 2,60,597	†	Rs. 47,17,200	+	R. 54,853			
Indian Midland	"	20		Rs. 2,56,100	+	R. 38,545	†	Rs. 7,56,700	+	R. 1,24,341			
Madras	"	20		Rs. 22,642	+	L. 1,976	†	Rs. 7,19,582	+	R. 9,060			
South Indian	Dec.	23		Rs. 2,37,321	+	Rs. 12,305	†	Rs. 10,91,688	+	R. 40,193			
South Behar	"	23		Rs. 9,586	+	Rs. 318	†	Rs. 2,58,055	+	Rs. 25,540			
S'thern. Mahratta	"	31		Rs. 2,55,874	+	Rs. 61,758	†	Rs. 54,60,996	+	R. 16,10,832			
South Punjab	Jan.	13		Rs. 61,625	+	Rs. 6,187	†	Rs. 10,39,345	+	R. 3,333			

SEVENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND, LIMITED.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - - - £15,900,000.

CAPITAL—Paid, £3,000,000; Uncalled, £2,300,000; Reserve Liability, £10,600,000—£15,900,000.

RESERVE FUND (invested in English Government Securities), £2,300,000.

Number of Shareholders, 15,847.

DIRECTORS.

COLIN FREDERICK CAMPBELL, Esq.
MAURICE OTHO FITZGERALD, Esq.
WILLIAM HENRY NEVILLE GOSCHEN, Esq.
CLAUDE VILLIERS EMILIUS LAURIE, Esq.
FRANCIS CHARLES LE MARCHANT, Esq.
THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF LICHFIELD.

SIR JAMES LYLE MACKAY, G.C.M.G., K.C.I.E.
GEORGE FORBES MALCOLMSON, Esq.
WILLIAM ROBERT MOBERLY, Esq.
SELWYN ROBERT PRYOR, Esq.
THOMAS GEORGE ROBINSON, Esq.
ROBERT WIGRAM, Esq.

JOINT GENERAL MANAGERS.

FREDERICK CHURCHWARD, Esq., ROBERT THOMAS HAINES, Esq., AND THOMAS ESTALL, Esq.,

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER.

DAVID JOHN HOWARD CUNNICK, Esq.

SOLICITORS.

ERNEST JAMES WILDE, Esq.

WALTER EDWARD MOORE, Esq.

The Directors have the pleasure to submit the Balance-sheet for the year 1905, and to report that after making provision for all bad and doubtful debts, and for the rebate of discount on current bills, the profit, including £86,476 18s 0d brought forward, amounts to £625,216 8s 10d, which has been appropriated as follows:—

Interim Dividend of 8 per cent. paid in August last	£	s	d
A further Dividend of 9 per cent. (making 17 per cent. for the year, free of Income Tax), payable 8th proximo	240,000	0	0
Transferred to the Knaresborough and Claro Bank, Limited, purchase Account	270,000	0	0
Transferred to Bank Premises Account	15,000	0	0
Balance carried forward	10,000	0	0
	90,216	8	10
	£625,216	8	10

The Directors retiring by rotation are Messrs Thomas George Robinson Maurice Otho FitzGerald, and Selwyn Robert Pryor, all of whom, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

During the past year a Branch has been opened at Nottingham, forming an important link in the Bank's chain of Branches in the Midland Counties, also Sub-branches at Exmouth, and at Whitechapel, Liverpool.

In conformity with the Act of Parliament the Shareholders are required to elect the Auditors, and fix their remuneration. Mr Edwin Waterhouse and Mr William Barclay Peat (of Messrs W. B. Peat and Co.), the retiring Auditors, offer themselves for re-election.

BALANCE-SHEET, 31st December, 1905.

LIABILITIES.

	£	s	d
Capital:—			
40,000 Shares of £75 each, £10 10s paid	420,000	0	0
215,000 „ „ £50 „ £12 „ „ „ „	2,580,000	0	0
	3,000,000	0	0
Reserve Fund	2,300,000	0	0
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts, including rebate on Bills not due, provision for bad and doubtful debts, contingencies, &c.	52,593,921	0	3
Acceptances and Endorsements of Foreign Bills on Account of Customers	441,568	11	1
Profit and Loss Account:—			
Balance of Profit and Loss Account, including £86,476 18s 0d brought from year 1904	£625,216	8	10
Less Interim Dividend, 8 per cent. paid in August last	£240,000	0	0
Dividend of 9 per cent. payable 8th February next	270,000	0	0
Transferred to Knaresborough and Claro Bank, Limited, purchase Account	15,000	0	0
Transferred to Bank Premises Account	10,000	0	0
	535,000	0	0
	90,216	8	10
	£58,425,706	0	2

ASSETS.

	£	s	d
Cash:—			
At Bank of England and at Head Office and Branches	8,205,153	16	1
„ Call and Short Notice	4,806,046	10	11
	13,011,200	7	0
Investments:—			
English Government Securities (Of which £75,500 is lodged for Public accounts)	£8,812,635	12	1
Indian & Colonial Government Securities; Debenture, Guaranteed, and Preference Stocks of British Railways; British Corporation and Waterworks Stocks	5,320,994	2	3
Canal, Dock, River Conservancy, and other Investments	403,263	18	8
	14,536,893	13	0
Customers for Acceptances and Endorsements of Foreign Bills, per Contra	441,568	11	1
Bills Discounted, Loans, &c.	29,796,492	11	2
Bank Premises in London and Country	639,550	17	11
	£58,425,706	0	2

M. O. FITZGERALD,
G. F. MALCOLMSON,
ROBT. WIGRAM, } Directors.

F. CHURCHWARD,
R. T. HAINES,
T. ESTALL. } Joint General Managers.

In accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1900, we certify that all our requirements as Auditors have been complied with; and we report that we have ascertained the correctness of the Cash Balances and the Money at Call and Short Notice at the Head Office and the securities representing the investments of the Bank; and having examined the Balance-sheet in detail with the books at the Head Office and with the certified returns from each Branch, we are of opinion that such Balance-sheet is full and fair and properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Bank's affairs as shown by such books and returns.

18th January, 1906.

EDWIN WATERHOUSE,
WILLIAM BARCLAY PEAT, } Auditors.

At the Annual General Meeting (Robert Wigram, Esq., in the chair), the above Report was adopted. The retiring Directors, Thomas George Robinson, Esq., Maurice Otho FitzGerald, Esq., and Selwyn Robert Pryor, Esq., were re-elected.

Mr Edwin Waterhouse and Mr William Barclay Peat were re-appointed Auditors for the current year. The best thanks of the Proprietors were given to the Directors, General Managers, Branch Managers, and other Officers of the Bank, for their efficient services, and to the Chairman for his able conduct in the chair.

The National Provincial Bank of England, Limited, having numerous Branches in England and Wales, as well as Agents and Correspondents at home and abroad, affords great facilities to its customers, who may have money transmitted to the credit of their Accounts through any of the Branches free of charge.

At Head Office and Metropolitan Branches Deposits are received and interest allowed thereon at the rates advertised by the Bank in the London newspapers from time to time, and Current Accounts are conducted on the usual terms.

The Bank undertakes the Agency of Private and Joint-Stock Banks, also the Purchase and Sale of all British and Foreign Stocks and Shares, and the collection of Dividends, Annuities, &c.

Circular Notes and Letters of Credit, payable at the principal towns abroad, are issued for the use of Travellers.

At the Country Branches Current Accounts are opened, Deposits received, and all other Banking business conducted.

The Officers of the Bank are bound to secrecy as regards the transactions of its customers.

Copies of the Annual Report of the Bank, Lists of Branches, Agents, and Correspondents, may be had on application at the Head Office, and at any of the Bank's Branches.

By order of the Directors,
F. CHURCHWARD,
R. T. HAINES,
T. ESTALL, } Joint General Managers.

Established 1824.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Assets over 4 MILLIONS Sterling.

The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

THE SURPLUS DIVIDED WAS **£597,415.**

Chief Office:

15, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE, W. J. H. WHITTALL,
LONDON, S.W. Actuary.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

TOTAL FUNDS NEARLY **£6,000,000**FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE
MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Please apply for particulars to

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
London: 3, King William Street, E.C.

The Central Insurance Company, Ltd.

CHAIRMAN: WALTER CHAMBERLAIN, J.P.

Total Security to Policy-Holders over £1,000,000.

FIRE. ACCIDENT. BURGLARY.

NON-CONTENTIOUS POLICY CONDITIONS.

Head Office: 12-13, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.

HUGH LEWIS, General Manager.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent.
on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Quite effective has been the control of the Bank of England over the market of this week. Thanks to it the rate for seven-day loans outside has never fallen below $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and has most days been 4 per cent. Call money has fluctuated between $3\frac{1}{4}$ and 5 per cent., seldom, however, falling below 4 per cent. until afternoon. Whenever it was lending the India Council easily got 4 per cent. for month-to-month money. This has been hard lines for the discount houses, because, try as they might, they have been unable to keep bill rates up to a corresponding figure. Foreign competition has prevented them from doing this, and also the permanent tendency to speculate for cheap money some months ahead. Leading houses have struggled for $3\frac{1}{8}$ to $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. on short dated Bank paper, but they have often had to take $3\frac{1}{4}$ d. per cent. or less, and the rate on full three months' bills of this class has rarely been as much as $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Business has been done at that figure, but not anything like so freely as at $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., and to-day next week's three and four months' paper was offered at $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., offered but not taken.

If gold comes in, though, it will inevitably force the discount market further down, and gold seemingly is about to come in. There is nearly £1,000,000 due into the open market next week, and much of that consignment should find its way to the Bank, although the weaker French exchange this afternoon points to competition from Paris. The price, however, has fallen to 77s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz., and may go lower, especially as another 1,000,000 sovereigns is to be shipped to London at Bombay to-morrow by the Indian Government.

Much interest has been excited these last two days by the position of the market in relation to the Bank of

England, and the source of the Bank's power over outside rates. We hear that the Bank has paid back all the money it borrowed from the joint-stock banks in the beginning of last week, but this does not seem to amount to more than £500,000, allowing for the £100,000 of Exchequer floating debt redeemed within the Bank week, for the Government securities of the Bank have risen only £600,000 altogether. Certainly the Government securities in the Banking Department were on Wednesday night still nearly £5,000,000 below the figure of a fortnight earlier. At the same time, other deposits have risen by £6,150,000 to a total of £47,287,000. Now in ordinary circumstances such a mass of credit added to the means of the market would have made short loans cheap there. Unemployable balances would have been "over" every day in plenty and to spare, but as we have just stated, money has never been cheap outside, and the inference is that much of the increase in these other deposits is not in the control of the market at all. Hence it seems to be a fair conclusion to draw that the Bank of England has laid hold of something like £5,000,000 of Japanese Government money, and is keeping the market at its mercy thereby. It is quite right and we do not blame it, because the spring outlook is not by any means reassuring, thanks to the condition of other big money markets, and to the after effects of the war between Russia and Japan. Russian credit alone is sure to cause the money markets of Western Europe much affliction for many a month to come. If, therefore, the Bank of England could get the open market to second its efforts its locking up of balances would do nobody harm. Our discount market, however, has to meet foreign competition, and the French houses have sometimes been buying three months' bills here this week at $3\frac{9}{16}$ per cent. Thanks to this competition the tendency of rates is always to recede, and a difficult time thus lies ahead of the credit jobber. The joint-stock banks are doing their best to help the Bank to keep rates up by refusing to take bills from the brokers at very low rates. They would only rediscount March bills to-day at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., but the Continent took long-dated paper at $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. On the whole, however, there was less competition for shorter usances, and therefore the market closed firm.

It is unnecessary to analyse the Bank Return fully, but it may be mentioned that the increase in the reserve is satisfactory, it being now £22,614,000, and it should continue to increase, thanks to the collection of the revenue, with a dip at the turn of the month. As it grows the power of the Bank over the market will grow.

SILVER.

The demand for bars on the part of the Indian Government has been much quieter, and with very little other support the market in the beginning of the week was inclined to sag. Prices went back $\frac{1}{8}$ to $30\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. for spot, and $29\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. for delivery two months forward, but recovered a trifle on the closing of January accounts for the fall. Sales from the Far East, where the Chinese New Year holiday began on Thursday, sent quotations down to $30\frac{1}{8}$ d. and $29\frac{1}{8}$ d., but there were sufficient buyers of forward metal at this figure to bring about a recovery to $29\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz., and at the close the market was steady. Tenders for Rs.1,20,00,000 Council drafts in India last Wednesday amounted to Rs.4,98,60,000 in bills, and Rs.2,46,00,000 in telegraphic transfers, when Rs.78,88,000 were accepted in bills, and Rs.41,12,000 in transfers. Applications at Rs.4 $\frac{1}{8}$ d. and Rs.4 3-32d. per rupee respectively received about 13 per cent. Next week the amount to be offered is reduced to Rs.1,00,00,000.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the
Week ending on Wednesday, January 24, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Note Issued	..	..	49,368,535	Government Debt	..	..	11,015,100
				Other Securities	..	..	7,434,900
				Gold Coin and Bullion	..	..	30,978,535
				Silver Bullion	..	..	—
			£49,368,535				£49,368,535

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 13,439,473
Rest	3,533,350	Other Securities ..	37,224,692
Public Deposits (including		Notes	21,091,090
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,522,615
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	7,810,844		
Other Deposits	47,286,992		
Seven Day and other Bills	93,684		

Dated January 25, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. Jan. 25		Jan. 17, 1906.	Jan. 24, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,454,538	Rest	3,507,184	3,533,350	26,166	—
8,965,055	Pub. Deposits ..	7,733,329	7,810,844	77,515	—
41,394,578	Other do. ..	41,136,641	47,286,992	6,150,351	—
148,471	7 Day Bills ..	119,100	93,684	—	25,416
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
18,408,041	Gov. Securities ..	12,839,473	13,439,473	—	600,000
24,634,368	Other do. ..	33,198,421	37,224,692	—	4,026,271
25,473,233	Total Reserve ..	21,011,360	22,613,705	—	1,602,345
				6,254,032	6,254,032
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
27,379,170	Coin and Bullion	28,414,155	28,277,445	—	77,515
34,402,403	Proportion ..	30,975,515	30,918,535	1,465,635	—
508 p.c.	Bank Rate ..	428 p.c.	41 p.c.	—	18 p.c.
3 "		4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £222,500 in.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	5,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
July	1,003,888,000	830,361,000	173,527,000	—
August	1,098,366,000	945,164,000	153,202,000	—
September	879,323,000	678,546,000	200,777,000	—
October	1,006,632,000	861,123,000	145,509,000	—
November	1,187,821,000	1,117,870,000	69,951,000	—
Week ending				
Dec. 6	315,761,000	216,663,000	99,098,000	—
" 13	201,126,000	182,495,000	18,631,000	—
" 20	301,263,000	261,237,000	40,026,000	—
" 27	161,274,000	157,482,000	3,792,000	—
Total for year	12,253,307,000	10,459,068,000	1,794,239,000	—
	1906	1905		
Jan. 3	340,266,000	276,940,000	63,326,000	—
" 10	228,921,000	215,482,000	13,439,000	—
" 17	287,646,000	254,259,000	33,387,000	—
" 24	214,923,000	186,205,000	28,723,000	—
	1,071,761,000	932,886,000	138,875,000	—

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders for £1,000,000 in six months' Treasury Bills were received on Tuesday at the Bank, when the total amount applied for was £6,418,000. Tenders at £98 11s. received about 80 per cent., and those above in full, the average rate of allotment being £2 17s. 6d. per cent.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 18 3
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,000,000	3 months	Mar. 7	3 1 8
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
1,800,000	6 months	June 1	3 2 6
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
11,200,000	—	—	—
1,000,000	6 months	June 29	2 17 6
20,333,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Saturday, Bars	Saturday, S. America
Saturday, Australia ..	Thursday, Gibraltar
Monday, Bars	Thursday, S. America
Friday, "	Net Influx
Total	Total

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'15	25'13	Antwerp	short	25'20	25'20
Brussels	chqs.	25'19	25'19	Italy	sight	25'16	25'17
Amsterdam	sight	12'11	12'12	Constantinople	3 mths	110'25	110'32
Berlin	chqs.	20'46	20'49	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	17'5d.	17'5d.
Do.	3 mths	20'25	20'29	Valparaiso	90 dys	14'3d.	14'3d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20'45	20'48	Calcutta	T.T.	1'43	1'43
Frankfort	short	20'44	20'46	Bombay	T.T.	1'43	1'43
Vienna	sight	24'04	24'06	Hong Kong	T.T.	2'08	2'08
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	93'80	94'05	Shanghai	T.T.	2'10	2'14
New York	60 dys	4'83	4'83	Singapore	T.T.	2'31	2'34
Lisbon	sight	50'11	50'11	Yokohama	4 mths	2'08	2'08
Madrid	sight	31'00	30'99				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	2 3/8 2 1/2
Berlin	5	December 11, 1905	3 1/2 3 1/2
Hamburg	5	December 11, 1905	3 1/2 3 1/2
Frankfort	5	December 11, 1905	3 1/2 3 1/2
Amsterdam	3	November, 1905	2 1/2 2 1/2
Brussels	4	October 30, 1905	2 1/2 2 1/2
Vienna	4 1/2	October, 1905	4 4
Rome	5	September, 1904	4 4
St. Petersburg ..	8	January, 1906	7 7
Madrid	4 1/2	August 21, 1901	4 4
Lisbon	5 1/2	January 11, 1899	11 5
Stockholm	5	January, 1906	4 1/2 4 1/2
Copenhagen	5	October, 1905	4 4
Calcutta	8	January 4, 1906	— —
Bombay	8	January 4, 1906	— —
New York call money ..	4		— —

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Jan. 20.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
£	£
Customs	National Debt Services ..
Excise	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Charges
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion
Property and Income Tax ..	Supply Services
Post Office	Bullion Advances
Telegraphs	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds redeemed
Miscellaneous	Uganda Railway
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works
Uganda Railway	Naval Works
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts
count	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts	ings)
Naval Works Acts	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts	Act
Land Registry Acts	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Issue of Exchequer Bonds	in reduction of debt ..
under Cunard Agreement Act	Cunard Agreement
Ways and Means	Surplus Revenue, 1904-5 ..
Temporary Advances Defi-	ciency Advances repaid ..
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	Ways and Means Advances
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	repaid
Transvaal and Orange River	Increase in Exchequer
Colony. Repayment of	balances
Temporary Advance	
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	
tion payments	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	
£4,518,000	£4,518,000

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Jan. 1/14, 1906.	Dec. 16/29, 1905.	Dec. 1/14, 1905.	Jan. 1/14, 1905.
Gold	71,349,243	73,703,856	82,217,801	87,819,202
Silver and subsidiary				
coin	3,107,704	3,279,056	3,628,507	5,830,340
Advances and bills				
discounted	66,202,551	63,169,111	55,747,500	39,911,883
Securities belonging				
to the Bank	7,792,653	7,950,626	7,945,559	5,906,213
Notes in circulation ..	120,458,766	119,300,981	112,492,851	85,606,447
Deposits and current				
account	41,646,564	45,549,278	45,095,921	45,225,784
Treasury account	10,384,351	6,285,740	5,416,130	17,417,230

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Jan. 25, 1906.	Jan. 18, 1905.	Jan. 11, 1906.	Jan. 26, 1905.
Gold in hand	114,153,160	114,522,800	114,740,680	107,708,080
Silver in hand	42,305,640	42,493,640	42,583,120	44,055,680
Bills discounted	39,984,800	41,084,160	41,364,600	25,564,800
Advances	19,661,520	20,342,480	20,384,600	19,951,320
Note circulation	188,851,560	191,291,400	190,125,400	174,753,520
Public deposits	10,816,960	7,682,920	9,361,880	9,052,680
Private deposits	21,885,920	24,055,960	24,441,520	19,364,720

Proportion between bullion and circulation 82 1/2 per cent. against 82 per cent. a week ago.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Jan. 18, 1906.	Jan. 11, 1906.	Jan. 4, 1906.	Jan. 19, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Coin and bullion	4,868,480	4,732,000	4,847,000	4,852,760
Other securities	23,916,080	24,110,160	25,028,280	23,088,520
Note circulation	27,672,760	28,074,440	27,598,640	26,550,560
Deposits	3,461,600	3,265,600	4,549,480	3,329,640

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Jan. 23, 1906.	Jan. 15, 1906.	Jan. 6, 1906.	Jan. 23, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Cash in hand	48,930,250	46,289,950	42,701,600	54,014,400
Bills discounted	41,933,950	44,559,850	51,790,300	36,055,050
Advances on stocks	2,625,750	4,289,300	5,694,600	2,475,600
Note circulation	65,083,350	68,235,750	75,765,300	63,472,700
Public deposits	28,869,900	27,934,050	26,224,800	29,858,700

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Jan. 23, 1906.	Jan. 15, 1906.	Jan. 6, 1906.	Jan. 23, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Gold Reserve	45,465,750	45,208,833	44,874,541	48,400,708
Silver reserve	12,434,291	12,294,000	12,080,250	12,536,791
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	1,798,333	2,038,708	2,540,291	1,881,166
Note circulation	67,908,750	69,723,791	73,156,625	65,708,125
Bills discounted	19,162,166	21,164,458	24,670,333	14,411,250

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Dec. 10, 1905.	Nov. 30, 1905.	Nov. 10, 1905.	Dec. 10, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Reserve	30,806,000	30,494,200	29,193,520	25,438,760
State notes and small changed	580,200	561,240	468,240	529,080
Discount and loans	13,832,560	14,293,840	14,649,960	11,024,080
Public stock and State loans	8,146,320	8,149,400	8,293,320	8,024,600
Credits	6,332,080	6,225,640	6,830,880	6,607,560
Note Circulation	39,127,440	40,070,480	40,432,440	36,044,120
Current account	2,582,720	2,434,080	2,407,440	3,044,920
Deposits	3,896,520	4,259,240	3,983,640	3,276,600

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Jan. 20, 1906.	Jan. 13, 1906.	Jan. 6, 1906.	Jan. 21, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	15,040,509	15,037,612	15,030,986	14,917,766
Silver	25,070,604	22,949,453	22,844,826	20,054,326
Foreign Bills	3,035,968	3,041,665	2,997,464	1,722,781
Discount and Short Bills	47,160,497	47,140,883	47,217,141	50,352,110
Treasury Account	20,447,310	20,457,751	20,830,210	21,281,472
Notes in circulation	62,152,848	62,321,173	62,306,025	64,227,355
Current Account deposits	23,742,095	23,570,475	23,331,884	25,392,784
Dividends Interests	3,827,351	3,814,601	2,918,664	2,377,910
Government Securities	6,151,856	6,124,399	6,024,934	4,115,081

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Jan. 20, 1906.	Jan. 13, 1906.	Jan. 6, 1906.	Jan. 21, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Specie	37,994,000	35,666,000	33,468,000	44,806,000
Legal tenders	16,827,800	16,756,200	15,834,200	18,131,600
Loans and discounts	205,120,000	201,000,000	200,940,000	219,760,000
Circulation	10,536,600	10,598,200	10,582,600	8,590,200
Net deposits	205,880,000	199,442,000	196,748,000	232,760,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of nett deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £3,351,800 against an excess last week of £2,561,700.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Jan. 16.	Jan. 18.	Jan. 23.	Jan. 25.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12 ¹ / ₂	12 ¹ / ₂	12 ² / ₃	12 ² / ₃
Do.	3 months	12 ¹ / ₂	12 ¹ / ₂	12 ¹ / ₂	12 ¹ / ₂
Antwerp and Brussels	3 months	25 ¹ / ₂	25 ¹ / ₂	25 ¹ / ₂	25 ¹ / ₂
Hamburg	3 months	20 ⁵ / ₈	20 ⁵ / ₈	20 ⁷ / ₈	20 ⁷ / ₈
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20 ⁵ / ₈	20 ⁵ / ₈	20 ⁷ / ₈	20 ⁷ / ₈
Paris	cheques	25 ¹ / ₂	25 ¹ / ₂	25 ¹ / ₂	25 ¹ / ₂
Do.	3 months	25 ³ / ₄	25 ³ / ₄	25 ³ / ₄	25 ³ / ₄
Marseilles	3 months	25 ³ / ₄	25 ³ / ₄	25 ³ / ₄	25 ³ / ₄
Switzerland	3 months	25 ³ / ₄	25 ³ / ₄	25 ³ / ₄	25 ³ / ₄
Austria	3 months	24 ³ / ₅	24 ³ / ₅	24 ³ / ₅	24 ³ / ₅
St. Petersburg	3 months	24 ³ / ₅	24 ³ / ₅	24 ³ / ₅	24 ³ / ₅
Moscow	3 months	24 ³ / ₅	24 ³ / ₅	24 ³ / ₅	24 ³ / ₅
Italian Bank Places	3 months	25 ¹ / ₂	25 ¹ / ₂	25 ¹ / ₂	25 ¹ / ₂
New York	60 days	48 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	38 ¹ / ₂	38 ¹ / ₂	38 ¹ / ₂	38 ¹ / ₂
Lisbon	3 months	50 ¹ / ₂	50 ¹ / ₂	50 ¹ / ₂	50 ¹ / ₂
Oporto	3 months	50 ¹ / ₂	50 ¹ / ₂	50 ¹ / ₂	50 ¹ / ₂
Copenhagen	3 months	18 ¹ / ₂	18 ¹ / ₂	18 ¹ / ₂	18 ¹ / ₂
Christiania	3 months	18 ¹ / ₂	18 ¹ / ₂	18 ¹ / ₂	18 ¹ / ₂
Stockholm	3 months	18 ¹ / ₂	18 ¹ / ₂	18 ¹ / ₂	18 ¹ / ₂

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	32-34
Three months	32-34
Four months	32-34
Six months	32-34
Three months fine inland bills	4-42
Four months	4-42
Six months	4-42

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
short loan rates	5
Bankers' rate on deposits	2 1/2
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	3
7 and 14 days' notice	3 1/2
Current rates for 7 day loans	3 1/2-4
for call loans	3 1/2-5

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

We have been sorry to hear this week that the British public is getting attracted to the Yankee market, because it will certainly lose its money if it invests or speculates for the rise in Yankee railroad or industrial shares at current quotations. We have very little doubt that the recoil in the prices of these dangerous securities would have come before now if the market engineers had been able to unload their wares upon the public whether in the United States or here. That at least is a fair inference from past experience, and our memory of the ups and downs of Yankee shares and unsecured bonds now extends back over a third of a century. Always when a successful unload has occurred the weakness of the position is allowed to be disclosed, and after every great upheaval of market quotations has come collapse and a long series of bankruptcies. We have been hoping that at last the British public at least had learned wisdom, and as yet the signs of folly are not general. Unquestionably, however, there is an increasing disposition to buy this and the other share which has been manipulated up in the sight of astonished mankind without reference to merits or anything else. The public sees prices advancing, and an irresistible impulse takes possession of the less balanced minds to rush in and get a share in the profits which seem to be there for the picking up. Keep away from the market as you love your peace of mind. Nothing in the position of American railroads—and we have examined with care the balance-sheets of all the principal ones issued during the last few months—warrants the existing quotations, nor do we see a future prospect roseate enough to lead us to infer that the high prices now current will be sustained by results in the near future. The whole structure of inflated prices on Wall Street is flimsy, unsubstantial, hollow, a creation of unscrupulous syndicates, of dishonestly used banking credit, and not of the growing prosperity either of the corporations or of the people of the United States. These people, indeed, are being plundered, systematically, thoroughly, without ruth or reflection as to consequences, and presently, by what may look like an accident, the unreality of the whole exhibit will be disclosed. It is impossible for genuine lasting prosperity to be built up and sustained by the methods of business now fashionable on the other side of the Atlantic. Therefore keep away from the market; do not trust the statements made even about railroad earnings, still less those professing to give profits of dishonest combinations like the Carnegie Steel Trust, or the tales of wonder put forth about copper mine earnings. This copper share manipulation is perhaps the ugliest of all, for it is done on the most unadulterated confidence trick system. No facts are bestowed upon the greedy multitude which the players seek to beguile; it is simply bluff from beginning to end, bluff dominated by the most emancipated dishonesty.

Recent American newspapers that have reached us have been full of reports of the investigation going on at the instance of the Government of Missouri State into the Standard Oil Monopoly, and in looking through the evidence which the State Courts have been endeavouring to extract from witnesses we were particularly struck with the attitude of that wonderful man Rogers, the chief henchman of John D. Rockefeller in the Standard Oil combination. Rogers was called as a witness, and treated the Court and the entire inquiry as something worthy only of his ridicule and contempt. His attitude as a witness was that of a bold and safe criminal defying the authorities, and he used the occasion to give play to his sardonic wit, his readiness of repartee, his derision for those who sought to extract any

fact from him. In this country if a witness before the meanest coroner's jury had displayed such open disregard for decency in his utterances he would have been howled down, and the end for him would probably have been summary imprisonment for contempt. But Mr. Rogers evidently thought himself above all law, and not only refused every information, but denied the right of the Court to ask him any questions of the least importance. He did not know anything, was unaware of the position of the oil-producing and vending industry in Missouri, and altogether behaved like a finished cad of a very low type. Here we have an example of the kind of mental attitude developed in the berserker class of American monopolist by their power to command the service of law makers all over the Union, and we are satisfied that no good can ultimately come to partakers in any industry controlled by such people, or to the country whom they devour by their machinations.

We have dealt elsewhere this week with the Geduld Proprietary scandal, and regret to hear that the Deutsche Bank has been behind it from beginning to end. It is a very dirty business, and the fact that a great German bank should have had any part whatever in the rig and subsequent collapse gives us but a poor opinion of German commercial morality. We trust the story is not true, and shall be delighted to publish a convincing denial of the Deutsche Bank's participation in one of the foulest and most repulsive among recent attempts of the South African gang to swindle a stupid, it may be, but likewise innocent, public.

Home Railway dividends have turned out, on the whole, better than the market anticipated, but we do not, therefore, recommend people to invest much of their savings in Home Railway stocks. The free expenditure of capital by all the companies continues just as before, very little restricted, if at all, and in consequence of that expenditure the ordinary stocks of all the companies are more and more falling into the position of purely speculative investments. We shall have more to say about this by and by, and in the meantime may well leave markets alone as they are still perplexed, troubled by dear money, afraid of what the new Parliament will do, and, in spite of a good investment business, disposed to go on the "bear" tack.

The Week's Stock Markets.

The Stock Exchange is still suffering from absence of business, and dealers are not nearly so confident as they were a short while back that a period of activity is near at hand. When the elections are over there may be some little revival of public interest, but both outsiders and professionals are likely to act with a maximum of caution while foreign politics are so disturbed. The condition of the money market, too, is all against a recrudescence of speculation, and in the Yankee section there is every indication that the inevitable collapse is not far off. It may not come this week or even next, but the market is in that nervous, excited condition which portends an early smash. Home Railways are

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS. (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91½	87½	Consols (2½ p.c. Money)	89½	89½
91½	87½	Do. Account (Feb. 1)	90	90
90½	86½	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905	88½	88½
100	99½	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907	100	100
91½	89	Irish Land (2½)	91	91
101½	96½	Local Loans (3)	99½	99½
99½	97½	National War Loan (2½ p.c.)	98½	98½
99½	97½	Do. Account (Feb. 1)	98½	98½
101½	97½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.)	99½	99½
90½	89½	Bk. of England Stock (9 p.c.)	294½	294½
100	104½	India 3½ p.c. Stock red. 1931	103½	103½
99½	94½	Do. 3 p.c. Stock red. 1948	96½	96½
89½	79½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stock red. 1926	80½	80½
60½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper	66	66

being kept moderately steady by the dividend announcements and continued excellent traffics, but what can only be described as the Geduld scandal has given another nasty shock to the Kaffir Circus. Money for settlement purposes costs 4½ to 5 per cent., a very onerous charge, but making-up prices were mostly in favour of the

"bulls," and everything passed off smoothly enough. Consols were a little dull at first, but picked up later, and other British Funds followed the lead. Business was very small in the Home County and Corporation list, but prices were firm, and a few rises of ½ took place in the Colonial Inscribed list. All Colonial stocks were carried over at 4½ to 5½ per cent.

Peruvian Corporation issues again provided the chief excitement in the foreign bond market, dealings being very lively throughout. The preference stock has fluctuated wildly between 52 and 54½, closing near the lowest, and while some dealers declare the price will touch 60, others say an early severe break is much more probable. Vigorous gambling also occurred in the ordinary stock, but the debentures were by comparison quiet. Other South American stocks were somewhat easier, and Cédulas fell away on the conflicting statements concerning the prospects of a settlement, but one or two things in the Central American division hardened up. Venezuelans, however, fell back on the trouble with France, and slight nervousness in Paris caused a dull tendency for most European stocks. Russians were particularly flat, and Japanese, after being fairly steady, slipped back. Continuation rates on the great majority of stocks did not leave much margin over bankers' charges, all South American issues, Chinese, sundry Japanese, and Peruvian preference and debenture, being carried over at 4 to 6 per cent. On Central American stocks the charge was 5½ to 6½ per cent., and 5 to 7 per cent. was paid on Peruvian ordinary, but Japanese sterling and 4½ per cent. 1st series were scarce. Only 1 to 3 per cent. could be obtained on Russians, 2½ to 3½ per cent. on Spanish, and 2 to 4 per cent. on Turkish. Making-up prices revealed a practically all-round rise, Argentines being up ½ to ¾, Brazilians ½ to 1½, Bulgarian, 1888, 2½, Chinese ¼ to 1½, Colombians 1, and Greeks ¼ to ¾. Japanese, too, were ½ to 1½ better. Mexicans gained ½ to ¾, San Paulo issues rose ½ to 1½, Turkish ½ to 1, Uruguay 3½ per cent. 1½, and the 5 per cent. 3, and Peruvians 1½ to 5½. Nothing fell away during the fortnight to an important extent, but the Venezuelan Diplomatic Debt made up 1½ lower.

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104½	100½	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886	103	103
102½	97½	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly.	101	101
104½	98½	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c.	102½	102½
93½	85½	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission	91½	91½
93	85½	Do. 4 p.c. 1897	90½	90½
92½	85½	Do. 4 p.c. 1899	90½	90½
104½	99½	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs.	103½	104
92½	82½	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889	88½	83
101	94	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c.	101	101½
106	101½	Do. 5 p.c. Funding	104½	104½
91½	82	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902	88	88
102½	93½	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892	100½	101½
97½	87½	Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885	96	96
99½	89½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1886	97	97
96½	88½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1895	95	95
102½	96	Do. 5 p.c. 1896	101	101
98½	91½	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver	98½	98½
107	100½	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold	104½	105
106½	100½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold	105	105
100	92½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1898, Gold	100	101
106½	97½	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail.	105½	105½
59	28	Costa Rica A	52½	52½
51½	21	Do. B	43	43
48½	26	Colombian External	45½	46
109½	104½	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904	107½	107½
107	104	Egypt Unified 4 p.c.	104½	105
103½	95½	Do. 3½ p.c. pref.	102½	102½
100½	103½	Do. 4½ p.c. State Domain	101	104
91½	86	German 3 p.c.	88	88
54½	52½	Greek, 1884	51½	52
53½	48½	Do. Monopoly Loan	52	52½
44	38½	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes	40	41
54½	47	Do. Funding	50	51
102½	95½	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881	95½	95
106	102½	Italian 5 p.c.	104½	104½
104½	101½	Japan 5 p.c.	101½	101½
103½	88½	Do. 1901-2	102½	103
93½	76½	Do. 4 p.c. sterling	91½	91
104½	97	Do. 6 p.c.	102½	103½
103½	102½	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899	103½	103½
103½	64½	Portuguese 3 p.c. New	69	69
99½	68½	Russian 4 p.c. 1889	84½	83
83½	77½	Serbian 4 p.c.	81½	81
94½	76	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed)	91½	91½
103	100	Turks 3½ p.c. Tribute	102½	102½
106	100½	Do. 4 p.c. Defence	104½	104½
92	86½	Do. 4 p.c. Unified	91½	91½
74½	63½	Uruguay 3½ p.c.	71½	72
99	86½	Do. 5 p.c.	98	98
51½	42½	Venezuelan, 1881	53	50½

In the Home Railway market the week opened well under the influence of the dividend announcements, but their full effect was not felt at once owing to the closing of accounts by speculators, who feared that contangos would be stiff at the arrangement of the account on Tuesday. Of Monday's announcements the South-Eastern Company's dividend at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on the undivided ordinary stock, giving $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the six months, or 5 per cent. for the year on the preferred ordinary, with £7,000 more carried forward, was quite up to expectations. So was the Chatham company's payment of the full dividend on the Arbitration preference with an increase of £8,800

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last com- pleted year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
145	133	141	Brighton Ord. ($5\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	141	141
105	152	155	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	156	155
131	116	130	Do. Def. ($5\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	130	130
120	111	120	Caledonian Ord. ($3\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	121	120
83	77	79	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	79	79
41	33	41	Do. Def. ($3\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	42	41
94	88	95	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	96	96
87	77	87	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	87	87
17	15	16	Chatham Ordinary ..	16	16
48	37	44	City and South London ($2\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	45	43
71	51	67	Furness ($2\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	68	68
39	28	37	Great Central Pref. ..	37	37
91	15	18	Do. Def. ..	18	19
93	80	90	Great Eastern ($3\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	90	88
108	98	104	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	103	104
45	38	45	Do. Def. (1) ..	45	45
145	135	142	Great Western ($5\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	143	143
56	48	—	Highland ($1\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	49	49
49	41	47	Hull and Barnsley ($1\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	47	47
112	104	109	Lanc. and Yorks. ($3\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	109	109
300	86	86	Metropolitan (3 p.c.) ..	87	86
42	33	36	Metropolitan District ..	37	35
71	66	69	Midland Pref. ($2\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	70	69
74	62	73	Do. Def. ($2\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	74	74
83	77	78	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	78	78
49	43	46	Do. Def. ($1\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	46	46
146	134	145	North-Eastern ($5\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	145	146
161	147	160	North-Western ($5\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	161	161
96	84	91	South-Eastern Ord. ($2\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	90	91
135	122	129	Do. Pref. ($4\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	129	130
60	49	54	Do. Def. ..	55	54
171	156	162	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	162	162
111	104	107	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	107	107
60	52	56	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	57	57

in the surplus, while the increase from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum in the Leeds dividend was $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more than had been looked for. Tuesday brought the City and South London and Taff Vale declarations, which were the same as a year ago, and the North Staffordshire, which was $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum up, but the greatest satisfaction was afforded by the Great Central achievement on Wednesday. A year ago this company was only able to pay $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the 1881 preference, but with the large earning powers

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses).	Price last week.	Price this week.	
95½	80½	97½	Atchison Shares (4)	98	96½
108½	102	107	Do. Pref. (5)	107xd	107
120½	104½	119	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	119	118
102	97½	100½	Do. Prefd. (4)	101	101
61½	46½	63	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	59½	62½
193½	173½	195½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	189	194
40½	27½	49	Denver Shares	47½	51
93½	85½	92½	Do. Prefd. (5)	92½	93½
54½	38½	51	Erie Shares	51½	50½
87½	77½	84½	Do. Prefd. (4)	84½	84
80½	58½	77½	Do. and Pref. (4)	77½	76
187½	156	184	Illinois Central (7)	183½	180xd
161½	140½	160½	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	158½	155½xd
39½	24½	40½	Missouri and Texas	41½	40½
169½	140½	158½	New York Central (5)	158	156
90½	77½	92½	Norfolk and Western (4) ..	90½	92½
96½	84	96	Do. Prefd. (4)	95	95
65½	41½	56	Ontario Shares (3)	55½	55½
76½	67½	75½	Pennsylvania (6)	74½	74½
73½	40½	84½	Reading Shares (13)	75½xd	80½
49½	46	—	Do. 1st Prefd. (4)	48	48
51½	43½	—	Do. 2nd Prefd. (4)	49	49
74	59½	73½	Southern Pacific	72	72½
39½	28½	41	Southern	40½	41½
104½	97½	104½	Do. Prefd. (5)	105	105
154½	116½	160½	Union Pacific (5)	162	162
102½	98½	101	Do. Prefd. (4)	101	101
24½	18½	26	Wabash	24½	26½
49½	37½	48½	Do. Prefd.	46½	48½
86½	69½	80½	Do. Income Debs.	80½	80
182½	133	180½	Canadian Pacific (6)	180½	179½
109	102½	—	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.)	106½	106½
112	108½	109½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.)	109½	109½
26½	19½	20½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	27	26½
104½	99½	103	Do. Guar. (4)	103	103
115½	107½	116½	Do. 1st Pref. (5)	117	117
107½	97	107½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5)	107½	107½
68½	40½	61½	Do. 3rd Pref.	62	61½
109½	106½	108½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.)	108½	109

shown by the increase of £132,800 in the gross traffics for the half-year, it was confidently anticipated that 3 per cent. would be paid on the 1889 issue. The announcement, however, was $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. better at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and dealers reckoned that, allowing for the interim payment on the 1881 preference, this represented an improvement of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the company's position with respect to its fixed charges. On Thursday the North-Eastern provided an agreeable surprise in the shape of a dividend at the rate of $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, or $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more than a year ago, and fully $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. above the estimate, with £49,000 forward, compared with £45,500. The South-Western repeats the payments for the second half of 1904 with 8 per cent. on the original ordinary stock, the full dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for the half-year on the preferred converted ordinary stock, and 2 per cent. for the whole year on the deferred, and after putting £25,000 to reserve for steamboats renewal, &c., carries forward practically the same amount at £32,035, while its satellite, the Waterloo and City, also pays at the old rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, with an increase of £125 in the balance forward. Notwithstanding the encouragement afforded by these announcements, and by a series of good traffic returns, business has not been brisk at any time during the week, and prices have moved in a somewhat sluggish fashion. North-Eastern and South-Eastern ordinary and deferred all improved on the dividends, Great Western, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Great Northern preferred, and Brighton deferred were also higher, and Great Central preferred and deferred hardened a fraction, but underground things were mostly weak, and from £1 to £2 down. As borrowers had to pay $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more for their money at the banks, contangos were naturally rather stiffer than a fortnight ago, and the charge in this market ranged from 6 per cent. upwards compared with $5\frac{1}{2}$ —6 per cent. The elections having overshadowed business everywhere, movements in making-up prices were narrow, and rarely amounted to more than a fraction or two in either direction. Great Eastern, however, rose as much as $2\frac{1}{2}$, Brighton deferred improved 3, South-Eastern issues were 1 to 2 higher, and Chatham preferences 1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$ up. Metropolitan Surplus Lands stock advanced $2\frac{1}{2}$, but the ordinary stock lost 1, and Central London ordinary and preferred also moved in opposite directions to the extent of £1 each. North-Eastern put on $\frac{1}{4}$, and Great Northern preferred, Great Western, South-Western deferred, North-Western, and Midland preferred all gained $\frac{1}{4}$ each, but City and South London, District, and South-Western preferred fell that amount.

At last the public in the United States seems to have been induced to come to the relief of the market, and commission house business is said to have increased considerably of late. The support, however, was marked by a good deal of hesitation, and the magnates in their haste to unload seem to have rather overdone it, and buyers were easily frightened away. On this side the "tip" to buy has been freely passed round, and it was alleged that investors were showing an inclination to respond, but if that were the case the mood was a passing one, and the market is once more left almost entirely to the professional. Prices have fluctuated in the usual fashion all week, first one stock and then another being sent rocketing up, only to tumble back when the cliques began to secure profits. Union Pacific were perhaps the most played with, but Denver, Ontario, and Missouri also came into prominence, the latter especially being lifted on the announcement of an issue of \$20,000,000 bonds for betterment purposes. Atchison, Reading, Milwaukee, and Southern Pacific in turn became the favourites, and, in spite of heavy realisations towards the end of the week, these, together with Norfolk, Southern, and Wabash issues, retained a good portion of their earlier advances. Movements during the fortnight resulted in gains of $10\frac{1}{2}$ in Reading common, 9 in Denver ordinary, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ in Milwaukee; but the most sensa-

tional looking change was an advance of 32 in Great Northern (U.S.A.). Wabash common and preferred rose 5 and 6½, and the income debentures 2½. Southern Pacific put on 5½, Chesapeake and Northern Pacific 5 each, Illinois Central 4, Norfolk common 3½, and Louisville and Ontario 3. Amongst the smaller improvements were Denver preferred 2½, Southern issues 2½ and 1½, and Erie preferences, Missouri, and Baltimore 1½ to 1½. Atchison preference were exceptionally 1½ down. Except in the case of Reading, in which a small "back" was quoted, carrying over charges were again about 6 per cent.

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last com- pleted year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
222½	128	223	Antofagasta (10)	224	228½
321	144½	—	Do. Def. (15)	325	330
131½	105	129	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	129	129
131	113½	131	Do. Prfd. (5)	131	131
84½	77	86½	Bahia Blanca Prfd.	86	88
148½	134½	141½	B. Av. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	143½	142
133½	126	129	Do. Prefce (5)	128	129
143½	117	133½	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	133½	133½
118½	108½	120	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	120	118 d
110½	99½	109	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109	110
115	101½	116½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	117	117
110	92½	112	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	112	112
170½	161	169	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	168	169
169½	103½	107½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	108	107½
142½	127	138	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	138	138½
93	79	92	Central Uruguay (4½)	92	92
100	100	109	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	110	109
95½	88	94	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	94	94
76½	58	72½	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	73	73
2½	2½	2½	Costa Rica	2½	2½
7½	5½	6½	Cuban Central	6½	6½
12½	10½	11½	Do. Pref. (5½)	11½	11½
107½	104	—	Do. Deb. (4½)	105	105
95½	72	92	East Argentine (4½)	93	92
7½	5½	6½	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	6½	6½
84½	64½	85	Leopoldina (3)	84½	84½
99½	80½	97½	Do. Deb. (4)	97½	97
110½	100	—	Manila Bonus "A" (6)	108	108
108	104½	—	Do. "B" (6)	105	105
29½	19½	26½	Mexican Ord. Stk.	26	26½
221½	103½	125	Do. 1st Pref. (5½)	123	125½
57	30½	54½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5)	53½	54½
69½	48½	52½	Mexican Southern (2½)	57	60
17	10½	14½	Nitrate Ord. (5½)	14½	14½
29½	16½	19½	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	199	19½
220	178	20½	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	209	208
226	122	126	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	185½	185½

Reports of snowstorms in the Dominion had a depressing effect on Canadian Railway issues, and prices sagged without a great deal of business in any of them. A sharp recovery followed the publication of another good Grand Trunk traffic, but it was only temporary, and the market weakened again towards the close in sympathy with Yankee Rails. Rates for money on Tuesday were far from heavy at 5 to 5½ per cent. On the account, Canadian Pacific shares showed an improvement of \$2, and Grand Trunk first and second preference were 1½ and 1 up, while the ordinary, guaranteed, and third preference all rose ½. Alberta Railway and Irrigation ordinary stock, however, fell 1, and the prior lien debenture stock ½. Amongst Indian Railways, Bombay and Baroda and Burma stocks advanced 1 each, and one or two others gained ½ to 1.

Further substantial advances were recorded in Antofagasta ordinary and deferred stocks, with a brisk business in the ordinary, and Mexican issues have also come very much to the front. A splendid traffic return stimulated dealings in the first preference of the old company, which was carried up to over 126; but Mexican Southern ordinary has likewise been active, and Inter-oceanic prior lien and 4 per cent. debenture stocks followed in the wake of the others. Argentine Railways have been quieter, and the leading stocks show extremely little change. Entre Rios issues, however, were sold pretty freely, and Buenos Ayres Great Southern and East Argentine ordinary and debenture stocks also dropped back £1 or so. Brazilian things were heavy owing to floods interfering with the traffic, but Uruguay stocks, on the other hand, were all firm and higher. United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock dropped back to 183, and Cuban Central preference shares were fractionally lower. On the fortnight, Cordoba Central first and second preferences rose 8 and 3½, Cordoba and Rosario first preference 7½, Buenos Ayres and Rosario preference 3, and Buenos Ayres and Pacific first and second preference 2 and 1; but Buenos Ayres

Great Southern ordinary receded 2½, Entre Rios fell 2 and 2½, and Cordoba Central income debentures 1½. Antofagasta ordinary was 10 higher, Central Uruguay of Monte Video put on 1½, Midland Uruguay debenture stock 2, and Uruguay Northern preference and debenture stocks 5 and 4. Mexican Railway first preference gained 4 and the seconds 1½, Mexican Southern ordinary and second mortgage debenture stocks 3½ and 2½, and Inter-oceanic "B" debenture stock 2½. United Railways of the Havana ordinary and 5 per cent. debenture stocks dropped 1 and 2½, and Guayaquil and Quito Railway bonds fell 2½. Carrying over charges in this section again ruled round about 6 per cent.

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
15	18½	Alisoph Ordinary	19	19
27	40	City of London Ord.	50½	48½
566	505	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	550	550
27½	108	Chilson's Cape (40)	18½	19
2½	2½	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	2½	2½
2½	3	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	3	3
66½	4	Wayne, Conibe, Pl. Or. St. (4)	54½	51½
35	15	Do. Def. Ord. Stock	15	15
105	59	London & Ind. Docks Pl. St. (4)	99	99
78½	56½	Do. Def. Stk. (3½)	61	54
6½	5½	Aerated Bread (32½)	6½	6½
7½	5	Apollaris Ord. (5)	6½	6½
6½	1½	As's'd. Portland Cement Pl. (5½)	6½	6½
1½	1½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	1½	1½
3½	1½	B. Irish Westinghouse Pref. ..	2	2
8	5	Brunner Mond (35)	58½	53
11½	9½	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½) ..	11½	11½
58½	4½	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½) ..	12	12
502½	483½	Coats Ordinary (20)	52	52
13½	8½	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	50½	500
13½	20/6	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil) ..	1½	1½
1½	1	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	1½	1½
8½	5½	Gordon Hotel's Ordinary (3) ..	6½	6½
13½	10½	Henley's Telegraph (15)	13	13
4½	3½	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20)	4½	4½
1½	12	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½)	18	18
111	106	Do. Debenture (4½)	108	108
1½	1½	Lipton Ordinary (7)	1½	1½
6½	5	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	58	52
1½	1½	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	1½	1½
14	14	Russian Petroleum	14	14
8	5½	Savoy Hotel (5)	7½	7½
3½	15/9	Sweetmeat Automatic	18	18
15½	13½	Short's Deterg'd Ordinary (10)	16	16
12	12	Welsbach Ordinary Stock	12	12
18	18	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	18	18
105	102½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	102½	103
89	49½	Hudson's Bay Co. (58½)	80	84
51½	38½	Petroleum Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pl. (15)	51½	52½
100½	99½	Do. Debentures (6)	100½	109½
9½	8½	National Discount (10)	9½	9½
11½	10½	Open Discount (11)	11½	11½
8½	6	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	11½	11½
13½	10½	City of London Elec. Ord. (6)	11½	11½
104½	95½	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4½)	103	102½
134½	124½	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½)	133	131
37	34	Amstrut, Whitworth (15)	34	34
37	34	Balcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	34	34
14	14	Brown, J. & Co. Ordinary (10)	14	14
14	14	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½)	14	14
14½	14	Prase & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	14	14
42½	40½	United States Steel Ordinary ..	40½	45½
109½	63½	Do. Preference (7)	112½	114½
2½	2½	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	2½	2½
14½	14	Union Steam	14½	14½
249	214½	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13)	240	240½
47	38½	Royal Mail	53½	53½
9½	8	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5)	8½	8½
10½	10½	Anglo-American Telegraph—	112½	114½
18½	18	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½)	18½	18½
147½	134½	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	147½	149½
14½	13½	Eastern Extension (7)	142	142
113½	100	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	111½	111
14½	13½	Western Telegraph (7)	14½	14½
1½	7½	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	84	84
9½	7½	Anglo-Argentine Trans Ord. (6)	84	84
129	99	London General Omnibus (3)	115½	115½
10½	98	London United Trans Pref. (5)	98	98

Miscellaneous sections were not entirely without interest, although dealing was on a very limited scale. The London Docks dividend of 1½ per cent. on the deferred against 3½ per cent. was a severe disappointment, and the price of the stock collapsed from 61 to 51, but subsequently recovered a few points. The preferred went down slightly in sympathy. Other dividend announcements, however, were fully up to expectations, and dealers were particularly pleased with the 10s. paid on Anglo-American Telegraph deferred. On the declaration the stock rose sharply, but later reacted on profit taking. Other Telegraph issues were generally firm, but in the Tramway and Omnibus division B. E. T. and London United Tramway issues were easier. Catering shares kept steady. Bovril issues were firm on the dividend

showing an extra 1 per cent. on the deferred, and Lipton's became weak on the authoritative denial of the amalgamation rumours. Textile things were all good, especially English Cotton. Iron and Steels developed some irregularity, and Nitrates, after being dull, showed signs of recovery. Horace Cory shares fell to par on the poor report and reduction in the dividend, and there was a sharp fall in the ordinary shares of Vyse, Son, and Co. Hudson Bays were again taken in hand by the "bull" clique and carried up to 84½, closing rather under the best, and Pekin Syndicate and other Chinese land shares were steady to firm, but Argentine land issues were neglected and unchanged. Bank shares were firm and higher in several instances, but the Brewery section continues extremely weak, and another long list of losses has to be recorded. The market should still be avoided. Millar's Karri and Jarrah shares came into favour on a statement that the decision of the Arbitration Court on the question of the reduction in wages is in favour of the company. Carry-over rates were much as usual, ranging from 5 to 7 per cent. on the majority of shares with slightly higher charges here and there. Making-up prices showed gains of ½ in Harrod's Stores Founders' shares, ¾ in Lautaro Nitrate, and ¾ in Pease and Partners. Spratt's Patent rose ½, Ebbw Vale Steel ¾, Anglo-American Telegraph issues ¾ to 3½, Eastern Telegraph Ordinary 2, National Telephone Preferred 1½, Standard Bank of South Africa 3½, and Commercial Union Assurance 3½. On the other hand, St. James' and Pall Mall Electric gave way ¾, Allsopp issues 1 to 2, Watney, Combe 1½ to 5½, Westminster Electric ¾, Metropolitan Electric ½, and several other lighting issues ½.

Few items emerge about Stock Exchange business this afternoon. Japanese new scrip was heavy on realisations caused partly by the Budget exhibit, the opposition to a continuance of the war taxation in the Japanese Parliament, and to the fact that at current prices the new stock yields less than the earlier Four and a-Half per Cents. Much interest continues also to be shown in Hudson's Bay shares, thanks partly to splitting scheme in course of elaboration and certain to be launched before very long. The French market has been steadier to-day, and inter-bourse Government stocks therefore closed firm, but Yankees have been wobbling, and Home Railway stocks not very elastic. Railway dividends continue to come out, and are on the whole very satisfactory. The Great Northern Company, for instance, is able this year to pay the full 6 per cent. on its "B" stock, and the deferred stock gets 1½ per cent., which is equal to the highest estimate of the market, and ¾ per cent. per annum more than the stock got a year back. The Barry Company will pay a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent., which is 1 per cent. down, and carries forward £5,538 less at £1,215.

Mining News and Notes.

*. Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

When the "House" opened last Monday morning members had the carry-over to face in the mining market. On the whole rates were about the same as at the previous settlement, in one or two cases a trifle lighter. On such things as Gold Fields and Rand Mines the charge was ½ per cent. less at 5½—6½ per cent., and 1 per cent. less on East Rands at a similar figure. Johannesburg Investment, Simmer and Jack Proprietary, and Geduld Proprietary were also continued at 5½—6½ per cent. Randfontein Estates were done at 5—6 per cent. against 6½—7½ per cent., but the general rate on Kafirs was as before—6½—7½ per cent. In the diamond group De Beers and Jagers were carried over at 4—5 per cent., and Premiers at 5—6 per cent. The rate on the majority of Rhodesians was 6—8 per cent., the exceptions being 5½ per cent. on Chartered, 5½—6½ per cent. on Bankets, and 6½—7½ per cent. on Lomagundas, Rice-Hamiltons, Scottish Mashonaland, and Rhodesian Explorations. On West Africans and Egyptians the prevailing rate was as usual 6—7 per cent. There were again givers of 7 per cent. on many of the West Australian shares, at which figure Ivanhoes, Lake Views, Associates, and Kalgurli were carried over. The rate on Great Fingalls and Associated Northern Blocks hardened from

7 per cent. to 8 per cent., and on Sons of Gwalia from 6 per cent. to 7 per cent. In the American group Esperanzas were again continued at 8 per cent., and Le Rois, Esperanzas, Strattons, Camp Birds, and El Oros at 7 per cent.

For once in a way the making-up list disclosed a goodly number of fairish gains in the South African group, such as a full ½ in De Beers deferred, ¾ in Hercules, ½ in Cinderella Deeps, ½ in Rand Klipfontein, ½ in Crown Reefs, ½ in Modderfontein, ¾ in Apex, Cason Blocks, De Beers preferred, H. F. Company, Koffyfontein Estates, Modder Deep, and ¾ in South African Gold Mines, Rand Victorias, Central Minings, Copper Fields of Namaqualand, Langlaagte Deep, and Rand Mines Deep. Against these were falls of ½ in Treasury, ¾ in Geduld Proprietary, ¾ in Premier Diamond Preferred, ¾ in Randfontein Deep, Rice-Hamiltons, Crown Deeps, and Premier Diamond deferred, and 7-32 in Rhodesian Bankets. In the Jungle group Broomassies and Amalgamateds made up ¾ higher, Prestea Block "A" ¾, Akrokers, British Gold Coasts, Gold Coast Agency, and Taquahs, 5-32 each, with ½ each in Abbontiakoons and Wassau Deeps. There were few changes amongst Westralians, none of any importance. Of the Broken Hill shares, the Proprietary dropped 7-32, Block 10's ½, and Norths ¾, whilst in the copper section Anacondas gained 1½, but Rio Tintos lost ¾.

For the new account the Kaffir Circus has been in a gloomy condition, and loud are the lamentations of the insiders. This time it is the Liberal victories that have done it, and they welcome eagerly such a plausible-looking plaint—at any rate, they hope it has plausibility. There is no knowing what is going to happen to Chinese labour, and this is the reason now why the public will not come in and buy. To some extent they actually mean what they say, these men, ignorant though they be of human nature. They have remarkably short memories—when it suits them. Since the first Chinaman set foot in South Africa the public have steadily sold, and the prices of Kaffir shares have dwindled. Did the public dread two years ago what a Liberal Government would do? Is it logical to argue that because they sold when the coolies came they will sell because the coolies might go? But the ordinary professional gambler knows no more than a Board school urchin why outsiders will not support the Kaffir Circus, and their present theories about a Liberal Government policy and its probable effects are wild and random guesses, far-fetched and unreasonable. So the gloom is as deep as ever, and the expressions of the gamblers are woe-begone. Geduld Proprietary have had one of their sensational falls on a vague cable from the mine, which we deal with more fully elsewhere. With such shares as these we would advise investors to have nothing whatever to do, if they desire peace of mind and to keep their cash intact. Driefontein Consolidated have also fallen heavily on the discouraging cable from the manager.

Amongst diamonds, De Beers and Jagers have been steady, but Premiers are still weak, despite the reassuring (?) cable from the directors, with which we dealt last week.

Nor is there anything particular to say of the other sections, for in each dulness has been unrelieved. Even Anacondas have been more than ordinarily steady, the changes either way being of slight importance, but the mysterious manipulators are not asleep for all that, and sensational, violent movements may again surprise us at any moment. On the whole, Rio Tintos have shown a weakening tendency, but the other leading copper shares have been firm.

KILLARNEY HIBERNIA GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This company may possibly share the fate of dozens of other Rhodesian companies—that is, may be a failure. Already its experience is precisely similar to that of so many, and if shareholders hope to get anything out of the mine they will probably be greatly disappointed. The report and accounts issued by the directors are quite old, being dated March 31, 1905, and we can well imagine it needed more than ordinary courage to send out such a document to the shareholders. This company is one of the Consolidated Gold Fields group, and its fortunes will, of course, directly affect those of the parent concern. Eighteen claims were pegged before the close of the financial year, making a total of 217 at the end of March. Since then 70 claims have been abandoned, reducing the holding to 147. The third level in the Killarney mine has shown disappointing results, the directors quite admitting that the uncertain values met with "have naturally jeopardised the prospects of the mine." However, at this point, so they say, the reef is still strong and well defined, and winzes are being sunk to ascertain whether or not there is a chute of payable ore at a reasonable depth. On the Hibernia mine shortage of labour is declared to have seriously crippled development work, but the directors "have no reason to modify the favourable expectations previously formed as to the future of this property." The acting consulting engineer reports that on September 30 last the ore reserves in both mines amounted to 58,128 tons, including prospective tonnage and ore on dumps to the extent of 16,545 tons, as against 68,100 given in his report in the previous year. This depletion is attributed to the lower values met with in the third level of the Killarney and the scarcity of labour. Working costs have been reduced to 22s. 7d. per ton, and it is regarded as improbable that a further saving can be made. The mill started running on December 1, 1904, and up to the end of November 1 last crushed 41,843 tons for a yield of 19,178 ozs., valued at £70,524. As the greater part of this income was received after making up the books the sum for which credit is taken in the present profit and loss account is £24,537, whilst £226 was received from other sources. Gross profit was £4,873 and the nett profit only £335, carried forward. In the balance-sheet loans amount to the prodigious total of

£112,000, and the directors have undertaken to give a mortgage upon the property if called upon by the lenders. In addition, other creditors are owed £6,270. Against these debts available resources amount to £11,436.

SUTHERLAND REEF.—It is amazing to find that there are still people who seem to have some kind of faith in the future of this company, for the directors experience little or no difficulty in getting support for reconstruction. Thus it was reconstructed for the third time in August, 1904, and the report issued by the directors covers the period from the date of the new company's incorporation up to the end of June last. The ordinary shares number 220,000 of £1 each, and the preference shares 100,000 of 4s. each. Of the former 190,077 have been allotted, credited with 10s. paid, and calls amounting to 3s. per share were paid by the end of June. Since then the remaining 1s. has been called up. Of the preference shares 95,290 have been allotted leaving 29,923 ordinary and 4,710 preference shares unissued. Mr. C. S. Hall was appointed manager by the company's consulting engineer, who was of opinion that the reef on which the company was working was the true one, and that the old workings, which had reached a depth of about 650 ft., had been on a fault. The reef, however, proved unpayable both at the 200 ft. and 300 ft. levels. In view of the serious difference of opinion between the consulting engineer and Mr. Hall, and in order to stop further expenditure on the new reef, Mr. C. E. B. Sanders, a director, went to the mine last February. As a result of this visit all work on the reef was stopped and the consulting engineer resigned his position. Mr. Hall remained manager and proceeded to reopen the old shaft and workings. According to his latest advice he has repaired and timbered the old shaft to a depth of 600 ft., and considers "the prospects of a successful future most favourable." Well, well!

BRITISH TRANSVAAL MINES.—It looks as if shareholders in this speculative concern will be immediately called upon to provide more funds, this being the inference deduced from a statement in the consulting engineer's report just issued. "I understand," says he, "that we have arrived at the last £1,000 out of the £5,000 which I estimated it would cost to prospect the claims. I am very sorry that I under-estimated the amount necessary to thoroughly prospect the ground, but this is on account of the very broken nature of the reef on the surface and the trouble and expense we have had in locating the reef in the eastern section. Now that we are getting such good values from the 100 ft. level I would strongly recommend that further funds be provided to enable us to sink down to the 200 ft. level and open up some drives at that depth. . . . I therefore beg to recommend this further provision of funds for your careful consideration."

SELUKWE GOLD MINING COMPANY.—A discouraging report is written by this company's consulting engineer, Mr. Franklin White, who has recently paid a visit to the mine. He says the prospects at the north end of the mine do not look at all encouraging. It is true, he remarks, that the 10th and 11th levels are not inside the zone of good ore indicated by the stopes in the upper levels, but there is a decided tendency for this zone to narrow rapidly going downwards, and the only hope is that the 10th and 11th levels will show the gold coming in again into the reef. A crosscut from the No. 3 level about 300 ft. north of the vertical shaft crossed a reef formation, but this is not of very promising appearance. A reef has been cut in the Nigger section, which Mr. White describes very guardedly as promising. In the meantime every effort is directed to make ends meet. Boys are employed digging up dumps of old workings, and the mill is kept running on stuff which will help to keep things going until "something favourable may be discovered." It looks much like a forlorn hope.

OROYA EAST (HANNAN'S) GOLD MINE.—The policy of conserving this company's funds pending the result of further developments upon the eastern lode of the Brownhill Extended mine has been continued in the year to September 30, exemption being granted. The lode, which is being so anxiously watched, has been driven upon at the 700 ft. level by the Brownhill Extended up to within 506 ft. of the northern boundary of the Oroya East, averaging about 5 ft. in width. A trial crushing of about 200 tons from this level gave an average return of 18 dwts. 18 grs. of gold per ton. The crosscut from the main shaft to the eastern reef at the 700 ft. level being a very long one, the drive has been discontinued for the present, and a new shaft has been started to cut the reef at a depth of about 1,200 ft. This shaft is expected to reach the 700 ft. level in March or April next. On the advice of the manager the directors decided to peg an additional 4½ acres of land adjoining the company's lease. With this ground, the directors say, the company is practically assured of getting the Brownhill Extended eastern lode, even should it turn considerably to the east of its present strike, "although, of course, it is impossible to say what values it will carry when it comes into our property." Quite so. This is the all-important question. The lode may not be worth having when they get it. Looking at all the circumstances, the future of this company as a dividend-payer is extremely precarious. During the year expenditure came to £677 against £114 from transfer fees, and including depreciation there is a further deficit of £2,153 to add to the old debit of £21,964, making it £24,117.

PALMAREJO AND MEXICAN GOLDFIELDS.—Some progress was made in the year ending June 30 last by this very old company.

The various operations, including profit on stores and rents, yielded an income of £91,754, an increase of £12,649 over 1903-4. After deducting expenditure, including Palmarejo development and expenses of all kinds in Mexico, the nett profit was £28,336 against £23,987. Adding the sum of £6,330 brought forward and a trifle from transfer fees, the credit balance is raised to £34,935. To this, however, there have to be charged the London office expenses, interest on debentures, special sums voted to the chairman and general manager, depreciation £2,000, and other outgoings aggregating altogether £11,836. The directors divide £16,914 amongst the shareholders, equal to 2½ per cent.—the first they have received. There remains £6,184 to carry forward. In his annual report the general manager says "prospects never looked more encouraging for extracting ore from this (Blanca) vein," and the future generally looks more promising than it has looked for years. There is no criticism to offer on the balance-sheet, which is a good one.

VICTORY (CHARTERS TOWERS) GOLD MINING COMPANY.—In the six months ending October 31 1,284 tons of stone were crushed for a yield of 1,304 ozs. of gold, of a value of £4,519; concentrates realised £1,360, whilst the cyanide treatment of 3,910 tons of tailings produced 1,896 ozs. of bullion, of a value of £3,231. In addition 159 tons obtained from mill excavations yielded 108 ozs. of gold, worth £147, and the tributers were penalised for encroaching to the extent of £652; total £9,911. There were also grassed on balance day about 370 tons of stone of an approximate value of £700. In no period of the history of the company, say the directors, has greater progressive work been undertaken, nor more plans formulated for the development of resources; prominently, the acquiring of the use of Clark's Brilliant, Worcester and Victory Company's No. 2 shaft on most advantageous terms, with a view to the development of the extensive area of ground lying between Clark's boundary and the 725 ft. level by the proposed underlie. As soon as the preparatory work of unwatering this shaft is complete sinking is to proceed, and levels will be thrown off at convenient distances as depth is reached.

A MINE EXPERT ON WEST AUSTRALIAN PROSPECTS.—Mr. H. C. Hoover, a member of the firm of Messrs. Bewick, Moreing, and Co., is making a lengthy tour of inspection of the mines in all parts of Australasia with which his firm is connected. He has been interviewed by a representative of the *Kalgoorlie Western Argus*, and in the course of the conversation said: "The thing that most concerns this state from a mining standpoint is the decreasing gold output. Practically no new mines are coming forward to take the place of the big mines. No mine will last for ever, and four years more will see a very large decrease in the gold yield unless new mines are found. There have been no discoveries likely to affect much the output in the past six or seven years. The root of this failure to discover fresh sources of gold appears to myself and members of my firm to lie in the gradually decreasing amount of prospecting done. There is not one-tenth the amount of real prospecting going on now that there was eight or nine years ago. The reason why prospecting has been so largely given up seems to me to be that the death of the boom left prospectors without a market for surface shows. They must now prove their discoveries, and to prove them requires money, and the source of money by occasional sale has dried up with the boom." Such are Mr. Hoover's views. As he says, Western Australia is rapidly becoming an exhausted field. We fear, however, that no new mines will be discovered because there are none to find. Look at the vast number of mines that have been abandoned in the last decade. Those now working will hardly return the vast sums irretrievably lost. Nor is it a calamity, as far as the public are concerned, that there is no market for surface shows. It is the plethora of such shows in a boom that beget the evils which are so long-lasting. So we cannot deplore, with Mr. Hoover, the decline in such promoting decoys.

LANCEFIELD GOLD.—A circular announces that the designs for the new dry crushing plant have been completed, that three No. 8 Krupp ball mills have been ordered and that tenders have been invited for other necessary plant. A trial run of 25 tons of sulphide ore has been made at the South Kalgoorlie mill with the following result:—The original ore assayed 48s. per ton and the residues 8s. per ton, showing an extraction of 40s. per ton on the parcel treated. It is added that the mine superintendent expects better results from the new plant, owing to modifications in the construction of the furnace.

PARINGA MINES.—The directors express regret for the delay in calling the general meeting, and say they propose to convene it at an early date. It appears that the chairman's visit to Australia has resulted in a decision not to spend at present any more money in prospecting the Paringa leases, but while continuing to hold them so long as tribute working enables the company to do so at little or no expense, to endeavour to find another property which promises better. With this object in view, the chairman visited several states of the Australian Commonwealth. A number of propositions have been considered, but so far nothing suitable has been secured. Meanwhile, the company has ample funds for present needs.

VICTORY UNITED GOLD MINING COMPANY.—In issuing their report for the six months to November 29 last, the directors say that considerable delay was caused at the commencement of the period owing to the difficulty of getting the new winding plant to work satisfactorily. The stone crushed amounted to 1,199 tons for a yield of 1,255 ozs., against 1,133 tons, and

1,337 ozs. in the preceding half. From the cyanide plant an extra 302 ozs. were obtained.

MINERAL INDUSTRY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.—The following is the official statement of the quantity and value of the gold won in New South Wales in the first nine months of this year:—

	Ozs. (Fine.)	Value. £
For half-year	111,869	475,189
July	30,155	128,092
August	20,489	87,032
September	26,775	113,731
Total	189,288	804,044

The quantity and value of the silver, copper, tin, and coal exported from the colony during the same period was:—

Silvers, ingots, and matte.....	253,733	ozs.	28,850
Silver-lead, concentrates, &c. ..	324,508	tons	1,755,710
Copper, ingots, and ore	6,167	"	388,758
Tin, ingots, and ore.....	1,857	"	227,574
Coal	2,663,831	"	1,073,802
Total value			3,474,703

These figures show a net increase of £370,854, to which the exports of silver, silver-lead, &c., contributed £306,002.

BRITISH COLUMBIA'S MINERAL OUTPUT IN 1905.—The following cable has been received by the Agent-General from the Department of Mines:—"Approximate estimate of mineral production last year: Gold, \$5,960,000; silver, \$2,008,000; copper, \$5,480,000; lead, \$2,330,000; zinc, \$183,000; coal, \$3,330,000; coke, \$1,212,000; total, \$21,403,000. This is an increase over 1904 of \$2,000,000.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOLD YIELD.—The gold output of New South Wales for December amounted to 27,768 ozs., valued at £108,007, compared with 40,414 ozs., of a value of £121,373 in December, 1904. For the twelve months the production totalled 328,747 ozs., worth £1,165,013, against 324,996 ozs. and £1,146,109 respectively in the previous year, a slight increase.

WEST AFRICAN GOLD OUTPUT IN 1905.—The total output of gold from the Gold Coast in 1905, as declared at the port of shipment to the Bank of British West Africa by the 17 companies producing the metal, amounted to 165,814 ozs., valued at £632,737, which compares with the Government returns of £345,608 for 1904 and £254,790 for 1903.

QUEENSLAND GOLD RETURNS.—For September the Queensland gold returns were:—Charters Towers, 21,900 tons crushed, yield 20,000 ozs.; Croydon, 1,200 tons and 700 ozs.; Gympie 21,100 tons, 13,600 ozs.; Mount Morgan, 20,000 tons, 9,400 ozs.; Ravenswood, 3,300 tons, 3,100 ozs.; other fields, 6,200 tons, 2,500 ozs.; alluvial, 1,100 ozs.; total 73,700 tons, 50,400 ozs.

NEW ZEALAND GOLD RETURNS.—The gold output of New Zealand for the month of November amounted to 49,180 ozs., valued at £196,603, compared with 49,829 ozs., worth £191,481, in the corresponding month of 1904.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

As indicated above, this company's proportion of joint nett revenue was £550,767, to which must be added larger sums from the Eastbourne traffic, rent and hotel accounts, &c., and transfer fees, making an aggregate of £664,120 or £25,461 more than in the second part of 1904. Against this the South-Eastern company's individual expenditure was pulled down by £4,185 at £20,250, leaving a balance of £643,870 compared with £614,223. Then the sum brought forward was £2,435 larger, and sundry items of revenue produced more, so that notwithstanding a much smaller receipt from bankers and general interest, the sum available for interest and dividend payments is larger by £33,007 at £742,288. Fixed charges requiring an additional £618 only, a balance of £504,976 is left for dividend, of which £266,581 is absorbed in preference payments. The directors are therefore able to provide a dividend on the ordinary stock at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, being ½ per cent. per annum more, carrying forward £12,350 compared with £5,078. Upon the preferred ordinary stock the dividend will be 4½ per cent. actual for the six months, making, with the interim payment of ½ per cent., 5 per cent. for the year. We have already referred to the Charing Cross Station collapse in dealing with the managing committee's report, the cost being £60,000, divided between the two companies, but may call attention to the fact that this company has a windfall in the shape of a payment of £60,000 from the Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Company for the privilege of constructing a station under the forecourt at Charing Cross. This £60,000 has been received since the close of the half-year, and will, of course, be placed to reserve or applied to capital purposes. Including £101,453 spent by the managing committee on its behalf the company's total capital outlay for the half-year was £128,172, and it is expected that a further sum of £130,000 will be laid out in the current half-year. This may not mean an immediate appeal for further capital, even though the account is over-

drawn £456,166, as there are sundry provident and other funds to the amount of £886,000. Dividend warrants will be posted February 6.

SOUTH-EASTERN AND CHATHAM RAILWAY COMPANIES' MANAGING COMMITTEE.

In the half-year ended December 31 the gross revenue of the amalgamated lines was £2,528,683, or an increase over the corresponding period of £25,372, against which the working expenses went down £14,446 to £1,524,617, giving some hope perhaps that the working agreement is about to bear good fruit. Nett receipts, therefore, show an improvement of £39,818 to £1,004,066, and the ratio between expenditure and income goes down from 61.48 per cent. to 60.29 per cent. There seems to have been a good deal of irregularity in the passenger traffic, the numbers carried showing a decrease in all classes, while the revenue from first and second showed the substantial increases of £12,558 and £13,045 respectively, against a decline in third of £8,530. The last named continues to suffer from tramway competition, which is likely to grow more severe rather than less; but, on the other hand, there is further improvement in the continental traffic, and the directors think that the advance in steamboat revenue of £8,342 is probably due to the popularity of the turbine steamers, which are now running on both services. Small decreases appeared under parcels, horses, carriages, etc., mails, merchandise, live stock, and tolls, but minerals produced about £3,000 more and the harbours, canal, and pier dues exhibited a trifling increase. Coming to the question of expenditure, always important when a decrease is shown, we are glad to find that the savings have been effected without any greater sacrifice of efficiency than is usual with this undertaking. For example, the expenditure on maintenance of way and works was a trifle heavier, but locomotive power cost about £9,000 less, and it is good to note a saving in both passenger and goods mileage. The decline of £4,623 under carriage and wagon repairs is perhaps not quite so good, unless it means that some of the rolling stock is past repairing and must be replaced by new, but there is no fault to find with a drop in the traffic expenses of £6,700. General and law charges and Parliamentary expenses were all somewhat heavier, compensation required just a trifle less, and the customary rise in rates and taxes was little short of £5,000. Government duty was over £1,000 higher, but tolls were down as much, steamboat working showed a decline of £1,321, and there was an increase in the harbour, canal and pier expenses, this part of the business being worked at a heavier loss. To the nett venue is added £714 for bankers and general interest account, and £5,405 from other sources, making £1,010,185 in all, and after providing £1,754 more for fixed charges, the balance divisible is £933,503, an advance of £38,400. Of this sum 59 per cent., or £550,767, goes to the South-Eastern and 41 per cent., or £382,736, to the Chatham Company. On capital account the managing committee spent £171,954 during the half-year, of which £118,535 was on lines open for traffic, including £65,000 for the purchase of the Sheppey Light Railway, and £53,419 for working stock. The estimated cost of replacing the Charing Cross roof, together with other necessary works, is £60,000, to be borne by the two companies in the fixed statutory proportion, and we learn from the report of the South-Eastern Railway that that company's share will be debited to the reserve fund of £265,192, which has been specially formed to meet contingencies. It is proposed to re-open the station in a few weeks, and in the meantime the committee has granted permission to the Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway to open the forecourt temporarily for the purpose of facilitating the construction of their underground station, which will be in direct communication with the Charing Cross terminus.

LONDON, TILBURY AND SOUTHEAST RAILWAY COMPANY.

Gross revenue for the six months ended December 31 £286,049, increase £4,781; working expenditure £160,860, increase £11,042; ratio between expenditure and income 56.24 per cent. against 53.25 per cent. All the additional revenue came from passenger traffic, which improved by £6,317 to £109,070, including an extra £2,392 from season tickets. Parcels, horses, carriages, &c., also gave more and there were trifling increases in live stock and minerals, but the merchandise traffic fell back nearly £3,600. Miscellaneous receipts produced £12,982 against £11,600, and after allowing £1,000 for steamboat depreciation the profit on working the Gravesend ferry comes to £1,309 compared with £1,613. On the expenditure side the largest increase is under locomotive power, up £3,062, owing to exceptionally heavy charges for additional engine power, an item which seems to require some explanation. Maintenance of way and works cost £2,170 more, carriage and wagon repairs rose a few hundred pounds and general charges were up no less than £1,590, largely due to an advance of £1,000 in the directors' fees. Rates and taxes were heavier by £1,478 and mileage and demurrage cost £4,919 or an advance of over £4,000, the only sensible saving being in traffic expenses down by £1,803. Nett revenue of £125,189 is less by £6,261, there was a drop of £4,088 to £1,135 in the balance brought forward and other items of revenue fell £484, so that the actual available sum shows a shrinkage of £10,833. Happily, there was a decline of £1,895 in the fixed charges, thanks to a saving in Whitechapel and Bow Railway interest, but preference interest was up by £5,256 and the directors have to reduce the dividend on the ordinary stock from 8½ to 7½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £7,087 less at £2,138. On the whole, this must be accounted a very poor display, and we rather fancy the

company will have some difficulty in recovering the ground lost because capital expenditure is on a fairly important scale. Last half-year the company laid out £155,788, including £45,000 subscribed to the Whitechapel and Bow Railway, and expects to spend £130,000 in the current six months. Credit to capital account is only £39,991, and as the company has no large savings to fall back upon a further appeal for funds may shortly become necessary. Dividends payable February 2.

TAFF VALE RAILWAY COMPANY.

Gross receipts for the half-year ended December 31, £478,055; decrease £199, working expenses £268,814, decrease £40; ratio of expenses to receipts 56.23 per cent., against 56.21 per cent. On examining the details in the accounts we find that there was a small recovery of £1,723 in the mineral traffic and improvements of £1,305 in general merchandise and £273 in rents received, but these gains were more than offset by a shrinkage of £1,435 in passenger revenue due to a reduction of 47,937 in the number carried, and by declines of £451 in shipping receipts and £1,572 in dock and harbour receipts. On the other hand, big savings were effected in maintenance of way, locomotive expenses, and shipping expenses, but traffic expenses and dock and harbour costs were both much heavier, while law charges rose by £2,142, Parliamentary charges by £402, and rates and taxes by £361. The result was a decrease in nett revenue of £159 at £209,241; but £680 more at £12,225 was brought forward, and although there was no credit on this occasion from either general interest account or interest on bank balances the amount available was only £288 less at £221,466. Debenture and other interest, rents, &c., took £54,896 or £574 more, and after payment of the preference dividend the ordinary stock again received a dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, equivalent to 9½ per cent. on the old ordinary stock, and another £5,000 was put to reserve, leaving £10,156 to be carried forward against £11,018 a year ago. Capital expenditure on lines open for traffic came to £20,473, of which the tips and roads at Penarth Dock took £11,558 and £1,613 was spent on working stock, making the debit balance on December 31 £300,684. In addition, it is estimated that a further £21,000 will be spent during the current half-year, and against this total the company has £380,000 in share and loan capital created but not yet issued, and £209,971 in debenture stock authorised.

EAST LONDON RAILWAY.

According to the Railway Clearing House settlements for the six months ended October 31 the receipts from goods traffic fell off by £401 to £6,139 and those from passengers by £1,191 to £19,654, or a total decrease of £1,592. The falling off in goods earnings is ascribed to the reduced quantity of building materials, bricks, &c., sent from Great Eastern stations to suburban stations in the south of London, and to the partial diversion to another route of locomotive coal for the Brighton railway, and the main cause of the reduction in passenger receipts is said to be the continued depression at the docks and in local industries, while the discontinuance of the through train service of the District company to New Cross also had an effect. This reduction in gross earnings, however, had no effect on the income of the company as the minimum rent for the line was unchanged at £14,808, and a drop of £29 in rents from property was neutralised by increases in interest and transfer fees, making the gross revenue again £14,808. Expenses took a little less, but a smaller balance of £11,288 was brought forward leaving the amount available at £25,147 compared with £25,780. Of this interest on the first debenture stock and on the "A" and "B" second charge debenture stocks required £15,029 against £15,934 a year ago, and £10,118 or £272 more was carried forward.

NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK OF ENGLAND.

After making provision for all bad and doubtful debts and for rebate on bills not due the nett profits of this important bank for the twelve months ended December 31 were £538,740 or £9,449 less than in the previous year. With £86,477 or £3,189 more brought in the sum for disposal is £625,816, from which an interim dividend of 8 per cent. has been already paid. The directors now propose a distribution of 9 per cent., making 17 per cent. in all, the same as before, transferring £15,000 or £5,000 less to Knaresborough and Claro Bank purchase account, £10,000 or £5,000 less to bank premises account and carrying forward £90,216. A large increase of £1,900,434 to £52,593,921 is seen in the current, deposit and other accounts, and the acceptances are moderately greater at £441,568, the aggregate of the balance-sheet being nearly £2,000,000 higher at £58,425,706. Bills discounted, loans and other securities, however, have been increased only £279,040 to £29,796,492, as the money at call and short notice is £1,157,195 larger at £4,806,046, and the cash in hand and at the Bank of England shows an advance of £384,401 to £8,205,154. Investments are also a little higher at £14,536,894 and bank premises are down from £647,074 to £639,551. Reserve fund is £2,300,000 and the paid-up capital £3,000,000.

LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING CO., LIMITED.

A profitable half-year's business was enjoyed by this powerful bank, and besides paying a dividend of 10 per cent. for the six months, being at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, the directors are able to add another £50,000 to reserve and transfer £25,000 to bank premises account. Gross profits reached the highly satisfactory figure of £762,645 or £31,806 more than in the corresponding period, but this increase was all absorbed in addi-

tional charges for interest, rebate, and expenses, which took £136,008, £32,798, and £320,979 respectively. There was, however, an advance of £16,592 to £80,457 in the sum brought forward, so that after providing the dividend and the other allocations mentioned the credit carried out improved from £63,866 to £78,318. The dividend for the complete year 1905 reaches 20 per cent. On deposit, current, and other accounts the bank owed £43,713,045 at December 31 last, or £681,439 less than at the end of the previous year, but the liabilities on acceptances show the important increase of £1,822,929 at £3,589,669. Cash in hand and at Bank of England is rather less at £7,899,864, loans at call and short notice are about £400,000 heavier at £3,616,404, and the investments show a small decline to £9,357,072. These investments consist very largely of British funds, that is, stocks guaranteed by the British Government, and the remainder are of such high-class as to be practically as good. Discounted bills current are fully a million lower at £7,745,939, while advances to customers show a rise of £232,491 to £18,032,565. Bank premises, £823,316, compares with £784,208, due to important additions at the head office, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is £51,063,830 against £49,805,050.

LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK, LIMITED.

The profits of this excellent bank showed a slight contraction during the six months ended December 31 compared with the corresponding period. Gross sum was £322,159 against £327,893, in each case after allowing £3,000 for bank premises, and as the total expenditure was up £6,831 to £147,954 the decline reaches over £12,500. This, however, is set straight by an increase of £23,481 to £37,426 in the sum brought forward, so that the directors again provide a dividend of 6½ per cent., being at the rate of 13 per cent. per annum, and increase the credit to next account from £18,715 to £29,630. For the complete year 1905 the dividend is 13 per cent. The decline in profits may be explained by the apparent shrinkage in resources, the current and deposit accounts being down by £1,713,147 to £25,442,065. In this respect the bank's experience is in direct contrast to most of the other leading institutions, but the movement probably possesses no particular significance. Circular notes, credits on agents, &c., are moderately heavier at £534,217, and there is a large increase of £819,972 to £1,120,777 in the acceptances. Cash in hand and at Bank of England is down by the considerable sum of £479,836 to £3,642,426, while money at call and short notice is larger by £501,920 at the pretty big figure of £6,756,270. The holding of Consols at 85 remains the same, £3,885,000, but other investments have been reduced by nearly £400,000 to £457,974, and the bills discounted, loans, and other accounts are less by £1,142,751 at £14,879,263. One of the most striking movements, however, is the increase of £39,057 to £766,980 in the bank premises, despite the writings off, and the fact that no fresh branches have been opened. The directors do not vouchsafe any explanation, but the advance is probably connected with extensive alterations at the head office.

CRAVEN BANK, LIMITED.

During the half-year ended December 31 this small bank earned a nett profit of £17,120 or £231 more than in the corresponding period, and there was also a trifling increase to £5,987 in the sum brought forward, so that the total balance is £23,107 against £22,691. The usual £1,000 having been transferred in reduction of bank premises account, a dividend is again proposed at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum with an improvement from £5,941 to £6,357 in the sum carried forward. Reserve fund remains at £90,000, the paid-up capital being £210,000, but there is a substantial advance of £437,932 to £3,363,395 in the deposit and other accounts. Against that the cash on hand at bankers and at short notice has risen £119,082 to £694,675, the investments have increased substantially to £1,247,146, and bills of exchange figure at £98,179 against £57,430. Advances to customers and loans against securities are a little less at £1,615,524, and bank premises are lower by £1,662 at £85,969.

HALIFAX JOINT STOCK BANKING CO., LIMITED.

On December 31 last this bank owed £3,247,024 on current and deposit accounts, etc., being an increase of £55,902 compared with the end of 1904, and there is also an advance of about £90,000 to £702,933 in the cash on hand at call and short notice. Investments, £479,461, are up by £62,309, but bills discounted show a decline of £96,375 to £647,374, and there is a very trifling drop to £2,029,768 in the advances on current accounts, loans, &c. Profits in the 12 months were £39,309, an increase of £3,490, and there was an advance of nearly £1,000 to £5,818 in the credit from the previous year, so that altogether the directors have £45,127 at their disposal, being an improvement of £4,439. The usual interim dividend of 10s. per share was paid in August last, but the final dividend is to be 15s. per share, or 2s. 6d. more, making the total return £1 5s. or 12½ per cent., against 11¼ per cent. These distributions require £37,500, leaving £6,374 to be carried forward. Reserve fund of the bank is £305,000, and the paid-up capital £300,000.

SHEFFIELD BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED.

This bank's profits for the year ended December 31 was £61,720, or a few pounds more than in the previous 12 months, and the sum brought forward was a little larger, so that altogether the balance for disposal was £69,181, against £69,072. The aggregate dividends for the year will therefore be 15 per cent., with £1,000 in reduction of bank premises and furniture, and £7,370 carried forward. There is an increase of £362,904, to £3,472,552, in the

deposit, current, and other accounts, and the cash in hand and balances at call or short notice are larger by £176,074, at £878,050. Investments are a little less at £535,863, and advances and loans have been reduced £106,940, to £2,193,584, but the bills of exchange show an increase of £296,449 to £542,097.

LAMBTON AND CO., NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

A considerable increase is shown in the current deposit and other accounts of this private bank as at December 31 last compared with December 31, 1904, the aggregate of £4,051,488 showing an advance of £206,377. Against that the advances and bills discounted are larger by £114,438 at £2,203,572, investments show an increase of £152,000 to £1,800,846, and the cash balances have risen from £597,738 to £623,056, the aggregate of the balance-sheet being £4,735,816 against £4,440,619.

MUNSTER AND LEINSTER BANK, LIMITED.

A very slight decline took place in the profits of this bank for the past half-year compared with the corresponding period, the nett balance being down by £160 at £20,063. Sum brought forward was £6,174 or £397 more, making £26,237, and after again providing a dividend at 12 per cent. per annum, the directors transfer another £5,500 to reserve and £2,500 in reduction of premises account, and increase the carry forward from £6,000 to £6,237. Movements in the balance-sheet are not of great importance, the largest being an increase of £91,499 in the advances and current accounts to a total of £1,884,291. In the deposit, current, and other accounts there is an advance of £86,995 to £4,402,842, but the cash holdings are slightly lower, both the money on hand and at bankers, £386,148, and the loans at call and short notice, £464,965, being less. Investments, £1,166,721, show practically no change, and bills receivable are up by £44,371 to £916,706.

UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

The directors of this big colonial bank report that, generally speaking, weather conditions in Australia have been favourable, and though exception may in this respect be taken to portions of north-west New South Wales and Queensland, it is understood that beneficial rains have recently fallen there. Wool clip has been excellent and harvest prospects are very good. The effect of all this on the bank's profits was, however, very slight, the gross sum earned being a trifle less at £239,791, and after providing all charges the nett balance is £104,768 compared with £104,830. Sum brought forward was up about £1,200 to £27,508 making £132,276 against £131,134, from which £4,000 is again placed to the guarantee and provident funds, £10,000 to premises account and £15,000 to reserve, leaving £103,276. Of that £75,000 is absorbed in once more paying a dividend of 10 per cent. and £28,276 is carried forward. Reserve is now £1,070,000 compared with a paid-up capital of £1,500,000, circulation has advanced a little to £459,235 and deposits are larger by £1,289,020 at £16,988,632. Bills payable and other liabilities are likewise heavier at £2,013,640, but there is only a small increase at £3,878,819 in the specie on hand and cash balances. Money at call and short notice in London is up by £880,000 at £1,125,000, thereby following the example of the London banks, and investments show an advance of £37,228 to £1,605,619. Balances of remittances and drafts in transit and bills receivable are down by £90,215 to £2,055,023, while the bills discounted, loans and other securities figure at £12,600,929 against £11,968,017. Bank premises and property in the colony amount to £538,355 or £25,221 less and the London leasehold premises are valued at £123,034 compared with £123,674.

LONDON AND INDIA DOCKS COMPANY.

There was a decided falling off in this company's business for the half-year ended December 31 compared with the corresponding period the tonnage of shipping entering the docks from foreign ports to discharge being 2,435,980 tons, or a decrease of 129,238 tons. Tonnage coastwise was increased 26,054 tons to 359,811 tons, but for the entire year the shrinkage foreign and coastwise was 151,453 tons at a total of 5,681,248 tons. Then the weight of goods landed for warehousing and immediate delivery to consignees during the six months was down 74,424 tons at 438,476 tons, bringing the decrease for 12 months to 120,000 tons, at an aggregate of 983,907. Moreover, the stock of goods in warehouses on December 31 was smaller by 45,122 tons at 174,334, and the effect of all these decreases on the revenue account was very marked. Import rates on goods fell off £38,079, and rates and charges on shipping declined £17,891, so that, despite small increases in other directions, the total revenue fell off £49,624 to £860,538. On the expenditure side there are one or two pronounced decreases, wages and carriage of goods being prominent in this respect, but, on the other hand, maintenance and renewal of premises and plant, dredging, and rates and taxes all cost considerably more, so that the saving in expenditure was only £11,587 at £586,399. Nett revenue, therefore, was down by £38,038 at £274,138, and as the first half of the year also turned out poorly, the balance brought forward is smaller by £23,989 at £61,792. Sundry other revenue came to £1,448, making £337,379 in all, which means a decline of £64,573 compared with the result shown a year ago. Fixed charges having been provided, the directors are obliged to reduce the dividend on the deferred stock from 3½ to 1¾ per cent. for the complete year 1905, carrying forward £2,654. The terms of amalgamation with the Millwall Dock Company were announced at the general meeting on August 1, 1905, and are embodied in a bill which will be submitted to the proprietors for approval at a special meeting to be held after the general meeting.

GAS LIGHT AND COKE COMPANY.

During the half-year ended December 31 the sales of gas increased 1.2 per cent. over those of the corresponding period of 1904, largely due to an addition of 17,662 consumers in the company's district. Coke and tar products failed to realise such good prices as in 1904, but the reduction in income from these sources has been partially met by a larger revenue from ammoniacal liquor products, and a saving under the item of coal. The directors announce with evident pleasure that the experimental lighting of some of the most important streets in the City by means of high-pressure gas in lieu of electricity has now been inaugurated, with, it is believed, complete success. From sales of gas the company derived a revenue during the period under review of £1,503,922 or an increase of £14,709 against 1904, and there was a moderate advance in the stove rental, but residuals produced £29,115 less, and the income from all sources shows a decline of £11,734 at £1,884,150. On the expenditure side the cost of manufacture of gas was smaller by £12,965, and there was a moderate saving in management charges, but distribution increased rather over £4,000, and rents, rates, and taxes rose £1,841. It appears, however, that as a result of the quinquennial revaluation of the company's property a considerable reduction in the rateable value has been obtained, so that these constant advances may be stayed for awhile. Under all heads the outgo was £1,380,302, a reduction of about £2,500, leaving the nett balance at £503,848, which therefore shows a decline of £10,022. Sum brought in was £217,408 against £273,976, making £721,556, and after providing fixed charges and contributing £10,000 to the redemption fund the directors again propose a dividend at the rate of £4 8s. per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, carrying forward £181,299 compared with £248,193.

ANGLO-AMERICAN TELEGRAPH CO., LIMITED.

The activity in the American market evidently brought some additional business to this undertaking as the traffic receipts for the six months ended December 31 were £14,675 more than in the corresponding period at a total of £198,245. Other items of revenue were also substantially higher, so that despite a decline of £1,283 to £1,253 in the sum brought forward the aggregate revenue is £204,953 against £188,500. Ordinary expenditure was only a trifle larger at £55,676, and after meeting various other charges, including £2,330 for taxes in Newfoundland, which have been appealed against, the directors place £5,000 or £5,000 less to the renewal fund and bring out the nett balance at £126,847 or an improvement of £18,653. Quarterly interim dividends of 15s. per cent. on the ordinary stock and £1 10s. per cent. on the preferred stock have been already paid, and the directors now propose final payments of £1 1s. on the ordinary stock and £1 12s. per cent. on the preferred together with 10s. per cent. on the deferred, carrying forward £847. For the complete year the ordinary stock receives £3 5s. or 10s. more, the preferred £6 or 10s. more and the deferred 10s. against nothing. In addition to the transfer from revenue the reserve received £15,745 on account of interest against which the expenditure for the six months was £5,544, so that the fund is increased from £985,725 to £1,000,925.

FREEMAN, HARDY, AND WILLIS, LIMITED.

No profit and loss statement is issued by this company but the directors state that after paying all working expenses and debenture interest, and making the usual provision for depreciation, the nett profits for the year ended December 31 were £52,447. This was a decrease of £1,758 compared with the previous year and the reduction is ascribed to the higher price of leather, the dryness of the season, and to the keen competition coupled with the lessened spending power of the people which brought about a demand for a lower grade of goods. With £10,135 from the previous account the amount available came to £62,582, and preference dividend having been paid the ordinary shares receive 12½ per cent. for the sixteenth time, £10,000 or £5,000 more is put to reserve, and after providing for income-tax, remuneration of directors and staff and contributions to charities, the balance carried forward was reduced by £1,571 to £8,564. Nothing has been put to reserves for some years now, and these funds come to no more than £67,000 all told, of which only £4,050 is separately invested, while the share capital stands at £400,000 and there is also £175,000 of debenture debt. The omission to make any addition to reserves is the more serious because the depreciation allowance on properties works out at about 1½ per cent. On leases, fittings, and fixtures at branch establishments it comes to just under 10 per cent., but on plant, machinery, &c., of the London section of the business nearly 19 per cent. has been written off. Liabilities to trade creditors come to £75,784 against £8,053 to come in from sundry debtors, but stocks total up to £427,478, a figure which looks unduly heavy. Cash is not very brilliant at £24,825 considering that about £20,000 is to be disbursed between now and the end of the month.

PEEL RIVER LAND AND MINERAL CO., LIMITED.

This well-conducted undertaking, which could always present a satisfactory report when other Australian land companies were on the verge of bankruptcy, makes a very good display for the 12 months ended June 30 last. Wool clip from the Peel River Estate yielded £44,367, and from the Currawillinghi £6,044, the average price being 9.76d. and 8.10d. per lb. respectively, compared with 9.43d. and 8.14d., and as the total number of bales was up 465 to 2,710 it will be seen that the company performed really well. Moreover prices ruling at the end of last year for merino wool grown by the company showed an

improvement on these figures and a portion of the new clip has already been sold in London, so that, the unforeseen apart, the current year should turn out better than ever. Last 12 months the sales of live stock from the Peel River Estate produced £16,606 against £12,433, and latest advices report the property to be in good order, with ample feed and water for the live stock. The policy of opening up further areas of the company's land for closer occupation is being continued, the directors having decided to offer to the public about 30,000 acres of land suitable for agriculture near the town of Tamworth. This land is being surveyed into compact farms, and will be submitted for sale by auction as soon as the necessary arrangements have been completed. The Currawillinghi run may now be considered as fully stocked, and recent reports state that the stock is doing well, as, although more rain would be welcome, there is a good supply of water in the dam and tanks. Revenue from all sources was £79,677 or £13,966 more than in the previous 12 months, and after providing total expenditure the nett balance is £51,161. Add £4,996 brought in, and deduct £1,818 for income tax, and the sum remaining is £54,339, from which the directors pay a dividend and bonus aggregating 7 per cent., or 2 per cent. more, placing £10,000 to reserve and £1,000 to improvements account, in each case against nothing, and carrying forward £1,339. Reserves will now be over £121,000, against properties valued at £626,586, and as all the savings are kept liquid the position must be considered a very sound one.

RIVER PLATE AND GENERAL INVESTMENT TRUST CO., LIMITED.

This company's revenue continues to make steady recovery, the income from investments, &c., for the twelve months ended December 31 being £29,265 or £2,371 more than in the preceding year, and with the slightly increased sum of £5,134 brought in the total credit is £34,399 against £31,849. So after providing administrative charges, interest, and discount, and the dividend at 4½ per cent. on the preferred stock, the directors raise the distribution on the deferred by a full 1 per cent., making it 5½ per cent., carrying another £2,500 to reserve and £5,056 to next account. Reserve will now be £50,000, and the position all round seems quite good, as, although the investments are put in the balance-sheet at £502,852, being cost or under, a valuation at December 31 based chiefly on market quotations brings out their worth at £601,453. Very few companies can have derived more benefit than this one from the half-dozen years of prosperity experienced by Argentina, and consequent appreciation in railway and other securities, and there seems no reason at all why it should not continue to progress.

MORTGAGE COMPANY OF THE RIVER PLATE, LIMITED.

This company found the year 1905 a good one for business, and reports a revenue from all sources of £96,173, or £7,023 more than in the previous twelve months, so that the slight decline then shown has been readily recovered. Debenture interest was a little less at £24,661, and after providing this, together with management expenses, directors' fees, income-tax, &c., the nett sum remaining is £55,876, an improvement of £5,835. Add £16,553 brought in and the sum for disposal is £72,429, from which preference dividend takes £12,500 and £10,000 went in the interim dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares paid in August. The directors now propose to pay a further dividend of 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, the same as before, and to also provide a bonus of 2½ per cent., crediting £15,000, or £5,000 less, to reserve, but increasing the carry forward to £19,929. This is an excellent position of affairs, and the directors seem quite justified in this time giving the shareholders a bonus, as the profits earned prove that the investments of the company are sound and good, and as the reserve fund reaches the excellent amount of £255,000, the slightly reduced sum this year set aside is of no consequence. Altogether the loans in gold on mortgage of freehold properties are up about £111,000 to £1,111,975, and investments in high-class and other securities are larger by £34,275 at £166,759, but the temporary loans in London have been further reduced by £94,000 to £119,000. Sundry creditors look fairly heavy, £110,311, but the company has ample liquid resources against them.

METROPOLITAN TRUST CO., LIMITED.

This company's investments are now spread over 136 securities, their balance-sheet value being £763,452, including loans of £111,415, as against £695,372 at January 1, 1905, covering securities to the number of 130. Revenue received made another important advance of £5,418 to £37,247, and after providing general expenses and all interest charges the nett credit is £21,939. Add £4,086 brought in and the sum for disposal is £26,025, from which the directors provide a dividend of 7 per cent. or ½ per cent. more, carrying £3,411 to reserve and £2,664 to next account. The savings also get the benefit of £26,589, profit derived from the sale of securities, bringing them up to the excellent sum of £130,000, and it is not surprising to find that a valuation of the investments, after deducting the debenture stock and allowing for outstanding balances, including the proposed dividend, shows a value exceeding £170 per £100 stock. Altogether a splendid state of affairs, highly creditable to all concerned.

OMNIUM INVESTMENT CO., LIMITED.

During the year ended December 31 the revenue earned amounted to £29,939, and after meeting interest and administration charges and transferring £3,000 to depreciation account the nett income was £17,954, or an increase of £1,094 over the previous 12 months. Adding £3,546 brought forward, the sum

available for distribution was £21,500, of which the dividend on the preferred stock took £10,687, and it is now proposed to repeat last year's distribution of 2 per cent. on the deferred stock, leaving £3,538 to be carried to the new account. With the present addition the depreciation account was raised to £13,199, and the fund was further increased by £10,654 from profits on sales of securities, but against this £10,274 has been written off certain investments, leaving a balance of £13,579. The directors state that there has been considerable increase in the capital value of the securities held, which stand in the books at £722,451, but the depreciation still exceeds the above mentioned balance to the credit of depreciation account. It would be interesting to know just how much this deficit comes to, especially as the list of securities attached to the report shows that the company is the unhappy possessor of a good deal of rubbish which it would be difficult to dispose of at any price.

BRITISH INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED.

This powerful trust company, whose investments reach nearly £3,500,000, received a revenue of £178,159 during the year ended January 1 last compared with £159,647 in the previous twelve months, and after providing £57,000 for debenture interest, together with management and other charges, the nett balance is £101,770, an advance of £17,122. Add to that the sum of £3,775 brought forward and the total for disposal is £105,545, from which interim dividends already paid and £10,133 added to reserve absorb £50,033 leaving £55,512. The directors now propose to pay the final preferred dividend of 2 per cent. and a further 1 per cent. on the deferred stock, making 9 per cent. for the year, a distribution which entitles the preferred stock to an extra 13s. 4d. per cent., increasing the return to £4 13s. 4d. Balance carried forward is £4,212. Reserve also gets £29,867, nett profits realised on sales of securities, making £395,000 in all, and shareholders will be pleased to learn that their investments show an excess over the combined share and debenture capital of over £800,000.

ASSETS REALISATION CO., LIMITED.

A further decline of £1,561 to £31,684 took place in the gross profits of this company for the year ended December 31 compared with the previous twelve months, and the directors tell shareholders that while the operations of the period have been satisfactory, owing to the difficulty of realising at remunerative prices the amount of business transacted has again been small. With £17 for transfer fees, the total revenue is brought up to £31,701, and after providing administration charges, directors' remuneration of £2,794, and income-tax £1,433, the nett profit is £23,717, to which must be added £854 brought forward, making £24,571. Already £16,625 of this has been distributed by way of dividend on the preference and interim dividend on the ordinary shares, and the directors now propose to bring the ordinary dividend up to 6 per cent., the same as for the previous year, carrying forward £822. Assets held at the end of 1904, including advances in security and sundry investments, amounted to £531,997, and the assets purchased or advances made during the period under review were £72,086, making £604,083 in all. Against that the assets realised, advances repaid, and interest and dividends received, reached £105,505, and the assets, securities, &c., in hand at the close of the past year were valued at £530,202, an aggregate of £635,767. The difference between this figure and the £604,083 just mentioned is the amount of gross profit. Capital of the company is £450,000 in ordinary and preference shares, the founders having been extinguished, and the reserve now stands at £71,000.

NATIONAL MORTGAGE AND AGENCY COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND, LIMITED.

Business during the twelve months ended September 30 was remarkably good, and the gross profits earned showed the highly satisfactory increase of £11,679 to £79,401. With £7,400 or £110 more from the previous year and £15 from transfer fees the amount available was £11,804 larger at £86,816 against which administration charges rose by £1,048 to £22,911, debenture interest required an extra £2,982 at £14,069, and after paying land and income-tax and writing off furniture £47,460 was left for distribution compared with £39,900. The directors therefore were able to raise the dividend and bonus by 1¼ per cent. to 10 per cent. and to put another £5,000 at £20,000 to reserve leaving £7,640 or £240 more to be carried forward. During the year £56,337 was added to the debenture debt making it £373,048, sundry creditors rose by £13,298 to £209,530, and bills payable and bills receivable under discount came to £69,220 or an increase in the liabilities of £82,097 to £642,798. On the other hand, loans on mortgages, secured accounts and property held came to £49,849 more at £378,434, sundry debtors on current account went up by £85,068 to £304,349, and cash, bills and investments were £3,756 higher at £124,957, while advances on wool and produce were reduced by £27,977 to £57,144. Premises, plant and furniture are down £1,216 at £14,582 and goods on hand at the branches show a decrease of £5,447 at £48,146.

LAW DEBENTURE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

It cannot be said that this company performed very brilliantly during the year ended December 31 last. After allowing for revenue received in advance, the interest on securities and loans and commissions came to £48,294 or £1,241 less than in the previous twelve months. Accrued interest was also lower at £3,806, and although the fees as trustees, &c., gave an extra £192 at £4,807 the income from all sources shrinks by £1,346 at £56,908. Including £3,000 for directors' fees the charges for

administration come to £8,106, but there was a further sum of £2,794 written off securities in addition to certain profits on sale of investments, and after providing £17,100 for interest on debenture stock £28,315 is left, a very trifling decline. Dividend on preference shares absorbs £8,549, and by taking £184 from the interest earned on the ordinary shareholders' reserve fund, the directors are again able to provide a dividend of 7 per cent. on the ordinary shares. The founders, of course, receive nothing. From the balance-sheet we gather that the company has again increased its advances to the Stock Exchange, as the loans against security have increased £82,603 to £549,380, accompanied by a decline in the cash balances of £81,641 to £49,466. Investments in debentures and debenture stock have been further reduced £3,633 to £369,034, and there is an item of "shares fully paid, £1,000," which does not convey much information. Total reserves, including £15,687 for premiums on new issues, come to £53,961, all invested in Metropolitan Water Board "B" stock, and against creditors of £4,077 debtors reach £10,083.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Barry.—For the past half-year at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £1,215.

Central London.—At the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31 on the ordinary and preferred stocks, also at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for the whole year on the deferred stock, placing £10,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £25,394.

City and South London.—On the consolidated ordinary stock at the rate of 1½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £1,366.

Great Central.—3½ per cent. to be made on the 5 per cent. convertible preference stock, 1881, making 5 per cent. 1905; also £3 2s. 6d. per cent. for the whole year on the 4 per cent. preference stock, 1889, carrying forward £7,000.

Great Northern Railway.—At the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary, giving for the half-year 2 per cent. to the preferred converted ordinary, 1½ per cent. to the deferred converted ordinary, 3 per cent. to the B stock, 1½ per cent. to the A stock. These rates will make the dividend for the whole year as follows:—4 per cent. to the preferred converted ordinary, 1½ per cent. to the deferred converted ordinary, 6 per cent. to the B stock, and 1½ per cent. to the A stock, carrying forward £47,726.

Great Northern (Ireland).—On the ordinary stock for the half-year ended Dec. 31 at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum, placing £20,000 to permanent way and roads, bridges, &c., renewal and improvement accounts, and carrying forward £51,500.

Lancashire and Yorkshire.—For the past half-year at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £31,000.

Liverpool Overhead.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, carrying forward £3,784.

London and South-Western.—For the half-year ended Dec. 31 at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the original ordinary stock, the full dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for the half-year on the preferred converted ordinary stock, and 2 per cent. for the whole year on the deferred converted ordinary stock, reserving £25,000 for steamboats renewal, &c., carrying forward £12,035.

London, Chatham, and Dover.—£2 5s. per cent. for the half-year on the arbitration preference stock, carrying forward £28,875.

North-Eastern.—For the half-year ended Dec. 31 on North-Eastern Consols at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £49,000.

North Staffordshire.—On the ordinary stock for the past half-year at 4½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £7,348.

Taff Vale.—At the rate of 3¾ per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock (equivalent to 9½ per cent. per annum on the old ordinary stock), placing £5,000 to reserve, carrying forward £10,156.

Waterloo and City.—On the ordinary stock at the rate of 3¾ per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £380.

BANKS.

Bank of Egypt.—10 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, also a bonus of 20s. per share, together 18 per cent. for the year, placing £40,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £14,655.

Bank of Victoria.—On the ordinary shares at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, placing £10,000 to reserve, carrying forward £6,823.

Lancaster.—Further of 14s. per share, making 28s. per share for 1905, carrying forward £9,611.

London and Hansatic.—Final of 10s. per share, making 7½ per cent. for the year, placing £1,000 to pension fund for the staff, and carrying forward £7,136.

Stamford, Spalding, and Boston.—Final of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, placing £11,000 to reserve surplus fund, and carrying forward £2,573.

BREWERIES.

Bristol United.—Final for the past year of 15s. per share upon the ordinary shares.

City of London.—1½ per cent. on the ordinary stock and shares for the six months ended Dec. 31, making 3 per cent. for the year.

Milwaukee and Chicago.—For the half-year at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, making 5½ per cent. for the year, payable Feb. 27.

Threlfall's.—Interim at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum.

MINES.

Brilliant Central Gold.—6d. per share, payable Feb. 14.
Fremantle Smelter.—Third interim for 1905-6 of 5 per cent. (or 1s. per share).

No. 2 South Great Eastern.—6d. per share, payable February 7.

Transvaal Gold.—10 per cent. (2s. per share).

Tronoh Mines.—Further of 1s. 6d. per share.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Anglo-French General Finance.—1s. per share, payable Jan. 15.

Australian Agricultural.—Interim of 35s. per share.

Bell and Nicolson.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on both preference and ordinary shares for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Bovril.—On the ordinary shares at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for the second half of the year, and 4 per cent. on the deferred shares for 1905, placing £20,000 to reserve, carrying forward £14,021.

Brentford Gas.—At the rates of 5, 12½, and 9½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £57,912.

British Dyewool and Chemical.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

British Land Co.—5 per cent. and a bonus of 1s. per share for the year ended Dec. 31.

Bryant and May.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the deferred shares for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Cerebos (1903).—At the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum for the year ended Nov. 30, carrying forward £7,922.

Consett Iron.—Interim of 7s. 6d. each on the ordinary shares.

Consett Spanish Ore.—Interim of 3s. 9d. per share.

Docker Brothers.—Further of 6½ per cent., together with a bonus of 5 per cent., making 15 per cent. for 1905.

English Sewing Cotton.—Half-yearly on the preference shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the period ended Sept. 30.

Financial Times.—Dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, making 12½ per cent. for the year.

George Ingham and Co.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31.

Harvey and Thompson.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the six months ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £3,123.

Holborn Viaduct Land.—For the six months ended Dec. 31 at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum.

Lofthouse Colliery.—Final of 2s. per share, making 6½ per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £16,172.

London and India Docks.—1½ per cent. on the deferred ordinary stock for 1905, carrying forward £2,653.

Millwall Dock.—2 per cent. on the first preference stock (Act 1866), and carrying forward, subject to audit, £10,000, to be distributed hereafter as funds permit.

Morrison and Fleet's Dairies.—Balance at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, making 8 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 30, 1905.

New Sharlston Collieries.—15s. per share on the preference shares, making 5 per cent. for 1905.

North of Ireland Paper Mill.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Pease and Partners.—Interim of 5s. per share on the ordinary shares, being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Richard Lunt and Co.—Further of 7½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 12½ per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31.

St. James and Pall Mall Electric Light.—For the half-year ended Dec. 31 of 7s. 6d. per share on the ordinary shares, making 12½ per cent. for the year.

Scottish Reversionary.—Final of 3 per cent., making 6 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £1,556.

Sleaford Water.—10 per cent. per annum and 1 per cent. in respect of deficiencies in previous years' dividends, carrying forward £1,148.

Warner and Company.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

Weardale and Consett Water.—Final at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum, making 5½ per cent. for past year.

Weldons.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Welford and Sons.—At the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, making 10 per cent. for the year.

York Waterworks.—At the maximum rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, and at the rate of 7 per cent. on the new shares 1878 and 1879.

Yorkshire Railway Wagon.—Further 2s. per share, making 10 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £7,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £504.

BARNATO CONSOLIDATED MINES, LTD. (IN LIQUIDATION).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Shareholders of the above Company may deposit their old Certificates on or after the 5th February, 1906, for exchange into new Certificates of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, Limited, or same will be forwarded by post on receipt of the old Certificates.

For the Liquidators,

T. HONEY.

10, 11, Austin Friars, London, E.C.
24th January, 1906.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

UNION OF LONDON AND SMITHS BANK.

The half-yearly general meeting of the proprietors of the Union of London and Smiths Bank, Limited, was held on January 24 at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. Felix Schuster (the governor) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. R. Hoare) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Governor said: I have now to announce that the directors have declared a dividend of 15s. 6d. per share, equal to 10 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 1s. 6d. per share, equal to about a further 1 per cent. per annum, clear of income tax, on the whole of the paid-up capital. The dividend is payable on and after to-morrow, January 25. Ladies and gentlemen, my first and most painful duty is to refer to the great loss the bank has sustained through the death of our old friend and colleague, Lord Ritchie of Dundee, or Mr. Ritchie, as most of us still prefer to call him, who was suddenly taken away early this year. Mr. Ritchie joined our board in 1886; he was elected deputy-governor of the bank in July, 1892, and governor in January, 1893, which office he held till July, 1895, when he was appointed president of the Board of Trade. He resigned the directorship of the bank during his tenure of office as Chancellor of the Exchequer, but re-joined our board on resigning that office, and in him the bank has lost a most able and valuable director and friend, whose services will long be remembered, and whose loss his friends will always most deeply deplore. Of his public career it is not for me to speak in this place; his services to the country have been acknowledged on all sides, and perhaps the crowning act of his life was when, for the sake of principle, he relinquished what many men hold most dear—high office in the State, and association with political friends of many years' standing. In reviewing the year that has just closed, the one prominent feature which overshadows all others is the termination of the war in the Far East; and this is a fact the importance of which seems hardly yet sufficiently recognised in the world of commerce. Although internal troubles have arisen in Russia—a country with whose sufferings we all must sympathise—in their external relations all the great Powers of the world are once more at peace. The anxieties prevailing during the continuance of the late war that other great Powers might become involved, are happily at an end, and if the political horizon is in some directions not quite as clear as we could wish, it is sincerely to be hoped that that cloud also may soon be lifted, that the very idea of war, too long weighing on all our minds, may vanish entirely, and the great nations of the world devote their energies to the peaceful pursuits of commerce. With us, in spite of these anxieties, it is evident that gradually the effects of the South African War are disappearing as regards our commerce, and that the long-delayed development of our industries, dislocated through that war, is now taking place. Evidence of that is afforded in our Board of Trade returns, which again show a record year. Further evidence of the improvement in the saving power of the country is afforded by the increased issues of new loans in our money market, and the enormous turnover in our clearing houses. I must mention briefly the figures, which it is as well to bear in mind in this connection.

Our imports amount to £565,000,000, showing an increase over last year of £14,000,000; our exports are £408,000,000, showing an increase of £37,000,000, or 10 per cent. over the figures of last year; and of that increase £26,000,000 consists of manufactured goods, spread over a number of our leading industries. To appreciate the enormous significance of these figures, it may be well to look back a number of years, in order to judge of the immense progress the trade of the country has made. I had occasion a little while ago in another connection—viz., an inquiry into the conditions prevailing at the time of the passing of the Bank Charter Act by Sir Robert Peel—to examine the returns for the year 1845, and I find that in that year our imports amounted to £88,000,000, and our exports to £68,000,000. Thus during that period the imports have increased a little more than six times, the exports just six times; and the question did arise in my mind that it might be a matter for serious consideration whether our banking and currency system, which that Act was intended to regulate, and especially the gold reserves, were adequate to the needs which this enormous increase of trade entailed. Last year the turnover of the London Clearing House attained the enormous figure of £12,287,000,000. The aggregate amount of new capital issued on the London Stock Exchange last year was £167,000,000 compared with £123,000,000 a year ago; and while British Government loans showed a slight, and Colonial Government loans a considerable, decrease, Foreign Government loans increased by £6,000,000, and capital raised for Indian and Colonial railways increased during the year by £11,000,000; foreign railways by £18,000,000. These figures show a very marked progress in the right direction, and it seems quite clear that instead of foreign capital being employed here, we are once more in the position of investing capital abroad to a very large extent, a fact which cannot be sufficiently appreciated, both as regards its importance to our money market and also the development of our trade. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that the reports which we have received from our most important trading centres are all of a most satisfactory, and some of a very promising, character. Lancashire, Yorkshire, and the Midlands, the iron and the engineering trades, all have shared in the general progress, and our reports from agricultural districts

are also encouraging, so that the year 1906 has opened with a very bright outlook for most of our leading industries. It cannot be wondered at that the money market should have reflected this general activity to a large extent, and other factors have contributed to cause considerable stringency in Lombard Street towards the end of the year. Indeed, the contrast between the first three months of the last half-year and the closing three months has been very marked indeed. You may remember that there was great ease in the money market six months ago, but that I then called attention to the continued adverse tendency of the foreign exchanges, and stated that excessive ease in the market here would inevitably lead to money being withdrawn. This is precisely what has taken place, and, especially towards the end of the year, the French exchange fell to such a point that our gold reserves, already small, were threatened to a dangerous degree, and the Bank of England had somewhat suddenly to adopt very stringent measures in order to protect these reserves, and to avoid, if possible, a rise to much higher rates, which might have been considered necessary in order to prevent these reserves being further depleted. Our imports of gold for the year amounted to £38,500,000, our exports of gold to £30,800,000, so that we retained on balance an amount of £7,700,000. Of the exports no less than £12,500,000 was sent to France, and swelled the already large accumulations of the precious metal in the Bank of France, whereas our own stock of gold in the Bank of England at the end of the year could hardly be described as adequate in proportion to the sudden demands which might at any time be made upon it.

When I had the honour of addressing you for the first time ten years ago, I ventured to allude to this question. At that time the stock of gold in the Bank of England reached a total of £45,000,000, and I expressed a hope that a new basis had been established and would be maintained, and that the Bank of England reserves would never be allowed to drop down again to those slender proportions which had been considered sufficient in former years. At that time the stock of gold in Paris amounted to £78,000,000, that at Berlin, including silver, to £44,000,000. At the end of last year we find the amount of gold in the Bank of England reduced to £28,500,000, showing a decrease as compared with ten years ago of £17,000,000; while the Bank of France holds now £115,000,000, an increase during that period of £37,000,000. In the United States the Treasury holds something like £150,000,000 in gold. The German figures show a decrease of £4,000,000 during the decade, but still a stock of bullion larger than our own by about £12,000,000. In face of these figures it is more evident than ever that the question of our gold reserves should now be seriously taken in hand. It is true that difficult times have intervened, and during the period of war, such as we and other countries have been passing through, reforms like these cannot be undertaken. It might also be urged that the fact that we have passed through this war with comparatively little monetary disturbance shows that no improvement is necessary; but this is not an argument that can be admitted for a moment. Had this country become involved in war with one of the Continental Powers, and this contingency was not so remote, the risk to our gold reserves would have been very grave indeed. Now that dangers of war are, it is to be hoped, becoming more and more remote, and when in consequence the contests in the domain of commerce of the great industrial nations are bound to become more and more acute, it behoves us to do all we can to settle this question, which is admittedly grave, and to determine once for all on whom the responsibility must fall to see that adequate gold reserves are kept. Until this is done, we shall not be safe from these violent and sudden fluctuations which so unnecessarily disturb our money market, to the detriment, not only of those engaged in the market, but of the commerce of the country generally. Banking profits during the half-year were regulated by the conditions to which I have alluded. During the first three months they were distinctly disappointing, and rates were extremely low—lower than they had been for the corresponding period for something like seven years; but during the closing three months better opportunities for the employment of money prevailed; and our own profits, as well as our figures, show that during this period our own business has progressed most satisfactorily.

You have no doubt studied our balance-sheet. The figures are, I believe, the largest we have ever published. In almost every item of our balance-sheet you see continued progress, and that progress is not due, in our opinion, to any special cause, to any particular account or two that show large accumulations, but I think I am right in stating, to the general growth of the business all round. Of course, at the end of the half-year causes often prevail that swell balances in one connection, so that one has to look at the general growth of the business gradually, and not at the figures of one particular day. You will notice that the deposits and current accounts amount to £36,600,000, which show over the figures of a year ago an increase of £2,270,000. The acceptances come up to £4,000,000, which is a larger amount than we have shown for quite a number of years, and we are glad to see this item grow; it all represents good and genuine business, and I need hardly say that all our acceptances are covered not only by the responsibility of our customers for whom we accept, but also by the deposit of excellent collateral security. Our rebate on bills, which is the next item, amounts to £31,800, showing an increase of £8,000 over the figures of a year ago. Cash in hand, £6,600,000, shows a slight decrease of £320,000, but I think you will admit that the item is large enough. Money at call shows an increase of £1,200,000; investments have grown

by £550,000; the bills discounted are larger by £800,000; loans and advances by £97,000; and bank premises also show an increase of £41,000. Coming to the profit and loss account, the interest allowed to customers has increased by £41,000; salaries, &c.—this is the one item of expense which we do not like to see increase, but which in the nature of things is bound to increase—show an increase for the year of £13,000, but that increase is more apparent than real, because we have thought it well to provide in the last year for certain charges which are incidental to the year which has just ended. We have found that the charges account in the first half of the year was always burdened with certain charges which ought to have been evenly distributed over the two half-years, and to some extent the increase in them is accounted for by the provision we have made. Well, the item which I think we all look to with the greatest amount of interest is the net profits, and these amount to £228,000, an increase over the corresponding half-year of £14,600. The dividend and bonus are the same. Of course, it is quite evident from the figures we have shown that it would have been quite legitimate for us to declare a somewhat higher dividend, but we believe that we are acting in the best interests of all the shareholders by not distributing up to the hilt, especially in these times, by keeping something in hand, and we hope to keep the dividend steady as far as it is in the power of your board to do so. That will be our object, but it is well not to divide every penny you earn.

We have during the half-year added to our carry-forward something like £40,000, and I think it is a satisfactory position for the bank to be in that our carry-forward now amounts to £120,000, more than half the dividend, and I hope that our policy will be continued in that direction—to accumulate the reserves of the bank gradually, and as our profits allow. During the half-year just concluded we have opened a branch in Cambridge in temporary offices, pending the building of permanent offices just outside the gate of Trinity College—a branch which, in course of time, we trust will contribute to the maintenance of our general business. In London we have opened a new branch in Goswell Road, which promises well; and I may here mention that our Lombard Street office (Messrs. Smith, Payne and Smiths' Bank) is about to be rebuilt, but that we shall retain the office there permanently and on its present site, and that during the rebuilding we have provided for temporary arrangements on the spot, so that no move is necessary, and the business can be carried on as usual without any disturbance to our customers. All our branches, I am glad to say, have been doing well, and their progress has been continuous in town as well as in country; so that not only are we holding our own, but we are constantly adding to the number of our influential and important connections. The prospect for the coming year should be promising, always supposing that political complications do not arise. With a hopeful outlook for our trade generally, monetary conditions should be such as to afford ample employment for our funds, even though rates should recede. As before, a keen eye must be kept on the financial policy of the Japanese Government, who have funds of very great magnitude employed in this market. It does not appear probable that these funds will be rapidly withdrawn, and if, as seems likely, they are eventually employed in the purchase of goods on this side, the Money Market would not be so much affected by their withdrawal; but the existence of this Japanese money in our market must not be overlooked, nor the possibility of further Japanese borrowings either for Government or industrial purposes. Again, the French accumulations of gold, brought about, it appears, as a precautionary measure, must ultimately lead to such ease in that market as to exercise considerable influence over here; but the monetary and political situation in Russia must, of course, have a predominating influence on the Continental Money Markets, which are in much closer touch with Russian finance than we are. Various currents thus affect the markets, some moving towards greater ease, others moving in an opposite direction. The issues of loans at home, especially of Irish land stock, also appear only too probable.

In the United States the extremely rapid development of the country, with its large growth of population and unsurpassed industrial development, coupled with a considerable speculative movement on the Stock Exchanges of that enterprising country, have also affected the monetary situation, and at times very serious stringency has arisen in their Money Market. In that country also banking and currency reforms are being discussed with a view to giving greater expansion and elasticity to the circulating medium, and the effect of such reforms, if carried out, in the United States, must make themselves felt also here. In the meantime, it is undeniable that the New York Market, far from having, as was the case only a few years ago, funds lent out or placed in Europe, is now indebted to Europe, and especially to London, for a considerable amount. The flow of capital has been distinctly in that direction, and, as I have pointed out before, the amount of British capital invested abroad appears to me to be considerably on the increase. Taking a general view of these complex conditions, it would appear that, although probably for the next few months great ease is not to be expected, on the whole many causes may contribute towards easier rates, more pronounced probably towards the close of the half-year, as is usual at that period. For bankers the outlook can certainly not be described as unsatisfactory, although, with ever-increasing competition, and with expenses which it is difficult to keep down, dividends are, perhaps, not quite so easily earned as some shareholders and customers often seem to imagine. I can only assure you that your whole board is determined to carry on our busi-

ness to the satisfaction of both, and that we will do our utmost to maintain and improve the position we are proud to hold amongst the banking institutions of the United Kingdom. I now beg to move that the report be adopted.

Mr. John Trotter (Deputy-Governor) seconded the resolution.

Mr. Alfred Laurie said he was sure he was voicing the opinion of the whole of the proprietors of the bank when he said they fully endorsed every word the Governor had said with regard to the Right Hon. Lord Ritchie of Dundee, who had been so long identified with the bank. He also congratulated the directors on the excellent report which they had submitted.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Governor moved the re-election of Mr. Henry J. B. Kendall, Mr. Lindsay E. Smith, Mr. Francis Abel Smith, and Mr. Gerald Douglas Smith, the retiring directors.

Mr. Trotter seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

On the motion of Dr. Drysdale, Mr. F. Whitney, Mr. W. B. Peat, and Mr. C. W. M. Kemp were reappointed auditors.

Mr. Millar Wilkinson proposed: "That the best thanks of the meeting be given to the Governor, the Deputy-Governor, and the directors for the able manner in which they had directed the affairs of the bank during the half-year."

This was seconded by Dr. Drysdale, and adopted unanimously.

The Governor briefly acknowledged the compliment, and moved a vote of thanks to the general manager, the managers at the head office and the branches, the secretary, and the staff of the bank generally for the efficient discharge of their several duties during the past half-year. He remarked that the work was constantly increasing, and competition was giving and all these gentlemen had given their best services to the bank.

The motion was cordially adopted, and a vote of thanks having been passed to Mr. Schuster for presiding, the proceedings terminated.

EASTERN TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.

The sixty-seventh half-yearly ordinary general meeting of this company was held on Wednesday at Electra House, Finsbury Pavement, London, under the presidency of Sir John Wolfe Barry, K.C.B.

The secretary (Mr. A. R. Hardie) read the notice calling the meeting and the report of the auditors. The report of the directors was taken as read.

The Chairman then said: I think I may congratulate the shareholders on meeting them in this hall instead of going to the other side of the square. (Hear, hear.) We find it very convenient to set apart one of these rooms for this purpose, and I think our meeting here will be convenient not only to the board of directors, but also to the shareholders, as the more they are brought into touch with those who administer their affairs the better. Before entering upon the formal business of this meeting we desire to express our great regret at the death, on November 30 last of our valued colleague, Sir Henry Fischer. He had been associated with us for a comparatively short time, having been appointed to a seat at the board in 1898; but his connection with telegraphy, as a public servant, extended over a great number of years previous to that date. He was a capable and conscientious director, and well acquainted with the business of submarine telegraphy. In order to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Sir Henry Fischer, the board have nominated the Right Hon. W. J. Pirrie to a seat on the board, and I have reason to believe that he will not only desire to occupy this position, but that he will also be able to give us very valuable assistance as a director. The matter is not absolutely completed, because he has to go through certain formalities, but I wished to make the earliest announcement I could to the shareholders when they were assembled. The accounts which are now submitted to you show no variation of an abnormal nature, either as regards income or expenditure, when compared with those for the corresponding period of 1904, but as there is an increase of about £17,000 in the balance available, after providing for all expenses and fixed charges, I think the result of the working for the half-year under review will be considered satisfactory. Before, however, finally moving the adoption of the report and accounts, I will, in accordance with the usual custom, offer a few remarks on the various items of receipts and expenditure. The gross revenue amounted, in round figures, to £607,700, as compared with, for the half-year to September, 1904, £589,400, or an increase of £18,300. This increase mainly arises from traffic with Egypt, Turkey, Greece, Spain, Portugal, and the Red Sea ports. With regard to the Egyptian traffic, however, it must be borne in mind that, in accordance with the arrangements referred to in our last report, a considerable reduction in the tariff became operative from August 1 last. There are, therefore, only two out of the six months' accounts which are affected by this reduced rate, and it will have a larger effect, perhaps, in the following year. Although there has been an increase in the number of words carried to and from Egypt since August 1, when the rate was reduced about 30 per cent., there has been, as we anticipated, a diminution of receipts from that date. We hope, however, that this loss will gradually disappear as the business of that resourceful country expands under its present beneficial management and control; but we by no means always find that a diminution of tariff produces a development of traffic which recoups us for the reduction, and of this I shall give a little later a notable instance among other cases of which we have had a rather sad experience. Several other branches of traffic show

an improvement while others have produced less revenue, the most important falling off taking place in the receipts from traffic with India, Aden and South Africa. With regard to the decrease in the receipts from Indian traffic, this is partly caused by the reduction in the tariff from 2s. 6d. to 2s. per word, which came into force on August 1 last, in accordance with our agreement with the Secretary of State for India, under which a standard revenue was guaranteed. It is noteworthy that, notwithstanding this reduced rate, the actual number of words transmitted also shows a decrease. As I explained at the last meeting, the Indian Government also contributes towards any loss in the event of the receipts not reaching the stipulated standard figure. Although, as I have previously stated, a reduction of rates frequently does not of itself bring a corresponding increase in the volume of traffic, our policy has been to reduce rates whenever circumstances justify this action. We fully recognise that, as servants of the public, it is our duty not only to provide a quick, trustworthy and efficient service, but also a service as cheap as possible, with due regard to the stability of the company. Whilst fulfilling our duty to the public, I think the satisfactory accounts presented to-day bear witness that the interests of the proprietors have at the same time been safeguarded. All reductions in rates, therefore, more especially in the future, can only be effected after the most careful consideration of the interests of all concerned. We fully anticipated that the reduction in the Indian rate would result in a loss of revenue for some time to come, but we hardly expected that there would be an actual falling off in the number of words transmitted, but such has been the case, and similar results were observable when other reductions have been made, very notably in Australia. These facts point to the conclusion that the principal factor in stimulating the growth of telegraphic traffic, apart from financial reasons affecting the trade of various countries, is efficiency, both in speed and accuracy, and to this end we are constantly striving. These are the benefits which are the most highly appreciated by merchants and others interested in the expansion of international commerce. Coding has now been carried to such a state of perfection that the cost per word to the merchant is only a fraction of our published rate, and the merchants, as a matter of fact, obtain their telegrams extremely cheaply. To put the general public on the same advantageous basis we instituted the "Via Eastern" Social Code, which is slowly making its way. We look forward to being recouped for the present loss of revenue resulting from the reduction of the Indian tariff, by the gradual development of trade and the increasing prosperity of the Indian Empire, but the recoupment will not, I think, be in leaps and bounds. The decrease in the traffic between Aden and Great Britain is caused partly by the reduction of tariffs, but principally through the cessation of military operations in Somaliland.

Turning now to the other side of the account, it will be seen that the total expenses for the half-year, exclusive of income-tax payable in England, and interest on loan and debentures, amounted to £231,200, as against, for the corresponding period of 1904, £220,100, or an increase of £11,100. The expenses in London are £935 less, while the working expenses at stations are £3,300 more than in the corresponding half-year. The items of expenditure must necessarily vary each half-year, some showing increases and some decreases. The principal increases on this occasion are in salaries and wages, expenses of land lines, and our contribution to other companies for joint station expenses. The expenses attending maintenance of cables show an increase of £6,500. Two of our ships have received special overhaul this half-year, which, of course, very materially added to the expenses under this head, but as the charge for this special overhaul included the cost of, and expenses incidental to, new boilers, we have allocated £10,000 from the maintenance ships fund, as a contribution to this exceptional expenditure. Income-tax payable abroad has increased to the extent of about £900, which is principally due to this company's liability under an act recently introduced into Cape Colony, and to which I referred at the last meeting of the shareholders. During the half-year we have been able to repay the balance of the loan we received from the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company, the charge for interest appearing in these accounts being £1,500, against, for the corresponding period, £9,200, or a reduction of £7,700. Income-tax payable in England also shows a reduction to the extent of £3,200, while interest on 4 per cent. mortgage debenture stock has increased to the extent of about £1,100. These are the details of the principal increases and decreases in the expenditure, but if the whole of the expenses and other charges against revenue are summarised, it will be found that the net increase is only £1,400, whereas, as I have already stated, the gross revenue is about £18,300 more than in the corresponding period of 1904, and thus the increase of net revenue is about £17,000.

You may have noticed an item which appears this half-year for the first time in the revenue account. I allude to a charge of £1,205 for supplementary retiring allowances. When the staff pension fund scheme was submitted to the shareholders some 14 years ago it was agreed that in the case of some of the older members of the staff the pension which would accrue to them on their retiring from the company's service, and which would, of course, depend upon the annual amount set aside by the company, and to a certain extent upon the amount contributed by the staff from their salaries, would be inadequate to provide a suitable allowance in all cases. It has, therefore, been found necessary from time to time to supplement, in special and deserving cases, the amount of retiring allowances due to these older members of the staff from the established funds, and I feel sure

that the proprietors will approve of this being done. The amounts have been distributed over the various departments and sections to which the individuals were attached. As, however, these supplementary amounts have now reached a considerable sum, it has been thought expedient to show them as a separate item in the revenue account. This charge may for some time to come be increased as it unfortunately becomes necessary for some of our old employees to retire from the service of the company, but as time goes on it is anticipated that the pension fund will in itself provide a sufficient allowance, so that the supplemental charge to which I have referred, though growing for a time, will afterwards be gradually reduced and eventually disappear. In continuance of the operations which have been fully explained at previous meetings, we have charged against the general reserve fund £140,000 in respect of the cables laid between 1899 and 1903, and the balance of this account, as will be seen by reference to the balance-sheet, now stands at £115,000, which will be entirely written off during the current half-year.

There is only one little matter I now want to allude to—that is, to inform you that the board have made a contribution of £105 to the Indian Earthquake Fund, in response to a very urgent appeal of the Viceroy, to alleviate the suffering caused by the sad catastrophe which overwhelmed Dharmasala in April last. The Associated Companies have also contributed the sum of £250 to the Queen's Fund for the Unemployed. We feel assured that these payments will meet with the approval of the stockholders. (Hear, hear.) It is now my privilege to move:—

"That the report and accounts of the directors in September 30, 1905, submitted to this meeting, be, and the same are hereby received and adopted." When that has been seconded we shall be able to deal to the best of our ability with any questions which any stockholder may desire to address to us.

The vice-chairman and managing director (Sir John Denison-Pender, K.C.M.G.) briefly expressed his pleasure at seconding the motion.

No shareholder rising to address the meeting.

The Chairman put the resolution in the usual manner, and declared it carried unanimously.

On the motion of the vice-chairman and managing director, seconded by the Marquess of Tweeddale, K.T., Sir John Wolffe Barry and Mr. Francis Alexander Johnston, the retiring directors, were re-elected.

Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths, and Co., and Messrs. Welton, Jones, and Co., were afterwards elected auditors for the ensuing year, on the motion of Mr. Adlard, seconded by Mr. Baines.

Mr. Baines then proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors for their highly successful administration of the company's affairs in the past half-year.

Mr. John Newton, in seconding the motion, expressed great satisfaction that the meeting was being held at Electra House instead of at another place. The shareholders, he continued, could not be too thankful at the knowledge that the wise administration of the company's affairs for so many years by the directors was gradually putting their telegraph undertakings on as solid a basis as the railways. This point was not yet reached, but the time was fast approaching when it would be so.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: On behalf of the board and myself, and I think I may also say of the staff, we thank you very sincerely for this vote of thanks. I very much agree with what Mr. Newton has said as to the stability of the telegraph companies owing to the wise policy—I will not say of the board so much as of the shareholders, who supported the board in putting away a sufficient sum to provide for eventualities when they occurred. The stability of telegraph companies is, I think, in a very satisfactory condition. (Cheers.)

The proceedings then terminated.

LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK.

The ordinary general meeting of the London City and Midland Bank, Limited, was held yesterday at Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C., Mr. Arthur Keen, the chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. Edward J. Morris, having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said the directors had pleasure in meeting the shareholders to present a report and balance-sheet which he thought was satisfactory. At the beginning of the year the international money markets were fairly satisfactory in spite of the war in the East, the exchanges being generally in favour of this country. The only adverse feature was the uncertainty as to the date of the issue of a Russian loan, negotiations for which had been almost completed at the close of the preceding year, but the events of the war made the transaction impossible. The money held on the Continent, however, with a view to the issue as soon as a favourable opportunity should occur, contributed largely to the easy condition of the short money market. On the declaration of peace, the issue of the contemplated loan was further postponed on account of the disturbances in Russia, which reacted on the European bourses, especially as regarded Russian securities, and caused continental bankers no little anxiety. This country being only slightly interested in such securities, was directly affected only in a small degree, but the weakness of the bourses caused continental holders to sell Consols and other securities on the English market. This operation, combined with the withdrawals of French money from London, especially

during the last few months, seriously threatened our gold reserves, and adequate measures had to be taken to prevent their further reduction. In the United States the abundance of the corn crop formed one of the prominent features of its unprecedented prosperity. On the Continent the immediate outlook is not favourable to cheap money. If affairs in Russia should be restored to their normal conditions a loan would doubtless be taken up in France, Germany, and Holland, and that would tend to the withdrawal of gold from this market. But until the internal condition of Russia improves the continental markets will probably keep their present supply of gold, and may make further drafts on our own reserves whenever an opportunity occurs. There is therefore no likelihood of a return to the stagnant state of the market from which this company suffered during the middle of last year. The condition of the money market during the last half-year was somewhat more favourable to bankers, the Bank rate having averaged £3 6s. 6d. against £3 for the half-year ending December, 1904. The rate for call money had been £1 16s. 6d. as against £1 10s. for the corresponding period. On the other hand, the severe competition from which bankers still suffered from corporations and the high rates paid by them for money particularly in the provinces militated against the favourable results which might have resulted from the enhanced value of money. As regarded the trade of the country, he pointed out that the industries of Lancashire had felt the benefit of the revival of trade in a marked degree, as was shown by larger turnovers in their banking account. For ten years there had never been greater prosperity in the cotton industry, but a disturbing factor was the amount of the present crop of cotton, which has been considerably reduced. The prominent feature in the wool industry was the advance in the price of colonial and foreign wool, and in the boot and shoe trade reports were unanimous as to the improved condition of the market. The hosiery trade in the Midlands was better than for several years past. In Birmingham, Sheffield, and Middlesbrough, where the bank was interested in the prosperity of the iron and steel works, there was considerable activity. The cycle companies had had an exceptionally good year, and were likely to be busy for some months. Among jewellers and silversmiths the makers of the cheaper goods had done the most business. The company had acquired the business and goodwill of the Nottingham Joint Stock Bank. Dealing with the balance-sheet, he said the deposits amounted to £50,259,087 as compared with £47,672,355 at the end of 1904. Acceptances amounted to £4,115,867, showing a substantial increase. The foreign connection of the Bank had been considerably developed, enabling them to give greater facilities than formerly. On the other side, cash in hand and at the Bank of England was £8,795,944, the money at call and short notice, £7,291,650, showing a total of £16,087,595, being 32 per cent. of the deposits, and with investments of £7,392,591, about 47 per cent. In addition, they had bills of exchange £4,713,332. These made up a total of liquid assets representing 56 per cent. of their liabilities to depositors. The loans and advances amounted to £27,402,317, including the business taken over from Nottingham. The improvement in trade had caused some increase in the amount of the advances, but the business was of a very satisfactory character. In the Bank premises account the increase in the figures was almost entirely represented by the cost of the premises taken over at Nottingham. The profits for the half-year ending June, 1905, were £294,569, and for the last half-year £317,571, making with the balance £109,717, a total of £721,857. Out of this they paid for the first half-year an interim dividend of 18 per cent., amounting to £270,000. For the last half-year they recommended a dividend at the same rate on the increased capital, which would absorb £282,856. After transferring sums to the Bank premises account and officers' pension fund, there was a balance to be carried forward of £119,001. In conclusion, he congratulated them on the satisfactory position of the Bank, and assured shareholders that the policy of maintaining the strength and safety of the institution would be continued. (Applause.)

Mr. W. G. Bradshaw, the deputy chairman, seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

After the usual formal business, it was decided, in recognition of the chairman's 25 years' devotion to the business of the Bank, that a portrait in oils should be painted and hung in the Board room, and that a replica should be given to the chairman.

FREEMAN, HARDY AND WILLIS.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of Freeman, Hardy and Willis, Limited, boot and shoe factors, was held at the Assembly Rooms, Leicester, on Monday, January 22. Alderman E. Wood (chairman) presided, and there was a large attendance, among those present being Messrs. R. V. Barrow, H. S. Bennett, J. E. Faire, H. Simpson Gee, R. Hyslop, J. North, E. Swash, J. B. Weston, Alderman Vincent and Alderman Windley. Mr. Wilshire (secretary) read the auditors' certificate, showing that all the requirements of the auditors had been complied with, and that the balance-sheet exhibited a full and correct view of the company's affairs.

The report and balance-sheet (which have already been published) having been taken as read,

The Chairman moved that they be adopted. He pointed out that the result of the trading during the year 1905 left a nett profit of £52,446 18s. 1d., or £1,800 less than the previous year. A word or two of explanation was due to the shareholders with

regard to this balance of profit. He might say at once that the directors and management were extremely glad it was as large as stated. The year 1905 was a very difficult one in many respects. In the first part of the year trade was exceedingly slow, as a consequence partly of the dry season, which enabled people to wear their old boots a great deal longer than they would in more inclement weather. Then, in addition, they had to contend with serious advances both in the price of leather and boots and shoes, which naturally made it much more difficult to maintain the average profits. Another factor, which people outside the trade would probably scarcely understand, was that in dry seasons the grade of boots sold was generally of a lower character than in rougher weather, when stronger and stouter boots were required. With the lower grade of goods sold there was a smaller percentage of profit obtained. He was glad to say their sales had kept up; in fact, if they were to go by the number of pairs, there was a large increase in the turnover. The working expenses of a business like theirs did not get any less. They found, where they had had premises for a number of years, and the lease expired, the rent was not reduced, but more generally increased; and that occurred in cases where the trade had not increased. Then they knew that municipal rates had shown a strong tendency for some time to increase, and they formed a very important factor in the working of a business like theirs, with some 400 branches in all parts of the country. (Hear, hear.) On the whole, he thought, they had every reason, considering the circumstances he had related, to congratulate themselves. (Hear, hear.) A business which could show a result like this was certainly one that no serious complaint could be made against. Coming to the question of how they proposed to deal with this £52,446 profit, he reminded them that a dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum had already been paid for the half-year ended July 1 last on the ordinary shares, less income-tax; and the directors recommended that the same dividend be paid for the past half-year. Income-tax amounting to £3,058 had to be paid, and the usual remuneration to the directors and bonuses to the staff, which amounted to £3,241, in accordance with their articles of association. Then the directors recommended that £10,000 should be placed to the reserve fund, or £5,000 more than last year. They felt very strongly on this point—that a business like that, spread all over the country, and with a large capital, ought to have a very strong reserve fund. At the present time their reserve fund stood at £55,000, and this would bring it up to £65,000. Some few years ago they were able to bring it up to £100,000, but they returned to the ordinary shareholders £75,000, half the amount of their shares. He hoped that in the course of another three years they would have the pleasure of seeing the reserve fund at £100,000, and that they would maintain it at that sum. (Hear, hear.) They also recommended a grant of £500 to the local charities, leaving the sum of £8,563 to be carried forward to next year. With regard to the balance-sheet there were only one or two figures he need refer to. Their liabilities were of the usual character. Their assets in buildings, after depreciation, amounted to £226,845 7s. 6d. They took off 1½ per cent. for depreciation, although a great many of the shops were now worth much more than they gave for them. Those freeholds, therefore, made excellent security for their debenture holders, the amount of their debentures being £175,000. Shop leases and fittings, &c., amounted, after depreciation of 10 per cent., to £75,182 13s. 8d., and some of those leases, he might say, were of a very valuable character, the shops having excellent businesses attached to them. They had a larger stock this year than last—namely, £44,000—and he was very glad they had it, for they could not replace it to-day at anything like the price. They saw how things were going, and made up their minds to strengthen themselves as much as they possibly could. The stock had been pretty carefully taken; they had no bad stock, either at the shop, the factory, or the warehouse, and he could safely say they had a splendid asset in that £44,000. He had great pleasure in moving the adoption of the report, and would be glad to answer any questions upon it. (Applause.)

Mr. H. Simpson Gee, in seconding, said that, considering the exceptionally difficult time through which they had been passing, they had every reason to congratulate themselves that those responsible for the management of the company had been able to overcome those obstacles to the extent of maintaining their dividend of 12½ per cent. and placing £10,000 to reserve fund. (Hear, hear.)

The report was adopted.

On the motion of Mr. R. V. Barrow, seconded by Mr. Lane, it was resolved that a dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent. for the six months ended December 31 last be declared, making, with the distribution of the same rate in July last, 12½ per cent. for the year, both less income-tax.

It was further resolved, on the motion of Mr. R. Hyslop, seconded by Mr. Lawford, that the sum of £10,000 be added to the reserve fund, raising it to £65,000; also that £500 be voted to the local charities.

The retiring directors were afterwards re-elected, also the retiring auditors, and the meeting closed with the usual votes of thanks to the directors and staff.

OMNIUM INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED

The 19th annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Omnium Investment Company, Limited, was held on Wednesday, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. F. H. Simmonds presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. J. E. Gunion) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: In moving the adoption of the report, I will first draw your attention to the tabulated statement of revenue for the past 12 years, by which you will see that our earnings for the past year exceed those of the previous year by about £1,000, and are £2,000 better than those of 1903. This increase enables your directors to place £3,000 to the depreciation fund, to declare a dividend of 2 per cent. upon the deferred stock—the same as last year—and to carry forward about £3,500 to the new account, which is about the same amount as was brought into the accounts on January 1, 1905. The £3,000 placed to depreciation represents the surplus revenue earned during the past year, and is equal to a little over 1¼ per cent. upon the deferred stock, and brings our actual earnings for the past year up to a trifle over 3¼ per cent. on the deferred stock. With regard to the position of your capital I should like to say a few words. In the reports of certain life assurance companies which have recently appeared I have noticed that considerable provisions have had to be made for depreciation in the value of their investments. Curiously enough, the experience of trust companies has been exactly the reverse, and I do not suppose that there is a trust company in London whose securities are not worth more to-day than they were a year ago, while, if a comparison were made with the values of five years ago, it would be found that the increase was, in many cases, truly phenomenal. The explanation of the fall in one case and the rise in the other is this, that trust companies are not able to afford the luxury of so-called gilt-edged investments, from which experience has shown that some of the gilt can very easily be rubbed off. Of course, it has been a year in which it has been very easy to make profits on sales, and we have availed ourselves fairly liberally of the opportunity. We have taken advantage of it to write down the book value of a good number of old investments which have appeared in our list for many years—including several of our holdings in American Water bonds, &c. This will give us a better opportunity of disposing of some of them without being compelled to provide for a very heavy loss in any one year. This increase of capital value is, in a large measure, due to the improvement in South American railways. Partly this is due to the improved conditions of the railways themselves and partly to the increased estimation in which they are held by investors. As the countries which these railways serve are for the most part new countries, we may look for still further developments, and I have no doubt but what in most cases they will prove of lasting benefit to those countries and a permanent source of profit to ourselves. It will probably interest the shareholders to know exactly what is the position of the trust at the present moment, and accordingly our directors have had a valuation made of the investments held by the company on December 31 last at the prices current at that date. The result shows that if we treat the preference stock as being preferential as to capital—which, as a matter of fact, it is not—we find that the balance remaining over is equal to 70 per cent. of the par value of the deferred stock. This shows a depreciation of 30 per cent., and, although it is a considerable amount, yet so satisfactory has been the progress in recent times that the directors are more hopeful than ever they have been in the past, and that in course of time this adverse balance will be wiped out. I shall be very sorry to say whether the current year will prove to be better or worse than last year in this respect, but I can say with confidence that I believe that the steady improvement which has been in progress for some years is going to continue, and that we are approaching the time when we may look forward to an increased dividend. I now beg to move: "That the directors' report and statement of accounts be received and adopted, and that the dividends as proposed therein be declared and paid."

Mr. A. D. MacLaren seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, without discussion.

The retiring directors and auditors were then re-elected, and the meeting closed with the usual compliments to the chairman.

MURCHISON ASSOCIATED GOLD MINES, LIMITED.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders in the Murchison Associated Gold Mines, Limited, was held, on the 16th instant, at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, Mr. B. Wentworth Vernon (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. Fenton Pugh) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman, in the course of his speech, said: After many years of perseverance and toil, we have arrived at what is undoubtedly a most promising, hopeful, and interesting period in the history of our mine. Following the example of our rich and prosperous neighbour, the Great Fingall, whose lode, we have not the slightest doubt, passes through the entire length of our property, as there can be no doubt whatever that our reef is a continuation of theirs, we have for the time being abandoned our work at the upper levels, and struck down, sinking a shaft 87 ft. in depth, and at that depth we have picked up the lode again, and are now engaged in vigorously opening it up in a southerly direction. Before continuing my remarks, I should like to read you an extract from a letter which we received at the office on Saturday last from Mr. Thomas, our mine manager. It is dated Coolgardie, December 15, and in it he says:—

"It is clear to my mind that we have now passed through the lode, and to-morrow I am telegraphing Mr. Tyler to start driving on the wall of the lode both north and south. I would have been very pleased if I had been able to cable that we had struck

good values in the cross-cut, but personally I did not anticipate getting values until we drive on the course of the lode."

I should like to make a few remarks on the last passage of Mr. Thomas's letter. I can assure you that neither myself nor any of the directors or shareholders who have taken the pains to make themselves acquainted with what I may call the geography of the mine had any anticipation of finding gold at the point of intersection. Of course, it was possible that we might have found gold there, and it would have been very gratifying if we had found it, but it was so extremely improbable that none of us anticipated such a thing. In order to make the reason for this perfectly clear, allow me to remind you of what took place in the upper levels. You will remember that on the first level a considerable amount of gold was extracted close to the shaft by the company which preceded this one; on the second level we found further good ore some distance from the shaft; on the third level, where we got the excellent crushing, we found the pay ore at a still greater distance from the shaft. This very clearly indicated that the rich chute which contains the payable ore was taking its course downwards from the surface, not close to the shaft and not parallel to the shaft, but in a direction which would take it further from the shaft at every level; consequently, it was quite clear that by the time it reached the 800 ft. level it would be a considerable distance from the shaft, and we should have to drive a very considerable distance to find it. That is the reason why we were not astonished at not finding gold at the point of intersection. With regard to the question of finance, I think I had better read another extract from Mr. Thomas's letter, which bears upon that subject:—

"Now that the directors have sanctioned working in the deep ground, I hope they will consent to the pushing on of the work driving north and south at the 800 ft. level with the utmost speed. I would like to see the money secured to enable us to drive 500 ft. in each direction, and to cross-cut the lode at every 50 ft. This would then absolutely prove our mine one way or the other in the quickest time."

Well, you will be glad to hear that that money is practically secured. There is so much confidence in our mine that we never have any difficulty in getting money, and I think we ought to be very proud of that fact. We must have more money now to proceed with the development of the mine, and we have, therefore, decided to issue to you the remaining 50,000 shares. The moment it became known that this issue was to be made, one of our principal shareholders very pluckily came forward and offered to guarantee the success of it, so that you see it is absolutely secured. The directors now offer the 50,000 reserve shares at par to the members of the company appearing on the register on the 31st ult., upon the footing that 6d. per share shall be paid to the company on application, 6d. per share on allotment, and the balance as and when required. Every subscriber will be entitled under the terms of this issue to call at par any time up to June 30, 1906, for an equal number of shares as are allotted to him. In conclusion, the Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. R. E. Tyler seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

Some formal business having been transacted, a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors terminated the proceedings.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, JANUARY 29.

London Produce Clearing House.—Commercial Sale Rooms, noon.

New Exploring and Finance.—Winchester House, noon.

Palmarajo and Mexican Gold Fields.—Cannon Street Hotel.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30.

Atlas Assurance.—92, Cheapside, 2.30 p.m.

Direct United States Cable.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

Daira Sanieh Sugar Corporation.—Winchester House, noon.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.

Great Eastern Railway.—Great Eastern Railway Hotel, noon.

Horace Cory.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.

Lancaster Banking.—Lancaster, 11 a.m.

Louise.—Winchester House, noon.

Stock Conversion and Investment Trust.—Cannon Street Hotel, 1.45 p.m.

South-Eastern Railway.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Sea Insurance.—Liverpool, 2 p.m.

Western Mortgage and Investment.—27, Cornhill, noon.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31.

Klondyke Bonanza.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

London Trading Bank.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.

London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway.—London Bridge Term., noon.

Maritime Insurance.—Liverpool, 11 a.m.

Rosario Nitrate.—Winchester House, noon.

Van Ryn Gold Mines Estate.—Winchester House, noon.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1.

Buluwayo and General Exploration.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.

British Investment Trust.—Edinburgh, 2.30 p.m.

London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway.—41, Trinity Square, noon.

London and County Bank.—Cannon Street Hotel, 1 p.m.

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The Investors' Review.

The Position of the Bank of England in Relation to other Joint-Stock Banks.

In the aggregate these joint-stock banks are far more powerful as credit wielders than the Government Bank. Individually several of them command greater resources than it habitually possesses but, by virtue of being the Government Bank and of controlling the legal tender note circulation, it possesses the power to create credit to an extent and after a fashion none of the other banks can imitate or follow. Moreover, it holds the metallic reserve not only for England, but for the whole United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Thanks, however, to the enormous power possessed by the other joint-stock banks, credit habitually tends to be distended far beyond the limit prudent regard to the cash reserves would impose, and every now and again the Bank of England is compelled to go into the open market and, by pawning its Government stock, drain off part of the surplus banking credit floating there and depressing loan and discount rates. Quite recently a new method of sucking up this inconvenient overplus was adopted. Various joint-stock banks were approached privately—those of them, at least, who by the balances they had in the hands of the Bank of England were known by it to possess surplus means—and the Bank arranged to borrow the amount it deemed necessary to tighten up market rates. Twice recently this system has been applied in a way that caused a more or less violent wrench to the open market. Money rates, which had been down to 3 per cent. and below it, were immediately forced up to 4. and 5. per cent.; the Bank itself doing a large discount business at 4 per cent. and occasionally a heavy loan business at 5 per cent. Naturally, a process of this kind, clumsy always, may, unless used with the utmost circumspection, produce affliction and generate fatal weakness at some point in the credit structure. The joint-stock banks have felt the inconvenience, and the discount market has been grinding along miserably, totally unable to help itself, compelled to fight against foreign bankers eager to compete for bills at rates to them highly advantageous, and profits have tended to disappear.

In these circumstances, the joint-stock banks have begun to lay their heads together, or have been prodded up to meet and discuss the position with a view, if possible, to discover some remedy. This in itself, as the *Times* money article writer says, is a step in the right direction and may possibly, though not probably, lead to an improvement in the relations between the banks in the not far off future. But it will be very difficult for them to light upon any satisfactory and automatic method for keeping the short loan market in hand. It is not a close or closed market to begin with, and the competition of the now powerful and numerous foreign banks in London would not tend to become less effective were the English banks to enter into a combination and work together so as to keep rates of discount and for loans at points deemed by them safe and remunerative. Moreover, behind the whole question lies the position of the banking and bullion reserve. As we said last week, it is too great a load to place upon the shoulders of the Bank of England to ask it to maintain this reserve at an ade-

quate figure when all the great joint-stock banks that have grown up around it are—except on show balance-sheet days—habitually trading to the limit of their last available pound. Therefore we are disposed to think well of a suggestion tentatively thrown out to the effect that a powerfully constituted Royal Commission should be appointed to examine into the whole working of our London money market and the relationship of the premier bank to the other banks. This would be an excellent preliminary step. Legislation might not be wanted, although we fear it will be, but, at any rate, the knowledge acquired in this manner and the opinions formulated ought to be of immense value in clearing men's minds and in putting the whole question before City and country alike in a concrete and intelligible manner. One thing is certain—if we drift along as we are doing we shall come to grief.

What lies at the root of the whole present disturbance? It would take a long story to tell, but we may say that the market is wrong in charging the Bank of England with using the money of the Japanese Government in its custody to screw up rates. The Japanese Government is too jealous of its good repute to allow any dealings of that kind, even were the Bank willing to take advantage of its position as custodian of Japanese loan funds, which we have no reason to think it is. All the Japanese money in the Bank's hands is lent for long dates at low rates of interest, and the Bank has been holding the market in hand by surplus balances borrowed from the other banks. And how do these surplus balances arise? They are chiefly, if not wholly, the product of a vicious custom prevailing among joint-stock banks—the custom of retaining an uncertain, but in the aggregate large, proportion of their free balances in the form of call money on the open market, money which is swept away at the end of each month in order to enable them to make a fine show of "cash in hand and at the Bank of England" in their monthly balance-sheets. To the extent this is done these balance-sheets are really dishonest, essays in deception, and one consequence is that between balance-sheet dates the market is usually swamped by call money, lent at ridiculously low rates, to the injury of the credit dealer, to the more or less complete defeat of the Bank of England's efforts to keep the market from getting into a discreditable mess. And it results that when difficult circumstances arise such as those now born of the semi-bankruptcy of Russia, the enormous loan requirements of Japan, the unbridled gamble in United States securities, the collapse of the Kaffir market and the great revival in trade, the Bank of England is driven to take steps to absorb this floating mass of credit by pawning its securities. Under the new arrangement it gives the joint-stock banks interest on a portion of their balances lying in its hands, treats this money as deposits and gives the banks security for the advances thus obtained, a thing done outside by none of the banks but only by the discount houses.

The joint-stock banks now say they have not been fairly treated, and complain that the Bank of England, by not showing its full purpose, draws more of their balances into its own custody than is convenient. Whether this be true or not, it is obvious that the market has more than once of late been subjected to sudden and severe wrenches by which loss has been inflicted upon all habitual borrowers and, above all, on the discount houses. The remedy, however, would seem to be very largely in the hands of the dissatisfied bankers themselves. Let them abandon the far from creditable or prudent practice of monthly "window-dressing" and consent to the separation of their balances from the "other deposits" in the weekly return of the Bank of England, so that a permanent barrier may be raised against the temptation to trade down to their last sixpence. The Bank of England has been willing in the past to make this change, and is probably willing now, but the other banks have preferred to endanger the stability of the market by using up their floating balances in the call loan market to

the last available pound between monthly show days, and the consequence is deadlock, which a Parliamentary inquiry and legislation will probably alone suffice to remove. Whatever is done, banking affairs must not be allowed to remain in their present unsatisfactory state, because the consequences of a policy of drift tempered by recrimination will one day be a first-class panic.

The Protectionist Moral Gangrene in Canada.

OTTAWA, January 16.

At this time of writing, it appears from the cable despatches that the protectionists in the United Kingdom are doomed to defeat. Canadian free-traders are profoundly thankful. Had England gone over to protection the Empire would not have lasted long. Paying tribute to the colonies in the form of dear bread, the British democracy would have come to hate the name of Empire, while in the end the larger colonies would have resented Imperial interference with their autonomy, without which Imperial reciprocity could not have been carried on. The effect of protection on the public life of England would have been disastrous. This is a point on which we in Canada can speak with some authority.

It is twenty-six years since we adopted a protective tariff. Reduced to its simplest terms, protection is public aid to private venture. When A, B, and C have been assisted, the demands of D, E, and F are irresistible. If everybody could be protected no great harm might be done; but, from the nature of the case, an overwhelming majority of the people cannot be protected at all, and nothing remains for them but to contribute to the support of the favoured few. Protection is thus merely another name for legalised injustice, and you cannot establish such a system and keep it going for any length of time without lowering the moral standards of the community. In Canada the protected interests maintain a widespread organisation, with a staff of agents, a bureau for disseminating literature and an overflowing treasury. As a rule, they side openly at elections with the party which introduces the high tariff, but, in fact, constitute a sort of *imperium in imperio*, dictating to both parties, and ready to act with that which offers them the widest opportunities for fleecing the public. When tariff changes are to be made they co-operate with one another, making common cause against reduction. What can the member elected by their money do but lend them a hand? What is there for the Ministry, which, perhaps, owes its majority to them, but to yield to their demands, regardless of the consequences to the great unprotected and unprotectable class?

The protected manufacturers are frequently men of high personal character, but self-interest dims their moral perceptions, and, though in essence it is really nothing more than an adroit method of picking pockets, they defend protection in all sincerity of heart, and occasionally subscribe a portion of their fortunes to charity by way, apparently, of exhibiting it in a beneficent aspect. On the same principle, I fancy, as well as to save their souls, the pirates of the Spanish Main endowed shrines. The other day over a hundred master plumbers in Toronto pleaded guilty at the police-court to having combined in order to extort immoderate prices. Everyone who got a contract was obliged by the rules to charge a certain figure; if he failed to do so he was haled before the central authority and fined. This is bad, but no worse than what is done by protected individuals and corporations which take advantage of the heavy duties on foreign goods to form trusts for limiting output and maintaining prices at the maximum, a factory which sells below that being squeezed through the banks and made uncomfortable in other ways. A former Canadian Premier, Sir John Macdonald, likened himself to a farmer in an orchard shaking fruit from the trees for

the benefit of the hogs beneath, and declared he had a right to expect the hogs to display their gratitude in a substantial manner. It was a coarse but vivid illustration of the political side of protection. Since 1879, when we embraced the heresy, the character of the electorate has steadily deteriorated, and so, of course, has that of Parliament. Ministers have made fortunes, and many a private member, arguing with himself that, since everybody else was doing it, he might as well do it too, has put his conscience to sleep. The purchase of votes, personation, stuffing of ballot-boxes, cheating at the count, and other rascalities have made Canadian politics hideous. How could it be otherwise? Give a small body of citizens power to wring a gigantic tax every year from the rest of us under cover of law, and they shall be less or more than human if they or their agents do not resort to every means under heaven to bolster up and extend their monopoly. I do not accuse the protected interests of committing election frauds or of actually bribing voters, but only that, when they hand immense contributions to the man in the orchard, they expect him to serve himself and them, come what may, and have a tolerably clear idea that he will not stick at trifles. The fact that they are growing richer and richer by virtue of the legalised robbery or protection is itself a cause of public demoralisation. The moral sense of the unprotected majority is weakened, we lose respect for law, our definitions of right and wrong are apt to become elastic; we feel that, inasmuch as so vicious a code is maintained by the State for the benefit of a few, there would be no harm in our being "crooked" if we could make something by it. This is how people always philosophise in the presence of evil example in high places.

One form of protection begets another. Starting with the encouragement of manufacturing, we have advanced to the encouragement of railways. Millions have been voted in subsidies to private lines built expressly to catch the English investor or to be sold to the Government. A few years ago we spent \$11,000,000 in aiding a railway to run into Southern British Columbia. It was to open up what were said to be the most valuable silver-lead mines in the world; yet the proprietors of these mines got together recently and forced the Government to give them a bounty. We pay bounties and subsidies to all sorts and conditions of people; and why not, when the protected manufacturer exacts a grant-in-aid from us all? The other day a duty of \$7 per ton was imposed on foreign steel rails for the benefit of a mill at Sault Ste. Marie and of another at Sydney, Cape Breton. The extra cost entailed on the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, a transcontinental line about to be built from New Brunswick to the Pacific coast, will exceed \$6,000,000. The duty will cost the Canadian Pacific a million dollars extra on new lines to be constructed during the next two years, and will add greatly to the expense of maintaining all the lines in the country already built. In the last analysis the burden will fall on the farmer and on the artisan who consumes the farmer's products. It would have been better for Canada had the Government purchased the two mills, set fire to them, and pensioned the hands. Whether they pay dividends or not, the mills will no doubt take care that the Government shall have a handsome contribution at the next general election, and the Government's agents in turn will see that the contribution is spent "where it will do most good." This is how the Canadian people are bribed with their own money, and I need not further labour the point that the system is utterly abominable.

Englishmen ask why we and the Americans tolerate protection so long. The best answer I can give within a short space is that on this side of the Atlantic protection does not affect the price of food. We are food-exporting countries; every man has his three square meals a day, and there is plenty left for foreign markets. In England, an importing country, the price of food would be augmented by the smallest duty on the

foreign product; you would feel the pinch next day, and, unless you were as philosophical as those ancient citizens who in a famine stayed their stomachs by playing at dice, you would quickly drive the protectionists out of office. With us the big loaf cannot be diminished by tariffs, and when we see a tall chimney going up, and they tell us we owe it to protection, we are satisfied the country is progressing, and look no further. If we took the trouble to investigate, we should find that the owners of the new factory were about to tax us so much a yard, or so much a pound, not on its own output merely, but on the whole amount consumed in Canada, domestic or imported; so that in three cases out of five it would be cheaper, as before observed, for the Government to purchase the building, tear it down, and put the shareholders on the civil list.

"Made in Canada" is the cry just now of the protected interests. They have organised made-in-Canada clubs, circulate made-in-Canada literature, sing made-in-Canada songs; and we are taught that it is a patriotic duty to buy such articles in preference to British or American. It is related that the great Duke of Marlborough established a blanket-making monopoly at the town of Witney. If anyone objected that the blankets were not good blankets, the reply was: "Nobody said they were; all we are prepared to say is that they were made at Witney." So with some things made in Canada; the tariff obliges us to buy them, though we could get better and cheaper in England, and we have to console ourselves with the reflection, which does not make them cost less or last longer, that they are Canadian. Robinson Crusoe could boast that everything he wore was made by his own hands. Following his example, any of us could dispense with tailor, hatter, and shoemaker and prepare his own apparel. That might be patriotism, but would it be common-sense? How much cheaper to barter the goods we have been trained to produce, or the wages we get for working at our own trade, for the shoemaker's shoes and the tailor's coat. In like manner, it is often far more profitable for a country to obtain what it requires from abroad in exchange for its staples than to erect factories and manufacture the articles at home, merely to have it to say that they are home-made.

What we Canadian free-traders complain of is that we are deprived of this liberty and forced to pay a poor rate to keep these rickety native industries from going to the dogs. Worse still, as I have tried to show, are the political and social consequences flowing from protection. They pollute the atmosphere of Parliament and weaken the moral fibre of the entire community. It would have been a grave matter indeed had Mr. Chamberlain or Mr. Balfour been in a position to tax the food of the British people. Yet, judging from what goes on in Canada, I venture to think it would have been in some respects a greater calamity had the "ancient and inbred piety and integrity" of the British people been exposed to the corroding influences of protection in its relations with Ministers and, through Ministers, with the nation at large.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THAT SOUTH AFRICAN PROBLEM.

Again it seems necessary to ask who the Johannesburg correspondent of the *Times* is. Is he a paid servant of the Randlords? That paper has declared its intention graciously to accord its support to the poor, unbefriended Government of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman in matters international, but it obviously remains as completely as ever the leading English organ of the South African mine magnates, as unscrupulously their tool as if they owned it. In South Africa these gentlemen and their following call themselves "progressives"—showing in this a cleverness

or cunning which has always marked reactionary parties in British politics—as witness “tariff reformers,” when tariff robbers are meant. The true name of these cosmopolites, if they had their due, should be “blighters,” for they have certainly ruined the fortunes and blighted the prospects of South Africa to an extent that the present generation will not see the traces of obliterated; but it is more polite to call them monopolists, and monopolists they shall be. These monopolists, as Mr. Massingham shows in his last letter to the *Daily News*, have the fate of all the South African colonies in their hands, and are selfishly and foolishly doing their best to ruin them. The railway problem alone, as handled by them, is one of acute danger to the solvency of Cape Colony and Natal as well as of the Transvaal and Orangia. And it cannot be taken in hand and settled for good except by a federation of all the States and the deliverance of their white population from the blighting sway of these mine masters and wasters, these holders of gold, diamond, iron, coal, dynamite, water, bread, beef, and house-room monopolies.

A most striking example of the too intimate relationship between the *Times* and these people is illustrated by a telegram from Johannesburg in Tuesday's issue of that newspaper. On the previous day the *Times* had published an interesting letter from Mr. Leonard Courtney pointing out that the cry “One vote, one value,” raised by Sir Percy Fitzpatrick, a servant of the Eckstein, or Wernher, Beit firm, was clearly misunderstood by that worthy South African liberty-slayer. Mr. Courtney took the opportunity to explain what it really meant according to his scheme of proportional representation. The letter was instructive and innocent enough; and did not seem to call for a sudden outcry on the part of the South African bosses, and yet on the following day the *Times* correspondent in Johannesburg telegraphs a jeering rebuttal. In this he declares that “to the Boers Mr Courtney has held out hopes of gain—immediately what they were prepared to struggle for silently for years,” while the British element had, thanks to this letter only a few hours old when he wired, “realised that the present Liberal Cabinet may prove as dangerous as was the Gladstone Ministry in 1881.” How, within this brief space of time, was it possible for the correspondent to ascertain these opinions, to set forth these consequences? Did the people of South Africa know anything whatever about the drift and purpose of Mr. Courtney's letter when he penned this message? We do not believe so. The message, if it be a message and not a London Wall concoction, is simply another illustration of the determination with which these South African monopolists are fighting to retain control over the lives and property of the whole of the white and black people of South Africa. And the unscrupulous character of their agitation is significantly illustrated by a postscript to the message, which informs us that “at the invitation of Colonel Woolls-Sampson 60 ex-officers of irregulars met to-day and unanimously decided to call a meeting at the Wanderers' Club next Saturday of all members of the irregular forces that took part in the war in order to protest against the abrogation from the Constitution of the principles of equal electoral districts on a basis of voters, single-member constituencies, and automatic redistribution.” Are these 60 men settled in South Africa for good and all or only birds of passage? How many of them are really free to say what they think? What right have the soldiers to vote, and what is the meaning of this zeal for single-member constituencies so doctored that the population of Johannesburg and the Rand will dominate the whole of the rest of the country? The meaning is that voters within that area can be coerced by the power of capitalists while they are not sure of the country voter; dread him so much that they do not mean to give him his rights or anything approaching thereto. That is the “Constitution” these men are fighting for—something to rivet their monopoly upon the community and continue the

blight which is now destroying the vitality of all the States in South Africa. Whatever is done, this cannot be allowed; and again we say that the new Government must not allow itself to be hustled or hurried, to be misled by outcries about the sacredness of Milner's jerry-built and altogether dishonest and disloyal “Constitution.” The Transvaal has no Constitution in an honest acceptance of the term. There is no necessity at all to have an election under the jerrymandered system of representation coopered-up by Lord Milner as the obedient tool of these same bosses. The whole subject requires to be carefully investigated before any attempt is made to give back genuinely free institutions to the much afflicted people of South Africa, otherwise the gift of liberty will be filched away by the cormorants and miserable South Africa be forced to take another plunge towards chaos.

JOURNALISTS IN PARLIAMENT.

The *Daily News* did well to celebrate at once its diamond jubilee and the accession of three able young members of its staff to the position of M.P. No paper has had a more honourable career from first to last than the *Daily News*, and it is to-day as distinctive in its attitude towards the questions of the hour as it has been at any time of its history, occupying a position of independence and exhibiting a devotion to principle worthy of all honour and imitation. And it is to us supremely interesting to see the change which is coming over the position of the journalist, in some ways a change almost as great as that in the relations of labour to political power. Hitherto, with rare exceptions, the journalist has been the Gideonite in politics. His brains have been welcomed and used up by the professional politician without stint, but he has throughout been looked upon by the great men of platforms as an inferior being, one to be condescended to and occasionally granted some favour agreeable to vanity and suitable for a dependant. So, too, with the newspaper owner. At the last resort, the working journalist, no matter what his ability, has been habitually treated as a sort of upper servant out of livery. We remember many years ago acquiring interesting evidence of the emphatic displeasure exhibited by a great newspaper proprietor at the spectacle of a member of his staff “daring” to become a candidate for Parliament. The man was stepping out of his place, his employer said, “using his position upon the newspaper for his own advancement,” and doubtless the offending individual was made aware of the attitude thus assumed towards him.

There is still a good deal of this feeling in existence, though times are changing, and the victory of three members of the *Daily News* staff of able young men—one of them, Mr. Money, a statistician of exceptional ability and promise—is therefore all the more welcome. The victors, by their conduct in Parliament, will be an honour to their profession and a help towards lifting it into a higher position, an authoritative position of independence in the counsels of the nation. They are not alone either, for Mr. Hilaire Belloc, Mr. Annand, and others are, or have been, men of the ranks. In France the journalist as M.P. has long been a powerful counterpoise to the supremacy of the lawyer in the French Assembly and Senate, and it would be none the worse for our politics or for our journalism were he to assume a like position here. With time given, and under modern conditions, he will attain to it, we have no doubt at all. And the day has gone by, we trust for ever, when the newspaper writer, when old or used up, can be treated much as the French stage-player was treated in the time of Molière. Molière's dead body was refused Christian burial by the bigots of the French Catholic Church, which thereby revealed the depth of its virulent hatred of enlightenment and independence of mind. The world has got rather beyond that stage, and yet of the modern journalist in England it cannot often be said that the politician and the proprietor who exhaust his brains, the one gratis and the other for a

modicum of salary, do not as a rule particularly care whether the spent body of the worn out servant gets buried or not in any form. We trust to our young men to change all that, and to give their brethren a lift in the world for the sake of all that is best in political journalism.

UNITED STATES STEEL TRUST PROFITS.

Partly estimated for the final month of the quarter ended December 31 last, the nett earnings of this combination after deducting cost of ordinary repairs, renewals and maintenance of plants, interest on bonds, and fixed charges of the subsidiary companies amounted to \$35,279,000, an increase of \$13,820,000 on the corresponding quarter of 1904. Out of this \$5,185,000 was set aside to various reserves and sinking funds, or less than one-half of 1 per cent. upon the issued capital of the corporation. This left \$29,658,000 available for dividends, out of which the quarterly dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock will be paid, absorbing \$6,305,000. The *Times'* summary of the figures shows that the surplus then left will be \$7,417,000, apparently after deducting the share of the quarter in the expenditure on new construction, which aggregated no less than \$26,300,000—to be afterwards capitalised doubtless. For the entire year the earnings were \$119,851,000 against \$73,169,000 for 1904, \$109,171,000 for 1903, and \$133,309,000 for 1902, or £87,000,000 odd for the four years together. At the end of the year, moreover, uncompleted orders on hand aggregated 7,605,000 tons, the highest figure in the history of the combination, comparing as it does with 5,865,000 tons on September 30, 4,696,000 tons on December 31, 1904, and 3,215,000 tons at the same date in 1903. The wealth being so great and the earnings so splendid, why is it that the common stock is not getting a dividend? There is \$508,302,500 of it outstanding, and if the "surplus profits" of the year are so fine, surely a mere 4 per cent. might be given to the holders! Are we to infer from the absence of any such distribution that the profits are still to a large extent paper profits, that payment has been taken for the goods sold in bills and bonds difficult to convert into cash? What is the amount of cash in hand? Is the amount devoted to "new construction" a necessary result of inadequate provisions for wastage and insufficient allowances for repairs and upkeep before bringing out the exhibit of nett profits?

UNITED STATES CURRENCY.

At the beginning of the current year the total amount of money in circulation within the North American Union exceeded £534,000,000, showing an increase of about £20,500,000 upon the total at the beginning of the previous year. Of this increase, nearly £16,000,000 consisted in additions to the bond-secured note circulations of the banks throughout the Republic, and yet magnates in New York have been clamouring for more "elasticity" in that note circulation, or in some form of faith money, so that they may be able to carry on their beggar-my-neighbour games without fear of catastrophe. So far as we can see, the amount of paper money in circulation is already excessive, for if we class the silver certificates as such—as they must be, since they are not covered to the extent of half their gold par value by the metal held—the uncovered paper money alone in actual circulation on January 1 last amounted to nearly £250,000,000. With such facilities for adding to the rag-money of the Union through the printing of banknotes, it seems to us a matter for thankfulness that there should be gold in actual circulation to the amount of £130,000,000. The total stock of gold coin and bullion in the Union at the date of the return was about £284,000,000, but about £48,000,000 of this was held in the treasury, exclusive of nearly £9,500,000 of gold certificates, and another £96,000,000 odd was represented by gold

certificates in the hands of the public, so that the actual amount of gold coin outstanding in the hands of the people, or in bank safes, or lodged abroad, was little more than £130,000,000. All the rest of the money aggregating the total above given was paper in one form or another.

HOW TO CURTAIL EXPENDITURE.

People ask us why we think that it may be a comparatively easy matter for Mr. Asquith to cut down the national expenditure in the coming financial year by at least £10,000,000 as a beginning. Well, we cannot say to a few millions back or fore what he may be able to do; that will be for his committee on the estimates to determine, and we should be quite willing to wait for the result of that committee's labours to the month of May before witnessing the unfolding of next year's Budget. At the same time, we are not guessing so blindly as some people seem to imagine, and will just put a fact or two before the public in illustration. We have found no detailed or intelligible accounts relating to the Navy anywhere. They may exist, but we know them not. The Statistical Abstract of the United Kingdom certainly does not contain any information whatever upon that, the most important branch of our fighting services. We can only guess, therefore, in regard to the Navy that the waste must amount to several millions per annum from such facts as that extraordinary sale of obsolete ships made by the late Government last year, ships some of which had recently had much more money spent upon them in repairs than they fetched at the sale. The treatment of stores is also a source of waste here which may well run into millions. There must be a good deal more of that kind of thing going on than even we suspect, and we are satisfied that both in regard to the Navy and the Army an antiquated but formidable system of corruption exists in dealing with the supplies, the handling of every instrument and material required for their maintenance and upkeep. Why is it, for instance, that every kind of military furniture can be picked up from certain dealers, often in perfect condition, at derisory prices? Is it not that these stores are cast away so as to make way for fresh articles ordered by men who pocket commissions?

It will be the duty of the House of Commons, and, first of all, of such a committee of its members as it selects, to deal with the question, to overhaul the estimates, with a view to discover some, at least, of these leakages, and to put the accounts in such order as will enable not only the House of Commons as a whole, but the electorate throughout the country, to understand something of the channels through which their money flows and disappears, giving no corresponding result. In regard to the Army, we do get some rough and very imperfect statistics in the Abstract already alluded to. They are of no particular use as indicating what goes on; still, one fact stands out clear. In 1896 the total forces composing the Army, including not merely the regular troops, numbering 221,000 officers and men, but the Militia and Volunteers, was 457,000. In 1904 the regular Army had risen in numbers to 289,000, and the irregular forces to 254,000, making a total of 543,000. The increase in the numbers was, therefore, rather below 19 per cent. Contrasting the same dates, the expenditure, we find, rose by nearly 58 per cent. It was about £18,500,000 in 1896, and it was upwards of £29,000,000 in 1904. What are we to infer from a fact like that? Lord Roberts not long ago told the country that the condition of the Army was worse now than before the war, and yet we have been spending about £11,000,000 per annum more upon it, two years after peace was restored. Where has the extra money gone? That is what we want to know, and what we expect the new House of Commons speedily to tell us. Food has not been dearer, clothing is not dearer, the Army has had no new guns and a mere handful of bad new rifles. What has become of £8,000,000 out of these £11,000,000 at a moderate

estimate? The Government doubtless understands well enough that the disgusting thieving, the *modus operandi* of some little portion of which has been revealed by what are called the war scandals in South Africa, did not begin there, and is not confined to troops in the field. Men do not suddenly become accomplished peculators and misappropriators of public money when they are sent out to fight or to provide for the fighters. The mischief is much more deeply rooted, and it will be the duty of our new House of Commons to get at the roots of it and tear them up. Oh, if he likes, and works with a will, and by the help of the great army behind him, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer can easily knock £10,000,000 off the coming estimates.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: NIGEL GOLD.

The Nigel Gold Mining Company is a member of the Natal group of mines. It is an old concern, having been formed in 1888, and though it can boast of a fair dividend record, this has been erratic. The first distribution was in May, 1892, at the rate of 10 per cent., followed by 20 per cent. in June of the same year, and 17½ per cent. in December. In 1903 the distributions aggregated 50 per cent., which was also paid in 1894. In 1905 the dividend dropped to 20 per cent., then there was a long interval of four years, the next distribution being 15 per cent. in June, 1899. The war broke out soon afterwards, and it was not until December, 1903, that distributions were resumed, with 5 per cent., followed by 10 per cent. in March, 1904, 5 per cent. in June, 1904, 10 per cent. in December of the same year, 15 per cent. in June, 1905, and 20 per cent. last month. This makes a total since the inception of the company of 247½ per cent., aggregating the sum of £446,420. In the last financial year ending June 30 the dividend was 25 per cent. At the present price of the share this gives a yield of about 9 per cent. As the life of the mine is estimated at approximately 15 years this would return, say, £135 on an outlay of £100, leaving only £35 for dividends spread over 15 years. Thus the yield would be no higher than £2 6s. 8d. per cent. per annum. If, however, the investor provides his own sinking fund for the redemption of the principal he would have to set aside each year to accumulate, at 3 per cent. compound interest, about £5 4s. 6d., leaving the nett yield about £3½. Thus the shares are over-valued at a price which is lower than the average of past years. The highest and lowest quotations since 1895 have been:—1895, 8½—3½; 1896, 5—1½; 1897, 3½—1½; 1898, 2½—1½; 1899, 3½—2½; 1900, 3½—2; 1901, 3½—2½; 1902, 4—2½; 1903, 3½—2½; 1904, 3½—1½; 1905, 2½—1½. There are possibilities, of course, that future distributions may exceed 25 per cent. on the average; also that the life of the mine may be longer than 15 years. This is an exceptionally difficult mine upon which to make calculations of output and value. Both have fluctuated greatly in the past, and are likely to be erratic in the future. Prior to the year 1895 the mine had practically all its developed ore used up. It was badly laid out and poorly equipped, but in 1897 Mr. Hennen Jennings undertook its supervision, with the result that the property was scientifically developed and heavy stamps were substituted for light ones. Hitherto the battery has been one of 50 stamps, but this is now being increased by five heads, making 55 stamps. As these will crush an extra 7,200 tons per annum they are likely to shorten the mine's life, though concurrently probably increase the profits. This mine does not employ Chinese, and the following statement made by the chairman at the last annual meeting is worth pondering on:—"At last year's meeting your chairman referred to the fact that the Labour Association had been unsuccessful in keeping us supplied with boys. As time went on we found this condition continued to prevail, and that by the rules of the association we were debarred from in any way aiding ourselves unless by paying a most prohibitive tax levied by that institution. As a consequence of this we sur-

rendered our interest in the association, amounting to some £770, and went to work to procure our own labour, and we have had no reason to be dissatisfied with the results." Does not this confirm Mr. J. B. Robinson's recent declaration that the Labour Association does not strive its best or hardest to get blacks? Here is an instance in which a company can do better without the help of the bosses' institution.

THE GEDULD SCANDAL.

In some quarters and by some who ought to know better the decision of the Geduld directors to investigate the origins of the recent scandal is loudly applauded. It is the right thing to do, they say, it shows how anxious they are to search out the causes of a repulsive incident, their eagerness to prove their *bona fides* towards the public, and so forth. "Let it not be said that the Kaffir Circus will become as tainted as the West Australian market." There is no just cause for this thoughtless applause. In the first place, the directors are but doing an ordinary duty towards the shareholders, a duty for which they are paid handsomely. What should we think of them if they merely sat in their luxurious board rooms, adopted a *laissez-faire* attitude, drank their champagne and smoked their cigars, and let time bury the foul incident in oblivion? Even the slothful would show energy enough to curse them. An investigation is all very well, but the mischief has already been done. An investigation, even if the culprits be found—which we doubt—will not restore the losses so many have suffered. But should investigation be confined within the limits of the mine? That will not avail much. It is in the purview of Throgmorton Street where the strictest inquiries should be made. Not only there, but even in the London board room. For instance, here are one or two questions the directors on this side can answer without troubling their heads about investigation. Why were they so eager to publish the news about the striking of the reef before they got the assays? And how was it the gamblers seem to have had some knowledge of the true state of things all along? It was pleaded that the delay in publishing the assays was due to the necessity of taking check assays, but the directors could have waited a few days in order to get everything before publishing. It is true the price was falling heavily, owing chiefly to German selling, or "bear" attacks, but this delay happened to play directly into the hands of such people, which could have been avoided by prudence and patience. As soon as the high assays came up flew the price instantaneously, and if this was not a preconcerted move on the part of the knowing ones it can only be described as a miraculous coincidence. The Geduld is a member of the A. Goerz group, and we are the more surprised at this lamentable incident, as Messrs. Goerz have a high reputation, and this is the first scandal we have heard connected with the firm, though it is not the first unfortunately connected with some of the other well-known groups. Its seriousness cannot be exaggerated, and though an investigation may not discover much of any real worth there is, of course, no reason why it should not be made, though the results may not be consoling and satisfactory. It may convince us—we shall really be pleased if it does—that the directors have been as impotent victims as the shareholders and the public. The investigation commission consists of Messrs. Webber and Wentzel, the company's solicitors, Mr. J. W. Leonard, K.C., and Mr. Sydney Jenkins, the well-known mining engineer, and it is promised that the result of the inquiry will be published as soon as received.

Passing Events.

An able correspondent in Canada sends us a suggestion which seems well worth the attention of the Government. It is to the effect that, in order to please the colonies and for the sake of the British exporter, commercial agents ought to be appointed. "For example," he writes, "you might have a commercial agent in Canada, who would travel about and report

monthly or thereby. The trouble with the British exporter to Canada is in part that he will not adapt himself or his goods to the peculiar conditions of this market. The Americans and Germans, on the other hand, have Consuls and other agents here, and keep their exporters informed what we really want, how it should be made, what it should cost, &c." This is the old complaint—apathy, stolidity, indifference on the part of the British manufacturer and merchant, and if the appointment of Government agents as here suggested would have the effect of conjuring away these evil qualities, while at the same time helping to conciliate colonial merchants, it would be an excellent step to take.

Some colonial politicians are talking about their willingness to welcome "Free Trade within the Empire." That is a Canadian cry, echoed by some of the Australasian chief talkers. Well, we shall be delighted; if they will all knock down their tariffs and raise their revenue by honest means they can have Free Trade within the Empire in a month from now. What protectionism implies in a colony may be gathered from the vivid and powerful article by an Ottawa correspondent printed at the beginning of this number. Well might the Prime Minister say "When protectionism comes in at the door honesty flies out at the window." Protectionism fosters dishonesty in political life, in all branches of business and in production as well. The goods furnished by a protectionist country can never be of the same quality as those coming from a free-trade one. So, come along, good colonists, away with your tariffs, and we shall all be free! Eh? "That is not what you mean"? What, then, do you mean? Have you not enough honesty left to tell us, to admit to yourselves?

Lord Roberts says that he does not want to establish conscription. What, then, does he want, and why is it that military gentlemen, like this talented Irishman, are continually belabouring us with alarmist statements as to the dangerous state of the country's defences, the necessity for the maintenance of a huge land fighting force, for being prepared to carry the "might of England" into all the ends of the earth? Can they not see that the whole tendency of modern democracy is to do away with this kind of thing? That if we could get the rulers of nations to cease from a policy of grab and conquest in the uttermost parts of the earth and to be content with pacific federation and friendly rivalry in discovery, commerce and social intercourse, the day might soon come when we should be able to dispense with great man-killing institutions and apparatus altogether? There is no more reason in these days why we should maintain an army against Germany, France, Russia, or other foreign Power with a view to a coming wholesale mutual slaughter than there would be for the maintenance of a force in Scotland for fear of a new English invasion. Do let us have done with the cant of Empire, which is the gospel of hate.

When are we to have the first annual report and balance-sheet of the Standard Newspapers, Limited? The prospectus was out in the early part of December, 1904, and it is certainly time that shareholders received a statement of the first year's working. We shall be very interested in the exhibit, and it will be most instructive to learn how the once solid old *Standard* has fared since it fell into the hands of the Tariffites and backslided into the path of reaction.

The letter signed "Common-sense" printed on another page is admirably self-revealing and illustrative of the ease with which the master players on the Stock Exchange "make money." The writer, however, misunderstands the attitude of THE INVESTORS' REVIEW towards the master players. It does not blame them so much for rifling the pockets of those who trust them as for shaping the whole business of mining so as to render the calling of the robber smooth and sure. Everything, every state and human interest in South Africa and in Europe has been subordinated to the one great enterprise of manufacturing "booms"

and "slumps" upon stock exchanges. Furthermore, this journal has never discouraged intelligent investment in mining enterprises—its pages would not be blocked with mining notes as they are if it had. What it does endeavour to work for is clean mining, and it can neither guide nor befriend those who, neglecting its counsels, buy mine shares without reference to intrinsic qualities, actual yields, reasonable probabilities or quality of management, solely in the hope of selling again at a profit.

The Imperial Tobacco Company evidently earned a wonderful revenue in the past year as the directors have an additional £170,000 at their disposal and propose to pay a dividend of 8 per cent. or 2 per cent. more on the vendor-held deferred shares. In addition £50,000 more at £250,000 is placed to reserve and the sum carried forward goes up a few thousands to £167,000.

On Thursday next will be held the meeting of the Arica and Tacna Railway shareholders, called to consider a proposal from the Chilian Syndicate, which is constructing the Arica to La Paz Railway, to purchase their undertaking at a price expected to give something near £11 per share. Any such offer will, of course, be snapped with avidity, but curiously enough there seems to be some doubt as to whether a quorum can be gathered together, the shares being to bearer and not registered. Holders should take note of this fact and not only take care to attend the meeting but deposit their share certificates or proxies with the company at least four days before the meeting.

At the annual meeting of the Van Ryn Gold Mines Estate the chairman, Mr. F. A. Gillam, assured his hearers that he and his colleagues are not in the least anxious or alarmed about the future. It is pleasant to hear this, even though it may be inconsistent with the alarms sounded recently both by the mine bosses and market gamblers, that the mining industry would be ruined if the Liberal Government insisted upon the coolies being sent home. In fact, the statement is not consistent with the gloomy paragraphs in the report of the directors of this very company, upon which we commented in our last issue. Upon what is this new confidence based? Upon the belief that nothing will be done seriously to injure the industry by depriving it of the benefits of a sufficient supply of labour. But there is a sufficient supply of black and white labour if every Chinaman went home to-morrow. And is labour alone the one vital necessity? What about honesty? It is not labour the public ask for, but honesty. This would benefit the industry much more than yellow labour, and the confidence in this alone will bring the public back to the market. But scandals like that of the Geduld Proprietary, to say nothing of other recent discreditable incidents, will not help the industry were a million slaves dumped on the Rand. At the same meeting Mr. Leopold Albu appealed to the Government for Justice. Justice! What kind of justice have we had from the mine bosses? What act of justice can be recorded by any man to their credit?

In a circular the directors of the Oroya-Brownhill Company announce that on the recommendation of their general managers they have secured an option to purchase, on what they consider satisfactory terms, a group of mining leases, comprising about 128 acres, in the Black Range district of the East Murchison goldfields. This group is declared to consist of five separate properties, covering a quartz reef for a length of 3,000 ft. along its strike and for a depth of 2,000 ft. on its underlay. Before taking up the option, the property was examined by the general managers and tested by the taking of 429 samples, which showed the average value of the chutes of ore to be over one ounce to the ton. The shareholders are to be informed in due course of the result of the development work now being carried out and of the decision arrived at in regard to the exercise of the option. The Murchison goldfield has anything but a high reputation, and it is to be hoped the directors of this prosperous company

are not spending the money of their shareholders on risky enterprises or experiments.

An interesting article upon currency problems in China was published in Monday's "Financial and Commercial Supplement" to the *Times*. It is unnecessary to go over the story, but the salient point therein is that the copper "cash" which forms the medium of exchange throughout China has become much depreciated, and now involves the country and its Government in heavy losses. Hence an agitation has been going on directed from the treaty ports, and principally from Shanghai, for the establishment of a standard gold coinage in China to which the copper cash, the silver money usually passed from hand to hand by weight, and any paper money which may be in existence will be subsidiary. This is all very nice, but what about the frightful drain upon China inflicted by the exactions of the Powers that went there to avenge the Boxer rising, and by the concessionnaires who are building railways and opening mines in the country under Imperial guarantee? Is the whole of the trouble, in other words, due to depreciation of the copper cash? We think not. It is due principally to the rapid impoverishment of the people produced by this intolerable drain. The country has not enough foreign trade to sustain the dead weight of rapacious indemnity and other charges imposed upon it.

City people who are nervous over the uprising of the Labour party and the admission of a man like John Burns to a seat in the Cabinet, might do worse than invest sixpence in a copy of this month's *Book Monthly*, and study there a portrait of the President of the Local Government Board sitting in his library; read also a most interesting interview with him by the editor, Mr. James Milne. If they after doing these things continue to harbour their fears, their condition must be hopeless. Mr. Burns is a man of culture, a lover of books, a student of poetry, of social problems, of history and literature in the best sense, and it is thanks to his studious habits that he stands where he does. There are many other interesting items in the number which will make it well worth the sixpence in spite of the fact that the General Election has brought the publishing and bookselling trades into a state of suspended animation during the month now gone, but there will be lots of books, and many of them interesting books, pouring out from the press now if we may judge from the long list of works nearly ready which always forms a, to us, dangerously attractive item in the contents of this periodical.

If it be true, and we have not the least doubt it is true, as stated by the *Daily Chronicle*, that the Lambeth Board of Guardians were going to pay £12,000 for a piece of land which changed hands a year ago at £4,000, in order to start the risky experiment of a labour colony, the wrath of these Guardians at Mr. Burns's refusal to sanction the transaction can be well understood. The truth is that there will always be people eager to utilise for their own profit any wave of sentimental and uninstructed benevolence such as that started by the Queen and her unemployed fund. What, for example, is to hinder a younger son curate of a needy land-owning father from suggesting in all good faith to these benevolent peoples such a purchase of land as the Lambeth Guardians proposed to make? He would not do it in order to enrich his own father, but the father of a friend similarly circumstanced in another district might be helped in this way, and that friend could by and bye reciprocate. It is only the ratepayer who pays, and he never counts. We do not believe in farm colonies, any way, but in a thorough reform of the land laws, which will allow our rural population, now fast dwindling, to stick to the country and multiply there.

We are glad to see that the *Tribune* seems to have an independent correspondent in Johannesburg, one not at the beck of the Randlords. He telegraphed on the last day of January warning the British public not to be alarmed at the noisy and sudden agitation against the proposal to alter the Constitution of the Transvaal. "The real democracy," he assures us, "is absolutely in-

different to the panic cries of Progressive capitalistic orators"; that is to say, to the mouthpieces of the monopolists, "and their arguments made to order." This is exactly what we have said all the time. The same correspondent also tells us that General Botha has written to the Press to complain about the undesirable condition of affairs created by wandering Chinese. "The state of things," he says, "makes life unbearable in the districts concerned," and we can well believe it, for the Chinaman will never be a slave, as the bosses even are beginning to discover. At this point we may quote a sentence or two from that most luminous and fascinating, if rather discursive, book, "The Re-Shaping of the Far East," by Mr. Putnam-Weale, recently published. "An essentially hard-headed fellow is John Chinaman," he says, "and those who have supposed that the cosmopolite financiers of the Rand have brought tens of thousands of his kind to dig up gold in virtual slavery are very foolish persons. The man who can make a slave of the Chinaman has yet to be born."

In their excited feelings about the action of the Bank of England some of the other bankers in the City have been inclined to accuse it of sins it has neither committed nor shown any inclination to commit. The "Bankers' Almanack" for the current year, for instance, gives a condensed balance-sheet of the Bank of England as on October 18 last, and this shows an apparent discrepancy between the total and that in the weekly accounts of the banking department. The inference has, therefore, been drawn that the weekly return does not show the whole of the Bank's business, that the branches are left out. This is not so. The Bank of England does not conceal any of its figures, and the reason why the liabilities on deposit and current accounts, &c., appear to be so large according to the condensed balance-sheet published in the "Bankers' Almanack" is because that balance-sheet includes both departments of the Bank of England, the banking department and the issue department. In order to illustrate we give here the figures rather more fully analysed than in the "Almanack." Its figures of liabilities and assets are arrived at by including the active note circulation on the one side and the securities held by the issue department on the other, the note reserve being merely deducted from the total of "notes issued."

	DR.	£	£
Proprietors' Capital .. .. .	.. .. .		14,553,000
Reserve .. .. .	.. .. .		3,173,099
Public Deposits .. .. .	.. .. .	9,481,031	
Other Deposits .. .. .	.. .. .	40,561,971	
Seven Day Bills .. .. .	.. .. .	107,572	
Notes Issued, £48,815,890, less Notes in Reserve, £19,875,545 .. .. .	.. .. .	28,940,345	
			79,090,919
			£96,817,018
	CR.	£	£
Cash, Issue Department .. .. .	.. .. .	30,365,890	
Do Banking Department .. .. .	.. .. .	1,797,075	
			32,162,965
Investments—			
Government Debt, Issue Department .. .. .	.. .. .	11,015,100	
Do Banking Department .. .. .	.. .. .	16,657,729	
			27,672,829
Bills Discounted, Loans, &c.—			
Other Securities, Issue Department .. .. .	.. .. .	7,434,900	
Do Banking Department .. .. .	.. .. .	29,546,324	
			36,981,224
			£96,817,018

Mr. Mackarness, M.P., has done well to send that letter from his friend Mr. Merriman to the *Times*. May we accept its publication in the *Times'* columns as another indication that it is about to mend its manners, to cease from fulfilling the ignoble rôle of mouthpiece and advocate for the Rand monopolists? Mr. Merriman's letter states cogently and unanswerably the objections of the white population of South Africa to the dumping of Chinese in their country. "If," he says, "the Chinese come as a merely servile race, they will corrupt and demoralise their masters as every servile race invariably has done; but no one who knows anything of that race can affect to believe that they will

remain serfs. Their extraordinary industry and capacity will sooner or later oust the white man, who is himself an exotic in South Africa." Therefore white and black are united in their hostility to this dangerous and supplanting immigration. It must be stopped.

Critical Index To New Investments.

FOLDAL COPPER AND SULPHUR CO., LIMITED.

This company has been formed to amalgamate five properties in Norway covering about 3,000 acres, and has a capital of £350,000 divided into 150,000 preferred ordinary and 200,000 ordinary shares of £1 each. Only the mine which gives its name to the company has been worked to any extent, many years ago, and then only so long as it was possible to make it pay on the produce of copper alone; but with the development of the manufacture of sulphuric acid the sulphur contained in the iron pyrites that constitute the principal deposits has become valuable. The properties were purchased from the original holders for £20,000 in cash in consideration of £2,000 being spent on unwatering the Foldal mine, and were transferred to the promoters, Simpson Partners, Limited, for 20,000 ordinary shares, but the price payable by the company is £29,000 in cash and £195,000 in ordinary shares. The present issue consists of 120,000 preferred ordinary shares, entitled to a 6 per cent. preferential dividend of 6 per cent. per annum, and 50 per cent. of the nett profits remaining after providing for depreciation and reserve until they have received dividends equal to 100 per cent., when they become ordinary shares. Of these 100,000 have been underwritten for £6,000 in cash and £5,000 in ordinary shares, with the provision that should less than 110,000 shares be subscribed the difference will be made good within one year in return for a call at par within two years of 29,993 ordinary shares, terms which do not add to the attractiveness of the issue. It is estimated that, taking the price of copper at £55 per ton, the nett profit on an output of 120,000 tons would be £41,200 per annum, which would leave, after paying London expenses and the preferred ordinary dividend, a sum of £30,000 available. The company does not intend to treat its own ore, and Mr. Worm H. Lund calculates that £62,000 will be ample for the equipment of the mine. Some 270,000 tons of ore are in sight, valued at 2 per cent. of copper and 48 per cent. of sulphur, but the consulting engineer estimates that the amount of ore to a depth of 780 metres is 2,160,000 tons.

SHELFORD RUBBER ESTATE, LIMITED.

This latest recruit to the ranks of rubber-growing companies hails from Glasgow, and although it boasts an ex-Lord Provost of that city as its chairman, is a modest concern with a capital of £65,000 in £1 shares. The estate purchased consists of 540 acres, 520 of them fully planted, in Selangor, Federated Malay States, and is said to be exceptionally well situated for successful rubber cultivation. For this the original vendors are paid £27,334 in cash and £21,666 in shares, and the Glasgow Rubber Estates, Limited, takes another £5,500 in cash together with £2,500 for legal and preliminary expenses, leaving £8,000 for working capital. Tapping is said to have been started with good results, and it is estimated that dividends will be earned rising from 5 per cent. next year to 14 per cent. in 1909 and substantially increasing thereafter, but in making these calculations the promoters have been much less conservative than some of their competitors for public favour, and take the price of Para rubber at 5s. per lb. or only 1s. 1d. below the present market value. They give as their reason for so doing that no important decline in price for several years to come is expected by those conversant with the rubber market, and we can only hope that no disappointment awaits them.

UNITED RAILWAYS OF THE HAVANA AND REGLA WAREHOUSES, LIMITED.

Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co., having acquired £493,700 of this company's 5 per cent. irredeemable stock (1906) at 113½ per cent., offered it to holders of existing ordinary, preference, and debenture stocks at 116 per cent., payable by instalments of 5 per cent. on application, 25 per cent. each on allotment and on February 26, 30 per cent. on March 20 and 31 per cent. on April 17. The stock forms part of £1,374,100 issued in connection with the purchase of the Cárdenas and Júcaro Railway, and the balance beyond that now offered and £170,000 reserved for conversion of outstanding bonds was issued to shareholders of the Cárdenas company as part of their consideration. It is secured by a first charge upon that system and also upon the combined undertaking subject to existing charges. The total length of the line is now 456 miles, situated in the most important part of the island of Cuba, and in communication with other railways extending through the whole of the island. During the last three financial years the nett revenue of the original lines rose from £165,122 to £303,562, and of the Cárdenas system from £135,770 to £182,038, the nett income of the two combined for the twelve months ended June 30 last being £485,600. Interest on all the debenture issues, including the present issue, requires £159,000 per annum, so that it is now covered more than three times over, and it is believed that, with the benefits of amalgamation and the growing prosperity of Cuba, the nett revenue will show further improvement. At the price asked the yield would be just over £4 6s. per cent., and the stock appears to be a sound investment.

GOVERNMENT AND GENERAL INVESTMENT CO., LIMITED.

This company offered at par an issue of £100,000 4 per cent. debenture stock, redeemable at par on December 1, 1975, or at any time after December 1, 1915, at 103 per cent. on six months' notice. The stock is secured by a floating charge on the undertaking and assets of the company, which were valued on December 1 at £223,816 after deducting all loans and liabilities then outstanding. During the past five years 5 per cent. per annum was paid on the deferred stock, and as the nett profit for 1905 amounted to £9,470 the margin seems ample enough without taking into account the income to be derived from the investment of the proceeds of this issue. By its memorandum of association the company is obliged to set aside one-half of the surplus profits after paying a cumulative dividend on the preferred stock and 7 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock to reserve until that fund amounts to 25 per cent. of the paid-up capital.

ISSUES BY TENDER, ETC.

Blundell, Spence and Co.—Shareholders are offered 2,200 ordinary £10 shares in the proportion of one for every ten held at a premium of £5 per share.

Edmundson's Electricity.—Holders of ordinary and preference shares and debenture stock are offered £83,000 4½ per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, ranking *pari passu* with the existing £352,000, at the price of 104 per cent.

Oxnam Prospecting.—The directors have decided to issue the remaining 20,000 shares, and offer 15,000 of these to shareholders in the proportion of 75 per cent. of their holding, at par. The issue has been guaranteed in consideration of the allotment of the remaining 5,000 shares at 24s. per share.

Walker and Meimarachi.—Holders of bearer share warrants are entitled to a preferential allotment of one share for every two held of a new issue of 100,000 £1 shares.

Yorkshire Railway Wagon.—The 25,000 shares created in July last will be offered to shareholders in the proportion of one new for every two held, at a premium of 10s. per share.

Zambesia Exploring.—Shareholders are offered 40,000 of the reserve shares of £1 each in the proportion of one for every ten held at 25s. per share. Holders of less than ten shares may apply for one new share.

Imperial Japanese Government 4½ per Cent. Sterling Loan (first series).—Bonds of this loan will be ready for delivery in exchange for fully-paid scrip certificates on Monday, February 5, at the respective banks indicated on the scrip.

Letters to the Editors.

GOLD RESERVES.

SIR,—We have lately read in the reports of the meetings of the joint-stock banks the accustomed laments over the insufficiency of our reserves of gold. I venture to suggest, with the greatest respect, that the time has arrived when academic discussion should give place to action. Whatever the shortcomings of the joint-stock banks in the matter of gold reserves, there is one bank whose sins outweigh those of all other banks combined. I refer, of course, to the State bank for savings. The figures I gave some time ago in THE INVESTORS' REVIEW may be quoted to-day. I showed that five of the great joint-stock banks, having aggregate deposits of about £148,000,000, held "cash in hand and at the Bank of England" to the amount of £26,500,000. How much of this is gold we do not know, but till the advent of a new Bank Restriction Act the notes are exchangeable for gold on demand. On the other hand, the Post Office Savings Bank, with deposits of £146,000,000 keeps no gold or cash at all. It does not profess to hold any. The spokesman of the Treasury has declared that to keep a reserve would be "a wholly useless and wasteful amusement"; "it would be locking up an enormous amount of money for no purpose so far as I can see." Moreover, since I wrote on this subject something has been done to enlarge the liability of the Post Office Savings Bank to sudden withdrawals. A depositor can now withdraw, without previous notice, a sum not exceeding £1. The sum is not large, but this first step shows the direction in which the managers of the institution are travelling.

The question is a larger one even than that of keeping a reserve of gold against the deposits of the Post Office Savings Bank, great as that is. So long as the State bank for savings refuses to keep a reserve, the hands of the Chancellor of the Exchequer are tied; he would lay himself open to a crushing retort if he lectured the joint-stock banks on their shortcomings. But if he would, as his duty clearly demands, institute a gold reserve for the Post Office Savings Bank, he could then make to the joint-stock banks representations which, it cannot be doubted, would receive their most respectful attention, leading to the keeping of larger reserves of gold, and a consequent improvement in the general financial position.

Your obedient servant,
ALFRED MARKS.

SIR,—Your correspondent "Bitten" has evidently been hard hit. I absolutely agree with him as to the prevailing depression during the past year or so, and general "hard-upness" being due to people having lost money wholesale in Kaffirs. In my own family of eight members there is only one who has not lost money in them from about £2,000 down. I myself came into the market about three years ago, when the shares had already had a heavy drop from Peace prices, and I bought on the most orthodox principles "on a fall." I averaged two hundred Johnnies at 63s. What was my fate? In a month or two they were down at 50s., or thereabouts. Then a spurt to 63s. again. Should I sell? A sagacious broker—a friend—said, "Don't, they are as good as Consols; hold them for 5." I held. Then the Russian war broke out. A slump all round; 47s. was the figure touched. I then bought more Kaffirs, Boksburgs, East Rand Estates, Vereenigings (from 60s. down). But it is useless to detail, for everyone knows what course prices have taken. I had a big bull account open for the most part all last year, and only on one occasion during the whole year did I get a cheque from my broker. Not being possessed of a Fortunatus purse, the state of my finances at the end of the year may be well imagined. I discreetly got out, however, before the very worst came, and got as much as 45s. for my Johnnies, which I regarded, I believe rightly, as "bad eggs" after the amalgamation idea got about. I have lost about as heavily, therefore, in the Kaffir market as anyone in proportion to my income and means, I should say, and have learnt valuable experience; but, at the same time, I do not exactly take up the standpoint which you adopt in your journal as regards the magnates, &c. I do not, indeed I do not see how anyone can, regard the course of prices as entirely their fault. Foreign politics have had an immense amount to do with it. What good end would have been served if in autumn, 1904, the market had been vigorously supported by the big houses and prices hoisted higher than they were standing in early December? The only result would have been that France would have liquidated even more heavily than she did, and produced something

like, *very like*, a panic, and more people would have been ruined than have been in this country. The market was judiciously allowed to subside, and was damped down a little! For a man to bear his own specialities on a wholesale scale as it is notorious S. B. Joel did, at that time and after, is one thing, but to stand aside and let the market follow its course is quite another, and I do not see how you can blame prudent men with large stakes for doing it. All the Rand magnates are not of the Joel kidney, thank goodness, and it is not fair to class Sir George Farrar and the Albus with this type of man.

I am ready to grant that most of the mines on the Rand are, or have been, overvalued from their start, on exactly the same principle, and for the same reason that you instance in regard to Turf Mines. I will grant that the market is manipulated year after year (but so are Yankee rails!), I will grant that the man who buys Kaffirs for dividends is almost certain to lose money sooner or later, and is a fool for his pains, but I am prepared to say this, in spite of past experience, that the man who comes into the Kaffir market now is not going to lose much money if he buys his stock and sits on it for a good rise, and then gets out before the top, and takes to Local Loans for a change! It is absurd to say that a mine like Glencairns, with a *monthly* profit of £5,000 and more on a capital of about ½ million is overvalued at 15s., or that Comets at 52s. 6d. are not worth attention.

But it is no use buying shares in a mine because they stood at 8 in such a year, and are now only 3. Past experience shows us that from time to time the market in Kaffirs is *put up*, for purposes of flotation or in order that the houses can unload at good prices, which a large section of the unsuspecting public allow them to do, but it is quite a different matter buying Kaffir shares at their present level, and waiting until the wave of optimism comes, *as it will come*, and then beginning to sell when every one else is buying. In this way there is money to be made in Kaffirs even now I am confident, and money so invested at the present moment would, I am sure, be safer than in many so-called "sound industrials."

If I buy Kaffir shares now I buy them with my eyes open, and know I am not taking an interest in gilt edges, but I have the comforting feeling that I am not buying a commodity from a man who fondly hopes that in three months' time he will be getting in again at a handsome reduction. There is a figure called the "irreducible minimum." I won't dare to say that Kaffir shares have actually reached that, but, at any rate, something very like it, and the man who buys cheap will eventually be able to sell dear, in spite of the jobbers' turn, the magnates' longing to "do him down," and Campbell-Bannerman's professed aversion to "Chinese slavery."

Yours truly,
COMMON SENSE.

THE IRON AND STEEL TRADE
IN 1905.

The year 1905 was distinguished for a revival and considerable improvement in the iron and steel trades of the country, coincident with the Jeremiahs of the Birmingham missionary. Messrs. William Fallows and Company, of Liverpool, believe that this change is the effect of various causes. In the first place, there was the great expansion in America, which had an indirect but beneficial influence upon trade in Great Britain, even though it was not so appreciable as many sanguine ones expected it to be. Accompanying this was the development of activity in shipbuilding, which led to an exceptional demand for steel materials and to a smart advance in hematite pig-iron. Since then buyers have continued to come forward freely, and prices have hardened all round, this helping to strengthen confidence that the revival will not be transitory, but will become even more pronounced and lasting as the weeks and the months go on. The conclusion of the terrible war in the Far East and the improved relations with our Continental neighbours have contributed to improve the position and to clear the outlook. Messrs. Fallows present the following table of interesting figures in illustration of the growth of exports and imports in the period covered thereby:—

	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.	1901.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Production of pig-iron	9,200,000	8,562,658	8,811,204	8,517,693	7,808,830
Imports of pig-iron.....	126,164	130,408	139,280	223,118	160,400
Exports of pig-iron.....	987,891	810,934	1,065,350	1,102,566	838,182
Pig-iron retained for home use	8,188,273	7,832,432	7,456,807	7,558,267	7,100,476
Imports of manufactured iron and steel, less re-exported.....	1,331,607	1,114,510	1,101,788	1,101,778	755,248
Exports of manufactured iron and steel	2,739,024	2,461,908	2,499,221	2,371,079	1,968,741
Total stocks of pig-iron....	900,000	650,000	600,000	500,000	550,000
Average price of Cleveland warrants.....	49s. 6d.	43s. 11d.	46s. 3d.	49s. 3d.	45s. 3d.

The firm estimate the production of pig-iron in this country last year at 9,200,000 tons, compared with 8,562,658 tons in 1904 and 8,811,204 tons in 1903. This increase was mainly in the Middlesbrough and Cumberland districts, but activity was notable throughout the country. Total stocks are computed at 900,000 tons, of which about 786,000 tons is in the form of warrants. "As some seem to think the present stock large it may be well to mention that in 1887, when the production was considerably less, the stocks of pig-iron were then 2,778,684

tons, of which 1,689,727 tons was in the form of warrants." According to the official returns the production of pig-iron in Scotland in the same period was 1,378,391 tons, against 1,339,740 tons in 1904. Foreign exports were 136,767 tons, compared with 121,082 tons; coastwise and by rail to England 173,788 tons, against 169,973 tons. Total stocks of pig-iron at December 31 were 91,935 tons, of which 76,342 tons were in makers' stores and 15,593 tons in Connal's stocks, in comparison with 143,225 tons and 12,189 tons respectively at the close of the preceding year. The importation of English iron amounted to 655,000 tons, against 634,500 tons, whilst the total consumption of pig-iron of all kinds absorbed 2,096,870 tons, compared with 1,946,884 tons.

If the demand for steel continues to increase as it has lately done, say Messrs. Fallow, the position may become rather serious, inasmuch as both freights and the price of iron ore are affected by any sudden development of demand. "It may be desirable, therefore, to see if the basic process cannot be more used so as to work up the ores we have in this country for steel purposes. Imports of steel in various stages of manufacture in 1905 were larger than for some years past, the total being 1,355,929 tons, compared with 1,291,986 tons in 1904. The following are further interesting statistics:—

Tons.

Ingot, blooms, billets, slabs, sheet bars, and tinplate bars	603,949
Manufactures of iron and steel	105,221
Bar angles and shapes	50,224
Ship, bridge and boiler plates	49,079
Ship, bridge and boiler plates, under ½ in. thick	19,652
Wire rods	44,690
Wire nails	38,376
Steel forgings	9,707

During the greater part of the year the manufactured iron trade was quiet, but during the third quarter there was a general advance in all descriptions, varying from 10 to 20 shillings per ton. In the month of May a combine was arranged among the makers of galvanised sheets with a view of regulating prices and over-production. This appears to have worked satisfactorily, and under the arrangement prices rose about £2 15s. per ton. The rise, however, was partly due to an advance of about 20s. in steel materials and of about £5 10s. per ton in spelter. The market for tinplates did not share in the improvement elsewhere. Messrs. Fallows think this may be traceable to over-production, more especially in the United States, in consequence of which the makers captured some of the American orders for oil plates which formerly went almost exclusively to Wales. Other causes affecting this trade have been in the disturbances in the oil-producing districts of Russia. As regards the future, this Liverpool firm of experts are optimistic, and their hopefulness is thoroughly justified by existing symptoms and indications. "The condition of the steel and iron trade at the close of 1905 was very satisfactory, makers being well sold and the advanced prices maintained. Already the volume of business has considerably increased, but it is confidently anticipated that the demand will be still further developed in 1906, as the condition of all our foreign customers, with the single exception of Russia, is good, and the outlook, especially in the Far East, most promising. Apart from shipbuilding, which has already had a boom of its own, we may expect further improvements in the home trade as the result of the improved railway traffics which is likely to necessitate increased expenditure to meet the requirements of the very much larger trade which is now being done. This is satisfactory to know that the production of iron and steel has been increased to such an extent as to prevent a runaway market such as we have had in former years, and which always brought severe retribution on the trade."

Answers to Correspondents.

A. H. T.—We hardly think so. The company has been on the down-grade for several years, and we know of nothing to cause a recovery.

W. P.—(1) The company has gone in so very largely for speculative things that we doubt if it can be regarded as first-class. (2) The issue does not appear to have been made publicly, and the company professes to be unable to give us any information regarding it, so that you would probably be well advised to leave it alone.

T. B. D. G.—(1) This stock can only be regarded as a second-class security, but is fair of its kind. (2) The bonds are good, but by no means cheap at the present price.

Canterbury.—We believe the business is a fair one, but the shares have been "tipped" recently to a much greater extent than we like to see, and if you have a profit on them you should clear out.

M. L.—We do not consider them a promising lock-up, and cannot recommend them.

S. J.—The outlook for the company is no doubt good enough for a few years yet, but if you can get the middle figure of the present quotation, we should be disposed to say take it.

H. H.—(1) On the whole, yes. It is true the market talks of the shares reaching a still higher price, but it is a pure gamble, and you have a very fair profit. (2) Sell if you can get a profit, or can do so with only a trifling loss, as we consider the share very speculative. (3) There is no immediate need to sell this. Powerful interests seem to be behind the present movement, and the price seems more likely to go up than down.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and January 27, 1906:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Jan. 27, 1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Jan. 28, 1905.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£ —	£ 6,352,909	£ 3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
		7,430,278	4,263,842
REVENUE.			
Customs	34,050,000	28,651,000	30,108,000
Excise	30,200,000	25,180,000	25,941,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	10,518,000	9,911,000
Stamps	8,000,000	6,684,000	6,097,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	1,150,000	1,320,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	13,818,000	14,017,000
Post Office	16,500,000	12,680,000	12,140,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	3,460,000	3,210,000
Crown Lands	470,000	420,000	420,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	1,062,955	992,826
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	1,174,662	1,141,507
*Revenue	142,454,000	104,798,617	105,298,333
Total, including balance		112,228,895	109,562,175
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		680,000	510,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		700,000	970,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..		191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905		2,175,000	1,819,500
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		1,262,408	1,800,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		148,000	148,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		—	5,912,631
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905		9,854,604	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904		1,000,000	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares		8,461	7,460
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..		—	1,000,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		2,000,000	8,600,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £4,500,000 Treasury Bills in 1905-6 and £13,500,000 in 1904-5		8,000,000	21,800,000
Total		138,271,960	158,585,256
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	104,798,617	105,298,333
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	140,767	148,063
Excise	5,291,000	4,751,851	4,633,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	3,429,839	3,368,242
Total	9,756,000	8,322,457	8,149,978
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	113,121,074	113,448,311

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Jan. 27, 1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Jan. 28, 1905.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£ 28,000,000	£ 24,028,238	£ 23,520,394
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	1,444,935	1,435,853
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	743,967	743,927
Supply Services	111,304,000	85,171,065	90,113,873
Expenditure	142,084,000	111,387,303	115,814,047
OTHER ISSUES.			
or Advances for Bullion		640,000	370,000
or Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		180,000	45,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amount)		—	300,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		10,000,000	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		600,000	600,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905		2,483,000	2,539,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		900,000	2,550,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		193,000	149,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		426,917	29,000
Surplus Revenue 1904-1905 applied to reduce Debt		1,413,907	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares, applied to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1898 ..		8,461	7,460
Deficiency Advances repaid		586,093	7,100,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		6,000,000	19,500,000
		131,841,681	155,545,007
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	£ 2,651,801	£ 2,344,752	—
Bank of Ireland	778,478	695,497	—
		3,430,279	3,040,249
Total		138,271,960	158,585,256

Treasury, January 30, 1906.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended January 14, \$3,377, increase \$867.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 29, \$22,130, increase \$2,975; aggregate from January 1, \$958,429, increase \$204,963.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 31, Rs. 71,411, decrease Rs. 7,711; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 18,62,866, increase Rs. 2,31,866.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 21, \$84,400, increase \$20,100; total from July 1, \$2,942,300, increase \$660,300.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 31, Rs. 57,399, increase Rs. 4,302; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 7,42,229, increase Rs. 1,04,281.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 14, £587, increase £213.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 2nd week of January, \$11,797, increase \$2,949; aggregate from January 1, \$24,228, increase \$7,090.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 31, Rs. 10,690, increase Rs. 908; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 3,11,041, increase Rs. 26,821.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended January 14 amounted to \$4,675.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending January 27, £1,226, increase £9; aggregate from January 1, £4,650, increase £74.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending January 27, £722, increase £30; aggregate from January 1, £2,783, increase £209.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for November, £4,099, decrease £203.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending January 27, £506, increase £4; aggregate from January 1, £1,841, increase £8.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 26, £1,304, increase £264; aggregate from January 1, £5,235, increase £1,023.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 28, £6; aggregate from January 1, £25, decrease £1.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 26, £4,438, increase £144; aggregate from January 1, £18,755, increase £920.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending January 26, £26,443, increase £4,873; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £100,885, increase £20,094; 441½ miles, against 420½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 27, £1,056, increase £116; aggregate from January 1, £4,392, increase £486.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 28, £94, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £367, increase £11.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 26, £90, increase £1; aggregate from January 1, £329, decrease £32.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 26, £4,553, increase £297; aggregate from January 1, £17,332, increase £952.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 27, £4,482, increase £411; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £19,092, increase £1,103.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 26, £178, decrease £25; aggregate from January 1, £767, decrease £92.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 25, £339.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 27, £240, increase £23; aggregate from October 1, £4,530, decrease £426.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 20, £14,049, increase £2,579; aggregate from April 1, £620,810, increase £84,542. Miles 51 against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 27, £20,061, decrease £369; aggregate from January 1, £82,735, decrease £702.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 27, £6,955, increase £205; aggregate from January 1, £27,629, increase £1,337.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 27, £184, increase £23; aggregate from January 1, £786, increase £85.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 28, £722, increase £214; aggregate from January 1, £2,781, increase £839.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 28, £13,854, increase £1,341; aggregate from January 1, £58,437, increase £5,081.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of November, £10,748, increase £226.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to December 31, \$597,573, increase \$133,652. Nett earnings from July 1 to December 31, \$278,089, increase \$89,167.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending January 28, £3,352, increase £354; aggregate from January 1, £14,255, increase £1,438.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 30, £1,477.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of December, \$292,000.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 27, Rs. 42,691, increase Rs. 4,668; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 1,97,616, increase Rs. 25,648.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of December, £4,888, increase £762. Total to December 31, £46,034, increase £7,038.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of November, \$417,218, increase \$63,017; aggregate from January 1, \$4,320,887, increase \$390,457. Nett traffic receipts, \$226,858, increase \$35,361; aggregate from January 1, \$2,359,439, increase \$272,120.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	%	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	%
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Jan. 28	£ 2,125	+ 40	4	£ 8,491	+ 240	
Cambrian	" 28	4,846	+ 55	4	18,457	— 375	
Central London ..	" 27	6,850	— 350	4	27,875	— 1,127	
City and South London ..	" 29	2,978	— 16	4	12,210	— 169	
Furness	" 28	9,473	+ 1,170	4	35,418	+ 4,996	
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 28	69,702	+ 3,002	4	273,663	+ 12,365	
Great Eastern	" 28	90,900	— 1,700	4	355,300	+ 4,390	
Great Northern and City ..	" 27	1,793	+ 29	4	7,224	+ 127	
Great Northern	" 27	106,000	+ 4,481	4	403,900	+ 8,079	
Great Western	" 28	207,500	+ 2,000	4	820,300	— 2,600	
Hull and Barnsley	" 28	10,325	+ 883	4	37,724	+ 2,199	
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 28	98,663	+ 1,926	4	374,103	+ 9,776	
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 27	48,973	— 489	4	209,477	+ 1,018	
London & North Western ..	" 28	256,000	+ 6,000	4	985,000	+ 23,000	
London & South Western ..	" 28	80,700	+ 700	4	305,100	+ 200	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 28	7,850	+ 295	4	31,566	+ 1,115	
Metropolitan	" 28	16,638	— 239	4	68,823	— 173	
Metropolitan District ..	" 28	8,013	+ 518	4	32,561	+ 2,051	
Midland	" 27	217,361	+ 3,390	4	843,934	+ 19,277	
North Eastern	" 27	166,427	+ 6,357	4	610,443	+ 22,191	
North London	" 28	9,474	— 231	4	37,874	— 709	
North Staffordshire ..	" 28	17,072	+ 582	4	66,368	+ 2,151	
Rhymney	" 28	6,211	+ 121	4	23,241	— 557	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 27	72,562	+ 1,543	4	295,400	+ 4,803	
Taff Vale	" 28	19,640	+ 92	4	74,885	+ 1,69	

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Jan. 28	79,639	+ 1,185	26	2,215,989	+ 63,877	
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 27	28,003	+ 1,435	26	890,409	+ 14,644	
Great North of Scotland ..	" 27	8,341	+ 482	26	249,468	+ 1,746	
Highland	" 28	7,120	+ 24	26	262,982	+ 3,165	
North British	" 28	85,353	+ 4,428	26	2,368,459	+ 49,703	

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Jan. 26	2,275	+ 68	8	8,279	— 156	
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 26	1,358	+ 40	8	5,099	+ 57	
Great Northern	" 26	14,668	— 111	4	60,332	+ 290	
Midland Great Western ..	" 26	9,046	— 963	8	33,793	— 3,098	

§ From January 1.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, Jan. 22.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, Jan. 22.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
5 1/2	Angelo	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	May Consolidated	3 1/2	3 1/2
5 1/2	Anglo-French Ex.	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
5 1/2	Apex	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Modderfontein	4 1/2	4 1/2
5 1/2	Aurora West	5 1/2	5 1/2	1 1/2	Do. B.	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Bantjes	5 1/2	5 1/2	2	New Goch	2	2
5 1/2	Block B.	5 1/2	5 1/2	2 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2
5 1/2	City and Suburban, £4 ..	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2
5 1/2	Comet (New)	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Cons. Goldfields	5 1/2	5 1/2	1 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Do. Pref.	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Crown Reef	12 1/2	12 1/2	7 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	7 1/2	7 1/2
5 1/2	Driefontein	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Randfontein	2 1/2	2 1/2
5 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4 ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
5 1/2	East Rand	6 1/2	6 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	East Rand Extension ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Rodepoort United	2 1/2	2 1/2
5 1/2	Ferreira	19 1/2	20	1 1/2	Salisbury	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	French Rand	1 1/2	1 1/2	8/9	Sheba (New)	8/9	7/9
5 1/2	Geldul	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1 ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Goldenhuis Estate	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	3 1/2	3 1/2
5 1/2	Ginsburg	1 1/2	1 1/2	2	Steyn Estate	2	2
5 1/2	Glencarm	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Development ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Harmony Proprietary ..	9/6	9/6	1 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Henderson's Transvaal ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Treasury	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Heriot	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Van Ryn	2 1/2	2 1/2
5 1/2	Johannesburg Con. In. ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Jubilee	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Vogelstruis	2 1/2	2 1/2
5 1/2	Lumpers	2	2	5 1/2	Welgedacht	5 1/2	5 1/2
5 1/2	Kleinfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Wemmer	5 1/2	5 1/2
5 1/2	Knight's	3 1/2	4	1 1/2	West Rand Consols	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Lancaster	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Wolhuter, £4	2 1/2	2 1/2
5 1/2	Langlaagte Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	Worcester	3 1/2	3 1/2

DEEP LEVELS.

1 1/2	Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bonanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Cinderella Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2	5 1/2	Robinson Deep (new) ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Crown Deep	12 1/2	12 1/2	1	Rodepoort Cn. Deep ..	1	1
1 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	1 1/2	5	Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	South Rose Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Goldenhuis Deep	8 1/2	8 1/2	4 1/2	Village Main Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Knight's Deep	2	2	3 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Nigel Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2				

RHODESIAS.

1 1/2	Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Northern Copper	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rhodesia, Ltd. (5/ pd.) ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Charter Trust and Agency	14/3	14/3	1 1/2	Do. Exploration	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Lomagunda Developm. ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Selukwe	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Mashonaland Agency ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Tanganyika	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 1/2	12/6	Wankie Coal	12/6	12/6
1 1/2				1 1/2	Willoughby	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2				1 1/2	Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2

DIAMONDS.

1 1/2	De Beers Deferred	18 1/2	18 1/2	3	Koffyfontein	3	3
1 1/2	Do. Preferred	17 1/2	17 1/2	2 1/2	Lace Diamond	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Eland's Drift Diamond ..	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	Orange Free State	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Frank Smith Diamond ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	9 1/2	Diamond	9 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Jagersfontein Deferred ..	7 1/2	7 1/2	10 1/2	Premier Diamond Def. ..	10 1/2	10 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Preferred	4 1/2	4 1/2	8	Do. do. Pref.	8	8
1 1/2	Kamtersdam	2 1/2	2 1/2	7 1/2			

WEST AFRICAN.

1 1/2	Abbotlakoon	18/6	19/	11/6	Gold Coast Agency, new ..	11/	11/
1 1/2	Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Ankobra	7/	7/	7/	Gold Coast (Wassau) ..	7/	7/
1 1/2	Asbanti Consols, 2/- paid 3/3d	3/3	3/3	6/6	Deep	6/6	6/6
1 1/2	Do. Goldfields	13/6	13/6	1/	Goldfields East'n Akim ..	1/	1/
1 1/2	Asbanti Sansu	5/6	5/	9/	Himan Concessions	9/	9/
1 1/2	Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Obbussu Syndicate	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	British Gold Coast	1 1/2	1 1/2	9/	Prestea	9/	9/
1 1/2	Broomassie	28/6	29/6	1/	Sekondi and Tarkwa	1/	1/
1 1/2	Effuente (Wassau)	6/3	6/3	2 1/2	Taquaah and Abosso	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Fanti Consolidated	14/6	15/6	1 1/2	Wassau	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2				4/9	W. A. Gold Trust	4/	4/

AUSTRALIAN.

1 1/2	Anglo-Aus. Exploration ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	8/3	Ida H.	8/3	8/3
1 1/2	Associated	2 1/2	2 1/2	7 1/2	Ivanhoe, Gold Corp.	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2	Ivanhoe South	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Bellevue Proprietary	3/9	3/9	9 1/2	Kalgurli	9 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Boulder Deep Levels	1/9	1/9	1 1/2	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Brownhill Extended	8/6	8/6	1 1/2	Lancefield	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chaffers 4/	1/6	1/9	12/	London & W.A. Explor- ation	12/	13/6
1 1/2	Cosmopl'n Pr'p'ty	7/3	7/3	4 1/2	Mount Boppy	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Horseshoe, New Shares	6 1/2	5 1/2	2 1/2	North Kalgurli	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Links	2/6	3/6	2 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Pole	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Peak Hill	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Great Boulder, 2/	24/	23/9	1 1/2	South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Perseverance	12/9	12/3	2	Sons of Gwalla	2	2
1 1/2	Great Fingall	5 1/2	5 1/2	2/	W.A. Goldfields	2/	2/
1 1/2	Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2	2/	Watr'ia Mt. Morgans ..	2/	2/
1 1/2	Hampton Plains	2 1/2	2 1/2	1/3	White Fe'th'r M'n Rf. ..	1/	1/
1 1/2	Hannan's Star	3/	3/				

MISCELLANEOUS.

1 1/2	Anaconda, 25 dols.	14 1/2	14 1/2	3 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Balaghat, full paid	34/6	34/6	33/6	Mount Lyell	36/	37/
1 1/2	Brilliant and St. George ..	13/	13/	3 1/2	M't. Morgan	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Broken Hill, Prop.	3 1/2	3 1/2	6 1/2	Mysore, 10s.	7	7
1 1/2	Camp Bird	1 1/2	1 1/2	3/6	Mysore Goldfields, 15/6 2/9	2/9	2/9
1 1/2	Cape Copper, £2	5 1/2	5 1/2	11/6	Do. West, 19/	11/6	11/6
1 1/2	Champion Reef, 10s.	27/	24/	11/3	Do. Wynaad, 19/	11/6	11/6
1 1/2	Con. Gold N.Z.	2 1/2	2 1/2	4 1/2	Namaqua, £2	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Copiapu, £2	1	1	8/6	Nile Valley	7/9	7/9
1 1/2	Coromandel 19/6 pd.	2/3	3/	28/3	N'nydroog, 10/ shares 28/6	28/6	28/6
1 1/2	Esperanza	5 1/2	4 1/2	17/9	Oo egum	18/	17/6
1 1/2	Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Frontino and Bolivia	12/6	12/	10/	Rio Tinto, £5	66/	66/
1 1/2	Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	10/	St. John del Rey	10/	9/6
1 1/2	Do. (No. 2)	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Tharsis	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Libiola, £5	2	2	6 1/2	Waihi	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Linares, £3	5	5	7/6	Ymir	7/6	7/6

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904-5.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904-5.
Alcoy and Gandia	Jan. 27	Ps. 17,500	—	Ps. 65,400	—
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia	Dec. *	\$1,480,000	+\$552,000	\$1236000	+\$3049000
Argentine Gt. Western ..	Jan. 26	14,796	+ 1,822	373,049	+ 60,845
Algeiras (Gibraltar) ..	" 27	Ps. 32,221	+ Ps. 1,871	Ps. 968,423	+ Ps. 979,938
Buenos Ayres & Pacific ..	" 27	31,454	+ 7,568	828,430	+ 236,783
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o and Cen. Argentine ..	" 27	80,837	+ 3,956	270,578	+ 1,281
Buenos Ayres G. Sthn. ..	" 28	70,711	—	2,092,425	+ 322,642
Do. Western	" 28	34,414	—	928,431	+ 144,104
Do. Ensenada	" 23	381	+ 7	10,120	+ 134
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid. ..	" 27	8,799	—	242,370	+ 2,703
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 27	2,869	+ 429	56,442	+ 2,633
Do. Northern Ex.	" 27	1,048	—	33,151	—
Do. Western Ex.	" 27	1,107	—	35,275	+ 4,683
Cordoba Central	" 28	3,100	+ 860	11,740	+ 1,335
Do. Northern Ex.	" 28	5,895	+ 1,110	23,020	+ 3,400
Do. N. W. Arg'n. Ex.	" 28	1,400	+ 330	5,590	+ 900
Cordoba and Rosario ..	" 28	5,460	—	132,215	+ 3,100
Costa Rica	" 27	6,188	+ 2,775	129,185	+ 18,352
Cuban Central	" 27	8,506	—	153,127	+ 5,998
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 27	12,117	+ 2,270	44,869	+ 10,662
Entre Rios	" 27	5,603	—	96,815	+ 14,304
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico ..	" 21	\$131,400	+\$26,270	\$3,282,590	+\$108,840
Leopoldina	" 27	14,283	—	52,891	—
Mexican	Nov. *	\$12,300	—	\$2,599,800	+\$122,860
Do. Southern	Jan. 21	\$146,700	+\$38,400	\$403,200	+\$59,800
Do. Central	" 31	\$30,553	—	\$101,073	+\$8,198
Do. Do.	Nov. *	\$2,171,546	+\$161,537	\$112,042	+\$974,067
Manila	Jan. 27	\$549,106	+\$48,619	\$3,374,035	+\$362,177
Nitrate	Dec. 31	\$33,817	—	\$121,545	+\$4,427
Ottoman	Jan. 27	23,366	—	530,364	+ 97,308
Peruvian Corporation	Dec. *	4,754	—	19,093	+ 3,986
San Paulo	Jan. 21	\$704,350	+\$88,950	\$3,768,675	+\$460,575
Salvador	" 21	23,593	—	64,619	+ 3,749
United of Havana	" 28	\$30,000	—	\$59,000	+\$3,750
Villa Maria & Rufino ..	" 27	22,816	+ 7,667	296,535	+ 43,010
Western of Havana	" 27	1,361	+ 231	4,403	+ 561
	" 27	3,563	—	126,946	+ 2,573

* Month ended. † Fortnight ended. ‡ Net § From July 1, 1905.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

NAME	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.	
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.
Bengal Nagpur.....	Dec. 31	Rs. 6,44,899	+ R. 77,648	R. 1,09,21,485	+ R. 21,43,506
Bengal & N.-W.	" 30	Rs. 2,65,101	— R. 49,444	Rs. 55,98,600	— R. 3,04,795
Bombay & Baroda	Jan. 27	Rs. 4,01,000	+ R. 31,000	Rs. 15,17,000	+ R. 33,000
Do. State Lines	" 27	Rs. 5,84,000	— R. 38,000	R. 21,72,000	— R. 2,04,000
Burma	Dec. 23	Rs. 2,99,812	— Rs. 5,520	R. 65,51,433	+ R. 20,968
Delhi Umballa	Jan. 27	Rs. 48,200	+ Rs. 13,303	Rs. 1,57,900	+ Rs. 30,434
East Indian	" 27	Rs. 18,16,000	+ R. 2,54,000	R. 64,63,000	+ R. 2,61,900
Gt. Indian Penin.	" 27	Rs. 7,04,000	+ R. 1,43,306	Rs. 63,21,200	+ R. 106,942
Indian Midland	" 27	Rs. 2,50,100	+ R. 37,068	Rs. 10,06,500	+ R. 1,61,409
Madras	" 27	£ 25,575	+ £ 1,640	£ 67,533	+ £ 10,700
South Indian	Dec. 31	Rs. 2,79,801	— Rs. 10,534	Rs. 63,87,853	+ R. 46,023
South Behar	" 31	Rs. 10,075	+ Rs. 109	Rs. 2,66,771	— Rs. 9,452
S'ch'n. Mahratta	Jan. 6	Rs. 2,15,365	+ Rs. 27,829	Rs. 2,15,365	+ Rs. 27,829
Southern Punjab	" 20	Rs. 59,925	+ Rs. 7,375	Rs. 1,69,270	+ R. 10,714

LIMITED.

21, Lombard Street, 2nd February, 1906.

By order of the Board,
F. J. BARTHORPE, Secretary

GUARDIAN ASSURANCE

COMPANY, LIMITED. Established 1821.

II, Lombard Street, LONDON, E.C.

TOTAL ASSETS over £5,000,000

TOTAL INCOME over £940,000

LARGE BONUSES.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent. on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

By reducing its charge on seven day advances from 5 per cent. to $4\frac{1}{2}$, the Bank of England has done a little to lessen the strain upon outside credit jobbers. They, however, remain dissatisfied, not to say wrathful. But they cannot help themselves, for the Bank has evidently decided to keep its hold over the supply of floating credits and is said to have this morning exercised an option held by it, and "called" between £3,000,000 and £4,000,000 from the banks on ten day loans. Be this as it may—and nothing is quite sure as to the amounts involved in these transactions—the market was so bare of supplies to-day that the Bank of England did a large discount business, mostly in 30 day bills, at 4 per cent. as well as a smaller business, that is to say, less than a quarter of the amount done in bills, in seven day loans at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. All the week the India Council, when lending at all, has got 4 per cent. on 30 day money.

The fact that so much of the short bill business went direct to the Bank proves the open market to be working close up to Bank rate, at all events, for remitted bills of short usance. The discount houses cannot do otherwise, since it is no use taking such bills at $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. in order to lose $\frac{1}{16}$ per cent. on the money borrowed at the Bank of England to carry them with from week to week. Business, however, was done outside in such bills at $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., and we fear the working rate for full three months was still no better than $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. for the great bulk of the paper offered. Very fine bills were taken at $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., but that seems to have been the exception.

How long the Bank is going to be obliged by political and other circumstances to hold the market thus tightly in its grasp no observer can say, but its task should become easier as the end of the Budget year approaches, and we do not anticipate a continuance much longer of the present system of absorbing so much of the market's floating supplies by borrowing from the other banks on stock. This does not mean that the market is going to obtain its credit at an appreciably lower rate any time during the current quarter. Only by one means can it be sure of cheapness for more than a few days any time this half-year, viz., by an accumulation of gold. If the Bank is able to retain the gold coming in from the mines, or the greater portion of it, during the next three months, or if an amicable settlement of the Moroccan dispute dissipates the fears of France and permits some millions of the gold now hoarded in Paris to be let loose again, easy money rates will ensue here. Short of such changes banking credit is bound to remain more or less dear or difficult to handle for an indefinite time to come, not only because of the strain put upon all markets by the distension of credit on stock markets and the troubles of Russia, but by the growing requirements of stock speculation and expanding commerce. Bill brokers, therefore, who work in the hope of seeing cheap money soon are not likely to realise large profits this six months.

The Bank return does not require much notice, but the fact that other deposits have fallen off £1,945,000,

in consequence principally of the repayment of £2,348,000 due to the Bank on other securities, may be mentioned as indicating that the market is not master of all the resources the other deposits appear to give it. Slight as the increase in public deposits is, that also conveys the lesson that from now onwards the open market must tend to grow increasingly poverty-stricken through the operations of the tax-gatherer.

Calls on new issues during next week are:—Feb. 5: British Columbia Electric Railway preferred and deferred ordinary, £113,625; Canadian Northern Railway debenture stock, £545,600; Gold Fields of Mysore, £13,125. 6th: Chillagoe shares, £17,250; Land Bank of Egypt new ordinary, £200,000. 7th: Avino Mines of Mexico, £28,921; and 10th: Argyll Motors debenture stock, £25,000; total, £763,521.

SILVER.

The announcement on Saturday last that the French Mint had invited tenders for the supply of 50,000 kilos. or about £200,000 worth of silver caused the market to harden, and quotations were lifted to $30\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. for cash, and $29\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. for future delivery. A further rise of $\frac{1}{8}$ d. for spot metal on a little trade inquiry was accompanied by a drop of the same fraction for forward shipments, but dealings have since shrunk to insignificant proportions and quotations close at $30\frac{1}{8}$ d. and $29\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. Tenders for Rs. 1,00,00,000 India Council drafts on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 5,97,00,000, of which Rs. 1,22,00,000 were in bills and Rs. 4,75,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Applications were accepted for Rs. 18,76,000 in bills and Rs. 81,24,000 in transfers, tenders at Rs. $4\frac{1}{16}$ d. to Rs. $4\frac{3}{32}$ d. per rupee receiving about 15 per cent. Next week another Rs. 1,00,00,000 will be offered.

The Straits Government has issued a notice fixing the rate at which dollars can be obtained against the deposit of gold. At present dollars will be issued at the rate of 60 dollars for seven sovereigns; in other words, the value of the dollar is fixed in gold at 2s. 4d.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, January 31, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Note Issued	£	Government Debt ..	£
.. .. .	49,597,055	Other Securities ..	11,015,100
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	7,434,900
		Silver Bullion ..	31,147,055

£49,597,055

£49,597,055

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	13,939,473
Rest ..	3,537,319	Other Securities ..	34,877,082
Public Deposits (including		Notes ..	21,123,455
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,614,675
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	8,021,092		
Other Deposits ..	5,342,008		
Seven Day and other Bills	101,266		

£71,554,685

£71,554,685

Dated February 1, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. Feb. 1		Jan. 24, 1906.	Jan. 31, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,484,447	Rest ..	3,537,350	3,537,319	3,960	—
7,421,161	Pub. Deposits ..	7,810,844	8,021,092	210,248	—
42,640,571	Other do. ..	47,286,092	45,442,008	—	1,944,984
82,926	7 Day Bills ..	93,684	101,266	7,582	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
16,308,041	Gov. Securities	13,439,473	13,939,473	—	500,000
25,471,399	Other do. ..	37,224,692	34,877,082	2,347,610	—
26,402,665	Total Reserve ..	22,613,705	22,738,190	—	124,425
				2,569,409	2,569,409
				Increase.	Decrease.
£		£	£	£	£
27,558,165	Note Circulation	28,277,445	25,423,600	196,155	—
35,510,830	Coin and Bullion	30,918,535	32,761,730	320,580	—
52½ p.c.	Proportion ..	4½ p.c.	4½ p.c.	—	—
5 "	Bank Rate ..	4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £52,000 out.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	155,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
July	1,003,888,000	830,361,000	173,527,000	—
August	1,098,366,000	945,164,000	153,202,000	—
September	879,323,000	678,546,000	200,777,000	—
October	1,006,632,000	861,123,000	145,509,000	—
November	1,187,821,000	1,117,870,000	69,951,000	—
Week ending Dec. 6	315,761,000	216,663,000	99,098,000	—
" 13	201,126,000	182,495,000	18,631,000	—
" 20	301,263,000	261,237,000	40,026,000	—
" 27	161,274,000	157,482,000	3,792,000	—
Total for year	12,253,307,000	10,459,068,000	1,794,239,000	—
Jan. 3	340,266,000	276,940,000	63,326,000	—
" 10	228,921,000	215,482,000	13,439,000	—
" 17	287,646,000	254,259,000	33,387,000	—
" 24	214,928,000	186,205,000	28,723	—
" 31	289,938,000	300,588,000	—	10,650,000
	1,361,699,000	1,233,474,000	128,225,000	—

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
2,000,000	6 months	Feb. 12	1 18 3
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,000,000	3 months	Mar. 7	3 1 8
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
1,800,000	6 months	June 1	3 2 6
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
1,200,000	—	—	—
1,000,000	6 months	June 29	2 17 6
20,333,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Tuesday, Bars £50,000	Wednesday, S. America .. £60,000
" Germany 6,000	Thursday, Gibraltar 10,000
Wednesday, Bars .. 147,000	" Chili 6,000
Thursday, Bars 213,000	Friday, S. America 10,000
Friday, Bars 167,000	Net Influx 497,000
Total £583,000	Total .. £583,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'13 ¹ / ₂	25'14 ¹ / ₂	Antwerp	short	25'20	25'20
Brussels	chqs.	25'19	25'19	Italy	sight	25'17	25'17
Amsterdam	sight	12'12	12'12 ¹ / ₂	Constantinople	3 mths	110'32	110'25
Berlin	chqs.	20'49	20'49 ¹ / ₂	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	17'10 ¹ / ₂ d.	17'10 ¹ / ₂ d.
Do.	3 mths	20'29	20'29	Valparaiso	90 dys	14'10 ¹ / ₂ d.	14'10 ¹ / ₂ d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20'48	20'48 ¹ / ₂	Calcutta	T.T.	1'4 ¹ / ₂	1'4 ¹ / ₂
Frankfurt	short	20'46 ¹ / ₂	20'47	Bombay	T.T.	1'4 ¹ / ₂	1'4 ¹ / ₂
Vienna	sight	24'06	24'04 ¹ / ₂	Hong Kong	T.T.	2'0 ¹ / ₂	2'0 ¹ / ₂
St. Petersburg	3 mths	94'05	94'10	Shanghai	T.T.	2'4	2'0 ¹ / ₂
New York	60 dys	4'8 ¹ / ₂	4'8 ¹ / ₂	Singapore	T.T.	2'4	2'4 ¹ / ₂
Lisbon	sight	50 ¹ / ₂	50 ¹ / ₂	Yokohama	4 mths	2'0 ¹ / ₂	2'0 ¹ / ₂
Madrid	sight	30'90	30'88				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.	
			Last Week.	Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	2 ¹ / ₂	2 ¹ / ₂
Berlin	5	December 11, 1905	3 ¹ / ₂	3 ¹ / ₂
Hamburg	5	December 11, 1905	3 ¹ / ₂	3 ¹ / ₂
Frankfort	5	December 11, 1905	3 ¹ / ₂	3 ¹ / ₂
Amsterdam	3	November, 1905	2 ¹ / ₂	2 ¹ / ₂
Brussels	4	October 30, 1905	3 ¹ / ₂	3 ¹ / ₂
Vienna	4 ¹ / ₂	October, 1905	4	4
Rome	5	September, 1904	4 ¹ / ₂	4 ¹ / ₂
St. Petersburg	8	January, 1900	7	7
Madrid	4 ¹ / ₂	August 21, 1901	4	4
Lisbon	5 ¹ / ₂	January 11, 1899	5	5
Stockholm	5	January, 1906.	4 ¹ / ₂	4 ¹ / ₂
Copenhagen	5	October, 1905	4	4 ¹ / ₂
Calcutta	9	February 1, 1906	—	—
Bombay	9	February 1, 1906	—	—
New York call money ..	5	—	—	—

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Jan. 25, 1906	Jan. 18, 1906.	Jan. 11, 1906.	Jan. 26, 1905.
Coin and bullion	5,108,120	4,868,480	4,732,000	4,729,560
Other securities	23,653,560	23,916,680	24,110,160	23,007,480
Note circulation	27,910,600	27,672,760	28,074,440	26,638,800
Deposits	1,160,480	1,461,600	1,265,600	1,010,640

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Jan. 27.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs £ 669,000	National Debt Services .. £ 3,794
Excise 670,000	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties .. 228,000	Charges —
Stamps 273,000	Payments to Local Author-
Land Tax and House Duty .. 180,000	ties —
Property and Income Tax .. 1,916,000	Supply Services 1,162,034
Post Office —	Bullion Advances —
Telegraphs —	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands —	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds —
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds redeemed
Miscellaneous 33,567	Uganda Railway —
Bullion advances repaid .. 100,000	Military Works —
Uganda Railway —	Naval Works —
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts —
count —	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts —	ings) —
Naval Works Acts —	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts —	Act 45,000
Land Registry Acts —	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act —
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Issue of Exchequer Bonds	in reduction of debt —
under C. nard Agreement Act	Cunard Agreement —
Ways and Means —	Surplus Revenue, 1904-5 ..
Temporary Advances Defi-	ciency —
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	Ways and Means Advances
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	repaid 2,500,000
Transvaal and Orange River	Increase in Exchequer
Colony, Repayment of	balances 358,739
Temporary Advance —	
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	
tion payments —	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances —	
£4,069,567	£4,955

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Jan. 8/21, 1906.	Jan. 1/14, 1906.	Dec. 16/29, 1905.	Jan. 8/21, 1905.
Gold	£ 71,709,079	£ 71,349,243	£ 73,703,856	£ 88,490,539
Silver and subsidiary coin	3,418,353	3,107,704	3,279,056	5,961,391
Advances and bills discounted	67,992,874	66,202,551	63,169,111	39,723,317
Securities belonging to the Bank	7,486,374	7,792,653	7,950,626	5,730,565
Notes in circulation ..	118,572,677	120,458,786	119,300,951	85,553,874
Deposits and current account	44,360,221	41,646,564	45,549,278	48,612,618
Treasury account .. .	8,774,439	10,384,351	6,285,740	16,983,754

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Feb. 1, 1906.	Jan. 25, 1906.	Jan. 18, 1905.	Feb. 2, 1905.
	£	£		£
Gold in hand	113,931,520	114,153,160	114,522,800	107,948,160
Silver in hand	42,187,680	42,305,640	42,493,640	44,021,160
Bills discounted	44,219,880	39,984,800	41,684,160	31,639,680
Advances	19,962,560	19,061,520	20,342,480	20,438,040
Note circulation	193,267,400	188,851,560	191,291,400	178,282,920
Public deposits	10,216,320	10,816,960	7,682,920	8,094,680
Private deposits	22,430,800	21,885,920	24,055,960	21,067,160

Proportion between bullion and circulation 80 per cent. against 82¹/₂ per cent. a week ago.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Jan. 31, 1906.	Jan. 23, 1906.	Jan. 15, 1906.	Jan. 31, 1905.
	£	£		0
Cash in hand	47,711,900	48,930,250	46,289,950	53,430,850
Bills discounted	42,248,350	41,933,950	44,559,850	36,501,350
Advances on stocks	3,580,600	2,625,750	4,289,300	2,805,600
Note circulation	66,211,150	65,083,350	68,235,750	64,191,600
Public deposits	25,281,000	28,869,900	27,934,050	25,619,950

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Dec. 20, 1905.	Nov. 30, 1905.	Nov. 10, 1905.	Dec. 10, 1904.
	£	£	£	£
Reserve	30,806,000	30,494,200	29,193,520	25,438,760
State notes and small changed	580,200	561,240	468,240	529,080
Discount and loans	13,832,560	14,293,840	14,649,960	11,045,080
Public stock and State loans..	8,146,320	8,149,400	8,293,520	8,924,600
Credits	6,332,080	6,222,640	6,880,880	6,607,560
Note Circulation	39,127,440	40,070,480	40,432,440	36,044,128
Current account	2,582,240	2,434,080	2,407,440	3,644,920
Deposits	3,896,520	4,259,240	3,983,640	3,276,600

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Jan. 27, 1906.	Jan. 20, 1906.	Jan. 13, 1906.	Jan. 28, 1905
	£	£	£	£
Gold	75,046,247	15,040,509	15,037,612	14,922,238
Silver	23,218,471	23,070,604	22,949,453	20,197,476
Foreign Bills	3,041,665	3,075,968	3,044,065	1,604,068
Discount and Short Bills	47,045,873	47,100,497	47,140,883	49,627,012
Treasury Account	20,448,421	20,447,310	20,457,751	20,331,410
Notes in circulation	62,134,276	62,152,848	62,121,177	63,238,679
Current Account deposits	23,274,035	23,274,035	23,570,475	25,523,050
Dividends Interests	3,332,968	3,827,551	3,814,601	2,478,991
Government Securities	6,041,112	6,151,846	6,124,390	4,025,120

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Jan. 23, 1906.	Jan. 15, 1906.	Jan. 6, 1906.	Jan. 23, 1905.
Gold Reserve ..	£ 45,405,750	£ 45,208,833	£ 44,874,541	£ 48,400,708
Silver reserve ..	12,434,291	12,294,000	12,080,250	12,536,791
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	1,798,333	2,038,708	2,540,291	1,884,166
Note circulation ..	67,908,750	69,723,791	73,156,645	65,708,125
Bills discounted ..	19,162,166	21,164,458	24,070,333	14,411,250

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Jan. 27, 1906	Jan. 20, 1906.	Jan. 13, 1906	Jan. 28, 1905
Specie ..	£ 38,002,000	£ 37,994,000	£ 35,666,000	£ 46,306,000
Legal tenders ..	16,920,406	16,827,800	16,756,200	18,582,400
Loans and discounts ..	208,220,000	205,120,000	201,000,000	223,120,000
Circulation ..	10,453,400	10,536,600	10,598,200	8,576,400
Net deposits ..	209,420,000	205,880,000	199,442,000	237,960,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of nett deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £3,167,400 against an excess last week of £3,351,800.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Jan. 23.	Jan. 25.	Jan. 30.	Feb. 1.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½
Do. do.	3 months	12'4½	12'4½	12'4½	12'4½
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'46½	25'46½	25'45	25'46½
Hamburg ..	3 months	20'70	20'70	20'71	20'70
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'70	20'70	20'71	20'70
Paris ..	cheques	25'15	25'15	25'12½	25'13½
Do. ..	3 months	25'33½	25'33½	25'32½	25'33½
Marseilles ..	3 months	25'33½	25'33½	25'33½	25'35
Switzerland ..	3 months	25'50	25'51½	25'48½	25'48½
Austria ..	3 months	24'35	24'35	24'35	24'35
St. Petersburg ..	3 months	24'1½	24'1½	24'1½	24'1½
Moscow ..	3 months	24'1½	24'1½	24'1½	24'1½
Italian Bank Places	3 months	25'51½	25'51½	25'47½	25'48½
New York ..	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	38½	38½	38½	38½
Lisbon ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen ..	3 months	18'45	18'44	18'44	18'45
Christiania ..	3 months	18'46	18'45	18'45	18'46
Stockholm ..	3 months	18'46	18'45	18'45	18'46

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3½-4
Three months "	3½-3¾
Four months "	3½-3¾
Six months "	3½-3¾
Three months fine inland bills	4-4½
Four months "	4-4½
Six months "	4-4½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
" " short loan rates	4½
Bankers' rate on deposits	2½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	3
" 7 and 14 days' notice	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans	4
" for call loans	4-4½

market has been fermenting in a way that warns us to look for trouble there at no distant date, and if trouble comes on Wall Street no European markets, least of all those of England and Germany, are going to escape the contagion. Therefore do we continue to advise the utmost caution and circumspection in the investment of savings. Let it be investment business, not gambling at any point.

The Week's Stock Markets.

It is not yet possible to report an improvement in Stock Exchange business, and there is nothing to encourage the hope that any immediate return to activity can be contemplated. Professionals seem to be frightened by the disturbed state of the money market, and although the public mind is no longer absorbed in the elections, outsiders are not displaying much inclination to turn their attention to speculation. They are probably wise to keep clear, because under prevailing conditions, and with prices at existing heights the chances seem much more in favour of operations turning out unprofitably than well. There is still a certain flow of investment business, which helps Consols and other gilt-edged securities, and it is said that on Thursday, which was settlement day in British Funds, some large lines went into the names of the India Council, the Egyptian Government, and other big buyers. A shortage of registered stock was even reported, which must be considered a decidedly encouraging sign, and if the coming budget makes provision for an effective sinking fund the outlook for the premier security seems rather brighter. It was, of course, an expensive business to carry over the stock, the general contango being $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., although a little money was lent at the round figure. Home County and Corporation stocks were also firm, and a large number of Colonial Inscribed stocks rose $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1.

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS (Last dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91½	87½	Consols (2½ p.c. Money)	89½	90½
91½	87½	Do. Account (Mar. 1)	86½	90½
90½	86½	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	88½	89
100½	99½	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907 ..	100½	100½
95½	89	Irish Land (2½) ..	91	91
101½	96½	Local Loans (3) ..	99½	99½
90½	97½	National War Loan (2½ p.c.)	99½	98½
90½	97½	Do. Account (Mar. 1)	98½	99
101½	97½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	99½	99½
308	291½	Bk. of England Stk. (9 p.c.) ..	294½	294½
109	103½	India 3½ p.c. Stk. red. 1931 ..	105½	106
99½	94½	Do. 3 p.c. Stk. red. 1948 ..	96½	97
85½	79½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stk. red. 1926 ..	80½	81
66½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66½	66½

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Pressure of company reports forces us this week to cut off any lengthened discourse about the Stock markets, and it is just as well, for we can have little fresh to say to readers until the inevitable end of the present stake-all gamble in American Railroad shares approaches, or until it becomes clearer what the Continent, and above all France, is to do in regard to Russian monetary necessities. Try as we may to shut our eyes to what is going on in Russia, it is impossible to ignore the influence of Russian financial distress upon all great money markets. The latest report is that Russia is seeking to raise abroad a loan of £80,000,000, and the autocracy will require at least twice that amount to bring its budget into some kind of order, but a loan of even £40,000,000 cannot be raised anywhere in Europe at the present time, and therefore Russia is swiftly approaching a point when forced paper money will again be the only medium of exchange within the country. What that portends to the autocracy or to Russian trade we have not now space to illustrate, but our stock markets cannot escape from the shadow of this impending calamity.

No wonder, therefore, that business is halting, even in the investment sections of the market, and that the multitude refuses to play with its old energy and carelessness, whether in Home securities, in Foreign, or in those of the United States. This week the Yankee

The Foreign bond market attracted only a moderate amount of attention, but finished with a fairly firm tendency after being rather dull at the opening. Reassuring reports regarding the progress of the Moroccan Conference were responsible for the rally, Paris lending a little support to the usual favourites. Spanish, Turkish, Portuguese, therefore finished hard, and even Russians picked up somewhat from early weakness caused by the difficulties which the Government is experience in raising money. The effort to place on this side some of the Treasury bonds recently issued has proved anything but a success, and as the Continent is not at all enthusiastic over the issue the prospects of placing a loan of sufficient size to be of real use are decidedly dismal. Japanese were depressed by stories of further loan operations, the latest 4 per cent. issue going to $\frac{3}{4}$ discount, but prices soon rallied again and closed steady. Chinese bonds were firm, and in the South American group there was again a good deal of excitement in Peruvian issues. They again fluctuated pretty wildly, first on this rumour and then on that, finishing down on balance. Buenos Ayres cedulas also moved rapidly, a story being current that a London bank was interesting itself in the negotiations, but this was immediately denied. Prices, however, did not relapse. Argentines and Brazilians were particularly good on investment buying, but Colombians were heavy in the Central American group

on statements that another revolution had broken out. There appears to be no truth in the rumour.

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104½	100½	103½	103	103
102½	97½	101½	101	101
104½	98½	102½	102½	102½
93½	85½	91½	91½	92
93	85½	90½	90½	91½
92½	85½	90½	90½	91½
104½	99½	104	104	104
92½	82½	88½	88	89½
101	94	101½	101½	102
106	101½	104½	104½	104½
91½	82	88½	88	89½
102½	93½	101	101½	101½
97½	87½	95	95	96
99½	89½	97	97	96
96½	88½	95	95	96
102½	96	100½	101	101
98½	91½	98½	98½	98½
107	100½	104½	105	105½
106½	100½	104½	105	105
106½	92½	100½	101	100½
106½	97½	105½	105½	102½xd
59½	28½	53	52½	53
51½	24½	43	43	43
48½	26½	45½	46	46
109½	104½	107½	107½	107½
107	104	104½	105	105
109½	95½	102½	102½	102½
106½	102½	103½	104	104
91½	86½	88	88	88
54½	47	52½	52	51½
55½	48½	52½	52½	52½
44	38½	41	41	41
54½	47	—	51	51
100½	95½	95½	95	95½
106	102½	104½	104½	104½
104½	88½	101½	101½	101½
103½	88½	102½	103	103
93½	76½	91½	91	90½
100½	97	103	103½	103
105½	102½	103½	103½	103½
208	64½	68½	69	69
95½	77½	83½	83	82½
83½	76	—	81	81
94½	89½	91½	91½	92½
103	100	102½	102½	102½
106	100½	104½	104½	104½
92	86½	91½	91½	92½
74½	63½	71½	72	71½xd
99	86½	91½	98	97½
51½	42½	51½	50½	50½

Excellent traffic returns and the issue of several very satisfactory reports failed to stimulate the Home Railway market into activity, and beyond realisations by disappointed "bulls," there has been little doing all week. Great Northern preferred and deferred were about the firmest spot in the market on the very good showing made for the past half-year, but even in their case the gains did not reach £1. Metropolitan still felt the influence of the dividend announced last week, and the price dropped steadily until it showed a loss of 2½, dragging District down 1½ with it. Great Western, too, was 3 per cent. lower, and Great Eastern and North-Eastern were inclined to be flat, as well as

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
145	133	141	141	141
165	152½	155	155	155
131½	116½	130	130½	130
120	111	120½	120½	119
83½	77½	79½	79½	79
41½	33½	41½	41½	40½
94½	88½	95½	96	96
87½	77	87½	87½	87½
171½	153	16	16½	15½
48	37½	44	43	43
71	51	67½	68	68
39½	28½	37½	37½	38
109½	155	184	19	18½
93½	80½	90	88½xd	87½xd
108½	96½	104	104	104½
45½	33½	45	45½	46
145½	135½	142½	143½	142
50½	48	—	49½	49½
49½	41	47	47	47
112½	104	104½	109½	109
100	86½	86½	86½	84
42½	33½	36	35½	34
71	66	69½	69½	69½
24½	62½	75½	74	74
84½	77	78½	78½	78
49½	43½	46½	46½	46½
140½	134	145½	146½	145½
161½	147	160½	161	161
96	84½	91	91	91
135½	122½	129½	130	130
60½	48½	54½	54½	53½
171	156	162	162½	161½
111½	104½	107½	107	107
60½	52½	56½	57	56

South-Eastern deferred and South-Western ordinary and deferred. Caledonian deferred was sold freely from Glasgow, and although there was some buying back at the lowest, it failed to wipe out the loss altogether. The Hull and Barnsley dividend had no effect on the price of the stock, but Barry and Rhymney issues both receded sharply, and North London also suffered a substantial decline on their announcements. Central London ordinary and deferred met with a fair inquiry on the report, and the market began to talk of a time coming when the company would have accumulated a sufficient reserve, and would be able to commence paying an additional dividend or bonus.

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
95½	80½	97½	96½	96½
108½	102	107	107	106½
120½	104½	119	118	119
102	97½	100½	101	101
61½	46½	63	62½	61½
193½	173½	195½	194	191½
49½	27½	49	51	51½
93½	85½	92½	93½	92½
54½	36½	51	50½	49½
87½	77½	84½	84	84½
80½	77½	77½	76	75½
187	156	184	180xd	178½xd
161½	140½	160	155½xd	156½xd
39½	24½	40½	40½	38½
109½	140½	158½	156	155
90½	77½	92½	92½	95½
96½	94	96	95	95
65½	41½	56	55½	56½
76½	67½	75½	74½	73½
73½	46½	84½	80½	72½
49½	46	—	48	48
51½	43½	—	49	49
74	59½	73½	72½	70½
39½	28½	41	44½	43
104½	97½	104½	105	104½
154½	110½	160½	162	159½
102½	98½	101	101	101
24½	19	26	26½	25
49½	37½	48½	48½	47
86½	69½	80½	80	80
182½	133	180½	179½	177
109	102½	—	108½	106½
112	108½	109½	109½	109½
26½	19½	26½	26½	27
104½	99½	103	103	104
115½	107½	116½	117	117
107½	97	107½	107½	107½
62½	46½	61½	61½	62½
109½	106½	108½	109	109

Wall Street apparently succeeded in unloading a considerable quantity of stocks during the recent brief interval of public interest, and professionals were consequently less under the necessity of making strenuous efforts to maintain prices at the inflated levels to which they had been carried. So profit snatching became the order of the day, and when it was announced that Congress had ordered an inquiry into the Pennsylvania Company's holdings in other lines, selling orders poured into the market from all quarters. New York at first joined in the realising, but the Pennsylvania group made an effort to check the decline by asserting that they had not infringed the Inter-State Commerce Law, and had consequently nothing to fear from an investigation. This confidence sent the "bears" in to cover, and the recovery was further helped by a few adventurous speculators who bought in the belief that the heavy fall would as usual be followed by a sharp reaction. Selling began again on Thursday, however, as it was reported that Congress had followed up its action with regard to the Pennsylvania Company, with a similar order affecting the Union Pacific. Reading ordinary were the heaviest sufferers in the list, with a fall of 8, but the losses in Milwaukee, Union Pacific, and Southern Pacific amounted to \$2 and more, and Missouri, Illinois Central, Erie, New York Central, and Wabash ordinary and preferred were from 1 to 1½ down. Ontario, Louisville, and Southern common were better on the week, but, except for a fraction here and there, these were the only favourable movements in the list.

Canadian Pacific shares tumbled back with Yankees, and as the market was overshadowed by the liquidation of a large stale "bull" account, even the increase of \$684,000 in the nett revenue for December had little effect in checking the decline. This account, however, is now believed to be cleared out of the way, and

with the renewal of manipulation in Wall Street an upward twist was given to the price towards the end of the week, but the final figure was not much above the lowest. Grand Trunk stocks dwindled in sympathy during the first few days, but in their case the reaction set in more promptly, and they close with fair gains, especially in the guaranteed and third preference.

Highest and Lowest last Year.		Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last com- pleted year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
222½	128	223	Antofagasta (10)	228½	227½
321	144½	—	Do. Def. (15)	330	335
131½	105	129	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	129	128
131	113½	131	Do. Prefd. (5)	131	131
84½	77	86½	Bahia Blanca Prefid.	88	88
148½	134½	141½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	142	140
133½	126	129	Do. Prefco (5)	129	129
143½	117	133½	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	133½	133
118½	108½	120	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	118½d	117xd
110½	99½	109	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	110	110
115	101½	116½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	117	116
110	92½	112	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	112	112
170½	161	169	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	169	169
109½	103½	107½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	107½	107
142½	127	136	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	138½	137½
93	79	92	Central Uruguay (4½) ..	92	91
109	100	109	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	109	108
95½	88	94	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	94	94
76½	58	72½	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	73	72½
26	2½	2½	Costa Rica	2½	2½
76	56	66	Cuban Central	64	64
128	107½	111½	Do. Pref. (5½)	111½	111½
107½	104	—	Do. Deb. (4½)	105	103
95½	72	92	East Argentine (4½)	92	92
76	5½	67½	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	64	7
64½	46	85	Leopoldina (3)	84½	82
99½	84½	97½	Do. Deb. (4)	97	97
110½	106	—	Manila Bonus "A" (6) ..	108	108
108	104½	—	Do. "B" (6)	105	105
49½	19½	26½	Mexican Ord. Stk.	26½	26½
121½	103½	125	Do. 1st Pref. (5½)	125½	124½
57	36½	54½	Do. 2nd Pref.	54½	54½
69½	48½	58½	Mexican Southern (2½) ..	60	59
17	107½	148	Nitrate Ord. (5½)	146½	148
24½	16½	19½	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	19½	19½
220	178	207½	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	208	205
226	122	186	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	183½	181½

With the exception of Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary stock, in which there was a fair amount of business, Argentine Railways have been comparatively neglected and inclined to sag all week. Prices were marked down a little on poorer traffic returns than had been anticipated, and fell still further on reports that a strike had broken out in the country; but, as a rule, the movements on the week did not amount to more than a fraction or two. Leopoldina ordinary stock was again offered freely, owing to the disturbance to traffic by floods, and San Paulo ordinary followed it down, while Uruguay stocks were also heavy under the lead of North-Western preferred. United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock continued to dwindle, but Antofagasta deferred was again firm and 5 higher. Amongst Mexican things, Inter-oceanic debenture stocks have been in demand, and improved from 1 to 2, but the stocks of the old company were offered towards the end, and dropped ½ to ¾, the first preference losing most.

In the Miscellaneous groups of securities quotations were moved about with some freedom, but business was still on a very small scale. Hudson's Bays went down with Americans, but shared their recovery, and Chinese land and exploration things were steady to firm. Bank shares were particularly strong, but Brewery issues continue to fall in all directions, although here and there a recovery from recent depression is to be noted. Bass preference stock, for example, was better, and holders will be glad to learn that the policy of secrecy is at length to be abandoned. In future the company will issue a yearly balance-sheet, the first to make its appearance in August next covering the year to June 30. There can be no question of the wisdom of this step. The business is probably sound enough, and the recent weakness in the company's securities may have had no justification at all, but in the complete absence of details concerning the undertaking a feeling of uncertainty is bound to prevail, with the result that the good suffers with the bad. Textiles were active, with quite a run on English Sewing Cotton ordinary shares, which, it is said, will shortly re-enter the dividend list after their

long absence. Catering securities were also good, and Lyons had a small rise on a few inquiries. British Oil and Cake Mills went back on the disappointing revenue statement showing that no dividend can be paid on the ordinary shares, Nitrates were steady and Iron and Steel shares mostly showed improvements. Bovrils hardened up on the dividend and Nelsons were better amongst Meat shares. Maples rallied on the increase in the dividend. London Docks recovered from early weakness, but there was nothing very

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
27	15	18½	Allsopp Ordinary	19	18
71	40	—	City of London Ord.	48½	48½
566	505	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	550	550
27½	19½	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	19	18½
27½	27½	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22) ..	2½	2½
37½	3	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	3	2½xd
68½	48	50½	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4) ..	51½	51½
35	15	14½	Do. Def. Ord. Stock	15	15
105	99	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4) ..	99	98
78½	56½	—	Do. Def. Stk. (1½)	54	54
67½	57½	67½	Aerated Bread (32½)	61	61
77½	6	6½	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	6½	6½
67½	51½	17½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½) ..	6½	6½
13½	1	1½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	17½	17½
33	14	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2	2
8	5	—	Brunner Mond (35)	5½	5½
11½	9½	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½) ..	11½	11½
58½	47½	52	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½) ..	52	52
502½	48½	497½	Coats Ordinary (20)	52	51
170	127	206	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	500	500
170	127	206	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nll) ..	170	170
170	127	206	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4) ..	170	170
170	127	206	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3)	6½	6½
138	104	68	Henley's Telegraph (15)	13	13½
470	34	43½	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20)	47½	47½
18	1	27/3	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½) ..	12	13½xd
111	106	107½	Do. Debenture (4½)	108	108
12	1½	23/6	Lipton Ordinary (7)	170	170
67½	5	51½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	5½	5½
170	127	206	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	170	170
170	127	206	Russian Petroleum	7½	7½
8	5	14/	Savoy Hotel (5)	7½	7½
39½	2	15/9	Sweetmeat Automatic	170	170
159	13	—	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10) ..	16	16xd
170	127	206	Welsbach Ordinary Stock	16	16
170	127	206	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	16	16
105	102½	102½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4) ..	103	103
89	49½	82½	Hudson's Bay Co. (58½)	84	84
514	38½	52½	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½) ..	52½	51½
108½	99½	108½	Do. Debentures (6)	109½	109½
98	88	—	National Discount (10)	9½	9½xd
112	104	—	Union Discount (11)	11½	11½xd
84½	64	6	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8) ..	6½	6½
137½	104	118	City of London Elect. Ord. (6) ..	11½	11½
104½	95½	—	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (48) ..	102½	101½
134½	120½	—	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½)	131	131
37	34	3½	Armstrong, Whitworth (15)	3½	3½
59	34	37½	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	34	34
17	14	14	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10) ..	170	170
14	11	—	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½) ..	170	170
148	92	138	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	14	14
427½	268	402	United States Steel Ordinary ..	45½	45½
1091½	938	115	Do. Preference (7)	114½	115½
27	29	29½	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	27½	27½
142	114	—	Cunard Steam	14½	14½
249	214½	—	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13) ..	240½	240½
47	38½	—	Royal Mail	53½	53½
98½	8	—	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5)	8½	8½
110½	101½	113½	Anglo-American Telegraph— Do. Pref. Ord. (22)	114½	114½
187½	10	18	Do. Def. Ord.	106	106
147½	134½	149	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7) ..	149½	149½
147½	132	148	Eastern Extension (7)	14½	14½
113½	100	111	National Telephone Def. (5)	111	111
147½	132	144	Western Telegraph (7)	14½	14½
102	77½	88	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6) ..	88	88
93½	74	84½	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8) ..	2½	2½
129	99	—	London General Omnibus (8) ..	115½	116½
102	98	—	London United Trams Pref. (5) ..	9½	9

striking in the shipping list. Imperial Tobacco issues hardened on the profit statement, the company having experienced a very profitable year. Salt Unions and United Alkali preferred ended dull. Gas Lights were moderately sold, but other Gas securities kept firm, and the tendency for Insurance shares was again good. Telegraph and Telephone issues were also strong, and a pretty fair trade was done in Anglo-American deferred at rising prices. Road Cars and London United Tramways were heavy in the Tramways and Omnibus section, but London Generals maintained previous figures.

The Midland dividend has disappointed the market, which is now wondering where about £100,000 of revenue it estimated the company to possess has gone. Recently the assumption was that the dividend would be at the rate of 3½ per cent. on the deferred stock, whereas the distribution thereon is only at the rate of

3½ per cent., making the entire distribution on the old stock 5½ per cent. per annum instead of the 6 per cent. expected. This damped prices all over the Home Railway market. As there was not much animation at any point the close was listless. In fact, the account is at hand, and preliminaries of the mining carry-over will be arranged to-morrow, since Monday next is the regular mining contango day. Paris, however, was a firm market and inclined to buy various things, including Kaffir shares picked up in small lots when prices gave way.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

*. Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

There is still very little to say about the Kaffir Circus except that it continues more or less in the dumps. Although excitement over the election has practically subsided, it has not lightened the gloom in this dismal spot and the gamblers are moaning as loudly as ever. The public show not the slightest inclination to come back to the scene of their past disasters and prices have, on the whole, drooped despite a little Paris buying now and then and some support from the magnates. Were it not for this the decline would have been more serious, but even as it is the quotations for most of the leading shares are only nominal. That is, it is far easier to buy than to sell them, for the sellers vastly outnumber the buyers. Holders would find the shares difficult—probably impossible in some cases—of negotiation at the published prices. Premier Diamond deferred and Geduld Proprietary continue to fall despite the recent official reassuring (?) statements. It will be recalled that the directors of the Premier have publicly announced their faith in the future of the mine, but it has not stopped the slump. As regards the Geduld, the directors have issued the names of the commission appointed by them to investigate the causes of the recent scandal, and we deal with the matter more fully elsewhere. This unsavoury affair has made a profound impression upon the public and will do vastly more harm to the market, from a mine-boss point of view, than sending the coolies home, for outsiders cannot reconcile this dishonesty with the professed wish to earn more money for them. The magnates will find it harder than ever to get more money out of the public for those numberless promotions of theirs awaiting a favourable opportunity. The boom they want has been postponed to a more distant date still; meanwhile, many of the mines now working will be exhausted.

The following dividend has been declared:—

	Dividend.	Issued Capital.	Amount.
Transvaal Estates ...	10 per cent.	£604,000	£60,400

Within the past day or two the insiders have made another effort to hoist Rhodesian Bankets, but being based upon no other ground than capricious impulse the rise has not been sustained. Rhodesian shares have scarcely moved all the week and the majority still stand at the prices quoted in our last issue. The "shop" and insiders continue to wait impatiently for the public to come forward.

The condition of the other sections is precisely similar—all are in a state of utter stagnation. Here and there one sees a fractional change—a rise or a fall—but not a movement of any moment. Even Anacondas and Rio Tintos have been dull, gambling in these counters having quietened down, though there is no foreseeing when the unhealthy excitement will break out again. Esperanzas have been sliding downwards for some undisclosed reason.

JUMPERS DEEP.—The report issued by the directors of this member of the Wernher, Beit group of companies is very disheartening, and shareholders may most reasonably doubt the probability of receiving further dividends from the mine. During the financial year ending September 30 profits fell off heavily, due almost entirely to an alarming deterioration in the value of the ore, an experience that is unfortunately becoming frequent on the Rand, as we have remarked in special articles on this vital subject recently. Simultaneously with this fall in the grade working costs have increased, so dividends have vanished, whether temporarily or not remains to be seen. The total value of the gold recovered amounted to £265,432, or 28s. 9.54d. per ton. Working costs absorbed £244,770, equal to 26s. 6.64d. per ton, thus giving a working profit of only £20,662 or some £60,000 less than that earned in the previous twelve months. In order to swell out the income the directors sold some of their paper assets, selecting 7,000 Jupiter shares, which realised £25,984, and as a credit of £56,498 was brought in they found themselves with a balance of £104,104. Of this £21,401 goes to capital expenditure, and over £100 is absorbed by outlay on shares and taxes, leaving £81,633 to be carried forward. Out of this a tiny dividend could be paid, but the directors do not venture it, which gives one some inkling of their views of the future. Besides, part of it is really capital. Cash resources are at present fairly plentiful, but, as we have said, the outlook is unpromising. The decrease in the value of the gold yield was 3s. per ton, and as working costs rose by over 3s. 6¼d. per ton, the nett shrinkage, or loss, in the year equalled 6s. 7d. per ton. The depreciation of .7 dwt. in the value of the ore occurred

despite an increase of practically 4 per cent. in the rate at which sorting was carried on. This is attributable to generally lower results obtained in all the stopes from which the ore has been mined, and it is ominous that the falling off was especially noticeable in that part of the mine which has in the past been one of the chief sources of the ore supply. The higher working costs are declared to be due mainly "to the changing over to Chinese labour with its attendant high costs until an average rate of efficiency is reached." So the directors think the suspension of dividends "has been resorted to solely in their (the shareholders') best interests," but probably the most intelligent of the latter will form other opinions, should they not be utterly indifferent to their losses. Nevertheless the directors profess to believe that salvation lies in the employment of coolies, for when they become efficient workers costs will be lowered. But will the Chinese improve the value of the ore? Slave labour, poor labour, you know, and least of all will a Chinaman give his best under compulsion.

FERREIRA DEEP.—This other subsidiary of the Rand Mines, Limited, has been more fortunate than the Jumpers Deep, for it has been able to increase its dividend slightly, despite a decline of .86 dwt. per ton milled. Altogether 191,742 tons were crushed, the value of the gold extracted therefrom being £529,818, equal to 13.14 dwts. or 55s. 3.16d. per ton. Working costs aggregated £213,203, or 22s. 2.86d. per ton, showing a decrease of 4s. 2½d. per ton, compared with the expenses of the preceding year. The gross profit totalled £316,615, to which has to be added £2,307 earned in interest, whilst £31,030 was brought forward, giving the directors a disposable sum of £349,952. On capital account and in calls on shares £16,933 was spent, and Government taxes took £29,533. Two dividends were declared aggregating 30 per cent. for the year, against 25 per cent. in 1903-4, leaving £31,175 to be carried forward. These better results are due largely to the fact that the company was able to run its full mill of 100 stamps from March 1, and to work an additional 20 stamps from July 1, thus allowing a much larger tonnage to be treated. The company has also ordered a couple of tube mills, which may enable it to earn larger profits in the coming year. At the same time it must not be overlooked that this larger tonnage will proportionately shorten the life of the mine, in which the quantity of ore is limited, and is not replenishable by any legerdemain. Cash resources are abundant, but, as usual, no allowance is made for ordinary wear and tear of machinery, assets that still appear in the balance-sheet at cost price.

SOUTH NOURSE.—This member of the Wernher, Beit group of mines is still in the development stage. From the report and accounts for the year ending September 30 we gather that the outlay on development and equipment amounted to £99,535, whilst £224 was spent on shares in the Chamber of Mines Labour Importation Agency, and the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association. At the date of the closing of the books cash and equivalent assets exceeded current liabilities by some £37,000, but the amount of uncalled working capital was £109,147, which will all be needed for the further development and equipment of the mine. On September 18 a reef was intersected in the No. 2 shaft at a depth of 2,055 ft., and from subsequent working it appears that the reef series is thrown up here to the extent of about 600 ft. by a dyke intrusion. The work of sinking is now proceeding, and it is anticipated that the Main Reef series will be intersected in No. 4 shaft at a short distance below the reef already encountered. Before earnings are possible, however, considerably more capital will have to be raised beyond the sum mentioned, and the directors estimate it at between £400,000 and £500,000 before milling operations on the basis of 200 stamps can be started. The registered capital is £582,120, and it is appalling to think it may have to be raised to £1,000,000 before earnings are possible. Suppose the controllers pay for their bonus or profit shares for a change.

HERCULES COMPANY.—This comparatively new company is a member of the Farrar group. It is still shaft sinking, and at the end of the past financial year (June 30) the shaft had reached a depth of 237 ft., increased to 682 ft. by the end of November. As it is anticipated that the reef "will be struck somewhere in the neighbourhood of 3,900 ft.," shareholders and others need not telling that it will be some years before any revenue can be got from gold winning. For even when the reef is reached the mine will have to be developed. But, suppose the reef should be too poor to work? There is that risk to be faced, despite which the shares stand at a huge premium. In March of last year the £1 shares were converted into four shares of 5s. each, and 100,000 of these were offered to the shareholders at 40s. each, all of which, we are told, were issued. Negotiations were subsequently opened for the sale of a further 100,000, "with the object of introducing them on the market," so it looks as if the previous issue was taken up by the guarantors, who wanted to create a market to get rid of them. However, these negotiations were abandoned, owing to the state of the market, but the directors say they have no doubt they will be able to reopen them at some future date. Thus they are very sanguine, more hopeful than the present attitude of the public justifies. If the bosses were assured of the ultimate success of this company, and that the shares are priced at their real value, why not invest in them themselves? Why the difficulty of negotiating with millionaires? If they are not good enough for the plutocrats, are they good enough for the ordinary investor? The ordinary investor, with the help of a little common-sense, can easily answer the question. At the present time cash resources still amount to £166,256, sufficient, say the directors, to carry on development work for some time to come. For some time? And if later on

the company cannot get the further capital it needs, what will happen?

OTTOS KOPJE DIAMOND.—Why on earth is this company still alive? It ought to have been extinct years ago, but it will probably continue to drag out an existence as long as idiots can be found to provide the necessary cash sustenance. It has already been reconstructed about five times and money is still wanted. Not that diamonds are impossible to find. But to dig for them benefits no one except the directors and others who take their fees and salaries. In this manner the company fulfils the functions more of a charitable institution than a business undertaking. The directorial report issued this week covers the period from December 10, 1903, to September 30, 1905, or nearly two years. The quantity of ground treated in ten and a-half months from October 20, 1904, to September 9 last was 283,377 loads, which yielded only 6,250¾ carats of diamonds, worth £15,292. On the death of the general manager in April, 1905, the local secretary was placed in charge of the property and washing operations were shortly afterwards suspended. The secretary then commenced to sort the debris and by the end of September 569¾ carats of small diamonds were recovered and sold for £204. Since September a further sum of £334 has been received for diamonds recovered from resorting and this work is still carried on. Colonel Wallaston's report, on his investigation into the position and prospects of the property, is now published and is anything but cheerful. He does not advise the continuance of work as previously carried on until the value of the property—which is not known at present—has been approximately ascertained and this, he is of opinion, can be done, if certain suggestions of his are adopted, at a comparatively small cost. The shareholders are to decide whether or not further money is to be spent on the property. Cash in hand totals only £2,500, calls in arrear amount to £5,000, and there is an uncalled liability of 6d. per share, which would provide £18,500. The directors draw attention to the fact that the debentures for £40,375 mature on January 1, 1907, and they would, therefore, in any event, not resume operations unless it were possible to come to an agreement with the debenture-holders to extend the date of payment. Such is the position after all these years of working and after the expenditure of many thousands of pounds. So extremely dark is the outlook that we would advise shareholders not to venture another penny in it.

KOFFYFONTEIN MINES.—Although this company continues to find diamonds it still fails to find the labour profitable, so its annual losses are growing. In the twelve months to the end of June 30,989 carats of diamonds were recovered, compared with 22,394 carats in the preceding twelve months, the number of loads washed being 616,883 against 469,289. The average yield per 100 loads improved from 4.7 carats to 4.93 carats. After allowing for royalties the diamonds realised £59,896, transfer fees and sundry receipts raising the income to a total of £60,241. As mine expenditure, depreciation, interest, and administration costs aggregated £61,746, the loss was £1,505, but as it compares with a loss of nearly £21,000 in the preceding financial period, it is evidence of a certain kind of progress. As, however, the debit now stands at £60,416, it will take some time to wipe it out. The company's liquid resources just cover the current liabilities, and the directors say profits have been earned since the closing of the books, which have reduced the indebtedness by £7,000. The annual meeting was postponed pending negotiations "for the financial rehabilitation of the company upon a basis which the directors are confident would have given satisfaction to the shareholders." Owing to the depressed state of the market these have been deferred. But as a large shareholder has expressed a desire that the meeting should not be delayed, it is convened for the 6th inst.

WASSAU (GOLD COAST) MINING COMPANY.—Shareholders in this leading Jungle company have had so bitter an experience for some years past that they will probably not be thrilled to hear that the directors have had under their consideration the present position of the ore reserves in relation to the question of an early resumption of crushing operations. The times that crushing has been suspended, then resumed, only to be suspended again, have been so frequent in recent years that the shareholders may now be quite indifferent to this probability of another start. We ourselves long ago abandoned all hope that this company would ever know success, and we feel practically assured that it will never repay the losses of those who have been rash enough to speculate in it. Some time ago Mr. Feldtmann visited the mine, and the directors, in their dilemma, appear to have consulted this expert. He advises that he does not consider the low values of the No. 7 level indicate a permanent impoverishment of the reef, but thinks a poor zone is being passed through. This is not very consolatory, seeing that it is merely a surmise of his which can only be tested by the further expenditure of money and time. As it is, the shareholders must exercise considerable patience before milling can commence, for even the directors do not think this will be possible until the end of April. As for the likelihood of profit earning, that may be left, we think, out of present calculations altogether. Arrangements are being made by which the debenture stockholders will postpone the date for repayment of their debenture stock for three years from June 30 next, and the remainder of the debenture stock already authorised will be issued upon terms favourably to the company.

WHITE FEATHER "REWARD."—Here is another West Australian failure. The report and accounts cover the lengthy period from January 1, 1904, to June 30 last, but no vigorous development work could be done during these 18 months through

lack of working capital. When the reef was intersected at the 500 ft. level it was declared to be 2½ ft. wide, assaying 45 dwts. in bulk. But this body of ore, which for some time yielded over an ounce to the ton, was not continuous. So tributors have been working on the property for some time, the royalty they have paid defraying the standing charges, rents, &c., in the colony. But hope has been revived by what is officially described as an entirely new development—the East Reef of the White Feather Main Reefs has been proved to dip towards the property of the "Reward" company, and Messrs. Bewick, Moreing and Co. estimate that it will pass into the mine at a depth of 1,000 to 1,100 ft. So both companies are to be amalgamated on a share to share basis, and shareholders in each are asked to assess themselves to the extent of 1s. 6d. The new concern will have a capital of £75,000 in 300,000 5s. shares, but we are not in the least hopeful that this will bring success to either. It is an exceedingly doubtful and speculative venture, and may possibly be throwing good money after that already lost.

TASMANIA GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This company, which is under the management of Messrs. John Taylor and Sons, already shows promise of becoming a successful concern, although, of course, it is early days yet to say that success is assured. The report and accounts issued by the directors are brought up to September 30 last, and from this we learn that during the twelve months a great amount of work was accomplished, with the result that the installation of the new plant is nearing completion and the scale of development operations accordingly extending. In this period 43,742 tons of ore were crushed for a yield of 25,904 ozs. of fine gold. From 3,448 tons of concentrates a further 4,744 ozs. were obtained, making a total production of 3,648 ozs. This gold realised £130,443, and a little income from rebates and transfer fees raised the total income to £130,836. As expenditure on the other side and in England aggregated £84,123, the nett profit was £46,713. The whole of this has been utilised in writing down preliminary expenses by £38,706 to £19,928, and the balance in depreciation of buildings, machinery, and plant, so there is no credit left to take to the current accounts. No exception can, of course, be taken to this policy, for it is better so to strengthen the financial position of the company than impatiently to divide any portion of the profit amongst the shareholders. Otherwise, this might necessitate later on the raising of additional capital for development and other outlays. The directors, however, hope to be in a position to pay the first dividend twelve months hence, and this hope seems justified by the excellent results already obtained, and by the way in which the mine seems to be opening up. The company's cash resources appreciably exceed the current liabilities.

ANGLO-AUSTRALIAN EXPLORATION.—This company is also under the management of Messrs. John Taylor and Sons, and the report and accounts cover the year 1905, so the shareholders have not been kept waiting for them. The assets of this company consist mainly of holdings in a number of other companies, such as the Mount Boppy, the Tasmania Gold Mining Company, the Aruba Gold Concession, the Egypt and Sudan Mining Syndicate, the Sudan Gold Fields, the São Bento Gold Estates, the Peru Copper Syndicate, the Doreheib and African Syndicate, and the Gibraltar Consolidated Gold Mines. It also does a little business in contangoes. The revenue totalled £23,951, of which £15,277 consisted of dividends on Mount Boppy shares, £7,163 was profit on the sale of shares, and £1,228 came from interest. The expenditure took only £1,396, so a nett profit of £22,555 is shown, to which falls to be added a balance from 1904 of £2,178. An interim dividend of 1s. 6d. per share was paid last July, and the directors now recommend a balance dividend of 2s. 4d. per share, aggregating 3s. 10d. per share, or a little over 19 per cent. on the issued capital. The balance-sheet reveals a strong financial position.

MYALL'S AND PEAK HILL GOLD.—This company is an amalgamation of Myall's United Gold Mining Company and the Peak Hill Proprietary, and was incorporated in June, 1904. The accounts now submitted extend to the end of October on this side and to October 7 at the mines. At Myall's 18,164 tons of ore were milled, and 14,007 tons were cyanided for a yield of 4,746 ozs. of bullion, of a value of £18,519, whilst expenditure at the mine was £17,472. Thus the value of the ore was only a little over 5 dwts. per ton, nevertheless if a settled lode be struck at depth yielding 6 dwts. over the plates it will yield considerable profits, say the directors. That is quite possible, but there is the unhappy doubt of such a lode existing on the property. At Peak Hill everything had to be done to inaugurate the experimental direct treatment of ore by cyanide after crushing. At the end of the year ten vats were in use capable of treating 3,000 tons per month, and four more are now being erected, which will deal with about another 1,000 tons, altogether 4,000 tons per month. The ore treated amounted to 16,814 tons for a yield of 1,952 ozs. of bullion, realising £7,616, the outlay at the mine taking £7,476. The average value of the ore treated was over 4 dwts. "What is proved by the work of the year," says the report, "is that a recovery of 2 dwts. covers all expenditure, any recovery above this is profit." A new body of ore is being opened up, which gives an assay value of 9 dwts. per ton.

MANGANA (TASMANIA) GOLD REEFS.—In the twelve months ending June 30 the revenue from gold and other sources amounted to £1,391, but as the expenditure absorbed £3,191, there was a further loss of £1,800 to add to the old debit of £8,794, making the total deficiency £10,593, and there is little prospect of reducing this for some time. Owing to want of funds, all work was suspended at the mine, and expenses were

cut down on both sides. A short time ago arrangements were completed for getting further working capital, the directors obtaining a guarantee for an issue of preference shares, out of which some debts were repaid, and operations were resumed. The sinking of the shaft is now being continued.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY.

In the half-year ended December 31 last this company's gross receipts upon its own lines expanded by £147,984 to £2,018,393. At the same time working expenditure went up by £87,965 to a total of £1,335,625, their proportion to the gross receipts being 66.17 per cent., compared with 66.70 per cent. for the second half of 1904. The Great Central Company's proportion of joint line nett receipts also rose by £1,206 to £109,520, and it resulted from this that the clear revenue before any interest charges were met increased by £64,886 to £799,315, including £7,027 brought forward, which was £3,661 more than the amount left over at the corresponding date a year back. It results from this satisfactory looking progress that the directors are able to meet all fixed charges, and to pay the full dividend on the 1881 5 per cent. convertible preference stock with enough over to give 3½ per cent. for the entire year upon the 4 per cent. preference stock of 1889. This will leave £7,045 to be carried forward. Before passing on to examine the accounts it may be well to mention that the directors promise full explanation at the meeting of the terms under which they propose to acquire the undertaking of the Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast Railway Company. They are on the basis of a conversion of the Derbyshire stocks into stocks of the Great Central Company. It is also comforting to be told that the company has no bill for new works or powers for its own system in the ensuing session of Parliament. Reverting to the working of the half-year, we find the expenditure up at all points. Maintenance of way has cost about £23,000 more, and the same addition has been made to the cost of locomotive power, while repairs are about £10,000 up, and taxes nearly £4,000 up. The increase in expenses is partly accounted for by the enlarged mileage run. Including the electric motor-cars which figure for the first time, and account for nearly 20,000 miles, the increase compared with the second half of 1904 is almost 400,000 train miles, of which passenger trains account for 125,000 and goods and mineral trains for 255,000 miles. Coming now to the capital expenditure the story becomes by many degrees less pleasant. To begin with the capital account of the company is now overdrawn to the amount of £4,393,219, and it is difficult to see how this lopsidedness is to be done away with in the present state of the company's credit, but it goes on spending capital all the same, and in the past half-year laid out almost £476,000, while in the current half-year the estimated expenditure is £525,000. Of the past half-year's outgoings no less than £184,869 was poured into new rolling stock, and the actual expenditure upon lines open for traffic was £100,652, reduced, however, to £95,339 by writing off the nett premium received on an issue of debenture stock. What makes the position worse is the fact that there is about £15,000,000 nominal of dead capital still outside dividend range. A good deal of this capital appears to us to be dead in more ways than one. For example, £4,413,110 represents the outlay on docks, steamboats, and other special items, the total having been raised to that figure at the end of the half-year by £19,742 spent during its course, and we cannot make the nett earnings upon this mass of capital equal to one-half of 1 per cent. Indirect benefits there doubtless are, but they cannot be traced in the general accounts. Then the fixed charges are continually increasing, as must be inevitable when the capital account is growing at such a pace, and were about £17,000 up for the past half-year, compared with the second-half of 1904 at a total of £404,158. Another item which must represent money gone for good to a large extent is the £6,621,948 sunk in working stock. What would be the actual value of that stock to-day; half that amount, two-thirds of it, or how much? We have not the least idea, but that here we have a weak spot in the accounts not only of this but of all British railways is beyond question. Thanks to the enormous overdraft on capital account the company still owes £987,000 on Lloyd's bonds, and has raised besides £400,000 by means of a railway rolling stock company, and owes £60,302 for waggons bought by deferred payments. Its debt to the Great Western Railway Company for advances made on account of various branch line constructions now stands at £1,136,106. Adding in savings bank deposits £782,000 and the amount at credit of steamboat renewal and insurance account, £227,000, the available means at the disposal of the company against its capital overdraft appears to be still about £800,000 short. We must, therefore, infer that the nett revenue balance, the money accumulated to meet debenture interest, and other items are all utilised to make good the shortage. Some of the items indeed puzzle us completely. What is the nature of the sundry outstanding accounts set forth as due to the company and amounting to £837,139, and has money been raised on the unissued second debenture stock created to be handed to the proprietors of the Wrexham, Mold, and Connah's Quay Railway amounting to £177,457? It seems to us that before paying dividends upon its depreciated preference stocks the directors of this company would have been wise to endeavour

to put the financial position on a more solid basis. Probably, however, they follow the system of rather forcing the dividends in the hope that by raising the price of the later preference they may be able to issue more stock. They have plenty of power to do so, for there is £5,197,400 of various stocks still unissued, besides £2,255,579 of available borrowing powers unexercised; but we are not sure that in the long run this forcing policy will be the best for the interests of the stockholders, and at any rate the financial position of the company cannot be esteemed strong or greatly reassuring, while its capital account remains in such a mess. The dividends are payable on and after the 21st inst., except those in respect of the South Yorkshire rent charge stocks, which will be paid on and after the 15th inst.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY CO.

Gross receipts for the half-year ended December 31 £3,118,421, increase £52,129, total expenditure £1,968,759, decrease £6,548, proportion of expenses to revenue 63.14 per cent. against 64.42 per cent. In the passenger traffic there was a gain of £7,646 and season-tickets and parcels, horses, carriages, &c., showed slight increases, but the income from mails was rather less and the improvement in the total coaching revenue comes out at £8,737. Under merchandise the advance was £10,597, live stock decreased £1,271, minerals rose £21,809, mileage and demurrage £794, rent of company's property £4,096, and joint and worked lines receipts £7,621. Navigation receipts were slightly lower. This is a very encouraging display because all the shrinkage shown for the corresponding period has been recovered and it is a fair conclusion that the company has now experienced the worst of the Great Central competition. Concurrent with the Great Northern increase that company also added largely to its revenue and there can be question of the flourishing condition of the country's trade when two competing lines can each largely augment their business. On the whole, the movements on the expenditure side can be regarded with satisfaction as there is an increase in maintenance of way of £4,612 and a decrease in locomotive power of £7,224, notwithstanding the big increase in revenue and an advance of 216,151 in train mileage. On some lines a decline of £15,419 in carriage and wagon repairs would be a cause of misgiving, but the rolling stock belonging to this undertaking is in first rate condition and there is not the least reason to suppose it is being in any way neglected. Traffic expenses rose £6,593 as might be expected and general and law charges were each higher, but Parliamentary expenses were only half as heavy, compensation went down a few hundred pounds and the company was lucky to escape with an advance of £3,300 only in the rates and taxes. Navigation expenses were smaller as well as the receipts and the additional joint and worked lines revenue was earned at an increased cost of £3,149. Nett revenue was £1,149,481 or £58,677 more, but the sum brought forward was down £25,766 to £16,040, so that despite an improvement in other smaller items of income the increase in the credit for disposal is reduced to £34,734 at £1,185,675. Then there is a rise of over £7,000 to £323,544 in the fixed charges, but by omitting the £15,000 a year ago placed to contingency fund the directors bring out the sum available for dividend at £862,130, an increase of £42,427. Preference payments required just a little less and the directors now pay 3 per cent. on the "B," 2 per cent. on the preferred ordinary and 1½ per cent. on the "A" and deferred stocks, being an improvement on the two last of ½ per cent. compared with the corresponding period. The sum carried forward is about the same £47,726. Capital expenditure for the half-year was extremely light at £95,004 and although the estimate for the current year is £263,500 there is no probability of an immediate new issue. Existing debit to capital account is only £290,719 and the savings bank, superannuation and other funds are not far short of £1,000,000. Dividends payable February 20.

LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY.

Gross receipts for the six months ended December 31 £2,954,536, increase £98,898, working expenditure £1,769,277, increase £42,601; proportion of expenses to total income 59.88 per cent. against 60.47 per cent. The flourishing condition of the cotton industry which is "going" with great vigour just now has clearly left its mark on the company's business during the half-year, there being evidence in all items of traffic of genuine and, we hope, sustained prosperity. With the exception of a trifling decrease in second-class, which appears to be a diminishing traffic in all parts of the country, the passenger business showed important increases, the improvement in revenue, including a much larger sum from season tickets, always a good sign, being £35,790. Parcels, horses, carriages, &c., and mails yielded about the same, but merchandise rose about £44,000, and minerals and coal £23,065. Live stock, mileage, and demurrage, rents and steamers, all gave less, but these are not important items, and in most cases the shrinkage was of no importance. Coming to the expenditure side we note a decrease of £4,609 in the maintenance of way and works, which is not altogether satisfactory, but the increase of £12,229 in locomotive power was to be expected in view of the important increase in business. Carriage and wagon repairs rose £3,892, traffic expenses £11,237, general charges £3,148, law expenses £2,456, parliamentary expenses £1,004, and compensation £1,153. In all these movements there is nothing of serious import, but the further rise of £12,103 in rates and taxes is calculated to give one pause. A year ago an increase of £13,000 was shown, and while it is quite right that great corporations should do their share in meeting the burden, a vigorous effort to arrest the heavy growth in local rates is clearly necessary. Nett revenue of £1,185,250 shows an increase of £56,207, and

rather more was brought forward, so that despite an absence of bankers' interest the sum for disposal is £1,205,763 against £1,151,736. Fixed charges were virtually the same, and after providing £6,436 more for preference and guaranteed dividends the directors are able to increase the distribution on the consolidated stock from $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. to $\frac{4}{4}$ per cent. per annum, carrying forward the rather larger balance of £31,768. Including £80,659 laid out on lines in course of construction, and £2,000 subscription to other railways, the capital expenditure for the half-year was £264,744, against £21,250 being on working stock, and £161,000 on lines already under traffic. This is not a very extravagant sum, perhaps, and it is to be noted that a large part of the estimated outlay of £293,816 for the current six months is also on account of entirely fresh lines. None the less is the provision of fresh capital a source of great difficulty, and the company has already run up a debit balance of £1,221,428. That cannot be allowed to grow much larger, so that despite the fact that the company has important accumulations in the shape of superannuation, savings bank, and other funds, another public appeal for money is inevitable before long. Dividends payable February 8.

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY CO.

In the December half-year the gross receipts from all sources came to £2,815,686 and the gross expenditure to £1,649,464, being at the rate of 58.55 per cent. of the income. These figures, however, include the dock and steamboat revenue and expenditure and if we confine attention to the railway income alone we find the figures to be, income £2,569,456 and outgo £1,455,044, or 56.63 per cent. of the receipts as compared with 57.18 per cent. the year before. These railway figures show an increase of £24,263 in the income and a decrease of £246 in the outgo. On the gross figures, however, the increase is only about £19,000 in the receipts while the expenses have gone up about £1,000. Last half-year, for example, the steamboats yielded £3,932 less revenue and swept away £1,787 more in working expenses. Southampton Dock receipts also showed a decline of £1,180 in income with a decrease of only £197 in expenses. In the various items of the revenue account we find comparatively few changes of importance. Maintenance of way has risen about £2,000, locomotive power has fallen off about £6,580, compensation is less by fully £2,000, law charges more by £2,200 and rates and taxes more by nearly £6,000. Nett revenue comes out at £564,026 after meeting all debenture and preference charges, said charges amounting to £628,000, an increase of upwards of £9,000 on the second half of 1904. A dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, or at the same rate as a year ago, is declared, leaving £32,035 to be carried forward against £31,936 twelve months back. This is the dividend on the old undivided stock and gives 4 per cent. to the preferred ordinary and 2 per cent. for the whole year to the deferred. Capital expenditure in the past half-year came to £174,700, of which £32,095 went into new working stock and £120,351 into lines open for traffic. The cost of the steamboat "Hilda" £33,010 has been written off the steamboat insurance, depreciation and renewal fund. In the current half-year £281,000 is estimated to be the capital expenditure, but there is no immediate necessity to make further issues of stock, although the capital account is overdrawn by £675,000 because there is still a balance of fully £400,000 of insurance and savings bank funds unappropriated for capital purposes. On the whole, therefore, the company's finances are in a healthy position and no new enterprises are in contemplation of an onerous description. The board, however, has a Bill coming before Parliament to provide for certain improvements on the main line and for the purchase of the Axminster and Lyme Regis Light Railway Co., as also the Waterloo and City Railway. None of these things should involve a large addition to the capital account. Last half-year the mileage run, exclusive of motor rail cars, went up 100,000 miles, not enough to make any appreciable addition to working costs. Dividends are payable on February 17.

LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAY COMPANY.

For the half-year ended December 31 this company's proportion of joint nett revenue was £382,736 or £15,744 more than in the corresponding period of 1904, but nett rents of property fell nearly £3,000 and transfer fees yielded rather less, so that under all heads the aggregate revenue came to £416,910, compared with £404,002. Administration charges reduce this to £411,241, and after adding sundry other items of revenue, including the much reduced balance of £488 brought forward, the sum for disposal is £417,048, or an advance of £11,948. Fixed charges take over £3,000 extra at £236,807, as interest has to be provided on the company's new $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. debenture stock, and the best the directors can do is to pay the dividend for the half-year on the $\frac{4}{4}$ per cent. arbitration preference stock, carrying forward £28,876, compared with £20,064. Capital expenditure for the half-year was £94,765, including £70,501 laid out by the managing committee and £14,177 discount on issue of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. debenture stock, and it would be rather interesting to learn how much dead weight the capital account carries in respect of these discounts. For the current half-year it is expected that £40,000 will be spent, money which will probably have to be lent by the South-Eastern Company, to whom £472,454 is already owing. A further amount of £182,485 is due on Lloyds' Bonds, and the debit to capital account is still £828,770, despite the receipt during the half-year of £250,000 from the debenture stock issue.

CENTRAL LONDON RAILWAY CO.

So far the electrification of the old steam underground lines has not had much influence on this company's traffics. In the

half-year ended December 31 the number of passengers carried was 21,694,066 or 212,084 less than in the corresponding period and as the average receipts per passenger were only 1.85d. against 1.86d., the revenue is less by £1,793 at £167,553. Transfer fees and miscellaneous receipts were rather larger, making the total income £174,521 against £176,281. On the expenditure side there was a saving of nearly £3,000 in locomotive and generating power, and traffic expenses went down about £1,000, but repairs of carriages and lifts increased £1,520 and will probably be a growing item. A fresh charge is the ventilation expenses of £351 and under rates and taxes there is an increase of £692. Nett balance is £79,853 or a decline of £491 and there was a heavy drop of £13,851 to £34,886 in the sum brought forward thanks to previous important contributions to reserve, so that with £10,000 reserved for the deferred stock dividend and general interest of £1,072 the total available is £126,418 compared with £140,478. Debenture interest is the same £17,431, interest on reserve is £470 up at £938 and a special charge of £2,049 for Parliamentary oppositions has to be provided, so that the sum left for dividend is just £106,000. From that the half-yearly dividends at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the undivided ordinary and preferred stocks absorb £49,393, so that after providing a dividend for the whole year of 4 per cent. on the deferred stock £10,000 can be placed to reserve and £25,394 carried forward. Reserve will now be £73,438, a very fair accumulation, but we must not forget the locomotive suspense account of £67,811, which will have to be dealt with one day, nor the Parliamentary expenses of £24,060. In view of the report of the Royal Commission on London Traffic the directors did not think it worth while to immediately proceed with their Bill for the Hammersmith-City extension, but a Bill deposited by other promoters for a line from Hammersmith to Southgate *via* Piccadilly the Strand and the City with various branches will be opposed. Subways for the exchange of passengers with the Charing Cross, Euston and Hampstead Railway at Tottenham Court Road and with the Baker Street and Waterloo Railway at Oxford Circus are in course of construction, satisfactory arrangements having been concluded with the companies concerned.

CITY AND SOUTH LONDON RAILWAY COMPANY.

During the half-year ended December 31 this company carried an additional 205,640 passengers at a total of 8,607,486 compared with the corresponding period, bringing in extra revenue of £221 at £65,682, but there was a heavy falling off in the number of season tickets issued, the income from this source being less by £823 at £4,422. Parcels, however, gave more, and so did rents of property, &c., so that under all heads the revenue was £74,714 against £74,892. Chiefly because of a considerable decline in carriage repair charges the working expenditure goes down by £521 to £34,848, leaving the nett revenue at £39,865, compared with £39,523. Matters are still further improved by an increase in the sum brought forward, and a credit on account of general interest against a debt last year, the actual sum for disposal being £41,400 against £40,224. After providing fixed charges the sum available for dividend is £28,675, from which the preference payment takes £14,358, or the same as before. Owing, however, to an increase in its total the directors can only maintain the dividend on the ordinary stock at $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £1,367 or a drop of £82. Capital expenditure in the half-year was fairly important at £54,917, of which £53,678 was for new construction, and in the current six months the outlay will be heavier still at an estimated sum of £92,000, because work on the Euston extension is being pressed forward. The contract for the lifts has been placed, and an agreement has been made with the London and North-Western Railway and the Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway companies as to the interchange station and connecting subways with the former company's platforms at Euston Station. In addition, the contract for the works and lifts, and for the joint subway connecting this company's platform with those of the Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway have been entered into. At the Elephant and Castle the subway communication between the City and South London and Baker Street and Waterloo platforms is nearing completion. By and bye, then, and provided the public does not get frightened by accidents, the company may be able to develop a satisfactory cross-London traffic, and manage to pay its way, despite the ever-increasing electric tramway competition which must presently be felt in the north as well as the south of London. Capital account, too, is beginning to wear an unpleasant aspect, as there is a debt of £46,200 and £53,144 is owing to the contractors.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE RAILWAY.

Gross receipts for the past half-year £479,690, increase £16,982, working expenses £278,541, increase £7,569, proportion of expenditure to income 58.01 per cent. against 58.56 per cent. A decline of £808 took place in the passenger traffic, but that was the only decline, and on the other hand there were such gains as parcels £553, merchandise £6,426, minerals £8,779, canal tolls £832, railway rents, &c., £368, and Limehouse receipts £745. Expenditure items showed more irregularity, but the only items calling for mention are increases of £3,130 in maintenance, £900 in general charges, £2,025 in canal expenses, and £920 in Limehouse expenses. Balance of nett revenue was £201,149, or an improvement of £9,413, but the sum brought in was down by £2,780, and other revenue was slightly smaller, so that the credit for disposal is only £6,320 larger at £208,654. An important advance in general interest account causes an increase in fixed charges of £2,215, but after providing preference dividends the directors are able to raise

the distribution on the ordinary stock by $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, carrying forward rather less at £7,348. Only £15,118 was spent on capital account during the six months, most of it on lines in course of construction, and the contemplated outlay of £8,000 in the current half-year is equally modest at £8,000. Capital account, however, is already overdrawn £188,362, and it must presently be set straight by means of a new issue. Dividends payable February 15.

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN RAILWAY CO.

For the six months ended December 31 the gross receipts were £705,828 or £15,279 less than in the second half of 1904 against which the expenditure went down £8,279 to £400,407, the ratio between expenditure and income being 56.73 per cent. against 56.67 per cent. The principal decreases were in passengers, down £6,468 and live stock, smaller by £7,741, other declines being £1,930 in merchandise and £1,511 in minerals. Against these shrinkages the only compensating gain was in parcels, horses, carriages, &c., up by £2,356. The decrease in expenditure was divided between maintenance, locomotive power, traffic expenses, general charges and law expenses, the most important drop being in locomotive power less by over £6,000. Carriage and wagon repairs cost a little more and there were increases under compensation and rates and taxes. Balance brought forward was nearly £1,000 up to £19,298 and after adding this and other items of revenue to the net traffic balance of £305,422 the actual sum for disposal is £4,678 smaller at £335,939. Fixed charges take £90,052 or £737 less and after providing preference dividend the directors propose a distribution of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock or $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent more, transferring £8,000 against £20,000 to reserves and carrying forward the rather large balance of £51,893. Capital expenditure in the half-year was £31,070 and £64,950 is to be laid out in the current six months. Present debit to the account is £225,241. Dividend warrants posted February 28.

MIDLAND GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY OF IRELAND CO.

Gross receipts for the half-year ended December 31 £303,319, decrease £4,919, working expenditure £171,483, decrease £4,596, ratio of expenses to total revenue 56.54 per cent. against 57.12 per cent. There was a decrease in the passenger traffic of £899, merchandise declined £2,887 and live stock £2,823 largely due to a falling off in the carriage of pigs. On the other hand, parcels, horses, &c., improved by £1,683 and minerals by £503. On maintenance of way and works the outlay was about £2,000 smaller, locomotive power cost £4,000 less, the number of miles run going down 50,921, traffic expenses declined £754, law charges £357 and rates and taxes £234, a small but gratifying saving. Carriage and wagon repairs, however, absorbed over £1,000 more, general charges went up £519 and compensation increased £1,227. Balance of net profit is down £323 to £131,836, but the sum brought forward was a good deal larger at £5,398 and bankers' and general interest gave £826 compared with £160, so that with other items of revenue the total credit is £138,429 compared with £136,751. Fixed charges are very little altered at £58,963, so that after providing the preference dividends the directors again propose a dividend at 3 per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, carrying £2,000 against £1,650 to reserve and increasing the carry forward by £1,212 to £13,610. Capital expenditure for the half-year was only £3,672, in the current six months the sum to be spent is £1,300 and the existing debit to the account is £7,823, all very modest figures. Dividends payable March 1.

MARTIN'S BANK, LIMITED.

Profits of this well-known bank were better again during the past half-year, the total of £61,710, showing an increase of £8,286 compared with the corresponding period. Against that interest, general charges, and rebate were all on a higher scale, but including the sum of £23,933 brought in, the disposable balance is £50,188 compared with £45,389. The directors therefore propose the usual dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, adding £5,000 to reserve against nothing, and carrying forward £25,188. Current deposit and other accounts are rather smaller at £2,982,318, and there is a slight drop to £775,540 in the cash in hand, at Bank of England, and with other bankers. Gold bullion in hand for export £90,000 was an item appearing last year and not this, loans at call and short notice have been reduced £54,731 to £424,300, and British Government securities have gone down £81,970 to £392,900, the aggregate "cash assets" being £1,592,740 compared with £1,824,900. Bills receivable, however, are up more than £200,000 to £841,180, and loans appear at £1,000,573, or an increase of £35,143. Sundry other assets are a little smaller, and the balance-sheet adds up to £3,963,399 against £3,973,606.

LONDON AND HANSEATIC BANK, LIMITED.

An increase of rather more than £1,000 to £48,481 took place in the profits of this bank for the past year compared with the previous one, and the balance brought forward was up £1,210 to £5,905, so that the aggregate revenue is larger by £2,374 to £54,386. Current expenses were just a little heavier at £10,249, and after again providing two dividends aggregating $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. the directors transfer £1,000 to the pension fund against nothing, and carry forward £7,136. Reserve fund remains at £150,000 compared with the paid-up capital of £400,000. Balance-sheet items show several important movements. Acceptances are up by the large amount of £520,873 to £2,504,629, but the current and other accounts show a decline of £117,549 to £89,162, the items combined being

£2,593,790 against £2,190,467. On the other side cash at bankers and in hand has risen from £26,025 to £68,930, loans at call and notice have been reduced £15,000 to £315,000, and there is a trifling rise to £209,072 in the investments, £170,054 being in British Colonial and Foreign Government securities. In bills receivable the increase is £108,397 to £501,624, and the current and other accounts are up from £1,813,609 to £2,078,653.

COUTTS AND CO.

During the year ended January 18 last the current and deposit accounts of this famous bank increased by £452,009 to £8,204,579, the effect of which is principally seen in the bills discounted and loans which have gone up by £237,689 to £4,000,893. Investments, including British Funds to the amount of £1,324,869, are £94,130 less at £2,734,078, but money at call and short notice has been increased £60,000 to £1,600,000, and cash in hand and at the Bank of England is up from £621,098 to £649,608.

STUCKEY'S BANKING CO., LIMITED.

This fine old bank was established in 1806, and has, therefore, been in existence just 100 years. The directors celebrate the centenary by issuing the usual strong looking balance-sheet, showing an increase in the current deposit and other accounts of £222,816 to £6,890,543. Part of these additional resources have been added to the investments, which are larger by £101,171 at £3,897,174, loans at call and short notice show an advance of £150,806 to £752,150, and cash in hand and at the Bank of England is up by £29,362 at £424,058. On the other hand, the bills discounted, loans and advances, are smaller by £61,498 at £2,617,949, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is £7,796,851 compared with £7,577,864. Profits were just a trifle less at £47,577, but the balance brought forward was £7,684, against £7,521, so that the sum for disposal is just £39 larger at £55,261. As usual, however, no details of the distribution are given.

STAMFORD, SPALDING, AND BOSTON BANKING CO., LIMITED.

Net profits for the year ended December 31 showed a further improvement of £258 at £41,325, but this gain was more than neutralised by the smaller balance of £1,708 brought forward, and the amount available came to £134 less at £43,033. The decrease, however, is not sufficiently important to affect the distribution which is maintained at 10 per cent., and by putting £12,000 to reserve surplus fund against £12,000 the directors have £2,574 or £866 more to carry to the new account. Liabilities on deposit and current accounts rose by £65,913 to £3,265,913, but there was a reduction of £1,925 to £24,780 in the note circulation, and on the other hand cash was £19,348 down at £323,418 against an increase of £11,781 in call and notice money. Advances, overdrafts, and properties held came to £58,464 more at £2,373,635, bills discounted were £919 up at £156,722 and investments were valued at £693,713. Bank premises, furniture, &c., stand at £103,416 or a reduction of £1,208.

CLYDESDALE BANK, LIMITED.

During the twelve months ended December 31 the gross profits of this bank were £310,701, or £6,787 less than in the previous year, and as the general charges were over £2,000 heavier at £138,528 the net revenue sinks from £181,055 to £172,173. There was an increase of about £5,000 to £26,385 in the balance brought forward, making £198,559 in all, and after again providing a return of 12 per cent. on the share capital, the directors add another £40,000 to reserve, place £5,000 against £10,000 to bank buildings account, and carry forward £27,559. Surplus reserve is now £780,000 against the paid up capital of £1,000,000. There is a small increase to £836,427 in the notes in circulation, but the deposit and other accounts show a decline of £186,078 to £10,923,453. Nevertheless, the gold and silver coin, notes, cheques, &c., and cash balances with bankers show an increase of £5,666 to £1,783,731, and investments, temporary loans, and money at call and short notice, all given under a single head, are larger by £157,617 at £5,222,018. On the other hand, bills discounted have been reduced by £133,039 to £2,451,291, and advances to customers, &c., are less by £207,387 at £3,973,999. Bank buildings show a very small advance to £329,873, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is £1,403,362 against £1,197,629.

LONDON TRADING BANK, LIMITED.

This little institution managed to make a gross profit of £2,972 for the six months ended December 31, and with £887 brought forward showed a total revenue of £3,859. Interest took £637 of this, current expenses £1,683 and a trifle of £25 was written off bank premises leaving £1,514, out of which a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum is paid and £638 is carried forward, this balance including the rebate allowed on bills discounted. Current, deposit and other accounts stand at £73,902, and on the other side cash comes to £9,333 and bills discounted and advances reach a total of £82,804. Investments, including £5,000 Consols and £4,000 $\frac{2\frac{1}{2}}$ per cent. annuities taken at par, are valued at £24,381, but against this the reserve for depreciation of securities and doubtful debts amounts to £7,500. The cost of the transformation of the bank into a limited liability company is still carried as an asset for £933 and it would be as well if the directors devoted their energies to wiping this item out of the balance-sheet.

BOVRIL, LIMITED.

Year by year this world-famed enterprise increases its profits and business, the gross profit on trading for 1905 amounting to £337,376 compared with £329,576 in the previous twelve months, to which must be added transfer fees of £396 and divi-

dend on Food Specialists shares and interest of £649, making £338,421 in all. Against that a large number of charges absorbed £176,371, a sum of £4,619 was allowed for depreciation, bad and doubtful debts took £1,440, and directors' and trustees' fees £3,460, leaving the nett profit at £152,530, an advance of £5,970. The business in the United Kingdom shows an increase, the report states, and the same is the case with the oversea trade with the exception of one colony. Which? After adding £13,991 brought in, the sum for disposal is £166,521, from which debenture interest takes £22,500, and £40,000 has been paid in interim dividends, leaving £104,021. Out of that the directors propose to complete the dividends on the preference and 7 per cent. ordinary shares, and to pay 4 per cent. or 1 per cent. more on the deferred shares, carrying another £20,000 to reserve and £14,021 to next account. We have before complained of the meagreness of the balance-sheet details and can now do no more than indicate any movements of the year. Goodwill, trade marks, and patent rights, freehold and leasehold property, &c., and interests in allied companies now stand at £2,499,651 or slightly more, and if the depreciation allowance on the solid assets is really adequate the amount of intangible matter in this item must be really stupendous. Stocks, including advertising material on hand, are valued at £136,428, against £89,660, a big increase, trade debtors are £10,000 larger at £76,014, but cash is down from £76,095 to £53,935. Floating liabilities are only a little heavier at £37,848 and the reserve now reaches £165,000.

CITY OF LONDON BREWERY CO., LIMITED.

It was not possible to arrest the decline in this company's business during the past twelve months, and the directors report that although the beers continue to give every satisfaction the sales show a further decrease of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. compared with the preceding twelve months. That brings the shrinkage in three years up to almost 15 per cent., and it is not astonishing to learn that many of the company's customers have experienced great difficulty in meeting their engagements. In some instances they have been unable to pay the stipulated amount of rent or the full interest on their loans, and we begin to fear that an overhaul of the company's assets would produce a very different value from that shown in the balance-sheet. Brewing materials, we are told, have been somewhat dearer than during the previous twelve months, especially hops, the cheap price of the 1905 crop only partially affecting the cost of manufacture during the last few weeks. Decreased sales and higher costs brought the gross profit down by £13,699 to £123,345, and after providing £35,306 for trade and other charges, repairs, maintenance, and depreciation, the nett balance is £88,038, or a shrinkage of £17,599. Rents gave £30,203 nett, dividends on investments £1,433, interest £19,940, and transfer fees £67, making £139,681 in all, but against that public house repairs and sundries absorbed £17,280, debenture interest £28,975, interest on deposits £5,625, bad debts £9,567—a heavy sum, directors' fees £2,700, auditors' fees £157, and salaries of staff £7,474, leaving the actual nett credit at £68,401 compared with £88,140 in 1904 and £107,332 in the year before that. This is a very serious state of affairs, as after providing £16,472 for leasehold redemption and paying the preference dividend, the distribution on the ordinary stock and shares must come down another 1 per cent. to 3, with a decline from £8,529 to £5,441 in the sum carried forward. It may be remarked that the compensation charges for the half-year represented over $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the ordinary capital. We can now devote a little attention to the balance sheet. As above remarked, it is very improbable that balance-sheet figures could be supported if the properties were revalued, and bearing in mind the greatly lessened and steadily shrinking earning capacity of the business it seems likely that an overhaul must presently take place. At present the freehold and leasehold houses, &c., are entered at £1,762,763, while the loans on mortgage, book debts and rents receivable represent a further sum of £528,142. Brewery and fixed plant, rolling and other stock stand at £484,096, and the balance-sheet total of £2,831,907 is completed with investments of £50,000, and cash £6,036. On the other side there is a reserve of £300,000, which must one day prove very useful, apart from a freeholds and leaseholds suspense account of £29,211, so that the position might be adjusted without much difficulty. Capital and fixed debt in various forms adds up to £2,300,570, deposits and interest amount to £126,692, and sundry creditors amount to £33,297.

MILLWALL DOCK CO.

During the half-year ended December 31 691 vessels entered this company's docks, or six more than in the corresponding period, the advance in the nett registered tonnage being 34,720 at a total of 590,038. The increase was caused by the additional number of ships trading with American, Canadian and Black Sea ports which have used the company's premises. For the complete year 1905 the increase over 1904 was only 4,719 tons. Revenue from all sources was £2,896 higher at £116,176, the import and export rates on goods, tonnage dues, &c., showing an improvement of rather over £3,000, but the expenditure rose £2,074 to £90,702, so that after providing £12,286 for debenture interest the balance remaining is only £822 higher at £13,187. The principal movement in the expenditure items is the rise of £1,145 in the rates and taxes and there is no doubt at all that this constantly growing burden is beginning to press very heavily. Rather more was spent on wages, maintenance and dredging and hired cartage, but, on the other hand, stores and salaries and superannuation allowances cost rather less. Nett revenue for the first half of 1905 was only £6,732, so that with the £13,187

earned during the period under review the disposable balance is £19,919, which is a heavy decrease compared with the previous year. The directors, therefore, propose a dividend of 2 per cent. only on the perpetual 5 per cent. preference stock, absorbing £9,800 and leaving £10,119 to be distributed hereafter as funds permit. As proprietors are aware, on July 27 last a provisional agreement for the amalgamation of the company with the London and India Docks Company was entered into and a Bill, which has been deposited in Parliament, will be submitted for approval at a special meeting of this company, to be held at the conclusion of the ordinary meeting on Friday next.

EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT TRAMWAYS CO., LIMITED.

During the year ended December 31 this company carried 53,674,004 passengers, including estimate for season tickets or 3,152,426 more than in the previous twelve months, with the result that the receipts expanded by £18,092 to £257,591. This extra revenue was earned with slightly lower working expenses, and although the corporation charges for rent, &c., went up £4,289 the total outgo was larger by £3,999 only at £227,455, so that the nett profit improves by £14,093 to £30,130. Of this, debenture and loan charges absorb £6,934 and the directors now contribute £4,773 to capital redemption fund for years 1900 and 1901, provide £6,187 for preferred dividend for eighteen months to December 31, 1901, and transfer £12,242 in reduction of suspense expenditure account. The sum of £13,734 previously standing at the credit of "suspense account to meet obligations under lease renewals, &c.," has also been applied in further reduction of suspense expenditure, bringing it down to £9,350. Thus the position of affairs has been a great deal improved, and if business keeps up the current year should witness further progress in the liquidation of preference dividend arrears. Capital redemption fund now reaches £21,744 and the special reserve comes to £3,182, most of which is separately invested.

DIRECT UNITED STATES CABLE CO., LIMITED.

This company's revenue for the six months ended December 31 last was £50,353, or £5,323 more than in the corresponding period, thanks, we suppose, to the Yankee market boom, and after providing £23,299 against £22,108 for working and other expenses the nett balance is £33,054, an improvement of £4,153. Sum brought in was also larger at £2,526 making £35,580, and the directors have paid two interim dividends aggregating 6s. 6d. per share against 6s., adding £10,000 to reserve and carrying forward £5,049 or about £3,000 more. Reserve also receives £7,753 as interest and dividends on investments, and as there were no deductions during the period under review the fund is increased to £500,701, nearly all invested in tip-top securities.

HORACE CORY AND CO., LIMITED.

In their report for the twelve months ended December 31 the directors of this chemical colour business complain of the increased cost of raw material and competition, and to these causes attribute a further decrease in profits. In the past year the company earned a gross revenue of £12,518 or £1,938 less than in 1904, so that with dividends, interest and transfer fees the income from all sources is only £13,120 compared with £15,019. Directorial charges, income-tax and £485 allowed for depreciation absorbed £1,347 leaving £11,773, and after providing the preference dividend the directors found it necessary to lower the ordinary dividend by 2 per cent. to 8 in order to again place £1,000 to reserve. Credit carried forward is £305 compared with £282 brought in. The proposed addition raises the reserve to £14,500 and we hope this fund will be steadily built up, because out of a capital outlay of £130,646, goodwill, &c., stands for no less than £110,050. Freehold and leasehold premises, plant and machinery account for the balance of £20,596, and the position otherwise seems pretty good. Only £868 is owing to sundry creditors against debtors and bills £10,312, stock £3,939 and cash £7,100. Moreover the reserve is kept apart from the business as the company has £21,000 of Consols, entered rather high at £20,050 as the market value was no more than £18,781 at the date of the balance-sheet.

RYLANDS AND SONS, LIMITED.

This company's profits recovered in splendid fashion during the second half of 1905, and the improvement is particularly welcome after a long period of shrinking revenue. Last year, it may be remembered, the directors were obliged to take the considerable amount of £50,000 from the reserve fund in order that shareholders might receive their regular dividend at 12½ per cent. per annum, the profits for the half-year ended December 31, 1904, having fallen to £58,187. For the period under review, however, they are up again to £113,952, to which is added £31,527 brought in, making £145,479, and after transferring £20,000 to reserve the directors propose the usual distribution at 12½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £31,729 against £21,198. Reserve fund now stands at £470,000, and the insurance fund at £245,000, together £715,000, an excellent state of affairs, although, as said before, we should like the balance-sheet in greater detail. Freehold and leasehold land, buildings, and plant have been reduced by £19,418 to £826,580, while the stock-in-trade, ledger balances, investments, bills, and cash are larger by £93,387 at £3,333,365, these two items representing the credit side of the balance-sheet, which adds up to £4,159,945. Sundry liabilities come to £915,191, or £43,436 more, a pretty heavy sum even for a business of this magnitude.

BRISTOL AND SOUTH WALES RAILWAY AND WAGGON CO., LTD.

The proportion of wagon rents representing income in the year ended December 31 was £33,974 and with £1,150 from the

previous account and £27 from registration and transfer fees the total revenue came to £35,151. Administration and other charges absorbed £2,985, interest on loans and advances took £14,566 and after placing £1,000 or £500 less than a year ago to contingent fund the net profits were £16,600 compared with £16,150 out of which the dividend of 10 per cent. is repeated leaving £1,600 to be carried forward. Wagons and other rolling stock show a reduction of £33,375 at £556,784 and although part of this decrease is no doubt accounted for by an advance of £6,573 to £31,957 in sundry debtors, the reduction has enabled the company to bring down its liabilities to sundry creditors by £7,267 to £10,026 and its temporary loans by £3,835 to £32,664. At the same time the overdraft of £8,005 at the bank has been replaced by a credit balance of £7,948, with the result that the position is decidedly healthier. The contingent fund, after deducting £970 for loss on wagons through failure of lessees to carry out their contracts stands at £44,795 and may be taken to represent the provision made for depreciation.

CROCKER, SONS, AND CO., LIMITED.

The year ended December 31 was much more favourable for this business of wholesale warehousemen, and nett profits showed a recovery of no less than £6,345 at £23,840. After providing for debenture interest and administration charges and writing off £1,050, or £100 more, for depreciation, the balance available, including £25 from transfer fees and £12,216 brought in, was £7,036 up at £29,452. Beyond small amounts set aside as provision for depreciation on leaseholds, &c., and for discounts and doubtful debts, no attempt has hitherto been made to accumulate a reserve, but this is now to be changed and after repeating the dividend at the old rate of 7 per cent., £15,000 is taken to commence a reserve fund, leaving £4,252 to be carried forward. It is evident that such a step was highly necessary, as freeholds and leaseholds stand in the books at the old figure of £82,200, goodwill is valued at £31,390 and fixtures, &c., have been increased by £1,449 to £13,542, and against these the depreciation allowance is only £4,350. Liabilities in cash deposits have risen by £2,309 to £60,673 and to sundry creditors by £1,455 to £18,144. Credit plays a very large part in the conduct of this business, and book debts have gone up by £6,599 to £152,318, an exceedingly heavy total, and one on which we hope the allowance of £4,094 for discounts and doubtful debts will prove adequate. Stocks are £439 lower at £72,009, cash comes to £15,503 or £278 more and bills receivable are £2,812 larger at £16,183.

MAYPOLE DAIRY CO., LIMITED.

This company continues to make stupendous profits, the nett revenue for the twelve months ended December 30 being £145,455 or £15,628 more than in the previous year, and bringing the total increase for the past two years to £41,397. Balance brought forward was £10,162 raising the available credit to £155,617, and after providing directors' fees and preference dividend, the preferred ordinary shares receive 20 per cent., the deferred ordinary shares 21 per cent., and the reserve £10,000, the carry forward being slightly increased to £10,287. Not only that but last April the ordinary shares received a special bonus of 10s. per share, the sum required, £150,000, being taken from the reserve, which in consequence was reduced to vanishing point. Its total is now only £15,000, apart from an insurance reserve of £10,000, and £42,246 derived from share premiums, and when we consider that the goodwill and trade marks figure at the colossal sum of £422,900, we fear its action proves the board to possess only the most elementary ideas of what constitutes prudent finance. A good deal of chopping and changing has taken place in the capital account, 21,123 ordinary shares having been issued at a premium of £2 per share, followed by the conversion of the 300,000 issued ordinary shares, and 150,000 of those unissued into 20 per cent. preferred ordinary shares. Then the remaining 200,000 unissued shares were converted into deferred ordinary shares, and the entire unplaced capital offered for subscription, with the result that all the preferred ordinary and 123,000 of the deferred ordinary were applied for and allotted. These new issues have increased the capital from £628,877 to £923,000, and as the company received £336,369 in cash, which can be used for strengthening and extending the business, the directors conceived the idea of dividing the reserve. No doubt the financial position is a good one, because the company has cash, loans, and high or good-class investments amounting to £374,944, but it is only capital that has been applied in this fashion, and it is more than doubtful if a trading company should have so much of its resources used outside the business. Big reserves should be accumulated and kept separate, but not capital, because of the greater burden imposed on that part actually used in the trading. Other assets consist of creameries, works, machinery, &c., £235,081, after allowing £12,334 for depreciation and including additions of £24,657, and stocks £199,999, a figure certified by the managing directors. Sundry debtors are only £17,805, the business, we suppose, being very largely a cash one, but creditors are considerable at £165,918.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Markets continue without any great animation over here, though the tone this week has on an average been better. Speculative positions have fluctuated a good deal under the influence of American cables, and spot parcels have been steadily held, with only a quiet business passing in them. More might have been done, in fact, if less money had occasionally been taken. Farmers' deliveries are again much heavier than in the corresponding week of last year, 70,162 quarters against 48,869, and the average price nearly 2s. lower, 28s. 7d. against 30s. 6d., but farmers are beginning to show more reserve, and there seems a likelihood of better values soon. Imports were 330,797 quarters against 409,500 in the same week last year, and the estimated quantities of wheat and flour on passage are 2,415,000 quarters, compared with 2,305,000 last week. American markets have experienced considerable fluctuations but without any extraordinary influences ruling them.

WOOL.—The first series of Colonial sales ended on Thursday, 1st, and the total quantity sold was 160,000 bales. Of these, Messrs. Jacomb, Son, and Co.'s circular states, 83,000 have been taken for export, including 5,000 for America. Medium and heavy merinos at the opening were nearly 5 per cent. cheaper, but hardened as the sale proceeded, the market closing at the best prices of November-December, though some of the superior scoured merinos, the same circular tells us, barely sustained the extreme rates of December. Among crossbreds, fine light half-breds went 5 per cent. dearer than December, and medium to coarse grades were fully up to late values. Country markets are consequently very firm, with prices advancing in almost all wools, and business is again restricted through disagreement between manufacturers and spinners as to a fair range of values. There is not much doing in the piece trade at present, but it shows indications of a good season later on. Shipping also is quiet, but with more inquiries.

LINEN.—Affairs here are simply "as they were," and no change of any importance has taken place since last report. Owing chiefly to prohibitive prices, rather less business has been done in yarns, spinners in many instances having closed their books. They have plenty to do with the contracts in hand, and, as it is, with manufacturers' stocks practically at an end, and the scarcity in some quarters of supply, there is great difficulty in keeping up with demand. Superior quality fine wefts last week reached 5s. per bundle. Elsewhere business is very satisfactory. The home trade all round shows an improvement, and abroad the United States, South America, Canada, and Australia are making strides in the right direction. Even Continental orders are slowly increasing.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—During the week under review a rather quieter feeling has prevailed in our market, but the business put through has been of fair extent. Buyers have not shown the eagerness for goods that was exhibited a week or two ago, but the sales have been of a fairly encouraging character. The raw material in Liverpool has taken a downward tendency. On Saturday, January 27, the quotation for middling American on the spot in Liverpool was 6.12d. On Monday a reduction of one point was made, and on Tuesday a further decline of three points. On Wednesday the quotation was further reduced one point, with a rather sharp decline on Thursday of 13 points, bringing the quotation down to 5.94d., the lowest point touched this year. A rather marked feature has been the large sales of the raw material in Liverpool. On both Wednesday and Thursday the figure posted was 15,000 bales. This amount is not often reached, and there have also been large sales of Egyptian cotton, the amount on Thursday being 2,500 bales. In cloth for export most of our markets abroad have been open for goods of various kinds. The outlets in India have been pretty active, notably Bombay, and Madras has also done its share. Owing to holidays at the beginning of the week, Calcutta has not done very much. China has shown hardly any improvement, and continues quiet. The minor markets have been healthy in tone, and numerous odd lots have been put through for the Levant, Egypt, and the outlets in South America. Java has also been mentioned as providing business. Most manufacturers are now in a strong position, and not disposed to make concessions. The question of delivery is also difficult to arrange, some makers being engaged until well on in the year. Home trade cloths have been in rather better demand, but still they are not moving so well as sellers would wish. In this section the high prices of cotton certainly hamper buyers. Home trade American yarns have not moved very well, but the sales of the week may have just about cleared the production of the spindles. Spinners have tried to improve their margin by holding firmly to quotations, but users have not been inclined to operate except at the full reduction in the raw material. Ring yarn and coarse weft are not doing very well. Producers of the better qualities of cop twist find the big price they have to pay for suitable cotton distinctly against their margin. Export bundles have been sold to a fair extent, but the business of the week has not been very important. Doubled 42's have been sold for Japan, and also cops for the Continent. Egyptian yarns, as made in the Bolton district, are dearer on the week. Buyers find prices very much against them. Both carded and combed descriptions are strong in tone.

In New York the cotton market has been invariably weak on persistent selling. Now and then covering by shorts would stop the decline, but only momentarily, and there is little or no improvement at the close. The Census Committee of the House of Representatives has decided to report favourably on the Bill directing the Census Bureau to make public the ginners' estimate of the cotton not yet ginned up to the 16th inst. The President of the National Ginners' Association told the Committee that the estimates of men in the cotton trade of the amount remaining to be ginned varied from 100,000 bales to 1,000,000 bales. At the close prices are: February-March, 5½d.; March-April, 5¾d.; April-

Messrs. Coates, Son, and Co. are authorised by the City of Quebec to renew the offer to holders of the 6 per cent. debentures redeemable 1908 and 1910, 5 per cent. debentures redeemable 1913 and 4½ per cent. debentures redeemable 1914, 1918 and 1925 to exchange their present holdings for 3½ per cent. consolidated registered stock of the City of Quebec upon advantageous terms of conversion.

May, 5'90d.; May-June, 5'93d.; June-July, 5'95d.; July-August 5'97d.; August-September, 5'91d.; September-October, 5'71d.; October-November, 5'64d.; November-December, 5'61d.

COAL.—The tone has been quieter in more than one department this week. House coal demands are slackening off with the continued mild weather, and rates are occasionally weaker. Steams and manufacturing varieties, however, are still as active as ever, except, perhaps, in the North of England, where Germany's demands have eased off, and prices for steams are down 9d. and 1s. per ton. South Yorkshire trade is well kept up with contracts, and the quantities forwarded to Hull are greater for January than in the same month last year. Steams for fishing trawlers are growing an increasingly important item. Scottish trade is steady, and the total sent from the ports this week is 30,000 tons larger than last. Wales has received some good orders for February, but in the meantime business shows a slight falling off, though prices are not down. Cardiff quotations for best steam are 14s. to 14s. 6d., and Swansea 6d. cheaper.

COPPER.—Business in this market has been very quiet, and a rather irregular tendency developed. Prices at the opening were harder on good speculative support, but this subsequently became much less pronounced, and moderate offerings, especially of forward metal, caused a slight reaction. The weakness of the share market was not without influence, and the consumptive demand remains small, so that a few "bear" sales established a rather important "back" on three months. Closing figures were 78½ for spot and 77½ for three months. Total supplies during the past month amounted to 24,332 tons, against which the deliveries were 26,364 tons, with the result that the visible supplies were 2,032 tons lower at 10,951 tons, compared with December 31. According to Messrs. Henry R. Merton's circular, stocks in England and France were 5,676 tons, compared with 5,240 tons on January 15, and 5,683 tons a month ago, whilst the quantity on passage from Chili is as low as 2,475 tons, against 2,700 tons and 3,300 tons respectively, and from Australia 450 and 1,200 tons less at 2,800 tons.

TIN.—Eastern dealing was resumed in quiet fashion after the New Year holidays, and business on this side did not show much life at the start, but subsequently strong cables from the East came to hand, and not only were offerings restricted, but there was a disposition to cover sales already made. Consequently the market became firm, and brisk buying drove quotations forward at a rapid rate, closing figures being 167½ for spot and 166½ for three months. Messrs. A. Strauss and Co. give the quantities on the spot and landing as 2,033 tons, against 3,450 tons a month ago. The visible supply amounts to 15,115 tons, against 13,606 tons at the end of December. The January deliveries in London were 1,448 tons, and in Holland, 1,190 tons, aggregating 2,638 tons, against 1,620 tons for December. The Straits shipments amount to 5,970 tons, of which 3,105 tons are for London, 2,190 tons for America, and 675 tons for Continent.

IRON AND STEEL.—The position and prospects of all branches of the iron and steel industry continue to strengthen and improve, and confidence is growing. Hopefulness in regard to the outlook is likewise becoming stronger and more settled, and many go so far as to predict for the current year of 1906 a period of unusual activity and prosperity. Anyhow, sellers have been encouraged by the prevailing conditions to take up a very firm attitude, and prices are advancing in all directions. The knowledge that a great deal of work hitherto held back during the bad times is now ready to be given out naturally tends to strengthen the market. In Barrow-in-Furness the hematite iron trade shows some signs of weakness, and business has been done at prices slightly below those ruling last week, but in the North of England a very large trade has been done in this branch, and never was the production so large. It is all going into consumption, and more would be taken if it could be got. Italy, for instance, has been taking Cleveland hematite iron freely during the past month, and there is every likelihood that America will need a considerable quantity.

TEA.—Markets are again waking up after the depression caused by heavy deliveries, and this week presented an animated appearance. All Indian teas, except the commonest, were well bid for, and mediums from 6d. to 9d. were quoted higher, but broken teas still remain at the low rates of a few weeks ago, or even lower. 35,589 packages were offered, of which 33,202 were sold at an average of 6'86d. against 6'95d. last week and 6'82d. last year. In the Ceylon market the improvement was also noticeable, and good liquored teas occasionally went higher, the common sorts neglected, but prices were without change. Supplies came to 25,783 packages, and the average obtained was 7'23d. against 7'03d. last week and 6'54d. last year. Javas showed no change, except a slight irregularity in prices, and the market for 3,167 was quiet. Messrs. Gow, Wilson, and Stanton, Limited, give a table showing the improvement in this season's prices for better class teas compared with last. Assam is nearly 1d. above the same period last season, Darjeeling 1½d., Doorga almost ½d. per lb., the total average of all teas to date being nearly ½d. ahead of last year.

SUGAR.—The persistent reports, says Mr. Czarnikow, that factories are trying to contract full sowings at high prices, viz., 90 pfennige, and even more, has had a discouraging effect upon buyers, who seem content to let the fabricants themselves bear the consequences of their own actions. Every manufacturer with the alternative before him of losing 10 pfennige on a full root supply, or of raising his working expenses to that extent by incomplete contracts for roots, rather overpays the roots, as the crop may turn out deficient, or market prices for sugar may appear too low already to allow of a further decline of 70 pfennige, equal to 8½d per cwt. In Central Germany a falling off seems probable, in France a large deficiency continues to be anticipated, whilst the accounts from Austria hardly indicate any reduction, and the offering of next crop sugar from almost all beet-producing countries is not calculated to

re-establish confidence. The weather will continue to be the most important factor in the market. In America the market is again slightly easier. Landings in the three ports amounted to 35,000 and meltings to 30,000 tons, raising stocks to 143,000 tons.

MINING RETURNS.

British Broken Hill.—5,371 tons crude ore produced 897 tons concentrates, containing 547 tons lead and 25,116 ozs. silver.

Chinese Engineering and Mining.—Output of coal, 12,500 tons; sales, 11,500 tons; consumption, 1,825 tons.

Inverell Diamond Fields.—13 loads washed for 22 carats diamonds and 200 lbs. tin.

Mill's Day Dawn.—Crushed 1,480 tons, £4,700.

Mitchell's Creek Gold.—Crushed 644 tons, 279 ozs.; concentrates 24 tons; value £310.

North Broken Hill.—Treated 2,060 tons, producing 375 tons concentrates, containing 258 tons 15 cwt. lead and 6,750 ozs. silver.

St. John Del Rey.—Gold produce, £7,360; yield per ton '50 of an oz. troy.

Tasmanian Consols.—Crushed 721 tons, 432 ozs.

Victorian Cornish Gold.—Crushed 1,250 tons, 916 ozs.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5.

Bradford Exchange.—Bradford, noon.

Consolidated Rand Rhodesia Trust.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

Graskop.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.

Hyam Wholesale Clothing.—Cannon Street Hotel, 11.30 a.m.

Henry (A. and S.).—Manchester, noon.

Reversion Investment.—225, Strand, 4 p.m.

Welford and Sons.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6.

Bristol and S. Wales Railway Wagon.—Bristol, 1 p.m.

Corn Exchange.—Seething Lane, 11 a.m.

Crocker, Sons and Co.—54, Friday Street, noon.

North Staffordshire Railway.—Stoke-upon-Trent, 1.45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7.

Clydesdale Bank.—Glasgow, noon.

City of London Brewery.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Central London Railway.—Holborn Restaurant, 12.45 p.m.

Great Central Railway.—Manchester, noon.

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway.—Manchester, noon.

National Mortgage and Agency of New Zealand.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.

National Mutual Life Association.—39, King Street, 2 p.m.

Ottos Kopje Diamond Mines.—Cannon Street Hotel, 3 p.m.

Sapon.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8.

Albion Brewery.—Wigan, 4 p.m.

Alliance Assurance.—Bartholomew Lane, noon.

Arica and Tacna Railway.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.

British and Foreign Marine Insurance.—Liverpool, 11.30 a.m.

East Lincolnshire Railway.—King's Cross Station, 12.45 p.m.

Great Northern and City Railway.—Westminster Palace Hotel, noon.

London and Hanseatic Bank.—38, Lombard Street, noon.

London Provincial Marine and General Insurance.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.

Midland Great Western of Ireland Railway.—Dublin, 1 p.m.

St. David's Gold Mines.—Winchester House, noon.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9.

Bombay and Baroda Railway.—Cannon Street Hotel, 1 p.m.

Barry Railway.—Barry Docks, 2.30 p.m.

Great Northern Railway.—King's Cross Station, noon.

Millwall Dock.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

North-East London Railway.—23, Queen Victoria Street, 3 p.m.

North-Eastern Railway.—York, noon.

Rhymney Railway.—Cardiff, noon.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Radical Imperialism, Being Studies in Imperialism. By John George Godard. (Edinburgh: G. A. Morton, 42, George Street.) Price 6s.

Who's Who, 1906: (London: Adam and Chas. Black, Soho Square, W.) Price 7s. 6d. nett.

Who's Who Year-Book, 1906. (London: Adam and Chas. Black, Soho Square, W.) Price 1s. nett.

The British Railway Outlook. By W. J. Stevens, F.S.S. (London: Effingham Wilson, 54, Threadneedle Street, E.C.) Price 1s.

Electric Power: What it is and what it can do. By A. W. Marshall. (London: Messrs. P. Marshall and Co., 26, Poppin's Court, Fleet Street, E.C.) Price 3d.

The Modern Bucket Shop. By Henry Warren. (London: Everett and Co., 42, Essex Street, Strand, W.C.) Price 1s. nett.

UNION OF LONDON AND SMITHS BANK.—Deposits and current accounts on January 24 came to £35,768,823, acceptances and liabilities by endorsement to £4,699,119, and other liabilities to £676,107, while assets consisted of cash in hand and at Bank of England £6,029,310, money at call and short notice £6,761,600, investments including reserve fund £6,288,036, and discounts, loans and other advances £20,715,719.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING COMPANY LIMITED.

The half-yearly meeting of the London and County Banking Company was held on Friday, at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., under the presidency of Mr. C. J. Cater Scott.

In moving the adoption of the report and accounts, the Chairman remarked that the accounts told a continuous tale of prosperity—the same prosperity which the shareholders had fortunately seen now for a great number of years. But, however prosperous such an institution might be they would invariably find in the half-yearly balance-sheets many changes requiring explanation. The whole of the decrease of £681,439 in the item of current, deposit, and other accounts, amounting to £43,713,045, compared with the figures of a year ago, was attributable to the reduced balances kept by certain foreign correspondents, who, during the past half-year, had withdrawn amounts presumably for more remunerative employment in their own countries. So far, however, as the company's regular home business was concerned, there was no falling off, either in the amount or the number of the accounts. On the contrary, the advance in the number of accounts was quite up to the average. Their liabilities on acceptances were £1,822,928 more. For a good many years this item had been a diminishing quantity, but, owing to the increase in certain foreign transactions, the amount had now been restored to very much what it stood at ten years ago. On the credit side of the balance-sheet the cash at the head office and branches was £109,962 less than in the corresponding period of 1904, but the loans at call and at notice—which were the equivalent of cash—exhibited an increase of £403,984 at their total of £3,616,403. Taking these two items together, therefore, they were £294,022 more than on December 31, 1904. As regards the investments, the only item to which he desired to call the attention of shareholders was the India Government stock and India Government guaranteed railway stocks and debentures; this showed a reduction of £40,655, which was entirely owing to certain Indian railway stocks guaranteed by the Government having been called in for payment towards the end of the half-year and not having been reinvested at the date of the accounts. The discounted bills current amounted to £7,745,939, or £1,089,390 less than the figures shown a year ago. This would at first sight point to a falling off in the company's business, but the diminution at the end of the year was altogether exceptional. When they turned to the business done in the year they found that the amount of bills discounted showed a very considerable increase compared with the figures of the previous twelve months, and so they were entirely satisfactory. Their bank premises stood on December 31 at £848,316, which would be reduced by the amount transferred from profit and loss to £823,316, or an increase of £39,109 over the figures of a year ago. During the past year the alterations at the head offices in Lombard Street had been actively proceeded with, and they were now practically completed; and, in addition, there were the alterations which had been carried out at other premises. He thought they now saw the highest amount at which their premises would stand. The gross profit for the half-year was £762,645, or £31,806 more, and to this amount had to be added the balance brought forward of £80,456. After meeting the interest paid to customers, which was £21,636 in excess of the amount paid a year ago, owing to the higher rates for money, paying all the salaries and other expenses, which were £9,471 more, and allowing for rebate on bills not due, the amount of which showed an increase of £5,263, there was a balance for disposal of £353,317, out of which they had transferred £25,000 to premises account and £50,000 to the reserve fund, increasing this fund to £1,450,000. The proposed dividend of 10 per cent. for the half-year would require £200,000, and £78,317 would remain to be carried forward, which was £11,926 more than was carried forward this time last year. He thought the shareholders would all agree with him that this was a satisfactory statement for the half-year, in view of the fact that the last six months of 1905 could not be regarded as exceedingly favourable for banking. For instance, taking their working rate—the average rate they charged to all their customers—and deducting from this the average rate they allowed to their depositors, he found that in the last half of 1905 there was a difference against the company of 1s. 10d. per cent. He would now say a few words on the position of things generally. During the past half-year both the financial and political positions of the world had been full of interest, and as banking must necessarily keep in touch with such a situation there was a vast deal to occupy the attention of the banking community in the period mentioned. When they met last August hostilities in the Far East were still proceeding, and although most of them believed that peace was near at hand, yet absolutely nothing was known to justify the belief, and until the very last day it was quite doubtful whether peace would be made. Happily, peace was declared. With the termination of the war, however, it could not be said that the financial position was cleared. It was known that both of the combatants would have to apply at a very early period to the markets of the world to meet the ravages caused by the war. Subsequently the position of Russia became acutely serious, and much was apprehended by those who held Russian securities, which was expressed. Japan only had been able to supply Russia with arms, and it was not likely that Russia would be able to come forward at a future time. The war elements, quite irrespective of other minor

ones, the position of bankers had been difficult. They had had to maintain a position of security, and, at the same time, there had had to be as little interference as possible with the legitimate wants of trade. He thought he might say that the lesson to be learnt from what had happened in the past six months was the absolute necessity of a stronger gold reserve. Their gold reserves were insufficient, and unless they were able to strengthen them they would from time to time find those "squeezes of the market" which they regretted and, at the same time, they would be compelled to resort to haphazard action to protect their reserves—action which he thought was undignified in such a market as London, which was certainly not conducive to stability, and which did not go to maintain that steadiness of rates which they all believed to be essential to the interests of the country. With respect to the future, he believed that many discordant factors had been removed. There was, he thought, no doubt that the improvement in the internal state of Russia was much greater than could have been anticipated even a month ago, and with the expected removal of the Morocco difficulty he thought that the outlook was brighter, and with trade improving banking prospects should become more favourable. At the same time, they must all admit that there was no immediate prospect of a long spell of cheap money. He afterwards referred to the appointment by the directors of Mr. Oswald C. Magniac to a seat on the board in the place of the late Mr. William J. Harter, and expressed their belief that Mr. Magniac was in every way qualified to fill the position. In conclusion he moved a resolution for the adoption of the report and the payment of the dividend recommended.

Mr. J. J. Cater seconded the resolution, which was adopted unanimously.

UNION BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

The half-yearly general meeting of the Union Bank of Australia, Limited, was held on Monday at the offices of the bank, Cornhill.

Mr. Arthur P. Blake, who presided, regretted that Mr. Arthur Flower was unable to be with them that day owing to illness. Until quite recently their chairman had expected to be able to attend the meeting, and he had prepared the address which he had intended to make to the proprietors. Mr. Flower had, however, forwarded his notes to him, and he would read them. He pointed out that, whereas their last accounts showed an increase during the previous six months of £1,170,000 in deposits, advances remaining about stationary, the present figures exhibited an increase of £640,000 in advances during the six months, deposits remaining about stationary. This, of course, was progress in the right direction. Their liquid and readily available resources, consisting of specie on hand and cash balances, bullion and advances on bullion, money at call and short notice in London, balance of remittances and drafts *in transitu*, and bills receivable at the London office, and investments, amounted to £8,872,000, which, after deducting £1,000,000 for investments specially allotted to the reserve fund, represented about 8s. 1d. in the pound of their total liabilities in London and the colonies, consisting of circulation, bills payable, and deposits aggregating £19,461,000. Their bank premises and properties in the colonies, which in February, 1903, stood at £589,000, had in the present accounts been reduced to £538,000. He was sure that the proprietors would consider this a very satisfactory feature. They would notice from the directors' report that the tendency was still towards the opening of new branches in the various States. Action in this direction was, of course, only taken after very careful inquiry and consideration by the general manager, and the results of such branches were most carefully watched. The season in Australia was at the present time exceedingly good for the pastoral and farming industries, while prices for wool and stock were also very high. Of course, with favourable seasons the numbers of stock had materially increased since the recent disastrous drought came to an end, and with a continuance of such conditions they could hardly be surprised if the present prices for wool should tend somewhat to decline. There could, he thought, be no doubt that the increase in numbers of stock would cause a demand for properties for which, owing to the scarcity of stock, there had up to now been but very slight demand. Steady progress had been made in the quitance of such properties as the bank had wished to dispose of. It was a great pleasure to the directors to have what they considered such a favourable report to put before the proprietors, and but for excessive competition between banks the actual results might have been still better. After referring in warm terms to the care and intelligence exercised in all departments by the general manager, inspectors, and managers in the colonies and in London, the chairman stated that, as the proprietors were aware, the question of the bank's articles of association had been for some time under the consideration of the directors. While no alterations of any importance seemed to be called for under this head, they felt that, after many alterations and adjustments, the articles should now be placed in a clear and businesslike condition; and, after they had had time carefully to consider the recommendations of the solicitors in the matter, proposals to this effect would be placed before the proprietors. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report, in which the directors stated that they had resolved upon the declaration of a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. Mr. William O. Gilchrist seconded the motion. In reply to questions, the Chairman stated that the telegrams which had been received from the colonies up to quite recently were very satisfactory indeed, both as to the purely pastoral interest and the farming

industry. The wheat crop was so large that they expected to have an export of about 15,000,000 bushels, which was a great deal more than they had had before. It would be very gratifying to the directors to be able to increase the dividend, but their policy, as the proprietors were aware, had been for some years to strengthen the position of the bank in every way possible. To this end they had desired to increase the reserve fund and to write down the bank premises. When those two objects were accomplished, the board would be very glad to increase the dividend or, at all events, to declare a bonus. The motion was then unanimously adopted, and other formal business having been transacted, a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors closed the proceedings.

WILLIAMS DEACON'S BANK.

Colonel Royds presided over the annual meeting of the proprietors of Williams Deacon's Bank, Limited, held in Manchester, and, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, which have already been published, he remarked on the great activity and prosperity of the cotton trade during the past year. The bank had not found a correspondingly active demand for accommodation. This was to some extent accounted for by the fact that spinners had not held large stocks of cotton, but had left the crop to be financed by importers, causing a demand for money in Liverpool and a lessened demand in Manchester. When the Manchester spot cotton market got firmly established the demands for Manchester accommodation would no doubt be more nearly equalised. The marked increase in the number of cotton mills in the country was a matter for careful consideration, and it had been referred to at one or two meetings of the bank. The year, on the whole, and speaking generally, had been one of quietly developing prosperity. For the bank the year opened with fairly promising prospects, which were realised, and the present year gave them even greater and more reliable hopes. They had increased their reserve fund by £25,000, bringing it up to £650,000, current and credit accounts had increased by £177,000, acceptances and credits opened on behalf of customers had decreased by £27,000, foreign bills negotiated were higher by £24,500, and the carry-forward had increased by £3,000. He believed he was warranted in saying that the balance-sheet showed a stable and healthy progress, which must give satisfaction to the shareholders and retain the confidence of their customers. The motion was seconded by Mr. G. H. Gaddum, and approved, without any comment or criticism. The appointment of Mr. J. F. Williams Deacon to a seat on the board was confirmed, and the retiring directors (Colonel Royds and Mr. Johnson Ferguson) were re-elected.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Barry.—At the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the past half-year, carrying forward £1,215.

Brecon and Merthyr.—At the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the first preference stock, carrying forward £1,478.

Cardiff.—For the past half-year at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on ordinary shares, carrying forward £16,011.

Cork and Macroom Direct.—At the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £543.

Great Northern.—At the rate of £4 10s. per cent. per annum on the ordinary capital, giving for the half-year £2 per cent. to preferred converted ordinary stock, £1 10s. per cent. to the deferred converted ordinary stock, £3 per cent. to the "B" stock, £1 10s. per cent. to the "A" stock, carrying forward £47,726. These rates will make the dividends for the whole year as follows, viz.:—£4 per cent. to the preferred converted ordinary stock, £1 10s. per cent. to the deferred converted ordinary stock, £6 per cent. to the "B" stock, £1 10s. per cent. to the "A" stock.

Hull and Barnsley.—Full on the 3½ per cent. preference stock, and on the consolidated (ordinary) stock at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £9,541.

Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast.—Full 5 per cent. on the first preference shares, and of 2½ per cent. on the second preference shares, carrying forward £500.

Metropolitan District.—On the 4 per cent. guaranteed stock for the half-year at the rate of 1½ per cent. per annum.

Midland.—At the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum on the preferred converted ordinary stock, and 3½ per cent. per annum on the deferred stock, this being equal to 5½ per cent. per annum on the old undivided stock, leaving £56,828 to be carried forward. The dividend is ½ per cent. per annum up compared with a year ago, when the balance forward was £56,062.

North London.—On the ordinary stock at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum, making 4½ per cent. for the year, carrying forward £4,951.

Port Talbot Railway and Docks.—Full of 4 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31 on the preference share capital and at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum for the half-year on the ordinary share capital.

Rhymney.—At the rate of 8½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock for the half-year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £4,778.

Vale of Glamorgan.—4½ per cent., carrying forward £721.

MINES.

Briseis Tin.—Interim of 9d. per share, payable Feb. 28.

Broken Hill Proprietary.—1s. 6d. per share and a bonus of 1s. per share for the quarter ending February, payable 21st inst.

Mount Morgan Gold.—3d. per share for Jan.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Adamant Company.—Interim of 4s. per share, being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Andrew Knowles and Son.—16s., making 28s. per share for the year.

Associated Omnibus.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Birmingham Railway Carriage and Wagon.—Of 6½ per cent. and a bonus of 5 per cent., making 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31.

Bristol and South Wales Railway Wagon.—Usual interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

City Offices.—3s. 6d. per share on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Dec. 31, making 6s. 6d. per share for the year.

George Newnes.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Guest, Keen, and Nettlefolds.—Interim for the six months ended Dec. 31 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, payable Feb. 26.

H. Mawer and Stephenson.—Final of 5½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 8 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31.

Harrison Barber.—5 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £1,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £208.

Hart and Levy.—Final of 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 11 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £2,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £4,868.

Holborn and Frascati.—Balance at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 2 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £5,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £6,000.

Hurst Park Club.—Interim of 4 per cent., on account of the year ending July 31, 1906.

Imperial Tobacco.—8 per cent. on the deferred ordinary shares for the year ended Oct. 31, placing £250,000 to general reserve, and carrying forward £167,000.

Jones' Sewing Machine.—Interim for the past half-year at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares.

Lancashire Wagon.—At the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, together with a bonus of 3s. 6d. per share on the £2 paid shares and 10s. on the 10s. paid for the half-year ended Dec. 31, placing £2,500 to reserve, and carrying forward £1,653.

Maple and Co.—Balance on the ordinary share capital of 10 per cent., making 15 per cent. for 1905, placing £10,000 to reserve.

Montreal Light, Heat and Power.—For the three months ending Jan. 31 at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

National Telephone.—For the half-year ended Dec. 31 at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock and at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock, placing £125,000 to reserve and £10,000 forward.

Pawsons and Leafs.—3s. per share for the half-year ended Jan. 24, making 5 per cent. for the year.

Perry and Co.—7½ per cent., making 12½ per cent. for the year, also a bonus of 2½ per cent., making 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year, placing £7,704 to reserve and £663 forward.

Pyle and Blaina Works.—Interim of 2½ per cent. for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Read Brothers.—Final for the six months ended Dec. 31 at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares (making 10 per cent. for the year), placing £12,000 to reserve, carrying forward £1,723.

Richard Hill and Co.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Romai Tea.—Interim of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares.

South London Electric.—At the rate of 4 per cent. for the past year.

Walter and George Myers.—At the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £4,887.

Westminster Electric.—At the rate of 13 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31, payable March 1, making 13 per cent. for the year.

William Wallace and Co.—Final of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 5 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31.

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THE UNION DISCOUNT COMPANY OF LONDON, LIMITED,

39 CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

Capital Subscribed - - £1,500,000,

In 150,000 Shares of £10 each; on which £5 have been paid.

Paid up.. .. £750,000.

Reserve Fund £430,000.

Directors.

ROBERT BALFOUR, M.P.
WILLIAM THOMAS BRAND.
SIR WILLIAM DUNN, BART.,

ARTHUR JOHN FRASER.
SIR THOMAS JACKSON, BART.
HENRY OPPENHEIM.

Manager—CHRISTOPHER R. NUGENT.

Secretary—W. B. HOBBS.

FORTY-FIRST REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS,

To be submitted to the Shareholders at the **ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**, to be held at the Offices of the Company, 39, Cornhill, in the City of London, on Thursday, the 18th day of January, 1906, at Half-past Twelve o'clock in the Afternoon.

THE DIRECTORS beg to submit to the Shareholders the statement of the affairs of the Company for the half-year ending 31st December, 1905.

The Accounts, including the balance brought forward from last half-year, and after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, show a gross profit of £231,191 9s 3d. Allowing rebate of interest, amounting to £108,135 13s 0d, on bills not yet due, and deducting current expenses, there remains a balance of £105,020 5s 6d. Out of this sum the Directors have placed £10,000 to Reserve Fund, making it £430,000, and recommend the payment of a Dividend at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum for the half year, free of Income Tax, carrying forward £53,770 5s 6d.

The Directors regret to report the death, on the 29th July last, of their late valued and esteemed colleague, Mr. ROBERT PETER LAURIE, C.B., who had been associated with them since the formation of the Company.

The Member of the Board retiring by rotation is Sir WILLIAM DUNN, Bart., who, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.

The Auditors, Mr. THOMAS A. WELTON and Mr. ALEXANDER YOUNG, retire in accordance with the Articles of Association.

The Dividend will be payable on and after the 20th inst.

By Order of the Board,

W. B. HOBBS, Secretary.

39, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C., 8th January, 1906.

Dr.		Balance-Sheet, 31st December, 1905.		Cr.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Capital Account, 150,000 Shares of £10	1,500,000 0 0			By Cash at Bankers	480,289 2 4
Amount paid, £5 per Share	750,000 0 0			Consols, Exchequer Bonds, Indian Government and other Securities	2,798,292 6 2
Reserve Fund	420,000 0 0			Loans on Securities at call and short dates, and other Accounts	2,926,801 17 1
Provident Reserve Fund	41,618 9 0			Bills Discounted, &c.	15,816,185 6 4
Loans and Deposits, including provision for contingencies	14,849,382 5 3			Sundry Debit Balances	10,798 10 10
Bills Re-discounted	5,865,486 8 5			Freehold and Leasehold Premises, Fittings and Furniture	107,275 18 5
			20,714,868 13 8		
Rebate on Bills Discounted	108,135 13 0				
Balance at Credit of Profit and Loss for Appropriation	105,020 5 6				
			213,155 18 6		
			£22,139,643 1 2		£22,139,643 1 2

Dr.		Profit and Loss Account for the Six Months ending 31st December, 1905.		Cr.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Current Expenses, including Salaries, Rent and Taxes, Directors' Fees, and all other charges	18,035 10 9	By Balance brought forward from 30th June, 1905	53,030 18 3		
Rebate of Interest on Bills discounted not due, carried forward to New Account ..	108,135 13 0	Gross Profits for the half-year, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts ..	178,160 11 0		
Reserve Fund	£10,000 0 0				
Dividend for the half-year at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum, free of Income Tax	41,250 0 0				
Balance carried forward to next Account	53,770 5 6				
			105,020 5 6		
			£231,191 9 3		£231,191 9 3
W. B. HOBBS, Secretary.		WILLIAM DUNN, HENRY OPPENHEIM, } Directors.		Balance brought down ..	£53,770 5 6

In accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1900, we certify that all our requirements, as Auditors, have been complied with.

We have examined the Securities representing investments of the Company, those held against Loans made by the Company at call, short and fixed dates, and all Bills discounted in hand. We have also verified the Cash Balances, and vouched the Securities and Bills given as collateral security for Loans, and we have now to report to the Shareholders that the foregoing Accounts agree with the Books, and in our opinion the Balance-sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs as shown by the Books of the Company, except that, whilst it shows the amount of the Bills discounted which have been re-discounted, it does not show the amount of the Bills and other Securities given out against Loans shown on the debit side of the Balance-sheet.

London, E.C.,
8th January, 1906.

THOMAS A. WELTON (Welton, Jones & Co.), } Auditors.
A. YOUNG (Turquand, Youngs & Co.), }

The Investors' Review

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Private Letters giving fuller answers can be had if desired. The minimum charge for such letters is **Ten Shillings** each; but for that Three Questions will be answered. For all additions beyond three the charge will be **Half-a-Crown** per query.

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The Editors cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

Letters from correspondents must, in every case, be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

The Investors' Review.

Our Foreign Trade in January.

A note of jubilation is discernible in Free Trade journals, and no wonder. Tariffites will be more chary than ever of using statistics in their unscrupulous propaganda, for the January trade returns are the biggest single month's aggregate ever registered in this country. Imports reached a total value of £53,475,830, being an increase of £5,709,370, or nearly 12 per cent. upon the total for January, 1905. Exports of British and Irish produce are even better, reaching, as they do, a total of £30,774,811, or £5,785,034 up. This is equal to a 23.1 per cent. increase, and, as the useful summary in the *Times* money article notes, upwards of £5,000,000 of this increase is in "articles wholly or mainly manufactured." So much for the decay of British industries. Reshipments of foreign and colonial merchandise are also higher by 21.7 per cent., or £1,331,968, at a total of £7,444,855, and the beauty of it is that, as far as details will enable us to estimate, this expansion is normal and healthy. It is certainly to a smaller extent the product of loans to foreign customers than usual. Except India no dependency of the United Kingdom has recently been upon the London market for large supplies of additional capital. The great railway systems of South America have been extending their lines, and to some considerable extent our exports of machinery and metals to that part of the world have been increased by the new capital issues made by the companies, otherwise the world-wide trade of the United Kingdom is normal, and it cannot even be said that the expenditure of capital in South America is in any way diseased or a mark of extravagance. There was one working day more last month than in January, 1905, but that allowed for, the totals are still overwhelming.

It is almost unnecessary to go into details this month to illustrate the character of this trade, but in pursuance of the method we have recently adopted of looking at the figures from what may be called the Tariffite's standpoint, it is always useful to note certain dominating characteristics. In the matter of food imports, for example, we continue to be dependent upon foreign countries for the greater part of our supply. Living beeves imported last month came almost entirely from the United States and Canada, the United States sending us £723,000 worth, and Canada £139,000 worth. Of wheat, our principal food cereal, the total imports in January came to £2,153,000 worth, and of this only about 37 per cent. could be ascribed to British possessions, the greater portion thus supplied coming from uncertain India, which sent us £475,000 worth out of a total of about £800,000 worth from the British Empire all told. Canada sent us only about 13 per cent. of the total, and our other possessions or Union Jack fliers are negligible. It is the same with wheat flour, of which only about 12 per cent. of the total came from British possessions, and it is much the same with other kinds of grain. Russia and the United States still send us most of our oats, although the Russian supply, thanks doubtless to the disturbed state of the country and the famine prevailing over such large areas of it, has been reduced in the past month to little more than £49,000 worth, against £187,000 in January, 1905. From the United States and the Argentine Republic we also received

in January this year all but an infinitesimal portion of our supply of maize. The sources of our supply of fibres for our textile industries is so uniform and so well understood that it is unnecessary to go into that part of the subject, any more than into the sources whence our supplies of metals of all descriptions are drawn, beyond the remark that the outlook would be poor for us in everything but wool, and not over grand even in that, take South America away.

IMPORTS.

	January.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) In 1906 as com- pared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
General merchandise	£46,132,520	£47,766,460	£53,475,830	+ 5,709,370
Gold	2,972,469	3,023,010	2,391,777	- 631,233
Silver	1,185,970	1,275,555	2,089,268	+ 813,713
	50,290,959	52,065,025	57,956,875	+ 5,891,850

EXPORTS.

	January.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) In 1906 as com- pared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
Brit. & Irish Produce	£24,083,365	£24,989,777	£30,774,811	+ 5,785,034
For. and Col. M'dse...	5,712,000	6,113,887	7,445,855	+ 1,331,968
Gold	3,141,431	2,888,495	3,305,544	+ 417,029
Silver	1,538,524	1,107,527	1,809,214	+ 701,687
	34,475,320	35,099,686	43,335,404	+ 8,235,718

VISIBLE BALANCE OF TRADE.

	December.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) In 1906 as com- pared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
Imports	£50,290,959	£52,065,025	£57,956,875	+ 5,891,850
Exports	34,475,320	35,099,686	43,335,404	+ 8,235,718
Excess value of im- ports over exports	15,815,639	16,965,339	14,621,471	- 2,343,868

The values of the imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

The values of the exports represent the cost and charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

The same indication of the dominance of foreign countries in our trade continues to be given by our exports. The greater part of the coal we sent out of the country goes to foreign countries. Out of a total of £2,155,000 worth exported last month, less than £90,000 worth went to British possessions. Foreign countries also take most of our pig-iron, our iron or steel rails, and other heavy manufactures of this description; and it is interesting to note that Canada, sundry producers in which are now clamouring for a duty of 33½ per cent. to be clapped upon British tin plates, stands seventh amongst our customers for that particular article of manufacture. Thanks to the lower duty for tin plates now existing in Canada, the Canadian salmon curers have been able to capture no inconsiderable portion of the United States' trade in this article of food; yet Canada only imported £14,132 worth of tin plates and sheets last month against £59,586 sent to British East India, £48,336 to the Netherlands, the United States coming third with £40,238, and Germany following far behind with £24,055. How, it might be asked, will Mr. Balfour "retaliate" against Canada should its monopolists succeed in their agitation and get the duty they demand imposed on our tin plates? Is retaliation only to be applied to foreign countries, and if so, how will it benefit our trade with the United States to hit them in the eye and let Canada alone? Our colonies are larger customers in proportion to the total export for cutlery and hardware, but still, in hardware alone, they last month took only about £85,000 worth out of a total of £195,000 worth, so far, at least, as the destinations are enumerated. Against this, foreign countries are by much our best customers for textile machinery, and for many descriptions of other machines. It is also true that our magnificent tex-

tile trade in cottons and woollens depends for its prosperity on foreign countries in spite of the great and increasing business done by Lancashire with India. There is still, it may be noted, no indication that an effective boycott has been applied to Lancashire cottons by the people of India, for last month Bengal took more than in either of the two previous Januaries and Bombay much more. But we also did an increased business last month, sometimes notably increased, with Germany, Turkey, the Dutch East Indies, the United States of North America, Japan, Portugal, and most Central and South American States. Our trade in woollen and worsted fabrics also expands with foreign countries, and our linen manufactures continued to depend upon the United States more than on any other customer, foreign or colonial, for their prosperity. Out of a total of classified exports, excluding sail-cloth and other articles stated in lump, amounting in value to £430,504, the United States last month took £274,199 worth. Thus, if we are to set up a protective tariff, we must be prepared to sacrifice the most expansive and valuable portion of our foreign trade. Equally, if we are to retaliate against one country or another which may increase its tariffs against us, we must be ready to let these customers go. No wonder the nation would have nothing whatever to say to suicidal measures of this description when it got the chance to speak its mind. Really, the tariffites would be wise to cease their clamour now, lest we begin to investigate the symptoms of bankruptcy in their affairs.

The Note Circulation of the Bank of France.

Some amount of nervousness has been excited in this country by the decision of the French Government to raise the maximum note issue of the Bank of France by £32,000,000 to a total of £232,000,000. Undoubtedly this is a portentous decision from many points of view, but it was rendered imperative by the fact that the actual note circulation of the Bank now closely approaches the limit hitherto existing—viz., £200,000,000. If the Government had allowed this limit to be reached and exceeded the Bank would have been obliged to issue gold, to refuse the use of its notes when wanted to an amount in excess of the authorised maximum. Under the existing system of credit in the French Republic that might have been a serious step, not only for the French people, but for all money markets. As it is, the increase in the authorised circulation, as we might call it, must necessarily be accompanied by a greater accumulation of gold, for those who control the Bank of France have throughout been careful to avoid the danger of discredit to the fiduciary circulation. They have accordingly accumulated gold in a manner which excites both the envy and admiration of other great countries, so as to ensure all reasonable probability that whatever notes were presented would be redeemed in gold.

All this may be true, and yet it remains a startling fact that France should require such an enormous amount of bank-notes. Why does this necessity arise, and is it a sign of health or disease in the body politic? These questions are not very easy to answer, but a few facts may be interesting as introduction to some effort towards their elucidation. For one thing, it is to be noted that the debt of the French people, their national debt, has mounted during the last thirty-five years at a stupendous pace. In the beginning of 1852 the total public debt of the then French Empire was only about £221,000,000. By January 1, 1876, this total had risen to £796,000,000 in round figures, an increase in a quarter of a century of £575,000,000, and at the present time the total debt of the Republic is about £1,100,000,000, a fivefold increase in little more than half-a-century.

During this time, or, rather, since 1871, when Alsace and German Lorraine were lopped off the territory of France, the population of the Republic has increased

only by about 2,000,000, our population, it may be remarked, having in the same period risen by 10,000,000. The trade of France, moreover, has not expanded to an extent which seems to support this enormous increase in the public burdens as represented by funded and floating debt, yet the demands of the population for currency have constantly increased, until, as we have said, the note circulation is dangerously near the limit until recently fixed as a maximum. But do we not find in the fact that the debt has grown in this manner one explanation of the demand for additional currency, and is there not a further explanation of this demand in the thrift of the French people, who have not only invested in their own public debt but lent some £500,000,000 to Russia and continually increased their risks in foreign and domestic securities of all descriptions? The increase in their own debt caused by the results of the Franco-German war was itself enough to create an enormous increase in the demand for notes, seeing that the transactions in public securities were almost indefinitely multiplied, bargains in such being liquidated mainly by a transfer of bank-notes. The cheque is known in France, and is in use there to a limited extent, but that form of paper money cannot yet be said to prevail to an extent which in any degree affects the demands of the people for additional currency. The bulk of the transactions entered into are still liquidated in bank-notes, and in proportion as the volume of negotiable securities multiplies the demand for these notes must increase. As a thrifty country, an investing country, France therefore requires with each addition to the capitalised wealth represented by money saved an additional amount of paper money.

This leads to the further inference that a great deal of the active note circulation of the Bank of France is not really active at all. It is hoarded money. Just as cheques are not in common use amongst the French people, so the habit of depositing money with banks is only in its rudimentary state amongst them. The banks get control of a certain proportion of the free resources of the thrifty, but beyond this an indefinite amount of money lies stored in private safes and cash-boxes, and these private reserves are to an unascertained extent in notes of the Bank of France, the only legal tender bank-note in the country. As the French people have always been thrifty, and are at the present time probably the most saving people in the whole world, it naturally follows that as they accumulate profits or lay by surpluses out of current income, between the dates when they make investments an increasing proportion of these small accretions of wealth will be stored up in the form of bank-notes. It may be said that the new channels of investment, the enormous subscriptions to Russian bonds, the extensive purchases of South African shares, the readiness with which French investors put their money into securities of other countries—English, American, German even, Italian, Turkish, Argentine, and to some extent Australian, Spanish, Chinese, and Japanese—as well as into industrial adventures of all kinds, should counteract the effects of indulgence in the propensity to hoard money, and it no doubt does to a large extent, but all allowance made for these influences in arresting the withdrawals of currency through accumulated savings, it remains a fact with the householder in France that the more comfortable in circumstances he—and above all she—becomes, and the more he attains a position of independence, the more he increases his store of bank-notes in the private cash-boxes.

For the rest, that it is not the mere commerce of France, but rather the multiplicity of its investments, which has caused the increase in the demand for bank-notes is patent from the statistics of French trade, and may be proved from the records of the Bank of France itself. Its annual total amount of bills discounted is indeed very much larger now than it was forty or forty-five years ago, but the increase has only been about 120 per cent., whereas the increase in the note circulation has been nearly 600 per cent. In 1864

the minimum active note circulation of the Bank of France was about £29,000,000, and in the same period its stock of bullion fell to little more than £6,000,000. At the present time the gold alone held by the Bank of France amounts to about £114,000,000, and the actual note circulation exceeded £193,000,000 at the beginning of this month. But the increase in the bills discounted has been in no sense so remarkable. In 1860 the total business of this kind done by the Bank of France was about £200,000,000, and in 1904 it was little more than £433,000,000. Therefore the wealth of the community in interest-bearing and marketable investments must be the chief influence affecting the growth of the note circulation.

Another cause affecting the demand for the one legal tender note used in the Republic has been the enormous growth in public expenditure. Between 1860 and 1869 inclusive the total ordinary expenditure of the then French Empire was never higher than £84,000,000. All things included, it did reach almost £95,000,000 in 1862, but it fell again to £87,000,000 in 1868. After the disastrous war between Germany and France the expenditure mounted at a great pace far over £100,000,000, and has never since materially fallen off. At the present time it is approximately about £150,000,000, and the collection of a revenue of this magnitude has unquestionably created a demand for currency, since only by means of currency can the people pay their taxes. That this is a healthy development in all, or in many respects, few will be willing to assert, but it has been an inevitable one, and the skill and judgment with which French publicists and financiers have controlled the sources of national credit during the history of the third republic are from several points of view worthy of the highest admiration. Theoretically it is not according to sound finance that a nation should carry on its business, pay its taxes, liquidate its debt obligations, provide for the expansions of its empire—since France also is cursed with an empire—by means of paper money, but the men who have presided over the destinies of the Republic have always taken care that the paper money of the Bank of France should be well secured. During the years of stress which immediately succeeded the war the note circulation did expand ominously, while the bullion held against it was for years at a very insufficient total, but after the terrible strain induced by the sequels of that war had been met and overcome, the managers of the Bank of France steadily augmented the bullion reserve with the result that at the present time the Bank holds £114,000,000 of gold alone against the note circulation of upwards of £193,000,000. In 1871 the stock of bullion was only about £16,000,000, while the minimum note circulation was almost £69,000,000.

Is there anything to be apprehended from this increase in the authorised note circulation of the Bank of France to European credit, to international money markets as a whole? Peace maintained, nothing whatever so far as we can see. And from some points of view the great volume of the note circulation in France seems to us a guarantee of peace, for France could not now engage in a great war without running instant danger of beholding her stupendous and delicately poised credit fabric fall to pieces. It is probable, indeed, we may say certain, that the recent importations of gold by France which have borne so hardly upon the Bank of England's mild efforts to strengthen its own much denuded bullion reserve have been dictated by wise forethought. France has been extremely nervous about the Moroccan dispute, and although a feeling now begins to prevail that peace may after all be maintained, and that the Algieras conference will, before it concludes its labours, thrash out some *modus vivendi* calculated to avert anything like a renewal of the struggle between the Republic and the German Empire, there is no doubt that the Government of the Republic sought to strengthen the Bank of France by heavy purchases of bullion, so that France might be strong financially should war actually break out. If solid peace ensues we may, therefore, reasonably ex-

pect that some few millions of the gold thus accumulated will be allowed to filter away again, and if the Bank of England is vigilant it should be able in part to replenish its all too slender stock from this source. At the same time, much of the gold in stock cannot now be parted with by the Bank of France in any event, simply because its managers must maintain inviolable the absolute convertibility of the legal tender note. Now that the possible volume of paper money has been increased by £32,000,000, and that the actual note circulation exceeds the value of the gold held by about £80,000,000, or, say, 40 per cent., it is obvious that the stock of gold held against the notes in circulation must be permanently larger than it has ever hitherto been. As, moreover, there may be unfathomed afflictions lying ahead for the financiers in Paris through the disorganisation of Russia and the consequent dependence of the Tsar's Government upon the credit resources of foreign money markets, it is further to be inferred that those who control the business of the Bank of France are not going to weaken its position as a holder of gold until such an improvement has taken place in the internal condition of Russia as will allow loan raising to be resumed by her Government. What, however, chiefly concerns us at the moment is the probability of further gold withdrawals by France. Her bankers can take the metal from us in millions if they please, being together with their clients enormous holders of all kinds of good English securities. Is there any reason why they should do so merely because the note issuing liberty of the Bank of France has been enlarged. Given continued peace, none that we can see.

How to Save African Mines for Shareholders and the State.

People not infrequently accuse us of bearish sentiments and prejudices in regard to the South African market, and, possibly enough, the way we write about that market occasionally gives colour to this view, but the truth of the matter is that our dominant sentiment is one of disgust over the mismanagement of what might be a great and profitable industry, beneficial not only to the country in which it is located, but to the investor and to the business community everywhere. This disgust has its root in events antecedent to the abominable war engineered by the late Cecil Rhodes and his unscrupulous swarm of nondescript cosmopolites, and it has gone on deepening with time, until it now often generates a feeling of absolute despair as to what is going to happen, not only to the Transvaal but to this country and to the unfortunate victims of the mine share mania and its creators, who have suffered uncounted losses, and must continue to suffer.

We are wholly unable to refrain from pitching into the financiers and groups and bucket-shop companies by which the gold-mining industry of the Transvaal has been brought to its present pass. In our view they are finance criminals of a very common, but for that very reason most repulsive, type, and we have the conviction that until the whole of this unclean brood can be swept aside, and the way cleared for a reform of the methods of dealing with Transvaal gold-mining, there will be no satisfaction for shareholders, Governments, or any interest whatever. At present what markets see is an expanding industry, measured by the gross output of gold, and alongside a shrinking market for mining securities and a microscopic increase in the nett returns to these shareholders who have been fortunate enough to put their money into mines capable of being worked at a profit, even under a system of wholesale plunder. Is there no possible means by which this incongruous state of affairs can be harmonised and order and good government brought into an industry hitherto conducted by men whose sole aim has too often been individual aggrandisement?

Thinking over this problem, as we have done many a time, even when the unfortunate victims of Kaffir Circus furores and misrepresentations have credited us with seeking their ruin, we have gradually come to the conclusion that there is only one effective remedy which could be trusted in any degree to set the Transvaal gold-mining industry on its feet, as something likely to be beneficial to all entitled to claim an interest in it. This remedy is the drastic one of expropriation, or, if you like it better, confiscation. Do not run away with the opinion that we are going to rob anybody; the confiscation we look to is somewhat similar in its ultimate purport to that which took place when the old debts of Peru which that country defaulted upon and was never again likely to honour were transmogrified and boiled down into a stock or reversionary interest in the Peruvian Corporation. What we should do if we had the power would be, first of all, to give genuine self-government to the Transvaal and to the old Orange Free State; but with Orangia we need not at present concern ourselves, although it does seem to be, according to the *New Age*, under a sort of martial law once more. With the restoration of self-government to the white people of the Transvaal we should also endeavour to establish a mining Commission made up of representatives chosen by the new free Government of the country, delegates of the British Government and properly elected representatives of mine shareholders. To this body we should hand over the entire control of mining in the Transvaal. To do this thoroughly would involve the extinction of the existing companies so far as they are administrative entities. We should sweep away all the boards of direction, guinea-pig or boss-tool, all the numerous offices with their heavy expenses, and put an end to the deadly "commission" and monopoly businesses now in the hands of the few firms by whom the entire industry is controlled and, we fear it must be added, bled white. The entire management of the mines and mineralised areas would be vested in this commission, which would be empowered to consolidate the working of the various lodes and to systematise the extraction of ore so as to reduce the working expenditure to a minimum and to prevent "eye-picking," advertisements of "strikes," "finds," and other tricks by means of which the public has so often been robbed. We should, in other words, constitute the industry a national one and divide the proceeds between the various interested parties in such proportions as might, after discussion, be settled upon as equitable. The Transvaal State has a first claim, since its Government must depend for revenue to a large extent upon the mines. Our Home Government has also a strong claim, not merely for the £30,000,000 which the mine bosses promised to the man of Birmingham, winking the other eye and with the tongue in the cheek, but for the whole cost of the South African war, and mine shareholders of the genuine sort have also a claim. The proper method, therefore, would be to divide the revenues of the mines into three portions represented at present by the 10 per cent. tax on profits paid to the Transvaal State, viz. :—(1) the exactions and (2) the plunderings of those who now work the mines, and finally by such sums as are distributed to shareholders in dividends.

Probably the best arrangement would be to continue the 10 per cent. tax upon the mines, but to make it 10 per cent. on the gross produce instead of the nett, to be levied for the benefit of the State, unless, perhaps, it were for a time reduced to one of 5 or 7½ per cent. upon the gross value of the produce. Ranking next, as second charge, so to say, should come another 10 per cent. on the gross output to be handed to the British Government as security for any loan that might be raised to relieve the burden of our home debts or to change the character of these debts. These ear-marked portions of the revenue, under the improved management of the mining industry, would still leave a very large sum available for shareholders, and then would come the question of the arrangement

of the capital of mining companies with a view to the equitable distribution of this surplus. We should subdivide the mining share capital into several categories, placing as a first charge upon the free balance of nett revenue the actual amount of money originally paid for the properties and spent in developing the mines. This might be made a first preference charge, and the debentures of the mining companies when any existed could be merged in it. Then would come the promoters' garnishing and other ornamental capital of such of the mines as have actually been developed, or upon which money has been spent in a genuine business way that promises results. This portion of the mining capital would have to be boiled down considerably, but where prices had been paid to promoters in cash or in shares it would be necessary to recognise the existence of these payments and securities and to weigh them against the issued capital, shearing off what was purely worthless. This capital would be placed in the position of a second preference, and down below it shareholders enmeshed in the network of bubble promotions might constitute a third category consisting of that form of capital which is represented by nothing at all except the greed of promoters, the capital of undeveloped mines like much of that wonderful mass of fancy paper stored at the Gold Fields of South Africa Company, and things of that kind. This capital, which might be made £25,000,000, £50,000,000, or £100,000,000, according to the fancy of those who contributed to its composition, would receive the reversion of any profits left after all the earlier charges had been met, assuming the industry to endure for, say, fifty years, which is probably a very outside estimate—we think the time more likely to be between twenty-five and thirty years; still, take it at fifty years—and after providing a sinking fund to pay off the earlier charges at more or less handsome premiums it is conceivable that some few millions might ultimately trickle down to the holders of this wind capital. That remote possibility may hardly be worth discussing just yet. Our immediate object is to try and suggest a method by which the best could be made of the splendid mineral wealth of the Transvaal for the benefit of South Africa, of the United Kingdom, and of the people who have put their money into the various mining companies genuinely in a belief that they were making an investment. Will readers kindly think over the subject, and offer criticisms and suggestions so that by and bye we may proceed to fill in details and make estimates of probable results. As far as we have gone in that direction we estimate the savings to be effected at between £4,000,000 and £5,000,000 per annum.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

AFRICAN "PROGRESSIVE" MONOPOLISTS.

These gentlemen in Johannesburg and elsewhere in South Africa are beginning to moderate their tone. We are already a long way from the day when they threatened to "cut the painter," although that day, measured by the flight of time, is only about a month off. Now they talk of welcoming a Royal Commission to inquire into the political circumstances of the Transvaal and the Chinese slavery question, but some of them have the impudence to spoil this humbler attitude by suggesting that the Commissioners appointed should be Lord Selborne, Lord Milner and Sir Arthur Lawley. They may depend upon it that whoever may be appointed, if anybody, the present Government is not going to select men so completely under the thumb of the cosmopolites and so perfectly their tools as Milner and Lawley. One of the most satisfactory indications, however, of the change taking place is the inability of these potentates of market finance to get together a unanimous body of their dependents to support them

in their agitation against anything like genuine free institutions for the white population of the Transvaal. Individuals like the *Times* correspondent in Johannesburg seek to minimise the force of the opposition, but less boss-driven correspondents tell a different tale, and it is becoming plain that one of the most welcome changes produced by the advent of a strong Liberal Government to power has been the mental emancipation of the downtrodden, not only in the Transvaal, but all over South Africa. Men who hitherto have been afraid to speak lest their means of livelihood should be taken from them are now standing up for themselves, and not only that, but are expressing from one end of South Africa to the other a loyal and cordial support of a Government which promises them liberty—deliverance from the blighting oppression of the "progressive" monopolists. They have no Press, these people, but that really does not matter very much if they will only continue to assert themselves on all public platforms, by private correspondence on every opportunity the enemy affords them. Nothing, indeed, has been more satisfactory in the recent upheaval at home than the demonstration it has given of the absolute impotence of a reactionary Press. The Tariffites have captured most of the so-called influential journals throughout the country, either wholly or partially, sometimes in the most brazen manner, by titles and favours, sometimes by underhand means, too often by brute coercion. This degraded Press has poured out its quibbles, mock patriotic fustian and falsehoods, its tariff-robbery arguments, day after day and week after week, and the result has been such a triumph of righteousness at the polls as the country has never seen since the mass of the people had the franchise. The strumpet Press has become a derision. It is now the same thing in South Africa. Everybody in Johannesburg knows who are the men who shape the opinions of the journals they are compelled to read, and all discount these opinions. Therefore there is nothing to be alarmed at in the circumstances that we get very little genuine news from Johannesburg or any part of South Africa except through the paid servants of the monopolists, who call themselves progressive. The people will make themselves heard in spite of this despicable conspiracy to misinterpret their aims and thoughts. And they are not going to accept "self-government" based upon a dishonest and boss-helping franchise.

THE PREMIER DIAMOND COMPANY.

A lengthy and interesting article on the Premier Diamond Company appeared in last Monday's issue of the *Financial Times*, written by its Johannesburg correspondent. The date of the letter is January 15, and at that time the fall in the price of the deferred shares "was the principal topic of conversation in mining circles here during the past week." Well, it has been an absorbing topic in City circles, too, only overshadowed in interest by the Geduld scandal. Since the 15th ult. the fall has continued, and shareholders see their wealth vanish daily like mist in the sun, despite the brief message from the directors expressing their belief in the future of the mine, a message we ridiculed at the time it was sent. In a little less than six months the value of the mine has depreciated, the correspondent figures out, by no less than £7,000,000, and this has been considerably swollen since he wrote. And the reason for this? Two causes have been at work, says he. "There is the big falling off in the yield of the mine during the past month or so, while in addition to this it is reported in some quarters that there has been heavy selling on the part of certain directors." He points out, at the same time, that the articles of association provide for a large stake being held by the directors as qualification. That is, each director must hold 4,000 deferred shares, and every alternate director 2,000 shares. Thus the twelve directors hold 48,000 shares, and the alternates 20,000 shares—out of 320,000 half-crown shares that is—so there is a considerable number to be held by out-

siders, to say nothing of the preferred. "In order that these shares may not be dealt in or otherwise negotiated, they are cancelled, and a guarantee of issue is given to the holders whenever it shall be demanded." After long negotiation, in which some directors counselled a policy of secrecy, others an open one, it was decided to issue a statement, the scope of which the correspondent considers—and others will form a like opinion—is scarcely commensurate with the serious decline in the price of the shares. Here it is:—

In order to allay the anxiety amongst the shareholders of the company, the board will hurry on the issue of the yearly accounts and technical reports on the mine as much as possible.

The directors still have confidence in the mine, and state definitely that the present yield does not reflect its true value.

Their policy must be to develop the whole mine, and in order to do this they must go through a poorer zone, which is met with in all mines.

This poor ground must of necessity be treated by the No. 3 gear, which gear is not yet in complete working order.

Prospecting shafts, which have been sunk on the north side of the No. 1 working disclose that the overburden is very poor, but that the mine proper is quite satisfactory.

It is the second paragraph that was cabled over here a week or so ago, and the one we ridiculed. This is what the correspondent says:—"The opening clause of the second paragraph is characterised in Stock Exchange circles as being especially naive, and as damning with faint praise. Really, there are very few companies which, to the outsider, have but the most slender of chances, but which to the directors give scope for the utmost confidence." After saying this and more, however, the writer thinks the present yield is much below the true average of the mine, which he puts at a probable 5 carats per load as a maximum over long periods. Anything but comforting this to those who bought at past high prices, and may never again get the chance to recover what they have lost. At the same time, we never know where De Beers means to come in in the deal.

THE NORTH LONDON RAILWAY.

No wonder the market did not like this company's report. Its receipts for the December half-year show a nett decrease of £1,408 at a total of £242,337. Had it not been for the increase of £4,086 in the goods receipts the outcome would have been uglier still, for passengers yielded £5,493 less, having having decreased in number by 614,637, a loss not made good to any appreciable extent by an increase of 2,233 in the number of season tickets. Complaint is again made of the competition on tramways and other new undertakings, but surely the directors might be able to cope with this to some extent. Be this as it may, the dividend for the whole year 1905 has been brought down to $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., a decline of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. compared with the yield for the previous year. The balance carried forward, however, is slightly larger at £4,951 against £3,673. It is difficult to say what the real cost of working this company's business is, but, on any computation, it appears to us to be high. If, for example, we include the receipts from rents and advertisements in the gross income, and deduct from the working expenses the amount received from other companies and sundries, working expenses still come out at 63.32 per cent. of the gross revenue; but if we take the actual working expenses of the line and the actual receipts from its carrying operations, then working expenses come to nearly 78 per cent. of the gross income, and that cannot possibly be a reasonable figure. In other words, it took about £189,000 to earn £243,428. Why should traffic expenses for a company of this kind stand at the high total of £56,550, and is not locomotive power high at £58,000? Shareholders might do worse than look into this question. What are the receipts, moreover, amounting to £25,369 credited without detail and deducted from the working expenses? Why can they not be shown in detail upon the receipts side of the account? The balance-sheet indicates the capital

account to be overdrawn by £120,653, although in the past half-year no new capital whatever was laid out. The company, however, possesses sundry funds aggregating nearly £200,000, so that it is in no need of further money. But its affairs otherwise are much in need of overhaul. The dividend is payable on the 17th inst.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: DRIEFONTEIN CONSOLIDATED.

The Driefontein Consolidated is one of the principal members of the Farrar group, and has long been regarded as one of the most promising subsidiaries of the East Rand Proprietary. But within the past week or so very serious news has been received from the mine, and this has been followed by a heavy fall in the price of the share. The consulting engineer cabled to say that according to present indications the yield for January would be approximately only £1 9s. per ton, and he could hold out no prospect of improvement in value until rock can be drawn from the north reef. This will not be possible for another four months, and meanwhile it is impossible to predict with any assurance that the yield will improve then. Anyway, improvement or no improvement, profits must necessarily suffer, and dividends be reduced. In 1905 the two dividends aggregated $22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., in 1904 $47\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and in 1903 40 per cent. This depreciation in yield is explained by the fact that since August, 1904, the profits have had to be distributed over a much larger capital. Formerly the capital was £275,000, but it was increased to £600,000 in 1902 in order to purchase an additional number of claims from the parent company and to provide working capital. It was stipulated, however, that 325,000 shares held by the East Rand Proprietary should receive no dividend until the Driefontein company had applied the profit from 354,000 tons to the holders of the original 275,000 shares. As this tonnage had been dealt with by August, 1904, the whole of the £600,000 have since then ranked for dividends. This accounts for the reduction of nearly 50 per cent. in the distributions since. The mill, however, is now doubled, from 110 stamps to 220 stamps, and as these should crush as much ore again as formerly the annual profits and dividends ought to be kept up, all being well. On the other hand, the increased output will shorten the life of the mine by one-half and will tell in that way. That is, with 110 stamps the life of the mine was estimated at about thirty years from 1905, but with double the milling power it will probably be about fifteen years only. On the dividend paid last year the yield is 9 per cent. on the now very low price of the share. In fifteen years this would give, say, an aggregate of £135 on £100 invested, leaving £35 profit, or a little over $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. If, however, the investor puts £5 5s. aside annually at 3 per cent. interest, which will redeem the principal in fifteen years, the nett yield would be $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. He will stand the chance, of course, of this being appreciably increased when the full 220 stamps are in steady operation. But there is now the above ominous message from the consulting engineer, foreshadowing other risks to be faced from a possibly permanent reduction in the value of the ore. This will be better imagined when it is recalled that in past years the yield per ton has averaged well over 40s., so a drop of 10s. or 12s. a ton is very serious. Even should the reef improve in depth, the profits must be reduced temporarily. Were it not for this uncertainty the shares would undoubtedly look rather attractive at their present prices, but there has been a fall of £1 or so in the short space of a fortnight.

ENGLISH VELVET AND CORD DYERS' ASSOCIATION.

This comparatively small combine pays an ordinary share dividend, and it behaves us, therefore, to be very mild in our criticism. In the twelve months ended December 31 the profits from branches were returned at £54,701 or £6,216 more than in the previous year, but shareholders need not go into ecstasies over this advance because it is only a partial recovery from the set back of £10,000 revealed at this time last year.

With the addition of £34 for transfer fees the total income is £54,735 compared with £48,487. In the previous accounts the administration charges and managing directors' remuneration were stated separately at £7,048 and £2,264 respectively, but now they are given in one sum of £9,321, therefore showing practically no change. We should have preferred the details though, because it is often instructive to note the relation between cost of management and the sum paid as ordinary dividend. With this company the proportion seems to be about 25 per cent. Depreciation allowance is £14,071, or well over £1,000 less, and after providing debenture interest of £8,379 the nett balance comes out at £22,964 compared with £15,604. Credit from previous account is £11,012 making £33,976 in all. From that the preference dividend absorbs £10,594, and the directors propose to use £8,702 in paying an ordinary dividend of 3 per cent., the sum carried forward being £3,607 larger at £14,679. Capital expenditure for the year was very small at a nett amount of £264, and the £14,071 allowed for depreciation brings the balance-sheet value of the land, water rights, buildings, &c., and goodwill to £653,961. What proportion of that is solid matter we have never been allowed to know, but judging from the earnings we should say that goodwill figured pretty liberally. That, however, would not matter so much if the directors made an attempt to build up a strong financial position, but so far not a penny piece has been placed to reserve. It follows that no ordinary dividend should have ever been paid, and though the shareholders may enjoy their 3 per cent. just now there is no doubt at all that the present neglect will one day result in a deal of suffering. Floating liabilities are happily small at £19,987, and on the other side there are such assets as sundry debtors £34,341, cash £34,042, investments £5,020, and stock-in-trade and work in progress £24,709. An item, however, that we do not like is that constituting payments in advance for insurance, rates, &c., and advertising carried forward. We expected to see that reduced from last year's amount of £7,895, instead of which it is up to £8,036. Does it mean that all advertising is not provided for before profits are arrived at?

THE NILE VALLEY COMPANY.

Fate, in the shape of loud-tongued rumour, has been exceedingly unkind to that most unfortunate concern, the Nile Valley Company. At any rate, the directors say so, but their imaginations seem to lure them to irrational statements. In a circular accompanying their annual report they deplore the effect of rumours on quotations, which has made it impossible for them to get cash by placing the unissued shares. Then malicious rumour went further still and said reconstruction was probable "at a time when there was absolutely no foundation for it." Anyway, rumour was wonderfully intelligent and rational, more so than the directors, for if the company wanted cash and the unissued shares could not be placed, and the price kept tumbling down, reconstruction became indeed inevitable. However, here is the directorial lament, and here is the company's fate, so extremely in contrast with the chairman's emotional enthusiasm at the meetings three years ago and the official forecasts we have had from time to time. When we protested, exactly three years ago, against the rigging of the shares and predicted the inevitable collapse, we were not far out, the price to-day being 5s. Thus experience has taught one that very little reliance is to be put upon directorial enthusiasm and official opinions; and that the views of an intelligent outsider are just as valuable. So to get the necessary funds to carry the company on to some end or other that reconstruction is proposed so intelligently foreseen by rumour. The assessment is to be 4s. per share, the £1 shares in the new company, which will have a capital of £250,000, to be credited with 16s. This will give £30,000, which the directors

"believe" will be sufficient, for they do not know any more than shareholders. The liquidator is to have the call for one year of the 31,743 unissued shares—it will be remembered that Mr. J. B. Robinson would not exercise his option on such shares—"and if, as is hoped, the market conditions improve and the further development of the mine is successful, a substantial sum may be realised, the whole of which will be applied towards recouping the present shareholders the 4s. a share they are now asked to subscribe." Looking at the state of things as they are, the probability is that those who may still be anxious to lose their money in this company may soon have the chance of buying shares on the market at less than 5s. The directors have not sent us a copy either of their report or of this circular, but we bear no grudge against them for that. It is rather foolish, for we can always get a sight of them, and such conduct is not conducive to making a good impression. It appears that the gold won has been sufficient almost to cover working expenses, but this is no guarantee that profits will ultimately be earned. Yet, despite failure to pay up to the present, the directors intend to spend money on an additional ten stamps, so that they might have better hopes of earning profits with twenty stamps than with ten. That remains to be seen. All we can confidently say is that past experience does not encourage one to look for profits, let alone dividends.

THE AURORA WEST UNITED.

It is announced that owing to the remoteness of the possibility of getting 1,000 blacks the directors of the Aurora West United Mining Company have decided to close down the mine. Well, we are not surprised, for was it not only a few weeks back that another mine in this particular group—the Albu group—was unable to pay its final dividend for the past year? At any rate, the directors said so, the cost of Chinese labour was so great. The profits were earned, but they were needed for capital expenditure and to defray the cost of coolies. The Aurora West has not yet paid a dividend, but it was slowly getting on that way. Now dividend-paying is postponed indefinitely, and all for the sake of 1,000 natives. The company is heavily indebted to the parent concern, the General Mining and Finance Corporation, and to employ Chinese would involve, it is said, a further expenditure of £35,000. There have been developed 100,000 tons of ore, of an average value of 32s. per ton. Surely it would be more profitable for the company and the shareholders to employ 1,000 whites rather than incur the heavy loss involved in suspension. No; Mr. Albu set his heart years ago on having Chinese, and if he cannot have them he would contemplate immense losses with equanimity rather than employ British labourers. This is the way these bosses show their regard for the investor—their restless anxiety to put more money into the pockets of shareholders. Here is another striking instance of what shareholders have to pay for that stupid proclamation of the bosses at the end of the war to reduce the wage of the blacks. They can afford to pay hundreds of thousands of pounds to bring over Chinese, but the native must be paid a starvation wage only. If they cannot get enough blacks—Mr. Robinson says they can with proper methods and right payment—they have only themselves to blame. But what do they care? They have come from the Continent, made themselves millionaires, and it is absurd to think they care a cent for an English shareholder. Well, English shareholders do not care a cent for the bosses now; hence the deepening gloom in the Kaffir Circus.

NETHERLAND FINANCE.

"Always deficits," the superficial student of this interesting little kingdom's affairs would be apt to say, and the judgment would be harsh and misleading. It is quite true that year after year deficits emerge in the accounts published, and that the estimate for 1906 points to a deficiency of £943,000 at the end of the

year, the total expenditure being put at £15,143,000 and the revenue at £14,200,191. Part of this, however, is due to the assumption by the Netherlands of the floating debt of Netherland India, and some of it to the continued expenditure of capital upon public works, and Holland is in no sense on the way to bankruptcy. Additional taxation may be required, but in the past thirteen years no less than £5,250,000 has been devoted to extraordinary expenditure, much of it drawn from revenue, such as would in this country be charged to capital, expenditure on the railways, on the state mines, on the dykes and land reclamation projects, all tending to augment the wealth of the country. Meantime, an additional tax of 10 per cent. is to be laid on property and professional incomes, and other measures of fresh taxation will doubtless be elaborated before long. The amount of the Netherland Indian floating debt taken over by the Government of Holland is £3,530,416, involving a charge of about £142,000 in this year's budget. This means a consolidation loan, none of which, however, will require to be issued abroad. As for the Netherland Indies themselves, in spite of this awkward item of floating debt, they appear to be in a tolerably flourishing condition notwithstanding deficits which look much more formidable than the average of those brought out in the budgets of the dominant country. We cannot, however, offer any valuable judgment upon the position of the Netherland Indies because the details presented in Mr. Mounsey's report to the Foreign Office are not very clear. What is tax revenue is not clearly separated from what is profit from trading, and capital expenditure on railways and other public works may be mixed up with current outgoings for administration. What we, however, see is that the ordinary expenditure of the dependent Provinces tends to expand and is estimated at £12,495,000, or about £1,000,000 more, for 1906 than the actual outgoings for 1900. This is exclusive of extraordinary outlay. Revenue, on the other hand, has been stagnant, and is estimated at a rather lower figure for the current year than was realised in 1900, the respective totals being, for 1906 £12,424,000 and for 1900 £12,651,000. The aggregate deficits would seem to be about £10,480,000, which is very little more than the amount obtained from the loans raised in 1883, 1898, and 1905. Are the Indies of the Dutch becoming poorer, then? Not improbably, for it is not the attribute of the west to build up and enrich the east.

THE TRADE OF BAVARIA.

Bavaria is a protected country whose trade is conducted within the ring-fence of the German Imperial tariff. It is therefore interesting and instructive to see how its population fares, and some oddments of information upon this subject has been furnished to our Foreign Office by Mr. Consul Buchmann. His tale is not particularly encouraging, and would not suit the Birmingham tariffites at all, at all. There has, it seems, been a bad time for the poor brewers owing to the rise in the price of barley, but that was due to very bad harvest in Hungary, and must not be laid to the door of the tariff. Domestic beer consumption, though, was bad because of the increased poverty of the people. This poverty is shown by, among other signs, the reduced consumption of butchers' meat, which has fallen off by 35 lbs. a year per head in the course of twenty years, thanks to the higher price and the greater poverty of the consumers. Under the new tariff the decline is certain to be accentuated and the place of beeves' flesh is even now being taken by horse flesh. Munich has twenty-six shops where horse meat is sold, and even in small provincial towns where these providers were hitherto unknown horse meat shops have been opened in the course of 1905. Much has been heard of the decline of our glass-making industries from the Birmingham agitators, but a tariff does not seem to have helped the once all-important glass industry of Bavaria. It is being spoiled by inland competition and high duties. The Canadian

market also has been lost entirely by the tariff war into which Canada and Germany have now plunged. In 1890 Fürth exported £470,000 worth of glass to the United States, and in 1903 the value fell to less than £63,000 worth. Also the same place sent during 1904 about £12,500 worth of mirrors to Canada, but since the new Canadian tariff and sur-tax, amounting to 26 2-3 per cent. *ad valorem*, has been laid upon this German product the export trade to Canada is almost nil. A very nice and apposite object lesson this in the art of destroying trade by means of retaliatory tariffs, by "hitting back." There is a cheering note, however, about Bavarian machinery which is said to have done well in 1904, although two large Munich locomotive works and the Munich Railway Carriage Works complained of very slender profits made on engines and rolling stock furnished to foreign railways. Then Saxon and North German competition threatens to usurp whole branches of the industry, so that the Bavarian makers are now reduced to a greatly restricted market, partly for that reason, partly because of an adverse Austro-Hungarian tariff. Doubtless they will make it up by a greater consumption at home, if the theory emanating from Birmingham has any truth in it. Only we should like in that case to have a clear exposition of how poverty increases the power to pay and consume. Could not the desperately Imperial Joseph start a little tariff hell of his own in Birmingham by way of teaching by example? He has our permission.

ROLLING STOCK ON THE HIRE PURCHASE SYSTEM.

As far back as 1873 a plan was invented whereby railway companies in the United States could improve their equipment by means of short term bonds, payable by instalments out of revenue, and the scheme was adopted not merely by the weaker undertakings, which would probably have found it difficult or impossible to raise the necessary funds in any other way, but also by the big systems. So long as the obligations entered into were kept within moderate bounds there is no doubt the method was beneficial, as it enabled the companies to keep pace with their growing requirements without an undue expansion of their permanent capital account. At first the policy of caution appears to have been very closely followed, and by June 30, 1890, the total of these "car trust securities" outstanding was only \$49,478,200 or under £10,000,000. During the next four years the amount gradually rose to \$63,970,200, but it was immediately reduced to \$55,915,327, and in 1897 was down to \$39,888,800. By 1901 it was up again to \$68,116,723, when the possibilities of using this method of dealing to stimulate trade seemed to dawn upon the magnates, and a jump to \$89,208,400 occurred. A further advance to \$142,980,000 was followed by one to \$173,334,700, and on June 30, 1905, the *New York Chronicle* estimates, the amount outstanding reached as much as \$197,400,000. With the exception of the last item all the figures are official, being taken from the Interstate Commerce Commission's returns, but it does not follow that they are therefore accurate, and, in fact, they would appear to understate the actual position, as some of the companies refuse to give particulars of their indebtedness on these securities on the plea that they are only rental payments.

The extent of the reliance on this method of buying rolling stock by the big companies is perhaps more clearly brought out by the classified table published in the *Chronicle*, showing the amount of the indebtedness of each company or group of companies compared with June 30, 1890. For instance, the Pennsylvania, Baltimore, and Norfolk railroads with their subsidiaries have outstanding \$47,318,900, against \$16,724,400, and the first-named has recently authorised a further issue of \$13,000,000; the Missouri, Pacific, and other Gould lines owe \$26,272,800, against \$2,639,756; the Southern Railway group shows an advance from \$3,982,600 to \$19,256,447; and the Rock Island an advance from \$1,474,000 to \$15,758,380;

while the anthracite and bituminous coal roads respectively have increased their indebtedness from \$2,117,000 to \$14,694,000 and \$1,372,200 to \$15,775,400. The Cincinnati, Hamilton, and Dayton system, over which there is trouble hanging, has done its share towards providing business for the car builders on a paper basis by issuing \$8,894,000 Car Trust bonds, compared with \$320,000 in 1890; the Chesapeake has gone up from \$1,021,000 to \$7,600,000; and the Canadian lines are not far behind their American brethren, as they show an advance from \$2,764,367 to \$8,594,484, but of this \$4,685,000 is due to the appearance of the Canadian Northern on the scene. All of the railroad magnates, however, have not been convinced of the desirability of this method, and the Hill group has reduced its total from \$3,000,000 to \$124,300, while the obligations of the Harrison group and the Atchison Company stand at much about the same figures now as they did in 1890. The Erie, amongst others, has also come to the conclusion that the drain on the incomes caused by this plan of paying by instalments is greater than the benefits derived, and is therefore redeeming its outstanding certificates as rapidly as possible, while the Colorado and Southern has called in all its equipment trusts and deposited them as part collateral under its new mortgage. But the orders have been heavy from many customers, and so business has been as brisk in the States as if the roads had been engaged in buying or carrying the Encyclopædia Britannica.

Passing Events.

Readers will recall that considerable criticism has been passed upon the scheme proposed by the directors of the New Heriot Company for the purchase of 33 odd claims from the Nourse Deep—recently merged in the Henry Nourse under the title of the Nourse Mines—the main contention of the critics being that too high a price was to be given for the claims. The meeting to consider the matter was held on December 21 last, and was adjourned until March 26. Meanwhile the directors seem to be acting fairly in putting their position fully before the shareholders, together with the arguments of Mr. Sydney Jennings, their consulting engineer. Thus shareholders will have time before March to go thoroughly into it, and weigh the pros and cons of those in favour and those against. Mr. Jennings estimates that the transaction will result in a profit to the company of £121,095. In any case, a large capital outlay will be necessary, it is said, in order to sink a new incline shaft, provide additional stamping power, make alterations to the cyanide plant and erect a slimes plant. The main point of the directors' position is—is it better for the company to undertake this expense without increasing its mining area, or by increasing it to spread the cost over 3,280,000 tons of ore instead of 1,880,000 tons?

Since the Metropolitan Water Board came into existence the courteously worded application for the rate issued by the old companies has given place to a curt demand note, and the change has had a bad effect on some of the collectors. Those gentlemen seem to imagine that as they have become servants of a public body instead of a company it is unnecessary for them either to work quite so hard or to show civility in the exercise of their duties. In the latter half of last year one at least to our knowledge did not trouble to send out the notice at the usual time, but turned up later with a "final demand." He has now gone a step further, and when handing in the first notice requests payment on the spot. Other rate collectors give good notice of the date on which they will call, and it seems only reasonable to ask that so long as the Water Board collects its own revenues it will see that its employees adopt the same plan. But why can't the Board entrust the collection to the borough official in the same way as the L.C.C. does, and so not only get rid of a superfluous lot of officials, but save the householder a good deal of annoyance?

We are glad to see that Sir Edwin Cornwall, in his first speech as guest of the Paris Municipal Council, put forward the suggestion that these reunions of the municipal representatives of democracy should be not only continued between near neighbours, but expanded so as to embrace other countries besides England and France. It is an excellent suggestion, for the more the democracies of Europe draw together, get acquainted with each other, understand each other's aims and feelings, the more will the people grow to dominate the bureaucratic, aristocratic, and agrarian selfishness by which the international policy of nations has hitherto been all too exclusively directed. We can have no quarrel with France on any point, not even in China, where there are many ugly quarrels brewing, provided we take the trouble to know and understand each other, get to comprehend that the expansion of trade by one country leads to expansion in other countries, and that friendly rivalry in commerce is an altogether different thing from the bloodthirsty ambitions of annexing potentates. It has been a delight to see the cordiality with which the Municipal Council of Paris has welcomed the members of our London County Council, and we hope that this is but the beginning of many such reunions, and of a closer intercourse not only between England and France, but between England and all her neighbours on the Continent.

In the six months ended December last the revenue of the Transvaal is put at £2,020,655, an increase of £155,418 on the corresponding six months of 1904. Such, however, is the extravagance of the administration that the whole of this improvement has been swept away, and about £45,000 more, the expenditure having been £2,065,434 as compared with £1,911,158 for the second half of 1904. This kind of ruinous extravagance must be put an end to. It is added in the Reuter telegram that the revenue of the Intercolonial Council, that is to say of the body controlling the railways, was in the same period £3,156,639, and the expenditure £2,858,146. Both these totals are quite high enough, for large revenue means onerous freights, swollen expenditure, and bad control.

Russia continues to show something like a debtor's prosperity in its trade returns if they can be trusted. In the trade over the European frontiers in 1905 there was a surplus of exports over imports amounting to nearly £47,000,000, exports reaching a total of £99,200,000, and imports a total of £52,300,000. This ought to ensure the ability of Russian bureaucrats to issue another foreign loan, seeing that there is such a margin of unmortgaged exports to draw upon, but we fear the Western moneylender is not going to be drawn into opening his pockets yet awhile. And the loan issuer encourages his pessimism the better to be able to squeeze Russia when the loans have to be granted.

What is the meaning of this agitation about getting the Admiralty to employ the Thames Iron Works Co., Limited, and other steel using industrial enterprises on the Thames estuary? There is great shortage of work in the shipbuilding yards there, and an effort is, the *Tribune* says, being made to impel the new Government to give out orders so that work may be found for these men. This is not a good beginning in retrenchment, nor a wise proceeding on the part of these new M.P's. Obviously the Thames is not a favourable centre for iron industries, for shipbuilding industries above all, it lies too far from the raw material. It would be much better, therefore, to arrange to transfer the idle iron workers in the Thames valley to centres of industry further north where there is great activity not only in shipbuilding, but in many other forms of engineering and iron and steel work.

We are really not much interested in the full-flavoured wrangle going on between the adherents of Mr. Balfour and those of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain. Except in so far as the policy of Free Trade *v.* Protection is involved, we do not concern ourselves with the dispute in any way. It may, however, be worth while

to protest against the suggestion that a man of Mr. Chamberlain's antecedents and tendencies should be spoken of as the "leader" of any party in the United Kingdom. He has never followed well, never been loyal to any leader he nominally served, and that alone should prevent him from being regarded as a man capable of leading others. It is his idiosyncrasy to be a betrayer, and no sooner would he be placed in the position of leader by the broken fragment of reactionaries who call themselves Conservatives, Tariff Reformers, and such like, than he would begin to intrigue. One section would be favoured more than another, laggards would be betrayed. It is a pitiful spectacle from many points of view, but not one over which we are called upon to moralise, so long, at least, as Protectionism remains a discredited exhibition of stock-jobbing patriotism.

There is nothing fresh in the summary of Japan's Budget sent the other day by Reuter; it merely repeats information printed weeks ago in this REVIEW, but the publication of this statement induces us to repeat the criticism offered when the figures originally appeared. It is to the effect that in setting aside £14,600,000 to the service of the old and new debts the Government is attempting too much, levying too heavy a burden upon Japanese taxpayers. We fully appreciate the motives which induce the Government of the Mikado to make this attempt. To the proud spirit of the Japanese people it is galling to be in any way subject to the foreigner. They desire their Empire to be independent in all respects, and are therefore disposed to strain their resources to pay off debt. That is quite the right spirit, but they ought to wait a few years until the country has had time to recuperate from the enormous losses inflicted by the war, and until its commerce with China, its development of Korea, and its hold upon the trade of Manchuria have so augmented resources as to make the burden of an enormous revenue more bearable. It would be much better to confine payments on the debt for the next three or four years to the strictly necessary fulfilment of contracts. Afterwards the extinction of debt might be accelerated when the resources of the Empire had grown. It must not be forgotten that the ordinary expenditure of the country totally unconnected with the war outlay is now put at £23,000,000, and ten or twelve years ago the total demands upon the people in all forms was only about £8,000,000. Add another £15,000,000 to this and we have nearly £50,000,000 per annum to be raised from a country in the mass nearly as poor as India.

We are glad to see that the members of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's Government have all resigned their directorship of public companies on taking office under him. That wholesome arrangement was definitely made by Lord Rosebery when he became Prime Minister and abandoned by Lord Salisbury and his successors, but it is a rule which ought to be maintained by the Ministries of both parties, and we trust that should the whirligig of time in some future year bring the Tories back to power they will not again turn their backs upon a wholesome custom. The Capel Courtier and the New Courtier were all along far too much in evidence during the existence of the late Ministries.

Some interesting statistics relating to the polling at the General Election now over have been collected by the *Liberal Magazine*, that useful monthly publication of the Central Organisation of the Liberal Party. From these we gather that while the majority of the Tory Government in 1895 was only 104,000 on the total electorate polled and in 1900 only 123,000, the Liberal majority in the elections just over rose to 837,528. This, on a total poll of 3,394,258, affords evidence of an unprecedented swing round of public opinion. In reality we believe the aggregate Liberal majority of votes would have been much greater but for the "faggot" votes, as the Scotch call them, cast by those who, under our present defective electoral laws, have the power to go about the country polling

now in one constituency now in another, often as many as half a dozen times and occasionally more. It is doubtful, indeed, whether the Tory majority would have existed at all in 1895 but for this vicious duplication of voting power, and we hope the earliest possible opportunity—not in this session, but in a session not remote—may be taken to put an end to the anomaly altogether. Were the register simplified and the polling throughout the United Kingdom fixed for one day, which might be made a general holiday, we should be able to get a better idea regarding the real trend of public opinion on many things.

Unhappy India is obviously in the throes of another famine. While the military faction there is furiously spending the substance of the people and increasing its demands to a degree which will certainly bring in sight the overturn of our Indian dominion altogether—end in its bankruptcy and in the revolt of the natives against our grinding rule—hunger is spreading over large areas of the peninsula. The latest returns sent by the Governor-General are for the week ending January 7, and tell us that the total numbers then on relief have mounted to 213,379. Of these 80,474 are in the United Provinces, 75,396 in Ajmer and Rajputana, and 38,500 in Central India. Bombay, Hyderabad, Baroda, and the Punjab also have their contingents of the absolutely destitute and hungry, and reports as to the crop prospects are still harrowing in their suggestiveness of spreading famine. More rain is wanted everywhere, especially in the United Provinces and Central India. Prices are rising, and before many months are over the Government may have to raise a loan in order to keep the people from starving.

There is growing unrest in China, and, as Mr. Putnam-Weale points out in his new book, "The Pre-shaping of the Far East," China is busy arming with the view to try conclusions with the foreigners in the not distant future. Russia, too, is not eager to keep the terms of her treaty with Japan in regard to Manchuria, and will, we may be sure, delay satisfaction to China in other directions as long as possible. China, for instance, is asking for the refunding of the money contributed by it towards the establishment of the Russo-Chinese Bank, by which much sinister work has been done. It is only £657,000, but Russia has at present no money with which to pay any creditor. So there will be trouble in the Far East once more, and soon. We only hope our new Government will not let British interests drift as the Tory Government did during its long sway and deadly subservience to the African cosmopolites.

So the Canadian Pacific Railway is going to increase its ordinary capital by £8,000,000 to a total of £30,000,000 (\$150,000,000), the present limit being £22,000,000, of which £2,028,000 has already been issued. Money doubtless must be had, and if the new capital were issued at a good premium, ordinary shares would do well, but it is not so, and naturally the market is delighted over the "fat" in the issue, and only cynics pause to ask why no mention was made of the matter when the dividend was declared. That disappointed operators knocked the price of the stock down some \$4 or \$5, giving an excellent opportunity to those "in the know" to load up, for the directors propose to issue forthwith \$20,280,000 of this new stock, including the \$8,600 already authorised, and to give this in the proportion of one new share for every old share held to existing proprietors at par. The real bonus this gives the proprietors is about \$15 per share, but the market takes it at \$11½, and naturally the old stock went flying up on the news. Indeed, the operation is a brilliant market stroke, quite in the Aerated Bread style, but it will have to be paid for one day, and we cannot regard a transaction of this kind as other than root and branch dishonest. The men who will throw away the credit of the Canadian Pacific in this manner care neither for the prosperity of the Dominion nor

for the railway company, but only for stuffing their own pockets. It is a shameful business. The new stock could easily have been sold at 160, and even then an unnecessarily large bonus would have been bestowed upon proprietors. At a moderate estimate, therefore, the directors have flung away £2,500,000 in order to enrich themselves and the favoured proprietary. We shall never believe in the financial stability of a concern thus managed, in the probity of men capable of such contempt for equity.

The *Tribune's* Ottawa correspondent gives some illuminating particulars about the growing demands of Protectionists in Canada. A Tariff Commission is sitting there to hear the demands of the poor distressed producers. Among the things these defenceless ones want is an increase of 5 per cent. in the duties levied on British woollens, raising them to 35 per cent. *net ad valorem*, with other enhancements special to blankets and extra widths of cloth. A 35 per cent. duty, the distressed ones allege, "would no more than give Canadians a fighting chance in the home market," and, of course, the mixed duty is merely designed to keep out shoddy. Then, an American company producing sanitary earthenware wants 35 per cent. put upon British woollens, raising them to 35 per cent. *net ad* and Canadian rubber manufacturers seek higher protection against British goods because, if British makers liked, they could, as things are, compete—all which illustrates beautifully the Canadian desire for "Free Trade within the Empire"—India excluded. But why that "scathing denunciation" of the sugar-refining monopoly? Ah, if food grew dear, Canadians would change their tune on many things.

Share and debenture holders of the European Petroleum Company are faced with a very serious position. Even before the riots and incendiarism at Baku wrought such havoc with the Russian oil industry the concern was in very low water, and the appalling events of last year seem to have reduced it to a position verging on complete collapse. No compensation is forthcoming from the Russian authorities for damage or loss of production. There are pressing liabilities to be met and the company's exchequer is apparently empty. Under these circumstances the directors come forward with a drastic proposal for the debenture-holders. Up to the present the sums required to be set aside under the trust deed have been regularly provided, but the finding of this debenture service fund has drained the company dry, and debenture-holders are asked to suspend certain of their rights for five years and to agree to the creation of a further amount of stock to rank *pari passu* with that already existing. The modification of rights consists of the suspension of the redemption clauses, and while holders might be induced to agree to that part of the proposal, we fancy the addition of further stock will not be readily accepted, even though the need for money is pressing. Debenture-holders will no doubt suggest a reconstruction with an assessment on the shares, and we are bound to say this is the most natural course. The present suggestion is entirely in the interests of the shareholders, and it is quite natural to find the Mercantile Investment and General Trust Company stirring in the matter with a view to the protection of holders' rights.

Critical Index To New Investments.

BRAZILIAN RUBBER PLANTATIONS AND ESTATES, LIMITED.

Apparently the East is not to be allowed to capture the rubber market without opposition, and this company has been formed with a capital of £180,000 in £1 shares to acquire estates on the Baturité Hills, North Brazil, together with all rubber trees, crops, machinery, &c. The chief product of these estates seems to have been sugar, but there are already 400,000 Para rubber trees from five to six years old, in addition to 20,000 of another kind ranging in age from

fifteen to twenty years. They were acquired by the Estates and Industrial Syndicate, Limited, for £55,000 in cash and £30,000 in cash or shares (an arrangement evidently altered later, as the prospectus states that the vendors have agreed to take 25,000 shares in part payment), and are resold to the company for £120,000 in shares and £30,000 in cash or shares, with the option of paying cash for 95,000 out of the 120,000 shares. Of the total capital 145,000 shares were offered for subscription, making a total present issue of £170,000, and 50,000 were underwritten for a commission of 7½ per cent., payable out of the cash portion of the purchase price. It is estimated that the production from the trees above-mentioned will not be less than 900,000 lbs. of rubber per annum, which at 5s. per lb. would yield a profit of £135,000 without taking into account the receipts from coffee, sugar canes, and other produce, but in calculating the result of operations during the early stages of the company's existence the directors take only one-half of this figure, and on that show a nett profit of £67,500 or enough to pay a dividend of 25 per cent. after providing for administration charges and reserve. The price of 5s. per lb. on which this estimate is based may be all right for a time, but in view of the enormous increase in supplies of rubber to be expected from the numerous undertakings now springing up in all directions the possibility of a considerable reduction should have been reckoned on. Other new companies have based their estimates on a price of 3s. per lb., and at that figure the directors of this concern would only have shown a nett profit of £22,500 or one-third.

RUBBER ESTATES OF JOHORE, LIMITED.

Unlike all its predecessors, this company is unable to hold out any prospect of an immediate return on the money invested in its shares, as its estates have not yet been selected. Sir F. A. Swettenham, K.C.M.G., has secured a grant from the Sultan of Johore enabling him to select 25,000 acres in blocks of 5,000 acres from any unoccupied ground in the State on condition that he gives one-fifth of the consideration he receives to the Sultan and his Government. This company has been formed with a capital of £150,000 in £1 shares to take over the grant, for which it paid £10,000 in shares, and offered 115,000 shares for subscription. Eighteen months are allowed in which to select the land, and a further seven years in which to bring 5,000 acres into cultivation, when the whole 25,000 acres would become the absolute property of the company, but should less than the 5,000 acres be cultivated within that time the grant will be reduced in proportion, four uncultivated acres being given for every acre cultivated. No profits are looked for during the first six years, but after that it is estimated that with 100 trees to the acre and a price of 3s. per lb. for rubber the profits should amount to £2 per acre, rising in the tenth year to £10 per acre. The period of waiting is too long for the average investor, but sufficient support may be forthcoming to take up the 75 per cent. of the present issue at which the minimum subscription is fixed.

PEARKS' STORES (AFRICA), LIMITED.

When this company was formed in July, 1902, to take over the South African business of Messrs. Pearks, Gunston, and Tee, Limited, 15,000 shares were issued to the vendors and 20,000 were subscribed out of a total capital of £100,000 in £1 shares. In 1904 5,000 more were issued for cash, and as the directors now consider that the time has arrived when further funds can be employed to advantage, they this week offered the balance of 60,000 for subscription at par. Operations were commenced in January, 1903, by the opening of cold storage and warehouses in Johannesburg and the establishment of retail branches, but business was seriously hampered by the difficulty of transport consequent on military control, and by the sales of enormous surplus military stores at less than

cost price. Profits for the thirteen months to February, 1904, therefore amounted to no more than £3,462, although the business of Messrs. Elias Levi and Co., which had been successfully carried on for nearly ten years, was absorbed in November, 1903. In the following year the turnover rose to £146,098, but the profits realised are not given, the prospectus merely stating that a dividend of 7 per cent. was paid. This was increased to 10 per cent. with £1,149 carried forward for the twelve months ended February 28, 1905, and the directors speak hopefully of being able to continue to distribute dividends of at least 10 per cent. per annum. The present issue was underwritten for a commission of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and an overriding commission of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the brokers received a further commission of 6d. per share for their services.

CANADIAN GENERAL ELECTRIC CO., LIMITED.

Messrs. Sperling and Co., on behalf of themselves and other owners, offer for sale 11,000 shares of \$100 each in this company at \$142 $\frac{1}{2}$ or £29 5s. 8d. per share. The company, which dates back to 1891, is an amalgamation of the principal companies in Canada controlling the manufacture of electrical appliances, but in addition to these it has acquired the Canadian business of several electrical apparatus makers, as well as general engineering works, and factories for steam pumps and hydraulic machinery. For the last seven years regular quarterly dividends at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum have been paid, and after writing off large amounts for depreciation the reserve and contingent fund shows a proportion equal to 37 per cent. of the capital stock, and the total assets bear a proportion equal to 150 per cent. The company has no bonds, debentures, or other mortgage indebtedness, the only securities ranking in front of the common stock being \$300,000 6 per cent. preferred stock, and \$160,000 bonds of the Northey Manufacturing Company which are guaranteed by this company, so that the present issue seems decidedly attractive. At the price asked the yield works out at £7 os. 4d. per cent.

AMMAN VALLEY GAS LIGHT AND COKE CO., LIMITED.

The Gas and Water Works Supplies and Construction Company has found a new outlet for its energies in the shape of an agreement with the Ammanford Urban District Council for providing gas works for the district. This agreement is handed over to the company, and for £18,000 in cash, £2,000 in preference, and £2,000 in ordinary shares the vendors undertake to provide the gas works and first section of mains ready for supply within one year from January 8, 1906. The company, it is said, will start business under the most favourable circumstances, having obtained written orders for connecting up nearly 600 ordinary consumers, 300 penny-in-the-slot installations, and between 400 and 500 cooking stoves, while the Council has agreed to provide 180 public lamps. Out of the capital of £25,000, divided equally into ordinary and 6 per cent. preference shares of £1 each, entitled to an extra 1 per cent., after the ordinary have received 12 per cent., 10,500 preference and 10,190 ordinary shares are offered for subscription, together with 1,250 debentures of £10 each, which are redeemable at 10 per cent. premium in ten years' time. The contractors guarantee 5 per cent. interest on both classes of shares from the date of allotment during construction, and should the revenue for twelve months after operations are commenced be insufficient to pay at least 5 per cent. on the preference and ordinary, they will make up any deficiency.

COPPER MINING AND SMELTING COMPANY OF ONTARIO, LIMITED.

The capital of this company is \$1,000,000, or £206,667, in \$5 shares, of which 120,000 are issued in payment for the property taken over and 60,000 are offered for subscription to provide working capital,

leaving 20,000 in reserve. In addition to two grants or locations of about twenty square miles, known as the Bruce Mines, in the Algoma District, Province of Ontario, Canada, assets, consisting of plant and machinery, ore ready to be taken away and tailings, concentrates, &c., valued at £113,265, are included so that the purchase price seems extremely moderate. Specifications, plans and estimates have been obtained for a complete smelting and Bessemerising plant with a capacity of 250 tons per day, at a cost of £10,683 exclusive of import duties, to which is added £7,000 for cost of erection and necessary buildings. In his report Mr. Carnegie Williams state that, although he believes that at a conservative and fair estimate as between the mineowners and the smelter, 10s. per ton would be a reasonable profit and one which is likely to be obtained, he has made his calculations at 5s. per ton only. On this basis, and taking copper at £56 per ton against a present market value of £78, an output of 200 tons per day would yield a profit of £51,500 per annum, which would be increased to £84,000 on 300 tons and to £117,000 on 400 tons per day. The proposition therefore seems a promising one, and the moderate purchase price is greatly in its favour.

ANGLO-SWISS ASBESTOS COMPANY, LIMITED.

The promoter of this undertaking seems to have looked after his own interests in a very liberal fashion, and in so doing has so overloaded the venture with paper profits that he has handicapped it severely. An asbestos property in the Carolina district of the Transvaal, which was bought for £18,000 in cash and £16,000 in preference shares, is turned over to the company for £25,000 in cash, £16,000 in preference shares and £84,304 in ordinary shares, or £125,304 in all. Two Swiss firms are brought into the business in an indefinite way, and for procuring their introduction Mr. F. G. Chadbourne, the vendor and promoter, hands over to two other gentlemen £4,666 in cash and £52,202 ordinary shares, leaving him with £2,334 and 32,102 ordinary shares for his profit. The total capital of the company is £200,000, divided into 66,000 preference shares, entitled to a dividend of 6 per cent. and a share in the surplus profits after 6 per cent. has been paid on the ordinary, and 134,000 ordinary shares, all of £1 each. Of these, 49,696 preference shares are offered for subscription at par and have been underwritten for a commission of a like number of ordinary shares. It is estimated that it will be necessary to spend £4,000 on surface works, £1,000 on tools, and £12,000 or £13,000 in opening up the mine, and as preliminary expenses are put at £1,200 it is evident that no great margin has been allowed for contingencies.

NEW SOUTH WALES, $3\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT. STOCK, 1930-1950.

Applications will be received by the London and Westminster Bank, as agent for the Government of New South Wales, for £2,000,000 of the above stock to provide funds for the redemption of Treasury Bills and debentures matured and maturing on or before July 1 next. By the State Debt and Sinking Fund Act of 1904 it is provided that £350,000 per annum shall be placed to the credit of the general sinking fund, and the stock is repayable at par on July 1, 1950, but may be redeemed at the option of the Government on six months' notice on or after July 1, 1930. The price asked for the new stock is 99 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., payable by instalments of 5 per cent. on application, 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on February 26, and 25 per cent. each on March 26, April 30, and May 28, but a full six months' interest will be paid on July 1. Seeing that the issue adds nothing to the debt this price seems not unreasonable, although it leaves little for pickings for the market.

GREAT CENTRAL AND MIDLAND $3\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT. GUARANTEED STOCK.

In 1904 certain railways, which were the common property of these two companies, were united and con-

solidated into a separate joint undertaking under the title of the Great Central and Midland Railway to be managed by a committee. Under the Act this Committee was directed to refund to the two companies their capital outlay in the joint undertaking, and to create and issue a stock to an amount not exceeding £2,000,000. Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co., as bankers to the joint committee will receive subscriptions for this new stock at the price of 103 per cent., payable as to 5 per cent. on application, 23 per cent. on allotment, and the balance by three instalments of 25 per cent. each on May 15, August 15, and November 15. The lines have been leased to the Great Central and Midland Companies for 300 years with a provision for perpetual renewal in consideration of a rent of £70,000 per annum, payable half-yearly, and this rent forms the security for the new stock. In addition, the two companies are bound to make good, as part of their working expenses, any deficiency which may arise in any half-year in the revenues available for the payment of the said rent. The stock is no doubt excellent, and the market quotes the scrip at 1 premium.

THE WESTERN CANADA LAND CO., LIMITED.

This company has been formed to buy 500,000 acres of agricultural land from the Canadian Pacific Railway, part of the land grant bestowed upon it by the Government of the Dominion. It is claimed that the lands are advantageously placed in the Saskatchewan Valley. The district is brought into direct communication with Winnipeg by the Canadian Northern Railway, and it is estimated by the board that land within 15 miles of the line can be sold at \$10 to \$15 an acre, between 20 and 25 miles from the railway at \$7.50 to \$9 per acre, and 25 to 30 miles distant at \$6.50 to \$7.50. A considerable profit is also estimated from town sites. Examples are given from the experience of other companies to show how prices for land in the Canadian North-West have risen. The share capital is to be £500,000 in £1 shares, of which £450,000 will now be issued, viz.: 150,000 to the vendors in part satisfaction of the purchase price of £428,865, and the remaining 300,000 to the public through Messrs. Chaplin, Milne, Grenfell and Co., Limited, at a premium of 5s. per share, the whole to be paid up by April 30 next. The preliminary expenses estimated at £5,000 will be paid by the company. A discount of \$124,800 (£25,000) will be allowed on the purchase price if all paid up on July 6 next. Provided the estimates of saleable value are not too sanguine the enterprise seems a fair one.

Notes on Books.

Rubber Producing Companies of the Malay Peninsula and Ceylon. (London: Gow, Wilson, and Stanton, Limited. Price, 5s.) Until a few years ago the supplies of rubber coming into the world's markets were drawn entirely from countries where the trees grew wild, but for various reasons these sources grew less and less to be depended upon. For one thing, the mere fact that the rubber was a natural product gathered by natives in a primitive way led to the injury, if not to the destruction, of the trees within reach, and the search for new trees had each year to be carried further afield, with the result that the cost of gathering was considerably increased. These and other considerations brought the question of scientific cultivation into prominence, particularly in the East, and so great has been the progress made both by the Ceylon tea companies, which have taken it up as an adjunct to their original industry, and by the new undertakings formed for the express purpose, that Ceylon and the Malay Peninsula bid fair to take a high place amongst the producers. This little book is therefore most opportune, as it gives particulars of some 35 companies with sterling capitals, of which 15 are carrying on operations in the Malay Peninsula and the others in Ceylon. It is estimated that there are fully 100,000 acres already planted in these two countries, Southern India, Java, Sumatra and Borneo, and this area is steadily being increased. With the careful selection of

the land, the systematic planting of the trees and the supervision exercised over the collection of the sap, cultivated rubber should be superior to the natural product gathered haphazard, and this has proved to be the case, as rubber from Ceylon and the Malay Peninsula contains a much higher percentage of pure caoutchouc, and has for some time past been realising about 15 per cent. more than the best South American product. Messrs. Gow, Wilson, and Stanton regard the new industry as a fair risk for the capitalist who can afford to wait for a return for six or seven years, but they point out that there are two dangers which must not be overlooked, viz., over-production and the discovery of a substitute. The second, however, is apparently not one which need be very seriously considered as the real article, even at the present stage, can be produced for 1s. per lb. or less, but the danger of over-production is one which certainly needs to be guarded against. Another and even greater menace to the new industry, however, is the reckless flotation of companies with large capitals based on highly optimistic calculations of probable profits, which are sure to make their appearance in this as in all new industries which captivate the investor's fancy.

Sixty Years of Progress and the New Fiscal Policy. By Lord Brassey, K.C.B., D.C.L., &c. (London: Longmans, Green, and Co.) Price, 2s. 6d.

One of the most valuable characteristics of this sensible and readable volume is the apt quotations with which the argument is illustrated. On page 72, for instance, we come upon this: Speaking in the House of Commons on August 21, 1881, Mr. Chamberlain said, "Lastly, sir, is any one bold enough to propose that we should put a duty on food. Well, Sir, I can conceive it just possible, although it is very improbable, that under the sense of great suffering and deceived by misrepresentation, the working classes might be willing to try strange remedies, but one thing I am certain of, if this course is ever taken it would be the signal for a state of things more disastrous than anything which has been since the repeal of the Corn laws. A tax on food would mean a decline in wages; it would mean more than this, for it would raise the price of every article produced in the United Kingdom, and it would indubitably bring about the loss of that gigantic export trade, which the industry and energy of the country working under the conditions of absolute freedom have been able to create." It is the fashion to put one statement of Mr. Chamberlain's against another, and the conjunction is usually in a high degree amusing, but we have never come across any extract from his past deliverances more apposite and striking than this. The book, however, contains a great deal more than mere quotations of the views of this man and the other, and is in no sense a mere refutation of the fallacies of the Birmingham tariffites. From one end to the other it is packed with carefully gathered statistics relating to the trade of this country and of other countries, to the state of employment in various countries, and it contains an excellent summary of the principles upon which our Free Trade policy has been founded and built up. Turn for a moment to the particulars as to unemployed extracted from the fiscal Blue Book of 1904. There we are reminded that in the United Kingdom there was down to 1899 a steady decline in the percentage of unemployed members of Trades Unions. After that the percentage rose, thanks to the effects of the war, but in 1903 it was only 5.30 per cent., against 7.70 per cent. in 1894. In the north of France the percentage between 1894 and 1901 was never less than 6.6 per cent., and rose on two occasions to 7.8 per cent. In the United States the percentage is given for special trades, showing the members of the unions in those trades idle in 1902. These figures are highly significant. In the building trade the numbers idle were 17.1 per cent. of the whole, in the clothing trade 24 per cent., in the metals and machinery trade 5.2 per cent., in printing 13.1 per cent., and in wood-work and furniture 15.7 per cent. The book is full of instructive facts of this description, a magazine of ammunition.

Letters to the Editors.

"BETTER DEAD."

SIR,—A short time ago a vulgar fellow wrote to you to the effect that you were "better dead," because, forsooth, you would not call bitter things sweet, nor allow the public to be pillaged without denouncing the pillagers. Illness supervening has prevented me writing before to express my sympathy under this gross attack, but as a little help is worth a lot of pity, I have the pleasure of becoming a subscriber to your invaluable journal, and enclose my cheque for one guinea for the current year. Kindly forward the back numbers, commencing with that of January 6. I am under no practical necessity to buy the INVESTORS' REVIEW, because it is taken at the municipal library here, where I read it regularly. But I want to prove that some people at least appreciate your sterling and sturdy honesty, and share your burning indignation over the organised conspiracy against investors by the *chevaliers d'industrie* of the market. Upon my conscience I believe that the honest financial journalists of London could be counted on the fingers of one hand. It is quite useless to write to those organs whose proposed *faison d'être* is the protection and guidance of investors, for any just and pungent criticism of the bosses and their methods is ruthlessly deleted, if, indeed, the letter be allowed to appear at all.

If Mr. Herring, or Mr. Carnegie, or Mr. Passmore-Edwards, or any other of our great philanthropists wish to do incalculable good to the community, they cannot more surely attain their end than by subscribing for a thousand copies of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, and sending them broadcast to every reading room in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It is a mistake to suppose that the classes which use these institutions do not read financial journals. I know suburban London well, and make a point of visiting for the purpose of observation every reading room I pass, and I find that the financial papers—weekly and daily—are by no means neglected. Of course they are not rushed for like the illustrateds, but they are read and studied by no inconsiderable numbers, and the INVESTORS' REVIEW would be an antidote to the poison which the market organs too often administer. With your journal as a beacon, many voyagers on the stormy seas of speculation would escape shipwreck. It is through the INVESTORS' REVIEW in large measure that the writer has not lost his all. I am impoverished, but not ruined, and that I have saved a modest competency out of the general wreck is due to your repeated warnings to which, happily, I gave heed 'ere it was too late. I was within measurable distance of utter ruin when my eyes were opened to the danger signals with which your columns are so liberally supplied. I cannot doubt you would save hundreds of others if your warning voice could only reach their ears. For my part, I had no conception of the depths of infamy of City sharks until you plumed them, or of the unscrupulousness of company-mongers until you exposed them. Whence I infer that the wide diffusion of your journal would be a work worthy of those philanthropists who are so laudably concerned for the public good. If all financial journalists were as fearless and incorruptible as yourself, Park Lane and City thieves would diminish in number, and the millions which pass into their pockets would remain in their owners' for the benefit of their wives and families.

As a Conservative, I see clearly that our cause has been hopelessly discredited by association with the bastard imperialism so blatantly professed by the nomadic race of the fearful and wonderful names—names that English jaws can with difficulty negotiate. The Kaffir crew have hung like the Old Man of the Sea on the necks of the constitutional party, which they and Brummagem Joe together have shattered to its base. What an alliance! A great historic party with the gilded roturiers of Park Lane, who occupy palaces only because they are not in prisons. If they were petty pilferers they would be "doing time," but brigands of the Napoleonic brand are caressed by smart society (save the mark!), and received at Court. The Conservative and Unionist party—or what is left of it—must now bitterly repent of their "most filthy bargain" and disreputable allies, and are doubtless disposed to echo the aspiration of Emilia:—

"O, heaven! that such companions thoud'st unfold,
And put in every honest hand a whip
To lash the rascals naked through the world!"

Trusting you may be encouraged to persevere in your most praiseworthy, if thankless, task, which is appreciated by many, although one or two may think you "better dead."

Your obedient servant,

GRATITUDE.

February 5.

*** Letters like the above are rare with all editors, and cannot be discoursed upon. We can only thank the writer, and hope that his excellent example may be more widely followed—by the individual subscriber, though not by the patronising millionaire philanthropist.

THE TAXATION OF CAPITAL, &c.

DEAR SIR,—An article in the INVESTORS' REVIEW a week or two ago suggests thoughts that are sometimes lost sight of. When capital is spoken of, people generally at once turn their thoughts on large amounts and on big capitalists, forgetting that there are hundreds of small capitalists on whom a law might

press very hardly, whilst it might perhaps be just enough if it related to the wealthy only.

In the same way it is often proposed that taxation should be heavier on incomes that are not earned than on those that are produced by business. That again might be very hard on many poor people. There are thousands of widows and people of limited means, whose income is derived from some savings invested. A specially higher rate of taxation on such people would be very unfair, and sometimes almost cruel.

In the article to which I have referred it was proposed to levy a tax on empty houses! Surely whether the owner of the house or houses standing empty be a large or small owner of house property, it is bad enough for him or her to have houses without tenants, which also diminishes income, without the extra hardship of having a tax to pay because of such a misfortune. I have known widows and others of small means whose entire income and living depends on the rent they receive from a few houses or cottages—and sometimes of only one house. If that house happens to stand empty all means of living for the time comes to an end, and where one or two houses out of, say, three or four become empty, the income becomes greatly reduced. To impose a tax on such empty houses would not seem right.

Then, again, when comparison is made between incomes derived from business and incomes derived from investment or from real property, there requires discrimination. To take one case. A man in business has all his life worked hard at his trade or shop, or whatever his business may have been. During that period he has by frugality and economy managed to save enough money to retire from business, and live on the interest or dividends or rents derived from the capital he has invested, and thus enjoy a few years of quiet at the close of life. Is it fair to tax him more now that he is old and retired from business, and perhaps having too a smaller income than he had while in business?

But I must not make my letter too long, otherwise many other thoughts might occur to one's mind on this subject.

I remain,

Yours truly,

Y. S. B.

INDIAN GOLD MINES.

The producing mines of the Colar gold fields have not started the new year with great promise, as the output for January was only 50,870 ozs., showing a decrease of 2,207 ozs. compared with the preceding month, and actually 39 ozs. less than the yield for January, 1905. The return from the Mysore mine was 1,278 ozs. less, but the figure for December was exceptional, for it included 1,005 ozs. from plates and 240 ozs. from base bar, otherwise it shows no falling off from the average of preceding months. Both this company and the Champion Reef crushed a smaller quantity of ore, the output from the latter declining by 483 ozs. In the December returns of the Balaghat 302 ozs. from plates were included.

Name of Company.	Oct. Tons.	Oct. Ozs.	Nov. Tons.	Nov. Ozs.	Dec. Tons.	Dec. Ozs.	Jan. Tons.	Jan. Ozs.
Balaghat	4,200	3,667	4,300	3,744	4,400	4,117	4,400	5,848
Champion Reef	19,650	17,801	19,540	17,762	19,720	17,705	19,350	17,244
Coromandel								
Mysore	16,750	17,393	16,400	17,010	16,650	18,463	16,150	17,190
Mysore W. and Wynaad	2,152	1,155	2,042	1,137	1,879	1,140	1,944	1,214
Nundhydroog	6,800	5,816	6,800	5,607	7,000	6,118	6,900	5,890
Ooregum	10,595	5,545	10,276	5,542	10,176	5,529	10,229	5,524

The following table gives the total monthly returns from the Mysore Field alone, for 1906 and the previous five years:—

	1901. Ozs.	1902. Ozs.	1903. Ozs.	1904. Ozs.	1905. Ozs.	1906. Ozs.
January ..	42,829	41,612	48,080	50,935	50,999	50,870
February ..	40,764	40,053	46,268	49,500	49,629	—
March ..	42,727	41,575	48,327	50,914	51,629	—
April ..	42,038	38,329	48,271	49,991	52,324	—
May ..	42,110	28,093	48,628	50,445	51,095	—
June ..	41,829	37,466	48,980	50,800	51,553	—
July ..	42,071	43,847	50,571	50,476	51,086	—
August ..	42,048	49,628	50,286	50,613	50,541	—
September ..	41,524	49,420	51,452	50,526	50,962	—
October ..	41,670	47,858	51,380	50,031	51,287	—
November ..	41,669	48,332	51,559	50,442	50,802	—
December ..	43,069	48,078	53,984	51,560	53,077	—
Total ..	504,348	514,291	597,786	606,233	615,561	50,870

The Union of London and Smiths Bank, Limited, announce that a branch of the bank will be opened in High Street, Tonbridge, as soon as the necessary alterations are completed.

CROYDON GAS.—The whole of the £5,000 consolidated "C" ordinary stock offered for sale by auction on February 1, was sold at prices ranging from £230 10s. to £237 per £100 of the stock.

The February issue of the *World's Work and Play* is an excellent chronicle of such matters, as the title indicates, though, truth to tell, there is little of *Play* in this number beyond an interesting description of "Up Helli A.," a Norse festival in Shetland. Naturally the General Election bulks largely in the magazine, and many of the most humorous cartoons are reproduced. Mr. Charles Lowe endeavours to correct certain misconceptions which he thinks exist in England regarding "The German Emperor To-Day." Other attractive articles are "The Revival of English Canals," "Art in an English Village," "How to Plan Beautiful Towns," while the women folks will read with a critical, and mayhap an appreciative, even an envious, regard the sketch by "Chibur," entitled, "Housekeeping in Queensland."

Answers to Correspondents.

R. K.—(1) We think you might continue to hold these at present, but should the opportunity arise to let you get out without loss it would be better to take it. (2) These shares seem to be safe enough in spite of the "disturbed state" you refer to. (3) This company indulges a little too much in speculative things for our taste, and we should not call its bonds by any means first-class.

W. R. B.—It is impossible to say whether they will go up or down. Lately the price has greatly fluctuated, and many diverse reasons have been given for this. If you are inclined to hold for a considerable time it might be as well to do so, for as far as we can see dividends seem safe enough for many a day to come. One good sign is this bucket shop "bearing."

A. B.—(1) It is true the price is falling, but no one seems to know the real reason. Some say a big deceased account has been in process of liquidation, others put it down to a depreciation in the value of the ore. Dividends seem safe, however, and we do not think you should sell, especially if it involved a loss. (2) Of the two we should prefer the second as less troublesome, especially as you can easily get 4 per cent. with perfect safety. (3) There must have been a mistake somewhere, as we know of no such company as the second one you name. The shares you hold are excellent, and you need be under no anxiety regarding them.

Nemo.—It is quite true we thought well of the debentures when the company was floated, but a good deal has happened since then, and the happy-go-lucky methods of the board have landed the company in what looks like a hopeless muddle. Better leave the debentures alone for the present at any rate.

Olive.—(1) There are possibilities for these shares, it is true; but they are very remote, as heavy capital expenditure will be necessary to put the line in good order. If you bought any shares you might have to wait years for a decent profit on them. (2) You might buy a few as a speculative investment, as report says the company is doing well, but not as an assured permanent investment.

Ronin.—No immediate necessity to sell. The improvement which is pretty certain to take place in our national finances under the present Government, should favourably influence this class of stock, and a better price may presently be obtained. (2) Such a purchase would be highly speculative, but, that recognised, a few ordinary shares bought now might turn out all right. (3) No. 2 is much more attractive, and this one should not be touched.

A. S. Russell.—Your selection of securities is an excellent one and in a general sense all are worth attention. From the individual comments you will be able to learn which are most desirable. (1) A thoroughly sound company, but the yield is only about 4½. (2) This is quite superlative, and is not over-priced. (3) The last report, dealt with in a recent issue, discloses an excellent position, and at the current price the stock does not seem dear. (4) Profits of a business like this are subject to a good deal of fluctuation, and the heavy war revenues must not be overlooked, but on an average of years the company should do very well. (5) Similar remarks apply here, and we are disposed to think these shares pretty fully priced. (6) One of the best securities of its kind, but of course not cheap. (7) A company with very excellent prospects, and whose development should be rapid. Not so strong financially as No. 6. (8) No serious reaction in price need be apprehended, and we think the present dividend should be maintained. (9) On the last dividends paid the yield is only 4, not 5, although it is possible that the distribution will presently be increased. (10) Rather speculative, but the company is a very sound one, and the present dividend ought to be kept up. (11) One of the strongest companies in the Kingdom, and you could not go far wrong with a small purchase. (12) The dividend is 5½ per cent., not 5, but the yield is only about 4½. Perfectly safe.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

London Brewery Companies. (London: *Investors' Guardian*, 21, Lime-street, E.C.) Price 1s., net.

The Writers' and Artists' Year Book, 1906. (London: A. and C. Black, Soho-square, W.) Price 1s., net.

Iron Trade of Great Britain. By J. Stephen Jeans. Books on Business Series. (London: Methuen and Co., Essex-street, Strand, W.C.) Price 2s. 6d. net.

Financial Review of Reviews, for February. (London: 2, Waterloo-place, Pall Mall, S.W.) Price 1s., net.

So much that is good is embodied in the Newnes magazines for February that it is difficult, in limited space, to select and comment on the attractions of each. People interested in psychical research will peruse with eagerness the dissertation on "The Natural and the Supernatural," which begins in this month's issue of the "Grand," where also appear "A Talk with Mr. Henry Labouchere" and "Under the Rays—Blackmail in Business," in which Mr. T. C. Bridges exposes the bribery and corruption that go on, and deprecates the lowering of the tone of business morality. "Success in the Pulpit" is the first section of a series of articles on the "Secret of Success," and will appeal very strongly to a certain class of readers, as many eminent preachers give their views on the subject. The "Wide World Magazine" upholds its reputation as a paper for those who delight in tales of terrible happenings and miraculous escapes, while the "Strand" and "Sunday Strand" cater for the individual taste of everyone.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and February 3, 1906:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.			
	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Feb. 3, 1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Feb. 4, 1905.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£ —	6,151,909	3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,309	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	29,296,000	30,747,000
Excise	30,200,000	25,513,000	26,230,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	10,797,000	10,209,000
Stamps	8,000,000	6,872,000	6,254,000
Land Tax and House Duty	2,700,000	1,380,000	1,580,000
Property and Income Tax	31,000,000	16,410,000	16,869,000
Post Office	16,500,000	12,730,000	12,140,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	3,050,000	3,390,000
Crown Lands	470,000	420,000	420,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans	1,051,000	1,062,955	992,826
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	1,185,915	1,150,582
*Revenue	142,454,000	109,344,870	109,982,408
Total, including balance		116,775,148	114,246,250
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		680,000	510,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		700,000	970,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902		191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905		2,175,000	1,819,500
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901		1,262,408	1,800,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900		23,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903		148,000	148,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903		—	35,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		—	5,912,631
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905		9,854,604	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904		1,000,000	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares		8,461	7,460
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904		—	1,000,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		2,000,000	8,600,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £4,500,000 Treasury Bills in 1905-6) and £13,500,000 in 1904-5		8,000,000	21,800,000
Total		142,818,213	163,269,331
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	109,344,870	109,982,408
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	140,767	148,063
Excise	5,291,000	4,751,851	4,633,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	3,484,859	3,423,242
Total	9,756,000	8,377,457	8,204,978
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	117,722,327	118,187,386
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.			
	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Feb. 3, 1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Feb. 4, 1905.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	28,000,000	24,082,186	23,565,584
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	1,453,200	1,445,020
Payments to Local Taxation			
Accounts	1,160,000	743,967	743,927
Supply Services	111,304,000	88,559,814	91,358,223
Expenditure	142,084,000	114,839,167	117,112,754
OTHER ISSUES.			
Advances for Bullion		640,000	370,000
Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		180,000	45,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount)		—	300,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		10,000,000	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		600,000	600,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905		2,483,000	2,539,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901		900,000	3,590,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900		23,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903		193,000	149,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903		—	35,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904		545,066	29,000
Surplus Revenue 1904-1905 applied to reduce Debt		1,413,907	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares, applied to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1898		8,461	7,460
Deficiency Advances repaid		580,093	8,500,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		6,000,000	19,800,000
		138,411,694	159,593,714
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	£ 3,592,211	2,917,113	
Bank of Ireland	814,308	758,504	
		4,406,519	3,675,617
Total		142,818,213	163,269,331
Treasury, February 6, 1906.			

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for ten days ended January 31, \$6,012, increase \$2,779.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 5, \$9,907, decrease \$1,977; aggregate from January 1, \$9,907, decrease \$1,977.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 31, Rs. 71,411, decrease Rs. 7,711; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 18,62,866, increase Rs. 2,31,866.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 31, \$110,800, increase \$30,100; total from July 1, \$3,053,100, increase \$690,400.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 31, Rs. 57,399, increase Rs. 4,302; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 7,42,229, increase Rs. 1,04,281.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 21, £528, increase £242.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 4th week of January, \$23,657, increase \$5,459; aggregate from January 1, \$61,133, increase \$14,693.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended December 31, Rs. 10,690, increase Rs. 908; aggregate from July 1, Rs. 3,11,041, increase Rs. 26,821.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended January 31 amounted to \$5,741.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending February 3, £1,272, increase £6; aggregate from January 1, £5,922, increase £80.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending February 3, £696, increase £51; aggregate from January 1, £3,478, increase £260.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for November, £4,099, decrease £203.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending February 3, £498, increase £131; aggregate from January 1, £2,339, increase £139.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 2, £1,341, increase £214; aggregate from January 1, £6,576, increase £1,237.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 4, £7, decrease £1; aggregate from January 1, £32, decrease £1.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 2, £4,599, increase £104; aggregate from January 1, £23,354, increase £1,024.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending February 2, £27,761, increase £4,655; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £128,646, increase £24,749; 441½ miles, against 420½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 3, £1,065, increase £38; aggregate from January 1, £5,457, increase £524.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 4, £94, decrease £4; aggregate from January 1, £461, increase £7.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 2, £82, decrease £14; aggregate from January 1, £411, decrease £46.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 2, £4,607, increase £157; aggregate from January 1, £21,939, increase £1,117.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 3, £4,603, increase £286; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £23,695, increase £1,389.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 2, £197, decrease £19; aggregate from January 1, £963, decrease £111.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 1, £346.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 3, £229, increase £2; aggregate from October 1, £4,759, decrease £424.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 27, £13,499, increase £1,451; aggregate from April 1, £634,308, increase £85,992. Miles 51 against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 3, £20,908, decrease £443; aggregate from January 1, £103,643, decrease £1,146.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 3, £7,241, increase £203; aggregate from January 1, £34,870, increase £1,610.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 3, £188, increase £12; aggregate from January 1, £974, increase £97.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 4, £718, increase £191; aggregate from January 1, £3,499, increase £1,031.

FOREIGN

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 4, £14,322, increase £1,645; aggregate from January 1, £72,759, increase £6,726.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of January, 1906, £11,016, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to December 31, \$597,573, increase \$133,652. Nett earnings from July 1 to December 31, \$278,089, increase \$89,167.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending February 4, £3,418, increase £326; aggregate from January 1, £17,673, increase £1,697.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending December 30, £1,477.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of December, \$292,000.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 3, Rs. 40,584, increase Rs. 2,137; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 2,38,200, increase Rs. 27,785.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, £5,078, increase £2,722. Total to January 31, £5,078, increase £2,722.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of November, \$417,218, increase \$63,017; aggregate from January 1, \$4,320,887, increase \$390,457. Nett traffic receipts, \$226,858, increase \$35,361; aggregate from January 1, \$2,359,439, increase \$272,120.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.		No. of Weeks.	Gross Traffic for year to date.	
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.
Brecon and Merthyr	Feb. 4	£ 2,073	+ 47	5	£ 10,565	+ 287
Cambrian	" 4	4,707	— 110	5	23,164	— 485
Central London	" 3	6,903	— 169	5	34,778	— 1,206
City and South London	" 4	2,936	+ 31	5	15,146	— 158
Furness	" 4	9,902	+ 1,492	5	45,320	+ 6,488
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.)	" 4	71,359	+ 4,286	5	345,022	+ 16,651
Great Eastern	" 4	92,000	+ 100	5	448,200	— 4,400
Great Northern and City	" 3	1,807	+ 32	5	9,031	+ 159
Great Northern	" 3	108,000	+ 501	5	511,000	+ 8,560
Great Western	" 4	209,900	+ 3,300	5	1,030,200	+ 700
Hull and Barnsley	" 4	9,788	+ 837	5	47,512	+ 3,036
Lancashire and Yorkshire	" 4	101,126	+ 3,247	5	475,229	+ 13,023
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast	" 3	56,081	+ 1,032	5	265,558	+ 2,650
London & North Western	" 4	268,000	+ 12,000	5	1,253,000	+ 35,000
London & South Western	" 4	78,000	+ 3,600	5	381,000	+ 3,600
Lon., Tilbury & Southend	" 4	7,746	+ 615	5	39,312	+ 1,730
Metropolitan	" 4	16,639	— 59	5	85,462	— 223
Metropolitan District	" 4	7,943	+ 46	5	40,504	+ 2,597
Midland	" 3	227,160	+ 8,618	5	1,071,694	+ 27,895
North Eastern	" 3	175,587	+ 8,008	5	786,030	+ 30,109
North London	" 4	9,286	+ 24	5	47,160	— 685
North Staffordshire	" 4	17,790	+ 511	5	84,098	+ 2,662
Rhymney	" 4	6,372	+ 205	5	29,613	— 552
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover	" 3	80,536	— 591	5	375,936	+ 4,212
Taff Vale	" 4	20,333	+ 1,843	5	95,218	+ 3,545

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Feb. 4	79,335	+ 2,152	1	79,335	+ 2,152
Glasgow & South-Western	" 3	30,955	+ 1,038	1	30,955	+ 1,038
Great North of Scotland	" 3	8,015	+ 344	1	8,015	+ 344
Highland	" 4	7,950	— 50	1	7,950	— 50
North British	" 4	83,075	+ 643	1	83,075	+ 643

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down	Feb. 2	2,116	— 77	8	10,395	— 233
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast	" 2	1,458	+ 8	8	6,497	+ 65
Great Northern	" 2	15,340	+ 299	5	75,672	+ 589
Midland Great Western	" 2	9,543	— 617	8	43,336	— 3,675

§ From January 1.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
SOUTH AFRICAN.					
Angelo	4 1/2	4 1/2	May Consolidated	3 1/2	2 1/2
Anglo-French Ex.	2 1/2	2 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
Apex	5 1/2	4 1/2	Modderfontein	7 1/2	7 1/2
Aurora West	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. B.	1 1/2	1 1/2
Bantjes	1 1/2	1 1/2	New Goch	1 1/2	1 1/2
Block B.	2 1/2	2 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2
City and Suburban, £4 ..	4 1/2	4 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2
Comet (New)	2 1/2	2 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
Cons. Goldfields	5 1/2	5 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do. Pref. 23/12	23/12	23/12	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
Crown Reef	12 1/2	12 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	7 1/2	7 1/2
Driefontein	2 1/2	2 1/2	Randfontein	2 1/2	2 1/2
Durban Roodepoort	3 1/2	3 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4	8 1/2	8 1/2
East Rand	0 1/2	0 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
East Rand Extension	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rodepoort United	2 1/2	2 1/2
Ferreira	20	18 1/2	Salisbury	1 1/2	1 1/2
French Rand	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sheba (New)	7/9	7/9
Geduld	3 1/2	3 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1 ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
Geldenhuys Estate	4 1/2	3 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	3 1/2	3 1/2
Ginsburg	1 1/2	1 1/2	Steyn Estate	2	2
Glencarn	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Development ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
Harmony Proprietary	9/6	9/6	Transvaal Gold Estates ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
Henderson's Transvaal	3 1/2	3 1/2	Treasury	1 1/2	1 1/2
Heriot	3 1/2	3 1/2	Van Ryn	2 1/2	2 1/2
Johannesburg Con. In.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Vereniging Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
Jubilee	2 1/2	2 1/2	Vogelstruis	1 1/2	1 1/2
Jumpers	2 1/2	2 1/2	Welgedacht	4 1/2	4 1/2
Kleinfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wemmer	5 1/2	5 1/2
Knight's	4	3 1/2	West Rand Consols	1 1/2	1 1/2
Lancaster	2 1/2	2 1/2	Wolhuter, £4	2 1/2	2 1/2
Langlaagte Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2	Worcester	2 1/2	2 1/2

DEEP LEVELS.

Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
Bonanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
Cinderella Deep	2 1/2	1 1/2	Robinson Deep (new) ..	5 1/2	4 1/2
Crown Deep	12 1/2	12	Rodepoort Cn. Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
Durban Roodepoort	4 1/2	4 1/2	Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
Do. Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	South Rose Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
Geldenhuys Deep	8	7 1/2	Village Main Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2
Knight's Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2			

DIAMONDS.

De Beers Deferred	18 1/2	18 1/2	Koffiyfontein	2 1/2	2 1/2
Do. Preferred	17 1/2	18 1/2	Lace Diamond	2 1/2	2 1/2
Eland's Drift Diamond ..	4 1/2	4 1/2	Orange Free State	8 1/2	9 1/2
Frank Smith Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2	Diamond	8 1/2	9 1/2
Jagersfontein Deferred ..	7 1/2	8 1/2	Premier Diamond Def. ..	7 1/2	7 1/2
Do. Preferred	4 1/2	4 1/2	Do. do. Pref. 7 1/2 ..	7 1/2	7 1/2
Kamfersdam	1 1/2	1 1/2			

RHODESIANS.

Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	2 1/2	1 1/2
Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rhodesia Exploration	2 1/2	2 1/2
Charter Trust and	13 1/2	13 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2
Agency	14 1/2	13 1/2	Selukwe	2 1/2	2 1/2
Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	Tanganyika	5 1/2	5 1/2
Lomagunda Developm.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wankie Coal	1 1/2	1 1/2
Mashaland Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	Willoughby	12 1/2	11 1/2
Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 1/2	Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2

WEST AFRICAN.

Abbottiakoon	19/18	11/6	Gold Coast Agency, new	10/6	10/6
Abosso	1 1/2	3/6	Do. Amalgamated	3/6	3/6
Ankobra	1 1/2	7/1	Gold Coast (Wassau) ..	7/1	6/6
Ashanti Consols, 2/- paid ..	3/3d	3/3d	Do. Deep	7/1	6/6
Do. Goldfields	13/6	14/1	Goldfields East'n Akim ..	1/1	1/6
Ashanti Sansu	5/1	6/1	Himan Concessions	9/6	15/1
Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	Obbua Syndicate	3 1/2	3 1/2
British Gold Coast	1 1/2	1 1/2	Prestea	9/3	9/1
Broomfield	29/6	29/6	Sekondi and Tarkwa	1/1	1/1
Effutu (Wassau)	6/3	6/6	Taquaah and Abosso	2 1/2	2 1/2
Fanti Consolidated	15/6	15/3	Wassau	2 1/2	2 1/2
			W. A. Gold Trust	4/1	3/1

AUSTRALIAN.

Anglo-Aus. Exploration	1 1/2	7/1	Ida H.	8/3	7/1
Associated	2 1/2	2 1/2	Ivanhoe, Gold Corp.	7 1/2	7 1/2
Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ivanhoe South	7 1/2	7 1/2
Bellevue Proprietary	3/9	3/6	Kalgurli	9 1/2	8 1/2
Boulder Deep Levels	1/9	1/9	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 1/2
Brownhill Extended	8/6	8/6	Lancefield	1 1/2	1 1/2
Chaffers	1/9	2/3	London & W.A. Explor.	13/6	12/9
Cosmopol'n Pr'pr'ty	7/3	7/1	Mount Poppy	4 1/2	4 1/2
Golden Horseshoe, New	5 1/2	5 1/2	North Kalgurli	2/6	2/6
Golden Links	3/6	3/1	Oroya-Brownhill	2 1/2	2 1/2
Golden Pole	8	8	Peak Hill	1/3	1/3
Great Boulder, 2/-	23/9	23/6	Sons Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do. Perseverance	12/3	11/6	Sons of Gwalia	2 1/2	1 1/2
Great Fingall	5 1/2	5 1/2	W. A. Goldfields	2/1	2/1
Hamault	1 1/2	1 1/2	W'st lia Mt. Morgans ..	2/1	2/1
Hampton Plains	2/3	2/3	White Fe'th'r M'n Rf. 1/1	1/1	1/1
Hannan's Star	3/1	2/9			

MISCELLANEOUS.

Anaconda, 25 dols.	14 1/2	3 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	3 1/2	3 1/2
Balaghat, full p'd	1 1/2	37	Mount Lyell	37	38/1
Brilliant and St. George ..	12/6	3 1/2	Mt. Morgan	3 1/2	3 1/2
Broken Hill, Prop.	3 1/2	3 1/2	Mysore, 10s.	7	7
Camp Bird	1 1/2	3/9	Mysore Goldfields, 15/6 ..	2/9	4/3
Cape Copper, £2	5 1/2	11/3	Do. West, 19/1	11/6	11/6
Champion Reef, 10s.	24	24	Do. Wynaad, 19/1	11/6	11/6
Con. Gold N.Z.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Nanaqua, £2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Copapo, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Nile Valley	28/6	28/6
Coromandel 19/6pd.	3/1	3/6	N'ndydroog, 10/- shares ..	28/6	28/6
Esperanza	4 1/2	27/1	Oo egum	17/6	17/6
Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
Frontino and Bolivia	12 1/2	11/6	Rio Tinto, £5	6 1/2	6 1/2
Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	St. John del Rey	9/6	11/1
Do. (No. 2)	2 1/2	2 1/2	Tharsis	5 1/2	5 1/2
Libiola, £5	1 1/2	1 1/2	Waibi	7	6 1/2
Linares, £3	5	5	Ymir	9/6	9/1

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904-5.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904-5.
GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.					
GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.					
Alcoy and Gandia	Feb. 3	Ps. £ 21,000	+ Ps. £ 1,000	Ps. £ 66,400	- P. £ 15,500
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia	Dec. *	\$1,480,000	+ \$552,000	\$ 123,600,000	+ \$304,900,000
Argentine Gt. Western	Feb. 2	12,558	+ 3,578	385,697	+ 64,423
Algeiras (Gibraltar)	Feb. 3	Ps. 30,451	+ Ps. 1,278	Ps. 998,874	- Ps. 78,660
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	Feb. 3	31,574	+ 8,022	860,004	+ 244,805
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o and Cen. Argentine ..	" 3	83,836	+ 12,860	354,444	+ 12,860
Buenos Ayres G. Stn.	" 3	73,952	+ 36,081	2,166,377	+ 358,723
Do. Western	" 3	33,597	+ 698	962,028	+ 141,802
Do. Ensenada	" 4	403	+ 174	10,523	+ 308
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid. ..	" 3	9,839	+ 1,056	252,209	+ 3,759
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 3	2,511	+ 242	58,953	- 2,391
Do. Northern Ex.	" 3	1,307	+ 335	34,458	- 6,081
Do. Western Ex.	" 3	1,335	+ 55	36,613	+ 4,738
Cordoba Central	" 4	3,710	+ 1,915	15,450	+ 3,250
Do. Northern Ex.	" 4	7,075	+ 3,605	30,995	+ 7,065
Do. N. W. Arg'n. Ex.	" 4	1,539	+ 740	7,120	+ 1,604
Cordoba and Rosario	" 4	5,110	- 60	137,325	+ 3,040
Costa Rica	" 3	5,702	+ 3,680	134,887	+ 22,032
Cuban Central	" 3	11,625	- 91	164,752	+ 5,907
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 3	11,141	+ 2,149	56,0	+ 12,811
Entre Rios	" 3	5,859	+ 909	102,672	+ 15,303
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico ..	Jan. 31	\$176,300	+ \$14,230	\$3,460,890	+ \$123,070
Leopoldina	Feb. 3	17,520	+ 1,937	70,411	- 6,836
Mexican	Dec. *	\$562,100	+ \$85,100	\$3,161,900	+ \$207,960
Mexican	Jan. 31	\$182,000	+ \$7,900	\$585,200	+ \$67,700
Do. Southern	Feb. 7	\$21,482	+ \$1,562	\$122,555	+ \$9,760
Do. Central	Nov. *	\$2,171,546	+ \$161,537	\$12,044,12	+ \$974,067
Do. Do.	" *	\$549,106	+ \$48,619	\$3,374,035	+ \$362,177
Manilla	Feb. 3	\$34,538	- \$208	\$556,083	+ \$4,129
Nitrate	Jan. 31	25,777	- 2,863	\$350,364	+ 97,308
Ottoman	Feb. 3	4,355	- 2,246	23,448	+ 1,740
Peruvian Corporation	Jan. *	\$693,400	+ \$90,725	\$4,462,075	+ \$551,300
San Paulo	" 28	22,587	- 408	64,619	+ 3,749
Salvador	Feb. 3	\$34,500	+ \$3,000		
United of Havana	" 3	25,005	+ 9,461	321,540	+ 52,471
Villa Maria & Rufino	" 3	1,316	+ 154	5,719	+ 715
Western of Havana	" 3	3,661	- 144	130,607	+ 2,420

* Month ended.

† Fortnight ended.

‡ Net

§ From January 1, 1906.

|| From July 1, 1905.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.
GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.					
GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.					
Bengal Nagpur	Jan. 13	Rs. 10,12,074	+ R. 1,57,211	Rs. 10,12,074	+ R. 1,57,211
Bengal & N.-W.	Dec. 30	Rs. 2,65,104	- R. 49,444	Rs. 55,98,600	- R. 3,04,795
Bombay & Baroda	Feb. 3	Rs. 4,22,000	+ R. 48,000	R. 1,39,000	+ R. 80,000
Do. State Lines	" 3	Rs. 6,11,000	+ R. 37,000	R. 27,83,000	- R. 27,000
Burma	Dec. 23	Rs. 2,99,812	- Rs. 5,520	R. 65,51,433	+ R. 20,968
Delhi Umballa	Feb. 3	Rs. 33,500	+ Rs. 6,222	Rs. 1,91,400	+ Rs. 36,566
East Indian	" 3	Rs. 17,17,000	+ R. 2,06,000	Rs. 81,80,000	+ R. 4,97,000
Gt. Indian Penin.	" 3	Rs. 16,09,100	+ K. 2,10,725	Rs. 79,30,300	+ R. 12,77,667
Indian Midland	" 3	Rs. 2,60,500	+ R. 60,437	Rs. 12,67,300	+ R. 2,21,848
Madras	" 3	Rs. 2,65,834	+ Rs. 4,600	Rs. 12,11,117	+ Rs. 15,301
South Indian	Jan. 6	Rs. 2,19,312	- Rs. 13,952	Rs. 2,19,312	- K. 13,952
South Behar	" 13	Rs. 19,930	+ Rs. 468	Rs. 19,930	+ Rs. 468
S'thrn. Mahratta	" 13	Rs. 2,23,322	+ Rs. 40,297	Rs. 4,38,687	+ Rs. 68,126
Southern Punjab	" 27	Rs. 59,075	+ Rs. 5,164	Rs. 2,28,345	+ Rs. 15,878

* Thirteen days.

† From July 1, 1905.

§ From Jan. 1, 1906.

UNITED STATES AND CANADIAN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.	
	Period ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904-5.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904-5.
		dols.	dols.	dols.	dols.
Canadian Pacific ..	Jan. 31*	1,357,000	+ 385,000	\$ 35,791,000	+ 5,386,000
Canada Atlantic ..	" 31*	7,010	+ 621	24,294	67
Chicago Gt. Western ..	" 31*	246,098	+ 52,206	\$ 5, 04,834	+ 723,410
Denver & Rio Grande ..	" 31*	533,400	+ 85,200	\$ 1,517,200	+ 1,39,700
Gr. Trk., Main Line. ..	" 31*	£154,499	+ £22,818	\$ 246,451	+ £48,420
Gr. Trk., Western ..	" 31*	£25,046	+ £2,710	\$ 85,253	+ £1,818
Do. Det., C. H. & Mil.	" 31*	£8,920	+ £166	\$ 25,161	+ £1,103
Louisville & Nash'wle.	" 21	862,000	+ 121,000	\$ 2,471,000	+ 314,000
Miss., K., & Texas ..	" 31*	685,263	+ 172,676	\$ 13,029,527	+ 655,922
Southern	" 21	1,050,000	+ 137,000	\$ 2,908,000	+ 337,000
Wabash	" 21	473,000	+ 48,000	\$ 13,586,000	+ 889,000

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CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

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The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

THE SURPLUS DIVIDED WAS **£597,415.**

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HUGH LEWIS, General Manager.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent.
on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

All week the Money market has been very contrary to credit jobbers, who have seen themselves driven day after day to pay high rates for short loans while they could not get the discount rates up to a corresponding extent. One effect of the dearer money and the halting advance in discounts has been to increase the effectiveness of foreign competition in the bill market. Therefore, while money has been all week 4 per cent. on seven-day advances and very often $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on call, while also the Bank has most days done a more or less extensive business in loans at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and the discount of short bills at 4 per cent., the unfortunate bill broker outside has had difficulty in getting $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. on full three months' remitted paper or $3\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. on sixty-day paper. If anything, the rate has hardened towards the end of the week, but the rise has led to the business going to the Bank more than to any increase in that done by the open market. To-day, for instance, leading discount houses quoted the rate on sixty-day bank bills $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., and that there was reality in this quotation is proved by the fact that some portion of the bills went to the Bank, although it did most of its heavy business in loans at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The actual working rate for three months' bills was about $3\frac{7}{8}$ per cent., and if the American mail had been in early in the day it is probable enough that the bill brokers would have driven a large part of the paper it brought to the Bank by asking 4 per cent. The joint-stock banks got $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. from the brokers to-day on sixty-day bills re-discounted.

The market is thus a most difficult and unsatisfactory one, but it continues to hope for better times soon, and among other reassuring symptoms points to a probability that the exchange of old Treasury "kites" for new next Monday will set free a large amount of Japanese money, the expiring bills being held mostly by the market, while the new ones are said to have been taken by Japan. Then it is also said that as much as £1,500,000 was recently drawn away to Liverpool in order to lift cotton bills, and that this floating capital will be released and back in the market next week. Should these two events happen, and the Bank repay the money it swept up a week ago, it will lose its control to some extent unless the Treasury hoardings of revenue come as offset of sufficient strength to prevent the market from going down. At the very best we do not see easy money for more than a day or two, or an hour or two, this side April, and cannot quite understand how favoured holders of remitted paper continue able to place it at $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for threes, $3\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. for fours, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for sixes, payment to be made next week. The Bank has not done very well in the matter of accumulating gold this week, but it is expected that the bulk of the £400,000 due in on Monday will be secured by it. None the less does it remain a paramount necessity of the hour that gold should be accumulated.

This week's Bank return is interesting mainly as showing the process by which market balances have been depleted. They, as shown in the other deposits, were reduced by £3,547,000 during the week to a total of only £41,795,000, which is not much above poverty line, and the reduction took place notwithstanding an increase of £1,054,000 in the reserve, due chiefly to the nett import of gold and some return of coin from the circulation. Three causes, however, operated in denuding the market balances, first the increase in public deposits which are up £1,617,000, secondly the decline of £1,355,000 in the Government stocks held by the Bank, which decline is interpreted to mean renewed Bank borrowings, and finally a nett reduction of £1,566,000 in the other securities which represents the extent to which the market has reduced its indebtedness to the Bank over and above the amount it had to re-borrow there up to Wednesday night. Since then the market has probably added much more than this sum to its debt, and as the Bank holds very large amounts in February bills there is not much prospect from any point of view of an early return to ease in rates.

Calls on new issues during the coming week reach a total of £1,104,603, of which £375,000 is due on London County Council stock on the 14th and £500,000 on Cordoba Central Buenos Ayres Extension debentures on the 15th. The other instalments are all small, but we may mention that £55,000 is payable on Industrial and General Trust conversion shares and £30,000 on Liberian Rubber shares on the 13th; on the 14th £13,125 has to be provided in addition to the L.C.C. amount and on the 15th £46,667 is required for Argyll Motors ordinary and preference shares, £21,000 for Edinburgh Investment new shares and £37,500 for Rhymney Iron New Pits debenture stock, while on the 16th Lake View Consols new shares will take £22,811.

SILVER.

The bazaars have done little or nothing in the market for bars this week and for several days quotations were unaffected one way or the other. Within the last day or two, however, there has been a resumption of buying on the part of the Indian Government, and prices have risen in consequence to 30½d. per oz. for spot and 29½d. per oz. for future shipments. Tenders for the Rs. 1,00,00,000 India Council drafts on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 4,14,40,000 in bills and Rs. 3,96,60,000 in telegraphic transfers. Applications were accepted for Rs. 56,97,000 in bills and Rs. 43,03,000 in transfers, tenders at 1s. 4½d. and 1s. 4½d. per rupee respectively receiving about 13 per cent. Next week the amount to be offered is increased to Rs. 1,20,00,000.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, February 7, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Note Issued	£	Government Debt	£
..	50,405,050	..	11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion	31,955,050
		Silver Bullion	—
	£50,405,050		£50,405,050

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£	Government Securities	£
..	14,553,000	..	12,584,867
Reserve	3,581,456	Other Securities	33,311,131
Public Deposits (including		Notes	22,171,330
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin	1,620,306
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts)	9,638,276		
Other Deposits	41,794,989		
Seven Day and other Bills	119,913		

£69,687,634

£69,687,634

Dated February 8, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. Feb. 8		Jan. 31, 1906.	Feb. 7, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,495,839	Rest ..	3,537,319	3,581,456	44,137	—
9,459,079	Pub. Deposits ..	8,021,092	9,638,276	1,617,184	—
39,448,004	Other do. ..	45,342,008	41,794,989	—	3,547,019
120,401	7 Day Bills ..	101,266	119,913	18,647	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,603,585	Gov. Securities	13,939,473	12,584,867	1,354,606	—
24,427,700	Other do. ..	34,877,082	33,311,131	1,565,951	—
27,045,038	Total Reserve ..	22,738,130	23,791,636	—	1,053,506
				4,600,525	4,600,525
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
27,311,740	..	28,473,600	28,233,720	—	239,880
55½ p.c.	Coin and Bullion	32,761,730	33,575,356	813,626	—
3 "	Proportion ..	42½ p.c.	46½ p.c.	38 p.c.	—
	Bank Rate ..	4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £567,000 in.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	5,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
July	1,003,888,000	830,361,000	173,527,000	—
August	1,098,366,000	945,164,000	153,202,000	—
September	879,323,000	678,546,000	200,777,000	—
October	1,006,632,000	861,123,000	145,509,000	—
November	1,187,821,000	1,117,870,000	69,951,000	—
December	979,424,000	817,877,000	161,547,000	—
Total for year	12,253,307,000	10,459,068,000	1,794,239,000	—
	1906	1905		
Jan. 3	340,266,000	276,940,000	63,326,000	—
" 10	288,921,000	215,482,000	13,439,000	—
" 17	287,646,000	254,259,000	33,387,000	—
" 24	214,923,000	186,205,000	28,718	—
Feb. 7	289,938,000	300,588,000	—	10,650,000
	231,817,000	206,614,000	25,203,000	—
	1,593,417,000	1,440,088,000	153,428,000	—

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders for £2,000,000 in six months' Treasury Bills were opened on Wednesday at the Bank of England, when the total applied for was £7,117,000. Applicants at £98 14s. and above received in full, the average rate per cent. being £2 10s. 8d.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£			
2,500,000	6 months	1906. Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,000,000	3 months	Mar. 7	3 1 8
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
1,800,000	6 months	June 1	3 2 6
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
1,200,000	—	—	—
1,000,000	6 months	June 29	2 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 12	2 10 8
20,333,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Saturday, Bars ..	Saturday, S. America ..
Monday ..	Thursday, " ..
Tuesday " ..	Friday, S. Africa ..
Wednesday, Bars ..	
Thursday, Bars ..	
Friday, Bars ..	
Net Efflux ..	
Total ..	Total ..

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'14½	25'16½	Antwerp	short	25'20	25'22
Brussels	chqs.	25'19	25'19	Italy	sight	25'17	25'16
Amsterdam	sight	12'12½	12'14½	Constantinople	3 mths	110'25	110'22
Berlin	chqs.	20'49½	20'50½	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	17½d.	17½d.
Do.	3 mths	20'29	20'30	Valparaiso	90 dys	14½d.	15d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20'48½	20'49½	Calcutta	T.T.	1'4½	1'4½
Frankfurt	short	20'47	20'48	Bombay	T.T.	1'4½	1'4½
Vienna	sight	24'04½	24'05½	Hong Kong	T.T.	2'02	2'02½
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	94'10	94'10	Shanghai	T.T.	2'9½	2'10½
New York	60 dys	4'8½	4'8½	Singapore	T.T.	2'4½	2'4½
Lisbon	sight	50½	50½	Yokohama	4 mths	2'0½	2'0½
Madrid	sight	30'8½	30'25				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market. Last Week.	Latest.
Paris ..	3	May 25, 1900.	2½	2½
Berlin ..	5	December 11, 1905	3½	3½
Hamburg ..	5	December 11, 1905	3½	3½
Frankfurt ..	5	December 11, 1905	3½	3½
Amsterdam ..	3	November, 1905	2½	2½
Brussels ..	4	October 30, 1905	3½	3½
Vienna ..	4½	October, 1905	4	4
Rome ..	5	September, 1904	4½	4½
St. Petersburg ..	8	January, 1906	7	7
Madrid ..	4½	August 21, 1901	4	4
Lisbon ..	5½	January 11, 1899	5	5
Stockholm ..	5	January, 1906.	4½	4½
Copenhagen ..	5	October, 1905	4½	4½
Calcutta ..	9	February 1, 1906	—	—
Bombay ..	9	February 1, 1906	—	—
New York call money ..	4	—	—	—

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Feb. 3.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs ..	National Debt Services ..
Excise ..	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Charges ..
Stamps ..	Payments to Local
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion ..
Property and Income Tax ..	Supply Services ..
Post Office ..	Bullion Advances ..
Telegraphs ..	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands ..	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds ..
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds redeemed
Miscellaneous ..	Uganda Railway ..
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works ..
Uganda Railway ..	Naval Works ..
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts ..
count ..	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts ..	ings) ..
Naval Works Acts ..	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts ..	Act ..
Land Registry Acts ..	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act ..
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Issue of Exchequer Bonds	in reduction of debt ..
under C. nard Agreement Act	Cunard Agreement ..
Ways and Means ..	Surplus Revenue, 1904-5
Temporary Advances Defi-	ciency Advances re-
ciency ..	paid ..
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	Ways and Means Advances
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	repaid ..
Transvaal and Orange River	Increase in Exchequer
Colony. Repayment of	balances ..
Temporary Advance ..	
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	
tion payments ..	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances ..	

£4,546,253

£4,546,253

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Feb. 8, 1906.	Feb. 1, 1906.	Jan. 25, 1906.	Feb. 9, 1905.
Gold in hand ..	£113,926,680	£113,931,520	£114,153,160	£110,168,480
Silver in hand ..	42,325,720	42,187,680	42,305,640	44,122,560
Bills discounted ..	36,837,040	44,219,880	39,984,800	24,816,800
Advances ..	20,092,200	19,962,560	19,661,520	20,053,800
Note circulation ..	189,458,400	193,267,400	188,851,560	174,898,760
Public deposits ..	8,383,160	10,216,320	10,816,960	7,750,640
Private deposits ..	21,028,040	22,450,880	21,885,020	22,527,600

Proportion between bullion and circulation 2½ per cent. against 80 per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Jan. 16/29, 1906.	Jan. 8/21, 1906.	Jan. 1/14, 1906.	Jan. 23/29, 1905.
Gold	£ 72,613,354	£ 71,709,079	£ 71,349,243	£ 88,753,223
Silver and subsidiary coin	3,499,815	3,418,353	3,107,704	6,107,360
Advances and bills discounted ..	65,749,600	67,992,874	66,202,551	39,737,714
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	7,147,065	7,486,374	7,792,653	5,484,211
Notes in circulation ..	117,126,734	118,572,677	120,458,786	89,338,607
Deposits and current account	45,740,721	44,360,221	41,646,564	51,731,409
Treasury account ..	7,279,695	8,774,439	10,384,351	14,597,599

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Feb. 1, 1906.	Jan. 25, 1906	Jan. 18, 1906.	Feb. 2, 1905.
Coin and bullion ..	£ 5,253,320	£ 5,108,120	£ 4,868,480	£ 4,882,960
Other securities ..	24,188,600	23,653,560	23,916,680	23,286,120
Note circulation ..	28,351,320	27,910,600	27,672,760	26,450,920
Deposits	3,447,960	3,169,480	3,461,600	3,608,920

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Feb. 7, 1906.	Jan. 31, 1906.	Jan. 23, 1906.	Feb. 7, 1905.
Cash in hand ..	£ 47,917,050	£ 47,711,900	£ 48,930,250	£ 53,644,700
Bills discounted ..	39,580,500	42,248,350	41,933,950	34,347,100
Advances on stocks ..	2,730,850	3,580,600	2,625,750	2,464,900
Note circulation ..	63,949,000	66,211,150	65,083,350	62,009,600
Public deposits ..	24,851,800	25,281,000	28,869,900	24,404,300

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Dec. 31, 1905.	Dec. 20, 1905.	Dec. 10, 1905.	Nov. 30, 1905.
Reserve	£ 31,930,800	£ 31,390,080	£ 30,806,000	£ 30,494,200
State notes and small changed	11,920	749,640	580,200	561,240
Discount and loans ..	16,393,400	13,701,080	13,832,560	14,293,840
Public stock and State loans ..	8,408,280	8,150,000	8,146,320	8,149,400
Credits	5,619,920	5,900,200	6,332,080	6,225,640
Note Circulation ..	40,219,120	38,750,240	39,127,440	40,070,480
Current account ..	2,381,240	2,636,480	2,582,720	2,434,080
Deposits	5,038,640	4,427,720	3,896,520	4,259,240

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Feb. 3, 1906.	Jan. 27, 1906.	Jan. 20, 1906.	Feb. 4, 1905.
Gold	£ 15,051,920	£ 15,046,247	£ 15,040,509	£ 14,926,434
Silver	23,212,110	23,218,471	23,070,604	20,143,013
Foreign Bills ..	3,071,677	3,041,665	3,035,968	1,683,968
Discount and Short Bills ..	46,924,902	47,045,873	47,160,497	51,022,828
Treasury Account ..	20,457,995	20,448,421	20,447,310	21,288,656
Notes in circulation ..	62,142,477	62,154,276	62,152,848	64,469,854
Current Account deposits ..	23,290,441	23,784,658	23,742,095	25,514,149
Dividends Interests ..	3,570,249	3,332,968	3,827,551	2,432,210
Government Securities ..	7,003,992	6,051,332	6,151,856	4,305,909

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Jan. 31, 1906.	Jan. 23, 1906.	Jan. 15, 1906.	Jan. 31, 1905.
Gold Reserve ..	£ 45,338,291	£ 45,465,750	£ 45,208,833	£ 48,028,333
Silver reserve ..	12,483,833	12,434,291	12,294,000	12,577,791
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	1,793,547	1,798,333	2,038,708	1,990,291
Note Circulation ..	71,439,125	67,908,750	69,723,791	68,130,833
Bills discounted ..	20,199,166	19,162,166	21,164,458	15,551,083

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Feb. 3, 1906.	Jan. 27, 1906.	Jan. 20, 1906.	Feb. 4, 1905.
Specie	£ 38,498,000	£ 38,602,000	£ 37,991,000	£ 45,462,000
Legal tenders ..	16,977,200	16,920,400	16,827,800	18,354,800
Loans and discounts ..	211,486,000	208,220,000	205,120,000	225,020,000
Circulation	10,395,800	10,453,400	10,536,400	8,579,800
Net deposits ..	212,260,000	209,420,000	203,880,000	239,400,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £2,225,200 against an excess last week of £3,107,400.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Jan. 30.	Feb. 1.	Feb. 6.	Feb. 8.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12 ² / ₂	12 ² / ₂	12 ² / ₂	12 ² / ₂
Do. do.	3 months	12 ¹ / ₂	12 ¹ / ₂	12 ¹ / ₂	12 ¹ / ₂
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25 ⁴ / ₂	25 ⁴ / ₂	25 ⁴ / ₂	25 ⁴ / ₂
Hamburg	3 months	20 ⁷ / ₂	20 ⁷ / ₂	20 ⁷ / ₂	20 ⁷ / ₂
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20 ⁷ / ₂	20 ⁷ / ₂	20 ⁷ / ₂	20 ⁷ / ₂
Paris	cheques	25 ¹ / ₂	25 ¹ / ₂	25 ¹ / ₂	25 ¹ / ₂
Do.	3 months	25 ³ / ₂	25 ³ / ₂	25 ³ / ₂	25 ³ / ₂
Marseilles	3 months	25 ³ / ₂	25 ³ / ₂	25 ³ / ₂	25 ³ / ₂
Switzerland	3 months	25 ³ / ₂	25 ³ / ₂	25 ³ / ₂	25 ³ / ₂
Austria	3 months	25 ³ / ₂	25 ³ / ₂	25 ³ / ₂	25 ³ / ₂
St. Petersburg ..	3 months	24 ³ / ₂	24 ³ / ₂	24 ³ / ₂	24 ³ / ₂
Moscow	3 months	24 ³ / ₂	24 ³ / ₂	24 ³ / ₂	24 ³ / ₂
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25 ³ / ₂	25 ³ / ₂	25 ³ / ₂	25 ³ / ₂
New York	60 days	48 ³ / ₂	48 ³ / ₂	48 ³ / ₂	48 ³ / ₂
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	38 ³ / ₂	38 ³ / ₂	38 ³ / ₂	38 ³ / ₂
London	3 months	50 ³ / ₂	50 ³ / ₂	50 ³ / ₂	50 ³ / ₂
Osaka	3 months	50 ³ / ₂	50 ³ / ₂	50 ³ / ₂	50 ³ / ₂
Copenhagen	3 months	18 ⁴ / ₂	18 ⁴ / ₂	18 ⁴ / ₂	18 ⁴ / ₂
Christiania	3 months	18 ⁴ / ₂	18 ⁴ / ₂	18 ⁴ / ₂	18 ⁴ / ₂
Stockholm	3 months	18 ⁴ / ₂	18 ⁴ / ₂	18 ⁴ / ₂	18 ⁴ / ₂

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3 ¹ / ₂ —3 ³ / ₄
Three months	3 ¹ / ₂ —3 ³ / ₄
Four months	3 ¹ / ₂ —3 ³ / ₄
Six months	3 ¹ / ₂ —3 ³ / ₄
Three months fine inland bills	4—4 ¹ / ₂
Four months	4—4 ¹ / ₂
Six months	4—4 ¹ / ₂

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
" " short loan rates	4 ¹ / ₂
Bankers' rate on deposits	2 ¹ / ₂
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	3
" " 7 and 14 days' notice	3 ¹ / ₂
Current rates for 7 day loans	4
" " for call loans	4—4 ¹ / ₂

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

In spite of the unexpectedly good North-Western Railway dividend and sundry other encouraging incidents, this has not been a happy week on the Stock Exchange. The settlement has passed off without disclosure of troubles inside the Exchange, but outside one lamentable suicide has resulted from the state of affairs in the Kaffir market, and more than one symptom of that overstraining which always reveals itself after a period of activity, of "boom," and more or less indiscriminate gambling, has made its appearance. We have difficulty in giving expression to the feelings excited by revelations of the misappropriation of clients' securities by stockbrokers who have been caught and swept off their feet in the swirl of speculation. Sometimes these victims of the play may be unworthy of sympathy—men of unscrupulous character, and therefore as ready to steal as to lie; but that is not the general character of these people, and we always note trouble of this description with a predominating feeling of pity. The men are no worse than their neighbours; they have only made a false step, plunged in deeper than they ought to have done, and when confronted with an unbearable loss have fallen back upon the weak man's expedient—borrowing the securities of their clients to tide them over in the hope that next account, within a short period of time, the market would go the other way and bring back all they had stolen and more. Sometimes, doubtless, recovery such as this does fall to the lot of the player, but always after such times as our Stock Exchange has been going through during the past few years there is a residuum who fail utterly, and have to bear the consequence of their weakness. It is with the keenest sorrow that we have noted at least one instance of this description during recent weeks, and we should not allude to it at all except that we feel it necessary to warn the public to be prepared for more of the same kind of painful revelations of folly, if not worse. We have been wont to dwell with something like pride on the wonderful stability shown by the Stock Exchange when assailed by what looked like irretrievable misfortunes and stupendous losses. Probably there is much ground for congratulation in this respect, but also there is ground for fear lest a considerable proportion of the clients of stockbrokers, at any rate the more speculative class of stockbrokers, should wake up one morning to discover that their money has been used to pay debts they never incurred. As a symptom of what is to be expected for many a month to come in consequence of the millions lost by the market and its clients during the past three years, we direct attention to these recent events.

To all appearance the Yankee Railroad market holds its course in no danger of reaching that Niagara it has been hurrying towards for so long, and yet on Wall Street also there are symptoms of weakness which the public here will do well to accept as warning to take our reiterated advice and let these inflated securities alone. Give the Yankees back the shares held here in Railroad and Industrial undertakings on every rise, and you will have cause for rejoicing before long. Treat all the more speculative categories of these securities in the manner we have advised holders of South African shares to treat their commitments therein. Do not speculate for the fall, but wherever a chance of getting well out presents itself, then clear

out. The play has been bold, magnificent in its daring, and the market has surmounted critical junctures when no surprise need have been felt had it succumbed; but it is a more and more difficult business, and as European banks withdraw their support to the Yankee speculation, throwing back the masses of securities pawned here upon the banks of the Union, the capacity of Wall Street to stand up under the resulting pressure will be put to a test we more than doubt its capacity to bear. More need not be said this week; we simply desire to put the public here on its guard and to prevent, if possible, its sharing to any material extent in the affliction to come. The pendulum will swing, you know.

The Week's Stock Markets.

A very uneventful week has been passed on the Stock Exchange and the continued absence of business caused most sections to wear a somewhat heavy appearance. Once or twice it seemed as though markets might brighten up, and dealing become a little more active, Home Railways, for example, displaying a good deal of buoyancy when the excellent North-Western dividend was announced, but the improvement could not be sustained and all departments quickly relapsed into their old condition of dulness and stupidity. The fact that dealers' attention was absorbed by the fortnightly adjustment was no doubt partly responsible for the inactivity, but when all this business had been comfortably disposed of there was no sign of revival, and it is probably useless to look for any while the Money Market continues in its present condition and foreign politics may any day produce a nasty shock. For loans to the Stock Exchange bankers usually obtained $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. the rate on occasions rising to 5 per cent., and most of the

seems probable that the matters in dispute between the Government and the Corporation will come up for renewed discussion. Cédulas were somewhat harder, the idea prevailing that the Provincial Government has lately been quietly absorbing the bonds, but several Central American things fell back. Continuation rates showed little or no change from last time. On Argentine, Brazilian, Chilean, Peruvian debenture and Chinese issues the charge was 4 to 6 per cent., and it was only on things like Central Americans and Peruvian ordinary and preference that a slightly higher rate could be obtained. Several Japanese were also carried over at 4 to 6 per cent., but the 4 per cent. and $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. first series were still scarce. In the European group, Russians were done at 2 to 3 per cent., Spanish at 2 to 4 per cent. and Turkish at 3 to 5 per cent. Making up prices were usually in favour of holders, and in Argentine and Brazilian Government issues there was a pretty general rise of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{8}$. Where stocks made up lower the decline was due to dividend deductions. Greeks were irregular and some Japanese went back, but Mexicans were up $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 and Spanish and Turkish $1\frac{1}{4}$. Russian 4 per cent. was 1 lower.

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS (Last year's dividends are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week
91 $\frac{3}{4}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Consols (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Money)	90 $\frac{1}{4}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Account (Mar. 1)	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
90 $\frac{3}{4}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock red. 1905	89	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Excheq. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	89	Irish Land (2 $\frac{1}{2}$)	91	92
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Local Loans (3)	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	100
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	National War Loan (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	99
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Account (Mar. 1)	99	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
308	291 $\frac{1}{2}$	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.)	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
109	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bk. of England Stock, (9 p.c.)	294 $\frac{1}{2}$	294 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	India 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock, red. 1931	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
89 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 p.c. Stock, red. 1948	97	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
66 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock, red. 1926	81	81 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Rupee Paper	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$

business had been arranged at these figures before considerable offerings of foreign money drove the rate down to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The account open for the rise seemed somewhat reduced, and it is certain that a good deal of the speculation in Yankees has been re-transferred to Wall Street. After a dull start the gilt-edged market showed a good deal of strength and Consols closed substantially better. Irish Land stock was also firm on statements that a new issue will be avoided by allotting the stock to public departments and other British Funds shared the improvement. Home County and Corporation issues rarely altered, but business was moderately good in Colonial stocks and a large number closed $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 up. The carry-over rate on the last-named was $4\frac{1}{2}$ -5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Leading Foreign Government bonds moved within a very narrow compass, and the changes on the week are quite unimportant. European stocks, after marking small gains, eased off and closed dull, Russians being heavy throughout. Chinese went back fractionally when they moved and Japanese were adversely influenced by rather heavy selling from America which offset the investment buying on this side. Argentines and Brazilians were a little dull and the usual wide fluctuations took place in Peruvian Corporation issues. The close, however, was strong, partly on the traffic increase of \$90,000 for January and partly on the fact that the £2,000,000 loan is apparently quite definitely arranged. When this has been successfully floated it

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886	103	103
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly.	101	101
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c.	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission	92	93
93	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1897	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	92
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1899	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	92
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs.	104	104
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
101	94	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c.	102	102
106	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Funding	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	82	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
97 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chilian 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1885	96	96
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1886	96	96
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1895	96	96
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	Do. 5 p.c. 1896	101	100
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
107	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold	105	105
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1898, Gold	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	101
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail.	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
53	43	Costa Rica A	53	53
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	43	Do. B	43	43
107 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Colombian External	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$
107 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Egypt Unified 4 p.c.	105	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. pref.	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. State Domain	104	104
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	German 3 p.c.	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	52
55 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	Greek, 1884	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	52
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	Do. Monopoly Loan	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes	51	51
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	Do. Funding	51	51
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
106	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Italian 5 p.c.	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Japan 5 p.c.	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1901-2	103	103
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. sterling	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	97	Do. 6 p.c.	103	103
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	104
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	Portuguese 3 p.c. New	69	69
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Russian 4 p.c. 1889	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	84
83 $\frac{1}{2}$	76	Servian 4 p.c.	81	81
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed)	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
103	100	Turks 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Tribute	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
106	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Defence	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
92	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Unified	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
74 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	Uruguay 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	71
99	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c.	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Venezuelan, 1881	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$

The disappointment caused by the Midland dividend in the end of last week had a depressing effect on Home Railway stocks generally, and a good deal of selling by "stale bulls" followed. North-Eastern, however, recovered on the excellent position disclosed by the report, and then the market had a spell of old-fashioned excitement over the North-Western dividend. After the Midland figures were announced dealers were inclined to modify their estimates with regard to the remaining "heavies," and looked for $6\frac{3}{4}$ to 7 per cent. as the most likely figure for North-Western, so that the announcement of a dividend at the rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. sent the price up with a rush. The Furness dividend also furnished a pleasant surprise, and when the market received the stimulus of the fine Board of Trade returns for January dealers grew hopeful that business was going to expand. This state of affairs did not continue very long, partly because an attempt was made to force the pace a little too quickly, and Thurs-

return of the Associated Banks, and although occasional efforts were made to bring about a rally, these were short-lived, and the market settled down into a listless condition, with quotations generally well below the closing figures of a week ago. Reports of an amalgamation of the Union Pacific and Illinois Central lines sent both stocks flying upwards, but only the latter retained any part of the improvement to the end. In the case of the Union Pacific the dividend announcement was expected on Friday, and although the earlier forecasts of an increased rate had been modified the postponement of the declaration until Wednesday next caused the price to flinch still further.

and it closed with a nett loss of about \$1. Carrying-over charges began at about 6 per cent., but eased off during the day, and it is therefore reasonable to suppose that with a return to more normal monetary conditions on that side Wall Street has taken back a portion of the heavy load carried here for so long. Prices generally were lower on the fortnight, the only exceptions being a gain of 11 on Great Northern preferred, which went up on the report that the company's ore lands had been leased to the United States Steel

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last com- pleted year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
222½	128	225	Antofagasta (10)	227½	224½
321	144½	—	Do. Def. (15)	335	330
131½	105	126½	Argentine Gt. West. (6) . .	128	128
131	113½	130	Do. Prfd. (5)	131	130
84½	77	87	Bahia Blanca Prfd. . . .	88	87
148½	134½	141	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) . .	140	142
133½	126	129	Do. Prefce (5)	129	129
143½	117	133½	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) . .	133	134
118½	108½	116	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) . .	117xd	116
110½	99½	109	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) . .	110	109
115	101½	115½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) . .	116	117
110	98½	111½	Do. do. Deferred (6) . .	112	112½
170½	161	168½	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) . .	169	169
109½	103½	107	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) . .	107	107
142½	127	137½	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) . .	137½	138½
93	79	91	Central Uruguay (4)	91	91
109	100	108½	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) . .	108	105
95½	88	95	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	94	95
76½	58	72	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) . .	72½	73
2½	28	2½	Costa Rica	2½	2½
26	59	68	Cuban Central	68	6½
128	101½	114	Do. Pref. (5½)	114	11½
107½	104	—	Do. Deb. (4½)	103	103
95½	72	92	East Argentine (4)	92	91
78	59½	6½	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. . .	7	7
84½	64½	81½	Leopoldina (3)	82	81
99½	86½	97½	Do. Deb. (4)	97	97½
110½	106	—	Manila Bonds "A" (6) . .	108	108
108	104½	—	Do. "E" (6)	105	105
29½	19½	26½	Mexican Ord. Stk. . . .	26½	26½
121½	103½	123½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½)	124½	125
57	36½	53½	Do. 2nd Pref.	54½	54½
69½	36½	59½	Mexican Southern (2½) . .	59	59
17	10½	14½	Nitrato Ord. (5½)	14½	15½
198	168	20	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) . .	198	20½
220	178	204	San Paulo Brazilian (12) . .	205	205
226	122	186	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) . .	181½	185

The public seems to have withdrawn from Wall Street as quickly as it came in, and the professionals, once more left to their own devices, are by no means happy. Talk of labour troubles with the miners in the spring made "coalers" heavy, and fears that investigations into the railroad position will be followed by an inquiry into the banking system depressed the rest of the list. Prices began to fall away on the

Trust, and improvements of 4 in Northern Pacific, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in Rock Island and $\frac{1}{2}$ in Southern common. Reading shares fell 14, Milwaukee and Illinois Central $6\frac{1}{2}$, Louisville 6, New York Central $5\frac{1}{2}$ and Southern Pacific $3\frac{1}{2}$. Erie ordinary fell $3\frac{1}{2}$ and the first and second preferences $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 3, Chesapeake and Missouri and Kansas dropped 3 and Atchison ordinary, Baltimore ordinary, Ontario and Union Pacific common were from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ down.

Grand Trunk stocks went up in the end of the week on the traffic return, which showed an increase of £3,000 more than had been looked for, but sales in connection with maturing options on Monday more than wiped out the improvement. Since then the market has been quiet, and in spite of support from Montreal prices drifted downwards again, especially for the third preference, which showed a loss of several fractions at the end. Canadian Pacific shares were also harder, and although the market weakened a little on sales by speculators who were disappointed that the dividend was not increased, part of the earlier gain was retained throughout. On the account these shares were $2\frac{3}{4}$ lower, but Grand Trunk stocks were unaltered except for gains of 1 in the guaranteed and $\frac{1}{4}$ in the second preference.

Highest and Lowest last Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
27	15	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	Allsopp Ordinary	18
71	40	—	City of London Ord. .. .	40 $\frac{1}{2}$
566	505	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20)	550
27 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40) .. .	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20)	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
68 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	52	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	51 $\frac{1}{2}$
35	15	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. Ord. Stock .. .	15
105	99	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	98
78 $\frac{1}{2}$	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Do. Def. Stk. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$) .. .	54
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Aerated Bread (32 $\frac{1}{2}$) .. .	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Apollinaris Ord. (5) .. .	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7) .. .	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
3 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2
8	5	—	Brunner Mond (35) .. .	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
11 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	Callender's Cable Ord. (12 $\frac{1}{2}$)	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
5 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	Calico Printers Ordinary (24)	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
5 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Coats Ordinary (20) .. .	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
483 $\frac{1}{2}$	495	500	Do. Pref. Ord. (20) .. .	500
25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
13 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Henley's Telegraph (15) .. .	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
4 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5 $\frac{1}{2}$)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
311	106	108	Do. Debenture (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) .. .	108
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lipton Ordinary (7) .. .	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	6	Lyons, J. & Co. (30) .. .	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Russian Petroleum .. .	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
8	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Savoy Hotel (5) .. .	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
15 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	Sweetmeat Automatic .. .	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	16xd	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	16xd
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	16
1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. Stock (6) .. .	16
106	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	103
80	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	84	Hudson's Bay Co. (58 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	84
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	Peruvian Corp. 4p.c. Cum. Pf. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$)	51 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Debentures (6) .. .	109 $\frac{1}{2}$
9 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	National Discount (10) .. .	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
11 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Union Discount (11) .. .	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
8 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
13 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$)	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
134 $\frac{1}{2}$	124 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$)	131
3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
5 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
12	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	14	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	12	—	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7 $\frac{1}{2}$)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	12	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3)	14
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	United States Steel Ordinary ..	46
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	114 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Preference (7) .. .	115 $\frac{1}{2}$
2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Vickers Ordinary (12 $\frac{1}{2}$) .. .	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Cunard Steam .. .	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
249	214 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13)	240 $\frac{1}{2}$
47	38	—	Royal Mail .. .	53 $\frac{1}{2}$
9 $\frac{1}{2}$	8	—	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5) .. .	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
110 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	Anglo-American Telegraph— Do. Pref. Ord. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	114 $\frac{1}{2}$
18 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	18	Do. Def. Ord. .. .	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
147 $\frac{1}{2}$	134 $\frac{1}{2}$	149	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	149 $\frac{1}{2}$
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Eastern Extension (7) .. .	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
113 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	110 $\frac{1}{2}$	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	111
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Western Telegraph (7) .. .	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
10 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
9 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)	9
129	99	—	London General Omnibus (7)	110 $\frac{1}{2}$
10 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	London United Trams Pref. (5)	9

In the Foreign Railway section United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock was driven down at one

time to 175, but after the weak "bulls" had been forced out buying was resumed with considerable vigour and the price rebounded to 188, closing with a gain of $3\frac{1}{2}$ on the week. Antofagasta stocks, on the contrary, were offered pretty freely and the ordinary and deferred both finished substantially lower. Amongst Argentine things B. Ayres Great Southern improved on the traffic return and Entre Rios issues were also $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 higher. The Rosario traffic was also well liked and there was talk of the improvement continuing for some weeks, but selling nevertheless predominated and the ordinary dropped $\frac{1}{2}$. Other changes in this group were irregular, and in Brazilian things Leopoldina ordinary was again heavy owing to the reports of further floods. Dealings in Mexican Railway stocks were on a moderate scale, but enough support was forthcoming for the two preferences to lift them a fraction or two. Changes on the account in Argentine things were mostly downwards, but the movements of the big things like Buenos Ayres and Rosario, Buenos Ayres Great Southern and Buenos Ayres Western did not amount to more than a few fractions. Buenos Ayres and Pacific first preference, however, fell 4, Argentine Great Western ordinary and preference $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 and Argentine North-Eastern preference $1\frac{1}{2}$. Entre Rios preference lost $2\frac{1}{2}$, Cordoba and Rosario income debenture stock 3 and Cordoba Central first preference $1\frac{1}{2}$. Leopoldina ordinary stock declined $3\frac{1}{2}$. San Paulo ordinary $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and United Railways of the Havana 7, but Antofagasta ordinary was 2 up. Mexican Railway first and second preferences dropped $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 1, but the debenture stock rose 2, Mexican Southern ordinary was $1\frac{1}{2}$ up and Inter-oceanic "B" debenture stock put on 3, while the preference shares of the last-named were $\frac{1}{10}$ higher. Carrying-over charges on South American Railways generally were about 6 per cent., but on Mexican Railway issues the rate ranged from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Textile issues continue to attract most attention in the Miscellaneous markets, and a pretty big business is being done in these at rising prices. No doubt the companies have benefited from the improved condition of the cotton industry, and rather better dividends may presently be forthcoming, notwithstanding the terrible over-capitalisation common to all these enterprises. Catering securities continue firm on the whole and Sweetmeats improved, but Mazawattee preference ended lower. Nitrates displayed some irregularity and dealers are anxiously awaiting further news regarding the combine. A further severe relapse occurred in a large number of Brewery issues and we fear the decline is not finished yet. London Docks deferred ended lower, but nothing worth mention happened in the Shipping list. In the Iron and Steel group Measures were very flat on the failure to pay a dividend for the past year, the report coming as a great disappointment, but the close was not quite at the worst. Other shares, however, still maintained a good tendency. Hudson's Bays went down with Yankees and only partially recovered and Chinese Land and Exploration issues ended dull. Gas Lights were still heavy and amongst Tramways and Omnibus London Generals went down on the reduction in the dividend. London United Tramways preference shares and debenture stock were also weak and will go lower still unless the present financial methods are drastically altered and proper allowance made for depreciation. Daimler Motors were dull, Nobel Dynamite came into request and Day and Martins improved on the better report. Rates of continuation usually ranged from 5 to 7 per cent., but a slightly higher charge was sometimes exacted and on Hudson's Bays the rate showed a good deal of fluctuation finishing easy at about 3 to 4 per cent. On the fortnight Aerated Breads rose $\frac{5}{16}$, Babcock and Wilcox $\frac{3}{8}$, Electric Construction ordinary 7s. 3d., English Sewing Cotton 5s., Lyons $\frac{1}{16}$, Santa Rita Nitrate $\frac{3}{8}$, Watney, Combe preferred $1\frac{1}{2}$ and the debenture stock 3, Hudson's Bays $1\frac{1}{2}$, Imperial Ottoman Bank $\frac{1}{16}$ and National Bank of Egypt $\frac{3}{4}$. Against these improvements St. James and Pall Mall Electric lost $\frac{1}{2}$, Allsopp issues 1 to 2, Pekin

Syndicate 1½ and the deferred 10, Standard Bank of South Africa 1 and Commercial Union Assurance ½.

To-day has been rather a miserable and unsatisfactory one on the Stock Exchange, principally because business has been thin, but also because the blight of the Kaffir entanglement has been felt all over the Stock Exchange. Kaffir shares were again sold heavily from the Cape, and there was little or no support forthcoming here. Paris fitfully bought back its "bears," notably in Rand mines, and might have done much more of this if the telephone had been working freely, which it was not, otherwise there might have been a still more severe decline. As it was, the market was sick and a prey to rumours of further difficulties amongst the bosses and master players. In other directions things were here and there cheerful. Grand Trunk stocks hardened on the slightly better than expected distribution on the third preference stock, and there was quite a merry hustle after Canadian Pacific shares on the appetising transaction dealt with elsewhere. As a whole, however, the Stock Exchange was out of heart, feeling like being ruined by Chinese slave labour.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

*. Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

The poor Kaffir Circus is still in the dumps and the professionals and woe-begone gamblers continue to pace to and fro in impatient ennui and disgust. When the week opened they had to face the carry-over and this gave them a little occupation in their dreary idleness. There is nothing to say about continuation rates except that they were, on the whole, about the same as at the preceding settlement. Such counters as Gold Fields, East Rands, Rand Mines, Modderfonteins, Gedulds and Gold Trusts were continued at 5½—6½ per cent., Randfonteins and A. Goerz at 4½—5½ per cent. and T.C.I.'s at 5—6 per cent., whilst the general rate was 6½—7½ per cent., as before. In the diamond section the rate on De Beers was lighter at 3½—4½ per cent., but was again 4—5 per cent. on Jagersfontein. On Rhodesian shares the ruling charge was 6—8 per cent., that on Chartered being as high as 8 per cent., whilst Bankets was also a trifle stiffer at 6—7 per cent. On Egyptians and West Africans the contango was, as usual, 6—8 per cent. There were givers of 7 per cent. on most West Australian shares. Northern Blocks, however, were carried over at 4—6 per cent., Great Fingalls, Oroyas and Sons of Gwalia at 5—7 per cent. and Horseshoes at 4—6 per cent.

The making-up list again showed a preponderance of falls. In the South African group the heaviest was 1½ in Premier Diamond deferred, with a loss of 1½ in Gedulds, 1½ in Driefonteins, ¾ in H.F. Company, ¾ in Central Minings, ¾ in Apex, Welgedachts, and Crown Deeps, ¾ in Angelos, ½ in Central and Rand Gedulds, ¾ in East Rands, ¾ in Jumpers, Rose Deeps, Village Deeps, and Rand Klipfonteins, ¾ in Rand Mines, Cason Blocks, Wemmers, and Wolhuters, with declines of ¼ to ½ in numerous other shares. The only rises were ¾ in Jagers deferred, and ½ in De Beers preferred. In the Jungle Abossos gained ¾, Bibianis 7-32, and Himan's ¾, whilst amongst Egyptians, Nile Valleys and Um Rus receded ¾ each. There were also some big falls amongst Westralians, such as ¾ in Kalgurli's, ¾ in Horseshoes, ¾ in Ivanhoes, and 5-32 in Associated. In the miscellaneous list the most conspicuous movement was a rise of £1 in Le Roi No. 2 on good news cabled from the mine and more hopeful speculative possibilities. Whilst Anacondas fell ¾, Rio Tintos were unchanged on the fortnight. Broken Hill descriptions generally weakened, and Champion Reefs, amongst Indians, lost 2s.

As already stated, there is no sign of improvement in business. In the absence of support, changes in quotations are spasmodic and irregular, the professionals pushing up one counter to-day and another the next in the Kaffir Circus. De Beers and Jagers have been the strongest spots, chiefly on inside support. Since the publication of the article in the *Financial Times*, referred to elsewhere, Premier Diamond deferred have strengthened appreciably, the market regarding the message as reassuring, rather an illogical deduction. Any excuse, however, is good enough for a demonstration. It is hoped that this upward movement will restore the confidence of holders, induce buyers to come forward, and thus bring permanent strength, but the advance has not been sustained.

At the close of last week Bankets were suddenly hoisted by insiders, and the "tip" went round that the moment had come to buy. The price, however, quickly fell back and has been slipping away daily, and this has had a bad effect on the entire Rhodesian group. At one time they were sold down to 2½, on persistent offering, to the consternation of the market and an outside bucket-shop, which has for months past tried its utmost

to persuade its clients to buy such stuff. Rumours are plentiful, particularly rumours of quarrels and strife amongst the magnates; likewise of sales of pawned stocks by the banks, private bad news as to developments on the property, and so forth. Those of our readers who acted on our warnings months ago can watch the slump with equanimity, except those who returned us insult for the advice. Later the price was affected by the death of a well-known diamond merchant, said to be heavily committed both in Bankets and Gedulds.

West Africans, Egyptians and Westralians are also weaker, taking them in the lump. One or two of the leading Jungle descriptions are fractionally better, nothing to speak of, whilst amongst Egyptians, Nile Valleys have naturally been adversely affected by the intention to reconstruct. Golden Horseshoes have been weakest in the Westralian group, Paris being a large seller, whilst Associated, Ivanhoes and Kalgurli's are lower. Broken Hill descriptions have been quiet and irregular, animation in these having died out. In the American group Esperanzas have fluctuated sharply, and on balance are under the quotation of a week ago. But both the Le Roi shares have been exceptionally strong, noticeably No. 2's, on some good news from the mine foreshadowing more promising prospects.

In the Indian group the most prominent incident has been the steady advance in Champion Reefs, despite the efforts of a bucket-shop to depress them. Shareholders in this fine mine have naturally felt anxious lately, but no one seems able to account rationally for the recent weakness. As likely as not, the shares have suffered from a "bear" attack. However, the directors have issued the reassuring circular dealt with in a separate paragraph.

There has been no excitement in the copper section. Anacondas have been erratic in tendency, advancing one day, receding the next, whilst Rio Tintos have shown a disposition to weakness.

CHAMPION REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY.—Shareholders will be comforted by the reassuring circular issued by the directors of the Champion Reef Gold Mining Company. It is pointed out that the reefs in the Kolar gold field characteristically vary in value from time to time, though up to the present the Champion Reef has been remarkably free from such fluctuations. Recently, however, the ore opened up has not been so rich, on the average, as that developed during the past three or four years. Should this continue the reserves of payable ore would, on the existing scale of crushings, be entrenched upon to a greater extent than would be desirable, so the directors have decided, as a precautionary measure, to somewhat lessen the monthly output. They consider that circumstances of the case do not require any considerable reduction, and only a moderate decrease is contemplated. To what extent this will be carried out must depend upon the development during the next few months, but for the present it has been decided to curtail the quantity of ore sent to the mills by about 3,000 tons a month. "The latest progress report received from the mine shows better developments at several important points, indicating a distinct tendency towards an improved position, and the board's confidence in the continuance of a high standard of productiveness remains unabated."

TANGANYIKA CONCESSIONS.—The agreements hitherto existing between the Katanga Mixed Committee and the Tanganyika Concessions, or with Mr. R. Williams, are reported by the *Mouvement Géographique* to have been prolonged under the following conditions:—The investigations begun by Mr. Williams in the south of the Katanga district are to be continued under existing terms until the current year ends on December 9, 1906. Mr. Williams can spend £5,000 per annum, and of this sum the fixed committee will refund £3,000. Any advantages arising from discoveries are to be distributed in the proportion of 60 per cent. to the committee and 40 per cent. to Mr. Williams. A new agreement for a period of three years will come into operation as from December 9, 1906, whereby the committee undertake to provide one-half of his expenses, but these are not to exceed £8,000 without the committee's consent. Should discoveries be made during this period the resulting advantages are to be apportioned to the extent of 80 per cent. to the committee and the remaining 20 per cent. to the explorer. At the wish of the committee the whole personnel can be placed at their disposal on December 9, 1909, for a period of two years, and in case the investigations yield results Mr. Williams is to receive 10 per cent., although only up to the amount of £100,000. On the attainment of this total all his claims on the ground of this obligation will expire.

NERCHINSK GOLD COMPANY.—In a circular issued by the directors it is stated that the reef has enormously widened, the south crosscut at 550 ft. in Lance's level extending to 65 ft., whilst the north crosscut reaches 105 ft. "Allowing for the angle of the crosscuts, and taking into consideration the surface developments," says the circular, "it is safe to assume that the lode at this point is upwards of 150 ft. wide. A further striking feature is that the average assay values have at the same time materially improved." The approximate value of the ore so far developed is over £570,000. Allowing for an extraction of only 90 per cent. and a mining and milling cost of 14s. per ton, the nett profit is estimated at over £350,000. It is to be noted that the 14s. is a very low figure, and we fear it does not cover all expenditure, such as depreciation, redemption of development, &c. Nor does it include the ordinary administration costs, so to call it nett profit seems misleading.

SAINT DAVID'S GOLD MINES (1903).—During the year 1905 this Welsh gold mining company treated 15,538 tons of ore yielding,

concentrates included, 5,550 ozs. of bullion, the equivalent of 4,831 ozs. of fine gold, realising £20,342. But in the working account sales of produce are set down at £27,764, the report explaining that it includes bullion recovered in December, 1904, but realised in the following month. After deducting mining costs, royalties and depreciation the gross profit was £2,841, increased to £3,225 with £372 from interest and nearly £13 from transfer fees. London administration expenses took £1,406, income-tax £485 and interest on the mortgage debt £600, leaving a nett profit of £734, to be added to the old credit of £5,509, making it £6,243. During the year a third lode, known as the North Lode, was opened up by the manager and steadily developed, but the rich ore found in the 20 fathom level of the main lode was exhausted early in January, 1905, and the ore from this reef has since been of very low grade. This is not comforting and does not improve prospects. Financially the position is strong, cash alone standing at £15,622.

COPPER FIELDS OF NAMAQUALAND.—We hear rumours that an inside effort is to be made to put up the shares of this company on the strength of the outlook for the copper market generally, and we would advise our readers to beware of such a movement. The following is what the manager writes under date of December 30 and it cannot be described as encouraging:—"I have great pleasure in informing you that we have taken out all the water from the mine and also cleaned up all the débris from the bottom of the incline. I beg to state that we are now able to obtain sufficient boys to meet our requirements. The height of the copper bearer carried is 6 ft., width 9 ft. A few rich veins of copper occur, interspersed in the poorer portions of the copper bearer, of which we have to make a very careful selection. I am sending you a specimen of ore broken off, of which we have a few hundredweight broken. Before we prove the width of the copper bearer I think it advisable to follow the leaders of copper along the incline." Is this good enough on which to base a boom, or even a temporary rig? This company was formed in 1897 and has done nothing remarkable in the eight years of its existence.

TOMBOY GOLD MINES COMPANY.—The directors issue the following report on the property of this company by Mr. F. W. Bradley, M.E., dated December 30:—

	Tons.	At per Ton Profit.	\$
Developed ore	232,510	3.60	1,077,036
Broken ore on hand in stopes.....	45,550	6.30	286,964
Probable ore	50,000	2.00	100,000
Total.....	378,060	\$3.71	\$1,404,000

From this estimated operating profit will have to be deducted the cost of the 2,150 ft. development work and the cost of any betterments to plant that may be made in the next three years. This expert points out that as the 1,750 ft. level going south-easterly from the 96 winze has found the vein of good width and value, there is every hope that the 2,150 ft. level will eventually find payable values. This profit in sight is equal to about £280,000.

FINASLEIGH FREEHOLD COPPER.—After much negotiation a proposal has been submitted, says the annual report, by a strong colonial syndicate for the reconstruction of this company. One of the conditions is that the existing debenture holders should agree to the renewal of their debentures for a further term of five years, and to this they have consented. It is proposed to form a new company with a capital of £200,000, to be dealt with as follows:—60,000 shares to be allotted to the present shareholders; 80,000 to the syndicate in consideration of their finding £36,000 cash working capital and paying the registration fees; 40,000 shares to be reserved for issue at par *pro rata* to the present debenture holders, should they desire to subscribe for them at any time within five years, and 20,000 shares to be reserved for issue to the syndicate at par should they exercise their option of subscribing for them within twelve months. Out of the cash working capital of the new company it is proposed to set aside £6,000 for debenture interest. The syndicate agreed to pay £1,000 for an option for six months to acquire the property on the above terms, which has now been received, and the syndicate undertakes to pay all expenses of maintaining the mine during the same period.

MOUNT LYELL BLOCKS MINING COMPANY.—According to a cable received from the head office in Melbourne the number of tons milled in the past half-year was 33,445, the grade being 1.9 per cent. of copper and the extraction 68.52 per cent. The copper produced was 441 tons, equal to 68. 6d. per ton on the ore extracted, and the nett profit was £10,800. It is expected to increase the ore production shortly at little, if any, additional expense. The unprecedented dry weather experienced during the six months considerably retarded operations.

GOLDEN POLE GOLD MINES.—For several weeks past shareholders in this West Australian company have been disturbed by more than one unfavourable rumour respecting the condition of the mine, but they will be somewhat reassured by the cable issued this week from the board room, which states that in all 13,390 tons of ore have been blocked out, of a value of 30 dwts. per ton, whilst the manager anticipates that recent developments will shortly considerably increase the reserves. It is added that in level No. 4 the average width is 3 ft. and the value 2 ozs. 8 dwts. per ton, and in the winze 3½ ft. going 24 dwts. to the ton.

TALISMAN CONSOLIDATED.—This is the New Zealand Company whose shares have for several weeks past been steadily rising on a general impression that prospects are very hopeful. The

general managers issue a report for the quarter ending November 30, during which period 11,870 tons of ore were treated, for a yield in bullion of 102,453 ozs., of a value of £43,753; averaging £3 13s. 8.6d. per ton. It is quite impossible, says the report, to estimate the ore reserves in stated terms, but in August last the managers considered that 62,966 tons could be expected from the mine as it then stood. During the three months further ore has been opened up, giving a total of 83,466 tons, or, nett, 71,596 tons at the end of November, after deducting the tonnage treated.

BRILLIANT GOLD MINING COMPANY.—In the half-year ending October 12 two miners were employed by the company, and 91 tons were raised and crushed for a return of 131½ ozs. of smelted gold, realising, with the residues, £461. The tributors raised 1,926 tons, yielding 1,592 ozs., which, with the proceeds of the sale of sands and sludges, fetched £6,051, the percentage money received by the company being £893. It is stated that there is still a quantity of ground available for tributors in the company's mine, and that it should be some considerable time before it is exhausted. A fair profit is being derived from the tributors' crushings, and this enables the company to sink the Stockholm shaft without drawing too heavily on the funds in hand.

BRISBIS TIN MINES.—In the report for the quarter ending December 31 the directors state that owing to the low cost of production and to the high price which has ruled for tin during recent months, considerable profits have been earned, "and the directors hope to have the pleasure of announcing a dividend at an early date." The annual reports and accounts are to be submitted to the shareholders as soon as the necessary data have been received from the other side.

AVINO MINES OF MEXICO.—The directors announce that they have decided not to resume milling operations until they have had an opportunity of discussing the entire situation with the mine manager, who has been instructed to come to England for this purpose.

THE WORLD'S GOLD OUTPUT.—According to estimates in the *New York Engineering and Mining Journal*, the world's gold production in 1905 amounted to the prodigious total of £75,000,000, against nearly £69,500,000 in 1904, an increase of over five and a-half millions, which establishes a new record. The following table gives the comparative figures for both years of the various gold countries:—

	1905.	1904.	Inc. or Dec.
	£	£	£
Transvaal	20,259,000	15,624,000	+ 4,635,000
United States	17,268,000	16,145,000	+ 1,123,000
Australia	17,104,000	17,420,000	— 316,000
Russia	4,800,000	5,015,000	— 215,000
Canada	2,886,000	3,280,000	— 394,000
Mexico	2,700,000	2,521,000	+ 179,000
India	2,327,000	2,321,000	+ 6,000
Rhodesia	1,486,000	964,000	+ 522,000
All others	6,263,000	6,163,000	+ 100,000
Total	75,093,000	69,453,000	+ 5,640,000

The above figures are evidently conservative, for the output from the Transvaal was about one million higher than that given. It will be seen that there is a close contest between Australia and the United States for second place.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

In the December half-year this company's gross receipts increased by £127,485 to a total of £4,960,249. Working expenses rose by only £30,378 to a total of £3,100,913 or 62.52 per cent. of the gross income. It followed that the nett revenue rose by £97,107 to £1,859,336, and it has enabled the directors to increase the dividend from 5¼ per cent. per annum, paid for the second half of 1904, to 6¼ per cent. per annum. After this is paid £49,002 will be left to carry forward as against £41,349 brought in, and £45,538 carried forward a year ago. The business has thus been good and expansive in the half-year, and working expenses have on the whole been kept down without, we should judge, in any way impairing the efficiency of the service or the quality of the road bed and material. Cost of carriage and wagon repairs indeed has risen by £35,588 on the comparison of half-years, locomotive power by about £10,000, but traffic expenses have been reduced by over £14,000 and maintenance of way and works by £3,655. Law and Parliamentary charges, however, are up by nearly £3,000, and there is an increase of nearly £1,000 in the amount paid for compensation, the total of which was £23,027 in the half-year. Rates and taxes, singularly enough, have fallen off over £1,000, but the total is still heavy at £234,370. As usual with this and other railway companies, no particulars are given with regard to the position of the dock department. Dock revenue is given at £90,511, a decrease of nearly £5,500, but no mention is made of dock expenses. The company, on the other hand, does set

forth its electric train working expenses in a separate item, but does not tell us separately what the receipts of the electric portion of the undertaking were. It is noticeable, however, that the revenue as classified grows in a satisfactory manner, and especially that the goods and mineral receipts increased alongside a continued reduction in the train mileage run. Thus goods and mineral train runnings fell off nearly 250,000 miles last half-year compared with the second half of 1904, and yet the receipts of these two branches of the business rose by about £117,000. There was no decline in the passenger train service. On the contrary, the mileage rose by 77,000 miles, but comparisons here are for the present to some extent vitiated by the balance of business conducted with electric traction, and it is noticeable that in the past half-year 601,765 miles of electric propelled trains were run. This is independent of electric passenger car mileage, in which there was a decrease last half-year of 280,000 miles. It is in the direction, however, of filling the trains and reducing the wear and tear of rolling stock, the waste of coal and machinery, and to some extent the wages bill, that economies must continue to run, and in Mr. Stevens's interesting and suggestive little book on the "British Railway Outlook" some valuable statistics are to be found illustrative of the extent to which our railways have already economised in train mileage. Coming to the capital account, we find that last half-year the expenditure of new money aggregated £511,966, of which only £31,820 was for working stock. No less than £188,214 nett was put into lines and works open for traffic. Notwithstanding therefore the receipt of £393,012 on account of new stocks issued, the amount by which the capital account is overdrawn rose compared with a year ago by nearly £78,000, and now stands at £1,798,478, which is within £120,000 of the total funds available in the hands of the company in the shape of insurance funds, savings bank deposits and superannuation funds, the aggregate of which is £1,918,000. It follows as capital expenditure continues to go on, and is estimated to amount to £591,000 in the current half-year, that a fresh issue of stock cannot be long delayed. The company has no Bill before Parliament for works of its own in the session now about to begin, nor does it seem to have any Bills to oppose, so that its Parliamentary expenses should be insignificant. Under the powers obtained last session it has acquired a half interest in the shipping business of Messrs. Thomas Wilson, Sons, and Co. to run steamers between Hull and Hamburg, Antwerp, Ghent and Dunkirk. These steamer services will in future be managed and run on joint account, and we believe the enterprise was entered upon by the railway company in self defence, following a fashion which we have never been able to regard with approval. Naturally the directors lament the loss of Sir Edward Grey, M.P., as chairman, for he promised to be a very able and efficient head of the undertaking, but he very properly resigned his directorship when he became Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. They also pay a well deserved tribute to Sir George Gibb, who, as we have already noticed, has resigned his position as general manager to be chairman of the Metropolitan District Railway and managing director of the Underground Electric Railways of London. Sir George Gibb, they point out, was solicitor to the company from 1882 to 1891, and has held the office of general manager for 15 years with conspicuous ability, earning a wide reputation as a railway manager of broad views and progressive policy. We hope they will be fortunate in securing a successor capable of filling his seat. The dividends are payable on the 17th inst.

MIDLAND RAILWAY.

In the December half-year this company's gross receipts from traffic came to £6,054,495, and from miscellaneous sources to £277,335, making the aggregate gross receipts £6,331,830, an increase of about £225,000 upon the figures for the corresponding half of 1904. Coaching receipts, however, were up £230,982, and the weekly published figures showed an increase of only £195,432, yet the company disappointed the market with its dividend. Expenses, however, rose by £146,000 to £3,730,465, or 61.61 per cent. of the gross receipts from traffic alone, so that the available nett revenue was increased by about £74,000 only. It followed that the directors only saw their way to raise the dividend for the half-year by $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per annum to $5\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. They might have paid another $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and still have had about £36,000 left to carry forward, but that would have been impinging upon the usual balance, and it was better to keep the dividend down. As it is the balance left is £56,828 against £56,062 a year ago. At the June half-year, however, the amount carried forward was only £12,253, so that really the directors had no choice but to keep the distribution as low as they reasonably could. Working expenses show an increase of about £46,000 in the cost of maintenance of way, works, &c., of £45,000 in locomotive power, and £15,000 in traffic expenses, as well as about £4,400 in general charges, but carriage wagon repairs were less by about £3,000. Steamboat expenses and depreciation are both stated, and aggregated £67,639, but no entry as to steamboat receipts is made in the accounts, which are therefore defective, especially as the Midland is now, by its ownership of the Belfast and Northern Counties line, a keen competitor for the Irish traffic. Among the miscellaneous receipts were £66,364 from the Northern Counties committee, £43,365 from the Cheshire lines, and £19,708 from the Great Central and Midland joint lines. Prior charges of all kinds increased by nearly £5,000 in the half-year, compared with the second half of 1904, and the balance available for dividend was little more than £61,000 up. Capital expenditure in the half-year came to £430,116, of which £21,063 went into working

stock, £101,306 into steamboats, and £204,326 into lines open for traffic, including £34,885 for the Belfast and Northern Counties lines. The estimated expenditure in the current half-year is only £375,000, and it is pleasant to see the very heavy outlays of the company in this kind being brought down to something like reasonable proportions. A prodigious display is made by the capital account, which aggregates £190,551,000, but much of this is due to nominal additions caused by the system of duplicating the ordinary stock into preferred and deferred and reducing the preference and guaranteed stocks to a uniform $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. basis. Altogether the additions to capital made on these grounds have amounted to £62,019,000. At the date of the balance-sheet the capital account was overdrawn by £1,126,031, but the company possesses superannuation, insurance, and steamboat depreciation funds to an aggregate of about £428,000 more than this, so that no immediate addition to capital issues appears to be necessary. The train mileage run continues to expand, and last half-year, at 24,850,391 miles, exceeded the figures for the second half of 1904 by over 615,000 miles. Dividends will be distributed on and after the 24th inst.

LANCASHIRE, DERBYSHIRE AND EAST COAST RAILWAY COMPANY.

Gross receipts for the six months ended December 31, £75,563, increase £8,008; working expenses £47,612, increase £11,628; ratio between expenditure and income, 63.01 per cent. against 53.27 per cent. The mineral traffic is the mainstay of the company's business, and this showed an increased revenue of £7,514, other gains being £367 in merchandise and about £400 in carriage and wagon hire. Passengers, parcels, horses, carriages, &c., and rents all yielded rather less. The advance in expenditure is principally due to heavy renewals of the permanent way and rolling stock, which presumably have been somewhat neglected in the past. On maintenance of way and works the outlay rose £4,840, locomotive power cost £4,883 more, carriage and wagon repairs £869, and general charges £660. Most of the other items showed small advances, but an extra £460 was received for working the Sheffield District Railway. Nett balance is £27,951 against £31,571, and after adding £443 brought forward and £362 for general interest, the disposable sum is £28,757. Fixed charges were a trifle larger, but by omitting the £5,000 last year placed to the general renewal suspense account, the directors thinking the allocation unnecessary in view of the heavier charges to revenue, the sum available for dividend is brought out at £11,151, compared with £10,039. Therefore, after providing the first preference dividend, the directors propose to raise the distribution on the second preference shares by $\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £143 more at £526. There was actually a credit of £85 on account of capital outlay for the past six months, due to a receipt for interest previously over-debited, and the company should be able to provide the £10,000 required for the current half-year without trouble, as the capital account is on the right side to the amount of £8,459. Details have already been given of the terms of amalgamation with the Great Central, and the directors state that a Bill for conferring the necessary powers on the respective companies will be submitted for shareholders' approval. It will not, however, easily become law, as the project meets with opposition from two of the directors, Lord Claud Hamilton and Mr. J. F. S. Gooday, on behalf of the Great Eastern Railway.

HULL AND BARNLEY RAILWAY COMPANY.

Gross revenue for the six months ended December 31, £269,912; increase, £9,209; working expenses, £154,926; increase, £5,938; ratio between expenditure and receipts, 57.40 per cent., against 57.15 per cent. The company's coaching business yielded only £14,448, or about £1,400 less, but this was almost made good by an increase in merchandise of £1,331. In minerals the gain was important at £13,725, but the dock receipts fell off by £4,789. This last is rather curious, because ships of a total tonnage of 912,363 entered the Alexandra Dock during the half-year, exclusive of vessels entering for use of dry dock only, 867,966 tons being steam vessels and 44,397 sailing, an aggregate increase over the corresponding period of 49,282. During the entire year the total tonnage using the docks at Hull, that is, the North-Eastern Railway Docks and the Alexandra Dock, was 4,365,311, or an improvement over 1904 of 115,701 tons, another example of depressed trade, according to the creed of the tariffites. The fact that it increases the revenue of the railway, permits the payment of higher dividends, gives more employment in a dozen different ways, and increases our power to buy is of no account at all. On the expenditure side maintenance of way rose £471, the cost of locomotive power went up £1,778, and carriage and wagon repairs cost £1,245 more. Then traffic expenses advanced £3,044, and rates and taxes were larger by £1,399, but dock expenses, including maintenance, could be reduced by no more than £1,763. To the nett balance of £114,085, which is better by £3,270, must be added the credit brought in of £20,014, making £134,999 against £129,731. Fixed charges having been provided, and another £2,000 added to the renewal and contingencies fund, the directors are able to provide an increased amount for the preference dividend, and to raise the distribution on the ordinary stock from $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £9,541 compared with £8,084. On capital account the company spent £36,553, and looks to lay out £30,000 in the current six months, but £18,794 was received in the half-year and the present debit is not oppressive at £85,177.

GREAT NORTHERN AND CITY ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

This useful little electric line is still a long way off a financial success, but it makes steady progress, and gives greater hope of

one day justifying its construction than seemed possible only a short while back. During the six months ended December 31 the number of passengers carried, excluding season ticket holders, was 6,330,661 or 1,103,066 more than in the second half of 1904. Local season tickets issued during the period were 2,663 against 2,511, and the number of three-route season ticket holders using the company's line was 2,292. Gross revenue came to £45,711 or £9,202 more, and after deducting £22,856 returned by Messrs. S. Pearson and Co., under agreement, less £625 for directors' fees, the balance remaining is £23,481, or an improvement of £8,065. General and law charges absorb £1,039, leaving £22,441, which provides £8,301 or £1,301 more for rent, £10,084 for debenture interest, £3,196, being an advance of £1,209, for general interest, and £859 applied against guaranteed interest suspense account. A debit balance of £10,821 having been brought in, there is an exactly similar sum to be carried out. On the present occasion the contractors have to find £17,838 for guaranteed interest, payable on the preferred ordinary and certain "B" or deferred shares, but the last year of this obligation has now been entered, and from the early part of 1907 the company will take over the line from the contractors and work the system itself, the guarantee thereupon ceasing. From some standpoints we shall be glad when this takes place, as details of the actual working, which at present are known only to the contractors, and, we suppose, the company's officials, can be ascertained by those interested. But what prospect does the line possess of returning dividends when unsupported by the present guarantee? Not a very bright one at present, we are sorry to say, and if it be true that the undertaking is operated at 50 per cent. of the gross receipts, a weekly revenue of about £3,000, or £1,100 to £1,200 more than the current earnings, will be required to provide the dividend on the preferred shares. Such an income cannot be attained for a very long time under existing conditions, but in railway affairs the unexpected often happens, and some fresh development may help the company to pull round. Therefore those who can afford to wait should not regard the enterprise as a forlorn hope, but stick to their holding, on the chance of a turn-up. Last half-year the capital expenditure was £25,591, and for the current six months the outlay is put at £100,000, but so large a sum will hardly be spent unless the extension to the Bank is proceeded with, and that is very unlikely under present circumstances. Existing debit to capital account is £243,522, against which there are Lloyds' bonds of £153,000, and £71,900 is due to the contractors.

RHYMNEY RAILWAY.

Last half-year this company's gross revenue was £150,629, a decrease of £1,662. Working expenses came to £90,360 or 59.99 per cent. of the gross receipts, or not quite £1,000 more than in the corresponding half-year. It is therefore a little difficult to see why the dividend should have been so severely reduced. It is at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum against a 8½ per cent. rate in the corresponding half-year, making 7 per cent. for the entire year, and the deferred ordinary stock therefore receives only 3 per cent. against 4½ per cent. The balance carried forward, however, is £4,778 against only £2,214 brought in. Working expenses show no particular variation in detail, but there is a decline of nearly £2,000 in the cost of maintenance of way, an increase of about £1,500 in locomotive power, a decrease of £2,000 odd in carriage and wagon repairs, an increase of nearly £1,000 in traffic expenses and a slight increase in law charges. The company is going to oppose several Bills now before Parliament, and has a Bill of its own in co-partnership with the directors of the Great Western Railway Company which some of the other projects to be opposed interfere with. Also the board is in opposition to the Gelligaer and Rhigos Rural District Council in the matter of the supply of electricity, taking its stand as the largest ratepayer in the district. It seems that this company is applying for an electric lighting provisional order. There will thus be plenty of work for the company's lawyers: Last half-year it spent £15,162 on capital account, and in the current six months estimates that another £44,000 will be required. At the date of the balance-sheet the capital account was overdrawn by £105,946, and the company was indebted to its bankers for £90,141. It will therefore have to issue more capital at no distant day. The dividend is payable on the 13th inst.

BARRY RAILWAY.

For the second half of 1905 this company's gross receipts were £330,001 or £12,063 less than in the corresponding period, against a decrease in expenditure of £4,355 at £173,890, so that the net revenue shows a decline of £7,768 at £156,111, and the proportion of expenditure to total income is 52.69 per cent. against 52.11 per cent. The decline in revenue was entirely attributable to a heavy fall in the dock receipts, which were down £14,273, as although the passenger business and the income from parcels, horses, carriages, &c., were slightly smaller, merchandise improved £1,361 and minerals over £3,000. Dock receipts were a few hundred pounds lower, but there was a considerable increase in the receipts from mileage and demurrage. The expenditure account contains some very startling movements. Locomotive power cost about the same, and traffic expenses and general charges rose £1,000, but £3,000 less at £13,913 was spent on maintenance of way, carriage and wagon repairs were reduced by £2,716 to £3,731, shipping expenses fell £5,239 and dock working expenses and repairs £4,075. Law charges and Parliamentary expenses were each heavily up, and, most serious perhaps of all, rates and taxes were little less than

£6,000 larger at £29,563. No explanation of any of these movements is given in the report. The position is rendered still more unfavourable by a decline of £4,511 to £7,598 in the balance brought forward, this, with dividends on investments, bringing the credit available to £159,814 compared with £172,043. Then fixed charges increased £2,519 owing to a big advance in bankers' charges, leaving £115,548 available for dividend, a shrinkage of £14,749. Preference payments are the same, and the directors are obliged to reduce the distribution on the ordinary stock from 9 per cent. to 8 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £1,215 against £6,753. This is the poorest display the company has made for some time, and the result is probably causing some disturbance in shareholders' minds. Happily, capital expenditure for the half-year was £8,954 only, but £37,800 will probably be laid out in the current half-year, and already the financial position is not very satisfactory, as the capital account is overdrawn £216,002 involving bankers' loans of £153,338. Dividends payable February 14.

VALE OF GLAMORGAN RAILWAY COMPANY.

This undertaking is now virtually the property of the Barry Company, which had to find £5,890 in the past half-year under agreement, in addition to handing over 40 per cent. of the gross receipts, representing a further amount of £7,611. Other small items raise the total revenue to £13,772, and after providing administration charges, &c., the balance remaining is £13,254. Add £774 brought in, and the sum for disposal is £14,029, which provides fixed charges and a dividend at 4½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, carrying forward £722.

BRECON AND MERTHYR TYDFIL JUNCTION RAILWAY.

For the six months ended December 31 the gross revenue was £59,300, decrease £1,010; working expenditure £37,021, decrease £373; ratio between expenditure and income 62.43 per cent. against 62.02 per cent. No part of the traffic showed a really important decrease, the principal declines being passengers £496, merchandise £322 and minerals £366. Parcels, horses, carriages, &c., did pretty well being up £263. On the expenditure side locomotive power cost £1,348 less, but carriage and wagon repairs rose £179, traffic expenses £423 and law charges £385. Balance of nett revenue is £22,279 against £22,916, but the sum brought in was £900 up to £1,137, so that the credit for distribution is £23,416, a gain of £264. Arrears of interest on the "B" debenture stock having been cleared off a year ago, the fixed charges are now only £19,815 against £22,527, and the directors are able to provide a dividend at 4 per cent. per annum on the first preference stock, carrying forward £1,478. Negotiations have been proceeding for the lease of the line in perpetuity to the Barry Company, but upon entering into details of the scheme the directors did not consider that certain of the conditions offered would be acceptable.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY (IRELAND).

In the December half-year this company's gross earnings came to £520,773 and the expenses were £272,248, receipts showing a decline of £1,058 and expenses an increase of £177, the proportion of expenses to receipts being 52.2 per cent. These changes have not been sufficient to affect the dividend, which remains at 6¾ per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, leaving £51,510 to be carried forward after placing £20,000 to account of permanent way, roads, bridges, and other renewal and improvement undertakings. Still the line is not so progressive as we should like to see it, and the changes in the items of expenditure do not seem to indicate any regularity in their treatment. Thus locomotive power is down nearly £7,000 and maintenance of way up about £8,000. Traffic expenses, however, remain about the same and general charges are up only about £500. The amount spent on capital account last half-year was £102,678, of which £17,450 went into new working stock and about £30,000 into lines open for traffic. Another £40,000 was subscribed to the undertakings of other companies. The directors state in the report that alone with the Midland Railway Company of England, they are promoting a Bill in Parliament for the two lines to take over jointly the Donegal Railway Company, but they do not seem to have contentious business before the House this session. At the date of the accounts the general balance-sheet showed that the capital account was overdrawn by £279,354, against which the reserve funds, benevolent funds, and so on held by the company amounted to only £153,000. Some small further issues of capital should therefore be looked for in the not distant future. Dividend warrants will be posted on February 28.

BELFAST AND COUNTY DOWN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Gross revenue for the six months ended December 31, £383,480; increase, £2,551; working expenses, £49,731; increase, £3,391; proportion of expenditure to gross receipts, 59.55 per cent., against 57.2 per cent. With the exception of a small decline in live stock, all classes of business showed improvement, passengers advancing £613, parcels, horses, carriages, &c., £481, merchandise £1,270, and minerals £207. A good deal of the increased expenditure was in maintenance of way and works up £2,753, including an extra £1,000 at £3,000 reserved for future renewals. Under locomotive power the advance was quite small, but carriage and wagon repairs rose £489, and traffic expenses £433. Compensation was larger, as also rates and taxes, but steamboat working expenditure showed a slight decline, and there was a big reduction in law charges. Including balance brought forward and other revenue, the nett sum for disposal is £37,198, and after providing fixed charges, the directors pay the preference interest and a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, carrying forward £5,808. Reserve, however, receives no contribution, against

£1,000 put by a year ago. Expenditure on capital account was £18,420, and £17,500 will be laid out in the six months now current, but a fresh issue is not immediately necessary, as sundry accumulations offset the debit to capital of £58,849.

LIVERPOOL OVERHEAD RAILWAY COMPANY.

During the half-year ended December 31 this company carried 5,617,672 passengers, or about 4,000 more than in the corresponding period, but the advance was entirely in workmen's cheap tickets, the ordinary first and third-class traffic showing a falling off. In fact, the average receipts per passenger were only 1.78d., against 1.90d., and the directors have introduced a system of differential fares, with the view of meeting the competition of the tramways, which has worked such havoc with the company's traffic. The Seaforth extension was opened in July, but the through train service to Southport has not yet been inaugurated, owing to the delay in completing the necessary rolling stock by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. Up to the present the Seaforth extension has increased the working expenses, without so far producing any corresponding improvement in earnings. From all sources the revenue was £39,388, or a decrease of £2,100, and as the working expenses, including £1,500, or £500 less, for renewals, advanced £656 to £32,186, the nett revenue declines £2,756 to £7,201. Balance brought forward was rather better at £4,336, and general interest increased £21, but even so the disposable sum is only £11,788 against £14,239. Fixed charges are larger by £224, and the directors can do no more than provide the dividend on the preference capital, carrying forward much the same at £3,784. A year ago a distribution at 1¼ per cent. per annum was made on the ordinary shares, and we fear a long time must elapse before payments can be again resumed.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT RAILWAY CO.

The proportion of gross receipts for the six months to the end of December payable by the working company rose £51 to £1,822, but rents were £19 less at £91. The amount payable by the Midland Railway Company was up £250 at £3,750, which helped to advance the gross revenue from £5,205 to £5,051. General charges, rates and taxes and law charges reduced this to £168,125. Expenditure on freehold land and buildings was brought forward and general interest, £110, made the total of the nett revenue account £5,755, or £375 more. Interest on debentures, rent of the Midland station and rents of leased lands took £2,058, leaving £2,797 available for dividend. The preference shares receive 1 per cent. more at 5 per cent., absorbing £2,500, which reduces the carry forward to £297. Warrants will be posted on the 27th inst.

WATERLOO AND CITY RAILWAY COMPANY.

There was a decrease of about 50,000 in the number of passengers carried by this useful little line during the second half of 1905 as compared with the corresponding six months, partly explained by the fact that the period contained two working days less. After deducting Government duty and adding rents and transfer fees, the total revenue amounts to £17,469, or £214 less, from which working expenses and sum payable to the working company absorb £8,030, and general charges £222, leaving the nett balance at £9,217. Amount brought forward was £659, rent charge gave £640, and interest £11, making £10,533 in all. Fixed payments having been provided, the directors again propose a distribution on the ordinary stock at the rate of 3¼ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £380. The parent South-Western Company is promoting a Bill for the purchase of the line on terms to be mutually agreed upon.

WILTS AND DORSET BANKING CO., LIMITED.

On December 31 last this strong bank owed £10,765,699 on deposit, current and other accounts or £344,891 more than at the end of the previous year, most of which has been added to the investments, which are up by £268,159 to £4,451,752, including £1,000,000 of Consols entered at 85. Cash on hand at Bank of England and in hands of London agents and brokers is very little larger at £1,740,039, and bills discounted, loans, overdrafts, &c., have been increased £75,942 to £5,873,917. Reserve or surplus fund remains at £750,000 compared with the paid-up capital of £700,000. Gross profit for the twelve months ended December 31 was £290,516, after making provision for bad and doubtful debts and writing down the cost of bank premises, &c. That is a slight decline compared with the previous year, but the sum of £6,563 brought in was larger, so that the actual credit for disposal is £297,079 or an increase of £23. General expenditure required a trifle less at £150,438, and after providing the usual dividends, making 20 per cent. for the year, the directors carry forward £6,641. The auditors remark that the market value of the bank's investments is in excess of the amount at which they stand in the balance-sheet.

DEVON AND CORNWALL BANKING CO., LIMITED.

This well-known institution presents its 74th and last annual report, the shareholders having already agreed to transfer their business to Lloyds Bank as from the beginning of the current year. Last 12 months the gross profits were £194,964, or £3,311 more than in 1904, against which the working expenses were down a little to £139,275. With £7,026 brought in the nett balance is £62,715 against £60,026, and after maintaining the dividend and bonus at 20 per cent., the directors again write off £3,000 from premises account, and carry forward £9,715. There is a very small increase in the current deposit and other accounts to £4,258,102, and cash and loans to brokers are almost exactly the same at £549,762. Investments, £1,778,714, compared with

£1,767,067, and bills and advances have risen £33,781 to £2,435,593.

BANK OF CALCUTTA.

In its half-year to December 31 last this carefully managed bank made a profit of Rs. 1,70,042, including Rs. 66,779 brought forward. After distributing the preference dividend and 5 per cent. upon the ordinary share capital paid up, Rs. 75,000 is added to the reserve and the carry forward raised to Rs. 67,542. With this addition the reserve fund will now amount to Rs. 18,75,000, as against a paid-up capital of Rs. 10,00,000. Very few banks in existence are in this position so far as reserves are concerned. Current and fixed deposits amount to Rs. 1,51,96,342, and the loans, cash credits, debts due to the bank for which it holds security came to Rs. 93,93,303, while local bills discounted stood at Rs. 5,22,455. Advances against Government paper, &c., figure for another Rs. 24,53,560, the aggregate of the balance-sheet being Rs. 1,82,76,260.

ANGLO-FOREIGN BANKING COMPANY, LIMITED.

During the twelve months ended December 31 the gross profits of this bank were £62,411, after providing £3,352 for rebate, an increase compared with the preceding year of £5,250. Against that the expenses were somewhat less at £18,988, leaving the nett balance at £43,423, an improvement of £5,534. Then there was an advance of £645 to £4,586 in the balance brought forward, making the sum for disposal £48,009 compared with £41,830. Bank premises redemption fund and income-tax absorb £2,521, and after again providing dividends aggregating 5 per cent. and a bonus of 3s. per share, bringing the total return to a little over 7 per cent., the directors place £10,000, or £5,000 more, to reserve, and carry forward £5,488 against £4,586. This addition will increase the reserve to £140,000, and the paid-up capital is £420,000. Compared with the previous balance-sheet, the deposits, loans, &c., have substantially increased to £805,471, and the liability on bills negotiated shows an increase of £620,819 to £2,654,944. The current accounts are up by over £78,000 to £378,841, and acceptances, which have a per contra entry, figure at £726,453, against £653,299. On the credit side the cash and loans for short periods amount to £398,806, or £59,903 more, and bills receivable and foreign loans have increased £169,786 to £592,430. Investments of £332,399 are a little larger, but advances on current accounts show a reduction of £144,934 to £442,729, while the bills negotiated, £2,654,944, represent the entry on the other side.

LONDON ROAD CAR CO., LIMITED.

During the half-year ended December 31 this company's revenue was £216,249, or an increase compared with the corresponding period of £4,680, to which the ordinary traffic contributed £2,795, sundries £966, dividends and interest £968, and the jobbing department £140. On the other hand, the total car expenditure went up by £1,573, a comparatively small amount, but some of the individual items show important changes. On maintenance, for example, there was a saving of £7,501, and it is most instructive to note that horse renewals, which are included under this head, show a reduction of £11,574, while motor fuel and lubricants cost only £3,033. Against this, however, we have to note an increase in general repairs of £8,797, car and motor repairs and renewals being up £8,481 to £18,907. Administration cost an additional £805, owing to increases in rates and taxes and salaries, and after providing for a slight increase in the jobbing department outlay, the balance of nett revenue is £18,366, or an improvement of £2,889. From this the directors allow £1,052 for renewal fund and depreciation, so that with £6,614 brought in, the sum for disposal is £23,927. Debenture interest requires £3,000, leaving £20,927, out of which the directors propose to transfer £5,000 to the credit of the "substitution suspense account" and £1,000 to the "reserve for depreciation and renewal of motor chassis." A dividend is then proposed at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, with a credit to next account of £4,271. Twelve months ago the distribution was at 6½ per cent. per annum, but no reserve contributions were made, and we are disposed to think the directors are handling the motor question in a very businesslike fashion. In a circular issued about a year ago they stated that the substitution of mechanical power for horse traction would be carried out gradually, the existing horses and cars to be disposed of by degrees. Owing, however, to the rapid development in motor services by the advent of new competitive companies, it has been found absolutely necessary to considerably accelerate the process of substitution, which will involve the sale of horses far in excess of the number which in the ordinary course have been disposed of in each half-year. It has, therefore, been decided to form a substitution suspense account, and to transfer to the fund the value of the horses sold and not replaced, together with the value of the horse cars not required. This fund will then be extinguished by contributions from profits as opportunity affords. Further portions of the company's stables have been and are being converted into motor depôts and workshops for motors. Number of horses in stock at the end of the year was 4,913 only, against 5,519 at the corresponding date, but the cost of feeding was no less than 9½d higher per horse per week. Passengers carried amounted to 36,275,065, against 35,687,413.

DUBLIN UNITED TRAMWAYS CO. (1896), LIMITED.

The Dublin Southern District Tramways Company is now completely merged in this undertaking, and only one set of accounts is necessary. For the half-year ended December 31 the income from all sources was £139,162, or just £161 in excess of the corresponding six months of 1904, and as the working expenses went up £1,759 to £74,675, the nett revenue is £1,598

smaller at £64,487. Sum brought in was £5,255, and interest on investments gave £39, making £69,780 in all, and after providing for wayleaves, debenture and other interest, £49,707 is left. Dividend on preference shares absorbs £17,100, and the directors again propose a distribution at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary capital, adding £4,000 to reserve and £1,000 to accident insurance fund, and providing £2,500 for maintenance in the current half-year, the sum carried forward being £7,107, against £6,848. Capital expenditure for the six months was £7,230, not a large sum, and there is still a credit to the account of £42,815. Reserves will now reach £24,000, but there is a discount on the issue of "B" debenture stock of £24,704 carried as an asset, which practically wipes away these savings. The company possesses the large cash balance of £67,000.

DUBLIN AND LUCAN ELECTRIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

In the half-year ended December 31 this company's revenue from all sources was £3,328 or £8 less than in the corresponding period, but the working expenditure rose £89 to £1,785, leaving the nett balance at £1,543, or a decline of nearly £100. With the smaller sum of £137 brought in the total credit is £1,680, and after providing debenture interest of £375, the directors pay a dividend at 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, applying another £500 towards electrical equipment account, and carrying forward £339. Total amount applied during the year 1900 in reduction of capital expenditure on electrical equipment is £900, and the amount still to be provided is well below £1,000, exclusive apparently of interest.

CITY OF BUENOS AYRES TRAMWAYS COMPANY (1904), LIMITED.

Although the system belonging to this company has now become part of the Anglo-Argentine Tramways Company's undertaking, the separate existence of the concern is continued, and the first annual report has just been issued, made up to December 31. In it the directors congratulate the proprietors on the successful completion of the reconstruction scheme, under which the company was formed, and state that the annuity payable by the Anglo-Argentine Company has been received. It amounted to £71,060, making, with other items, a total income of £4,253, and after providing for the debenture service and administration the nett balance is £64,832. From that dividends aggregating 5s. per share are provided, £2,750 goes to the general amortisation fund, and £82 is carried forward. A redemption fund for the debenture stock has already been commenced, and at present amounts to £11,895.

HULL BREWERY COMPANY, LIMITED.

An increase of £2,594 to £64,325 took place in the gross profits of this business for the past year, compared with the preceding twelve months, and rents were £11,431 or £446 more, making a total of £75,756 against £72,717. Transfer fees gave another £17, and after providing £3,374 for depreciation and repairs, and administrative charges, etc., including £2,430 for the compensation fund, and £2,500 for income-tax reserve, the nett balance is £53,123. Interest on debentures, mortgages, and loans absorbs £15,407, leaving £37,716, to which is added £3,740 brought in, making £41,065. Dividend on the preference shares takes £9,100, and the directors pay dividends aggregating 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, together with a bonus of 5s. per share, making 12½ per cent. in all. A bonus of £700 then goes to the staff, £500 to the employees' pension fund, and £5,000 each to depreciation and general reserve funds, carrying forward £4,515. Additions to properties during the year were £8,162, making £667,118 in all; and the depreciation allowance of £5,000 seems terribly poor, even though the reserve fund does reach £120,000. The debenture debt is in excess of the paid-up capital, beside which there are mortgages and loans £61,568 and sundry creditors £14,186. Liquid assets being very small, the position cannot be described as a strong one, and it is a pity that some part of the reserve is not invested away from the business.

BRISTOL UNITED BREWERIES, LIMITED.

This important business earned a trading profit of £58,552 during the past twelve months, a further sum of £9,306 came in from rents, and sundry other items of revenue produced £1,188, so that with £8,538 brought forward the total income is £77,584. From that the directors have to provide £2,278 for the compensation fund charge, balance of income tax absorbs £169 and directors' and auditors' fees £1,710. A sum of £5,000 having been written off brewery premises and plant account, and the debenture interest and preference dividend provided, two dividends aggregating 15 per cent. are paid on the ordinary shares and £7,377 or £1,161 less is carried forward. The directors point out that the company's contribution to the compensation fund represents round about 1 per cent. on the ordinary capital, while in addition to this the cost of hops for the twelve months has exceeded the average of the preceding seven years by £3,163. These, however, are minor drawbacks, and no one need be dissatisfied with the result. The financial position cannot be described as better than fair, although it is good to note that the company has determined to pay off the £35,000 5 per cent. (Sykes) debenture stock, reducing the debenture debt to £250,000 against the share capital of £460,000. Value of the properties is set down at £823,232 against which there are reserves of £146,000, but all except £37,789 is invested in the business, and the cash balance is not very startling at £17,034. In addition to the reserves the company possesses a dividend equalisation fund of £5,000, and the debenture premium redemption account of £5,930. Floating liabilities come to

£44,499, debtors amount to £50,561, including mortgages, loans, rents, &c., and stocks are valued at £55,716.

SOUTH METROPOLITAN GAS COMPANY.

The half-yearly report of this quite famous enterprise is crammed full of interesting matter which we should like to quote at length, but pressure on space is severe, and brief reference only can be accorded. The directors are loud in their praise of the Welsbach incandescent mantle, and deliberately advise its use to their customers, notwithstanding that the consumption of gas is thereby materially lessened, because they believe that it affords the best and cheapest of all artificial lights and helps to render the position of the company secure. Not only that, but it renders the production of a highly-luminous gas no longer necessary and Sir George Livesey, who may be considered the pioneer of cheap gas, tells us that the testing of gas has at last been put upon a footing whereby honest men can comply with the requirements without difficulty or anxiety and the public be not a penny the worse; in fact, rather the reverse, because the removal of needless and vexatious restrictions tends to the lowering of price. Sales of gas at the old figure of 2s. per 1,000 cubic feet produced £592,865, or £8,379 more than in the corresponding period, and meters and stoves in use gave a revenue of £59,124 against £55,522, but residuals fell off by £23,865 to £232,793, so that with other revenue of £1,765 the receipts from all sources were down £11,807 to £886,548. Expenditure, however, was pulled down in all directions, manufacture of gas costing £507,961; distribution, £91,225; rents, rates, and taxes, £40,309, and management £28,768. A sum of £18,000 was payable under the co-partnership scheme, and after providing sundry other charges the nett balance is left at £187,915, or an increase of £15,478. Balance brought forward was £22,300 against £65,375, and interest on bankers' balances gave £117, making the sum for division £210,332, from which debenture, loan and other interest takes £32,674, leaving £177,558. Dividend payable under the sliding scale when gas is sold at 2s. per 1,000 cubic feet is at the rate of £5 14s. 8d. per cent. per annum, and had it been earned the directors would have recommended the payment of a dividend at the rate of £5 13s. 4d. per cent. Shareholders, however, must be content with a distribution at 5½ per cent. per annum, the same as in the corresponding period, as to pay even this the carry-forward must be reduced to £5,683. There are 190,640 slot meters now in use, being an increase of over 17,000 on the year, partly transfers from ordinary consumers, but the enormous extension of this branch of business in the last ten years has necessitated a very large capital expenditure on mains, services, meters, stoves, and fittings. In the ten years from 1885 to 1895 the capital increased £964,078 and the coal used by 305,264 tons, or at the rate of £3 3s. 2d. per ton, whereas in the next ten years, 1895 to 1905, no less than £1,602,769—two-thirds of it due to the slot meters—was added to the capital, and 370,541 tons to the coal used, or £4 6s. 6d. per ton. Such an increase of capital per ton of coal for new business would have been a serious matter except that in the ten years the gas sold per ton has risen from 9,340 to 10,223 cubic feet. The total capital per 1,000 feet sold was 9s. in 1895 and 8s. 5d. in 1905, the favourable movement being mainly due to improved working and partly to the nominal reduction of illuminating power.

ST. JAMES' AND PALL MALL ELECTRIC LIGHT CO., LIMITED.

This company only added 7,195 8 c.p. lamps to its system during 1905 compared with 24,421 a year ago, making a total of 286,084, but its sales of current increased by 462,541 units to 9,039,477 units, of which 6,654,217 or 165,628 more, were generated at its own station, and 2,385,260 were bought from the Central Electric Supply Co. Stress of competition, however, caused a further reduction in the rates charged, and the average price realised, including contracts and public lighting, worked out at 2.96d per unit only against 3.27d and 3.88d in the two preceding years, so that the revenue from this source, notwithstanding the larger sales, was £5,332 down at £111,697, and the total income from all sources came to £5,136 less at £115,673. Purchase of current cost £2,165 more at £17,592, and with extra expenses, due to large temporary disconnections of lamps owing to extensive rebuilding operations in the district and to special charges incurred in defending the company's interests in Parliament, the nett revenue after writing off £14,794 or £77 less for depreciation, was reduced from £40,409 to £31,670. A slightly larger balance of £2,891 was brought forward, and the directors, instead of placing the dividend received from the Central Electric Company on account of 1904 to the contingency fund as had been intended add this to the nett revenue, giving a total of £37,885 to be dealt with against £44,141. Debenture interest and preference dividend having been met, the directors are able to pay the usual dividend of 12½ per cent. for the year on the ordinary shares, but cannot manage to provide the bonus of 2 per cent., and, in order to pay the dividend have to reduce the balance forward to £634. After deducting depreciation the capital account shows a credit of £18,343, and in addition there is a capital reserve of £66,529, against which investments are held valued at £31,347, apart from the £50,000 in Central Electric ordinary shares. Trading balances are well in favour of the company, liabilities to sundry creditors amounting to no more than £16,059 against £29,897 to come in, but cash is not over plentiful at £6,485. The company, in association with the Westminster, Kensington and Knightsbridge and Notting Hill companies, is promoting a Bill under the title of the "West London Electric Undertakers' Association," which it is hoped will lead to economy of production and regularity of service by linking up several sources of supply in the West End.

CENTRAL ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO., LIMITED.

This company works entirely through the St. James' and Pall Mall and Westminster companies, and during the year ended December 31 supplied those two undertakings with 7,102,960 units or an increase of 888,087 units, but the results to itself were by no means satisfactory. Receipts from all sources, it is true, rose by £7,919 to £55,402, but expenses took £5,658 more at £31,541, and as the amount brought forward was only £7 compared with £4,403 a year ago, the nett profits were £2,135 down at £23,908. Then, as the company is steadily adding to its debenture debt, having issued £21,542 in the 12 months, interest payments required more and after transferring an extra £1,000 at £10,000 to depreciation fund, there was only a trifle of £298 left, so that no dividend can be paid on the shares against 5 per cent. a year ago. The issue of debenture stock has enabled the company to pull down its debit balance on capital account to £15,027, and sundry creditors have been reduced by £8,399 to £6,795. On the other hand, sundry debtors are £10,398 up at £24,035, but cash has shrunk from £4,798 to £1,814 and there is still a loan of £20,000 from the bankers.

BORAX CONSOLIDATED, LIMITED.

In their report for the year ended September 30, the directors of this huge enterprise report that the sales of the company's products have been very satisfactory, and the output of the factories has been fully maintained and absorbed. Moreover, the outlook for the current year appears to ensure a continuance of the present prosperity. Profit on trading was £268,238, or £3,466 more, and interest and transfer fees came to £12,095, so that, all told, the income reached £280,333. Directors and trustees' fees and administrative charges reduce this to £254,025, from which debenture interest takes £62,038, interim dividends £52,000, and income tax £1,992, leaving, with £14,838 brought forward, a balance of £152,832. Depreciation reserve next requires £15,000, and the debenture stock redemption sinking fund £5,825, and the directors now propose to complete the preference dividend and bring the ordinary distribution up to 17½ per cent., the same as before, writing off £20,000 from the year's expenditure on exploration inspection and development of properties, and carrying forward £15,007. Mines and goodwill are valued slightly higher at £1,847,854, and freehold and leasehold buildings, plant, railways, machinery, etc., have been increased by £40,780, so that, after allowing for a deduction of £10,000 in respect of Connah's Quay works, the nett increase is £30,780 to £529,291. Advances, investments, etc., represent a further sum of £424,749, debtors and bills are some way in front of the floating liabilities, and cash is pretty substantial at £95,652. Altogether the reserves reach £304,568, of which £95,000 is for depreciation, and the exploration expenditure, etc., still carried as an asset, is now only £28,460. The company has arranged to guarantee the principal and interest of an issue of £500,000 first mortgage debenture stock of the Tonopah and Tidewater Railway Company, an arrangement which will, in the opinion of the directors, bring great advantages to the company as soon as the railway is completed.

MEASURES BROTHERS, LIMITED.

When the directors of this iron and steel business submitted their report twelve months ago they spoke of a slightly better trade prospect, and rather created the impression that the worst of the bad times had been seen and passed. Under the circumstances, a comparatively favourable display was anticipated on account of the past year's operation, and the company's securities shared the advance lately common to almost all enterprises of the class. Great was the disappointment therefore when the report came out this week showing the company to have done worse than ever and that no ordinary share dividend can be paid. Nor is that the whole of the story, other incidents foreshadowed a year ago assisting to make the latest report a particularly distressing one. To begin, however, with the year's results, we find that the trading account yielded a profit of £35,327, or £1,681 less than in 1904, and after adding directors' and transfer fees the total income is £36,035, against £37,593. All but £9,040 of that, however, was swept away in charges of various kinds, including debenture interest, £3,375, depreciation, £2,252, rents, rates, lighting, coal, and insurance, £6,288; salaries, stationery, and general charges, £7,345, and directors' and trustees' remuneration, £4,410—rather a formidable sum. From the profit mentioned, the preference dividend required £4,125, leaving £5,114, including the sum of £199 brought forward; but this would only give about 2 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and the directors have decided that nothing shall be paid. A year ago the distribution was 3½ per cent., with the assistance of £2,500 from the contingency fund, but further drafts from that account are now impossible, for the simple reason that most of it has been used to make good over-sanguine estimates of the stock valuation in the past—not at all a pleasant business. Last year the auditors or the directors, we forget which, referred to a necessary readjustment of the item of stock-in-trade, and we now learn that the "question of stock values has been considered by the board and a reduction made of £15,299 by transfer from contingency fund." In other words, past profits have not been properly stated, and we shall not be surprised if, at the forthcoming meeting, something forcible is said by the shareholders. Stocks are now £84,250, still a large figure, but they are taken at average cost price, which seems fair enough. Reserve fund still stands at £20,000, but the transfer mentioned brings the contingency fund to £1,605, and goodwill is enormous at £210,081. To sundry creditors the sum owing is £22,241, against which

there are sundry debtors £28,883, bills receivable £714, investments £18,835, and cash £6,371. Freehold and leasehold property, fixed and loose plant, etc., is valued at £74,791, and tools, stores, etc., at £11,560. In explanation of the results the directors say that until the end of the year trade continued in the same depressed state as for some time past. During the greater part of the period orders could only be obtained on terms which simply enabled the company to keep the works going, and although a considerable improvement took place during the last two months it came too late to make a substantial increase in the profits. For 1906 the outlook is apparently a good deal better, and shareholders will share the hope of the directors that the failure to pay a dividend will be compensated for in 1906.

PAWSONS AND LEAF, LIMITED.

In its year ended January 24 last this company made a slightly increased profit of £11,767, being £677 more. To pay the preference dividend, however, for the year takes £13,800, and as another £500 is set aside for the redemption of the St. Paul's Churchyard leases, it follows that the balance to be carried forward has to be further reduced to £49,761, a decrease of £2,593 upon the balance brought in, and of £5,800 upon that of two years back. Thus the position of the company seems to be gradually becoming less stable, and apparently nothing much can be done to strengthen it. The items in the balance-sheet do not present anything for comment excepting this, that between the company and want there is only a fixtures reserve account of £3,370 over and above the diminishing balance carried forward. Creditors on open account are owed £7,527 more than a year ago at £53,047, but there is a decrease of £2,170 in bills payable at £8,087. Cash creditors are also down by £4,290 to £16,604. Stocks are also £1,800 less at £173,793 after 2½ discount has been written off cost price, and although the total looks formidable, yet we may presume that the company is stronger through the increase in its debtors, who owe it about £4,000 more at about £201,000. Bills receivable stand at £24,222, and cash at bankers at £19,747, while the expenditure in connection with the new buildings remains at £111,079, exclusive of £1,542 laid out on internal alterations. Altogether a sadly waterlogged business; the more is the pity.

BRADBURY, GREATOREX AND CO., LIMITED.

Profits of this wholesale drapery business showed a moderate recovery during the past year, but in considering the improvement of £1,630 to £20,544 it must be remembered that the last period covered was 12½ months to January 12, 1906, against a year only to December 31, 1904. The gain therefore is more apparent than real, and we are sorry to find the directors again paying dividends largely in excess of the revenue earned. To provide the preference dividend and 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares as recommended requires £24,200, and since the profit was only £20,544, the credit carried forward is brought down from £5,815 to £2,160. This is the third year in succession that the dividend has exceeded the profits, with the result that the free credit, which at the end of 1902 was £11,413, is now over £9,000 smaller. This kind of thing must now cease even though the company is pretty strong in reserves. All told the savings are £100,000 against an aggregate of assets of £701,635, including stock £174,569, leasehold buildings £73,395, fixtures, fittings, &c., £5,959, bills receivable £34,020, investments £5,000, cash £37,405 and debtors £371,287, a prodigious sum. On the other side the company owes £140,358 to sundry creditors and £15,577 on bills payable, and has a loan on the security of the leases of £47,262. The debenture debt is fortunately small at £36,800.

BROWNE AND EAGLE, LIMITED.

The same old story is told by the directors of this broken-down business in their latest report, and it would be only a weariness to repeat it. The one outstanding fact is that on a total capital of £375,000 the company earned a profit of £7,261 in the year to December 31, or £888 more than in the preceding 12 months, and that after providing debenture interest of £6,000 the carry forward is increased from £627 to £1,888. No dividend can be paid on the preference or ordinary shares, to the directors' regret, of course, and there is small probability of improvement in the future, near or distant. What, then, is to be done? We can give no hint. The company had a few more bales of wool allotted to its warehouses in the past year, and the colonial production is again expected to show a large increase, but most of the wool is now disposed of in home markets, instead of being shipped to London, and to an important degree the company's status has gone. Even if the finances were reorganised and the capital cut down until it was unrecognisable we doubt if the concern could make any return, and it seems to us a case of writing off the money as lost unless the vendors prove generous. Freehold and leasehold properties remain at the old figure of £377,016, and if all the other assets were realised they would do little more than pay off the floating liabilities.

WILLIAM WALLACE AND CO., LIMITED.

This Curtain Road business of cabinet and furniture manufacturers, converted into a limited company as recently as 1899, has had a somewhat chequered career, and is still in a rather distressing condition. Last year the company really performed very badly, but with a fine flourish the directors announce that the nett profit, including the amount brought forward from last year's accounts, amounted to £3,608. That is no doubt quite true, but as the profit was £1,350 and the sum brought in £2,257, the actual position should have been more clearly stated, especially as practically the entire sum is to be paid away in

dividends. An interim distribution at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum has been already made, absorbing £1,747, and the directors now propose to repeat this payment, carrying forward the trifle of £112. This is a very unsatisfactory condition of affairs, and if the true interests of the business were studied no dividend at all would be paid. Reserve is only £2,220, against £28,301 standing for goodwill, and the depreciation allowance of £577 on leaseholds, plant, furniture, fixtures, &c., not too generous. Stocks stand at £13,377, sundry debtors come to £12,643 against creditors £5,685, and cash and investments are entered at £4,075. For the sake of reference it may be mentioned that the profit on trading was £3,172, and that transfer fees gave £13, while the total charges reached £1,835.

ASHTON BROS. AND CO., LIMITED.

This cotton spinning and weaving business did splendidly during the year to December 31 last, and reports a profit on trading of £86,214, to which is added £4 for transfer fees, making £86,218. From that debenture interest and preference dividend absorbed £9,234, and after providing £16,669 for depreciation, together with £293 for other purposes, the nett balance is £60,353, including £331 brought forward. How greatly improved is this result compared with that of the previous year is shown by the fact that twelve months back the directors were obliged to take £1,000 from reserve in order to pay a dividend of 5 per cent. On account of the period under review an interim dividend of 2½ per cent. has been already paid on the ordinary shares, and the directors now propose to bring this up to 10 per cent., adding no less than £41,000 to reserve and carrying forward £8,552. Reserve will now be £50,000, and when opportunity arises we hope the directors will invest part of these savings outside the business. At present they are nearly all locked up in stocks, which amount to £134,758, this asset, together with £229,947 for land, buildings, machinery, &c., representing a total outlay of £364,705 against a share and debenture capital of £324,000. Sundry other reserves for special purposes come to £3,325, and against floating liabilities of £31,409 the company has debtors £47,773, investments £13,673 and cash £315.

LINOLEUM MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

After falling away in 1904 this company's business improved during the 12 months ending December 31 last. The gross profit, which includes dividends and interest, undivided, amounted to £75,754, and the nett profit was about £11,000 higher at £54,855. Over £2,000 more at £19,507 was brought in and after placing £10,000 to reserve, against nothing a year ago, the directors repeat the dividend and bonus of 15 per cent., and increase the balance taken to the current accounts to £22,704. The reserve account now stands at £81,704 and there are insurance accounts of £32,764, total £114,468, an increase of £13,219 on the year. Of this £70,907 is represented by Government securities and the holding in the German company. Creditors have risen £1,353 to £18,669, but sundry debtors and bills receivable are £4,600 higher at £49,999. Cash, too, is over £5,300 more at £30,723, whilst stock-in-trade has dropped from £171,562 to £168,125. Expenditure on freehold land and buildings was £7,705 and on machinery £9,932 and after writing off depreciation these items are £5,721 and £2,713 higher at £77,373 and £64,639 respectively.

DAY AND MARTIN, LIMITED.

It is good to note a decided recovery in this company's profits for the past year, as we had begun to fear that the various substitutes for blacking now so popular had wrought serious and permanent harm to its business. Probably they have, up to a certain point, as the revenue is still a long way below that earned prior to and immediately after the incorporation of the present company, but that is the kind of thing we have long become accustomed to. Trading profit is returned at £10,238, and amongst various other items of income aggregating about £1,000 may be mentioned profit on sale of Consols £166, income tax refunded £118 and retransfer on account of over-provision for lease redemption £399. From all sources therefore the income is £11,265, and after providing directors' and auditors' fees and income tax the nett balance is £10,100 or nearly double as much as in the previous year. This credit is reduced to £9,593 by the sum of £500 written off annuities, and the directors propose to use £7,600 in paying a dividend of 5 per cent., increasing the carry forward by £2,000 to £3,926. For the previous year the same dividend was paid, but then it was not earned, and the directors were obliged to draw heavily upon the sum brought in. The company has a very good supply of easily realisable assets and few floating liabilities, but that does not render the undertaking really strong, because it is only capital that is kept liquid, no reserves being possessed apart from a sinking fund for leases of £1,790.

WEARDALE AND CONSETT WATER COMPANY.

The new reservoir at Hisehope was not completed until October last, and as owing to the drought which prevailed in the winter of 1904-5 the other reservoirs were not so well filled as usual, supplies of water for manufacturing purposes in the Consett district had to be seriously curtailed. Gross revenue for the twelve months ended December 31 consequently fell off by £1,824 to £77,080, and at the same time working expenses were increased by the necessity of pumping water continuously throughout the first nine months, so that nett profits came to £4,818 less at £51,963. With £8,142 or £922 more brought forward the disposable balance was £60,105, and after paying the preference dividend the directors are able to repeat the dis-

tribution of 5¼ per cent. on the ordinary stock by cutting down the amount carried forward to £3,278. A sum of £28,710 was spent on the construction of the new reservoir, mains, &c., during the year, making a debit balance on capital account of £18,007, and as cash in hand is down to £12,295 the company will evidently have to borrow the funds to meet the dividends just declared. The reservoir, however, is now in use and further capital expenditure should be insignificant.

COLNE VALLEY WATER COMPANY.

For the six months ended December 31 the revenue from all sources showed an increase of £1,239 at £18,820, while expenditure rose by £467 to £6,762, leaving the nett income £772 up at £12,058. Including £1,134 or £190 more brought in and £72 from interest, the balance available was £960 larger at £13,264, and after meeting debenture interest and preference dividend the directors pay an extra ¾ per cent. at 8½ per cent. per annum on the 10 per cent. maximum shares, with the full dividend on the 7 per cent. maximum shares, and again transfer £1,000 to contingency fund, leaving £1,879 to be carried forward against £1,004 a year ago. Investments consist of £1,492 of 2½ per cent. Metropolitan consolidated stock and £2,000 Manchester 3 per cent. stock taken at £1,508 and £2,188 respectively, figures far above their present market value, but the only provision for depreciation considered necessary is the transfer of the trifling amount of £72 received as interest. In September last the remaining 900 £10 shares were offered for sale by tender at a minimum of £1 per share, and were disposed of at an average of £22 9s. 9d. per share, producing £20,239. Only part of this, however, had been received at the end of the half-year, and as the expenditure came to £10,661 the capital account showed a debit balance of £2,874.

THE "FINANCIAL TIMES," LIMITED.

Financial and commercial affairs are improving, the directors of this company state in their report, and accordingly they are easily able to declare a dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the second half of last year, making 12½ per cent. for the year, also to set aside £2,000 as a special reserve towards the cost of the electrification of the printing works. A balance of £10,790 will even then be left to carry forward against £10,793 brought in. A fair amount, too, seems to be written off for depreciation, if we may judge from the fact that while £3,890 in capital was spent last year on new plant and machinery, £3,108 was written off. As profits grow, no doubt further reductions of this kind will be made, so that the position of the company will continue to improve. It is healthy now.

MANCHESTER SAFE DEPOSIT CO., LIMITED.

The revenue from safe and deposit rentals for the twelve months ended December 31 showed a further trifling improvement of £35 at £1,435, and with £17 from interest and transfer fees the total income was £38 up at £1,452. Expenses took £857 of this, and after transferring another £50 to contingent fund a profit of £545 was left, to which was added £54 brought in, giving £599 available for dividend, against £578. Apart from the above-mentioned contingent fund the directors do not bother their heads about reserves or depreciation, and as the paid-up capital is only £13,000 the small increase in nett profits is sufficient to enable them to raise the dividend from 4 per cent. to 4½ per cent. Seeing that after seventeen years of existence the principal asset includes such dead items as preliminary and formation expenses the directors cannot be congratulated on their foresight in thus disposing of their surplus, and we should like to know whether the auditors have made any remarks on this point in their report which has been delivered as a separate communication.

REVERSION INVESTMENT CORPORATION, LIMITED.

A shrinkage of £346 to £1,264 in the income for the year ended December 31 was accompanied by a reduction of £81 to £439 in administration and interest charges, leaving the nett balance £265 down at £825. With £289 or £100 more brought in the amount available came to £1,114, out of which an interim dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum was paid in July, but the company has recently sustained a loss of £1,700 in respect of one of its mortgage securities, and instead of making any further distribution the directors have had to appropriate the remainder of the profits, together with the reserve fund of £1,000, towards writing this off, and even then carry forward a debit of £38. Seeing that the total loans on mortgage come to no more than £13,902, this is a very heavy loss and one which requires a good deal of explanation, but the directors merely mention it without going into details. Other investments in the balance-sheet consist of £5,142 for reversions, &c., purchased, and £4,598 for temporary investments with accrued interest, and it is to be hoped that no more unpleasant surprises for the shareholders are concealed in these items.

GUARDIAN INVESTMENT TRUST CO., LIMITED.

Receipts on revenue account from all sources for the twelve months ended January 20 were £48,731, and after providing for administration charges and debenture interest £28,929 was left, which was increased to £29,229 by the balance brought forward. The dividend on the preferred stock having been paid, £6,841 was transferred to depreciation account and the distribution on the deferred stock was raised by 1 per cent. to 3 per cent., leaving £300 or the same as a year ago to be carried to the new account. In addition to the transfer from revenue £4,454 was put to depreciation account from profit on sales of securities, and the whole amount written off, reducing the losses on investments not yet provided for to £11,148. The investments,

mostly taken at cost price, stand in the books at £1,051,590, and with regard to these the auditors are able to make the satisfactory statement that from a valuation made by the trustees and brokers upon principles which they approve it appears that the aggregate value was more than sufficient to cover the depreciation alluded to in previous reports.

THE PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON, LIMITED.

Another glowing report has been issued by the management of this now important and powerful institution, which undoubtedly shows remarkable progress, although we are still unable to interpret its figures. The balance-sheet, however, shows that it has £1,792,870 out on mortgages or lent upon reversions, life policies, and other securities, and that it possesses what is called investment funds available as required for advances to certificate holders to the amount of £501,564 more, besides cash at bankers and in hand to the amount of over £11,200. In the year 1905 it is claimed that the increase in the investment funds amounted to £281,484, that the total amount advanced was £414,035, that during the year no less than 1,656 houses were secured by certificate holders by means of advances made by the Association, making in all over 15,000 houses so bought. In 10 years since 1896 the amounts thus invested have risen from £962,773 to £2,307,367, or, taking the figure at the end of 1905, the increase in 10 years has been £1,427,847. Undoubtedly a system of house buying and mortgaging which shows results of this description and which appears to involve no serious losses must, as the directors claim, be carefully founded. No large loans are granted on individual properties, and consequently the assets of the company are very widely distributed. Its annual income from properties mortgaged by borrowers was £167,109 in the past half-year, against which only £48,648 was paid out in ground rents, rates and taxes, and repairs, leaving a nett income of £118,461 to set against the total payments of borrowers in respect of interest and subscriptions or premiums, which came to £132,194. Deducting the above-mentioned nett income from this, it therefore follows, according to the contention of the directors, that the nett charge falling on the borrowers upon properties was only £13,732, and that this covered property advanced upon to the extent of £1,846,207. We should like, though, if the directors would give us a proper profit and loss account, because it is really impossible to say with the figures before us whether the business is cheaply conducted or not. That it prospers, whether or not, seems incontestable.

FRIENDS' PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.

Although the new business done during the year ended November 20 produced £6,240 in annual and £1,367 in single premiums compared with £5,078 and £3,661 a year ago, the total premium income was £902 smaller at £177,329. Annuities granted, however, yielded £23,882 or £5,140 more, and with interest and other receipts the total revenue came to £326,074. Claims rose by £49,773 to £181,694, but expenses and commissions were only £465 heavier at £16,303, the proportion to premiums being 9.2 per cent. against 8.8 per cent., and after meeting all other outgoings £70,319 was added to the accumulated funds, raising them to £3,202,726. Of this £31,324 represents the investments reserve, and the directors state that an investigation by a special committee shows that this amount is ample to cover the difference between the present realisable value of the securities and their book value.

NATIONAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

The volume of business done in the twelve months ended December 31 was larger than in any previous year, and exceeded that of 1904 by £30,342. With £12,412 in new annual premiums and £2,436 in single payments, the premium income came to £181,297, annuities sold yielded £17,681, and interest, dividends, &c., gave £97,865, in addition to which £20,752 or £2,584 less was realised on reversions fallen in and securities realised and revalued, and fines and fees gave £172. The income from all sources was £317,768, of which claims took £190,964, surrenders £13,314, and reductions of premiums allowed £10,368. Expenses of management and commissions amounted to £27,015 or 14.9 per cent. of the premium income, and the nett result of the year's business was an addition of £64,031 to the accumulated funds, of which £52,531 or £33,145 more than in 1904 was added to the assurance fund, and £11,500 to the investment reserve.

MERCHANTS' MARINE INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The amount standing to the credit of the 1904 underwriting account on December 31, after allowing for £8,523 over-provided in the preceding twelve months, was £45,746. Deducting expenses and adding in £11,584 for interest received the nett balance was £41,050, of which £25,000 is set aside to meet any further claims that may arise, £5,000 is added to reserve against £10,000 a year ago, and the usual dividends making 6 per cent. for the year are paid. For the year ended December 31 the total income, including the balance brought in, was £318,725, and after providing for claims and expenses £112,633 was carried forward subject to result of risks still current. The total amount insured was £33,061,453, yielding £185,633 in nett premiums, while claims took £68,363 or 36¼ per cent. of the income and it is estimated that 80 per cent. of the total risk has run off. Certain securities have been realised during the year and the loss on the sales written off out of revenue, but the investments held at £350,133 are still £4,571 above their market value.

RELIANCE MARINE INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

A balance of £69,020 was brought forward on the underwriting account for 1904, and with £39,247 at the credit of profit and

loss and £8,786 received from interest, the total available was £117,053. Of this, £10,000 was absorbed by the payment of the 10 per cent. dividend for 1904, £51,012 went in settlement of claims, &c., on account of that year, and £9,000 was transferred to suspense account to close the 1904 transactions, leaving, after payment of income-tax, £46,211 to be dealt with, out of which two dividends making 12½ per cent. for the year ended December 31, are paid and £33,711 is carried forward. For the past twelve months the premium income came to £112,617 covering risks of £40,647,876, of which £38,414,266 or 94.5 per cent. has terminated or been reinsured, leaving £2,233,610 outstanding, the unearned premiums thereon being £23,126. Claims settled took £35,955 and after deducting expenses, &c., £63,049 was carried forward in the customary fashion. Investments held still show a very serious depreciation, the market value being only £269,871 against a book value of £283,100, but the difference is amply provided for by the undivided profits apart from the reserve of £110,000 and the suspense accounts.

OCEAN MARINE INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The 1904 underwriting account showed a credit balance on December 31 of £52,323 of which £34,000 has been transferred to reserve underwriting account and £18,323 to profit and loss. Interest on investments gave £14,859, rents, &c., £2,920, and with £60,928 brought forward the balance available for distribution was £97,031 compared with £80,928 a year ago, and after paying the usual dividends and bonus aggregating 20 per cent. for the year, £25,000 is put to reserve and £50,491 carried to the new account. Premiums received in 1905 amounted to £165,000, against which losses and averages took £75,059 and expenses absorbed £19,179, leaving a balance of £70,771. The reserve fund now stands at £200,000, or double the amount of the paid up capital and the reserve underwriting account at £89,602, in addition to the various credit balances noted above, while investments in Government and other securities are valued at £451,299.

THAMES AND MERSEY MARINE INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The underwriting account for 1904 after deducting expenses and making provision for outstanding claims resulted in a profit of £17,747 compared with £6,452 earned in the preceding year. Interest came to £913 more at £41,733, and with the balance brought in and miscellaneous receipts the amount available on December 31 was £228,363, out of which £50,000 is transferred to reserve and the usual dividends making 8s. per share for the year are paid. The premium income in the past twelve months came to £448,591 or a decrease of £14,041, while claims paid took £3,593 more at £144,122, head office charges rose by £1,114 to £32,414 and expenses at branches by £355 to £15,562 leaving a surplus of £256,492 compared with £275,595.

SEA INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

After payment of expenses and transferring £25,000 to underwriting suspense account to meet unsettled claims the 1904 underwriting account showed a profit of £26,449 compared with £14,804 earned in the previous year. A new departure has been made in the current accounts, only the interest actually received being taken into consideration, with the result that there is an apparent decrease in income from this source at £24,606. Including this amount of £99,885 brought forward the total available was £150,950, of which £20,000 has been placed to reserve, and after providing for sundry charges two dividends of 5s. each were paid, making the usual 25 per cent. for the year, leaving £103,044 to be carried forward. The directors state that they are of opinion that the time has arrived when the dividend may be prudently increased from 25 to 30 per cent., and the balance-sheet would seem to justify this step, as, with a paid-up capital of £100,000 a reserve of £455,000 has been built up, and the underwriting suspense account stands at a satisfactory enough total of £62,921, against which loans, investments and leasehold property are valued at £856,428. Premiums received during 1905 were £296,696, of which claims took £90,221 and after meeting expenses £185,223 was carried forward.

MARITIME INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

Nett premiums in 1905 amounted to £256,875, of which £121,079 represented premiums on risks run off, leaving £135,796 for risks still outstanding. The risks taken reached a total of £61,153,209, of which £48,822,696 or 79½ per cent. have run off or been reinsured. Payments on risks, losses, &c., during the past twelve months were fairly heavy at £146,158, and the disbursements on account of 1904 were also large at £146,158. The company, therefore, is only able to put £15,000 or £5,000 less to suspense account leaving a credit of £20,999 compared with £29,641, and after adding £16,262 for interest and transfer fees and deducting £17,116 for expenses, the nett balance came to £20,145 compared with £20,511. A year ago the shareholders received a bonus of 1s. per share in addition to their usual dividend of 10 per cent. and £10,000 was put to reserve, but on this occasion the distribution is unadorned and the reserve is passed over leaving it at £18c.000.

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL MARINE AND GENERAL INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

After deducting returns, reassurances, and agents' commissions, the premium income for 1905 amounted to £274,169, of which claims paid absorbed £120,691 or 44.02 per cent. The balance of the 1904 underwriting account at the beginning of the past year was £189,058, and with £32,380 brought in and £16,145 from interest received, the amount to be dealt with was £237,583. Claims took £186,270 of this, dividends for the last half of 1904 and first half of 1905 with income-tax absorbed £11,192, and after transferring £25,000 to underwriting suspense

account a balance of £15,121 was left, out of which a further dividend of 5 per cent. was paid, making the usual 10 per cent. for the year.

LIVERPOOL MORTGAGE INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The nett premium income for the year ended December 31 showed a decrease of £1,086 at £12,503, and as receipts from interest, dividends and transfer fees fell off by £362 to £3,428 the total revenue, notwithstanding the larger balance of £4,061 brought forward came to £1,102 less at £19,993. Claims paid and estimated absorbed £8,934 of this and expenses took £3,368, leaving a balance available of £7,661 compared with £9,091 a year ago. The directors, however, again pay dividends aggregating 5 per cent. for the year and by neglecting the reserve against £2,500 put to that fund a year ago increase the carry forward by £1,130 to £5,191. In addition to a paid-up capital of £50,000 the company has a reserve of £52,500 and has borrowed £67,897 from bankers and others on securities, while, on the other hand, it has £25,217 in bank deposits, £58,192 in debentures at cost, £35,692 in securities written down and £55,528 in other securities and advances. Sundry creditors come to £1,512 and reserve for estimated claims stands at £6,702 against £4,871 to come in from sundry debtors, £375 for interest accrued and £5,177 held in cash.

MINING RETURNS.

Abbottiakoon Block 1.—Treated 6,200 tons, 3,676 ozs.
 Abosso Gold.—Crushed 3,880 tons, 2,563 ozs.; cyanide, 3,088 tons; tailings, 983 ozs.; total production, 3,546 ozs.
 Akrokerri (Ashanti).—Crushed 2,280 tons, 2,204 ozs.; 1,350 tons sands, 156 ozs.; total, 2,360 ozs.
 Ankobra (Taquah and Abosso).—From No. 1 dredger, 95 ozs. of gold; No. 2 dredger, 363 ozs.
 Antenor (Matabele).—Crushed 1,370 tons, 909 ozs. 12 dwts.; cyanide, 736 tons, 157 ozs.
 Ashanti Goldfields Auxiliary.—213 ozs.
 Associated Gold of W.A.—Milled 8,135 tons, 2,641 tons of slimes; yield, £19,932.
 Associated Northern Blocks.—Crushed 3,360 tons, treated 520 tons of slimes; £16,020.
 Ayrshire Gold.—2,095 ozs. from 10,050 tons crushed; 996 ozs. from 6,688 tons cyanided.
 Balaghat.—4,400 tons, 3,523 ozs.; 2,750 tons tailings, 295 ozs.; total, 3,818 ozs.
 Barrett Gold.—415 ozs., value £1,690.
 Bibiani Goldfields.—Crushed 2,910 tons, 2,081 ozs.; 3,350 tons tailings, £3,186.
 Bonanza.—Crushed 8,450 tons, 2,941 ozs.; cyanide and slimes, 841 tons, 1,719 ozs.; total, 4,660 ozs.
 Broomassie.—Crushed 1,059 tons, 1,507 ozs.; three tons of concentrates, an assay value £15 15s. per ton.
 Buffelsdoorn Estate.—542 ozs. from 2,700 tons slimes.
 Burbank's Main Lode (1904).—Crushed 650 tons, 427 ozs.; 670 tons by cyanide, 73 ozs.
 Burma Ruby.—161,000 loads washed, producing rubies value Rs. 111,000; royalties, Rs. 22,000.
 Champion Reef.—19,350 tons, 15,049 ozs.; 16,758 tons tailings, 2,173 ozs.; total, 17,222 ozs.
 Chillagoe.—3,901 tons copper ore, producing 226 tons copper matte, containing 180 tons copper, and 22,281 ozs. silver.
 Commonwealth Jumbo.—Crushed 300 tons, 150 ozs.
 Consolidated Langlaagte.—5,398 ozs., 16,265 tons.
 Consolidated Main Reef.—Crushed 17,724 tons, 6,242 ozs.
 Crown Deep.—Tons crushed 29,108, 7,452 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates, 20,800, 3,424 ozs.; tons of slimes, 7,998, 567 ozs.; total, 11,443 ozs.
 Crown Reef.—Crushed 20,168 tons; from mill, 5,902 ozs.; yield from sands and concentrates, 3,309 ozs.; yield from slimes (current and accumulated), 1,688 ozs.; yield from dump, 500 ozs.; total output, 11,399 ozs. fine gold.
 Dharwar Reefs.—Treatment of tailings 60 ozs., or a total from the 100 tons of 153 ozs.
 Durban Roodepoort Deep.—Tons crushed 10,130, 2,456 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates, 6,840, 1,106 ozs.; tons of slimes treated, 2,827, 236 ozs.; total, 3,798 ozs.
 Durban-Roodepoort Gold.—Quartz milled 10,995 tons, 3,435 ozs.; tailings, 7,655 tons, 1,127 ozs.
 Durham Prospect.—New Prospect ore, 600 tons crushed; rubble, 1,116 tons crushed; Durham ore, 210 tons crushed, yielding 403 ozs.
 Ferreira Deep.—Tons crushed 19,440, 3,370 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates, 13,600, 3,107 ozs.; tons of slimes, 5,988, 513 ozs.; total 12,090 ozs.
 Ferreira Gold.—Crushed 20,245 tons, 9,408 ozs.; sand, 15,264 tons, 2,793 ozs.; slime, 5,951 tons, 485 ozs.; total, 12,686 ozs.
 French Rand.—Tons crushed, 17,000, 3,363 ozs.; tons tailings, 17,361, 2,257 ozs.; total, 5,620 ozs.
 Gaika Gold.—Crushed 1,389 tons, 650 ozs.
 Geldenhuis Deep.—Tons crushed, 22,200, 5,475 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates, 15,310, 3,516 ozs.; tons of slimes, 6,763, 590 ozs.; total, 9,621 ozs.
 Geldenhuis Estate.—Crushed 17,265 tons; obtained from mill, 4,380 ozs.; from tailings by cyanide, 2,274 ozs.; from slimes, 562 ozs.; from dump by the "Stark" process, 442 ozs.; total, 7,158 ozs.
 Giant Mines of Rhodesia.—Treated 4,335 tons, 2,691 ozs.; slimes, 2,300 tons, 116 ozs.; total ozs., 2,207.
 Ginsberg.—2,861 ozs., 8,181 tons.
 Glen Deep.—Tons crushed 14,370, 3,415 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates, 9,880, 1,804 ozs.; tons of slimes, 4,856, 390 ozs.; total, 5,609 ozs.

Glencairn Main Reef.—4,090 ozs., 14,386 tons.
 Glynn's Lydenburg.—Crushed 2,050 tons, 497 ozs.; cyanide, 1,410 tons, 601 ozs.; slimes, 640 tons, 193 ozs.; total, 1,291 ozs.
 Golden Horseshoe.—Treated 19,839 ozs., yield 12,937 fine ozs.
 Golden Pole Gold.—Crushed 1,170 tons, 826 ozs.; 1,280 tons of sands, 264 ozs.; 813 tons of slimes, 106 ozs.; total 1,196 ozs.
 Great Fingall.—Tons treated 20,021, 6,711 ozs.; tons of tailings, 21,328, 2,947 ozs.; tons of concentrates 295, 1,983 ozs.; 140 ozs. from slags; total, 11,781 ozs.
 Hainault.—4,649 tons crushed, 1,648 ozs.
 Hutti (Nizam's).—859 ozs. from 2,050 tons crushed; tailings, 280 ozs. from 2,000 tons; total, 1,139 ozs.
 Ivanhoe.—17,010 tons crushed, 3,635 ozs.; 8,200 tons of sands, 2,061 ozs.; 7,720 tons of slimes, 2,795 ozs.; 1,090 tons of concentrates, 1,942 ozs.; total, 10,433 ozs.
 Jumpers.—Crushed 12,900 tons; from mill 3,199 ozs., from concentrates 61 ozs., from tailings by cyanide 1,549 ozs.; total, 4,809 ozs.
 Jumpers Deep.—Tons crushed 15,991, 3,677 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates 11,475, 2,077 ozs.; tons of slimes 4,947, 314 ozs.; total, 6,668 ozs.
 Jumpers Gold.—Crushed 12,900 tons, 3,199 ozs.; concentrates, 61 ozs.; tailings, 1,549 ozs.; total, 4,809 ozs.
 Kalgurli.—9,408 tons, 6,888 ozs.
 Kelantan Gold Dredging (No. 1).—No. 1 dredge, 88 ozs.; No. 2 dredge, 180 ozs.
 Killarney Hibernia Gold.—Crushed 3,938 tons, 1,551 ozs.
 Koffyfontein.—Recovered 2,900 carats of diamonds.
 Komata Reefs Gold.—Crushed 1,150 tons; £2,625.
 Lace Diamond.—Loads of blue ground floored, 54,587; total loads of blue ground on floors, 769,593.
 Lachlan Gold Fields.—Crushed 760 tons, £1,500.
 Lake View Consols.—Crushed 10,489 tons, producing 3,776 ozs.
 Lancaster.—13,883 tons, 2,724 ozs.; cyanide, 10,132 tons, 1,316 ozs.; total, 4,040 ozs.
 Lancaster West.—Crushed 6,595 tons, 1,518 ozs.; cyanide, 5,168 tons, 972 ozs.; total output 2,490 ozs.
 Langlaagte Deep.—Tons crushed, 20,103, 4,424 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates, 14,958, 2,270 ozs.; tons of slimes, 4,828, 268 ozs.; total, 6,962 ozs.
 Le Roi.—Shipments 8,000 tons, containing 3,250 ozs. gold, 5,800 ozs. silver, 224,500 lbs. copper.
 Le Roi No. 2.—Shipped 2,010 tons.
 "Lloyd" Copper.—Treated 5,450 tons for 73 tons copper.
 Maryborough Leviathan Gold.—Crushed 510 tons, 96 ozs.
 May Consolidated.—Crushed 14,200 tons, 3,754 ozs.; cyanide 10,195 tons, 1,967 ozs.; slimes 4,051 tons, 261 ozs.; total, 5,982 ozs.
 Merton's Reward Gold.—Crushed 2,590 tons, 594 ozs.; 1,253 tons sands, 149 ozs.; 1,342 tons slimes, 102 ozs.; total, 845 ozs.
 Meyer and Charlton.—2,253 ozs. from 11,200 tons, and 2,404 ozs. from cyanide; total, 4,657 ozs.
 Morven (Rhodesia).—Crushed 2,101 tons, 805 ozs.
 Mount Boppy Gold.—4,000 tons, 1,236 ozs.; cyanide, 2,563 tons, 885 ozs.; slimes, 1,296 tons, 618 ozs.; concentrates, 16 tons, 110 ozs.; total, 2,851 ozs.
 Mount Lyell.—29,699 tons of ore. In addition 1,900 tons of purchased ore and metal bearing fluxes; converters produced 638 tons blister copper, containing copper 30 tons, silver 47,729 ozs., gold 1,764 ozs.
 Mount Zeehan (Tasmania).—595 tons silver-lead ore, containing about 357 tons lead and 44,600 ozs. silver.
 Mysore.—16,150 tons, 15,252 ozs.; 14,973 tons tailings, 1,938 ozs.; total, 17,190 ozs.
 Mysore West.—Mysore-Wynaad: 1,047 ozs. from 1,944 tons; 167 ozs. from 2,496 tons cyanided.
 New Goch.—1,743 ozs. from 17,280 tons; 3,345 ozs. from cyanide; total, 5,088 ozs.
 New Hillgrove Proprietary.—Crushed 277 tons, 800 ozs.; 4 tons of concentrates, 13 ozs.; cyanide, 162 tons, 16 ozs.
 New Kleinfontein.—Tons milled, 28,522, 6,778 ozs.; tons of sands, 19,795, 2,724 ozs.; total, 9,502 ozs.
 New Modderfontein.—Crushed, 9,753 tons, 3,619 ozs.
 New Queen.—508 tons crushed, 305 ozs.; £320 from 404 tons by cyanide; concentrates, £280.
 New Primrose.—7,090 ozs., 15,902 tons.
 New Rietfontein.—4,904 ozs., 9,021 tons.
 New Unified Main Reef.—2,560 ozs., 8,787 tons treated.
 New Vaal River Diamond.—Diamonds registered by the diggers on the Vaal River Estate, £3,500.
 Nigel Gold.—3,712 ozs.; tons crushed 6,850.
 North Broken Hill.—Treated 2,010 tons crude ore, producing 385 tons concentrates, containing 260 tons 14 cwt. lead and 6,930 ozs. silver.
 North White Feather.—Crushed 1,785 tons, 673 ozs.; cyanide, 1,656 tons, 108 ozs.
 Nourse Mines.—Tons crushed 26,500, 6,833 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates, 18,376, 3,990 ozs.; tons of slimes, 7,703, 648 ozs.; total, 11,471 ozs.
 Nundydrood.—6,900 tons, 5,325 ozs.; 6,750 tons tailings, 573 ozs.; total, 5,898 ozs.
 Ooregum.—10,229 tons, 4,528 ozs.; 10,886 tons tailings, 1,000 ozs.; total, 5,528 ozs.
 Orova Brownhill.—Crushed 10,620 tons, 12,719 ozs.
 Penhalonga.—Crushed 4,950 tons, 750 ozs.; 73 tons concentrates, 312 ozs.; total, 1,062 ozs.
 Premier (Transvaal) Diamond.—147,084 loads treated, yielding 39,981 carats diamonds; percentage, .27.

Princess Estate.—Crushed 5,810 tons, 1,926 ozs.; cyanide 4,518 tons, 912 ozs.; 34 ozs. from by-products; total output, 2,872 ozs.

Queensland Copper.—1,222 tons; production 214 tons matte, containing 127 tons fine copper; shipment 187 tons matte.

Raub Australian Gold.—490 ozs. from 3,950 tons crushed.

Red Hill, Westralia, Gold.—Crushed 1,804 tons, 687 ozs.

Rhodesia Consolidated.—Nelly Mine: 1,640 tons crushed, 639 ozs.; 1,089 tons by cyanide, 299 ozs. Sabi Mine: 857 tons crushed, 274 ozs.; 715 tons by cyanide, 233 ozs.—507 ozs.; total, 1,445 ozs.

Rice Hamilton Exploration.—Sabiwa: Crushed 3,602 tons, 491 ozs.; cyanide, 1,298 tons, 750 ozs.; total, 1,241 ozs.

Robinson Central Deep.—Tons crushed 15,114, yield 5,934 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates by cyanide 11,140, 3,075 ozs.; tons of slimes 3,699, 410 ozs.; total yield, 9,419 ozs.

Robinson Gold.—Crushed 29,500 tons, from mill 12,645 ozs.; from tailings (by cyanide) 4,129 ozs.; from own concentrates (by chlorination) 858 ozs.; from slimes 1,529 ozs.; total 19,161 ozs.

Roodepoort Central Deep.—Crushed 7,872 tons, 2,094 ozs.; cyanide 5,303 tons, 925 ozs.; total output, 3,019 ozs.

Roodepoort United.—2,533 ozs. from 9,140 tons; 1,469 ozs. from cyanide; total, 4,002 ozs.

Rose Deep.—Tons crushed 24,500, 5,522 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates by cyanide 18,017, 2,659 ozs.; tons of slimes 8,035, 648 ozs.; total, 8,829 ozs.

St. David's.—Tons crushed 1,191, 474 ozs.

St. George's Coal.—Output 9,404 tons.

St. John Del Rey.—Gold produce £22,780; yield per ton, .59 of an oz. troy.

Selukwe Gold.—Crushed 6,322 tons, 1,631 ozs.; cyanide, 4,618 tons, 643 ozs.; total, 2,274 ozs.

Sheba.—Output 2,920 ozs.

Star of the East.—Crushed 226 tons, 120 ozs.

Sulphide Corp.—13,178 tons milled at central producing 2,219 tons lead concentrates, also 2,958 tons of middlings and 5,584 tons of tailings treated, producing 918 and 1,976 tons of zinc concentrates. Cockle Creek: yield 1,420 tons lead, containing 106,500 ozs. silver and 6,816 ozs. gold; 186 tons zinc concentrates, producing 52 tons of spelter.

Surprise.—Crushed 3,002 tons, 1,086 ozs.; cyanide 603 ozs. from 3,740 tons.

Talisman Consolidated.—Tons of ore 2,950, value £12,851.

Taquah and Abosso.—Crushed 900 tons, 599 oz.; 400 tons tailings, 45 ozs. gold; 460 tons old tailings by cyanide, 101 ozs.; total, 745 ozs.

Tasmanian Smelting.—Silver-lead bullion shipped contained 530 tons lead, 87,000 ozs. silver, 208 ozs. gold.

Tomboy.—Crushed 9,000 tons, value \$49,000; concentrates shipped 458 tons, \$32,000.

Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Investment.—Output 33,500 tons. Transvaal Gold Estates.—Crushed 9,061 tons, 2,065 ozs.; total, 4,041 ozs.

Treasury.—Crushed 6,400 tons, 2,580 ozs.

Tyee Copper.—Smelted 2,296 tons produced 208 tons matte, value \$31,023.

Van Ryn.—Crushed 21,800 tons, 5,488 ozs.; 21,831 tons of tailings, 2,603 ozs.

Victoria Proprietary.—180 ozs. from 690 tons.

Village Deep.—Tons crushed 18,991, 3,633 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates 14,400, 2,355 ozs.; tons of slimes 5,041, 418 ozs.; total, 6,406 ozs.

Village Main Reef.—Crushed 25,400 tons, 6,505 ozs.; 19,235 tons of sands and concentrates, 2,572 ozs.; slimes 6,745 tons, 481 ozs.; total ozs., 9,538.

Vivien Gold.—1,346 tons, 337 ozs.; 990 tons tailings, 126 ozs.; 356 tons current slimes, 74 ozs.

Vogelstruis.—6,300 tons, 1,914 ozs.; tailings, 4,600 tons, 462 ozs.

Waihi.—23,294 tons, £54,200.

Wanderer (Selukwe) Gold.—Cyanide, 16,182 tons, 2,597 ozs.

Wankie (Rhodesia) Coal.—Output 11,851 tons; sales, 8,713 tons.

Wemmer.—Crushed 8,640 tons, 2,451 ozs.; 6,500 tons sands, 580 ozs.; 2,160 tons slimes, 108 ozs.; 187 tons concentrates caught, average assay value 78 dwts.; total, 3,870 ozs.

Westralia Mount Morgans.—Slimes, 333 ozs. from 2,400 tons; slags, 51 ozs.; guests, 21 ozs.

Willoughby's Queen's.—Crushed 1,307 tons, 718 ozs.

Witbank Colliery.—Output 28,500 tons.

Witwatersrand Deep.—Tons crushed, 25,290, 7,108 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates, 24,993, 3,157 ozs.; total, 10,265 ozs.

Worcester Exploration.—742 ozs.

Zeehan-Montana.—350 tons of silver-lead ore, containing 190 tons lead and 26,250 ozs. silver.

Great Western.—For the past half-year at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £46,900.

London and North-Western.—At the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £93,000.

Maryport and Carlisle.—At the rate of 6½ per cent. for the half-year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £1,200.

Midland.—At the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum on the preferred converted ordinary stock, and at the rate of 3¼ per cent. per annum on the deferred converted ordinary stock, equal to 5¾ per cent. per annum on the former ordinary stock, carrying forward £56,828.

Ottoman from Smyrna to Aidin.—12s. per share for the half-year ended Dec. 31, making 5 per cent. for 1905, carrying forward £70,000.

BANKS.

Bank of British North America.—30s. per share, being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, placing £20,000 to reserve and £10,000 to bank premises account, and carrying forward £7,000.

German Bank of London.—Balance of 7s. per share, making 12s. per share or 6 per cent. for 1905, placing £5,000 to reserve and £2,000 to staff provident fund, and carrying forward £3,403.

BREWERIES.

Cannon.—At the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for the past half-year on the ordinary shares, making for the year 6 per cent.

Old Albion.—Interim of 4s. per share on the ordinary shares, being at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum.

Openshaw.—Final on the ordinary shares for the past six months at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, making 6 per cent. for past year.

TRAMWAYS.

City of Buenos Ayres Tramways (1904).—Balance of 1s. 3d. per share for past year, £2,750 transferred to the general amortisation fund, and £82 carried forward.

London General Omnibus.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

London Road Car.—For the half-year ended Dec. 31 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, with £5,000 set aside towards writing off horses, horse-cars, and harness put out of use through the introduction of motor traction, £1,000 towards the depreciation and renewal of motors, and about £4,200 carried forward.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Argus Printing.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for past half-year, making 5 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £1,731.

Arthur Guinness, Son, and Co.—Interim on the ordinary stock for the half-year ended Dec. 31 at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum.

Ashton Brothers and Co.—15s. per share on the ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. for the past year, £41,000 to the reserve, and £8,553 carried forward.

Baxter's Leather.—For the half-year ended Dec. 31, at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, making 9½ per cent. for the year.

Bristol Water Works.—For the half-year to Dec. 31 at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, and at the rate of £5 12s. per cent. per annum on the 7 per cent. maximum consolidated ordinary stock.

Bulloch, Lade, and Co.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Jan. 31.

Canada North-West Land.—4½ per cent. for the nine months to March 31 on the preferred capital stock, payable April 2.

Chelsea Electricity Supply.—Final for 1905 on the ordinary shares at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum, making 6 per cent. for the year, and 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares issued in exchange for the founders' shares, after carrying £10,918 to the credit of renewals and depreciation fund and writing off £1,891 out of revenue from suspense account, carrying forward £916.

Exploration Assets.—5 per cent. on the debenture stock, being 1s. per share on the £1 shares of such stock.

Exploration Co.—1s. per share, carrying forward £60,574.

Grantham Gas.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, with £500 to reserve.

Harrod's Stores.—15 per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the six months ended Jan. 31, making 20 per cent. for the year plus 2 per cent. bonus, placing £10,460 to reserve, and carrying forward £22,261.

Kensington and Knightsbridge Electric Lighting.—On the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Dec. 31 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, making 10 per cent. for the year.

La Société Egyptienne d'Irrigation.—Interim of 10s. on shares numbered 1 to 4,250, inclusive.

Mercantile Investment and General Trust.—For the half-year ended Jan. 31 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock, making 4½ per cent. for the year, placing £15,000 to reserve, carrying forward £1,059.

Palace Theatre.—Interim of 5 per cent., payable Feb. 20.

Railway Debenture and General Trust.—6 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Jan. 15, making 5 per cent. for the year.

Railway Share Trust and Agency.—6 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Jan. 15 on the "A" shares, making 5 per cent. for the year.

Robert Roberts and Co.—At the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 30.

Rochdale Canal.—Final of 12s. 6d. per cent. for the past six months, making 20s. for the year on each £100 stock.

Style and Winch.—Final of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £5,000 to reserve, carrying forward £4,628.

Telegraph Construction and Maintenance.—10 per cent., making 15 per cent. for 1905.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.—2½ per cent. on the common stock for past half-year.

Furness.—At the rate of 3 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £4,688.

Grand Trunk Railway.—Two per cent. for the year on the third preference stock, after specially appropriating £30,000 to close the bridge renewal account, leaving £4,200 to be carried forward.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Markets continue dull and comparatively inactive occasionally, speculative positions having risen in value, but without maintaining any long improvement, and spot parcels, though for the most part steadily held, have moved very slowly. English wheat has been in fairly good supply, and when in good condition has kept firm, but some of it has been damp, and for such buyers declined to buy late values. Foreign for the most part has ruled steady, with an occasional tendency against the seller. Farmers deliveries last week amounted to 75,743 qrs., averaging 28s. 10d., against 49,492 qrs., averaging 30s. 6d. a year ago. Wheat imports during the week: New, 257,763 qrs.; Dornbusch's estimated quantity of wheat and flour in passage is 2,840,000 qrs., against 2,415,000 last week. American markets have had an easier tendency most of the week, chiefly on account of favourable weather news, large world's shipments, and a lack of export trading.

WOOL.—The effect of the London sales is now more plainly visible on all markets for raw material, and a firm and upward tendency is the general rule. More confidence is expressed with regard to futures, prices for which are above present rates, as top makers insist that the promised supplies at the next series of sales do not justify them in lowering their values, nor have holders of home-grown wool any surplus stocks to play with. Spinners are revising their price lists, and asking a further advance, with the result that buyers are rather reluctant to come up to the scratch, though there is certainly more inquiry than a few weeks back, one or two Continental firms showing more signs of eagerness. Home trade in piece goods is still less active than it should be, particularly in the better class of goods, makers of cheap woollens being the only firms fully employed.

LINEN.—Belfast markets keep in such excellent condition that there is little to say about them. The spinners' end of the trade has been chiefly noticeable during last week for the difficulty experienced in making adequate deliveries. Flax markets have been smaller, but 140 to 150 tons have been supplied altogether, and sold well at from 6s. 10d. to 8s. 3d. per stone. Russian flax on the other hand has shown a downward tendency, though not one that is likely to go far considering the large supplies arriving from that country, and the small quantities at present coming forward. It is estimated that on the basis of equal consumption of last year 26,000 tons of foreign flax will be needed for the Irish trade, of which 20,000 tons must come from Russia. Manufactured goods only show an improvement where they show change at all, except in damasks, which are duller than could be wished. Export trade shows no new feature.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—A firm market has been experienced during the week under review, and the amount of business arranged has reached fair dimensions. Manufacturers, however, are now so deeply engaged that transactions require a certain amount of negotiation before orders are entered on the books. The inquiry from most of our outlets abroad is encouraging, and numerous orders have again been placed for distant delivery. Bombay buyers have also reappeared in the market for low shirtings and dhooties, and in addition to Calcutta other outlets of our dependency have operated to a fair extent. Some business has been done for China, but no real improvement in demand has taken place. The smaller markets of the Continent, such as the Levant and Egypt, have sent plenty of inquiry, but buyers hardly seem to be prepared to pay to-day's rates and give the long time for delivery which manufacturers require. The outlets in South America have dealt in a variety of goods. Makers all round are not easy to deal with and quotations are very firmly held. Both Burnley and Glossop printers are deeply engaged, and early delivery cannot be obtained. T-cloths and Mexicans have been sold to a fair extent, and makers have extensive order lists. Coloured woven goods have not been so active, but manufacturers have still plenty of work to go on with. The engagements of makers all round are such that concessions are seldom made. There is now more activity in the home trade houses, and the spring demand is being dealt with. Spinners of home trade American yarns have improved their position during the last two or three weeks. Quotations now are much more firmly held, and users have to pay full rates for anything wanted. Some manufacturers are pressing spinners for quicker deliveries of good twist. The supply now is certainly not so abundant. Ring yarn is also moving better. The commoner descriptions of cop twist and coarse weft are still in rather abundant supply. In export bundles a fair amount of business has been done, and the trade from day to day has been quite sufficient to enable spinners to maintain their strong position. Business has been done for China in doubled 3's and also for India in 40's mule. Cops for the Continent have moved rather slowly. Egyptian yarns as spun in the Bolton district are decidedly dearer on the week, and prices all round are against buyers. A feature at the close of last week was that a large Scotch firm of thread producers placed pretty heavy orders in both carded and combed numbers.

At first futures in New York advanced slowly, but a decided reaction quickly followed, and quotations declined rapidly several points, on the publication of Mr. Price's report on ginning to February 1. These gave rise to increased crop estimates, few or none of which are below 10,600,000 bales, and many are up to 11,000,000 bales. Later the market improved, and the rise was sustained for a time, but it was followed by a slight reaction on "bear" pressure. Then covering by shorts and foreign buying steadied quotations. Closing prices are:—February-March, 5.72d; March-April, 5.74d; April-May, 5.77d; May-June, 5.80d;

June-July, 5.82d; July-August, 5.84d; August-September, 5.86d; September-October, 5.62d; October-November, 5.57d; November-December, 5.56d.

COAL.—Again the trade is showing a firmer front, and this week has been a little more active than last. The cold weather has improved the demand for house coal, and South Yorkshire has been sending larger supplies of Silkstone and Barnsley to London and the southern counties. Requirements for steam coal, too, from this district keep satisfactorily large, and the output, though also large, is not much more than necessary to cope with the demand. Lancashire trade in the near future looks chiefly to the slack and manufacturing coals necessary to the cotton and iron trades, and the prospects for it are encouraging, while the North of England is helped by an improving demand from the Continent for various coals and coke. Best gas is quoted at 10s. per ton f.o.b., best steam 9s. 3d., coking 10s. 6d. for best, 10s. for smalls. Welsh conditions are also fairly good and prices firm on the whole, though here and there a slight downward tendency appeared early in the week. In Scotland shipping from the ports shows a decrease on the week of 9,094 tons, but the aggregate shipments since the beginning of the year show an increase of 68,000 tons over last.

COPPER.—The Chinese requirements of copper for coinage purposes are said to be satisfied for the time being, and although general consumption continues very large, the inquiry for sulphate is curtailed by the high prices and want of prosperity among Continental wine growers. The market therefore opened with a dull tendency, and as prices in New York showed an inclination to give way "bear" operations on this side drove quotations back rather violently. Forward metal was much the weakest, warrants for near delivery being very tightly held, but before the close covering by shorts sent prices up with a run, and the close was 78½ for cash and 76¾ for three months.

TIN.—A decided reaction has taken place in this market. A rather firmer tendency was noticeable at the start, but heavy selling forward by importers started a break, and as both the East and America sent lower quotations a pretty heavy loss was soon registered. At the lower prices a moderate demand sprung up, but a renewal of the weakness in New York and the East brought about a fresh decline, and after another rally on "bear" covering, the close was fairly steady at 165½ for spot and 164¾ for three months.

IRON AND STEEL.—Conditions in the iron and steel trade are about the same as a week ago, and continue most favourable, confidence in the future being, if anything, strengthened by all the indications of increasing business. All authorities are agreed that prevailing conditions and prospects are better than they have been for many years. Consumption is expanding at such a pace that makers can hardly keep pace with it; in fact, in many places they cannot cope with the demands coming in. Good orders have been offered by consumers, but in some parts of the Midlands manufacturers refuse to accept them on previous terms, as selling rates have become dearer. Large quantities of bar iron are wanted, and pig-iron is required for the rolling mills more quickly than it can be delivered, whilst new contracts are not easily placed for remote supplies. In Middlesbrough business has tended a little to slackness owing to the unsettled state of the warrant market. Thus the evils resulting from the accumulation of a large stock are making themselves apparent, and the weakness here stands out conspicuously in contrast with the strength exhibited in other branches of the iron and steel industries. The market is entirely dominated by the operations of speculators, which render legitimate influences nugatory.

TEA.—The better tone of last week has scarcely been maintained, and markets have again become rather disappointing. The 38,411 packages of Indian offered contained a large proportion of common teas, which had the effect of sending this class down in price, the average now being 6¾d. per lb. against 7½d. last year. Opening sales were fairly active, but Wednesday's prices showed considerable irregularity, chiefly in medium grades of 7d. to 8d. per lb. The average for the week on 33,214 packages sold was 6.66d. against 6.86d. last week and 6.95d. a year ago. Ceylon auctions comprised 23,163 packages, much of it of inferior quality, and mediums fell as much as ½d. per lb. in some instances. Broken teas were weak also, except in the highest grades of which supplies were small, and the total average for the week came to 6.80d. against 7.23d. last week and 6.59d. last year. Javas had a small and dull sale of 1,040 packages.

SUGAR.—Business has again been quiet and prices have weakened, except in France, where the influence of heavy stocks, as compared with consumption on this side, is counterbalanced by the expectation of a larger falling off in sowings than in other European countries. Some of the large French factories, as Mr. Czarnikow points out, are able to produce cheaply, though not so cheaply as in Eastern Europe, but the majority are smaller establishments fighting against the competition of distillers, and it seems that it is the latter who are over-paying the roots, whilst many of the smaller fabricants are forced to hold back. Some people think that in course of time France will become less of an exporting country, and financiers, knowing the cost of production, may encourage holding at the present level, though the Banque de France does not. In New York business has been chiefly confined to Cuban centrifugals, to arrive, at easier prices, and as planters appear more anxious to realise the tendency is weak. Landings in the three ports for the week were 21,000 tons and meltings 30,000 tons, reducing stocks to 134,000 tons.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

SAPON, LIMITED.

The fifth ordinary general meeting of Sapon, Limited, was held on Wednesday at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. Robert R. Nutt (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. J. F. Copeland) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, first explained the reasons for the delay in holding the meeting, and went on to say:—"The report, as you will see, states that 'the sales have again made substantial progress, and Sapon continues to grow in popular favour.' In stating this, it is only saying what is strictly correct, for notwithstanding the fact that the price of Sapon has been reduced, the aggregate increase in sales during the year is something like 17 per cent.—that is to say, that is the increase in cash value—and, relatively, there has been a greater ratio of increase as represented by actual bulk. At the same time I confess, as I am sure my colleagues on the board will also confess, that on the basis of our former experience—that is to say, when we reflected that during the two past financial years, in each of these years the volume of trade had practically doubled its predecessor—we had some justification for anticipating a greater increase than we had experienced during the year under review. In stating this, of course, it may be that we were expecting too much, especially when we consider the difficulties which the management have experienced during the year, and I think that you will see that in the actual result there is really no cause for dissatisfaction, far less for discouragement with the result. (Hear, hear.)

Among the various causes which have militated against us was, first of all, the depression in trade, which was experienced during the whole year, involving as it did the abnormally keen competition experienced by our representatives. Then we had also to contend with the interruption of our advertising, pending the issue of further working capital." After some observations on the balance-sheet, he pointed out that the sales show an increase of 17 per cent., the gross profit on trading was £8,973, and the balance carried forward £4,177. "Before leaving the matter of profits, I may remind you that at the outset I mentioned that one reason for delaying the meeting was a difficulty—an important difficulty which cropped up in the way of the board's recommending the payment of a dividend. It was the subject of much consideration and anxiety. It may be that someone will ask how we could possibly recommend a dividend when the advertising expenditure for the year exceeded the profits, which would mean paying a dividend out of capital. The answer is simple. You may remember that at the meeting in 1903 I then stated the view held by us regarding advertising expenditure, which amounts to this: that in an industrial concern like ours, where a new product was being introduced to the public, it was customary that a reasonable time and a reasonable expenditure should be allowed wherein to build up a goodwill and trade connection before beginning to write off any substantial part of the advertising account, and the more so as nothing had been added as representing the appreciated value of the business in respect of foreign and colonial patents, etc. (Hear, hear.) Following up this opinion a special resolution was confirmed at the extraordinary general meeting. Notwithstanding what I have said, and notwithstanding the terms of the resolution, the auditors adopted a strong view on the subject, namely, that until a very substantial amount was written off advertising account no dividend should be paid. In this state of matters the board thought it was due to the shareholders as well as to themselves that the opinion of counsel should be obtained as to the powers possessed by the company under its memorandum of association to declare a dividend, having regard to the special resolution just read. The result was that counsel took the view that advertising expenditure—notwithstanding the resolution treating it as capital expenditure up to the amount specified—was properly a charge against revenue. That being so, he could not advise the payment of a dividend without first writing off a substantial amount.

The resolution was subsequently seconded and carried unanimously.

WELFORD AND SONS.

The 20th annual ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Welford and Sons, Limited, was held on Monday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. John Welford (the chairman and managing director of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. Trotman) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman: I have not very much to say to you this morning; you have all had a copy of the balance-sheet, and, as I dare say you have studied it, I presume we may take it as read. (Hear, hear.) I have, as usual, a very good report to place before you as a result of the past year's work, and I hope you will agree with the feeling of the board that it is very gratifying to all concerned. (Applause.) The balance dividend recommended will bring the amount up to the same as has been paid for many years past, viz., 10 per cent. for the whole year. We have made full and proper provision for all contingencies, such as bad debts, &c., have kept our working stock up to our substantial standard, and materially added to our investments, which now stand at £14,178, and the addition of £5,000 to the reserve

account will bring the reserve fund up to £40,000. You will notice that our gross profits have increased some £3,000 on the year, but, as you all know, the increased cost of working a London business, with high rates and taxes all round, is inevitable, and we have to give very careful attention to practical economies in working expenses; but, of course, as a high-class dairy company, our reputation must be maintained. (Hear, hear.) Our medical and scientific control is a very considerable cost, but expenditure for the safe control of our supplies to the public must not be stinted, as our policy is, and has been, to do everything possible to ensure the healthy purity and high quality of our supplies, so that the company's reputation shall be continuously progressive. I think that the steady and continuous growth of the company's business, with a regular and substantial dividend, and provision made for contingencies, speaks for itself as an endorsement of our policy. (Applause.) I have again to thank many shareholders for kind recommendations to their friends, resulting in additions to the company's *clientèle*, and as a matter of business and for the further strengthening of our position, may I ask for a continuance of the shareholders' interest in the company, by doing their utmost to send us all the trade they possibly can. The knowledge they have that they are really doing their friends a good turn in recommending them to such trustworthy supplies of milk and dairy produce should be a considerable encouragement. I may here mention that the county and borough councils are very active in testing our supplies, many hundreds of samples having been taken during the year. I need hardly say that they have all passed the highest standard of quality. (Applause.) I now have the pleasure to move the adoption of the directors' report and accounts.

Mr. R. F. Whur seconded the motion.

The Chairman having replied to some questions, the motion was put and carried unanimously, after which the retiring directors and auditors were re-elected, the meeting closing with the customary compliments.

BOVRIL, LIMITED.

The ninth annual general meeting of Bovril, Limited, was held yesterday at River Plate House, London, E.C., Lord Duncannon presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. W. A. Harris, having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, went in detail through the accounts, explaining the various items, and went on to say: The "bovrilised" position (with thanks to a Cabinet Minister for the expression) of the whole affair is the nett profit £152,530, being an increase of £5,970 for the 12 months just concluded. The figures that are left are merely formal, showing debenture interest and interim dividends paid during the year, leaving £104,021 to deal with now, after bringing in the balance from 1904. If you are willing to pass the accounts we are now presenting, we shall be enabled to pay our six months' dividends on the 5½ per cent. preference shares and on the 7 per cent. ordinary shares, a year's dividend at 4 per cent. on the deferred shares, £20,000 to the reserve (making it £165,000), leaving to carry forward to 1906 account £14,021. "Cash in hand and at bank," as per present accounts, comes to £53,935. It seems a large amount, but it may be stated that £40,000 thereof was on deposit then at 4 per cent., and at the time of speaking we have £70,000 on deposit at 3½ per cent. waiting to be distributed in dividends. As mentioned in our report, Mr. George Lawson Johnston spent some two months in the autumn of last year in Canada and the United States of America. I believe that his visit there was most timely and useful, and will add materially to the benefits to be received by the company. I think every shareholder should be thankful for the trouble he took. With regard to Virol, I may say that we always looked upon this preparation as one of great merit, for which a wide market ought to be obtained. We had spent a certain amount of money in improving its value, but the board realised that it would take some years of extensive advertising before Virol could become thoroughly known to, and appreciated by, the public. The directors therefore thought it desirable to form a separate company, and so obtain a portion of the capital for advertising, instead of relying entirely upon Bovril allocation. Accordingly, Virol, Limited, was formed in January, 1900, with a registered capital of £75,000. The public subscribed for £19,026, and we received £25,000 fully-paid shares for our rights and interests. Of the further capital since issued, the shareholders took £12,197 and Bovril, Limited, took £7,803 in shares and £10,000 in 6 per cent. debentures. The following is the progress of the Virol company since its formation. The sales for the year ended March, 1902, were 31 per cent. increase upon those of 1901; the sales for the year ending March, 1903, were 35 per cent. increase upon 1902; the sales for the year ended March, 1904, were 50 per cent. increase upon those of 1903; the sales last year were 18 per cent. increase upon those of 1904; and for the ten months ending January last the increase was 46 per cent. Virol is, as you know, an entirely different article from Bovril—although the same organisation can be effectively used for its sale. It is a food combination unlike anything upon the market. It serves two functions—as a children's food and as an invalid diet in consumption, anæmia, and all wasting conditions. Its prestige in the medical world may be judged from the extensive list of hospitals in which it is used, and from the growing demand which is shown in the figures quoted.

Mr. George Lawson Johnston seconded the resolution, and it was, after some discussion, carried unanimously.

In replying to a question the Chairman stated that Mr. George Lawson Johnston himself paid the cost of his visit to America and Canada.

QUEBEC AND LAKE ST. JOHN RAILWAY COMPANY.

A meeting of the holders of first mortgage bonds of the Quebec and Lake St. John Railway Company was held on Wednesday at Winchester House, E.C., for the purpose of submitting a resolution approving the creation and issue of prior lien bonds to the nominal amount of £150,000, making with former issues of similar bonds an aggregate nominal amount of £500,000 of such bonds. Mr. R. J. West, manager of the Railway Share Trust and Agency Company, the trustees for the bondholders, was voted to the chair.

Mr. J. G. Scott, the general manager of the company, said that at the meetings of the bondholders held in London in June and July, 1904, the Acts of the Legislature authorising the issue of £300,000 of additional prior lien bonds for improvements were adopted, the directors undertaking not to issue more than half of that amount without again consulting the bondholders. Since that date £150,000 of the bonds had been sold and the proceeds had been disposed of—with the exception of \$14,128, which remained at the company's bankers—for the following betterments—viz., \$327,272 upon the new branch to La Tuque; \$86,562 for new rolling stock, and the balance for ballasting and widening the road bed, putting in heavy rails, new bridges, and other improvements; so that the property was now in a much better physical condition than before, and thus able to earn more per train mile. It had not been the intention of the directors to consult the bondholders again so soon as to the issue of the balance of the securities authorised, but owing to the better grades exacted by the Government, the higher prices per yard of work now paid to contractors, the increased length of the La Tuque branch to 40 instead of 38 miles, and the finding of rock instead of earth in a number of the cuttings, the company's engineers estimated that that branch, which was now about half finished, would cost \$971,100 instead of \$639,000. On the other hand, the Government subsidies had been increased, and the land grant was proving to be of greater value than the company had counted upon, so that when it was disposed of the cost of this branch to the company—after deducting the subsidies—would ultimately not very much exceed the sum which was represented at the bondholders' meeting of 1904, as being the probable nett cost of this property to the company. But in the meantime the extra cost of the work had to be provided for, and also its equipment with rolling stock, and for this reason it now became necessary to obtain the consent of the bondholders to the issue of the remainder of the prior lien bonds already authorised. The directors would not require to dispose of more than £75,000 of the bonds for the present. Negotiations were in progress for the disposal of the company's land grant for the La Tuque branch, and for the establishment of some important industries at La Tuque. If carried through, these industries alone would furnish sufficient traffic to this branch to give it more freight earnings per mile than the main line now had. The Government of Canada was now asking tenders for the first 150 miles of the Government section of the Grand Trunk Pacific between Quebec and Winnipeg, which would pass up the St. Maurice Valley. It was expected that there would be a large traffic for this company in carrying the men and materials for the construction of this road.

Major Coates, M.P., moved the formal resolution approving the creation and issue of prior lien bonds to the amount of £150,000, which was seconded by Mr. C. A. Hanson and carried unanimously.

A similar resolution was carried at a meeting of the holders of income bonds, but the meeting of prior lien bondholders was adjourned for a week in the absence of a quorum.

GREAT WESTERN AND METROPOLITAN DAIRIES, LIMITED.

Nett profits for the twelve months ended December 30, including receipts from interest, transfer fees, &c., showed a further small advance of £280 at £11,453, and with £990 or £611 more brought forward the total income was £959 larger at £12,443. On this occasion nothing is written off against £348 applied to wipe out the balance of preliminary expenses a year ago, so that the whole amount is available, meaning an increase of £1,307. Preference dividend having been met the directors again pay 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares, and after putting an extra £1,000 at £2,500 to reserve, raise the carry forward to £1,297. The addition to reserve was highly necessary, as even now that fund only comes to £6,500, while purchase and goodwill account stands at £79,529, or over 63½ per cent. of the total capital, and represents the sole security for the ordinary shares. No provision has yet been made for redemption of the leasehold properties valued at £7,758, and apparently it has not been considered necessary to make any allowance for depreciation on machinery and plant taken into the balance-sheet at £7,839, or on horses valued at £3,006; at least, no mention is made in the report of anything of the kind, nor is it possible to discover anything from the accounts. As far as the current position is concerned the company seems comfortably enough off, liabilities to sundry creditors being £16,602 against £31,741 to come in from sundry debtors, while in addition to £5,444 in cash, there are investments and loans amounting, with accrued interest, to £9,842.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12.

Associated Omnibus.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
Crosfields.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
Lorimer.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
Nile Valley.—Winchester House, noon.
Welford's Surrey Dairies.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13.

Bradbury, Greatorex.—Aldermanbury, noon.
Colne Valley Water.—Charing Cross Hotel.
English Velvet and Cord Dyers' Association.—Manchester, noon.
Gold Coast Estates.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
Hull and Barnsley Railway.—Winchester House, noon.
Kemball, Bishop.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast Railway.—Hamilton House, 3.30 p.m.
Liverpool Overhead Railway.—Liverpool, 3 p.m.
London and South-Western Railway.—Waterloo Station, noon.
North-Western Associated G. M. of Western Australia.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Villa Maria and Rufino Railway.—Winchester House, 11.15 a.m.
Waterloo and City Railway.—Waterloo, 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14.

Anglo-Australian Assets.—Winchester House, noon.
Bank of Egypt.—26, Old Broad Street, noon.
Bristol United Breweries.—Bristol, 3 p.m.
Brecon and Merthyr Tydfil Junction Railway.—Palmerston House, E.C., 12.30 p.m.
Day and Martin.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Great Northern (Ireland) Railway.—Dublin, noon.
Great Southern and Western Railway.—Dublin, 2 p.m.
Hull Brewery.—Hull, noon.
Pullman, R. and J.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
Rand Victoria Mines.—Cannon Street Hotel, 3 p.m.
South Metropolitan Gas.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.
Waterfall Estates and Gold Mines.—Winchester House, noon.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

City of Buenos Ayres Tramways.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
English Association of American Bond and Share Holders.—5, Great Winchester Street, noon.
Hill, R. and J.—Winchester House, noon.
Measures Bros.—Worcester House, 2.30 p.m.
Mersey Railway.—Winchester House, noon.
North London Railway.—Euston Station, 1 p.m.
Nigel Main Reef.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
Red Hill Westralia Gold Mines.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.
Westminster Fire Office.—27, King Street, Covent Garden, 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16.

Borax Consolidated.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Brentford Gas.—Charing Cross Hotel, 2.30 p.m.
Derby Gas Light and Coke.—Derby, noon.
Devon and Cornwall Banking.—Plymouth, noon.
Financial Times.—72, Coleman Street, noon.
London and North-Western Railway.—Euston, noon.
Metropolitan District Railway.—Westminster Palace Hotel, noon.
Midland Railway.—Derby, 1.30 p.m.
Norwich Union Life Assurance.—Norwich, noon.
Rice-Hamilton Exploration Syndicate.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
Railway Debenture Trust.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
Regent's Canal and Dock.—5, Lloyd's Avenue, noon.
Railway Share Trust.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Smithfield Market Electric Supply.—Winchester House, noon.
World Marine Insurance.—21, Finch Lane, noon.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

A Special General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Company will be held at the principal office of the Company, at Montreal, on Monday, the 19th day of March next, at noon, pursuant to the Act of the Parliament of Canada, 55-56 Victoria, Chapter 35, entitled "An Act respecting the Canadian Pacific Railway Company," for the purpose of considering, and, if approved, of authorising an increase of the present authorised Ordinary Capital Stock of the Company from One hundred and ten million dollars (\$110,000,000) to One hundred and fifty million dollars (\$150,000,000) being an increase of Forty million dollars (\$40,000,000), and of determining the amount or amounts, and the time or times, of the issue or issues of the said stock, the purposes to which the proceeds thereof shall be applied, and of adopting such resolutions or by-laws as may be deemed necessary in connection therewith, in order to enable the Directors of the Company to give effect to the same.

The Common Stock Transfer Books will be closed in Montreal, New York and London at 1 p.m., on Saturday, February 24th instant. The Preference Stock Books will be closed in London on the same date.

All books will be re-opened on Tuesday, April 3rd, 1906.

By order of the Board,

CHARLES DRINKWATER,

Secretary.

Montreal,

February 8th, 1906.

THE LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE BANK, LIMITED.

Subscribed Capital - - - £1,725,320.

Paid-up Capital	- - - - -	£862,660
Reserve Fund	- - - - -	595,000
Callable Capital	- - - - -	862,660
Surplus Security to the Public	- - - - -	£2,320,320

Directors.

HENRY WHITEHEAD, Esq., D.L., J.P., *Chairman.* J. B. LONSDALE, Esq., J.P., M.P.
 JOHN HEALEY, Esq., J.P. THOMAS NORTON, Esq., D.L., J.P.
 R. P. HEWIT, Esq. JOHN E. SHAW, Esq., J.P.
 C. W. KEIGHLEY, Esq., J.P. COLONEL O. O. WALKER, D.L., J.P.
 JOSEPH WHEATLEY, Esq., J.P.
 THOS. B. MOXON, Esq., Managing Director.

Dr. BALANCE SHEET, 30th December, 1905. Cr.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Capital Account	862,660	0	0	By Money in hand, and at short notice	2,247,492	3	1
" Reserve Fund	595,000	0	0	" Investments (taken at under market value)*	2,300,119	19	9
" Rebate Account	6,074	9	4	" Bills of Exchange	731,389	19	11
" Profit and Loss Account	91,260	13	0				
	1,544,995	2	4	" Advances on Loans	5,279,002	2	9
" Current, Deposit, and other Accounts	9,136,461	10	4	" Acceptances, &c.	5,032,146	9	11
" Acceptances, etc.	53,386	16	3	" Bank Property	375,000	0	0
" Notes in circulation in the Isle of Man	4,692	0	0				
	£10,739,535	8	11		£10,739,535	8	11

* Including £19,000 India 3½ per cent. Stock lodged against Note Circulation in the Isle of Man.

Head Office: 43 SPRING GARDENS, MANCHESTER.

NEW SOUTH WALES 3½ PER CENT. STOCK, 1930-1950.

ISSUE OF £2,000,000.

Price of Issue, £99 10s. per cent.

Interest payable 1st January and 1st July.
 Six Months' Interest payable 1st July, 1906.

Principal repayable at par on the 1st July, 1950, the Government of New South Wales having the option to redeem the Stock at par on or after the 1st July, 1930, on giving six calendar months' notice.

The Government of New South Wales having complied with the requirements of the Colonial Stock Act, 1900, as announced in the "London Gazette" of the 6th September, 1901, Trustees are authorized to invest in this Stock subject to the provisions set forth in the Trustee Act, 1893.

THE LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK LIMITED are instructed by the Government of New South Wales to offer for subscription the above amount of Stock, being a portion of the amount authorised under Act of the Parliament of the State of New South Wales, No. 108 of 1902.

The whole of the amount raised by this issue is to be devoted to the redemption of Treasury Bills and Debentures matured and maturing on or before 1st July next, and will not increase the indebtedness of the State.

The State Debt and Sinking Fund Act, 1904, of the State of New South Wales, provides that appropriation shall be made during each financial year from the Consolidated Revenue Fund, to be placed to the credit of the General Sinking Fund, of the amount of £350,000 and such further amount as Parliament may provide.

The Stock offered will be inscribed in accordance with the provisions of "The Colonial Stock Act, 1877," 40 and 41 Vict., cap. 59, in the books to be kept by the London and Westminster Bank Limited, and will be transferable without charge and free of stamp duty at that Bank, either by the Stockholders personally or by their Attorneys. The interest, at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, will be payable on behalf of the Government of New South Wales at the London and Westminster Bank Limited, Lothbury, on the 1st January and 1st July in each year, by Dividend Warrants, which, if desired, can be sent by post at the Stockholders' risk. The principal will be payable in London on the 1st July, 1950, but the Government of New South Wales have the option of redemption at par in London on or after the 1st July, 1930, on giving six calendar months' notice by advertisement in the *London Gazette* and in the *Times Newspaper*, or by post to the then Stockholders at their registered addresses.

Stock Certificates to Bearer, of the denominations of £100, £500, and £1,000, with Coupons for the Half yearly Dividends attached, will be obtainable in exchange for Inscribed Stock at the London and Westminster Bank Limited, Lothbury, on payment of the prescribed fees, and such certificates can be re-inscribed as Stock at the will of the holder.

The revenues of the State of New South Wales alone are liable in respect of this Stock and the Dividends thereon, and the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom and the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury are not directly or indirectly liable or responsible for the payment of the Stock or of the Dividends thereon, or for any matter relating thereto.—40 and 41 Vict. cap. 59, sec. 19.

Applications on the form prescribed will be received at the London and Westminster Bank Limited, Lothbury, and must be for even hundreds of Stock, and be accompanied by a deposit of £5 per cent. on the nominal amount applied for.

The list will be closed on or before Wednesday, the 14th February, 1906. In case of partial allotment, the surplus of the amount paid as deposit will be appropriated towards the payment of the instalment due on allotment.

Payment will be required as follows, viz. —

£5	per cent.	on application.
£19 10s.	"	on Monday, 26th February, 1906.
£25	"	on Monday, 26th March, 1906.
£25	"	on Monday, 30th April, 1906.
£25	"	on Monday, 28th May, 1906.
£99 10s.		

Payment may be made in full on the 26th February, 1906, or on any subsequent day, under discount at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

In case of default in the payment of any instalment at its due date the deposits and instalments previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

Scrap Certificates will be issued after payment of the amount due on allotment, and such certificates, when paid up in full, will be convertible into Inscribed Stock on presentation at the London and Westminster Bank Limited, Lothbury.

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The Investors' Review.

The New Parliament—What will it do?

"There are comparatively few old members in this House to-day," said Sir Wilfrid Lawson in proposing the re-election of Mr. J. W. Lowther to the Speakership. This is true, and we cannot help indulging in conjecture as to what this new inexperienced House of Commons will do with the mighty power placed in its hands for good or evil. It means to do good in all directions, we have not the least doubt. Some amongst the new members may be merely self-seekers, merely intent upon pushing their way in the world, but the great majority are unquestionably animated more or less fully with an enthusiasm of humanity caught from the electorate which may be trusted to impel them to accomplish good work for the nation and for the empire. Factions may arise, and already we have a separate "Labour party," which, judging by the utterances of its new chairman, Mr. Keir Hardie, will endeavour to propagate socialism in public affairs, but it is not powerful enough to embarrass the Government of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, nor until it has attained to some knowledge of finance will any heed be paid to its projects for nationalising the land and the railways, or to its other grandiose schemes of a similar Utopian and, as matters are, impracticable description. But of necessity the first legislative efforts of the new House of Commons must deal with domestic grievances. Under the long régime of the do-nothings and spend-all whom Mr. Balfour nominally led, injustice has grown rank and a confusion has arisen in public affairs loudly demanding remedy. The education dispute must be settled, and we are inclined to think that the more thoroughly all clerical demands are put on one side the more permanent is the settlement likely to be. There must be relief and protection from judge-made tyranny given to labour and some attempt made to begin the re-peopling of our native land. Taxation must be reduced and re-adjusted. The ravenous expenditure upon the army and navy will have to be severely curtailed, and as regards the navy we trust that Lord Tweedmouth is not going to be carried away by the factitious enthusiasm worked up around the new "Dreadnought," a huge murder machine reckoned to cost us £1,500,000, which an insignificant torpedo could send to the bottom. That is not the way to economise and yet to have a "strong" navy.

It would take many columns to go through the home reforms demanded by the nation, and which must be granted if it is to regain its freedom, if justice is to be meted out to the suppressed and to some extent oppressed classes, if the career is to be really and effectually open to the talents. But we should like for the moment to direct attention rather to the imperial aspects of the new Government's duties. Ours is a great empire in many ways, though not much in the particular way continually harped upon by the Tariffites and their allies or dupes. As Mr. Godard well argues in his book on "Racial Supremacy," the quality and attributes of British imperialism are not illustrated by the self-governing dependencies of the United Kingdom, the free colonies of Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, nor even by Cape Colony. True imperialism, the dominance of one race over others, finds its exemplification in the bureaucratic autocracy of India, in the oligarchic government of the Transvaal and the old

Orange-Free State, in our "Crown Colonies" everywhere, in medialis'd Egypt and in all Middle-Africa. In connection with these dependencies completely in our hands as rulers, questions vital to the continuance of the empire now press on all sides for solution. But, beyond this even, we have an imperial interest in countries outside our direct rule, as the greatest manufacturing and commercial nation the world has ever known. Interests truly imperial link us up with the fate of China and Japan, with vast colonising schemes in East, West and North Africa, with the Republics of South America, in which the British people have enormous monetary interests, and with the United States, whose northern limits march with the Dominion of Canada. In connection with our mercantile interests all the world over there are problems clamouring for attention and solution. Is the new House of Commons equipped to deal with this vast and increasingly important side of the imperial position of England, or is it going to be smothered in domestic affairs, its path blocked by factional wrangles, its attention distracted by the futilities of an Opposition still apparently to be led by Mr. Arthur Balfour, the gentleman who on Monday night again mocked the nation, and revealed his incapacity to understand its greatness? As the *Manchester Guardian* wittily said: This suave word-spinner has, "since Mr. Chamberlain turned Protectionist, endeavoured to steer the old vessel of the State due South, due North, and North-East at the same time." Is he going to continue—he and Joseph—the old farce to wax perniciously obstructive over futilities smacking of the company promoter? We trust not, but at the same time recognise that, distractions or factions or peace and concord, were the members on the Government side of the House of Commons giants in intellect and in political capacity, the task laid before them as result of long years of misgovernment, of no government, would be almost too great to be successfully carried through.

One has but to read a book like Mr. Putnam Weale's "Re-Shaping of the Far East" to get some idea of the blight that has been thrown over some of our greatest imperial interests by the narrow-minded indifference of the late Government, and its intentness on the affairs of the cosmopolite mine grabbers in South Africa. Mr. Weale harps continually upon the neglect of British interests displayed by the Governments of Lord Salisbury and Mr. Balfour in things Chinese. It is thanks to this neglect, and almost to it alone, that Japan and Russia have been engaged in an exhausting death struggle, the consequences of which promise to last for generations in the countries of both belligerents. It is thanks to the utter disregard of all real Chinese and British interests within the Chinese Empire, to the careless advice given by us to the Chinese in their extremity, that Germany is to-day an aggressor in the province of Shan-tung, and busy endeavouring to found an empire there upon drill-sergeant lines, busy therefore preparing the way for a patriotic upheaval in China which may result in the expulsion of every European from the dominions of the Manchus. Is our new Ministry giving some of its attention to the state of affairs in China at the present time? It is having warnings enough, for those ever recurring explosions against missionaries, with their accompanying murders, give ominous indications of the spirit which is beginning to assert itself all over the empire, and China is attempting as fast as her Government can find the means to equip and drill new troops. Her population exceeds 400 millions, and in a few years she will be able to put one or more millions of drilled and armed men in the field against the European foe. Here is an imperial interest urgently demanding our attention. Will the House of Commons have time to assist the Government in dealing with problems in the Far East like these, problems affecting our immense trade and our future position in relation not only to China but to Japan, France, Russia, and Germany, all of which Powers are busy, Russia still as much as any, in again working so as to overthrow or minimise British influence and British trade in that part of the world.

It is to be feared that, for a time at least, any interest outside those relating to Great Britain and Ireland, and the demands of the inhabitants thereof, will be concentrated upon South Africa, where a legacy of misrule has been left to the present Government by its predecessors complicated enough to appal the stoutest heart. What is to be done with this Chinese slave labour gangrene? Is it true that Lord Elgin is flinching already, afraid to grasp the nettle of cosmopolite monopoly and to throw this thing out? That is what the ever-jeering jingo and share-punter tells us. We hope it is not true, for there will soon not only be a Chinese coolie question to aggravate the position in the annexed republics, all over South Africa, but a black question as well. As the *Manchester Guardian* says, the most significant thing about the sudden outbreak of a few blacks in Natal against the inequitable and dangerous poll tax imposed at Mr. Chamberlain's suggestion is not the incident itself, but the fear it has excited in Africa and at home lest a general rising of the blacks be about to take place. That such an outbreak is nearly due is almost certain; and one of the ugliest features connected with the importation of Chinese indentured labourers is the wrath the presence of these under-paid competitors has excited in the minds of South African natives. Moreover, some of the natives, the half-breeds especially, whose numbers are rapidly increasing, are beginning to clamour for political rights, and to these some measure of political liberty will have to be granted. The Government is therefore perforce compelled to pay the closest attention to conflicting interests, to this mass of injustice, this accumulated catalogue of wrongs borne in silence, of frauds committed, of promised benefits withheld in South Africa, and even with the best of goodwill and the most earnest solicitude it will find difficulty in smoothing out the almost hopeless coil. We are consequently more and more inclined to think that the first step taken should be the recall of Lord Selborne. That amiably feeble gentleman has failed just as Lord Milner failed by falling into the hands of the mine bosses, irresponsible cosmopolites, and is now reduced to doing their bidding. Amiable and honest according to his lights and intellect, which are not conspicuously great, in quiet times he might have been a model Governor, but as things are he is in the wrong place and ought to be forthwith superseded. We hope it is true, as the *Daily Chronicle* of Wednesday says, that a strong Royal Commission is to be sent out to South Africa, as we have been suggesting these many weeks, to examine the position, so that the Government may at least be able to proceed to effect reforms with some knowledge of the facts, with prejudices swept away, with the falsehoods diligently propagated by the mine controllers and their Press and political tools in Africa and here exposed. The manner in which Lord Selborne has met the charges levelled against these bosses in regard to the treatment of the Chinese coolies in compound and mine alone stamps him as a man disqualified for the position he holds. Along with the Commission, or immediately before it, there ought therefore to be sent out a new Governor, a man strong in his sympathies with the white population of South Africa, wholly unconnected also with any South African enterprise. To select men who dabble in the Kaffir Circus, men of the class who buttonhole you to know what you think of the prospects of the market, to inform you that they have lost so much in "Bankets" or that their speculation in Rand Mines has turned out disastrously, will never do. There are clean men to be had still who have not touched this mass of corruption at any time, and from amongst these the new High Commissioner and the members of the Royal Commission ought to be selected. This done and the maltreatment of the coolies stopped, the Government should suspend judgment and action until its own chosen delegates and representative have made their report. Mr. Lyttelton and his pals may well fear for their "constitution" should this course be followed. It would at least enable the Government to give much of its attention to other imperial questions which, if not so unclean or so complicated, are still urgently in need of study and amendment.

What, for instance, does Mr. John Morley mean to do about the conflict between the civil and military authorities in India? Is he going tamely to acquiesce in the triumph of Lord Kitchener, and to set the military faction in Simla free to appropriate as much of the revenue wrung out of the starving Indian people as it chooses, without check, without supervision? What also is he going to do about the partition of Bengal? That has excited more bitter feeling throughout the richest and most populous area of the Indian Peninsula than any other single administrative act perpetrated for a generation back. Will he reverse the policy of Lord Curzon in this matter, put an end to the multiplication of highly paid British officials thereby caused, and restore Bengal to its ancient unity? We do not know, but feel certain that unless the new Secretary of State for India bestirs himself and pays careful heed to the warnings, remonstrances, and appeals of the natives of India for some share in the management of their affairs, for an abatement of their grievances, a reduction in their taxation, and a due subordination of the military faction to the civil power, his tenure of office will not bring him glory.

In saying these things we have but touched the fringe of the burden of empire so lightly and heedlessly regarded by the Cecil régime now at an end, so momentous for us in England, so fraught for us with anxieties, duties, entanglements, expiations, and recuperations in all parts of the world. Well may the new House cry "the task is too great to be borne." That would be true; we cannot as a nation indefinitely go on carrying the responsibilities we now have to assume. All the more therefore should the new Government, and its Commons House, filled with new zeal, labour to build up freedom, to extend the liberties of the subject, and to lift up the dependant in all parts of the empire, so that we may have a little time to attend to our own affairs, so that race dominance and the curse thereof may begin to disappear from all lands over which the Union Jack floats. What has the new Labour Party to say to the hunger of India?

The Home Railway Position.

"Home railways" in this case applies only to the English companies, for we have not yet received the reports of the Scotch companies, and the Irish may be left out of account. Except as investments they have no interest for the British public, which cares no more for Ireland than it does for India. As investments, moreover, these Irish lines are so stagnant, not to say retrogressive, in spite of the constant stimulus of fresh capital, that it is not surprising their history should attract no attention here. Our English companies, however, always afford much material for comment and discussion, and for last year their accounts show a revival of prosperity. We have dealt with the individual reports as they came out, and have not space to again go over the criticisms to which the various companies were then subjected. They have done better than in the war and post-war years, and that is about all that can be said. No particular new feature has developed in their working except in the direction of a greater resort to electricity. There some progress has been made, especially by the North-Eastern Company, and there are indications that every one of the big companies will be compelled before long to spend large amounts of capital in electrifying portions of its lines, in extending its connections by means of light railways or services of motor 'buses. The Brighton company is at work now, and all suburban lines must soon dispense with steam. Electricity, in short, is to be the propelling force of the future, and the sooner all boards of directors wake up to this fact the better. That they have done so yet cannot be asserted. With most boards it is very much the other way. They continue to march along the old beaten track, and are spending capital on steam motive power lines almost as freely as they did before electricity was heard of.

We read the other day a picturesque newspaper reporter's account of the rows of engines thrown out of use by the District Railway in consequence of its electrification, and could not help wondering at what figure these engines stand in the terribly waterlogged capital account of the company. Were they ever written down to anything like the figure at which they might now be saleable? Will they ever be saleable at any price to any company in the United Kingdom, or must they be "dumped," to use the Tariffite phrase, on some unhappy community abroad? We do not know, but all the companies were busy last year adding to the capital sunk in rolling stock. Their total capital expenditure within the year came to nearly £12,000,000, without counting some of the small lines in South Wales whose outlays under this head are never of much importance. The Great Western Company managed to lay out £2,795,000, the North-Eastern £1,087,000, the District £1,187,000, the Midland £877,000, the Lancashire and Yorkshire £810,000, the Metropolitan nearly £707,000 and the North-Western only £634,000. Of this outlay no less than £1,875,000 went into new working stock—£571,000 of it though stock for the District company's new electric trains—and there is no indication in the accounts of any of the companies that a single sixpence has been written off the capitalised value of this portion of the properties for wear and tear. Altogether they have now sunk more than £101,000,000 in working stock, every penny of which figures in the capital account without offset. They last year spent another £5,000,000 on lines open for traffic, and the result of it all was that at the end of the year their capital accounts were overdrawn by about £17,500,000. How is it possible for the railways to go on in this fashion? Where do they get the money when they have not sold stock or raised debenture debt in order to provide for such outlay? They lay their hands upon the provident, savings bank and other trust funds in their hands, the total of which funds at the end of the year just about balanced the capital overdrafts. Companies whose resources in this kind are insufficient have to issue Lloyds bonds, to get loans from bankers, or to make drafts upon the current business account.

It is an unsound position from all points of view, and one that would certainly land even the greatest of our railways in at least temporary embarrassment were anything like a financial setback to overtake the country. We cannot look at such figures without feeling that there is a lack of business perspicacity in the management of our railways. They are still amateurish in many respects, presided over by great landowners and gentlemen of means—or of influence and "good family," whose qualification has been provided by some charitable subterfuge—and no matter what the ability of the working staff and the general managers may be, the presiding directorate too frequently stands in the way of thorough reform, of good account keeping, of careful husbandry in finance. We might say much more, but it is useless. Perhaps the Labour members of Parliament will devote some of their attention to this subject, and acquire some knowledge of railway finance before they commence to debate over the purchase of these lines by the State. Have they not an ex-railway guard among them who defeated one of his old directors at the poll? It would be a very dear bargain were any such purchase effected on the present market prices, for while the capital account continues to mount up, while revenue is supplemented by drafts from this account, and while slovenliness, absence of co-ordination in departments, and the waste of slack management continue to dominate our railways, their position cannot be gauged from the market prices for their stocks.

The Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, K.C., has been appointed a director of the London and Westminster Bank, Limited, in the place of Mr. Charles Edward Johnston, who has resigned his seat at the board, owing to failing health, after many years of valuable services to the bank.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

MR. BALFOUR'S SURRENDER.

It does not interest so very much, but we may be permitted to express sympathy with Mr. Gibson Bowles. As he wrote his illuminating letter giving the history of Mr. Balfour's ineptitude and incompetence as the leader of a party, winding up with the observation that he still said "yea and nay" about Protection, we were sending the leader at the beginning of this number to the printer, and we have both been "caught out." Mr. Balfour has surrendered to the intriguer of Birmingham, "the Crusader," as Mr. Labouchere calls him, thereby doing him too much honour, and now we are to have a Tory Party united on Protection—a wrecker party led by Mr. Balfour, with Joseph as his real master. A propaganda of slavery for England is to be the main plank in its platform. That any body of men should be so far bereft of any fragment of common-sense as to deliberately assume an attitude of this kind towards the nation immediately after that nation has emphatically declared its unalterable resolution to remain free, to have nothing to do with any tariff trickery, which would deepen poverty and establish the rule of plutocratic monopolists throughout the Empire, is surely the most remarkable instance of moral and intellectual decadence in modern times. We can understand Mr. Chamberlain's adhesion to the fiscal fraud named by him "tariff reform." It is a stock-jobbing affair from beginning to end, smacking of the "bucket shop" rather than of statecraft. Club gossip says that the South African mushroom magnates subscribed £300,000 to start this attempt to shackle the nation, and one can quite understand their motives. They hoped to distract the attention of the British public by raising a domestic quarrel, which would leave them free to work their will in South Africa, and whether the tale be true or not, it must be the fact that hundreds of thousands of pounds have been found to foment and sustain this unprincipled, dishonest, and altogether degrading agitation by monopolists and would-be monopolists of all sorts. Mr. Chamberlain, as "head centre" in the plot, is compelled to do the bidding of his masters, but surely Mr. Balfour might have had the manliness to shake himself free, the patriotism and courage to endeavour to lift the party he has wrecked out of the mire into which he had plunged it. It still calls itself a "Conservative" party, but Mr. Balfour has surrendered, and his master has made it a party of revolution. Were the machinations of the Tariffites to succeed and Protection to be established once more in this country—with its over-populated towns and its increasing dependence for the means to live upon foreign commerce—we should see before many years such a state of affairs from one end of the kingdom to the other as could only be paralleled by the worst excesses of the French Revolution. But we believe this party of revolution to be impotent, and the best course the Government of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman can pursue is to take no heed of its machinations, its efforts at betrayal of national and imperial interests, but to go straight on working out the social reforms demanded by the people, clearing away the corruption, and undoing the wrongs encouraged or perpetrated by their predecessors.

SOUTH AFRICA STILL A "LAND OF LIES."

Well might Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman emphasise the degradation of the majority of the British Press. At the dinner given in his honour on Wednesday night by the National Liberal Club he justifiably dwelt upon the fact that much of the Press of this country "was in the hands of syndicates, and, therefore, a burlesque of a free Press." Up and down the country this suborned, coerced, or syndicated Press did its very utmost to betray the electorate, and, as

we have more than once insisted, the greatest consolation the elections have given to many of us is the illustration they have afforded of the impotence of this shameless class of "organs of public opinion." But the *Times*, which, though not amongst the syndicated crowd, is none the less still completely under the sway of the South African cosmopolites, all unconscious of what the country has done, continues in its old path, and day after day does its best, not only by articles written in London, but by its Johannesburg correspondent, to mislead the British public and brow-beat the new Government. A striking example of the essentially non-patriotic line followed by this newspaper is furnished in Thursday's issue, which contains a long telegram from the aforesaid Johannesburg correspondent, stuffed from one end to the other with sophistications, misleading assertions, travesties of fact, falsehoods dressed in the decent garb of truth, and simulations of "public opinion" shocking enough almost to disgrace the meanest Harmsworth rag printed. He avers that "when the existing constitution was framed by Lord Milner all sections of the people were invited to record their views," but does not tell us that Lord Milner took precious good care to accept and act upon only those "views" that pleased his masters of the Corner house, said views being manufactured to suit their purposes.

The writer goes on to declare that the British population "claimed no advantages in the franchise over the Boers." That may be true in form, but in substance it is a perfect falsehood. Boer and Briton never got the chance to "claim" anything. The alleged constitution was framed by the boss tools, and so framed that the accidental, bird-of-passage white population gathered round the mines and in Johannesburg were given a preponderating vote, so as to swamp that bestowed upon the permanent settlers, the real population, Dutch or British. The object of this was plain enough, and in order to make the dominance of the bosses sure, the very soldiery and police were given a vote, while the grown-up young men on the farms were refused or jockeyed out of one. What object could there be in a gerrymander of this description if not to ensure that the representative Government to be established would be an imposture? It was inevitable that after an introduction of this kind the correspondent should go on to beat the alarm drum about the dominance of the Boers, and to assert that "if Het Volk were put into power in the Transvaal this Boer organisation," which would be already supreme in Cape Colony and in Orangia, "would dictate the policy of the sub-continent, ultimate federation would be arranged on their lines, and the British Empire in South Africa would cease to exist in all but name, if not in that too." Here again we have the man asserting that which is not true, that for which he can produce no reliable evidence, that which is merely the garbage of the "Corner House." It is the old story of "a conspiracy to drive the British into the sea," which was vamped up and trotted out with such effect when Rhodes, Beit, Jameson, Rudd, Rutherford Harris, and all their allies among peers and plutocrats here were beguiling us into that disastrous war. Equally devoid of truth is this man's presentment of the Chinese question, but we need not go into that further to-day than to emphatically call in question the figures he trots out. "It must be remembered," he says, "that a curtailment of the industry means *inter alia* a reduction of annual expenditure of over £3,000,000 on British-made machinery and of £1,500,000 on the Transvaal's annual white wages bill, a strange measure for a Liberal-Labour Government to advocate." It need and would mean nothing of the kind. As we have throughout insisted—and events have proved us to be right—the curse of the Witwatersrand is not the shortage of white and native labour, but the mismanagement of the mines. Were the mines properly organised and worked in the interests of the shareholders and of the country in which they were situated—of that Empire at large about which these cosmopolites are continually prating—the

white wages bill would not be £1,500,000, but probably three times as much, and there would be no shortage of native labour, because if native labour is adequately paid and properly treated it is there in abundance. Nor would dividends decline; they would increase. But here we have the kind of thing our Press of the degraded type pours out upon the electorate in the interests of the helots of Park Lane, with a view to our intimidation. Happily, it can have no effect upon the policy of the present Government, and certainly will have none upon the resolution of the nation, which has just been expressed with unprecedented emphasis. This Chinese slavery must be swept away, even if all the mines on the Witwatersrand are shut down and all the mine bosses go bankrupt. But who in this *Times* correspondent, and by whom are his wages paid?

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

Both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer took the right line in replying to the deputation from the committee of the Trades Union Congress which interviewed them on Thursday upon this subject. Their attitude towards the deputation was sympathetic perhaps, but frank in pointing out some of the difficulties in the way of any general system of provision for the labouring man in old age. Even before the war the means with which to start old age pensions were small; since the war there are no available means of any sort. The working classes might have thought of that before they in such numbers supported Mr. Chamberlain in that war, before they went "Mafficking" mad. It is too late for them to complain now. But we must repeat once more what has often been said in these columns—no system of old age pensions can be established on a durable foundation which does not reorganise our poor laws with a view to their ultimate abolition or supersession. Furthermore, old age pensions for the working classes cannot be made universal except by constituting the charge involved an annual one, a burden upon taxes or rates, or on both together. Working class pensions cannot be established on the scale necessary by the investment of premiums, made up by deductions from wages and State grants-in-aid, unless, and this is a point the working classes might ponder, our land laws are so altered as to constitute on a large or expansive scale investments in the securities of land banks and mortgage agencies a good and fruitful security. The national debt is not really a fruitful security so far as the nation is concerned; it is a security that steadily and relentlessly presses the multitude down towards a bare subsistence, or towards the workhouse; one, likewise, investment in which by the State invariably lands it in loss. But even were feudalism abolished, deer forests and other wealth-blighting monopolisations of the soil done away with, the fructifying security thus opened up would not long suffice to sustain a national system of old age pension insurance. It is too vast, would roll up liabilities too fast not to overlap at a comparatively early stage every safe basis of interest-yielding security available. These are some of the conclusions reached many years ago by the present writer, who threshed the whole subject out time and again with the late W. A. Hunter, M.P. for North Aberdeen. For a long time Mr. Hunter and the writer differed, but in the end the M.P. came round to our view, and recognised the hopelessness of instituting any adequate old age pensions scheme except by first clearing away the poor law administration, with its most costly machinery of relief, and then constituting the pensions a direct charge met annually from taxes and rates. The Birmingham impulsivist got hold of Mr. Hunter at a still unconverted stage, and appropriated his immature proposals, with the result we have seen—a will-o'-the-wisp hunt of the uninformed working man after the unattainable. And when all is said, is there not a symptom of decadence in this old age pensions agitation, or at least an admission that our civilisation has failed? Be that so or not, one road,

and one alone, will lead the down-pressed masses of the people on and up towards comfort in old age, or at any age—the road of thrift and self-denial, of vigorous and well-ordered economy in personal and national finance; the road that eschews wars of conquest, race aggressiveness in any form. Neither plutocrat nor peasant can have it both ways, and if the electorate is not prepared to sustain the present Government in all its efforts to reduce the national expenditure to a reasonable total, not only will there never be any chance of pensions for the worn-out toiler, but the Protectionists may, after all, triumph and reduce the people to plutocratic serfdom. Will the trades unions ponder these things, and so rise to a higher conception of their duties as citizens?

A MONOPOLY IN FIRE INSURANCE.

This seems to be the goal towards which our fire insurance offices are steering. As already intimated, the tariff offices have absorbed the enterprising and progressive Central Insurance Company, to which the public owes several valuable concessions and reforms, and now we learn from the *Manchester Guardian* that a majority of Lloyds' underwriters dealing in fire business direct or by reinsurance methods, have recently decided to regulate all operations in that branch of their business by the rules of the Fire Office Committee, the central authority, that is, by which rates are regulated, and the whole business of fire insurance in this country controlled. Probably this drawing together was inevitable. The tariff offices, as they are called, had become too powerful for independent offices to be able to effectively fight them. Again and again during the last 30 years new fire companies have been started with a view to break the ring, and they have either failed utterly, or after struggling on a certain number of years, have been absorbed by their powerful and united competitors. Whether the public will suffer or gain by this unification of an important branch of business we cannot offhand determine. Advantages there certainly ought to be through the simplification of the methods of business, and were it accompanied by a reduction in the number of separate companies and diminution in the expenses of management we might perhaps look forward to some reduction in the rates levied, but there is no indication at all that reforms of this description are in contemplation. We have not seen any reference to the high percentage of costs at which fire insurance business is now conducted. There is no talk of a diminution in the number of directorships which the individual companies maintain out of their revenues, directorships that recent amalgamations have taught us to regard as life interests, to be compounded for when one company absorbs another. We may, therefore, fear that the complete establishment of a monopoly in fire insurance business will benefit the people who conduct it far more than the outside multitude by whom premiums are paid; and yet, were a spirit of reform to lay hold of the independent spirits amongst those who control this great business, much advantage might arise to all concerned. The cost of conducting the business might be sensibly reduced without injury to any vital part of the machinery, and at the same time concessions might be made to the insurers without affecting the dividends returned to shareholders. We can only hope the best and wait to see what may happen.

IMPERIAL TOBACCO CO. (OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND).

We are pleased to learn that the prodigious profits earned by this great tobacco monopoly have been acquired in a comparatively just and straightforward fashion, and that the commanding power of the trust has not been used to unduly interfere with the rights and privileges of the retailers. In its early days it must be admitted that the combination was not too scrupulous in its methods, but now that it has established an absolutely unassailable position as the controller of the tobacco industry for the United Kingdom,

it can afford to err on the side of generosity in its dealings with those who, after all, contribute very materially to the company's phenomenal success. We briefly intimated a week or so ago that the company had evidently enjoyed a year of great prosperity, and now learn from the annual report, made up to October 31 last, that the nett trading profit came to £1,705,082. As will be seen from the subjoined table, this is an increase over the preceding 12 months of £253,434, itself a fortune, while the advance over the first year of the company's existence is no less than £601,076. With the addition of £565 for transfer and other fees, the revenue is raised to £1,705,647, and after providing £66,377 for directors' and trustees' fees and management remuneration, £87,763 for debenture interest, and £55,980 for balance of stamp duties written off, the sum remaining is £1,495,527. In dividing this sum the directors commence in commendable fashion by setting aside £100,000 as the nucleus of a fund from which pensions or grants may be paid to persons in the company's employ after long or valuable service, or to their dependents. It is not, however, proposed to create a trust or to give any legal right to demand a pension or grant, but the board will exercise its own discretion, dealing with each case on its merits. In some respects this method of handling the fund is open to objection, and the greatest care will have to be exercised if its administration is to be fairly and impartially conducted. Departmental favouritism, for example, must be strictly guarded against. The next allocation is £250,000, or £50,000 more, to reserve, leaving £1,145,527, to which is added £88,263 brought forward, making £1,233,790. Dividend on the cumulative preference shares absorbs £272,759, and after providing the 6 per cent. on the non-cumulative preferred ordinary shares, the directors raise the dividend on the deferred ordinary shares from 6 per cent. to 8, allow £57,080 for customers' bonus for the first half of the year, and carry forward £167,488, subject to final bonus. Subjoined is a comparison of the profits since the trust was formed:—

	Nov. 2, 1901, to Oct. 31, 1902.	Year Ended Oct. 31, 1903.	Year Ended Oct. 31, 1904.	Year Ended Oct. 31, 1905.
Net trading profit	£ 1,104,006	£ 1,258,840	£ 1,451,648	£ 1,705,082
Other revenue	1,570	832	498	565
Total	1,105,576	1,259,672	1,452,146	1,705,647
Directors' fees, &c.	30,502	54,111	62,166	66,377
Interest paid to vendors	472,590	16,239	—	—
Debenture interest	35,781	78,639	87,763	87,763
Income-tax & stamp duties written off	45,000	45,000	50,000	55,980
Provision for pensions	—	—	—	100,000
Net balance	575,703	1,065,683	1,252,217	1,395,527
Placed to capital reserve	114,000	—	—	—
Placed to ordinary reserve	150,000	150,000	200,000	250,000
Brought forward	311,703	915,683	1,052,217	1,145,527
Available for dividend, &c.	—	29,547	49,442	88,263
Preference dividend	311,703	945,230	1,101,659	1,233,790
Preferred ordinary dividend	137,644	268,713	272,759	272,759
Deferred ordinary dividend	118,321	319,625	315,628	315,628
Customers' bonus for first half-year	nil	210,417	315,626	420,835
Carried forward	55,738*	100,443*	145,905*	167,488*

* Subject to customers bonus.

No further increase has taken place in the share capital, which remains at £15,480,154, and the amount of debenture stock issued is still £2,065,011. Sundry creditors have been a good deal reduced to £526,092, and only £68,245 is owing on bills payable and drafts in transit, both totals being small considering the magnitude of the business. With the addition from the past year's revenue, the general reserve is raised to the good sum of £750,000, apart from the capital reserve £114,000 and pension fund £100,000. But this fund must be unceasingly built up, because the goodwill and patent rights, apart from those included in the investments in associated companies, stand at £9,562,005, and no company, however prosperous and wealthy, can allow an item like that to go unprotected. Nor is it in the least likely that the board has any such inten-

tion, and we hope and believe that a substantial addition will always be made to the accumulations before the deferred dividend is considered. After deducting depreciation, we should like to know how much, the land, buildings, plant, and machinery are valued at £2,084,721, against £2,136,349, but it looks as though the wastage allowance was pretty liberal, as the capital expenditure on the year must have been important, seeing that some of the branches and factories have been extended, and that a new factory is in course of erection at Bristol. Investments in associated companies just mentioned figure at £2,218,521, against £2,300,727, owing, apparently, to the repayment of loans, stocks are a little less at £3,456,585, and debtors owe £1,207,557, or £77,432 more. A further increase of £169,393 to £602,622 is seen in the gilt-edged investments, a sum of £300,587 has been used in investments and loans on securities for short periods, and cash is about £30,000 higher at £572,290. Thus, despite the apparent over-capitalisation when the trust was created, a position of great wealth and solidarity is being built up, and we hope the directors will not forget that smokers as well as themselves as shareholders are entitled to share the benefits. All the money is made out of the public, and, greatly as we admire the company's vast profits, any inordinate growth should be checked by reduction in selling prices. The balance-sheet totals over £20,000,000 for the first time, the exact figure being £20,072,194, an increase on the year of £395,095.

WOLHUTER GOLD MINES.

This is the company which on August 17 of last year suffered the misfortune of having its mill, mill-house, boilers, and compressor plant destroyed by fire, thus enforcing a suspension of crushing. Though the Wolhuter has not yet distinguished itself as a big dividend-payer—only 20 per cent. all told is its record, the last payment being in 1898—until the fire occurred it looked as if it was nearing the end of its struggling career. It seemed to have been making more rapid progress than at any previous period of its troublous existence, and the outlook was more hopeful than shareholders had before peered into. The financial year ends on October 31, and the profit gradually increased from £2,587, or 3s 4d per ton, in November, 1904, to £7,007, equal to over 8s 4d per ton, in July, 1905, when the last full month's work was done. During the same period the costs were reduced from 24s 3d per ton to 20s 11d per ton, including a charge of 5s. per ton for development redemption. Whilst 167,493 tons were mined, the ore reserves, which stood at 192,140 tons a year previously, now amount to 296,623 tons. This increase is accounted for, firstly, by 9,754 ft. of development work, and secondly, by the fact that not only has a considerable tonnage been milled from blocks of ground hitherto considered unpayable, but also by the addition to the reserves of blocks of ore, which careful investigation has shown can be profitably worked with the reduced working costs. After the fire considerable time was spent in adjusting the claim for insurance before the reconstruction of the battery could be undertaken. At the end of October it was possible to start the foundation work, and the consulting engineer believes that milling will be resumed on March 1st. Meantime the battery is being enlarged from 100 stamps to 120 stamps, which, together with the fact that the pattern will be up to date, should help to augment future earnings. Though the shareholders have lost the results of several months' work, £50,483 has been recovered from the insurance companies in full settlement of the company's claim. During the period from November 1 to the date of the fire 153,425 tons of ore were milled, yielding an average of 6.907 dwts. per ton, or 28s. 11.81d., leaving a profit of £46,535; or 6s 0.79d. per ton. This was raised to £48,033 by £1,498, partly freight rebate on gold shipments and the rest rents. Of this, £14,007 goes to wipe off the debit standing in the previous year's accounts, and other charges absorb £9,730, so

£24,296 is left to carry forward. Liabilities, however, are still heavy, though they have been reduced. The overdraft at the bank amounts to £82,314, against £115,387, creditors are owed £4,611, and there are sundry amounts in suspense connected with the fire to the tune of £23,239. On the other side, cash is only £2,236, and debtors owe £1,676. It is estimated that the reconstruction of the battery, boiler house, and main power house will cost £100,000, so after allowing for the sum received from the insurance companies, there is a difference of £49,517, which the directors are borrowing. It is hardly likely, therefore, that a dividend will be possible for another two or three years.

GREAT NORTHERN PICCADILLY, AND BROMPTON RAILWAY CO.

This is one of the tube lines sponsored by the Underground Electric Railways Co. of London, which guarantees 4 per cent. interest on the share capital in perpetuity. No mention is made in the report for the six months ended December 31 just issued of the probable date of opening, but a tremendous amount of work has been accomplished up to date, and rapid progress continues to be made. So far as one can judge, too, the undertaking ought to gather sufficient traffic to justify its construction, heavy though the cost will be, as with all tube lines, because the route traversed is one of the most populous in London, and proper agreements are being made for rapid interchange of traffic with other tubes encountered on the journey some of which, of course, are being constructed by the same group. It is in this mutual interest that the greatest hope of success lies, as, being under one control, all the lines will be worked for the common good. In the period under review the total capital outlay was £578,643, of which £500,470 went in construction, including engineering, £56,222 for land and compensation, and £11,116 for general charges. This outlay brings the debit to capital account to £1,241,242, the huge sum of £976,283 having been advanced by the Underground Electric company, while the contractors' retention fund amounts to £265,000. Moreover, it is estimated that £700,000 will be laid out in the current half-year, and £1,807,688 subsequently, or a further expenditure of £2,507,688, making, with that already incurred, an aggregate of, say, £7,200,000 for rather less than eight miles, without doubt a prodigious sum. We note that Sir Henry Fowler, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and a member of the Cabinet, is still chairman of the company, and the report gives no intimation that he intends to resign, but he has probably done so since it was printed.

MAPLE AND CO.

Unless the committee now inquiring into the working of the Companies Acts—when is it going to report?—so amends the provisions that every undertaking which obtains money from the public is compelled to disclose the profits earned each year, we shall probably never be frankly told what revenue this great providing and furnishing enterprise really gathers. It is undoubtedly a serious evil that a company with a capital of £2,620,200, whose shares are publicly quoted and dealt in on the London Stock Exchange, should be allowed to so construct its balance-sheet that the all-important matter of actual earnings is more or less successfully concealed. To entirely hide the truth is not possible, and the careful calculation which we make each year places us somewhere near the profits earned, but devices like this should not be necessary or mystification permitted, just because the directors are anxious to keep dark the amount of profit which goes each year to the £200 worth of management shares. In the balance-sheet it is shown that after providing debenture interest and preference dividends, together with the dividend on the management shares, the nett profit comes to £122,008. Now the fixed charges were £89,700, making £211,708, and if we add on the £75,000 which we estimate is divided amongst the holders of the £200 of management shares, the nett

profit comes out at £286,708. To that is added £662 brought forward, and after providing 15 per cent., or $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more, on the ordinary shares, £10,000 is placed to reserve and £171 carried to next account. So much for the statement of profits, and when we come to the balance-sheet the information afforded is little more enlightening. For example, stock-in-trade, timber yard and factories, freehold and leasehold interests, machinery, fixtures, plant, fittings, goodwill, &c., are all given under one head at the huge figure of £2,442,540, an increase on the year of £37,093. These assets may be worth the figure named, but no outsider can judge in the absence of specific details and some idea of the allowance for depreciation. Other assets consist of £561,962 owing by sundry debtors, bills, acceptances, and drafts £12,297, investments £60,000, and cash £37,405 a very minute sum considering that dividend payments will absorb about £150,000. On the other side there is the reserve, now amounting to £321,300, and under all heads the floating liabilities are not oppressive at £97,534. Practically all this sum, however, becomes payable immediately, and unless debts flow in very freely this great business must be under the necessity of borrowing for dividend and other purposes.

Passing Events.

So the shareholders in the Nile Valley Company decided at Monday's meeting to adopt the reconstruction scheme. That was to be expected, for it is a rare thing for shareholders in assembled meetings to reject such schemes. What is rare is to get them afterwards to part with their cash, for solitary reflection tends often to a change in sentiment. It by no means follows, therefore, that the directors of the Nile Valley Company will see the £30,000 they want flow into the coffers in a steady stream; we fancy the in-gathering will not be so pleasant for them. However, it is gratifying to see that administration expenses are to be considerably reduced. The managing director's salary is to be cut down from £1,000 to £250; secretarial fees and offices from £600 to £400; the consulting engineer's fees from 500 guineas to 250 guineas, whilst the chairman has consented to take £200 instead of £300 and each director £150 instead of £200. These economies, of course, will not affect the value of the mine, but it is not just that directors and officers should benefit at the expense of the shareholders, and refuse to bear some of the sacrifices involved in "disappointments." They hope, they say, to save about £3,636 at the mine, all which makes it look as if the past expenditure has been as extravagant as some of the chairman's predictions.

An interesting letter on the shutting down of the Aurora West United appeared in last Wednesday's *Tribune*, the comments of the writer, Mr. Ronald Hepburn, being almost identical with those we made in our last issue. Here is a mine that has spent money in the erection of a fine plant and equipment, has developed 100,000 tons of ore, worth £150,000, and has made all preparations for developing considerably more. But work has suddenly come to a dead stop because the company wants 1,000 natives! "That a body of experts," says Mr. Hepburn, most pertinently, "fully cognisant of local conditions, and able to draw not only on their own experience but on that of many surrounding mines, should have shown such a want of forethought as to sink large sums in plant and machinery, and further sums on mine development, only to come to a dead stop for want of labour to extract the ore is sufficiently remarkable." So it is, only we are getting quite accustomed to remarkable actions by the mine bosses. Mr. Hepburn wonders, as we did, why white labour is not employed. "White labour might be the saving of it (the mine), and of the new machinery that is going to rust unused." But what does it matter how many thousands of pounds worth of machinery is allowed to rust? Shareholders will have to bear the expense of it, just to help the bosses whose aim is to

keep out the European. Would it not be wiser to earn a few shillings per ton with white labour than lose tens of thousands in waiting for black?

British capitalists and investors who have placed money in Russia and done much to develop such industries as that misgoverned empire possesses will not be much reassured by the action of the Communal Court at Widzewo, near Lodz, in ordering Messrs. Coats to pay 800 employees of their thread factory at that place wages from November 30 last up to February 14, on the ground that the firm had no excuse for stopping the works. Coal, the judgment says, could have been obtained, though at a high price. This is quite Russian logic, but if the judgment is given effect to, it will do not a little to prevent any help from coming to Russian industries in the future, unless, of course, the Russian people contrive to work out their own salvation and to establish an enlightened Government.

We have never believed that war would result from the Algeciras Conference, but it has been very useful on many occasions to the "bulls" and "bears" of securities on European Bourses, and may continue to be so for still a few weeks longer. To all appearance, the negotiations are being dragged out needlessly, and German journalists and publicists are doing their best to get material out of the discussions, or the alleged disagreements, wherewith to reconcile the German people to their military burdens, to the increasing demands of the Kaiser for money to build a great and ever greater navy. That really seems to us to be the main object of all the German fuss and bluff and wrangle over Morocco. Essentially Germany has no interests there of a material kind worth the expenditure of 50 pfge. So far as there is a Moroccan question, it is French, Spanish, British, and Italian, essentially French above all other Powers, because French territory in North Africa marches with the empire of Morocco. Probably enough, some combination of Powers will have to be established to deal with the anarchy in the Sultan's dominions, but in the meantime, if the country's ports are secured from molestation, if the frontier of Algeria is adequately policed, and if some measure of order is established in the Sultan's finance, the day of intervention may be postponed.

We notice that a sectarian wrangle has broken out in the newspapers over the "official" conversion of the Princess Ena to Roman Catholicism. That is not a subject on which the INVESTORS' REVIEW has anything whatever to say, except on one point. Would it not have shown a higher moral standpoint on the part of these zealous sectarians if they had made a suggestion that, as a wedding gift to the Princess and as a mark of our pacific intentions as a great empire and mercantile nation, we might offer to make arrangements for the surrender of that useless fortification Gibraltar to the Spanish Crown? This would have been a work of Christian pacification well worth doing, something which would have bound the Spanish democracy to the British in a fashion no religious ceremony or transfer of sectarian belief ever can. We throw out the suggestion as one worth thinking about and reasonably Christian in spirit. Gibraltar, moreover, is really of no use to us nowadays—never was of much use since we became the masters of the sea and dominant in the Mediterranean, but now, with France, Italy, and Spain as our friends, it is worse than of no use; it is a source of endless, purposeless expenditure, a pretext for augmenting the Army and thereby increasing the military Budget, and, in addition, a permanent source of irritation to the Spanish Government and people. Might not the Bishop of London turn his thoughts in this direction, and try a little experiment in practical Christianity?

We have received from the *Electrician* its annual tables setting forth the progress of electrical undertakings throughout the United Kingdom. Most impressive tables they are, the only complaint we have to make being their unwieldiness. Table 1, for example,

has grown to be an enormous sheet, and tables 4 and 5 are very little smaller, but the information and statistics collected in these great tables are of the utmost interest and value to all who give any attention to this new agent of civilisation. All the tramways and light railways are dealt with, all electric undertakings for supplying power to restricted areas or over large areas are set forth here. Table 1, for instance, gives us 262 different electric undertakings that supply electricity with no tramway load. Table 2 gives 122 works which supply both lighting and tramways. Table 3 deals with electric power companies, and on the back of it are a series of interesting maps exhibiting the areas in which these companies operate, while tables 4 and 5 give us the tramways and light railways supplied from combined lighting and traction power houses actually in operation and tramways and light railways with power houses for traction only. There is also a sixth table dealing with electric railways in operation and in progress, so that there is in these various sheets a complete exhibit of every form of electrical enterprise now established or about to be established within the United Kingdom.

The number of the hungry on the relief works in India was 274,000 on February 12, the date of the Viceroy's latest telegram. Of these, 96,000 were in the Central Provinces, 84,000 in Ajmer and Rajputana, and 45,000 in Central India, with 18,000 in Bombay, 1,000 in Hyderabad, and 3,000 in Baroda. The figures look summary, but they are significant enough, and the reports as to crop prospects, the absence of rain, and the state of India continue to be most depressing. Prices are high, and still rising. In the United Provinces fodder is scarce. There have been slight rain-falls here and there, but more is urgently needed, and in the Karnatic and the Deccan the condition of the cattle continues to deteriorate, grass being imported. In Hyderabad "no rain," fodder and water supply deficient in parts. Elsewhere prospects are described as fair to good, but plainly the Indian Government is face to face with a most serious state of affairs, and it has no means with which to encounter the terror of another famine, only debt and a "famine fund" spent.

The Russian autocracy appears to be getting alarmed about the signs of the coming revolt amongst the peasants. The Petersburg correspondent of the *Times* says that, regardless of the promise made in the decree of October 30 last that no permanent legislation would in future be enacted without the sanction of the Duma, a scheme has been prepared for the purpose of beginning the settlement of peasants on the land. To this end a fourth lottery loan of £25,000,000 is to be launched as part of the £2,000,000,000 the correspondent estimates to be necessary, and apparently estates will be bought up with the money, and sub-divided amongst the peasants, probably in the most hungry and disturbed districts. The correspondent doubts whether the loan can be floated, and we quite share his view, but the significance of the incident lies in an implied confession on the part of the autocracy that it is unable to cope with a revolt of the rural population. Other signs are not wanting, are, indeed, abundant, that the coming summer will see rural Russia in ferment and upheaval from one end of the empire to the other. Meantime the autocracy cannot raise a loan abroad. Therein lies the hope of the people that freedom will be won in spite of repression, arbitrary executions, deportations of Liberals by the thousand, and every infamy an irresponsible Government at bay can still perpetrate.

A summary of the Japanese war debts, as given by the Government of the Mikado, puts the total at 1,822,000,000 yen, which, at the par value of the yen, is about £183,000,000. The Japanese Cabinet says this will be the total in 1907, and that it expects to redeem the whole amount by 1939. During the interval there will be six conversion operations. In addition, there is a domestic debt of 575,000,000 yen, or £58,000,000, which is to be all discharged by 1942. Once more we hope that this programme may be car-

ried out, but fear that it places a much too severe strain upon the people so soon after their exhausting struggle with Russia.

The United States people seem to be gradually waking up to assert their rights, and doubtless all thinking and patriotic citizens of the great Republic will be much stimulated in their efforts by the example set in this country at the recent elections. There is great clamour in New York newspapers over the betrayal, as it is called, of public interests in the summary stoppage of the investigation into those insurance frauds. "They stopped just when personages in high positions were about to be exposed," the *New York World* says, and our own *Tribune* on Thursday tells us that a conference has been held in Chicago between the Governors of important States and other officials, which has resulted in the appointment of a committee to protect the rights of policyholders. The objects of this committee, the telegram adds, are said to include dismissal of the newly-appointed boards of management of the New York Life and the Mutual Life Companies, prosecutions for the recovery of moneys illegally appropriated, and punishment of the guilty. From other sources we gather that an attempt is also to be made to reorganise these gigantic money-sucking institutions from top to bottom, so as to put the policyholders in effectual control and to end the systematised robbery now perpetrated by officials high and low. We hope this great revolution will be accomplished, for the sake of life insurance all the world over; for we have always insisted that sooner or later the disgrace brought upon the business by the criminal extravagance and absolute emancipation from all moral restraints exhibited in the past management of these American offices will bring discredit upon even the best conducted life insurance offices. They will all become suspect, and the public will acquire the habit of giving the insurance agent everywhere the go-by.

The *Times* New York correspondent says that before the end of the present year work on new subways in that city, costing about £40,000,000, will be begun. In connection therewith a vigilance committee has been formed, with the object of preventing these lines from falling into the same hands which now absolutely control all public means of locomotion in New York. This combination of New York surface railways, by the way, is said to have been brought about by Mr. Ryan, with the help of the New York Life Assurance Society money, he having stepped into the position left vacant by Messrs. Alexander and Hyde. Nominally, Mr. August Belmont, the New York representative of the house of Rothschild, carried through the financial deal by means of which the population of New York is to be at the mercy of a monopoly of its street and overhead transit lines. There will be a revolt in the States one day if this kind of thing is not stopped, and we welcome such indications as the meeting of the State Governors and the formation of this vigilance committee as signs of a reform to come, though, perhaps, as yet far off.

A "monster petition" is about to be got up in Johannesburg against any effort on the part of the new Home Government to alter the Beit-Milner "Constitution." So the telegrams say, and we know these petitions of old. But have the bosses any money left with which to pay for the signatures? They cost 15s. each, don't they?

Do the white Natalese want a war with the blacks? If not, is it conciliatory to burn the kraals and destroy the crops of the tribe or group of families, by some of whose men two white collectors of poll-tax were murdered? We think not, and have no admiration either for the killing of some of these black malcontents without trial, in mere vengeance. It is the old story—war on women and children, indiscriminate blood revenge. No wonder the thoughtful whites in South Africa incline to doubt whether their race will

not be altogether supplanted by the blacks ere many decades have run.

We must congratulate the *Daily Chronicle* on its enterprise in issuing so promptly its "Parliamentary Guide; Who's Who at Westminster." Not only is the book complete, except for the Orkney and Shetland return, easily filled in in a 2d. edition, but it is provided with a full index of names, biographies of all the members returned, and portraits of many of them. The new Cabinet is pictured entire, and fuller biographies are given of its members. Altogether a most creditable production, worthy of an extended sale. And the price is only 6d. nett.

The opposition to the proposals of the European Petroleum directors is now taking definite shape, and the Mercantile Investment and General Trust has called a meeting for Monday next, at which measures will be adopted for the protection of debenture holders' rights. This movement should be cordially backed up, as we never remember such a flagrant attempt at interfering with debenture holders' privileges solely for the benefit of the ordinary shareholders. What are the directorial holdings in debentures and shares respectively?

An amazing proposal has just been formulated by the directors of the Birmingham Small Arms Company, and some shareholders complain that they have been invited to a meeting to confirm the directors' ingenious ideas, without having had intimation of the meeting at which they were passed. It appears that the board wants powers to create an "internal reserve fund," which need not be disclosed in the balance-sheet, and which no shareholder is to have the right to inquire about. This fund is to be accumulated after the payment of a 10 per cent. dividend—for the last ten years the dividend has averaged 20 per cent.—it can be invested in any security the directors choose, and its application is to be entirely at their discretion. The auditors may be told some details, but they must not disclose anything to the shareholders, and all is to be kept absolutely dark. We much dislike these secret plans, being always suspicious of the motives which dictate them, and do not wonder that the project is encountering opposition.

The decline in the ordinary dividend of the London United Tramways Company will probably come as a great surprise to many, but not to us. A final distribution for the past twelve months at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum is proposed, making 3 per cent. for the year, compared with 6 per cent. for 1904, and 8 per cent. for the year before that. A severe shrinkage truly, but not so great as it ought to be. As a matter of fact, the company should not yet have commenced ordinary dividends at all, as to pay them it has been necessary to ignore altogether the depreciation question, and there has not been the least attempt to make the enterprise solid and strong while building up its business. On account of the past year, only £10,000 is put to reserve, an increase of £5,000 it is true, but still a sum many thousands too small. The company has a splendid field of operations, one that should pay handsomely if it goes the right way to work, but it has already endangered its chances by striving after high dividends, when caution should have been the watchword, and the resources should have been husbanded to the utmost.

The directors of the Buenos Ayres Grand National Tramways Company have drawn up an elaborate scheme for the reorganisation of the company's capital. It is not intended to deal with debenture issues at present, as they can be converted or consolidated without Parliamentary powers, and for the present the directors content themselves with a plan for straightening out and simplifying the position of the share capital. The idea is to give to the 7 per cent. preference holders £120 of new 5 per cent. preference shares in satisfaction of £100 of present capital and about £111 7s. 8d. in ordinary shares on account of accumu-

lated arrears of dividend. Similarly the "B" preference shareholders will receive £120 of 5 per cent. preference shares for each £100 now possessed together with £75 11s. 1d. in ordinary shares in satisfaction of arrears, while the holder of £100 of second preference shares is to get £120 of the new 5 per cents., this to cover both capital and arrears. As to the ordinary shares proprietors will just retain their present holdings, but as the ordinary capital will be increased from £250,000 to £567,215 the interest of the present holders will be actually reduced by more than one-half. Later on the new preference shares may be increased in amount from £450,000 to £850,000, but not until the £302,500 of 6 per cent. debentures and income bonds have been extinguished, except for the purpose of carrying out the redemption. The scheme as presented may not meet with approval by all classes, but it has the merit of being an honest attempt to cope with the difficulties with which the directors are confronted, and since the board has introduced sundry modifications in order to comply with the wishes of an influential section of the preference holders the success of the proposal is probably assured.

The directors of the Lyceum Theatre have issued a long rigmarole to the shareholders asking them to subscribe for a further £10,000 of debentures in order to save the property from the hands of the debentureholders. But anyone who puts another penny into this venture without first insisting upon a thorough investigation deserves to lose it, and proprietors should follow the advice of Mr. Gladden, a member of the recent committee of investigation, and insist upon the calling of a special meeting "for the purpose of discussing and receiving the fullest possible information from those who are responsible for the present calamitous state of affairs before they permit it to go into liquidation."

Critical Index To New Investments.

GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG $3\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT. INSCRIBED STOCK.

Tenders will be received on Tuesday next by the Crown Agents for the Colonies, on behalf of the Government of Hong Kong, for a sufficient amount of the above stock to produce £1,100,000 together with the expenses of issue. The minimum price has been fixed at 99 per cent., and so much must be paid up on February 27 as will leave 75 per cent., payable in three instalments on March 22, April 19, and May 17, two months' interest being payable on April 15. According to the prospectus the loan is required to reimburse the Government of Hong Kong a sum of £1,100,000 which it has lent to the Viceroy of Wuchang to enable him to redeem a concession for a railway from Hankow to Canton. The stock is secured on the general revenues and assets of Hong Kong, and is repayable at par on April 15, 1943, by a sinking fund of 1 per cent. per annum to be formed in this country under the management of the Crown Agents, but it may be redeemed at the Government's option on six months' notice after April 15, 1918. It is in addition to and identical with the existing £341,800 of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. stock and is a trustee security under the Colonial Stock Act of 1900. A statistical statement of the revenue, expenditure and shipping of Hong Kong during the past ten years which accompanies the prospectus shows a steady rate of progress, the revenue having risen from \$2,486,228 in 1895 to \$7,080,100 in 1905, and the expenditure from \$2,972,373 to \$7,175,192, the last item including \$1,815,300 spent on public works extraordinary.

EDINBURGH AND DISTRICT MOTOR OMNIBUS COMPANY, LIMITED.

In his desire to participate in the development of the motor bus, Mr. J. S. Orr appears to have formed a

company and then hunted for a suitable district in which to commence operations, with the result that Edinburgh has been selected. Arrangements have been made for 150 omnibuses, fifteen to be delivered within three months, and the remainder at 20 per month afterwards, but the prospectus does not disclose what is being paid for these or what proportion of the money raised is to provide garages, working capital, &c. The capital of the company is £200,000 in £1 shares, of which 190,000 are offered for subscription, and 10,000 go to the promoter with £10,000 in cash in consideration of his services and of the payment of the preliminary expenses estimated at £6,500. In the event of the full issue not being subscribed, these terms are to be modified so that if the 25,000 shares at which the minimum subscription has been fixed are taken up, Mr. Orr will receive £6,500 in cash and £5,000 in shares, and will only get the full amounts above mentioned if £100,000 or more is applied for. The directors claim that motor omnibus traction has now emerged from its experimental stage, and that it is therefore possible to estimate closely the earning capacity of a service working on commercial lines, but this opinion is not in accord with the views of directors of old established companies, which have gone in for motor vehicles. Edinburgh, having so many "show places" in its immediate neighbourhood, no doubt provides a good field for such an enterprise as this, but the estimate of gross earnings nevertheless seems unduly optimistic. It is calculated that with 80 per cent. of the 150 vehicles constantly in service for 313 days per annum, the gross takings, including receipts from advertisements, would amount to £190,050, of which expenses, with an allowance of £15,000 for depreciation, would take £153,200, leaving £36,850 for distribution.

MADRAS ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORPORATION, LIMITED.

This appears to be one of the numerous undertakings promoted by Messrs. Crompton and Co., Ltd., to provide work for themselves as contractors; but it is straightforwardly done, and the company is certainly not loaded down with promoter's profits, as all that is claimed for the licence granted by the Government of Madras is £4,960 for out-of-pocket expenses. The capital is £400,000 in £5 shares, of which 10,000 were offered for subscription, together with £50,000 5 per cent. construction debenture stock out of a total issue of £250,000. Messrs. Crompton and Co. have undertaken to construct the generating station and sub-station, and to equip them with the necessary machinery, plant, and instruments for a supply of energy equivalent to 100,000 8 c.p. lamps for a sum of £174,534. As Madras, unlike Calcutta, has no cold season, the supply of current for fans is likely to be continuous night and day throughout the year, and in addition to the fan and lighting load the contractors state that there is a considerable demand for power for workshops, &c. Holders of the debenture stock will have the option, at any time up to June 30, 1909, of converting the stock into shares at par, while during the six months after December 31 of that year the company may require holders to accept shares on the same terms, and any stock not so converted on December 31, 1910, will be paid off in cash at par.

ANANTAPUR GOLD FIELD, LIMITED.

This company has been formed to acquire options over mining properties with a view to their exploration and development, and by way of making a beginning has secured an option for two years over three mining areas of about 2,447 acres in the Anantapur District, Madras Presidency. Under the agreements the licensee receives £410 for the option, and in the event of its being exercised on any or either of the blocks he is to be paid a further sum of £1,000 for each block acquired, with a minimum of £1,500, and one-fifth of the nominal share capital of any new company or companies formed to take over the properties. The capital of this undertaking is £30,000 in £1 shares, and the whole of these, with the exception of 1,400 taken

by the signatories to the memorandum of association, were offered for subscription by Messrs. John Taylor and Sons, who stipulate for a salary of £450 per annum as managers and consulting engineers and for a sum equal to 5 per cent. of the profits, whether in cash or shares, distributed by way of dividend, while the directors take £400 per annum and 2½ per cent. of the profits distributed. Surface indications on the properties are said to be entirely favourable, and the ancient workings are of an unusually striking and extensive nature.

PUTUPAULA (CEYLON) RUBBER ESTATES, LIMITED.

The estate acquired by this company was until recently the property of a tea company, which turned its attention to the cultivation of rubber about 13 years ago, and had planted altogether 58,000 trees, ranging in age from 2 to 13 years. Of these trees 48,000 should be ready for tapping at the end of this year, and on a basis of only half a pound per tree from the 40,000 younger trees, and a market price of 5s. 9d. per lb., it is estimated that the profits for 1906 should amount to £7,700. For 1907 they are put at £9,850, and in subsequent years they are expected to improve annually until in 1911 profits of £26,250 are looked for, after which the prospectus states that there should be at least 85,000 trees being tapped, varying in age from 6 to 19 years. The promoters bought the estate for £46,500 in cash and £10,000 in shares, and resold it to this company for £47,000 in cash and £25,000 in shares, and as the capital is fixed at £85,000 in £1 shares, the £59,500 offered for subscription will leave £12,500 for working capital, preliminary expenses, &c. In addition to paying the preliminary expenses estimated at £3,000, the company has to pay an underwriting commission of 5 per cent. and an overriding commission of 1 per cent., so that the margin for working capital is not large, but the directors state that it is, in their opinion, more than sufficient. The estate still has a certain area under tea, on which a satisfactory profit is being earned to help out the revenue until the rubber yield increases, so that the company may do well enough.

ESPERANZA COPPER AND SULPHUR CO., LIMITED.

This company acquires a group of mines known as the Esperanza Group, in the district of Huelva, Spain, in the neighbourhood of the Rio Tinto, Tharsis, and other well-known mines, and has a share capital of £350,000, in £1 shares, of which 185,000 are offered for subscription. The purchase price paid by the Española Copper Syndicate, Limited, for the properties was £100,000 in cash, £100,000 in 5 per cent. first mortgage debentures, and £87,500 in ordinary shares, and it resells to this company for £165,000 in shares, £100,000 in debentures, and £116,500 in cash. In addition the company has to pay out of its working capital various amounts expended on the properties, but will be entitled to all ore won or produced since December 1, 1905, and all ores at grass. It is estimated that there are 1,231,890 tons of ore proved, on which a profit of £939,290 gross and £908,493 nett is expected, taking copper at £63 per ton and sulphur at 4d. per unit, and with a yearly production of 100,000 tons this would give an average profit of over £70,000 per annum. It is a glowing picture, no doubt, but—well, the company has found it necessary to pay an underwriting commission of 7½ per cent. and an overriding commission of 2½ per cent. on the 185,000 shares offered. And are not the debenture holders complete masters of the shareholders?

URUGUAYAN 5 PER CENT. CONVERSION GOLD LOAN 1905.

Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co., bankers to the contractors, offer for subscription an issue of £2,911,169, or 73,360,000f., of this loan, the total amount of which is £6,912,836, as authorised by the Legislature of the Republic on January 23 last. Principal and interest is free of all Uruguayan taxes. The price at which the bonds are offered is £19 2s. 6d. per 500f. bond, being at the rate of 96½ per cent., exchange taken at 25.16½ to

the £. Of this amount £4 is payable on application per 500f., or £19 16s. 10d., bond, and the balance of £15 2s. 6d. is due on March 3. A letter from the Paris representative of the Government of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, Señor A. Herosa, states that the present issue is assigned for the conversion and reimbursement of sundry 6 per cent. Treasury certificates and 6 per cent. obligations of the port of Monte Video to a total amount of £2,617,776. The balance of the loan is to be devoted to the settlement of engagements in connection with the port works, the loan for public works, and the extraordinary loan of 1904. These bonds are issued simultaneously in London and Paris, the French sponsors being the Banque de Paris and the Société Générale. We have already said all we could say about this loan.

ISSUES BY TENDER, &c.

INDIA RUBBER, GUTTA PERCHA, AND TELEGRAPH WORKS.—The 4 per cent. first mortgage debentures for £300,000, and 4½ per cent. second mortgage debentures for £100,000 will be paid off on the 25th, and in their place the directors propose to issue £400,000 4 per cent. first mortgage debentures at par. These debentures will be repayable on March 25, 1916, but may be redeemed, wholly or in part, at 1102, on three months' notice, on March 25, 1911. Holders of existing debentures have the right to take up an amount equal to their present holding, and shareholders and present debenture holders may subscribe for the balance on or before the 28th inst.

Notes on Books.

Who's Who For 1906.—(London: A. and C. Black.) 7s. 6d. nett.

Every year this volume grows in bulk, the addition to the 1906 issue being more than 80 pages. And we really do not see where the expansion is to stop in an age like the present, when the crowd of those who are in some manner notorious is always swelling. The next issue, for instance, must be expanded in order to include the number of autobiographies or notices of the great army of new M.P.s returned to the House of Commons, and although the names of those who die are necessarily dropped out, the only method by which the size of the book can be kept within anything like reasonable bounds must be that of condensation. Many of these notices are too long, interesting though they doubtless are to those who contribute them and their circle of friends. Still, the book is invaluable, indispensable, indeed, to tens of thousands of people, not only throughout the country, but all over the Empire, and a collection of the volumes as now developed and expanded under the guidance of the publishers, Messrs. Adam and Charles Black, would afford excellent material for a national dictionary of autobiographies.

Along with the volume of autobiographies itself the same firm now publishes the *Who's Who Year Book*, which is really a portion of the original volume, forced out of it, as it were, by its growing bulk and issued separately. In this excellent shilling handbook we have a great deal of information about all sorts of public people and institutions, some of which we do not remember to have come across elsewhere. We get, for instance, the names of the Royal Academicians, English and Scotch, of all the ambassadors to this country, colonial agents, and so on, together with their secretaries, a list of the newspapers published in London, of King's Counsel, of leading Government officials, of the staff of hospitals, &c., &c. Not the least valuable part is the alphabetical table of peculiarly pronounced names, and another list giving the pseudonyms and pen names of writers. A list of fellows of the Royal Society is also given, as well as of the head-masters of public schools, and the names of officials of various societies. Altogether a most useful supplement to the larger volume.

The Mercantile Investment and General Trust Company, Limited, is calling a meeting of the debenture holders of the European Petroleum Company, at its offices, 105, Winchester House, E.C., for Monday next, the 19th inst., at two o'clock, to consider the policy to be pursued, and to appoint a committee of debenture holders to protect the interests of all the debenture holders.

Letters to the Editors.

"HOW TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICAN MINES, &c., IN YOUR ISSUE OF THE 10TH INST."

SIR,—I congratulate you upon this article. I think, however, that you have taken a much too merciful view of the kaffir mine shareholder. He should not only, as you suggest, surrender his interest to reimburse the British Government for the cost of the war, &c., but he should be given a taste of "Chinese slavery" in our prisons.

I suggest that you make a proposition to our railway shareholders that they too should forfeit their property to pay off our National Debt, and any balance to be paid to the Rand bosses. As a shareholder in these mines since July, 1902, I will assent to the first, or, in fact, will execute a transfer of them free to yourselves to hand to the State, provided you gain the consent of my suggestion anent the National Debt. Nevertheless, I shall plump for the Rand bosses and Chinese slavery!

I do hope mining shareholders are not carried away with all the nonsense they read in the papers about Kaffirs. There can be no doubt about it that most of it is written for market purposes, and plays well into the bosses' hands, enabling them to acquire cheap shares. After a while a different tune will be called. We shall hear no more of "low grade," "native labour decreases," "Chinese slavery," "closing down of mines," and everything else. The market will be rising, as it has done before, and more lies will be told to help it along.

Besides, "Chinese slavery" (?) is not going to be got rid of. We can't afford to flout China, and if the shareholders pay millions for the labour and get no return our factories benefit. Excuse long letter.

Yours faithfully,

A. WARD.

128, Amyand Park Road, Twickenham,
February 13, 1906.

RHODESIAN MINING RETURNS.

The output of gold from Rhodesia for the first month of 1906 is cabled at 42,950 ozs. It happens to be another "record," but the increase of 5,834 ozs. over December practically comes from two mines that have entered the crushing list—the Giant, with an output of 2,207 ozs., and Battlefields with a return of 1,180 ozs. Some companies show increases, others decreases, so there is nothing in the figures to boast about. The yield of other metals was: silver, 5,930 ozs.; lead, 40 tons; coal, 11,851 tons.

Name of Company.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Tons. Ozs.	Tons. Ozs.	Tons. Ozs.	Tons. Ozs.	Tons. Ozs.	Tons. Ozs.
Antenor (Matabele) ..	1,060 805	1,040 957	1,110 915	1,200 985	1,370 1,067
Ayrshire	9,550 3,291	9,415 2,998	9,314 2,890	10,008 3,063	10,050 3,091
Battlefields ..	— —	— —	— —	— —	820 1,180
East Gwanda ..	5,365 2,214	4,425 2,713	3,067 1,821	4,425 2,024	5,287 2,140
Gaika	544 403	1,015 502	1,068 637	1,326 620	1,389 650
Giant	— —	— —	— —	— —	4,335 2,207
Globe and Phoenix ..	6,141 3,890	6,515 4,055	6,222 4,049	6,410 4,045	6,435 4,010
Golden Valley ..	730 560	769 557	— —	— —	1,050 743
Killarney ..	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —
Hibernia ..	4,400 1,433	3,782 1,513	3,790 1,517	3,400 1,363	3,938 1,551
Morven	1,357 848	658 700	302 353	1,015 700	2,101 805
Penhalonga ..	5,870 1,304	5,100 1,163	4,050 1,014	4,850 991	4,950 991
Rhodesia Consolidated ..	1,974 1,609	— —	2,105 1,622	2,169 1,316	2,497 1,445
Rhodesia Mines	478 275	645 393	585 296	575 297	723 313
Selukwe	5,731 2,234	6,126 2,143	6,000 2,072	6,530 2,304	6,322 2,274
Surprise	2,890 1,615	2,993 1,643	2,838 1,088	3,082 1,611	3,002 1,086
Theta	1,595 727	1,494 542	1,500 631	1,260 873	1,475 885
Wanderer ..	15,066 1,954	15,810 2,062	15,578 2,222	13,020 2,347	16,182 2,397

The following table gives the total monthly return since the commencement of crushing:—

	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.
January ..	15,955	16,245	19,359	32,531	42,950
February ..	13,204	17,090	18,675	30,131	—
March ..	16,891	19,626	17,756	34,927	—
April ..	17,559	20,727	17,862	33,268	—
May ..	19,698	22,137	19,424	31,332	—
June ..	15,842	22,166	20,402	35,259	—
July ..	15,226	23,571	24,339	34,693	—
August ..	15,747	19,187	24,669	35,765	—
September ..	15,164	18,741	26,029	35,785	—
October ..	16,849	17,918	24,919	33,383	—
November ..	15,923	15,714	26,183	32,861	—
December ..	16,210	18,756	28,100	37,116	—
Total ..	194,268	231,872	267,715	407,048	42,950

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The "Daily Chronicle" Parliamentary Guide: Who's Who at Westminster. (London: Daily Chronicle, 88, Fleet-street, E.C.) Price, 6d. nett.

British Imperial and Commercial Supremacy. By Victor Bérard. Translated by H. W. Foskett, M.A. (London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 39, Paternoster-row, E.C.) Price, 7s. 6d. nett.

Frenzied Finance: The Crime of Amalgamation. By Thomas W. Lawson. (London: Wm. Heinemann, 21, Bedford-street, W.C.) Price, 6s.

Directory of Directors for 1906. By Thomas Skinner. (London: 1, Royal Exchange Buildings, E.C.) Price, 15s. nett.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and February 10, 1906:—

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Feb. 10, 1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Feb. 11, 1905.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	—	£ 6,352,909	£ 3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	29,974,000	31,474,000
Excise	30,200,000	26,031,000	26,845,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	11,081,000	10,425,000
Stamps	8,000,000	7,029,000	6,412,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	1,570,000	1,780,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	18,326,000	19,034,000
Post Office	16,500,000	13,700,000	13,110,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	3,650,000	3,390,000
Crown Lands	470,000	420,000	420,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	1,062,955	992,826
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	1,185,915	1,160,537
*Revenue	142,454,000	114,027,870	115,043,363
Total, including balance		121,458,148	119,307,205
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		680,000	510,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		700,000	970,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..		191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905		2,175,000	1,819,500
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		1,262,408	1,800,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900		23,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		148,000	148,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		—	5,912,631
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905		9,854,604	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904		1,000,000	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares		8,461	7,460
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..		—	1,000,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		2,000,000	8,600,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £4,500,000 Treasury Bills in 1905-6 and £13,500,000 in 1904-5)		8,000,000	21,800,000
Total		147,501,213	168,330,286
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	114,027,870	115,043,363
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	155,799	164,279
Excise	5,291,000	4,751,851	4,633,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	3,599,839	3,568,242
Total	9,756,000	8,507,489	8,366,194
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	122,535,359	123,409,557
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.			
	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Feb. 10, 1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Feb. 11, 1905.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£ 28,000,000	£ 24,130,936	£ 23,018,025
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	1,453,200	1,445,020
Payments to Local Taxation			
Accounts	1,169,000	743,967	743,977
Supply Services	111,304,000	90,167,336	93,999,492
Expenditure	142,084,000	116,406,439	119,806,470
OTHER ISSUES.			
Advances for Bullion		640,000	370,000
Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		180,000	45,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amount)		—	800,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		10,000,000	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		600,000	600,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905		2,483,000	2,539,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		900,000	3,500,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		193,000	149,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		545,066	29,000
Surplus Revenue 1904-1905 applied to reduce Debt		1,413,907	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares, applied to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1898 ..		8,461	7,460
Deficiency Advances repaid		586,093	8,600,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		6,000,000	19,800,000
		140,067,966	162,287,430
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	£ 6,437,939	£ 5,144,351	—
Bank of Ireland	975,308	898,505	—
		7,433,247	6,042,856
Total		147,501,213	163,330,286
Treasury, February 1 1906.			

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for ten days ended February 7, \$3,750, increase \$1,061.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 12, \$20,232, increase \$3,447; aggregate from January 1, \$30,139, increase \$1,470.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 13, Rs. 1,11,336, increase Rs. 5,211.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 7, \$65,700, increase \$7,600; total from July 1, \$3,053,100, increase \$690,400.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 13, Rs. 67,112, increase Rs. 9,262.

Midland Uruguay.—Receipts for January \$5,106, increase, £85; aggregate for seven months \$35,603, decrease £2,122.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 21, £528, increase £242.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 1st week of February, \$14,119, increase \$2,738; aggregate from January 1, \$75,252, increase \$17,431.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 13, Rs. 15,958, increase Rs. 2,920.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended January 31 amounted to \$5,741.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending February 10, £1,188, increase £6; aggregate from January 1, £7,110, increase £86.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending February 10, £762, increase £114; aggregate from January 1, £4,240, increase £374.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for November, £4,099, decrease £203.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending February 10, £496, decrease £4; aggregate from January 1, £2,835, increase £135.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 9, £1,306, increase £129; aggregate from January 1, £7,881, increase £1,366.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 11, £6; aggregate from January 1, £38, decrease £2.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 9, £4,451, decrease £69; aggregate from January 1, £27,805, increase £955.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending February 9, £26,187, increase £2,808; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £154,833, increase £27,556; 435½ miles, against 423.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 10, £1,047, increase £13; aggregate from January 1, £6,504, increase £537.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 11, £86, increase £1; aggregate from January 1, £548, increase £8.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 9, £82, decrease £17; aggregate from January 1, £493, decrease £63.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 9, £4,453, decrease £137; aggregate from January 1, £26,392, increase £978.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 10, £4,339, increase £56; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £28,034, increase £1,445.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 9, £179, decrease £48; aggregate from January 1, £1,143, decrease £159.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 8, £323.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 10, £195, decrease £44; aggregate from October 1, £4,954, decrease £468.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 3, £14,146, increase £1,591; aggregate from April 1, £648,455, increase £87,583. Miles 52½ against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 10, £19,240, decrease £2,684; aggregate from January 1, £122,883, decrease £3,829.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 10, £6,571, decrease £875; aggregate from January 1, £41,441, increase £747.

Rosendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 3, £188, increase £12; aggregate from January 1, £974, increase £97.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 11, £667, increase £135; aggregate from January 1, £4,166, increase £1,166.

FOREIGN

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 11, £14,927, increase £1,848; aggregate from January 1, £87,686, increase £8,574.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,660.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of January, 1906, £11,016, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to December 31, \$597,573, increase \$133,652. Nett earnings from July 1 to December 31, \$278,089, increase \$89,167.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending February 11, £3,509, increase £360; aggregate from January 1, £21,182, increase £2,115.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 6, £1,652.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of January, \$292,200.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 10, Rs. 45,626, increase Rs. 9,151; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 2,83,826, increase Rs. 36,936.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, £5,078, increase £2,722. Total to January 31, £5,078, increase £2,722.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of November, \$417,218, increase \$63,017; aggregate from January 1, \$4,320,887, increase \$390,457. Nett traffic receipts, \$226,858, increase \$35,361; aggregate from January 1, \$2,359,439, increase \$272,120.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.			
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	No. of Weeks.	
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Feb. 11	£ 2,080	+	13	6	£ 12,645	+	300
Cambrian	" 11	4,582	—	65	6	27,746	—	550
Central London	" 10	6,994	—	131	6	41,772	—	1,427
City and South London ..	" 11	3,020	+	124	6	18,166	—	14
Furness	" 11	9,549	+	1,455	6	54,869	+	7,943
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 11	69,481	+	2,106	6	414,503	+	18,757
Great Eastern	" 11	90,900	—	400	6	539,100	—	4,800
Great Northern and City ..	" 10	1,792	+	33	6	10,823	+	102
Great Northern	" 10	104,400	+	3,070	6	616,300	+	11,650
Great Western	" 11	203,600	—	1,200	6	1,233,800	—	500
Hull and Barnsley	" 11	8,433	—	778	6	55,945	+	2,258
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 11	100,338	+	955	6	575,567	+	13,978
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 10	48,825	—	1,665	6	314,383	+	985
London & North Western ..	" 11	258,000	+	10,000	6	1,511,000	+	45,000
London & South Western ..	" 11	75,800	—	1,400	6	459,800	+	2,200
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 11	7,915	+	164	6	47,227	+	1,894
Metropolitan	" 11	16,453	—	240	6	101,915	—	463
Metropolitan District ..	" 11	8,074	+	411	6	48,578	+	3,008
Midland	" 10	213,405	+	4,797	6	1,284,499	+	32,692
North Eastern	" 10	177,753	+	11,159	6	963,783	+	41,358
North London	" 11	8,986	—	113	6	56,146	—	798
North Staffordshire ..	" 11	18,278	+	782	6	102,376	+	3,444
Rhymney	" 11	6,397	+	289	6	36,010	—	63
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 10	72,206	—	1,548	6	448,142	+	2,664
Taff Vale	" 11	19,739	—	245	6	114,957	+	3,290

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Feb. 11	78,853	+	1,070	2	158,138	+	3,222
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 10	30,082	+	512	2	61,037	+	1,550
Great North of Scotland ..	" 10	7,640	—	310	2	15,655	+	34
Highland	" 11	7,564	—	586	2	15,514	—	636
North British	" 11	83,358	—	701	2	166,433	—	58

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Feb. 9	2,273	—	88	5	12,668	—	321
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 9	1,415	+	28	5	7,912	+	93
Great Northern	" 11	15,626	+	91	11	91,298	+	580
Midland Great Western ..	" 9	8,628	—	184	5	51,964	—	3,859

§ From January 1.

GUARDIAN ASSURANCE

COMPANY, LIMITED. Established 1821.

II, Lombard Street, LONDON, E.C.

TOTAL ASSETS over £5,000,000

TOTAL INCOME over £940,000

LARGE BONUSES.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent. on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

To all appearance we shall see a spasm of dear money pass over Wall Street, and the interesting question is what effect tight money there will have upon the markets of London and Paris. Obviously in the present state of our Money market the Yankees cannot again transfer any sensible portion of their utterly unwieldy speculative account to the London market, but will Paris take the stuff, and if so, must it withdraw balances from London in order to provide the necessary means? These questions are worth keeping in sight, as our market is not yet out of its troubles. On the contrary, it labours along in a condition of no small discomfort. This week the rate for call money has sometimes been 5 per cent., often $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and rarely less than 4 per cent. Week to week money has also been 4 per cent. with scarcely a break until this afternoon, when the Japanese, by lending out some of their balances through the Bank of England broker, caused the closing hours to be less strained. But there cannot be any steady cheapness in our market this side April. Some of the revenue now being gathered up, and whose collection has augmented the public deposits in the Bank of England by £4,024,000 this week, may be set free at the end of the month, but not nearly enough to counterbalance the effect of the revenue collection which is now severely pressing upon the credit resources of the market. It may become a question whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer would not be well advised to take some special means of relieving the strain, such as offering to redeem, now under discount, the drawn Exchequer bonds, instead of waiting till April 18. It was said to-day that the Japanese were buying up these bonds, but we could not get that statement confirmed, and it would be much more to the purpose if the paper were bought in by the Treasury itself.

The India Council has been helping the market as far as it could by renewing old loans and making fresh advances for a month at 4 per cent., but its capacity is evidently limited, and the market keeps hoping that some of the gold shipped from Bombay or intercepted from Australia at Egypt by the Simla Government may be made available for strengthening the Bank's reserve. The said Government has bought at least £500,000 of silver here, and may pay for that in gold, but otherwise we fear most of the metal belonging to it on its way here, or which has arrived, will go to swell its cash reserves. These reserves, moreover, may have to be still further strengthened should the Government be driven to print and emit excessive quantities of paper money in order to cope with famine. Altogether it is said that £3,000,000 in Indian Government gold may soon be here over and above what it has picked up at Suez.

All week discount brokers have had a very rough time of it, partly because they have still to encounter competition for the bills available from Continental houses. These houses as a rule take three months' remitted bills a fraction below the rate quoted by our

leading discount houses. Our brokers generally give 4 per cent. as a working rate for 60 day bank bills, and some of them $3\frac{1}{8}$ to 4 per cent. for full three months' bills, but business is done below these figures. The Continent has been buying three months' paper at $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., or sometimes $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., and parcels of Eastern bills of three months' currency have largely changed hands at $3\frac{1}{8}$ and $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. And while the discount market is being thus pressed down, it has been compelled to obtain a more or less onerous proportion of its working credits at from 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. All week the Bank of England has been doing a good business, renewing the amounts falling due, and adding to its hold over the market by making fresh advances. To-day, however, a considerable sum due, including a good many matured bills, was paid off, and only a small amount borrowed, so that on balance the indebtedness of the market was for once reduced, thanks probably to the release of Japanese money; but all the week until to-day the market was adding to its debt, and no relief is in sight, none can be given, indeed, unless the Bank is able steadily to attract gold from abroad.

This, so far, it has not done in any effective fashion. Last week it did add a little to its stock by imports, but this week the exports have slightly exceeded the imports, and the best that can be said of the efforts it has made to strengthen its position as the fountain of credit is that the heavy withdrawals of gold by foreign countries have been stopped. More than this is wanted if our market is to provide for the spring requirements without upsetting our equanimity altogether.

Obviously, the market itself is in a most helpless state, for the Bank return shows other deposits to be down to only £39,554,000, a figure well below "poverty limit," and there is every probability that its position will be worse before it grows better. It was thus impoverished within the Bank week in spite of an increase of £700,000 in the banking reserve and of £1,014,000 in its debt to the Bank on other securities. We confess we do not like the prospect and fear that the danger of a 5 per cent. Bank rate is not yet removed. If Wall Street miscarries and financial disorganisation of any far-reaching description occurs there our market will immediately feel the effects in a still greater enhancement of money rates and a probable advance in the Bank rate. Nor is Paris quite free of danger, in spite of the apparent cheapness of money there. Another heavy failure occurred on the Bourse de Commerce there to-day, and the obligation laid upon French banks to sustain Russian credit may easily become unbearable during coming months. Altogether, therefore, the outlook is the reverse of comfortable, and we shall be thankful, indeed, when the spring has been got well over and the calm summer season reached.

Calls for next week amount to a comparatively small total, only £654,000. The largest is due on Tuesday, aggregating £550,000, of which £300,000 is due on the Brazilian 5 per cent. loan and £250,000 on Kansai first mortgage debentures. Other calls are spread over the Mauritius $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. inscribed stock, Industrial and General Trust shares and the preference and ordinary shares of the South Oxfordshire Water and Gas.

Concerning those lottery Exchequer bonds of the redoubtable Mr. Austen's drawn for redemption on April 18, nasty rumours are flying around. The *Morning Post's* City editor hints that the delay between the date of the drawing, February 6, and the date of public notification of the drawing, February 14, was utilised by some favoured ones to pick the bonds so as to snatch the profit accruing, a profit amounting roughly to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Then the *Times* City article, which is now usually worth reading, states that a dispute has arisen as to who owns the bonds drawn, those holding them on the date of the drawing or those who have acquired them between that date and the 14th. It is a nice point in casuistry, suitable almost to exer-

cise the talents of the theologian, and we shall not pretend to settle it, but we agree that such results of an issue of British Treasury lottery bonds cannot fail to be a source of amusement to the ungodly.

SILVER.

The Indian Government has again bought steadily, but the principal cause of the firmness in the market for bars noticeable this week has been large repurchases by the "bears." Under this influence prices were lifted to 30½d. per oz. for cash and 30d. per oz. for future delivery, or the highest points touched for a number of years. They dropped again to 30⅛d. and 29¾d. per oz. after the first rush was over, but rallied again and finished firm at 30½d. and 30⅛d. per oz. Applications for the Rs. 1,20,00,000 Council drafts on India on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 8,10,25,000, when Rs. 62,68,000 were allotted in bills and Rs. 57,32,000 in telegraphic transfers, tenders at 1s. 4⅛d. and 1s. 4½d. per rupee respectively receiving about 14 per cent. Next week another Rs. 1,20,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, February 14, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Note Issued	£	Government Debt ..	£
..	50,890,985	..	11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	32,440,985
		Silver Bullion ..	—
	£50,890,985		£50,890,98

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£	Government Securities ..	£
..	14,553,000	..	12,678,867
Rest ..	3,607,455	Other Securities ..	34,325,615
Public Deposits (including		Notes ..	22,827,145
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,664,359
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	13,661,795		
Other Deposits ..	39,553,799		
Seven Day and other Bills	119,937		
	£71,495,986		£71,495,986

Dated February 15, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. Feb. 15	Feb. 7, 1906.	Feb. 14, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
3,514,280	Liabilities.	3,581,456	25,999	—
12,452,078	Rest ..	9,638,276	4,023,519	—
38,614,645	Pub. Deposits ..	13,661,795	—	2,241,190
111,131	Other do. ..	41,794,989	—	24
	7 Day Bills ..	119,913	119,937	Decrease.
15,603,585	Assets.	12,584,867	—	94,000
25,346,797	Gov. Securities ..	33,311,131	34,325,615	1,014,184
28,294,752	Other do. ..	23,791,636	24,491,504	699,868
	Total Reserve ..		4,049,542	4,049,542
			Increase.	Decrease.
£	£	£	£	£
27,052,010	Note Circulation ..	28,233,720	28,063,840	169,880
36,896,762	Coin and Bullion ..	33,573,356	34,135,344	529,980
55½ p.c.	Proportion ..	46½ p.c.	—	½ p.c.
3 ..	Bank Rate ..	4 ..	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £72,000 out.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders will be received at the Bank of England on the 21st inst. for £2,000,000 in six months Treasury Bills, in part replacement of £2,500,000 falling due on the 26th inst.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
2,500,000	6 months	Feb. 26	1 16 8
2,000,000	3 months	Mar. 7	3 1 8
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
1,800,000	6 months	June 1	3 2 6
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
11,200,000			
1,000,000	6 months	June 29	2 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 12	2 10 8
20,333,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	5,039,000	—
March	1,201,958,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
July	1,003,888,000	830,361,000	173,527,000	—
August	1,098,366,000	945,164,000	153,202,000	—
September	879,323,000	678,546,000	200,777,000	—
October	1,006,632,000	861,123,000	145,509,000	—
November	1,187,821,000	1,117,870,000	69,951,000	—
December	979,424,000	817,877,000	161,547,000	—
Total for year	12,253,307,000	10,459,068,000	1,794,239,000	—
	1906	1905		
Jan. 3	340,266,000	276,940,000	63,326,000	—
" 10	228,921,000	215,482,000	13,439,000	—
" 17	287,646,000	254,259,000	33,387,000	—
" 24	214,928,000	186,205,000	28,723	—
" 31	289,938,000	300,588,000	—	10,650,000
Feb. 7	231,817,000	206,614,000	25,203,000	—
Feb. 14	271,821,000	259,450,000	12,371,000	—
	1,865,238,000	1,699,538,000	165,799,000	—

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Tuesday, Bars ..	£43,000
Wednesday, Bars ..	119,000
Thursday, Bars ..	35,000
" Egypt ..	150,000
Friday, Bars ..	12,000
Total	£359,000
Wednesday, S. America ..	£6,000
Friday, Lima ..	10,000
Friday, Bolivia ..	5,000
Net Influx ..	338,000
Total ..	£359,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	cbqs.	25'16½	25'16	Antwerp	short	25'22	25'21
Brussels	cbqs.	25'20	25'21	Italy	sight	25'16	25'16
Amsterdam	sight	12'14½	12'14½	Constantinople ..	3 mths	110'22	110'25
Berlin	cbqs.	20'50½	20'51	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	17½d.	17½d.
Do.	3 mths	20'30	20'30	Valparaiso	90 dys	15d.	15½d.
Hamburg	cbqs.	20'49½	20'50	Calcutta	T.T.	1'4½	1'4½
Frankfort	short	20'48	20'49	Bombay	T.T.	1'4½	1'4½
Vienna	sight	24'05½	24'05½	Hong Kong	T.T.	2'0½	2'0½
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	94'10	94'10	Shanghai	T.T.	2'10½	2'10½
New York	60 dys	4'83½	4'83½	Singapore	T.T.	2'4½	2'4½
Lisbon	sight	50½	50½	Yokohama	4 mths	2'0½	2'0½
Madrid	sight	30'25	30'35				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris ..	3	May 25, 1900.	2½ 2½
Berlin ..	3	December 11, 1905	3½ 3½
Hamburg ..	3	December 11, 1905	3½ 3½
Frankfort ..	3	December 11, 1905	3½ 3½
Amsterdam ..	3	November, 1905	3½ 3½
Brussels ..	4	October 30, 1905	3½ 3½
Vienna ..	4½	October, 1905	4 4
Rome ..	5	September, 1904	4½ 4½
St. Petersburg ..	8	January, 1906	7 7
Madrid ..	4½	August 21, 1901	5 5
Lisbon ..	5½	January 11, 1899	5 5
Stockholm ..	5	January, 1906.	4½ 4½
Copenhagen ..	5	October, 1905	4½ 4½
Calcutta ..	9	February 1, 1906	— —
Bombay ..	9	February 1, 1906	— —
New York call money ..	3		— —

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Feb. 15, 1906.	Feb. 8, 1906.	Feb. 1, 1906.	Feb. 16, 1905.
Gold in hand ..	113,834,960	113,926,680	113,931,520	112,523,280
Silver in hand ..	42,226,520	42,325,720	42,187,680	44,097,160
Bills discounted ..	35,265,000	36,837,040	44,219,880	23,741,520
Advances ..	19,829,960	20,092,200	19,962,560	19,795,760
Note circulation ..	188,776,400	189,458,400	193,267,400	173,653,120
Public deposits ..	8,187,920	8,383,160	10,216,320	8,712,760
Private deposits ..	19,895,800	21,038,040	22,430,800	24,037,800

Proportion between bullion and circulation 82½ per cent. against 80½ per cent. a week ago.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Feb. 7, 1906.	Jan. 31, 1906.	Jan. 23, 1906.	Feb. 7, 1905.
Cash in hand ..	£47,917,050	£47,711,900	£48,930,250	£53,644,700
Bills discounted ..	39,580,500	42,248,350	41,933,950	34,347,100
Advances on stocks ..	1,730,850	3,580,600	2,625,750	2,464,900
Note circulation ..	63,949,000	66,211,150	65,081,350	62,009,600
Public deposits ..	24,851,800	25,281,000	28,869,900	24,404,300

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Feb. 10.)

REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£		£
Customs	678,000	National Debt Services ..	48,750
Excise	488,000	Other Consolidated Fund	—
Estate, &c., Duties ..	284,000	Charges	—
Stamps	157,000	Payments to Local Taxa-	—
Land Tax and House Duty.	190,000	tion	—
Property and Income Tax..	1,916,000	Supply Services	1,607,522
Post Office	970,000	Bullion Advances	—
Telegraphs	—	Treasury Bills (net amount)	—
Crown Lands	—	Advances for Interest on	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—	Exchequer Bonds	—
Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	Exchequer Bonds redeemed	—
Miscellaneous	—	Uganda Railway	—
Bullion advances repaid ..	—	Military Works	—
Uganda Railway	—	Naval Works	—
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	—	Telegraph Acts	—
count	—	Land Registry (New Build-	—
Telegraph Acts	—	ings)	—
Naval Works Acts	—	Public Buildings Expenses	—
Military Works Acts	—	Act	—
Land Registry Acts	—	Public Offices Site (Dublin)	—
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	—	Act	—
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	—	Suez Canal drawn Shares	—
Issue of Exchequer Bonds	—	in reduction of debt ..	—
under Concord Agreement Act	—	Curpad Agreement	—
Ways and Means	—	Surplus Revenue, 1904-5 ..	—
Temporary Advances Defi-	—	ciency Advances repaid ..	—
ciency	—	Ways and Means Advances	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	—	repaid	—
Issue of Exchequer Bonds..	—	Increase in Exchequer	—
Transvaal and Orange River	—	balances	3,026,728
Colony. Repayment of	—		
Temporary Advance	—		
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	—		
tion payments	—		
Decrease in Exchequer	—		
balances	—		
	£4,683,000		£4,683,000

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Feb. 8, 1906.	Feb. 1, 1906.	Jan. 25, 1906.	Feb. 9, 1905.
Coin and bullion	£ 5,758,440	£ 5,253,320	£ 5,108,120	£ 4,786,440
Other securities	23,590,200	24,188,600	23,653,560	22,555,200
Note circulation	27,540,080	28,351,320	27,910,600	26,355,060
Deposits	4,214,400	3,447,960	3,169,480	2,976,880

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Jan. 23/Feb. 6, 1906.	Jan. 16/29, 1906.	Jan. 8/21, 1906.	Feb. 1/14, 1905.
Gold	£ 73,113,527	£ 72,613,354	£ 71,709,079	£ 89,291,736
Silver and subsidiary coin	3,601,959	3,499,815	3,418,353	6,146,311
Advances and bills discounted	64,498,337	65,749,600	67,992,874	39,602,451
Securities belonging to the Bank	7,576,013	7,147,065	7,486,374	5,323,742
Notes in circulation	117,384,611	117,126,734	118,572,677	89,467,258
Deposits and current account	45,056,642	45,740,721	44,360,221	50,914,876
Treasury account	13,731,852	7,279,695	8,774,439	11,522,581

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Feb. 10, 1906.	Feb. 3, 1906.	Jan. 27, 1906.	Feb. 11, 1905.
Gold	£ 15,059,013	£ 15,051,920	£ 15,046,247	£ 14,931,866
Silver	25,124,095	23,212,110	23,218,471	20,114,620
Foreign Bills	3,164,237	3,071,677	3,041,665	1,704,208
Discount and Short Bills	46,910,602	46,924,902	47,045,873	50,946,626
Treasury Account	20,444,378	20,457,995	20,448,421	21,312,761
Notes in circulation	62,375,010	62,112,477	62,154,276	64,612,227
Current Account deposits	23,555,930	23,290,441	23,784,658	25,547,399
Dividends Interests	2,326,043	3,570,249	3,332,968	8,216,370
Government Securities ..	6,203,400	7,003,992	6,051,332	3,855,744

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Feb. 7, 1906.	Jan. 31, 1906.	Jan. 23, 1906.	Feb. 7, 1905.
Gold Reserve	£ 45,463,250	£ 45,338,291	£ 45,465,750	£ 48,072,875
Silver reserve	12,494,041	12,483,833	12,434,291	12,583,875
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	1,762,333	1,793,541	1,798,333	1,888,208
Note circulation	69,688,416	71,439,125	67,908,750	66,246,625
Bills discounted	18,566,541	20,190,166	19,162,166	14,172,416

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Feb. 10, 1906.	Feb. 3, 1906.	Jan. 27, 1906.	Feb. 11, 1905.
Specie	£ 38,178,000	£ 38,498,000	£ 38,602,000	£ 44,514,000
Legal tenders	212,404,000	211,486,000	208,320,000	228,420,000
Loans and discounts	212,404,000	211,486,000	208,320,000	228,420,000
Circulation	212,404,000	211,486,000	208,320,000	228,420,000
Net deposits	212,404,000	211,486,000	208,320,000	228,420,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and tenders) exceeds this sum by £1,185,400 against an excess last week of 000.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Feb. 6.	Feb. 8.	Feb. 13.	Feb. 15.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'28	12'28	12'3	12'3
Do. do.	3 months	12'5	12'5	12'5	12'5
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'46	25'47	25'47	25'47
Hamburg	3 months	20'71	20'72	20'71	20'71
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'71	20'72	20'71	20'71
Paris	cheques	25'16	25'16	25'16	25'16
Do.	3 months	25'35	25'35	25'35	25'35
Marseilles	3 months	25'35	25'35	25'35	25'35
Switzerland	3 months	25'48	25'50	25'51	25'50
Austria	3 months	24'55	24'55	24'55	24'55
St. Petersburg	3 months	24	24	24	24
Moscow	3 months	24	24	24	24
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'47	25'50	25'48	25'48
New York	60 days	48	48	48	48
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	38	38	38	38
Lisbon	3 months	50	50	50	50
Oporto	3 months	50	50	50	50
Copenhagen	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'45	18'45
Christiania	3 months	18'46	18'46	18'46	18'46
Stockholm	3 months	18'46	18'46	18'46	18'46

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3 1/4
Three months	3 1/2
Four months	3 1/2
Six months	3 1/2
Three months fine inland bills	4 1/4
Four months	4 1/4
Six months	4 1/4

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
" " short loan rates	4 1/2
Bankers' rate on deposits	2 1/2
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	3
" 7 and 14 days' notice	3 1/2
Current rates for 7 day loans	4
" for call loans	4 1/2

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Stock markets have not had much to do this week, and are not likely to have until we see how the over-charged credit gasometers in Europe and in the United States are going to stand the extra pressure put on them in the coming spring. That our markets are clogged by the dead weight of unliquidated accounts in the South African market, and, we fear, to some extent in the Yankee market, is undoubted, and really it would not conduce to edification to labour the position or probabilities until we see how events shape. In the United States another period of dear money is at hand. Already rates have risen there to 5 and 6 per cent. for call money, and the drain of banking capital to the interior is so severe that this week's New York Bank return is certain to be a bad one. In present circumstances our market is not in a position to resume the task of helping Wall Street to carry its intolerable load of inflated paper, and, therefore, something like a crisis might easily develop within the next three months. The probability of its occurrence will certainly not be lessened by the steady outpour of new securities now going on in the New York market. These securities are being subscribed concurrently with a steady diminution in the banking reserve, and are helping to swell out the loans of the Associated Banks, which within the four weeks up to Saturday last expanded by about £11,500,000. In the middle of the week £2,000,000 of new stock of the Atlantic Coast line was issued, together with £4,000,000 of Pennsylvania Railroad 4 per cent. bonds, and £2,400,000 of refunding 4 per cent. bonds of the Rock Island and Pacific Company, and along with all this gold is steadily leaving New York for South America, the total shipped this week being £350,000 worth. Our own market is not much more adequately protected against the spring cash and credit requirements, and day by day it may be said the position grows worse in the Kaffir Circus. So bad is it there that we hear the stability of firms but lately considered high up in the millionaire class discussed without reserve. Investment business has been good on the whole during the account drawing to an end, but it is again becoming most difficult for brokers who study first and last the interests of their clients to find good securities in which to place the capital entrusted to them. And money is going to be quite as dear as ever at the settlement next week.

The Week's Stock Markets.

This has not been an altogether pleasant week on the Stock Exchange. Business remains at a very low ebb, and dealers had at first to contend against adverse reports regarding the progress of the Moroccan Conference. These subsequently gave place to rumours of a more cheering character, but matters were not helped very much thereby, partly because the native risings in Natal and the anti-foreign movement in China have an ugly look. Both are minimised as much as possible, but they are not less serious on that account, and until news of a more reassuring character comes along the public is not likely to turn its thoughts to speculation. During the first few days of the week Consols picked up steadily, but then the extreme stringency in the money market began to tell, the prospect of any change from present conditions being extremely remote, and final prices were under the best. Other British Funds also became dull in tendency, but the movements on the week are quite unimportant. The Home County and Corporation and Colonial Inscribed sections were firm, but dealing was much quieter and the changes in prices comparatively few. The subscription lists for the New South Wales loan were closed on Tuesday.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS (Last year's dividends are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week
90 ³ / ₄	89	Consols (2 ¹ / ₂ p.c. Money) ..	90 ³ / ₄	90 ³ / ₄
90 ¹ / ₂	89 ¹ / ₂	Do. Account (Mar. 1) ..	90 ¹ / ₂	90 ¹ / ₂
89 ³ / ₄	88	2 ¹ / ₂ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	89 ³ / ₄	89 ³ / ₄
100 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907 ..	100 ¹ / ₂	100
92 ¹ / ₂	90 ¹ / ₂	Irish Land (2 ¹ / ₂) ..	92	91 ¹ / ₂
100 ¹ / ₂	99	Local Loans (3) ..	100	100
99 ¹ / ₂	98 ¹ / ₂	National War Loan (2 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	99	99
99 ¹ / ₂	98 ¹ / ₂	Do. Account (Mar. 1) ..	99 ¹ / ₂	99 ¹ / ₂
100 ¹ / ₂	98 ¹ / ₂	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	99 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂
296	293	Bk. of England Stk. (9 p.c.) ..	294 ¹ / ₂	295 ¹ / ₂
106 ¹ / ₂	104 ¹ / ₂	India 3 ¹ / ₂ p.c. Stk. red. 1931 ..	106 ¹ / ₂	106 ¹ / ₂
97 ¹ / ₂	96	Do. 3 p.c. Stk. red. 1948 ..	97 ¹ / ₂	97 ¹ / ₂
81 ¹ / ₂	79 ¹ / ₂	Do. 2 ¹ / ₂ p.c. Stk. red. 1926 ..	81 ¹ / ₂	81 ¹ / ₂
66 ¹ / ₂	65 ¹ / ₂	Do. 3 ¹ / ₂ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66 ¹ / ₂	66 ¹ / ₂

In the Foreign bond market there was a moderate setback in Chinese issues owing to the native unrest, but the selling never became severe. Japanese issues suffered in sympathy, and rumours are current that the remaining half of the £50,000,000 4 per cent. External loan will soon be issued. Europeans, however, were firm, and leading issues, such as Turkish, Spanish, and Russian marked small gains. It is said that a syndicate of Continental bankers has arranged for the issue of a new Bulgarian 5 per cent. loan for 35,000,000 francs to be placed at 81. Of this sum 18,000,000 francs is intended for the redemption of the 6 per cent. loan issued in London, and 10,000,000 francs will be used for general improvements. In the South American group Argentines and Brazilians showed small, irregular changes, closing fairly steady, and Cédulas had an upward tendency, but Peruvians were rather heavy.

Home Railway stocks have been dull and uninteresting, and the failure of the public to respond in any appreciable fashion to the improvements shown by the dividend announcements has led to a certain amount of realisation on the part of stale bulls. The earlier traffic returns were not of a nature to inspire much confidence and prices consequently dwindled, and although there was a temporary rally on Wednesday, which was due as much to outside influences as to the better exhibit made by the returns of the "heavy" lines, it was not accompanied by any material increase in the volume of business. About the only bright spots in the market were Central London stocks, which are regarded as cheap, and a steady stream of investment buying has gone on in them without, however, affecting the price materially. Selling of Scotch stocks from the North, and particularly of Caledonian issues, has been pretty persistent, and was attributed to a belief that a further issue of capital will be announced by that company shortly. They recovered slightly towards the end, but, with the exception of North British preferred,

final quotations were all substantially lower on the week.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
103 ¹ / ₂	102 ¹ / ₂	Argentina 5 p.c. 1886 ..	103	103
101 ¹ / ₂	100	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	101	101
103 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	102 ¹ / ₂	102 ¹ / ₂
93 ¹ / ₂	89 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	93	93 ¹ / ₂
92 ¹ / ₂	89 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	92	91 ¹ / ₂
92 ¹ / ₂	90	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	92	91 ¹ / ₂
104 ¹ / ₂	101 ¹ / ₂	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	104	104
90 ¹ / ₂	86 ¹ / ₂	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	89 ¹ / ₂	89 ¹ / ₂
102 ¹ / ₂	97 ¹ / ₂	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	102	102
105	103 ¹ / ₂	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	104 ¹ / ₂	104 ¹ / ₂
89 ¹ / ₂	86 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	89	89
102 ¹ / ₂	100	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	101 ¹ / ₂	101 ¹ / ₂
97 ¹ / ₂	96	Chilian 4 ¹ / ₂ p.c. 1885 ..	96	96
97 ¹ / ₂	96	Do. 4 ¹ / ₂ p.c. 1886 ..	96	96
96	93 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 ¹ / ₂ p.c. 1895 ..	96	96
101 ¹ / ₂	99 ¹ / ₂	Do. 5 p.c. 1895 ..	100	100
99	96 ¹ / ₂	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	98 ¹ / ₂	98 ¹ / ₂
105 ¹ / ₂	103 ¹ / ₂	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	105 ¹ / ₂	104 ¹ / ₂
104 ¹ / ₂	102 ¹ / ₂	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	105	104
101 ¹ / ₂	99	Do. 4 ¹ / ₂ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	101	99 ¹ / ₂
105 ¹ / ₂	102 ¹ / ₂	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	102 ¹ / ₂	102
52 ¹ / ₂	52 ¹ / ₂	Costa Rica A ..	53	53
43 ¹ / ₂	42 ¹ / ₂	Do. B ..	43	43
46 ¹ / ₂	44 ¹ / ₂	Colombian External ..	45 ¹ / ₂	45
108 ¹ / ₂	106 ¹ / ₂	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	107 ¹ / ₂	107 ¹ / ₂
105 ¹ / ₂	104 ¹ / ₂	Egypt Unified 4 p.c. ..	105 ¹ / ₂	105
102 ¹ / ₂	101 ¹ / ₂	Do. 3 ¹ / ₂ p.c. pref. ..	102 ¹ / ₂	102 ¹ / ₂
104 ¹ / ₂	103 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 ¹ / ₂ p.c. State Domain ..	104	104
88 ¹ / ₂	87 ¹ / ₂	German 3 p.c. ..	88	88
52 ¹ / ₂	50 ¹ / ₂	Greek, 1884 ..	52	51 ¹ / ₂
52 ¹ / ₂	50	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	52 ¹ / ₂	52 ¹ / ₂
41 ¹ / ₂	39 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. Rentas ..	41 ¹ / ₂	41 ¹ / ₂
51 ¹ / ₂	49 ¹ / ₂	Do. Funding ..	51	51
95 ¹ / ₂	94 ¹ / ₂	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	95 ¹ / ₂	95 ¹ / ₂
104 ¹ / ₂	103 ¹ / ₂	Italian 5 p.c. ..	104 ¹ / ₂	104 ¹ / ₂
102 ¹ / ₂	100 ¹ / ₂	Japan 5 p.c. ..	101 ¹ / ₂	102
104	100 ¹ / ₂	Do. 1901-2 ..	103	103
91 ¹ / ₂	89 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	90	90 ¹ / ₂
103 ¹ / ₂	102	Do. 6 p.c. ..	103	103
105	101 ¹ / ₂	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	104	104
60 ¹ / ₂	68 ¹ / ₂	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	69	69
86 ¹ / ₂	81 ¹ / ₂	Russian 4 p.c. 1899 ..	84	84 ¹ / ₂
82	80	Servian 4 p.c. ..	81	81
94 ¹ / ₂	90 ¹ / ₂	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	92 ¹ / ₂	93 ¹ / ₂
102 ¹ / ₂	101 ¹ / ₂	Turks 3 ¹ / ₂ p.c. Tribute ..	102 ¹ / ₂	102 ¹ / ₂
105	103 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	104 ¹ / ₂	104 ¹ / ₂
92 ¹ / ₂	90 ¹ / ₂	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	92 ¹ / ₂	93 ¹ / ₂
73 ¹ / ₂	70 ¹ / ₂	Uruguay 3 ¹ / ₂ p.c. ..	71	71 ¹ / ₂
98 ¹ / ₂	94 ¹ / ₂	Do. 5 p.c. ..	97	97 ¹ / ₂
54 ¹ / ₂	50 ¹ / ₂	Venezuelan, 1881 ..	50 ¹ / ₂	50 ¹ / ₂

The atmosphere in Wall Street is at present so charged with rumours of forthcoming new issues of capital by this company and the other that dealers there have shown little inclination to continue their upward manipulation of prices. Amongst others, the Southern Railroad, it is reported, will ask stockholders to sanction the creation of \$200,000,000 development and general 4 per cent. bonds, of which \$15,000,000 is to be issued immediately for refunding purposes, for

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
141 ¹ / ₂	139	Brighton Ord. (5 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	137xd	137
157 ¹ / ₂	154 ¹ / ₂	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	152xd	152
130 ¹ / ₂	126 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. (5 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	125 ¹ / ₂ xd	124
120 ¹ / ₂	115 ¹ / ₂	Caledonian Ord. (3 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	117 ¹ / ₂	115 ¹ / ₂
80	78 ¹ / ₂	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	79	78 ¹ / ₂
42 ¹ / ₂	39 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. (3 p.c.) ..	39 ¹ / ₂	38 ¹ / ₂
96 ¹ / ₂	94 ¹ / ₂	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	94xd	94
89	87 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	84 ¹ / ₂ xd	84 ¹ / ₂
16 ¹ / ₂	15 ¹ / ₂	Chatham Ordinary ..	15 ¹ / ₂	15 ¹ / ₂
44 ¹ / ₂	40 ¹ / ₂	City and South London (2 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	41xd	42
68 ¹ / ₂	67	Furness (1 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	60 ¹ / ₂	62 ¹ / ₂
38 ¹ / ₂	37 ¹ / ₂	Great Central Pref. ..	38 ¹ / ₂	38 ¹ / ₂
29 ¹ / ₂	28 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. ..	28 ¹ / ₂	28 ¹ / ₂
91 ¹ / ₂	85 ¹ / ₂	Great Eastern (3 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	86	85
105	103	Gr. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	104 ¹ / ₂	104 ¹ / ₂
47 ¹ / ₂	44 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. (1 ¹ / ₂) ..	46 ¹ / ₂	46 ¹ / ₂
144	140 ¹ / ₂	Great Western (5 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	141	140 ¹ / ₂
50	46	Highland (1 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	49 ¹ / ₂	49 ¹ / ₂
47 ¹ / ₂	46	Hull and Barnsley (1 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	46 ¹ / ₂	46
109 ¹ / ₂	106 ¹ / ₂	Lanc. and Yorks. (3 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	106 ¹ / ₂ xd	106
89 ¹ / ₂	82 ¹ / ₂	Metropolitan (2 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	82 ¹ / ₂ xd	82 ¹ / ₂
37 ¹ / ₂	35 ¹ / ₂	Metropolitan District ..	34	33 ¹ / ₂
70 ¹ / ₂	68 ¹ / ₂	Midland Pref. (2 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	69 ¹ / ₂	69
74 ¹ / ₂	71 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. (2 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	71 ¹ / ₂	70
78 ¹ / ₂	77 ¹ / ₂	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	78	78 ¹ / ₂
47 ¹ / ₂	45 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. (1 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	45 ¹ / ₂	45 ¹ / ₂
147 ¹ / ₂	144 ¹ / ₂	North-Eastern (6 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	146 ¹ / ₂	145 ¹ / ₂
163 ¹ / ₂	159 ¹ / ₂	North-Western (6 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	162 ¹ / ₂	161
90 ¹ / ₂	87 ¹ / ₂	South-Eastern Ord. (2 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	89xd	88
131 ¹ / ₂	126 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. (4 ¹ / ₂ p.c.) ..	127xd	127
55 ¹ / ₂	52 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. ..	52 ¹ / ₂	52 ¹ / ₂
104	100	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	102 ¹ / ₂	101 ¹ / ₂
108 ¹ / ₂	106 ¹ / ₂	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	107	107
57 ¹ / ₂	55 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	56 ¹ / ₂	55

the purchase of property and for double-tracking some of the line, with \$85,000,000 for other requirements, leaving \$99,800,000 available for future purchases and

betterments. Then the Northern Pacific and Great Northern are credited with the intention of issuing new stock to pay off Chicago, Burlington and Quincy joint 4 per cent. bonds and the Atchison Pacific is said to be preparing to issue the remaining \$17,500,000 convertible 4 per cent. bonds. The market, too, is by no means free from fears of a coal miners' strike in the spring, and last, but by no means least, the banks are said to be discouraging speculation, as their position is the weakest known at this time for the past fourteen years. On Wednesday the long-expected dividend an-

Canadian Pacific shares have been fairly lively and a considerable business went on in them from day to day, stimulated partly by the increase of \$278,000 in the traffic return and partly by the new issue the rights to which are valued by the market at \$12½ per share. The market, however, was hampered to some extent by the inactivity in New York and the nett result of the dealings was a gain of a fraction or two only. Grand Trunk stocks have also met with a good demand, and the third preference in particular was pushed up vigorously, carrying all the others up ½ to 1 with it.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses).	Price last week.	Price this week.
99½	91½	Atchison Shares (4)	94	94½
109½	106	Do. Pref. (5)	106	106½
120	115½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (4) ..	116½	115½
101½	98	Do. Pref. (4)	101	101
63½	56½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1)	60	59½
105½	185	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7)	189	188
52½	38	Denver Shares	48½	47½
93½	90½	Do. Pref. (5)	92	92
52½	46½	Erie Shares	47	47½
85½	81	Do. Pref. (4)	81½xd	80½
85½	81	Do. and Pref. (4)	74½	74½
185	177	Illinois Central (7)	180½	180½
160½	153½	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	154	154
41½	36½	Missouri and Texas	37½	37
159½	151½	New York Central (5)	152½	155
95½	87½	Norfolk and Western (4)	91½	91
96½	95½	Do. Pref. (4)	93xd	93
52½	52½	Ontario Shares (3)	53½	54
75½	72½	Pennsylvania (6)	72½	72½
85½	69½	Reading Shares (1½)	69½	71½
47½	47	Do. 1st Pref. (4)	48	48
51½	48½	Do. 2nd Pref. (4)	49	49
74½	67½	Southern Pacific	69½	69
43½	36½	Southern	41½	41½
104½	103	Do. Pref. (5)	103½	103½
163½	151½	Union Pacific (5½)	158½	158½
101½	99	Do. Pref. (4)	101	101
26½	20½	Wabash	25	24
48½	42½	Do. Pref.	48	47½
82	78½	Do. Income Debs.	81	80
182½	174½	Canadian Pacific (6)	177½	178½
106½	104½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.)	106½	106½
109½	109	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.)	109½	109½
27½	25½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk.	26½	27½
105	102½	Do. Guar. (4)	104	105
117½	114½	Do. 1st Pref. (5)	117	117½
107½	105½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5)	107½	108½
62½	61½	Do. 3rd Pref.	62½	64½
109½	107½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.)	109	109½

nouncement by the Union Pacific was made, and proved to be exactly what had been anticipated by most of the dealers, although some professed to be disappointed because no bonus in stock accompanied it, but in the present apathetic mood the declaration had practically no effect on the price. A little manipulation was apparent in New York Central as well as in Reading shares, and these two issues both finished up on the week while Erie ordinary were also lifted in a moderate fashion, but otherwise the tendency was towards lower levels.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
229½	211½	Antofagasta (10)	224½	224½
315	313	Do. Def. (15)	330	330
130½	126	Argentine Gt. West. (6)	128	127
132	130	Do. Pref. (5)	130	130
88	84½	Bahia Blanca Pref.	87	86
144½	140	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	142	142
129½	127	Do. Pref. (5)	129	129
134½	132½	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	134	133
120½	115½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5)	116	117
110	107½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5)	109	109
117½	115	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	117	117½
113½	109½	Do. do. Deferred (6)	112½	113½
120	165½	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7)	169	169
109	106½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	107	106
138½	135½	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7)	138½	138
92½	89½	Central Uruguay (4½)	91	91
109½	107	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	103	107
95½	92½	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	95	95
75½	71½	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	73	73
26	26	Costa Rica	26	26
6½	6	Cuban Central	6	7
111½	111	Do. Pref. (5½)	111½	111½
106	103	Do. Deb. (4½)	103	103
93½	92½	East Argentine (4½)	93	91
74	6	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	7	7½
80½	80½	Leopoldina (3)	81	80½
98½	96½	Do. Deb. (4)	97½	97
108	108	Manila Bonds "A" (6)	108	108
105½	103½	Do. "B" (6)	105	105
27½	25	Mexican Ord. Stk.	26½	26½
120½	118½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½)	125	125
55½	49½	Do. and Pref.	54½	55
60½	54½	Mexican Southern (4½)	59	59
111½	108½	Nitrate Ord. (5½)	115	115
204½	191	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	205	205
249½	204	San Paulo Brazilian (12)	205	205
193	174½	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	185	183

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
21	17	Allsopp Ordinary	15	18
50	44½	City of London Ord.	46½	44½xd
551	540	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	550	550
19½	16½	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	18	19
51/3	46/	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	22	22
61/3	52/6	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	22	24
56	50	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	51½	51½
16	14	Do. Def. Ord. Stock	15	14
99½	96½	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	98	96xd
62	51	Do. Def. Stk. (1½)	54	52xd
6½	5½	Aerated Bread (32½)	6½	6½
6½	6½	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	6½	7
6½	6½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½)	6½	6½
27/	21/3	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	1½	1½
44/4½	40/	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2	2
7½	58	Brunner Mond (35)	5½	5½
11½	11	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½) ..	11½	11½
13/9	11/6	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½) ..	11½	11½
5½	5½	Coats Ordinary (20)	5½	5½
500	495	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	500	500
26/9	19/9	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil)	1½	1½
25/3	22/9	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	1½	1½
6½	6½	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	6½	6½
13½	12½	Henley's Telegraph (15)	13½	13½
6½	6½	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	4½	4½
27/6	26/	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½)	1½	1½
108½	107½	Do. Debenture (1½)	108	108
24/3	21/9	Lipton Ordinary (7)	1½	1½
6½	58	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	6	6
34/	27/	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	1½	1½
15/6	13/6	Russian Petroleum	1½	1½
7½	7	Savoy Hotel (5)	7½	7
18/	13/9	Sweetmeat Automatic	7	7
16	16	Short's Deterred Ordinary (10)	16	16
12/6	11/3	Welsbach Ordinary Stock	11½	11½
18/6	17/3	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	18	18
103	102½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	103	103
85	81½	Hudson's Bay Co. (58/)	84½	85½
54½	42½	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½)	54½	52½
110	107½	Do. Debentures (6)	109½	109½
9½	9½	National Discount (10)	9½	9½
12	11½	Union Discount (11)	11½	11½
11½	11	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	6½	5½
104½	100½	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	11½	11½
133½	130	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (48)	100½	98½xd
66/3	63/9	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	13½	13½
85/	75/	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	3½	3½
28/6	28/	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	48	48
30/9	30/9	Brown, J. & Co. Ordinary (10)	12	12
14	13½	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½)	1½	1½
47	4½	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	15	15½xd
117	108½	United States Steel Ordinary ..	112½	112½
57/	53/	Do. Preference (7)	112½	112½xd
14½	13½	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	2½	2½
241	238½	Cunard Steam	14	14
54	48	Penninsular & Oriental Def. (13)	24½	24½
9	8½	Royal Mail	55½	53½
114½	109½	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5)	8½	8½
18½	16½	Anglo-American Telegraph—	11½	11½
150½	135½	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½)	115	115xd
14½	14½	Do. Def. Ord.	18	18½xd
111½	109	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	149½	149½
148	14½	Eastern Extension (7)	14½	15
8½	8½	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	111	111
9½	8½	Western Telegraph (7)	14½	14½
117	110½	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	8½	8
9½	8½	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)	9	9
9½	8½	London General Omnibus (7) ..	11½	107½
9½	8½	London United Trams Pref. (5) ..	9	9½

Leading Argentine stocks again tended to recede without very much going on in any of them, but the declines were nowhere important. Traffic returns were much about what had been looked for, and towards the end of the week dealings became rather more numerous in one or two things, including Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary and Buenos Ayres Western, but the recovery brought about did little more than wipe out the earlier losses. Brazilian stocks were firm as a rule, although not much altered, and even Leopoldina was steady, in spite of a serious decrease in the traffic figures. Business in Mexican Railways was again good, and the first and second preferences of the old company finished with fair gains, while Inter-oceanic "B" debentures were lifted substantially, carrying the preference shares and 4 per cent. debenture stock up with them. Guayaquil and Quito Railway bonds

again came into prominence, but Antofagasta issues were neglected. United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock went up smartly at one time, but the rise brought out sellers, and it closed unchanged, while the scrip of the new issue was a trifle lower.

Miscellaneous markets continue idle and neglected, and but for the small interest displayed in some of the principal speculative things there would be nothing going at all. Textile shares were not quite so good, owing to profit-taking from the north, and there was less business in the Iron and Steel group, which, however, keeps fairly firm. Nitrates were rather dull, and the United Alkali dividend announcement of the full payment on the preference shares, with £90,000 to reserve, was evidently considered disappointing, as the shares fell back. Gordon Hotels were weak in the Catering division, and English Brewery securities, although sometimes rallying in a feeble way, are still very weak in tendency. Bieckerts ordinary had another big rise. Meat shares were dull, especially Nelsons, but Sweetmeats met with a small inquiry on the increase of £851 in the revenue for January. Theatre shares showed weakness, and Lyceum issues fell to almost nothing on the latest attempt to raise the wind. Hudson's Bays were again taken in hand by the bull cliques, but closed well under the best, and Pekin Syndicates continue to fall away. Anglo-American Telegraph deferred is still the medium of a good deal of speculation, and prices were decidedly flat in the Tramway and Omnibus division. London General Omnibus fell 5, and will probably see still lower prices, last week's traffic decrease of £2,700 being most disturbing. Road Cars were also down, and London United issues are still heavy, although the poor dividend announcement did not cause a further fall. B.E.T. ordinary dropped to 8.

The only notable incident in the Stock Exchange to-day was the large amount of Kaffir shares flung out by Paris. Selling was, we are told, enormous, both from there and from the Cape—the latter against options—but our market took the stuff without flinching. Why the French sold is not difficult to explain. A heavy failure has occurred on the Bourse de Commerce, and although the bankrupt there did not, it is said, hold much Kaffir paper, his collapse adversely affected the position of other houses that did; hence there was a convergence, as it were, of selling orders, which did not depress our Circus nearly so much as might have been anticipated. In other quarters business was thin, and movements usually slight, although the Yankee market is giving indications of some amount of demoralisation. Money, it should be added, will be at least $4\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. next week for the mid-March account. Some talk of asking 5 per cent. as a minimum.

The British Motor 'Bus Trust will on Monday offer for subscription 300,000 ordinary shares of £1 each in the Provincial Motor 'Bus and Traction Company, in connection with which, it is stated, a contract has been entered into for the purchase of motor-chassis (the first deliveries to be not later than June next), with Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth, and Co., Limited, Panhard-Levassor, "Mercedes" (Milnes Daimler), and others. Mr. E. W. Stanyforth, J.P. (a director of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company), is a director of the new undertaking, and the chairman is Mr. A. A. Campbell Swinton, chairman of the London and District Motor 'Bus Company ("Arrow" services).

Poor Uruguay.

The Customs revenue of the Uruguayan Republic for 1905 showed an increase of \$2,481,000 on the total for 1904, the total being \$11,492,000. Every month in the year except April showed an increase, and the total beats the best previous aggregate, that of 1895, by about \$830,000. This increase, however is ascribed

by the *Monte Video Times* and other Uruguayan papers to the restocking of the country after the civil war. That war caused the Customs revenue to sink to little more than \$9,000,000, so that part of last year's revenue should really be ascribed to the year before, and, looking over a number of years, the most remarkable fact with regard to this source of the Republic's revenue, is its stagnant character. Thus 1894-97 gave an average of \$9,956,000, the succeeding period under Cuestas 1898-1902 an average of \$9,763,000, and the years 1903-1905 under Batlle an average of \$10,275,000. By these averages it is seen that the Cuestas Government, which was undisturbed by civil war, apparently did worse than the Government which preceded it or the present one, but the *Monte Video Times* points out that if the years of war be disregarded and the average for the years of peace alone be taken, the position is really worse, and the show made by the Cuestas régime less satisfactory than in the figures just given. It is not a matter of very great importance except at one point—the evidence afforded of the slow progress, on the very best interpretation, made by this unhappy little South American State. It is ill governed, and probably the best is not made of its sources of revenue. Some 80 to 85 per cent. of the Customs revenue is derived from imports, and the tariff in force is still that of 30 years ago. Commerce has clamoured often for a revision. Numerous branches of trade are reduced to vanishing point, or have quite disappeared, solely because of the senseless and indefensible prohibitive duties, which do not even serve to protect a home made article. Perhaps before emitting that new loan the Government, or the financiers behind it, will do something to remedy this state of affairs.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

*. Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

The troubles of the Kaffir Circus still prevail and prices continue to weaken. Now and then a transient gleam of brightness penetrates the gloom, but disappears as suddenly as it comes, leaving the darkness, if anything, deeper. Nothing resembling genuine business is done, and any movement or change is the result almost solely of professional operations. What with the native rising in Natal and the disquietening rumours from Algenciras, no support has come from the Cape nor from Paris and the market has been left to its own helplessness. Though the latest news both from South Africa and Morocco seems more reassuring, it has not helped the Kaffir Circus in the least, neither has the statement that a Royal Commission will be appointed to inquire into Transvaal affairs been a stimulating influence. It is not easy to find anyone in these days sanguine enough to predict activity in Kaffirs in the early future, for it is recognised that to bring the public back will need more guile than the bosses are masters of. On the contrary, incidents continually happen—whether they be the result of design or accident matters not—calculated to deepen public disgust. Letters similar to those we have published serve forcibly to picture public feeling, the revolution in the outside attitude towards the unscrupulous methods of the bosses. Tactics such as those adopted by the Aurora West United—of the Albu group—will not serve the purpose the management imagines. That is to say, they will not impel the populace to clamour for a retention of Chinese labour, the conviction is too deep-seated that such labour will not make the bosses honest. On the contrary, the incident will but make resentment all the stronger and further exasperate those who have to bear the pecuniary sacrifices.

The following dividend has been declared:—

Dividend.	Issued Capital.	Amount.
Knight's Deep ... 10 per cent. ...	£643,500	£64,350

Rhodesian shares have dwindled also and are again lower on the week. The bombastic, vague cablegram from the Bulawayo agents of the Rhodesian Banket Company has, of course, been more a source of derision than a support to the shares. This is how it runs:—"Eldorado: There is no cause for anxiety. Developments are progressing most favourably. Unfavourable rumours are unfounded. All faces look very well. No. 3 level: Reef continuing very good. Rowdy Boys: Good ore still being found in winze below No. 1 level, east of Shaft No. 2." Where is there a valuable fact in this communication? Why is it we cannot have facts, instead of hysterical rubbish? "No cause for anxiety"? What do they think who bought the shares at

£4 and see the price at 2½, sellers only? Is it surprising that Bankets further relapsed? The Rhodesian output, given elsewhere, showing a large increase, has not brought more business to this market.

West Africans have been unbelievably idle, and Egyptians have scarcely moved. West Australians, too, have, on the whole, tended to weakness, Great Fingalls and Morseshoes being the weakest spots.

In the Miscellaneous group, Broken Hill shares have fallen away, Germany being a large seller, it is said, to cover losses in Kaffirs. Amongst Indians, Champion Reefs, after the successful effort made to depress them, show signs of recovery, as was to be expected. It is to be feared that the "bearish" onslaught here has scared real holders into selling, thus helping the wreckers. At such a time it is not wise to sell with the "bears," for the opportunity may soon come to sell to these gentlemen to advantage. However, there is no justification in the situation for the heavy relapse we have seen. Elsewhere, Anacondas and Rio Tintos have lost a little, but other movements are nothing to speak of.

TRANSVAAL GOLD RETURNS.—After making a great spurt in December the bosses are now resting and recouping, for the effort taxed their resources to the utmost, and it may take some time to recover from the strain. A fall in the month of January, which was of equal length with December, was only what we expected, the "record" yield looked too much like a "fake." From the Witwatersrand itself the yield amounted to 411,256 ozs. of fine gold, whilst 17,382 ozs. came from the mines in the outside districts, making a total of 428,638 ozs., of a value of £1,820,739 against 431,594 ozs. worth £1,833,295 in the preceding month. These figures show decreases of 2,956 ozs. and £12,556 respectively and are not likely to bring light into the gloom of the Kaffir Circus. Of course, there was a nett loss of natives, this time of 962, reducing the total at the end of January to 79,992. There also seem to have been fewer Chinese at work, for a press agency gives the number at 47,118 against 47,218 at the end of December. During January 97 coolies died and three were discharged. Since January 31 1,943 coolies have arrived by the *Indravelli*, and 1,590 are now on the sea.

RICE HAMILTON EXPLORATION.—The report and accounts now issued by the directors of this Rhodesian company are almost twelve months old, and as they are dated in the ancient times of March, 1905, are of but slight importance as indicating the present position of affairs at the mines. For there are now several mines under its management, as the result last year of amalgamation with the two subsidiaries—the Sabiwa Central and Sabiwa Proprietary. Out of the nominal capital of £175,000 shares of £1 each there are 40,373 shares in reserve, and an option has been given on 15,000 of these at £2 each, to expire on September 6 next, and a further call on 2,000 under similar conditions to Rhodesia, Limited, in satisfaction of unexpired calls held by that company on Sabiwa Proprietary shares. The Sabiwa Central mine is the principal one at the moment, but no development work was done upon it during the year; hence there was no revenue from gold winning. It is said there has been considerable delay owing to the late arrival and subsequent failure of the centrifugal tailings pumps and by a great scarcity of native labour. So a temporary loan, which it is hoped will not exceed £16,000, has had to be arranged to carry the mine to the producing stage. By trial crushings 6,850 tons have been treated for a yield of only 1,138 ozs. of gold, whilst in December 2,850 tons gave 596 ozs. and 1,400 tons of tailings 217 ozs. In South Africa the ordinary expenditure came to £2,352 against £70 from farm rents and interest, whilst in London the outgoings amounted to £604, interest yielding £136, so the deficit is £2,751. This, however, covers a period of only five months—from December 1, 1904, to March 31, 1905. The expenditure for the seven months, April 1 to November 30, amounting to £20,306, has been charged to the reserve fund, £67,596, of which £30,000 consists of premiums, a policy that has saved the directors from showing a huge deficit. Admirable finance, is it not? A further sum of £17,289 has been taken from the same source to write down property account. So the reserve now stands at £30,000, against which there are contango loans for £25,760. Creditors appear for £3,271, cash amounting to £2,835 and debtors owing £255. There are also some "investments" of a kind valued at cost, £5,000.

WARELEIGH (RHODESIA) DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.—The report and accounts of this Rhodesian concern are dated June, 1905. From the Guinea Fowl mine 8,979 ozs. of gold came from the milling of 13,275 tons of ore, showing an average of 13½ dwts. per ton, exclusive of the tailings. This was up to the end of April last, when this mine, with the Early Bird property was sold to a separate company for 50,000 fully-paid £1 shares and £10,000 in cash. Milling operations were then suspended in order to do some development work and proceed with the erection of a cyanide plant. Since the sale of this mine the directors have not authorised further development work on any of the other properties, so have adopted a waiting policy, from which the shareholders are not likely to get dividends. The profit and loss account is credited with £11,795 from bullion sold, the expenditure absorbing all but £43 of this, which is the trifling nett profit. Cash £1,683, and debtors £15, exceed by a few pounds the sum owing to sundry creditors.

MOUNT MORGAN GOLD MINING COMPANY.—Although the quantity of oxidised ore—72,522 tons—treated by this company in the half-year ending November 30 was 4,700 tons more than in the preceding six months, the yield was over 5,100 ozs. less at

28,349 ozs. On the other hand, about 1,600 more tons of sulphide ore were dealt with for 5,500 additional ozs. at a total of 32,356 ozs., the average yield, 11.07 dwts., being .89 dwts. higher than for the previous half-year. In all, the quantity of ore treated was 130,973 tons and the fine gold obtained 60,706 ozs., whilst 17,486 tons of tailings were re-treated at the Lower Reduction Works and 1,575 fine ozs. obtained therefrom. The average grade of all ores treated was 9.27 dwts., a decrease of 3.33 dwts. Total revenue for the period amounted to £271,645 and the expenditure charged to profit and loss account £200,651, giving a profit of £71,000. The dividend of 3d. per share per month has been maintained, absorbing £75,000, so the balance brought in has thereby been cut down to £14,765. Whilst an issue of debentures has been avoided a temporary advance has been obtained, as well as further advances procured to complete and carry on the works. It is proposed to apply the proceeds from copper when available in the repayment of temporary loans and in the creation of a reserve fund before recommending any increase in the dividend, which is a good policy.

ARIZONA COPPER COMPANY.—This company's revenue during the twelve months ending September 30 was:—Copper company's operations—profit from copper, stores and rents £324,554, from which must be deducted £14,086 leaving a surplus of £310,468. Nett returns from the Arizona and New Mexico railroad £81,398; total profits £361,099. Out of this and £10,286 brought in £50,000 is carried to reserve for redemption of debt, replacement of capital outlay, &c., leaving a divisible balance of £311,099. Interest on the preference shares is paid for the year and the directors recommend dividends on the preferred and deferred ordinary shares of 3s. 9d. per share, which will allow £11,873 to be carried forward. During the year 5,220 of the deferred ordinary shares held by the nominees of the company were sold and realised £11,982, whilst terminal debentures to the amount of £7,760 were redeemed. The year's results have been adversely affected by floods and the damage done, exceeding £34,000, has been charged to revenue. The improvements and extensions at the concentrators have taken much more time to carry through than was expected, and they are not yet completed. Consequently production has not yet reached the figure anticipated by the management. The erection of the new constructor at Longfellow, to treat 700 tons of ore per day, is going on as rapidly as possible, and it is hoped the mill will be in operation after the end of May.

ETRUSCAN COPPER ESTATES.—The directors issue a circular, together with a report from the company's consulting engineers, Messrs. Alex. Hill and Stewart. This goes to show that prospects of profit-earning are very doubtful. However, they intend to hurry up in order to take as much advantage as possible of the present price of copper. It is hoped to begin smelting early in March at the rate of 100 tons or more per day, treating ore of an average value of about a per cent. copper. "We believe," they say, "that if the price of copper remains at about £75 per ton, a profit sufficient to cover all the expenses of exploration can be earned from the extraction and treatment of about 3,000 tons of ore per month, containing not less than a per cent. copper." Which is in striking contrast with past directorial hyperbolic predictions.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Gross receipts for the December half-year came to £7,816,352, being an increase of £243,225 on the corresponding half of 1904. Working expenses took £4,824,161 or £70,934 more, and the proportion of expenses to income rose slightly to 62.91 per cent. The percentage, however, would be somewhat higher if we deducted the nett income from rents of land and buildings which amounted to £147,401. On the other hand, miscellaneous receipts aggregating £82,215 are not taken into account in making the comparison. Interest on debenture account, chief rents, &c., came to £685,038 or £4,964 less, and the final result was an increase of £177,532 in the balance available for dividends which came to £2,389,368 exclusive of £74,494 brought from the previous half-year. It follows that the directors are able to meet all preference and guaranteed stock dividends and to pay a dividend at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum on the consolidated stock as against 6½ per cent. for the corresponding period of last year. The balance left to carry to the new half-year will still be £93,874 against £84,533 a year ago. This is a most satisfactory exhibit, and in looking through the accounts we cannot see any material drawback to it. As might be expected, everything relating to the working and maintenance of this great property is thoroughly looked after. There is no sign of short-sighted pinching at any point. Maintenance of way, for instance, took about £5,000 more, locomotive power about £7,000 more, carriage and wagon repairs £17,000 more and traffic expenses nearly £38,000 more. The only thing we lament is the incompleteness of the revenue account, which, as is the habit with our railways, hides the steamboat receipts and only sets forth the expenses, which were rather less last half-year than in the corresponding half of 1904. Passenger receipts gave an increase of £64,013, and merchandise, live stock, and

minerals an increase of £178,403. There was an increase of no less than 1,235,774 tons in the weight of merchandise and minerals carried. This led to an increase of 362,256 miles in the running of goods and mineral trains, and the mileage of passenger trains went up by 437,330, although the increase in the number of passengers was only 82,862. These figures would seem to indicate that the company might economise to some extent in this direction by closer supervision of the details of its train running. In the past six months the capital expenditure came to £430,310, of which £36,766 was on new working stock, and the capital account was overdrawn on December 31 by no less than £2,452,581. The company, however, holds about £3,334,000 in trust funds of various descriptions, including £1,361,000 on account of the superannuation fund, so that its capital requirements are still amply provided for out of the money thus held, there being £880,000 odd to draw upon before it is exhausted. The proprietors are to be asked to sanction the creation of £500,000 of new capital for additional rolling stock besides £187,200 for various works, additional lands, and so forth. Dividends on the guaranteed, preference and consolidated stocks of the company will be posted on the 22nd inst.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

Looking at the speed with which this company is pouring out new capital, its exhibit for the December half of 1905 is remarkably good. Gross revenue came to £6,503,944, an increase of £104,180 on the second half of 1904. Against this working expenses absorbed £3,851,728, or £61,803 more, making the proportion of outgo to income 59.22 per cent., which is almost level with the previous standard. All items of working expenditure went up except maintenance of way, which was down a mere £2,107. Locomotive power and carriage repairs, taken together, absorbed £16,222 more, traffic and general charges £33,084 more, and Government duty and rates and taxes £14,604 more. After meeting all preferential charges, including an increase of £5,725 in the debenture and rent-charges stocks and other priorities, which amounted to £768,625, the balance left for dividends on the guaranteed, preference, and ordinary stocks is £1,955,978, or £42,546 more than a year ago. The directors are therefore able to pay a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, or the same as a year ago, leaving £46,947 to be carried forward, against £45,177 a year back. The amount of the consolidated ordinary stock on which this dividend will be paid is now £33,253,364. During the past half-year £1,007,340 was received on account of new capital issues, this including £235,740 received as premiums. The expenditure on capital account, however, came to £1,542,910. Of this no less than £528,868 was spent on lines open for traffic, and new working stock took £143,567, making the total amount of capital sunk in working stock £13,427,928. The Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbour enterprise in Ireland absorbed £242,000 during the half-year. Thanks, however, to the large receipts from new stock, the capital account was only overdrawn by £643,543 at the end of the year, and the company holds trust moneys in the shape of insurance funds, savings-bank funds, and so on, to the amount of about £800,000. Even so, further issues of capital must soon be made, as the estimated capital expenditure for the current half-year is £1,200,000, and for subsequent half-years £7,028,107. Like that of all the other companies, the revenue account of the Great Western fails to give us any particulars regarding the results of its steamboat business. Dock and harbour dues, etc., are set forth amongst the receipts, but not the income from steamboats, although steamboat expenses are duly set down. We do, however, get the receipts and financial results incident to the working of the company's canals, and these show a dead loss of about £6,200 in the past half-year. Surely more might be made of the canals than this if they were properly organised and worked with a view to benefit the community. At the forthcoming meeting the sanction of the proprietors will be asked to the expenditure of £1,595,000 of new capital, including £200,000 on new rolling stock. Most of the rest of the money is to go into lines open for traffic. Dividends on the company's stocks will be posted on the 26th inst.

FURNESS RAILWAY.

Gross revenue for the six months ended December 31, £290,765, increase £35,479; working expenses £142,035, increase £7,905; ratio between expenditure and income 48.86 per cent., against 52.54 per cent. This company's prosperity depends entirely upon the condition of the iron and steel trades, and it is an interesting commentary upon the position of one of the "going" industries that in the past half-year there was an increase in goods and mineral traffic by 340,873 tons, bringing an addition to the receipts of £38,136. Passenger traffic unfortunately shows a decline of £2,439, owing to unfavourable weather in the holiday months, and there were also small decreases in live stock, parcels, horses, carriages, &c., and miscellaneous, but the steamship and ferry business produced £628 more. Compared with the growth in revenue, the rise in expenditure was very unimportant, and the comparison is rendered still more satisfactory by the fact that this half-year's outlay includes £3,000 for dredging plant renewals, against nothing of the kind in the corresponding period. Maintenance of way cost about the same, locomotive power increased less than £2,000, including £3,000 for special renewals, and carriage and wagon repairs rose by £2,338, the special allocation of £2,400 for renewals, extinguishing this suspense account. Traffic expenses showed practically no change, general charges advanced £600, repairs of buoys, &c., £548, and steamer and ferry expenses went up by £551, excluding

the Lake steamer outlay, which was larger by £137. On the other hand, law charges were less by £540, rates and taxes showed a small but welcome decline, and dredging went down £642. Nett revenue of £148,729 showed an increase of £27,574, and with the addition of the sum brought forward the disposable credit is raised to £150,023 against £122,457. Although £2,000 or £500 more is transferred to the credit of steamers depreciation fund, fixed charges are over £1,000 down, thanks to an important saving in general interest, and the balance available for dividend is £28,799 larger at £101,915. The directors can, therefore, provide additional preference charges, and raise the distribution on the ordinary stock from 1 to 3 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £596 more at £4,688. There was a credit on account of capital outlay of £28,541, a sum of £33,630 coming in as the company's share in the Barrow Steam Navigation Company taken over by the Midland Railway Company. Debit to the account, therefore, is only £3,425, and there should not be much difficulty in providing the estimated expenditure of £24,424 in the current six months.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT RAILWAY COMPANY.

Gross receipts for the six months ended December 31 £203,510, increase £6,092; working expenses £144,076, increase £29,863; ratio between expenditure and income 70.80 per cent. against 57.85 per cent. Such a violent rise in the working expenses is a very serious matter, making every possible allowance for the great difficulties under which the business of the company has been carried on, but within a comparatively short time we may expect the able administration of Sir George Gibb, who is now chairman and managing director of the undertaking, to bring about a very different condition of affairs. Everything cannot be accomplished at once, and at best the fight is going to be a stiff one, a fact which the board clearly recognises in the selection of Sir George Gibb. Under maintenance of way, the increase was £3,476, and locomotive power, including haulage by other companies, rose £10,213. Coal and electric current cost no less than £49,408, against £19,912, but wages connected with the working of locomotive engines and electric cars showed a decrease of about £4,000. Repairs and renewals cost about £1,000 less, while the receipts for work done for other companies produced nearly £13,000 more at £36,866. Carriage repairs increased over £2,000 and in traffic expenses there was an advance of £13,238, practically all in salaries and wages. General charges were up £1,000, rates and taxes increased £565, and most other items of expenditure showed smaller but still important advances. Moreover, from the constitution of the increases it is obvious that savings will be effected only with the greatest difficulty, and a tremendous improvement in the revenue will be needed to justify the change to electric traction. Last half-year the gain in the passenger traffic was £11,201, the virtual disappearance of the second-class traffic—the income was only £1,153 against £28,957—being compensated by an increase in first-class of £5,034, and in third of £37,997. Parcels, &c., gave £1,724 compared with £3,190, and goods and minerals £2,441 or £1,703 less, and we suppose that the current half-year will witness the complete disappearance of this class of traffic. Rents were down by almost £2,000, and the balance of nett revenue shows a decline of £23,772 at £59,433. Then we find that rents produced £8,525 only against £10,301, nothing came in from the Ealing and South Harrow line against £2,500, general interest produced £577 less, City lines and extensions returned £7,031 only compared with £8,701, and no help can be derived from the reserve, which previously gave £5,878, simply because it is all used up. On the other hand, there is a transfer from capital to revenue of £15,267 in respect of the rent of the car shops, machinery, &c., for 20 months during construction and completion of the cars, and £6,000 was received for rent of widened lines on the Hammersmith extension, so that the company manages to produce an income of £97,251 or a decline of £15,159. Fixed charges, however, went up £6,442 to £116,833, so that there is a deficiency to be carried forward of £19,582, against last year's credit of £2,019. Not only that, but the 4 per cent. guaranteed stock is entitled to a dividend at the rate of £1 2s. 6d. per cent. per annum from the revenue of the City Lines and Extensions, to provide which capital must be further trenced upon. Total dividend deficiency on this guaranteed stock is £155,976, which, together with any other amounts that may be added before nett revenue provides the dividend, is to be capitalised, meaning a permanent increase in the fixed charges of a good round sum. Moreover, tremendous amounts continue to be laid out on capital account, the nett expenditure for the past six months being £549,942, and the directors look to spend a further amount of £188,730 in the current six months, but fortunately there is a credit to capital account of £51,455. Total cost of the electrical equipment and installation, including 434 cars, was, up to December 31 last, £1,677,000, exclusive of discount on stock issued in payment thereof. It is estimated that subsequent outlay, including 70 additional cars, will be £235,000, and power is to be taken in the company's bill now before Parliament to provide the necessary capital for this purpose.

BARING BROS. AND CO., LIMITED.

The latest balance-sheet of this important merchant bank, made up to December 31 last, shows a big expansion in the figures compared with the corresponding date in 1904. Current accounts, for example, are up no less than £2,637,669, to £7,899,926, and the acceptances amount to £7,422,990, against £6,201,543. On the other side, cash in hand, at call, and short notice has risen £1,592,693 to £3,487,999, an increase of £169,201, to £2,048,291, has taken place in the investments,

and advances and acceptances have gone up by £2,518,864, to £8,518,265. Only one item shows a decline, bills receivable being down by £422,060, to £2,276,823. House property in Bishopsgate Street remains at the old figure of £127,000, and the reserve is still £100,000, against the paid-up capital of £1,025,000. A year ago the directors decided not to disclose the profits, and we regret to find that this practice is adhered to in the latest statement. All we can say, therefore, is that after providing for current expenses, bad debts, contingencies, and dividends for the year on the preference and ordinary shares, there remains a balance, including the amount brought forward from 1904, of £10,462, which the directors propose to carry forward. It may be further mentioned that the securities stand on the books at or below market value.

CANNON BREWERY CO., LIMITED.

For a good many years past we have been pointing out the weakness of this company's finances, and although the position is not desperate yet we fear there is a good deal of misery still to be encountered. Loans to publicans, book debts, &c., £1,925,549, is one of the items which fill us with misgiving, and it would be useful to know how much of that could be called in in case of need. Dare the company ask for any of it, and would not the result be to throw no end of licensed property on its hands? Is the interest on this huge sum punctually met, and in full? The chairman did not say at the recent meeting, and did not, indeed, display very much anxiety to handle the balance-sheet at all. The war tax on beer, rates and taxes, and the obligations under the Compensation Act provide less contentious material for speech-making, and always go down well with shareholders. Freehold and leasehold houses and reversionary interests £1,776,073 is another item which might not come very well out of a revaluation, and as the reserves all told reach no more than £165,577, the company has nothing very startling to fall back upon in case of need. Premises, plant, and machinery are entered at £302,182, goodwill stands at £291,755, a comparatively modest sum, and £203,984 is used in trade investments. Other investments consisting of Great Eastern ordinary stock and Consols are put in at £90,549, but are worth £22,000 less, and with a balance-sheet total of £4,673,028, the cash in hand and at bank is just £14,317. Floating liabilities, too, are pretty heavy, £201,220 being due on deposits, or to trade creditors, and £51,000 to bankers, not at all a comfortable state of affairs. Profits are still sliding back, as might be expected, the total for the year ended December 31 being £227,411, or £26,040 less than in the preceding twelve months, and bringing the shrinkage in two years to over £41,000. Debenture deposit and loan interest and dividends on preference and preferred ordinary shares absorb £174,949, leaving £52,462, which is raised to £53,078 by the sum of £615 brought forward. From that a dividend of 4 per cent. has been already paid on the deferred ordinary shares, but the final payment is only 2 per cent., making 6 per cent. in all, or 4 per cent. less than for the previous year and 6 per cent. below the distribution for 1903. Such a result must have surprised even the directors, because the interim dividend would not have been 4 per cent. had it seemed at all probable that the final return would be less. But what else can be expected in face of the vast changes that have come over the trade since the "pub" boom of half a dozen years ago, and of a share and debenture capital of £4,160,665?

HOARE AND CO., LIMITED.

The reorganisation to which this company's capital was subjected a year or so ago does not appear to have had a stimulating effect on the business, as the gross profit for the twelve months ended January 7 after providing for depreciation of freehold and leasehold properties, plant and machinery and making proper allowance for bad and doubtful debts is only £115,626 or £5,865 less than in the previous year. Profit on trading, it may be mentioned, including rentals, interest and dividends was £198,942, from which the trade and other charges absorbed £66,883 and depreciation £16,433. With £51 for transfer fees the disposable sum is £115,677, and after providing £43,067 for debenture and other interest and £3,500 for directors' fees the balance remaining is £69,109. Add £5,429 brought in and the sum for disposal is £74,539, which provides the dividend on the first preference shares and a distribution of 2½ per cent. on the second or "A" shares, carrying £10,000 to reserve and £5,789 to next account. The dividend on the "A" shares is now one year in arrears, and it cannot be said that the prospects of this being immediately recovered are very brilliant. Rather is it likely to grow larger, so thoroughly unsatisfactory is the condition of the brewery trade just now, and the £4,000 of ordinary shares must for long remain out in the cold. That, however, is not of much consequence, as these shares are vendor-held and constitute the remnant of the former ordinary capital after the slicing down had been accomplished. This writing down was done in an arbitrary fashion, so as to leave the vendors with an interest in the concern, and we are not at all sure that the operation was sufficiently thorough. Freehold and leasehold properties and goodwill, for example, are still enormous at £1,611,873, and it must be admitted that unless a fair dividend is paid on all portions of the capital, goodwill is practically valueless. Loans, £1,007,950, is another terrifying-looking item, and it would be nice to know if all debtors paid their interest in full. Stocks are valued at £70,006, and against sundry creditors of £29,993 there are debtors £56,312 and investments and cash £27,108. Including the £10,000 now added from revenue the reserve fund amounts to £126,860, but it is all in the business, and besides deposits of £134,900 the company has raised £110,775 on mortgages. Our question regarding the

item of loans is prompted by the fact that these show a decrease on the year of £97,459, while the property item is £66,734 larger. Has it been necessary for the company to take over some properties?

READ BROTHERS, LIMITED.

The directors of this export bottling business report that the trade for the 12 months ended December 30 again shows a very considerable increase over any previous year, and as the improvement is reflected in revenue there is reason for congratulation all round. Gross profits reached £45,852, and £308 came in from interest and transfer fees, making £46,161, and after providing general expenses, directors' fees, debenture interest, &c., the nett balance is £28,068 or a gain of £1,413 compared with 1904. Add £655 brought forward and the sum for disposal is £28,723, from which the directors pay the preference dividend and distribute 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, adding £10,000 to reserve and £2,000 to business contingency fund, carrying forward £1,723. This is undoubtedly a very satisfactory display, and the directors think it good enough to justify a request for an increase in their remuneration, at present £1,200 per annum for three members, not a bad sum. However, they consider themselves entitled to 5 per cent. of any remaining profits after meeting preferential dividends and providing 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, but before setting aside a contribution to reserve. On the basis of last year's profits this would mean about another £650, and if the shareholders generously agree to the proposal, we think they should make the provision that the extra remuneration should not in any one year exceed, say, £800, making the aggregate fees £2,000, surely an adequate sum. Reserve fund will now be £38,000, and the business contingency account £2,717, allowing for £1,903 expended during the year, but goodwill, trade marks, and patents are ponderous at £140,000. Freehold land and buildings are entered at £67,230, and there is a good supply of liquid assets, quite apart from the stock of ale, stout, bottled beer, &c. Trade creditors are light, and the debenture debt bears a reasonable proportion to the share capital.

MILWAUKEE AND CHICAGO BREWERIES, LIMITED.

Although competition continued very keen general business in the districts served by the American company was better in the twelve months ended September 30, and the sales of beer were the largest in any year since the inception of the company, being 64,277 barrels more than in 1904 at 913,126 barrels. Gross profits, including interest and miscellaneous receipts came to £181,671, of which £57,072 was spent on repairs, £28,254 was written off for depreciation, and after meeting head office charges and mortgage and other interests the nett balance was £49,580. Adding £26,259 brought forward, the amount available was £75,839, and of this the American company has distributed £49,538 in dividends, of which this company's share amounted to £49,533. With £22 from transfer fees, £52 credited for over-reserve for charges in connection with reduction of capital and £1,733 brought in, the directors, after paying London office and other charges, had £48,660 at their disposal, and are able to increase the dividend by ½ per cent. to 5½ per cent. and to carry forward £1,772.

IMPERIAL TRAMWAYS CO., LIMITED.

In presenting their report for the year ended December 31 the directors of this important undertaking state that the Middlesbrough, Stockton, and Thornaby Electric Tramways Company showed slightly increased profits during the period under review, but that the Corris Railway was adversely affected by the great depression in the North Wales slate trade. Both goods and passenger receipts show a decrease as compared with the corresponding period, and, although the working expenses have been kept down to the minimum, the profits for the year are lower. In the London United Tramways Company the company still holds 44,446 preference shares, on which the 5 per cent. dividend was duly received, but shareholders had better make up their minds that this interest is not quite the high-class investment hitherto supposed. We do not say that there is any immediate probability of the dividend not being paid, but the existing policy of the board of distributing ordinary dividends while absolutely neglecting the question of depreciation, is laying up a store of trouble which is already being reflected in market quotations. It is not so very long since these £10 preference shares were standing at over £12 each and the debenture stock at many pounds above par, against the current figures of 9½ and 95½ respectively. This depreciation is a very unhealthy sign, because it has occurred at a time when good-class securities have been steadily improving, and we rather fear the prospect. However, last year the investment gave £21,112, the Middlesbrough system produced £16,825, and the Corris Railway £150, against £600. Sundry other small items amounted to £349, and on this occasion £3,500, or £2,000 more, is transferred from the dividend fund in order to raise the total revenue to £41,937 against £41,656. After deducting directors' fees £577 and adding £287 brought forward, the sum for disposal is £41,647, which provides debenture interest and preference dividend and 9 per cent. on the ordinary shares, carrying forward £322. Apart from £1,000 added to the Middlesbrough and Stockton Company's renewal fund, making it £10,000, no additions are made to reserves and we should like to know if the other undertakings, —apart from the London United, which does not—make proper allowance for depreciation. The matter is so important that it cannot be too strongly emphasised. We have no intention of being hypercritical, and are aware that the savings at present

amount to £122,872, in addition to the ordinary shareholders' fund of £36,500, against a capital outlay of £865,644, but the company's shares stand high and should not be bought without the fullest disclosure of the actual position.

BRISTOL TRAMWAYS AND CARRIAGE CO., LIMITED.

There was a slight falling off in this company's revenue for the year to December 31 compared with the previous twelve months, but it is of little consequence, and merely indicates that even in a progressive undertaking like this one occasional fluctuations are inevitable. Number of passengers carried was 45,294,177 or 18,196 less, and the revenue from the tramways department showed a falling off of £1,158 at £214,187. Carriage department revenue was £37,910 against £39,635, and sundries gave £4,645, or a decline of £174, the income from all sources amounting to £256,741 compared with £259,800. Against that the ordinary expenditure was £96,151, and general expenses reached £27,773, while £47,737 was spent upon renewals and repairs—an aggregate of £171,661 or almost £3,000 more. Nett revenue, therefore, shrinks from £91,000 to £85,000, say £6,000 down; but after providing £11,276 for debenture interest and £19,000 for preference dividend, the directors maintain the ordinary distribution at 9 per cent. and carry £12,053 or £5,717 less to contingencies account. This now totals £148,309, including increase in value of investments £2,532, and interest received £5,201, besides £6,900 for leases redemption, £10,762 for electrical renewals, and £7,486 for permanent way renewals. All told, these savings reach £173,458 against a capital expenditure of £1,314,036; and with the liberal allowance made for repairs and renewals, the position should be sound enough. The reserves are invested outside the business in first-class securities, so that the money is readily available in case of need. The directors are clearly alive to the possibilities of the motor-car, and announce that since the close of the financial year they have arranged for the introduction of services of motor-omnibuses in conjunction with and as feeders to the electric tramways.

ASSOCIATED OMNIBUS CO., LIMITED.

Receipts from the horse omnibuses during the year ended December 31 seem to have fallen off considerably, and although some of the decrease was made good by the earnings of the motor vehicles these were not put on until too near the end of the year to have much effect, and the total income was £578 down at £79,653. Working expenses were only reduced by £377 to £65,644, and with £45 less at £573 brought in, the nett balance came to £14,582 compared with £14,828. Of this, £493 or £178 more, is transferred to insurance account, and in addition to writing £1,230 off omnibus stock £3,935 is applied in reduction of horses account against £1,140 for depreciation and £2,000 put to general reserve, and after paying debenture interest the directors find it necessary to cut down the dividend from 8 per cent. to 6 per cent., leaving £805 to be carried forward. For the second time the lease indemnity fund is ignored, so that this fund stands at £1,500, against leases taken at £12,734, while the wiping out of the horse renewals account reduces the total reserves to £6,144 compared with £13,610 a year ago. Trading accounts are still very much against the company, liabilities to sundry creditors having risen by £1,476 to £5,238, against an increase of £818 to £3,180 in sundry debtors, but a reduction of £4,407 to £5,138 in cash is more than offset by an advance of £2,278 to £9,664 in investments. The issue of debentures made in December last for the purpose of buying motor omnibuses entailed the expenditure of £2,180, which appears as an asset in the balance-sheet. Horses, "Times," &c., are valued at £125,889, and the auditors certify to the correctness of the accounts subject to the valuation of these being correct.

NATIONAL TELEPHONE CO., LIMITED.

Occasional reference to the purchase by the Government of this company's business, and the exact terms and conditions under which it will be carried out, may be expected in the half-yearly reports, and in the statement for the six months ended December 31, the directors refer at some length to the question of the re-employment of the staff. The agreement with the Post Office came into force in August last, and the board has satisfaction in announcing that a reasonable arrangement has now been made with respect to the great bulk of the officers of the company, who, in accordance with the announcement made in the House of Commons, "will enjoy the advantages, and be subject to all the conditions of the rank or grade to which they are admitted in the same manner as other officers and servants of the Post Office in that rank or grade." No fault can be found with this understanding, which applies to all servants who have been employed for not less than two years, with the exception of the general manager and officers in receipt of £700 per annum or upwards. With regard to these the directors propose to forthwith establish a fund from the revenue applicable in their discretion to compensation in these cases. During the period under review the revenue of the business was £1,125,978, or an increase over the corresponding period of £92,272, against which the working expenses rose £56,211 to £647,846, and the nett result, after deducting Post Office royalties, amounting to £105,866, is a profit balance of £372,265, or an improvement of £25,390. After crediting the sum brought forward and other revenue items and deducting interest on reserve fund and debenture stock, together with income-tax, &c., the result is a disposable sum of £285,109. From that the directors provide the dividends on the preference and preferred stocks, and a distribu-

tion at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock, carrying forward £9,859, and transferring £125,000 or £10,000 more to reserve. Rentals carried forward for unexpired terms of running contracts amount to £972,500, compared with £889,578, an increase of £82,922, meaning a great accession to the company's business, and when the undertaking is taken over in 1911 it should be one of the greatest profit-earning enterprises in the kingdom. The capital account, however, will also be of prodigious dimensions, the expenditure last half-year reaching £497,962 in the erection of 24,179 additional exchange and private stations, and in the construction of underground works. This outlay has increased the debit to capital account to £2,417,039, and although the whole of the vast reserve, amounting to £1,912,475, is used in the business, proposals must be brought forward for the creation of additional borrowing powers.

HARROD'S STORES, LIMITED.

We cannot help admiring this company's wonderful profit-earning achievements. Increase is piled on increase, and top may not have been reached even yet, because Sir James Bailey, one of the directors, is not M.P. now, and should be able to devote still more time to the business. In the year which ended on January 31 the gross revenue was £447,301—we wonder what the actual "takings" are—or nearly £40,000 more than in the previous twelve months, and with the addition of £10,190 for rents, transfer fees, &c., the aggregate income is £457,491. On the other hand, there was an increase in working charges of not quite £22,000 at £267,568, and after providing £23,392 for interest and £19,130 for repairs, renewals, sinking funds, and depreciation, the balance of profit is £147,401 or £12,134 more. Not the kind of enterprise needing much protection, we should think, but no doubt Mr. Richard Burbidge, the managing director, is still a member of Joe's Spoils Commission. After providing for the preference dividend the directors provide 20 per cent. in dividends, and a bonus of 2 per cent. for the ordinary shares, adding £10,460 to reserve, and carrying forward £22,261 against £23,591 brought in. For the £1,400 worth of founders' shares the nice little sum of £45,070 is available, so that their dividend is something over 3,200 per cent., not a bad return. It has all been accomplished, too, without any prodigious capital expenditure, the total for the year being less than £54,000, and even if the aggregate of the balance-sheet does look big at £2,168,896, we must not forget that reserves run up to £633,000. "Mostly share premiums," you say. Yes, but what a fine opportunity there is for giving back to the shareholders some of their own money and calling it a special share bonus.

HOME AND COLONIAL STORES, LIMITED.

The important increase in profits reported by this company a year ago in respect of the twelve months to December 31, 1904, has been followed by a material reaction. In the year just closed the trading profit, including dividends on trading investments, was £176,147, or a shrinkage of £22,647 compared with 1904; but the figure is still nearly £14,000 in front of 1903, so that there is nothing to be alarmed about. Interest on investments was up £194, to £5,783, making £181,929 against £204,383; and, as expenses of management rose £2,636 to £31,257, and about £1,000 more at £10,368 was reserved against depreciation of plant and premises, the net income sinks from £158,532 to £133,420, notwithstanding a decline of £1,000 to £6,885 in the directors' and auditors' fees. Balance brought forward was £8,260, making £141,680, from which the dividend on the 6 per cent. preference and 15 per cent. preference and ordinary shares takes £111,000, leaving £30,680. So in order to again pay 15 per cent. on the "A" shares, the allocation to reserve is cut down from £30,853 to £13,341, the compulsory percentage only, and the sum carried forward is heavily reduced to £1,839. With the latest addition the reserve funds will reach £234,037, the whole of which are separately invested, and there is little fault to be found with the financial position, even though goodwill and leaseholds appear high at £697,132. Plant, fittings, utensils, etc., premiums paid for leases, and sundry other properties have cost £282,049 in the aggregate, but up to date £82,049 has been allowed for depreciation, and the balance-sheet value is now £200,000. Stocks, £647,354, show the great increase of £224,326, and to help carry them £109,000 has been borrowed from bankers. Besides that, floating liabilities are up £69,493, to £264,855, and the cash balances have been reduced from £109,514 to £52,400—a decline of £57,114. What is the reason for this enormous rise in the goods on hand?

EGYPTIAN INVESTMENT AND AGENCY, LIMITED.

A miscellaneous sort of business is done by this concern, including the floating of companies, the discounting of local bills, and the conduct of an import and export business, but the directors do not enter into any great detail with regard to their operations. For the period from January 9 to December 31 the receipts from interest, commission, dividend, and discounts were £8,904, and with £5,561 from profits on investments, and £191 from transfer fees, the total income came to £14,656. Administration expenses took £5,669 of this, leaving £8,987, and after writing £2,622 off preliminary expenses, a dividend of 10 per cent. is declared on the paid up capital and £1,365 is carried forward. No provision for reserve is considered necessary as the investments held are said to show an appreciation of £10,000 on the basis of a valuation taken at practically the lowest point touched during the recent crisis on the Egyptian Bourse. What these investments are the directors do not disclose, but they state that they are all readily realisable, and it is to be hoped that this is the case, as the company is leaning

very heavily on credit. With a paid-up capital of only £50,000 it owes £102,519 to sundry creditors, against which securities at cost come to £65,545, bills discounted in Egypt to £11,110, and sundry debtors to £74,929, while cash stands at £2,254, and balance of preliminary expenses at £5,245. Part of the investments, no doubt, consists of shares in the two companies mentioned in the report as having been floated, viz., the Building Lands of Egypt, Limited, and the Associated Cotton Ginners of Egypt, Limited, both of which are said to be doing well, but considerably more light ought to be thrown on the position at the meeting next Thursday.

GENERAL HYDRAULIC POWER CO., LIMITED.

This company did pretty well in maintaining its revenue during the year ended December 31, the gross receipts of the London and Liverpool undertakings being £123,761 compared with £123,548. After providing all charges, including depreciation and interest, the London company gave a profit of £49,810 and the Liverpool business a profit of £5,973 making with miscellaneous receipts a total net income of £55,105. From this, directors' fees take £2,000 auditors' fees £105 and interest on loan £203 leaving a disposable sum of £52,797. An interim dividend of 2½ per cent. has been already paid and the directors now propose a further distribution of 4½ per cent. making 7 per cent. in all, the same as before, but in order to do this the carry forward must be reduced from £4,329 to £1,126. On December 31 last the number of machines contracted to be supplied with power was 5,938, of which 5,823 were connected to the mains, the increases during the year being respectively 225 and 274, and the directors' state that there has been a considerable increase in the sale of power, the loss of revenue due to the reduced scale of charges being recovered. These remarks apply to the London undertaking, but the Liverpool business also made progress, the number of machines contracted for being 1,028 an increase of 47, while 1,016 were connected an advance of 44. The company has a reserve of £127,152 for renewals, depreciation, &c., and in a general way the financial position is not unsatisfactory.

WESTBOURNE PARK PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY.

Owing to the rapid increase of the share capital and to the depressed state of business in 1905, which made it more difficult to invest the accumulations profitably with security, the directors of this society deemed it advisable to revise the terms and reduce the repayment scale upon which advances are made. At the same time it was decided to create a new class of investing shares bearing 4 per cent. interest as against 5 per cent., and to discontinue the issue of class "A" shares which will gradually disappear as they are withdrawn. Including £1,313 brought forward the total income for 1905 was £36,097, and after paying 5 per cent. on the "A" shares and 4 per cent. on the "B" shares and meeting all charges, £500 each was put to reserve and suspense account, leaving £1,409 to be carried forward. In addition to £520,008 of investing shares issued the liabilities to depositors and others, including £32,500 borrowed from the bankers, amounted to £137,522, against which the society has £634,892 due to it on 1,678 mortgages with accrued interest, the bulk of which is in loans for less than £500, and is in the very happy position of having no properties taken over nor any borrowers twelve months in arrears with their payments.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—A dull slow trade has prevailed all the week, and any occasional rally, due to better cables, has not been maintained for any length of time. Liberal shipments also had a depressing effect, Dornbusch placing the quantities of wheat and flour on passage at 3,170,000 qrs. against 2,840,000 last week, and cables for the most part have been disappointing. Farmers' deliveries were 83,495 qrs. averaging 28s. 10d. against 50,585 averaging 30s. 7d. a year ago, and imports were 183,983 qrs. against 396,993 a year ago. American markets, which have had a short week due to a holiday on Monday, have also been more or less depressed, chiefly on account of favourable weather news, though they received a slight fillip on report of cold weather in the winter wheat belt, and also on Bradstreet's estimates of the quantities in sight east of the Rockies—71,550,000 bushels against 73,151,000 last week.

WOOL.—Conditions here remain much the same as those of last week. In every direction prices of raw material are hardening, and consumers are responding to them with equal readiness, if not more willingly, at any rate more resignedly. Futures are particularly strong, quotations for March and April equalling the high level of those for May and June. The yarn market also shows more activity, though manufacturers find it impossible now to get in at the price they refused to pay a short time back. In the piece trade cheaper goods are still the most popular, particularly tweed varieties of which larger quantities are being taken for export.

LINEN.—For the moment yarn prices seem inclined to halt in their upward movement, and the pause, says the *Linen Market*, is almost welcome. It may give manufacturers a chance to bring their prices up to a more remunerative level, for at present they do not sufficiently cover the increased cost of production. There is little to note in any special branch. Damasks are a little brisker, though sales are still rather irregular, and prices too low. Unions are still to the fore at stiffer prices, and drills show a slight increase. Orders from outside markets for bleached and finished goods continue to be satisfactory, and the

home end of this side of the trade is slowly but steadily improving. Prospects in Burnley are considered brighter, and a better quality of goods is in more request.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—A firm tone has been experienced in our market during the week under review, with no particular new feature of importance. A steady trade has gone on from day to day, and where makers of cotton goods can give the delivery required by buyers a fair amount of business has been done. On the whole a healthy feeling prevails in most quarters, and producers all round are not anxious to increase their contract lists. The raw material in Liverpool has fluctuated pretty freely, the range of values is lower now than about a month ago to the extent of about a halfpenny per lb. With regard to the American crop, it is reported that the quality of cotton for spinning purposes is inferior to that of last year. Some producers are having trouble with their hands, owing to complaints of bad work. As a consequence of this feature users are turning on to the superior qualities. Egyptian cotton, however, is said to be of a better quality than last year, and although the finer grades are somewhat scarce, the general condition of the growth is improved in quality. In the cloth section of our market manufacturers for the most part are very deeply sold, and require very long time for the delivery of orders now being booked. Business is not easily arranged, and buyers hesitate before paying to-day's prices, and wait such a long time for completion of orders. However, a fair business has again been done for the outlets of India, and in addition to orders for Madras and Calcutta, the other outlets have given support. Cloths suitable for our Dependency are not easily obtained for early delivery. China buyers have shown rather more activity, and orders of a speculative character have been given out to an encouraging extent. The Levant and Egypt have been rather quieter. Transactions for these outlets are difficult to arrange owing to the engagements of makers. The outlets of South America, however, have dealt to a fair extent in goods of a miscellaneous character. A healthy tone prevails in the home trade department, and the outlook for the spring is considered generally promising. Home trade American yarns have moved fairly well, and spinners for the most part have maintained their position. The superior kinds of cop twist are rather difficult to get hold of, and full rates have to be paid for anything wanted. The commoner descriptions of cop twist and coarse weft, however, do not move very well. Ring yarn is in improved demand. Shipping bundles have been quiet. Some weight has been entered for China, but producers are very deeply sold, and there is no pressure for new contracts. Cops for the Continent have moved fairly well. Egyptian yarns as spun in the Bolton district are dearer on the week with a strong tone; the turnover, however, has not been very important. Closing prices are:—February-March, 5.74d.; March-April, 5.75d.; April-May, 5.78d.; May-June, 5.81d.; June-July, 5.83d.; July-August, 5.84d.; August-September, 5.86d.; September-October, 5.63d.; October-November, 5.59d.; November-December, 5.58d.

On the whole the cotton market in New York has been persistently weak. Futures declined at the outset, and have only partially recovered since. The quantity estimated to come into sight during the week was 180,000 bales, and receipts at the ports 140,000 bales, against 113,000 bales in sight in the corresponding week of last year. Towards the close of the week a recovery followed a decline, due to buying by houses with foreign connections and demand from spot interests. But weakness ensued on real selling and bear pressure. Then a little bull support was forthcoming, and the market became steadier.

COAL.—The continued cold snap has considerably helped to reduce accumulations of house coals, and to maintain their values. There is a little more improvement generally in the trade this week. In the North of England large contracts have been received from the Swedish Railway at prices ranging from 10s. 3d. to 10s. 6d., which are an advance on those of last year, and in South Yorkshire districts a part of this order has been given at prices also from 8d. to 1s. 2d. higher than those of last year. Gas coal is in good demand, without much being bought in. The open market steams are doing a fair amount at steady rates, though there are rumours that Welsh prices may drop a little towards the end of the week. The business of the week in this part of the country has kept up a fair average, shipments, in spite of inclement weather, being heavy from one or two ports, and Swansea alone shipping 67,000 tons.

COPPER.—A large demand for sulphide of copper is still reported and good inquiries were received for manufactured copper. Supplies in dealers' hands have been materially reduced, and as producers are unable to make good the deficiency the tone of the market has again been good. Dealing, however, remains restricted, the feature being the steady demand for February and March dates, and after a comparatively quiet week closing figures were 77½ for cash and 75½ for three months.

TIN.—This market opened quietly but firm, and prices soon took an upward turn. Demand for consumption was on a considerable scale, and as spot metal was very scarce buyers were compelled to concede higher quotations. The East was offering particularly small quantities, and although the full advance was not maintained final figures are well up on the week at 164¼ for spot and 163¼ for three months.

IRON AND STEEL.—Buoyancy continues to characterise the iron and steel industries. In finished iron and steel merchants report a good business, and full prices are being obtained for finished iron. Steel producers report that there is no lull in the demand. In pig-iron, on the other hand, trade is rather quiet, there being a big drop in Cleveland. It is stated that the operations of speculators in Cleveland warrants have quite disorganised busi-

ness in this material, and buying is quieter than it has been for some months. In some cases holders of warrants appear to have taken alarm, for the news from America is not quite so satisfactory. Whilst the steel trade is so active there are many who believe that hematite pig-iron will become cheaper in the North, as has been the tendency in other districts. The general condition of the trade is also good in Scotland. Manufacturers are well supplied with orders, and in many cases contracts are sufficient to keep works employed for some months to come. Several of the furnaces making hematite pig-iron in the West of Scotland are going out of blast for repairs, but it is anticipated that the output will be sufficient to meet current requirements.

TEA.—Very little change has taken place during the week, to quote from Messrs. W. J. and H. Thompson's circular, but inquiry has been more general, and export orders have been larger. 38,559 packages of Indian have been offered, and of these good liquoring kinds were, as usual, much sought after, but other grades were neglected, and commoner sorts under 6d. had an easier tendency. 31,080 packages were sold, averaging 6.73d. against 36,682 packages averaging 6.71d. in the same week of 1905. Ceylons had a heavy auction of 28,096 packages, most of which went fairly well. Medium and good teas were chiefly inquired for, export orders for them being larger than usual, and the average obtained for the week was 6.65d., against 6.49d. last year. Java auctions comprised 3,317 packages, which sold without any material change from the prices ruling last week, except that teas of price were occasionally easier.

SUGAR.—This week the market has been temporarily better, owing to a more active trade demand, but the publication of the January figures had a depressing effect, and the trade appears more resolved than ever to adopt a hard to mouth attitude. Exports everywhere are very brisk, but consumption, especially in Germany, is disappointing. If we fill up all stores this season, says M. Czarnikow, we cannot expect much increase in the next, and fabricants will see that (with the exception of bad weather) they can well afford to sow less, if they want fair prices, as the monthly Eastern exports in summer are not likely to compare as well as in October-April, and production, too, is subject to constant corrections. In America the market has been extremely dull, and there are at present no signs of an early improvement. Landings in the three ports were 54,000 tons, and meltings only 25,000 tons, increasing stocks to 163,000 tons.

MINING RETURNS.

African Gold Dredging Concessions.—176 ozs.
Alaska Mexican Gold.—Crushed 20,504 tons, value \$26,386; saved 395 tons sulphurets, value \$26,552.
Alaska Treadwell.—Crushed 68,628 tons, value \$91,782; saved 1,210 tons sulphurets, value \$60,282.
Alaska United Gold.—Crushed 20,020 tons, value \$26,026; saved 375 tons sulphurets, value \$13,035.
Angelo.—Tons milled 15,153, ounces 5,046; tons of sands 10,535, ounces 2,842; tons of slimes 2,443, ounces 376; total output, 8,264 ozs.
Battlefields (Rhodesia).—820 tons, 802 ozs.; cyanide 600 tons, 378 ozs. gold.
Bogosu.—355 ozs. from 283 tons crushed.
British Broken Hill Proprietary.—5,126 tons produced 905 tons concentrates, containing 561 tons lead and 26,245 ozs. silver.
Broken Hill Proprietary Black 10.—11,037 tons of crude ore, producing 1,627 tons concentrates, containing 1,008¾ tons lead and 52,064 ozs. silver.
Brilliant Extended.—Treated 3,000 tons, value £7,300.
Burbank's Birthday Gold.—Tons crushed 555, ounces 204; tons cyanided 651, ounces 42.
Cape Copper.—Ookiep: 968 tons of 14 per cent., equal to 135 tons fine copper; Nababep: 3,877 tons of 4 per cent., equal to 155 tons fine copper.
Carrington's Lion.—Crushed 325 tons, value £1,125.
Cecil Syndicate.—1,500 tons tailings, value £800.
Chinese Engineering.—Output 500 tons; sales 5,000 tons; consumption 425 tons.
City and Suburban.—Ozs. 9,729, tons crushed 25,300.
Consolidated Gold Fields of New Zealand.—Progress: Crushed 4,823 tons; value, £8,507; Wealth of Nations: Crushed 1,025 tons; value, £2,042.
Copiapo.—Dulcinea: 600 tons copper ores, averaging 15 per cent.; Ojancos: 270 tons, averaging 13 per cent.
Day Dawn Block and Wyndham.—1,810 tons, 661 ozs.; 1,449 tons tailings, including concentrates valued at £4,700.
Dolcoath.—Tons crushed 7,830; black tin sold 124 tons; slimes 8 tons.
Driefontein Consolidated.—Tons milled 22,653, ounces 4,276; tons of sands 17,641, ounces 2,798; tons of slimes 5,192, ounces 527; total, 7,601 ozs.
Durban-Roodepoort.—Crushed 10,995 tons, 4,562 ozs.
East Gwanda.—East Gwanda: crushed 5,287 tons, 1,199 ozs.; concentrates 134 tons, 269 ozs.; Geelong: 594 ozs.; Eagle-Vulture: 79 ozs.; total yield, 2,140 ozs.
Elandslaagte.—Milled 2,300 tons; cyanided 1,900 tons; total yield, 510 ozs.
El Oro.—Treated 14,194 tons, production \$136,675; profit, £8,846.
Fraser Gold Reefs.—316 tons, 80 ozs. gold.
Globe and Phoenix Gold.—Crushed 6,435 tons, 3,438 ozs., equal to 10.6 dwts. per ton; cyanide, tons 4,000, 572 ozs. bullion, equal to 4.33 dwts. per ton.
Great Boulder Perseverance.—Sulphide, 13,999 tons, 8,259 ozs.

gold and 1,172 ozs. silver; tailings and slimes, 230 tons, 103 ozs. gold and 21 ozs. silver; total, 8,362 ozs. gold, 1,193 ozs. silver.

Great Boulder Proprietary. Sulphide mill 12,253 tons, 13,013 ozs.; tailings (old) 2,791 tons, 594 ozs.; total (ozs.), 13,607.

Hannan's Reward and Mount Charlotte.—Tons crushed 660, 288 ozs.; royalties from tributors £175.

Hyderabad (Deccan).—Output of coal 38,014 tons.

Inverell Diamond Fields.—19 loads washed for 56 carats diamonds and 385 lbs. tin.

Johannesburg Consolidated Investment.—New Primrose: 7,090 ozs., 15,902 tons; Glencairn Main Reef: 4,090 ozs., 14,386 tons; Ginsberg: 2,861 ozs., 8,181 tons; New Rietfontein: 4,904 ozs., 9,021 tons; Consolidated Langlaagte: 5,398 ozs., 16,265 tons; New Unified Main Reef: 2,560 ozs., 8,787 tons; Buffelsdoorn Estate: 542 ozs. from 2,700 tons slimes.

Jubilee.—1,233 ozs. from 5,620 tons; cyanide 668 ozs. from 4,068 tons.

Knights Deep.—Tons 22,402, ozs. 7,576.

Langlaagte Estate and Gold.—Crushed 26,750 tons, 5,015 ozs.; concentrates (cyanide) 540 tons, 712 ozs.; tailings (cyanide) 18,480 tons, 1,858 ozs.; slimes, 6,003 tons, 163 ozs.; total, 7,748 ozs.

Matabele Reefs.—1,560 tons, 720 ozs.

Mills's Day Dawn United.—1,505 tons, value £4,408.

Mitchell's Creek Gold.—617 tons crushed, 321 ozs.; concentrates 24 tons, value £290.

Mount Lyell Blocks.—4,244 tons for 41 tons 17 cwts. fine copper.

New Comet.—Tons milled 15,473, ozs. 3,524; tons of sands 12,466, ozs. 2,106; total, 5,630 ozs.

New Heriot.—Ozs. 3,819, tons crushed 9,300.

New Rhodesia.—Ophir: 722 tons, 313 ozs.

New Zealand Crown.—Crushed 1,547 tons, value £2,605.

Nigel Deep.—Tons 3,188, ozs. 1,827.

North Broken Hill.—2,000 tons, producing 377 tons concentrates containing 260 tons 3 cwts. lead and 6,673 ozs. silver.

North Randfontein Gold.—Crushed 14,488 tons, 3,647 ozs.; concentrates (cyanide) 1,360 tons, 382 ozs.; tailings (cyanide) 9,165 tons, 1,529 ozs.; slimes, 4,116 tons, 459 ozs.; total, 6,230 ozs.

Palmarejo and Mexican Gold Fields.—Crushed 3,636 tons, treated 3,100 tons, producing \$17,100 gold, \$44,750 silver.

Porges Randfontein Gold.—Crushed 14,145 tons, 4,254 ozs.; concentrates (cyanide) 1,612 tons, 563 ozs.; tailings (cyanide) 9,576 tons, 1,127 ozs.; slimes, 3,627 tons, 285 ozs.; total, 6,229 ozs.

Queen Deep.—135 tons crushed for £390.

Rhodesia.—1,675 tons, 211 ozs.; cyanide 1,160 tons, 274 ozs.

Robinson Deep Gold.—Tons 29,325, ozs. 15,387.

Robinson Randfontein Gold.—Crushed 15,110 tons, 3,287 ozs.; concentrates (cyanide) 1,360 tons, 382 ozs.; tailings (cyanide) 8,190 tons, 1,268 ozs.; slimes, tons 5,489 tons, 409 ozs.; total, 5,346 ozs.

Salisbury Gold.—Ozs. 1,765, tons crushed 5,500.

San Francisco Del Oro.—870 tons shipped, value £3,340.

St. John del Rey.—Gold produce £6,580; yield per ton .56 of an oz. Troy.

Simmer and Jack Proprietary.—Tons 52,950, ozs. 19,605.

Simmer and Jack East.—Tons 16,355, ozs. 5,544.

Sons of Gwalia.—Ore crushed 10,161 tons, ozs. 4,061; tailings by cyanide 6,480 tons, ozs. 680; concentrates 211 tons, ozs. 465; total, 5,206 ozs.

South Kalgurlu.—Crushed 7,550 tons, 3,327 ozs.

South Randfontein Gold.—Ore crushed 14,200 tons, 3,681 ozs.; concentrates (cyanide) 1,470 tons, 381 ozs.; tailings (cyanide) 8,625 tons, 1,370 ozs.; slimes 4,655 tons, 540 ozs.; total, 5,922 ozs.

Tasmanian Copper.—2,015 tons of ore, fluxes, &c., producing 110 tons copper matte, assaying 60 per cent. copper.

Theta Gold.—Crushed 1,475 tons, 733 ozs.; 602 tons by cyanide, 152 ozs.; total, 885 ozs.

West Rand Central Gold.—Crushed 2,550 tons, 482 ozs.; 2,125 tons by cyanide, 609 ozs.

Windsor Gold.—Crushed 4,750 tons, 640 ozs.; cyanide 3,724 tons, 671 ozs.; total, 1,311 ozs.

Witwatersrand Gold.—9,162 ozs., 29,040 tons.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—On the ordinary shares at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending June 30, carrying forward £60.

Quebec Central.—At the rate of 5½ per cent. on the new 7 per cent. income bonds for 1905.

BREWERIES.

Boddington's.—After placing £5,000 to reserve, further of 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 6 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £2,758.

Eley's Stafford.—Further of 4 per cent., making 7 per cent. for 1905, carrying forward £369.

MINES.

Great Boulder Perseverance Gold.—For the year ended Dec. 31 of 1s. per share, payable March 15.

Hainault Gold.—1s. per share, payable March 30.

Knights Deep.—Interim for the six months ended Jan. 31 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, payable Feb. 26.

Le Roi.—Interim of 1s. 6d. per share, payable Feb. 28.

Mysore Gold.—Balance for 1905 of 5s. 6d. per share, making 145 per cent. for 1905.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Anglo-Californian Bank.—6s. per share and a bonus of 4s. per share, making 8 per cent. per annum, placing £20,000 to reserve and carrying forward £10,331.

Arnott and Co.—At the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the past half-year, placing £5,000 to reserve.

Brandram Brothers and Co.—4 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £3,858.

Brighton Grand Hotel.—2¼ per cent. for 1905, carrying forward £643.

Cardiff Workmen's Cottage.—At the rate of 8 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £345.

Carl Hentschel.—Final of 13 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Dec. 30, making 9 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £1,006.

City of Carlisle Electric Tramways.—For the past year of 1¼ per cent., carrying £500 to depreciation fund and £416 forward.

Eley Brothers.—Equal to 10s. per share.

Farncombe and Co.—At the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum for the last half of 1905.

Fletcher Russell and Co.—7½ per cent. on the new ordinary shares for the half-year ending 28th, reckoning from date of payment of the respective instalments.

Greville and Co.—On the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Dec. 31 at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

H. E. Randall.—15 per cent. for the six months ended Dec 31, making 12½ per cent. for the year.

Harrod's Stores Founders' Shares.—25 per cent., making 30 per cent. for the year ended Jan. 31, carrying forward £2,687.

Henry Street Warehouse.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the year ended Jan. 31, with a bonus for the final half-year at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £2,030.

International Investment Trust.—At the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock for the year ended Jan 31.

International Sponge Importers.—Further of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 7 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31.

John Oakey and Sons.—Final of 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. for 1905, and, in addition, a bonus of 5 per cent., placing £5,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £3,580.

Lanarkshire Steel.—Arrears of dividends on the second preference shares, and a distribution at the rate of 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £10,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £4,077.

London United Tramways (1901).—On the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Dec. 31 at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, making 3 per cent. for the year, placing £10,000 to reserve and £1,116 forward.

Manganese Bronze and Brass.—£3,500 to the reserve fund, final of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 6½ per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £3,500 to reserve, and carrying forward £2,828.

Mather and Platt.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

McBirney and Co.—On the ordinary shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, placing £1,244 to depreciation of premises and plant, and £2,500 forward.

Merchants' Trust.—4 per cent. on the ordinary stock, making 6 per cent. for the year ended Jan. 31.

Metropolitan Cemetery.—4½ per cent. for 1905, carrying forward £128.

Neptune Steam Navigation.—6 per cent. on the cumulative preference shares, leaving two years still in arrear.

New Zealand Insurance.—3s. for the half-year, making 6s. for the year, placing £35,000 to reserve.

Oxford Electric.—7 per cent. for 1905.

Patent Victoria Stone.—5 per cent. for the half-year ended Dec. 31, making 10 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £3,777.

Penarth Harbour Dock and Railway.—At the rate of £5 5s. per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec 31.

Preston Gas.—Further of 5 per cent. on the "A" stock and 3½ per cent. on the "B" stock, making 10 and 7 per cent. respectively for 1905.

Samuel Webster and Sons.—Further of 2 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 4 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £500 to reserve.

Salisbury Railway and Market House.—At the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £34.

W. B. Fordham and Sons.—Final at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31, making 5 per cent. for the year.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19.

Anglo-Foreign Banking.—2, Bishopsgate Street Within, noon.

Bieckert's Brewery.—Institute of Chartered Accountants, 11 a.m.

Baku Russian Petroleum.—Winchester House, noon.

Buenos Ayres Grand National Tramways.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

East End Dwellings.—27, Chancery Lane, noon.

D. M. Wilson's Options.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

London Road Car.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Metropolitan District Railway.—Westminster Palace Hotel, noon.

North Borneo Trading.—Winchester House, noon.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20.

Australian Agricultural.—Winchester House, 1 p.m.

Hayes, Candy.—Winchester House, noon.

Linoleum Manufacturing.—6, Old Bailey, noon.

Nelson Bros.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.

Perry.—Birmingham, 3 p.m.

Sea Insurance.—Liverpool, noon.

Tasmania Gold Mining.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Temescouata Railway.—Winchester House, noon.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21.

Atlantic First Leased Lines Rental Trust.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.

Atlas Trust.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

Brighton Grand Hotel.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.

Coast Development.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Furness Railway.—14, Great George Street, S.W., noon.

Motor Traction.—Winchester House, 11.30 a.m.

Milford Docks.—63, Cornhill, 2 p.m.

North Metropolitan Trams.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22.

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway.—Cannon Street Hotel,

British Oil and Cake Mills.—Winchester House, 1 p.m.

Carl Hentschel.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Coromandel Gold Mining.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.

Edison Ore Milling Syndicate.—Winchester House, 11.30 a.m.

European Petroleum.—Winchester House, noon.

Egyptian Investment and Agency.—Winchester House, noon.

Harrison and Barber.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Hoare and Co.—Smithfield, noon.

London and South-Western Bank.—Liverpool Street Hotel, noon.

London Electric Supply Corporation.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.

Milwaukee and Chicago Breweries.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.

New Sharlston Collieries.—Cannon Street Hotel, 1 p.m.

National Telephone.—Hamilton House, noon.

Spencer, Turner, and Boldero.—18, Duke Street, N.W., 3 p.m.

Warner Estate.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

B. Morris and Sons.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.

Bent's Brewery.—Liverpool, noon.

Millwall Dock Equipment.—1, Railway-place, E.C., 2.30 p.m.

Read Bros.—Holborn Restaurant, noon.

South Hetton Coal.—39, Lombard Street.

Answers to Correspondents.

Acciones.—The price seems to have touched bottom, so you may as well hold on at least until the report comes out, although the way in which the business has been mishandled does not inspire us with confidence in any appreciable recovery. (2) Receipts have been increasing lately, and as the company seems to be pulling itself together there seems a prospect of further improvement in price.

Mass Side.—The company works entirely through licence-holders who pay royalties, and the expiry of its patents means that the revenue will cease. Ample provision has apparently been made for the repayment of capital, as a large reserve has been accumulated, but the shares are decidedly unsuitable for such an investment as you propose.

John H. Ashworth.—Apparently in making your selection you have been guided by the question of yield only, and we are sorry to say that the miscellaneous collection is in no way suitable for a trust. (A) This company's income has been steadily shrinking for some time past, and as it received a serious blow recently in having its subsidy reduced by one third, the struggle to make ends meet will be greater than ever. (B) The record of this undertaking is not encouraging, although it is, perhaps, the best in the list. Its last preference dividend was only paid by the help of a transfer from reserve. (C) This company is still in its infancy, and no particulars are yet available to enable us to judge of the security as an investment. (D) During the five years or so to 1904, the latest date of which we have any record, this company managed to pile up a debit balance of about £12,000 on its revenue account. In addition it had borrowed about £100,000 over and above the authorised debenture issue, and, generally speaking, seems to be in a bad way. (E) This, too, is a company with a somewhat unsatisfactory history, and although it has during the last few years earned a steady dividend its resources are employed too freely in loans to the Stock Exchange to make a purchase desirable.

Nemo.—We see no reason for selling these, especially in the present state of the market. Dividends look assured for many years to come.

Inquirer.—We cannot recommend the share either as a speculation or investment.

R. S. A.—As the directors have promised to publish a statement on the position and prospects of the mine, perhaps you had better wait until it makes its appearance before deciding upon any action. It is anything but easy to get to the true position of things.

A. E. Potts.—We are sorry but queries were overlooked until the paper was just going to press and we are unable to reply in this column. We will answer by letter. The fee will be the same.

Letters of allotment for the issue of £2,000,000 Great Central and Midland 3½ per cent. guaranteed stock have been posted.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

CANNON BREWERY COMPANY, LIMITED.

The eleventh annual general meeting of the Cannon Brewery Company, Limited, was held on Wednesday on the premises of the brewery, St. John Street, E.C., Mr. Andrew Richard Motion (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. T. McMurtrie) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—It must be common knowledge to you all that London breweries have been having a very bad time of it—in fact, since the Boer War our sales have steadily fallen, on an average, for the past three years, 4 per cent. per annum, which, added together, means a drop of 12 per cent. in our sales in three years. We have just the same number of customers, but in nearly every house the licensed victualler is taking less money, so naturally he buys less beer, and, not only that, he is not able frequently to pay his full interest, so that we are hit in two directions, and, just at the moment when the brewing trade is most depressed, an additional burden is thrown upon us in the shape of the Licensing Bill of last year, for, as I foreshadowed, the licensed victualler is already taxed beyond his limits, and the additional charge he has to pay for this Bill must largely be paid by the brewers, as he is quite unable to find it, and it must come out of our dividend, which this year will be 6 per cent. instead of 10 per cent. We have allowed liberally for depreciations, as in former years; we carry £10,000 to reserve, and carry forward to next year's accounts £1,077 16s. 8d. The nett profit, after making liberal provision for bad and doubtful debts, depreciation and reserves, amounts to £227,411 3s. 10d., which, with the balance brought forward from last year, gives a total of £228,026 17s. 9d. to be dealt with. After paying interest on the debenture stocks, dividends on the preference and preferred ordinary shares and an interim dividend of £28,000 on the ordinary shares, there remains a balance of £25,077 16s. 8d. to be applied as follows:—£14,000 to pay a further dividend of 4 per cent. per annum for the half-year on the ordinary shares, making 6 per cent. for the year, carrying £10,000 to reserve and £1,077 16s. 8d. to next year's account. Our public houses have been well kept up, and so has the brewery and all buildings, which, as you know, are entirely new. Our reserve now stands at £137,921 9s. 7d., and with the £10,000 proposed to be added, will amount to £147,921 9s. 7d. In addition to this we have now standing in our books a sum of £94,000 to the credit of bad and doubtful debts account and sinking funds, and, in addition to this, I must again point out that we are the freeholders of upwards of 50 public houses, which have cost us £229,000, which only returns us 2½ per cent. at present, but as the existing leases fall in we shall receive larger rents; and more important still, we shall secure the beer trade, which, as years go on, will be considerable. Our trade has at last stopped diminishing, and is now improving a little. I attribute the falling off to the enormous amount of taxation, both local and Imperial, caused by the Boer war, and to the enormous number of men unemployed and working short time, and not to any changes in the habits of the people. We notice a greater falling off in the East End of London than in the West. Rates are 6s. in Westminster and 12s. in Poplar, and now that labour is so largely represented in Parliament, as it ought to be, I hope members will see if rates cannot be reduced, to prevent manufacturers and merchants leaving London. I do not think we need fear any unjust treatment from the Government. They certainly are not likely to do us as much harm as the last Government. I have noticed that in the present House of Commons there are only a dozen members connected with our trade, although we pay a third of the revenue of the country, whereas I notice there are 100 barristers and 34 solicitors elected in the present House. There is need for great improvement in our trade associations, and it is time the Brewers' Company became something more than a name. In local taxation alone the publicans' rates have increased 90 per cent. during the last twelve years, as against 42 per cent. to the ordinary ratepayer. In this brewery alone we have over 3,000 shareholders, and it is time that shareholders in every brewery realised that they have something else to do besides taking their dividends, and that unless they come forward and use their influence we shall be taxed out of existence. I now beg to move:—“That the directors' report and statement of accounts, and the auditors' report, be received and adopted.”

Mr. R. H. B. Marsham seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The chairman subsequently moved a resolution for the payment of dividends on the various classes of shares, and these were also unanimously agreed to.

It was likewise resolved that the sum of £10,000 be placed to reserve.

The retiring directors and auditors were then reappointed, and the meeting closed with votes of thanks to the chairman and directors.

BORAX CONSOLIDATED.

The eighth ordinary general meeting of Borax Consolidated, Limited, was held yesterday at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street, E.C., Sir Alexander Wilson, chairman of the company, presiding.

The secretary, Mr. H. T. Daniell, having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—It is again a pleasing duty to submit to you the directors' report and statement of accounts

of your undertaking for the year ended September 30, 1905. The profits, after providing for all management and administration expenses, amount to £254,024 14s. 2d., which show a small increase over those of the previous year, and are approximately the average figure of the past seven years, and I think we can congratulate ourselves upon our usual quarter of a million profit. The business of the current year is good, and I see no reason why this figure should not be fully maintained. We have placed the sum of £15,000 to the credit of “buildings, plant, &c.,” depreciation account. As I stated last year, this is a reserve which we are desirous of accumulating, for, although we maintain our plant and buildings in efficient working condition out of revenue, occasions occur when it becomes desirable to shut down works and remove plant for economical reasons. Such an occasion has occurred recently; we have shut down our Connah's Quay Works, transferring the work hitherto done there to other of our works, by which a saving will be effected. It is necessary for us to provide for this removal, and we have written off £10,000 from the reserve depreciation account for that purpose. This reserve, with £15,000 added to it this year, amounted to £105,000, and, deducting the £10,000 written off, we have the balance now standing in the accounts of £95,000. In dealing with the balance of profit, we ask you to write off for exploration, inspection, and development of properties a further sum of £20,000, bringing the amount so written off since the formation of the company up to £96,702. The expenditure under this head is now much reduced, and although we cannot hope to do away with it altogether, we have every reason to believe that in the immediate future it will be a very much less amount than during the past. You will have seen by the report that the directors have arranged to guarantee the principal and interest of an issue of £500,000 first mortgage debenture stock of the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad Company, and in the opinion of the directors this arrangement will bring great advantage to this company. The railroad will open up very extensive borate mines, and besides this it taps a country which during the last few years has made enormous progress in the way of development of mines. Places which in 1900 were desert lands are now thriving towns containing thousands of inhabitants, with electric light and water installations, banks, and all the other luxuries of civilisation. In addition to the borate traffic, the directors have been reliably informed that there is certainly a prospect of a very large traffic for the railroad, and it was not without most careful consideration that they undertook to guarantee the issue of these bonds. The responsibility is not, after all, very onerous, as there is no reasonable doubt that the railroad will earn the interest on the debenture stock, and as regards the capital the redemption of the debentures is provided by sinking fund policies effected with leading insurance companies, the annual premiums on which are paid by the railroad company. I now beg to move that the directors' report and statement of accounts be received and adopted.

Capt. J. W. Reid seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

Resolutions were afterwards carried approving of the dividends and reappointing the directors and auditors.

HOME AND COLONIAL STORES.

The ordinary general meeting of the Home and Colonial Stores, Limited, was held yesterday at the offices of the company, 2-4, Paul Street, Finsbury, E.C., Mr. W. Capel-Slaughter, chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. T. W. Davidson, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: The year under review has been one of some difficulty, owing chiefly to three principal causes, namely, the alterations in the tea duty, the fluctuations downwards in the cost of sugar and the fluctuations upwards in the cost of provisions. Every alteration in duty always had a distinct influence upon our trade, and we are subject to them no matter whether the duty is up or down. This has been apparent in connection with our trade this year, for in the Budget speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer some time in April he expressed his intention to reduce the duty upon tea from 8d. to 6d. per lb., making three changes in the duty upon tea within a very few years. Such a change cannot be effected without causing some considerable loss, because we have some 500 branches throughout the United Kingdom, and every pound of tea in those branches meant a loss to us, because the stock of tea which we had in those branches on June 30 was duty paid to the extent of 8d., whereas on July 1 it had to be sold as if the duty was only 6d. per pound. Of course, the loss was minimised as far as foresight and a knowledge of what was impending could do to minimise it, but it was unfortunate that we should have to bear it. The next item to which I refer is the shrinkage in value of sugar. You can judge for yourselves all that it means to a company doing our business when I tell you that the prices of the chief items of sugar in which we deal varied as compared with last year to something like 16 to 30 per cent. Those are some of the chief reasons why the balance-sheet and profit and loss account show some slight diminution of profits as compared with some previous years, but, looking at all the circumstances, the directors consider that instead of there being any cause to be downhearted about it, your balance-sheet is rather a matter on which you should congratulate yourselves than otherwise. On one side you will see loans from the bankers £109,000, but on the other hand you will see the item of cash in hand of £52,400, and in addition to that the very large item of stock in hand of £647,353, and the

largeness of the latter item accounts for the other item on the debit side, namely, loan from bankers. That is not a matter which need give the slightest concern to anybody. The reserve fund is, by the addition of this year, brought up to £234,000. At the time the shrinkage in the value of our investments first occurred we did not deal with it by writing down the face or nominal value of our reserve, because we hoped that some of the depreciation would come back. It did not, however, and that is why last year we took our courage in both hands, and dealt with it by writing off from the face value of the reserve fund £31,000. But this year I am glad to say that the value of those investments has slightly, although not materially, appreciated, and I think it shows that we did the right thing by writing them down when we did. The profits available for distribution enable us, after paying the usual preference dividends and placing to reserve the not inconsiderable sum of £13,300 to pay a dividend of 15 per cent. upon the "A" ordinary shares.

The Chairman finally referred to the rumours circulated of the probability of amalgamation with another competitor. Such a policy was contemplated, but has been abandoned.

Mr. J. B. Lonsdale, M.P., seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Pelce (a shareholder) said that it was with considerable relief that the shareholders had listened to the chairman's statement as to the rumours of amalgamation. He could hardly believe, looking at the two reports of Lipton's and the Home and Colonial Stores, that they had not come to an arrangement with the rival company. Had the chairman advised them, he was not so sure that he should not have followed him, because on one or two occasions when he had suggested certain changes he had afterwards found that he was wrong and that the directors were right.

THE FINANCIAL TIMES.

The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Financial Times, Limited, was held yesterday at 72, Coleman Street, E.C., Mr. F. M. Bridgewater (managing director) in the chair.

The Secretary (Mr. H. A. Randall, F.C.I.S.) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I should like to call your attention to some figures in the balance-sheet. The first of these is the debenture issues which you will have no doubt noticed now stands at £65,000 as against £50,000 in the last balance-sheet. Having need of more capital in the business, the directors were successful in arranging a further issue of debentures to the extent of £15,000 at 4 per cent. This money is being used profitably. The immediate effect of the increased issue will be seen in the corresponding reduction of the amount due to sundry creditors, which figures in the present balance-sheet at £21,201, as against £35,041 the previous year. The profit for the year is £22,500 as against £13,390. (Applause.) This is a very substantial improvement. Turning to the other side of the account, it will be seen that the item, plant, machinery, copyrights, &c., stands at £237,625. New plant and machinery have been added during the year to the extent of £3,889, and £3,108 has been written off for depreciation, the net result being to leave this item standing at about £800 more than it did in the balance-sheet of 1904. Small improvements necessary to provide additional facilities at the printing works are always paid for in full out of revenue. This year these alterations have cost about £500 above the average expenditure, the whole of which has been written off before calculating the profits. I mentioned when I last had the pleasure of meeting you that the directors had been considering the desirability of electrifying the printing works. That we have since decided to carry out, and the work is now nearly complete. We originally contemplated the introduction of plant for generating current as well as of motors for its application. Subsequently we decided against the generating plant, because we succeeded in making an agreement for the supply of current from a public supply upon terms which we were able to accept. I would like to add that we have two distinct sources of supply, so that if by any possibility one should break down we have always a stand-by. This will considerably reduce the cost of the scheme as well as leave unoccupied additional space, which is of great importance in works crowded to their utmost capacity, and practically incapable of extension. None of the new electric plant is represented in the figures now before you, nor is the reduction caused by the "scrapping" of the rejected machinery. That will affect the balance-sheet of next year. This brings me to the item to which I made a reference just now. In the appropriation account you will find an item "special reserve for electrification of printing works," the meaning of which, of course, is that we are setting aside £2,000 out of last year's profits towards the cost of the electrification, notwithstanding that the change, which is largely in the nature of a permanent improvement, might in the opinion of a great many people have been very properly charged to capital account. This £2,000 does not nearly represent the whole cost of the change, but I think I am right in saying that it will be equal to more than half of the nett cost after deducting the amount to be received for the displaced machinery. If we do as well this year as we did last I shall hope to see the remainder of the cost of that electrification scheme written off out of the profits of the present year. To sum up the report of which we ask your acceptance, it is briefly this: We propose to pay a dividend to make up 12½ per cent. for the year, as against 6 per cent., which was all we could afford you last year. (Applause.) We have set aside

£2,000 towards the electrification scheme, and we are carrying forward an amount which is within a couple of pounds of the amount brought into the account. I venture to think that you cannot fail to regard this as a highly satisfactory achievement, and I beg to move:—"That the accounts and balance-sheet be received and adopted." (Applause.)

Mr. A. E. Murray seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. The retiring directors and auditors having been re-elected, a vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the business.

CHARING CROSS, WEST END AND CITY ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CO., LIMITED.

In addition to the requirements of current for lighting, the demand for energy for motive power and heating during 1905 showed a large increase and the equivalent of 43,622 8 c.p. lamps was added to the system of the West End branch making a total of 453,285 lamps, of which 349,630 were in lighting and heating apparatus and 103,655 in motors. Sales of current rose by 1,372,449 units to 9,976,598 units, but the average price was again slightly lower at 3.07d. and the revenue was only £4,910 up at £127,787. With meter rents and miscellaneous receipts the improvement in the total income was £5,180 at £130,733, but expenses were heavier, and after writing off another £11,000 for depreciation the nett balance came to £48,648 compared with £50,967. Interest on the debentures of the Suppliers Construction Company yielded only £1,906 against £9,739 a year ago, and with £3,551 from interest on loans and £10,213 brought forward the amount available was £6,518 smaller at £64,328. Of this, debenture interest took £16,641 or £1,737 more and preference dividend required £18,000, so the dividend on the ordinary shares has to be cut down from 8 per cent. to 5 per cent. leaving £9,687 to be carried to the new account. The amount due on construction of plant, &c., has risen by £4,920 to £21,436 and total liabilities to sundry creditors are £3,738 higher at £30,703, against which sundry debtors stand at £38,765 and cash amounts to £5,610. Another £9,647 has been advanced to the City undertaking to provide the deficiency on its preference share dividend bringing the total indebtedness of this branch up to £186,164. The company has converted its steam generator station at Maiden Lane into a motor generator and battery station, with the result that the capacity of the buildings has been doubled. This change has involved the sale of the old plant, and the difference between cost and selling price amounting to £36,420 has been written off the depreciation fund. At the same time, the share premiums account was debited with £3,666 for costs of promotion of the Bill for further powers to enable the company to supply energy for railways, tramways and power over a large area leaving the reserves of all kinds at £194,975.

Another 21 miles of main were laid by the City undertaking, making a total of 286 miles, and the number of lamps connected was increased by 70,128 to 371,209, of which 274,509 represented lighting and heating apparatus and 96,700 motors. Sales of current were 2,405,863 units more at 9.757,600 and yielded a gross revenue of £92,210 against £78,431. Including miscellaneous receipts the total income was £14,471 higher at £95,340, while expenses rose by £5,746 to £53,341, but, on the other hand, the interest received on the Suppliers Construction Company's debentures dropped by £5,231 to £1,744 and the amount available was therefore only £3,494 up at £43,743. A much larger debit balance of £7,374 was brought forward, and interest on debentures and temporary loans required £28,016, so that £8,353 or £2,273 less was left towards the preference dividend and £9,647 had to be provided by the West End undertaking. The amount due to the Suppliers Construction Company in the balance-sheet a year ago has been settled and at the same time the debentures in that company have disappeared from the accounts, so that the heaviest liability is now the £186,164 advanced by the West End branch. Sundry creditors come to £6,202 more at £19,019 against which sundry debtors are down £794 to £33,994 and cash has risen by £1,409 to £4,851. The obligation of the West End undertaking to meet the deficiency on preference dividends only holds good until June 30 next, and as no provision has ever been made for depreciation of works, plant, &c., while the assets include such items as £40,517 for expenses of issue of debentures and shares and £4,042 for preliminary expenses, the outlook for the preference shareholders of this branch are none too brilliant.

BEIRA RAILWAY.—It is announced that the meeting of debenture holders called by the directors for the 22nd inst. has been abandoned.

AN INSURANCE AMALGAMATION.—Provisional agreements have been entered into by the directors of the County Fire Office and of the Provident Life Office, respectively, with the Alliance Assurance Company, under which, subject to the approval of the shareholders, the Alliance Company will become the proprietor and administrator of those two offices.

WESTBOURNE PARK PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY. 136, Westbourne Terrace, London, W

At the 20th Annual Meeting, presided over by the Rev. Dr. Clifford, it was announced that £5 per cent. interest had been paid on "A" Shares, and £4 per cent. to "B" Shares. During the year 1905 over £175,000 had been received from Investors, and over £210,000 advanced on Mortgage Securities. The Society's Assets amount to £82,000, with a Membership of over 6,000. Undivided Profits amount to nearly £11,000, and there are no properties in possession.

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Questions about Public Securities will be answered each week in the *Investors' Review* on the following terms:—

For each question thus answered the charge will be **One Shilling**. Where more than One Question is put they should be numbered, and a copy kept. No Security is ever named in the Answers Printed.

Private Letters giving fuller answers can be had if desired. The minimum charge for such letters is **Ten Shillings** each; but for that Three Questions will be answered. For all additions beyond three the charge will be **Half-a-Crown** per query.

Lists of Investments furnished by correspondents will be annotated, or new lists of suggested investments will be supplied on the same terms, viz.:—**10s.** for the First Three, and **2s. 6d.** for each Additional one. But no group of securities forming a trust calculated to yield a given income will be supplied for less than **One Pound**.

The charge for Wires about New Issues appearing on days that prevent timely criticism in the *Investors' Review* will also be **2s. 6d.**, plus a prepaid telegram form.

The Editors cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

Letters from correspondents must, in every case, be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

The Investors' Review.

Coming Legislation and Chinese Slavery.

A very full programme has been laid down by the Government in the King's Speech, and if it succeeds in placing the various Bills foreshadowed on the statute book, it will have done not a little to redeem Parliament from the discredit into which it had sunk under the late Government. The principal items in the programme are a new Education Act, an Irish Administration Act, a new Trade Disputes Bill, equalisation of London rates, amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act and of the Unemployed Act, reforms in merchant shipping, abolition of property qualification for county justices in England, and the abolition of plural voting at elections. With the goodwill of the House and the earnest determination of the majority of members to work zealously for the country's good, it ought to be possible for the Ministry to carry out its programme without much delay or difficulty. The very fact, however, that such a number of measures have to be brought forward indicates not only the long arrears in social and progressive legislation which have to be made good, but something of the extent to which progress has been hindered by the class legislation perpetrated by the late Government. Difficulties and obstructions consequently surround the Ministry on every hand, both in domestic and colonial or foreign affairs. There is sure to be a wrangle over the emancipation of the schools from clerical interference or domination, and it will tax the skill and capacity of Mr. Augustine Birrell to the utmost to find a solution that will at once satisfy the conscience of the nation, and render the sects impotent for mischief. In dealing with the labour problems some assistance will be given by the delayed report of the Royal Commission on trade disputes and combinations which has just made its appearance. On the whole the conclusions of the Commission seem to be excellent as paving the way for reform. After a full inquiry, it is recommended that trade unions should be made legal associations, that strikes should also be deemed legal within the limits of the common law, i.e., when no crime or breach of contract can be alleged, that "picketing" of the persuasive sort also should be deemed not illegal, and that the unions should have power to separate their benefit funds from what might be called their fighting funds. These and other recommendations should help the Government in framing measures conducive to the establishment of permanent industrial peace. The more the legal status of the working classes is defined, set forth, and recognised, the less probability will there be that violent measures will be resorted to in order to gain the ends sought.

Every indication points to a prolonged conflict of passions and interests over the settlement of affairs in South Africa, and above all over this Chinese slavery gangrene on the Witwatersrand. When the language of the King's Speech in reference to Chinese labour first reached the City, the Kaffir Circus was disposed to congratulate itself. "We have won," several people said to us, adding, with due jubilation, the information that they had always told us it would be impossible for any British Government to touch Chinese

indentured labour. A day's reflection and Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's explanation in the debate on the Address changed this optimism into a feeling of probably simulated despair. Sir Henry was freely blamed for causing the slump in African mine shares, and if the inevitable catastrophe in that rotten market occurs in consequence of the shrinkage in prices, all the victims, or the disappointed "bulls," will be loud in their condemnation of the Prime Minister and his policy. There is, none the less, no real foundation for this outcry, and it would not be indulged in were the *habitués* of the Kaffir gambling hell capable of understanding this labour question, or any question relating to South Africa. Their uneducated minds, however, are warped and prejudiced because they have been so long under the spell of the cosmopolite company promoter, who has been careful to concentrate the attention of all players and gamblers upon the mere manipulation of prices. In reality this Chinese slave labour has done not only no good to shareholders in Transvaal mines, but infinite harm, were it for no other reason than that the blighting absolutism of the mine boss has thereby been consolidated. It would have been good by now for profits had free labour, and that alone, been from the first permitted at these mines. Messrs. Wernher, Beit, and Company understood this perfectly well, and they and their associates long ago determined that free labour should not be permitted, because its presence at the mines would probably lead to reforms of various kinds, and among other things to the curtailment of the excessive profits sucked by these controlling graballs out of the operations carried on. We have dwelt so much upon this aspect of the subject that it is unnecessary to enlarge further upon it this week, but it is necessary to insist always that the market view is the wrong view, and that persistence in the indentured labour policy means the ultimate ruin of all concerned.

It does also seem necessary to insist once more that the Government will have to go further than it has yet done if it is to satisfy what may be called the non-mining public conscience of the nation. We quite recognise, know from only too bitter experience, the difficulties in the way, and, looking at them, are disposed to give the Cabinet unstinted credit for going so far as it has done. The interests against its first step in reform are not only powerful, but far-reaching. They extend from the palaces and mansions of monarch and peer, of holy bishop, and the all pervading plutocrat, through every rank of society, down to the humblest village punter who stakes his few pounds and loses them at the bidding of the diligent bucket shop tout. The minds of men in all ranks of society have been poisoned by this South African maelstrom of delirious speculation until it is scarcely possible to get men, otherwise reasonable enough, to look at the subject except from one standpoint—the chance of profit on a rising market. Still, the Government, having gone so far, in spite of clamour, lying, underhand machination and efforts at downright intimidation, will have to go further. It is something to have liberated the Chinese slave to the extent of permitting him to express his mind upon the contract that binds him down, and to be ready to provide the means to send him home, but we shall have to go on and take the control of these compounded squads of serfs altogether out of the hands of the mine bosses, to put them wholly under the ordinary law in short, and it will not do, even with a new and justly based franchise for the Transvaal, to leave the ultimate fate of Chinese labour to the free legislature to be by and by established. It was by the Imperial Government, acting as humble tool of the Park Lane helots, that this yellow serf labour was imposed upon the country, and by the Imperial Government an element of discord and danger such as it constitutes must be removed. The question does not affect merely the white labourers in Johannesburg and on the reef, it affects the black population as well, which grows increasingly hostile to the Chinese, and Sir Henry Campbell-

Bannerman's Government dare not run the risk of provoking a black rebellion by permitting the yellow labourer to remain on the Rand, even were his presence sanctioned by a properly constituted Transvaal legislature. If the Chinaman could come in as a free labourer we should never have said anything against him as such, because in that condition he has ever proved himself to be an excellent workman; but the mere existence of a large native black population in South Africa makes it impossible to allow the Chinaman his freedom in that country. There would be strife almost immediately—bloodshed, possibly a widespread rising of the blacks, involving consequences affecting the status of the dominant white population, much in the minority as it is from one end of our African dominions to the other. Therefore we must continue to insist that the coolie experiment has to be put an end to, and by us, so that the new free Government of the Transvaal, when it does begin its work, may not be hampered by this dangerous intrusion, this utterly immoral and sinister product of an endeavour to ruin white and black alike in South Africa, so that the bosses and their ducal, clerical, academic, market and other dupes or tools may rule markets and play the millionaire at the expense of the multitude ignorant of financial knavery.

The foregoing was written and set up before Thursday night's debate in the Commons, but neither the Government nor the Opposition oratory induces us to alter a word. It is not necessary to quibble about the word "slavery," the thing is there on the Rand—"Slavery with a time limit," as Major Seely defines it, as the electorate at large has defined it, and no amount of skilful phrasing like Mr. Winston Churchill's "Worst form of Labour in the Empire" can alter or disguise its true character. Would men in any measure free submit to the illegal floggings and numberless and nameless brutalities to which these unhappy victims of boss rapacity and miscalculation are subjected? But, leaving this, our most important difference with the Government is on the point of policy. A half-and-half line of action appears to have been adopted, which indicates that the Cabinet is in danger of being intimidated by the millionaire fungoids of the Rand. By conjuring up harrowing visions of the losses mine shareholders would have to suffer if Chinese slave labour were stopped, these cosmopolites are seeking to coerce the Government, or tempting it to seek safety by throwing the responsibility of drastic action upon the coming "free" legislature of the Transvaal. This will not do, and there is no ground for this fear. The bosses know as well as we do, and better, that for all purposes they sought to serve by it Chinese labour has been an utter and unredeemable failure. It, as Mr. Robinson admits in Friday's *Tribune*, is more costly than black labour, and it has done nothing to enable the bosses and their bucket shop-trusts to unload tens of millions of shares in more or less bogus, in dishonestly capitalised companies on the investing and speculating public. Therefore the randlords would probably be glad enough now to be quit of this failure, but they are ever astute to seize any available screen by which to conceal their own miscalculations, the consequences of their unscrupulous greed, their utter failure in mine economics, in all respects, from their dupes. Hence, the clamour the cunning endeavour, through their Press and political hacks, to throw odium on the Government, and in flinching before the suborned clamour, the Government is but playing the magnates' game. The Cabinet must take courage, and go straight to the goal honesty and humanity alike point out to it, else, in spite of its great talents and unparalleled majority, its days in the land will not be prolonged. The whites of the Transvaal, of the whole of South Africa together, are not strong enough to cut the Chinese slavery gangrene out of their body politic. It is, we insist, an object of Imperial surgery, and it must be removed by the supreme Government alone. If white labour, paid higher wages than in the Transvaal, can produce gold

in West Australia at a lower cost per ton than black, yellow, and white labour can do on the Rand, as Mr. Outhwaite shows it does in Friday's *Morning Leader*, then there is no reason, except the one furnished by blind all-grasping boss rapacity, why whites should not, profitably to all, be the principal labourers there. "Unskilled white labour" is a misleading phrase. How long would a white man of average intelligence remain unskilled? The present system is ruining the mines, the mine shareholders, and the trusts too. It is for the Government to save them all, even as the Boers would have saved them, as Mr. Outhwaite also points out. The Boer reward for refusing Chinese to the schemers was a war that ruined them and their land, but their policy was the true one none the less, and our new Government must not flinch in following it.

The Alliance, County Fire, and the Provident Life Fusion.

Last week we were able to confirm on official information the news long ago communicated to readers of this journal to the effect that the Alliance Assurance Company has decided to absorb the County Fire Office and the Provident Life Office—twins in the insurance world carrying on different branches of the business, one with eminent success, the other in a decaying gentility manner. The texts of the agreements entered into to effect this amalgamation are now before us and contain much interesting information. For the business of the County Office, the whole of its assets and everything relating thereto, the Alliance Company has agreed to give 125,760 of its own new £1 shares. This looks cheap, and in the capital account it will be cheap, but these shares are reckoned at the price of £12 10s. each, and on that basis the County's business will cost the Alliance Company £1,572,000. For the Provident Life Office the price is to be 10,338 of the new £1 Alliance shares, which on the same basis is equivalent to £129,225. Those of the shareholders in the absorbed companies who do not care to take the shares will be paid £12 10s. in cash in lieu of each share to which they might be entitled. In addition the shareholders in both the County and the Provident companies are at liberty to receive dividends accruing on the old capital in March next. This means a final dividend of 16s. per share on 31,440 shares of the County Fire Office, and a final dividend of £1 14s. per share on the Provident Life Office shares. In some senses these payments are no more than a mere distribution of accrued profits, but the new shares given in payment for both businesses will rank for dividend in the Alliance Company, and be entitled in 1906 to the same rights as the holders of the now existing £1 shares of that company, so that there may be something of bonus in these dividends. Shares in the Alliance allotted to the County Fire shareholders prior to July 5 next will receive a dividend and bonus of 6s. per share, or if the allotment does not take place till after then this dividend and bonus, together with interest at the rate of 4 per cent., calculated from July 5 aforesaid, and that surely means a plum out of the cake.

Great care is taken both of the directors and the working staff of the companies to be absorbed and extinguished. They are practically the same men, the purchased companies being, as we have said, twins, and in their capacity as members of the board of the County Fire, each director is to receive for life £300 per annum, or if they prefer to retire, an annuity of £300 per annum, paid quarterly, also for life; or again should any of the members of the board desire to have his money down to capitalise his annuity, then a cash payment equivalent to the price for the time being for a Government life annuity of £300 per annum at the age of the director on his last birthday will be given as compensation. The Provident Life Office directors are on the same principle to have each a life annuity of £166 13s. 4d., which may be commuted after the same fashion. As there are fifteen directors in the

fire office, this means a charge of £4,500 per annum on the County Office funds, while the fourteen directors of the Provident Life Office involve a charge upon it of £2,337 10s. per annum. What the capitalised value of these annuities might be we have no means of knowing, because the ages of the directors are not stated, but it is probably not less than £75,000 all told. With equal care the interests of the working staff are looked after. They will all have pensions after the age of 65, or before if incapacitated from duty. The salary and pension of Mr. B. E. Ratcliffe, secretary to the County Fire Office, has been fixed at £1,700 per annum, a salary which may be commuted or capitalised in the same way as the directors' fees. The assistant secretary, Mr. F. G. Reynolds, is to have £1,000 per annum while remaining in the service of the Alliance Company, and a pension of £750 per annum afterwards, while the secretary and actuary of the Provident Life Office, Mr. H. W. Andras, is to be paid £1,600 per annum quarterly, tax free, this payment to include all allowances and fees hitherto enjoyed by him, and a pension of £1,200 per annum. We have not space to set forth the particulars relating to other officials in these companies, but enough has been given to indicate how careful the framers of these agreements have been to protect the working staff from loss of position or remuneration through the absorption. All the men are kept, and all are entitled to pensions at the age of 65, or on certain contingencies before.

By thus gathering into its fold one company after another the Alliance Assurance Company is on the way to become one of the most powerful life and fire offices in the world, probably likewise one of the richest. In the County Fire business it has certainly acquired one of the wealthiest, most solidly rooted, and powerful fire offices in the country, an office so wealthy that it has been able to indulge in all manner of extravagant habits, to make life comfortable, not only for its board but for all its employees, and we have no doubt that the Alliance Company will by and by so economise in the methods of conducting the business as to realise a large profit upon its purchase. That, however, is not the most interesting aspect of this amalgamation; it rather lies in the direction of a discussion of the future of fire business under the régime of monopoly. If the great fire offices of the United Kingdom now almost altogether consolidated into a monopolist combination will study the interests of their clients and by giving them some share in the profits accruing from economies of management, no one will have a word to say against this revolution. If, for example, the private householder finds his rate of premium reduced to something approaching the fair measure of his risks, he will be delighted, and if the ratio of expenses to premium income in fire business is also cut down the shareholders in these offices will have abundant cause for rejoicing. It is too early yet to discern the drift of events on points like these, and all we can do is to wait and see. That the fire insurance business is too expensively conducted, and that the insurer is not always equitably treated, are unquestionable facts, but it does not follow that the able and far-seeing organisers of such amalgamations as those now made public, or such combinations as are being effected amongst the fire offices as a whole, are ignorant of the demands made upon them. They will doubtless recognise that it is bad policy to grow rich too fast and duly make concessions calculated to strengthen their hold upon the community.

Baku Russian Petroleum Company.

On another page a letter will be found dealing with what may be called a personal aspect of this lamentable business. In some senses it is the dominant aspect, and we, therefore, commend it to the attention of those gentlemen who promoted this company. If promoters in general would only take thought of the consequences that follow their eagerness or rapacity in grabbing at riches, at excessive profits, when new

joint-stock companies are formed, many of them, we are sure, would never touch such business. The report of the shareholders' committee appointed to inquire into sundry allegations made against the promoters and board of this company, principally by Mr. Dvorkovitz, has been sent to us by the writer of the letter, and proves to be, with all its reticences, a most painful document. The committee found that the gross profit made by the promoting syndicate was about £334,000. Out of this £48,000 was paid away as a commission and divided between Mr. G. Tweedy and his associates, and £43,000 was handed to the syndicate managers as their remuneration, leaving £243,000 to be divided amongst the shareholders in that syndicate in the form of £28,000 in cash and £215,000 in shares. It is like enough, owing to the state of Russia and to the relentless machinations of the American Standard Oil monopolists, that the history of this company would not have been conspicuously prosperous, even had the shareholders acquired the property at a fair price. Obviously, however, the price which involved such a mass of plunder was not a fair one. The syndicate added, for their own profit mainly, nearly 40 per cent. to the amount they had contracted to pay to the vendors in Russia for the properties, and probably enough that amount, £848,000, was itself excessive, containing undisclosed profits for the Russian intermediaries. The report goes on to say that Messrs. Ogilvy, Gillanders and Co. were interested in the syndicate profits to the extent of about one-third, amounting to £82,000, in addition to which they received £21,500, being their share of the £43,000 handed as remuneration to the syndicate managers, making their total or gross gains £103,500, of which £12,168 was paid in cash. Out of this, however, shares and cash to the nominal amount of £8,298 were distributed to certain sub-participants. A pitiful story!

Most of Mr. Dvorkovitz's energies have been concentrated upon at attempt to destroy the character of Mr. Henry Neville Gladstone, a director of the company, and one of the partners in the firm of Ogilvy, Gillanders and Co. Why this attack has been made we do not quite know. It has not been established that Mr. Gladstone went out of his way to secure excessive profits for himself, and the committee denies that he any way sought to put creatures of his own upon the board. His firm, however, plainly occupied an invidious position, not only as the most important member of the promoting syndicate, but afterwards as vendor of the products of the company on commission. Thus 2½ per cent. was paid to it in respect of the greater part of the oil exported from Russia, a commission not in itself excessive, which, however, was towards the end of the contract reduced. Whether the firm pocketed the whole of this commission or divided it with other participants the committee does not state, but it is regrettable that apparently conflicting interests should have been in this way mixed up. We can only say that the practice has grown to be common in the City, so common as to blind even the best of men to the morality involved in proceedings of the kind. To seem to sell a thing and yet to keep it is half the art of the promoter. There is, in all respects, a pernicious and wholly immoral fashion prevalent in company promoting, of which this Baku Russian enterprise is in no sense a remarkable or unusual illustration. Promoters have fallen into the habit of regarding every enterprise they lay hold of solely from the point of view of the amount they can make out of the "flotation," as they barbarously call it. Directors join underwriting and promoting syndicates in order to share in the anticipated plunder arranged for in the dishonestly excessive capitalisation, and the atmosphere of the City has consequently become vicious to a degree impossible to adequately describe, a degree that often makes us thankful that this JOURNAL is the object of the average promoter's boycott. Familiar, therefore, as we are with the ways of company promotion, there is nothing at all shocking to us in the story of how this Baku

company came into existence, nothing that looks in the least unusual. It is only an example the more of what goes on every day in the week. That business of this kind, when closely examined, excites disgust in the mind of an unprejudiced observer goes without saying, and so far as we are concerned that disgust has found only too frequent expression in the avowed belief that only a cataclysm involving the financial ruin of the whole brood and system would suffice to purify the City and bring us back to honest habits of business.

That is poor consolation to the shareholders in this company, to men like Mr. Richard Wilson, of Leeds, and we wish it were possible to suggest some course of action by which the sufferers through the collapse might be assisted. We cannot do so in any effective fashion. Were the holders of the promoters' shares to hand them back to the company for cancelment it would be a graceful act, and conducive to a better accord between board and shareholders, but it would not pull the company out of the position of semi-insolvency, to say the best of it, into which it has sunk. Nor do we see that Mr. Dvorkovitz is really helping the shareholders much by his attacks. He claims to have forced the board to reduce its fees by one-half to £2,000 per annum, and to have effected other reforms, but, granting this true, what end does he propose to reach by continuing his agitation? The board has been largely changed, and the exposure may probably impel the new directors to introduce all manner of economies and reforms in the conduct of the business when they get the chance, when order has been restored in the Caucasus; but the personal campaign carried on by Mr. Dvorkovitz is not now helpful to the company in any way, any more than his insinuations against the good faith of the investigating committee, for that is what his statements amount to. They might, by provoking disagreements, help the Yankees, but that cannot be his object. Still less do we regard Dr. Whitty's proposal to hand the whole affairs of the company over to a German syndicate, headed by the Deutsche Bank, as a workable remedy for the disease. It seems to us that only one course can be pursued, and that, in spite of their just grounds for complaint, even of their moral claims for compensation at the hands of the promoting syndicate or the first board, the shareholders were on the whole wise when they hesitatingly decided at Monday's meeting to accept the committee's report and allow the business to go on under present management. The company still possesses valuable properties, and better days may come, must come, when the market for the products of this and other undertakings has been lifted clear of the Standard Oil people, when low-flash oil is made to cease from slaughtering in England. To have entered upon adventures like that proposed by Dr. Whitty, or to continue to support the agitation conducted by Mr. Dvorkovitz, would serve no good end whatever, but might be useful to the aforesaid Standard Oilers in enabling them to break in upon the Baku industry and attach it to their monopoly.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES FOR THE CITY.

As long as it was possible to doubt which side of the fence Mr. Arthur Balfour would jump down upon we were rather against the proposal to contest that City seat, the way to which has been opened to him by the grudging resignation of Mr. Alban Gibbs. It seemed bad policy on the part of Liberals to challenge the verdict so recently given at the General Election. When, however, Mr. Balfour surrendered to Mr. Chamberlain and definitely ranged himself amongst the Protectionists, or as we should call them, the Red Revolutionists, the position was entirely altered, and it became a duty to fight for Free Trade strenuously

and regardless of consequences. That being so, we think the Liberals of the City have done wisely in selecting Mr. Gibson Bowles as Free Trade candidate. The issue is emphatically one of Free Trade against Protection, and the contest ought to give every Free Trader in the City; no matter what his views on other questions of public policy, the opportunity to back up the verdict already so emphatically delivered by the electorate of the United Kingdom. The City is full of Free Traders, the majority of them in other respects Unionists or out and out Conservatives, but to the members of both these political parties Mr. Gibson Bowles ought to be a *persona grata*. He is a Conservative, and on many questions of public policy we should probably more or less emphatically disagree with him, but he is an enlightened Conservative, and above all a man possessing an unusual familiarity with public finance, a strenuous advocate of economy, of retrenchment, of good management in national affairs; also he is emphatically a Free Trader, being a patriot of intelligence and enlightenment. Therefore, he is a candidate worthy of support not only by Conservative and Unionist Free Traders, but by all Liberals. We do not believe there is a single Radical, Labour, or merely Liberal member of the House of Commons who would not rejoice to see Mr. Gibson Bowles back in that assembly. As a critic of the waste of the spending departments and an exposé of the loose and slovenly manner in which public affairs have been handled, Mr. Gibson Bowles had no rival in the late House of Commons, one might say no equal. Therefore his accession to the new House would be of the utmost value, because of the assistance he would give to every sincere reformer in the herculean labour of overhauling estimates, cutting down waste expenditure, and generally bringing the fiscal affairs of the empire into something like order and decency. It is a gallant fight Mr. Bowles is now waging, and he has tremendous odds against him, but if the Free Traders of all colours in politics will only unite in giving him their vote he may win the seat. Assuredly Mr. Balfour is not a candidate whose attitude of mind, whose moral force, or whose services to his party are calculated to excite enthusiasm.

TELEGRAPH CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE.

Competition by other firms who seem to think it good policy to accept contracts showing no profit, or perhaps an actual loss, has seriously affected the revenues of this powerful company during the past few years, the display for the year ended December 31, 1904, being the poorest for about a decade. But reputation based on merit is bound to tell in the long run, and we felt sure this company's business was far too good to long remain depressed. Therefore we note with satisfaction a substantial recovery in profits for the year to December 31 last. They still fall far short of the returns immediately prior to 1904, but a rather disquieting sequence of declines has now been checked, and, given reasonable conditions of working, we may hope to see the recovery easily sustained. On the whole, business during the period under review has been of a satisfactory character, and the directors report that the factories at Wharf Road and Greenwich have been fairly occupied in the manufacture of submarine telegraph cables and insulated wire. The steamers have also been actively engaged in laying and repairing submarine cables, and although one of them met with an accident, the consequences were not serious, and the work on hand was accomplished without much delay. As will be seen from the subjoined comparative statement, the recovery in profits for the past year was over £26,000 to £76,921, roughly 50 per cent., and after deducting £3,010 for the directors, including their extra remuneration of £1,010, the balance over is £73,911. A year ago the directors had to cut severely into the free balance in order to provide a dividend of 15 per cent., and the sum now brought in is £102,000, against £120,484. That largely neutralises the increase in profits, reduc-

ing the improvement in the disposable sum to £6,601 at £175,991, so that the directors wisely restrict the distribution to last year's reduced rate of 15 per cent., of which 5 per cent. has been already paid, and restore the carry forward to £108,761.

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	£	£	£	£	£
Trading profit and transfer fees ..	132,696	126,406	115,617	50,826	76,921
Directors' remuneration ..	7,000	7,000	6,879	2,000	3,010
Net balance ..	125,696	119,406	108,738	48,826	73,911
Brought forward ..	75,564	91,620	101,386	120,484	102,080
Total available ..	201,260	211,026	210,124	169,310	175,991
Dividend ..	89,640	89,640	89,640	67,230	67,230
Pension fund ..	20,000	20,000	—	—	—
Carried forward ..	91,620	101,386	120,484	102,080	108,761

Reform in the method of rendering the balance-sheet is, we suppose, never to be granted, and we can do no more than indicate the changes of the year. These have been of considerable importance, and, as stated, are quite non-understandable. It is, for example, rather surprising to find a drop of £150,734 to £332,635 in the freehold and leasehold premises, machinery, plant, stocks of stores, materials, etc., even if we remember that twelve months back an increase of £98,682 was shown. The movement is no doubt in the stores, materials, etc., and it does seem a pity that so much confusion should be allowed to arise. Sundry debtors are down nearly £20,000 to £309,833, but the cash balances show an increase of £104,467 to £197,573, and "sundry securities" are up to £1,022,613. On the debit side the debts owing and reserves for insurance and contingencies are only £4,077 larger at £1,060,817, and the general reserve remains at £50,057, apart, of course, from the undivided balance of £108,760. We believe the financial position to be quite sound. It is a pity the directors do not enable us to make sure.

THE EXPLORATION COMPANY.

The report of the directors of the Exploration Company for the year 1905 is as concise and as uncommunal as usual. They prefer to leave much to individual conjecture. It may be recalled that a couple of years ago the concern was reconstituted, split into two companies, one called an "Assets" company, whose business it is, with a capital of half a million, to nurse the paper stuff bought in the dark past, whilst the other, with a capital of £750,000, was to take over the purely mining properties and shares, to try and make something out of them. It is the report of the last-mentioned that is now published, and it is rather surprising to note that its income has greatly increased, nearly doubled, in fact. How or whence the company derives its revenue there is no means of knowing, for this is kept a profound secret. All the profit and loss account tells us is that gross profits from some source amounted to £92,026, compared with £49,240 in the nine months covered by the previous accounts. With transfer fees, £101, the entire income totalled £92,127, against £49,436, and as expenditure absorbed £24,314, the nett profit has risen from £30,261 to £67,813, an increase of over 100 per cent. As £30,261 was brought forward, the directors find themselves in possession of the handsome balance of £98,075, so in a fit of generosity they divide £37,500 amongst the patient shareholders, equivalent to 1s. per share, and carry forward no less than £60,575. Thus they could easily double the dividend, but this husbanding of resources looks as if they are not over-confident of the future. Anyway, shareholders are not likely to be pleased with this niggardliness, especially as the company has the cash handy. What are still described as the "investments" are entered in the books at £693,114 against £655,813 a year ago. Those shares that are quoted on the market are taken, it is

said, at the lowest prices ruling at the end of the year, whilst the unquoted paper is entered "at a valuation." In the previous year the directors sold South African shares, now they are buying them at the low prices ruling, which may not be a profitable policy. Prices may recover eventually, but not if the public remain in their present temper, for it is only public demand that can make a recovery sure and permanent, neither the controlling houses nor the speculators have the resources. Shareholders are briefly informed, too, that the company still retains a large interest in the shares of the Mexican mining companies it has promoted in past years, though that may be the result of necessity rather than choice. A substantial interest has been acquired in the recently formed company—the Somera Gold Mining Company—likewise in the Mexico Mines of El Oro, whilst it retains its holding in the Tomboy Gold Mines. During the past year the directors have extended the company's operations to South America, particularly to the Republics of Peru and Bolivia, and a subsidiary, called the South American Exploration Company, has been formed to deal with the interests that may be acquired there. Already the company's mining adviser has secured a copper mine in one of these republics, but we are not told which one. Why? Twelve months ago the company was engaged in the examination of a copper property in Chili. What has become of it? No mention is made of this in the report before us. With regard to the balance-sheet, whilst the amount owing by debtors has been reduced from £28,929 to £21,906, contango loans have risen from £38,456 to £73,833, and cash from £17,621 to £41,273, whilst on the other side the company owes £21,490 more at £32,051.

BRADFORD DYERS' ASSOCIATION.

A modern textile combine would no doubt scorn to do anything in a small way, apart from the accumulation of reserves, and when questions of capital are concerned we may always expect something striking. It is, therefore, quite in order to find the directors of this tolerably successful agglomeration proposing an increase of 66 per cent. in the share capital, that is, from £3,000,000 to £5,000,000, half the advance to be in ordinary and the remainder in preference shares. We are sorry we cannot give complete particulars of the uses to which this vast amount of money will be put, as the directors merely tell us that the "continued development of the business of the association will require the issue at an early date of further capital." It may not all be put out at once, probably could not be, but it is a tremendous sum to have to play with. Trade was decidedly good last twelve months, the nett trading profits being returned at £335,860, or about £10,800 more than in the preceding year. Balance brought forward was a good deal larger at £35,478, income from investments and loans gave £6,055, and transfer and registration fees £363, making £377,756 in all, an increase of over £16,000. Debenture interest takes the usual amount of £58,150, but loan and bank interest £4,906, and auditors' remuneration, legal and other professional charges, £3,207, were larger. Next a sum of £60,000 is again transferred to depreciation fund, and after providing the preference dividend, 7 per cent. is once more distributed on the ordinary shares, an extra £5,000, at £30,000 goes to reserve, and the carry forward is increased from £37,478 to £51,541. During the past year the nett additions to properties were £209,828, making the total £4,510,967, and it is still necessary to harp on the inadequate depreciation allowance. Up to date the depreciation fund has reached £271,764, and as the combine has been in existence about seven years, this means something less than 1 per cent. per annum. It is significant that the auditors do not mention this highly important question. Including £47,872 premiums on shares, the reserve amounts to £265,372, and even if we take this into account as well the wastage allowance is only 2 per cent., an absolutely inadequate sum. In sundry other ways the

auditors might with advantage be more informative. They tell us, for example, that during the year the company's holding in the British Cotton and Wool Dyers' Association has been realised, but we want to know the cost price of this investment, its balance-sheet value, what it fetched, and the extent of the loss. Let it be noted, however, that the "other" investments amount to £48,788 only, against £100,163, and that the investments contingency fund is £34,971 down at £7,523. That apparently is the amount of the deficiency on the British Cotton realisation. Investments on account of the reserve are worth £123,800, and are entered at £130,000, while against total creditors of £308,161, including loan account of £100,000, there are debtors £322,099, and stock £263,898. The cash balance of £53,260 is not nearly sufficient to provide the dividend, and there is small doubt that some of the new capital will be issued pretty promptly.

LONDON GENERAL OMNIBUS COMPANY.

When the half-yearly report of this undertaking was published the price of the ordinary stock promptly collapsed to par, a fall of 6 in one day. Previous to that the security had been very weak, and during recent months has been steadily falling from the 129 or so touched in 1905. That is a very severe shrinkage and with the majority of stocks such a decline would suggest that the break has, perhaps, been rather overdone. Unfortunately it is otherwise with this concern. People do not ask whether there is likely to be a favourable reaction, but, how much further is the capital depreciation likely to go? That is a question none can answer, but it will only be in accordance with our oft-repeated predictions if the company now finds itself fighting a severe uphill battle. The enemy possesses swift, up-to-date motor transport, while this company has so far been content to entrust its fortunes to the always useful but now superseded horse. The odds are therefore tremendously against it, and unless a large number of mechanical vehicles can be quickly provided we foresee nothing but defeat and disaster. It is a well-known fact that in the matter of mechanical traction the directors have carried the waiting policy to such lengths that already their field of operations is being most seriously assailed. Hundreds of motor omnibuses are running in the streets of London and its suburbs, but how many are London Generals? Very few indeed, we regret to say, and there must be a great display of energy if the ground lost is to be recovered, or that still retained held. The directors seem to be waking up now and notify that a service of motors will shortly commence to run from the company's Acton dépôt. Already there is a motor dépôt at Dollis Hill, Cricklewood, comprising garage accommodation for over 50 working omnibuses, besides well-appointed repair, fitting, and machine shops provided with the latest electrically driven tools. Not only so, but arrangements are being made for the adaptation of other suitably located premises belonging to the company for motor work, and contracts have also been concluded for the delivery of a large number of motors during the current year, with the option of taking further deliveries. All this reads very well, but just try to realise what it means. The board says that the capital must be increased to £1,500,000 by the creation of 50,000 new £10 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares, that is by £500,000. This opens out a most serious prospect. The interest on such capital will be £25,000 a year, and we fear a large part of the already existing stock will be seriously depreciated when it comes to selling off omnibuses, horses, &c., valued in the balance-sheet at about £500,000. Quite true, there is a general reserve fund of £135,000, a horse stock revenue account of £10,000, and a motor fund of £28,528, but to use the general reserve would mean the sacrifice of investments purchased with debenture holders' money. A sale might, therefore, lead to trouble. Then there are the freehold land and buildings £277,570, and lease-

holds £386,740, to be considered. Does not the latter include "Times" or goodwill, and will it not be necessary to have a complete revaluation when the premises are converted for motor purposes? If there was ever a legitimate goodwill attached to the business, it has certainly disappeared now, and it is quite time to come down to facts. The company owes about £9,000 more to sundry creditors than it did at the end of 1904, and debtors are up by over £5,700, but cash is smaller by £31,311. Investments, however, reach £160,228 against £132,009, although it must not be supposed that this is their realisable value.

So much for the financial position and prospects, and now for the half-year's results. These are distressingly disappointing. Notwithstanding a slight increase to 108,068,399 in the number of passengers carried, the average receipts per omnibus per day were only £2 5s. 11½d. against £2 7s. 1½d., and the revenue was down by £13,058 to £598,490. Other items of income were also lower, making the total from all sources £618,790 against £632,075. On the expenditure side administration cost £886 less and yard outlay was down a few hundred pounds, but traffic expenses rose £3,351 and maintenance over £12,000. Average cost of feeding and bedding each stud of horses was £138 or £5 more, and we find that provender cost £190,779 against £182,098. Horse stock required an additional £5,684 for its maintenance, and it is curious to note that, this notwithstanding, the number owned at the end of the year was less by 191. The next increase is in general expenses up by £2,734, and under all heads the advance is £16,857 at £599,668. Adding this increase to the decline in receipts, a nett decrease of £30,142 is brought out at £19,122, a fearfully meagre sum to save out of a total revenue of £618,790. Indeed, it is quite worth noting that advertising on the omnibuses alone produced £19,961, so that the actual operations resulted in a loss. Rather more came in from interest and dividends at £9,777, but the sum brought forward was down over £500, so that the total for disposal reaches £38,428 against £68,624. Debenture interest requires £5,700, and by passing over the motor fund, which last year received £20,000, and should really be further increased at all costs, the directors contrive to pay a dividend of 6 per cent. per annum, carrying forward about £3,000 less at £8,207. This distribution is 2 per cent. per annum less than that made a year ago, and shareholders had better be prepared for something worse on account of the current half-year. Up to date there is a most alarming shrinkage in the gross receipts, and do not forget that before many more months are over several new tube railways will be in operation. What are the leaseholds worth? How many horse depôts will become worthless when motors replace quadrupeds?

UNITED STATES IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION.

It was tremendous in 1905, reaching no less than 22,992,380 tons of pig-iron. In 1900 the total production was but 13,789,242 tons, and as recently as 1896 but 8,623,127 tons, and not only was the production enormous last year, quite unprecedented, but it seems to have been wanted. The American Iron and Steel Association does not now allow the stocks unsold at the end of the year to be made public, but it is assumed by the *New York Commercial Chronicle* that the said stocks had not been added to during the year, notwithstanding the fact that the production was nearly 6,500,000 greater than in 1904. Business, in other words, must have been feverishly active, not only with the railroads, but in the construction of steel frame buildings all over the union, for very little of the production was exported, less, in fact, than in 1904. In that year 901,311 tons nett were sent out of the country, and last year only 592,789 tons. Steel production went on at a pace corresponding with this output of the raw material, and amounted in the past year to 3,372,257 tons of rails alone, of which 3,189,000 tons consisted of Bessemer steel rails. Here,

again, expansion in the output did not lead to increased export, for the exports of iron and steel rails in 1905 amounted to only 295,000 tons, compared with 416,250 tons in the previous year. All the increased production was, therefore, consumed at home, and when we look at the figures we are not surprised that the emission of new securities of all descriptions in the current year should have already approached £100,000,000, and should have been so overpowering as to threaten Wall Street with a financial crisis. Up to the end of last week £70,000,000 of new securities had been put upon the market since January 1. Nor is it surprising that the business of the railroads all over the union should be swelling out to unprecedented totals. The only thing we are disposed to examine is the extent to which it is mere credit business.

ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS AND SKETCH.

In sending us a copy of the report and accounts for the past year, a shareholder of this wretched concern asks our advice as to the best course of action, in view of the deplorable results displayed. We find it difficult to afford useful guidance, as the vendors probably still control a sufficient part of the capital to burke any investigation into the working of the venture since it was launched in 1899. At the same time the collapse which has now come about must not be accepted merely as the inevitable result of gross inflation, and over-capitalisation, and no protest made. The report mentioned induced us to turn up the prospectus of the thing, and it was quite in the natural order to find that the enterprise was bled nearly white by the promoting Ingrams when turned into the present company. That is to say, out of the total purchase price of £1,042,500, just £692,500 was taken in cash, while the amount of working capital, including even the 1s. premium at which the preference shares were issued, was a mere £30,000. This alone meant impoverishment and starvation, and although it may be impossible to induce any of the vendors to disgorge, we hope some of the shareholders with a little time to spare will set to work to get a little more light thrown on the assets shown in the balance-sheet. This accomplished, and the true position laid bare, then a basis will be provided for future action. For example, we must know how much is tangible of the immense item of "purchase of the business and copyrights, freehold and leasehold premises, plant, and machinery, £960,262." Note must be taken of the fact that the item originally stood at £1,004,032, but some property in the Strand was sold for £45,000, discount on cancellation of debenture stock gave £3,367 and a glorious £700 is allowed for depreciation of leasehold and renewal of machinery. So after allowing £4,080 credited in the last balance-sheet on account of the Strand sale, and £1,217 for expenses, the main item is brought down to the figure named. Now how much of that consists of copyrights, is a mere book entry, and how much is solid, realisable matter? On the answer to this question shareholders' action, civil or criminal, must largely depend. Passing by a suspense account of £1,485 for cost of alterations, we come to stock of paper, plates, publications, etc., £8,049, which seems wonderfully small for three important journals. Trade investments are put in at £10,706, sundry debtors owe £40,890, bills receivable come to £1,210, and £22,149 is held in cash. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to say that not a solitary penny of reserve has been accumulated during the seven years of the company's existence, and all that can be pointed to is a reduction of the debenture debt by £72,150, partly on account of the sale of premises and partly by a sum of £25,000 transferred to the company by the vendors under some guarantee or other. The debenture debt, however, still stands at £237,850, and we should much like to know if this is covered by solid assets. Premium on shares stands at £12,500, sundry creditors, including debenture interest, amount to £30,096, and the credit to profit and loss is £14,395. Now as to the year's operations. Trading profit for the year to December 31, including £251 for interest

and transfer fees; was £44,024, a drop of well over £7,000, compared with the preceding twelve months. This is the fifth annual period in succession that the revenue has fallen away, the decline compared with 1901 being something like £18,000. Directors' and managing directors' remuneration takes £2,500, and debenture interest £9,514, leaving £32,010, to which is added the trifling balance of £107 brought forward, making £32,117. Interim dividends at $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on the preference and 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, have been already paid, absorbing £17,812, so that after providing the balance of the preference dividend, the directors can only distribute a further 1 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 3 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £242. For the previous year the dividend was $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the return has dropped steadily from the 7 per cent. paid for the first two or three years.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: ANGELO GOLD MINES.

Like the Driefontein Consolidated, with which we dealt last week, the Angelo is a member of the Farrar group of companies, the controlling concern being the East Rand Proprietary Mines. Up to the present its achievements as a dividend-paying concern have been erratic, and conditions on the Rand have so greatly changed during the past twelve months, and it is so difficult to foresee what line of policy the bosses will pursue, that we would hazard no dogmatic forecast of what even such a good property and company as the Angelo may be likely to do. The future of this, as of so many other companies, must be considered uncertain, and estimates of possibilities must be largely conjectural. The company was formed in 1895, so has been in existence a little over ten years. It paid its first dividend in the spring of 1898, of 25 per cent., followed by a second at the end of the same year, of like amount, 50 per cent. in all. As the war broke out in the following year there was a long suspension until the spring of 1902, in which year the two distributions aggregated 70 per cent. In 1903 50 per cent. was paid, in 1904 60 per cent. and in 1905 $43\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Formerly, however, these high dividends were paid on a capital of £275,000, but in future they will be distributed over a capital of £625,000, as in the case of the Driefontein. In 1902 the capital was increased to its present figure in order to acquire some deep level claims from the East Rand Proprietary Mines, instead of forming a separate company to take them up, and 325,000 shares issued to the parent company were not to rank for dividend until the Angelo had crushed a certain amount of ore. This stipulated tonnage was treated last year, and the deferred shares ranked for dividend in the second half of 1905, which accounts for the reduction in the percentage paid. If the company can pay 60 per cent. on £275,000, it would logically follow that it could pay no more than 30 per cent. on the larger capital, if as much. This is answered by the fact that hitherto the company has worked with a battery of 110 stamps—at least, that was the capacity of the mill, but shortage of labour has not permitted all to be in operation. As an additional 110 stamps have been in course of erection for some time, the mill henceforth will consist of 220 stamps, so that earnings and profits ought to be doubled. This, however, will tell in another way. The added stamps will shorten the life of the mine by one-half, so shareholders would be no better off in the long run if the company paid 30 per cent. for 30 years or 60 per cent. for 15 years. By taking in the extra deep level ground, however, the life has been prolonged, and this is where the main advantage comes in. Estimates of the life of the Angelo differ, chiefly for the reason that it cannot be computed with exactitude how much ore the 220 stamps will treat annually. Tube mills are also to be employed, which will help to crush more ore and shorten the life. If, therefore, it cannot be estimated how much ore will be crushed, what the average yield will be or what the working costs over a series of years, it is impossible to calculate probable dividends. Some put the life at 12 years,

others at 16, but, not to be too conservative, let us estimate it at 15 years. Also let us put the average dividend at 40 to 45 per cent., and the yield at 10 per cent. on current prices. In 15 years this would give £150 on an investment of £100, leaving £50 profit, or a little over 3 per cent. If, however, the investor set aside as a sinking fund £5 5s. per annum at 3 per cent., in order to redeem the principal in 15 years, the nett yield would be $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., with all the chances of higher dividends and a longer life and all the risks of smaller distributions and a shorter career.

Passing Events.

This week we can do no more than acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Harry W. Birks's excellent summary of the past half-year's statistics relating to London joint-stock banks, reserving comment and analysis until a later date. It may, however, be said that the aggregate liability of 22 joint-stock and private banks whose head offices, or sole offices, are in the metropolis amounted on December 31 last to £482,422,166, and their total working resources to £565,825,749.

Most opportunely Mr. John Burns has issued, according to promise a white paper setting forth a variety of statistics relating to the poor law and the problems of poverty in England. The figures as to numbers amply bear out his statement in rebuttal of one of Mr. Chamberlain's usual reckless efforts in statistics, but we at present are only concerned with the point upon which so much has been said in past years by THE INVESTORS' REVIEW. The cost of pauperism to the ratepayer has risen steadily and wholly out of proportion to any increase in the numbers of those in receipt of indoor and outdoor relief. In 1849, the earliest year for which figures are given, the average cost per pauper was £5 6s. 5d., and last year it was £16 13s. 8d. In indoor relief the average cost has risen from £7 17s. 8d. to £13 5s. 5d., and in outdoor relief from £3 11s. 2d. to £5 13s. 11d. This has occurred in spite of the remarkable decreases which have taken place in the cost of necessary articles of food and of clothing. Why has it taken place? Mainly because the poor law as administered and in its present shape, has afforded unrestrained opportunity to an increasing number of useless officials to batten upon the rates. Those who agitate for old age pensions might direct their attention to this aspect of poor law finance, and see whether they could not begin by instituting such economies in administration, such wholesale reductions in waste, as would release a few millions a year—perhaps five—with which to make a beginning in an old age pension scheme. We believe that the poor law ought to be completely revolutionised, and if it continued to exist at all, made subsidiary to any national scheme for working-class old age pensions.

We regret to see that the German delegates at the Algeciras Conference seem to be unable to come to any accord with France. No war is likely to arise out of the disagreement, but considerable friction must ensue, and any chance of a more cordial feeling springing up between Frenchmen and Germans must thereby be indefinitely postponed. We hope, though, that the story sent from Algeciras by M. Hedeman, the special correspondent of the *Matin*, is not true. It is to the effect that the Emperor William sounded the heads of the chief German banks on the effect of war with France. That their opinion would be against war we have no doubt at all, but what we hope is that the Kaiser was never so far left to himself as to contemplate an armed attack upon the French Republic. Another outbreak of that kind would be a crime against civilisation unforgivable.

The Indian famine is every week laying deeper hold upon the unfortunate people. According to the Governor-General's telegram, dated February 19, there were then 301,000 unfortunates seeking existence on relief works, of whom no less than 121,000 were in the

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and 90,000 in Ajmir and Rajputana. Nor is there any improvement in the outlook. Good rain has fallen in some districts of the most stricken provinces, Agra and Oudh, but practically none has reached the distressed tracts where hunger is becoming more acute. It is the same story everywhere, deficiency in rain supply, no rain or insufficient rain, and it is to be feared that this year will again prove a disastrous one to the over-burdened, stripped, and helpless natives of large regions in this our greatest dependency.

Was it in the Kaffir Circus that William White formerly managing director of White's Carriage Co., Limited, Liverpool, flung away that £212,000, £98,628 of which is said to be clean gone, which is the amount of his liabilities? The wretched man is declared to have been a daring gambler on the Stock Exchange, and this is probably the result. He lies in Walton gaol, accused of forgery and fraud, and we fear he is only one amongst thousands who have been ruined by the same kind of folly.

We hardly think that Mr. Douglas Storey, the special correspondent of the *Tribune*, in Peking, is dealing fairly with the Japanese in Korea. He has been endeavouring to excite sympathy over that flabby creature, the self-styled Emperor of Korea, and accuses the Japanese of high-handed coercion and other crimes against the harmony of nations in that part of the world. His latest effort is to seek to raise alarm about the establishment of a Japanese tariff in Korea, "in defiance of the Anglo-Japanese treaty." Assuming that statement true, how is the treaty infringed any more than international agreements with China would be were changes and enhancements to be made in the Chinese Customs tariff? Japan has a most difficult piece of work on hand in revivifying the decrepit, noisily patriotic, vengeful, and passionate inhabitants of Korea, and it ill-becomes us, a nation whose dealings with subject races will not always bear close examination, to assume at this stage an attitude of querulous censoriousness.

Is the "mailed fist" going to fail in its efforts to bid defiance to the United States through the new German tariff? Has common-sense prevailed in the counsels of Kaiser and President to an extent that leads them to mutually agree to make breaches in the tariff wall each country puts up? Are they, after all, anxious to avoid mischief by blessing free trade? The telegrams say so, and we are quite willing to believe that there may be a limit to human folly even in the matter of barbaric Customs regulations and levies upon the products of human industry, brutal in their rapacity.

Thursday's *Morning Leader* provides some interesting reminiscences of the £30,000,000 "gift" from the Transvaal humbugging indulged in by Mr. Chamberlain. As there were some questions put in the House to the Government about this loan, it is well to recall facts—how Mr. Chamberlain in Johannesburg laid out the programme. First, £35,000,000 raised by us to prevent the ravaged and annexed South African Republic from foundering, and then £30,000,000 to be raised by the African potentates, in three annual sums of £10,000,000 each, to be handed to us to help to meet our war expenditure. The security was to be the "assets of the Transvaal," and the South African financiers had undertaken to subscribe the first £10,000,000, "without a preferential security," whatever that means. On May 6, 1903, the same necromancer again assured the country that if it only subscribed the £35,000,000, the magnates would stand true to their offer of £30,000,000, and he drew a glowing picture of the astonishing prosperity of the country, whose population had been mostly rendered homeless by his war. "Every month we get a new estimate which is always better than the last one," he declared; so, of course, there could be no difficulty in raising the £35,000,000 loan, but we have not yet received a penny of the £30,000,000 one, and never will receive one.

We have received from the Poplar Borough Municipal Alliance a set of rent cards, described as the "modern rent card," the purpose of which is to enable tenants of small houses to keep an intelligent record of the amount of rates wrapped up in the rents charged to them. The general secretary of the Municipal Alliance, which has obviously come into existence because of the costly increase in the rates levied in Poplar, and the growth of the public debt, rates having gone up by £62,283 since 1901, and the debt by £336,215, informs us that his committee thinks it would be better to alter the present system of letting, by substituting a nett weekly rental charge, plus the weekly proportion of local rates in place of the present system of charging one amount, the object being to impress vividly upon the ratepayer what the cost of administration of local bodies means. Meanwhile, these cards seem to us to be excellently adapted to the object in view. The committee hopes that the landlords will provide, and the tenants insist upon having such cards, which cost only a penny. The cards are of different colours, according to the rental levied, and on the back of each there is an analysis of the effect of a certain rate in the £ upon the amount of rent levied. Until a better system is introduced, we quite think these cards should be most educative in ideas of public economy, provided intelligence is exercised in using them.

An interesting letter in another column challenges our suggestion that empty houses should bear some portion of the local rates. The writer, Mr. John Newton Sharp, puts in a very cogent plea against the adoption of any such method of changing the burden of local rates as applied to working class dwellings, and we confess that we were thinking only of the middle-class house and villa and the upper class mansion. It may be that the true solution of the problem lies in the taxation of ground values, and the rating of unoccupied land within the City areas, but we still think that at least the better class houses ought to be charged with some portion of the rates even when unoccupied, and if the working class dwellings are to be exempted care will have to be taken that the owners of such houses do not levy excessive rents upon their tenants. They do this systematically in London, and it is to be feared that owners, even in the provinces, would not all be so fair minded as the writer of this letter. After all, it does not follow that the aggregate burden of rates would go up if the owner of the empty house had to pay some equitable proportion thereof. His total outlay might even be lower than it is now.

A subscriber in Paris, M. E. Bebral, sends us a long and interesting letter on Transvaal mine problems, which we should have been glad to print had we been able fully to decipher it. Unhappily it is written in a script so minute as to be, by us, in places, undecipherable, the more so as some of the emendations have been written over the original words set down. Therefore we can only give the drift of the argument. The writer ascribes the condition of Rand mining finance to the financial trusts. In their eagerness to show large profits, these trusts have multiplied share capitals wholly beyond reason, and this has impelled them to force the pace in mining beyond the resources of the country in manual labour. Result, "une gêne extrême, sinon une impossibilité absolue dans bien des cas," in the development of new enterprises. The remedy, M. Bebral suggests, is not consolidation, but what we may call reconstruction, the clearing away of false capitalisations. "Le remède nous apparaît plutôt dans une liquidation partielle et raisonnée des trusts. Re-estimation des valeurs sur une base plus modérée et restriction proportionnelle du capital." Perhaps, but neither this remedy nor ours, we fear, will be seriously thought of by the mass of shareholders in trusts and mines until the inevitable catastrophe threatens to overwhelm them.

Another subscriber in Paris, M. G. Salcedo, an ex one now, sends our publisher a post-card from that city, dated February 20, written in a different strain, thus:—"Pas une minute de plus je ne veux être votre

suscripteur. D'ailleurs, je n'ai plus lu votre journal aussitôt que je vis son orientation." We fully understand and deeply sympathise. Nothing excites the anger of the average man more acutely than the knowledge or memory of good advice despised. But truth will prevail all the same.

Critical Index To New Investments.

PROVINCIAL MOTOR BUS AND TRACTION CO., LIMITED.

The British Motor 'Bus Trust, Limited, which was responsible for, or at any rate largely interested in, the promotion of the London Motor Omnibus Company and its sister concerns, is now endeavouring to extend its tentacles over a much wider area by means of this new undertaking. It is proposed to establish services of motor 'buses and other vehicles in and around various towns in Great Britain and Ireland, to form subsidiary companies, to enter into arrangements with municipalities and other local authorities, railway companies, etc., for running special services of motor 'buses, and to provide express motor deliveries of parcels, etc. In carrying out this idea it is suggested that a company operating in different parts of the country should be able to maintain maximum annual receipts by arranging that their vehicles shall follow the population in their periodic migration to the seaside or to winter resorts. The capital has been fixed at £395,000, divided into 300,000 ordinary shares of £1 each and 100,000 deferred shares of 1s. each, and the whole of the ordinary shares were offered for subscription. The promoting company underwrote 100,000 of the shares for a commission of 6 per cent., and the call at par for eighteen months on any shares not taken up, and as profit on the transaction took the whole of the deferred shares, which are entitled to half the surplus profits after 10 per cent. has been paid on the ordinary. In addition the Trust stands to make a profit through its interest in the Motor Omnibus Construction Company, which has received a contract for the supply of 100 chassis and of one-half of all further chassis required within a period of two years. No particular centre for the commencement of operations appears to have been chosen yet, and notwithstanding the enticing estimate of probable profits set forth in the prospectus, the venture is more than usually speculative.

DAWSON GRAND FORKS AND STEWART RIVER RAILWAY CORPORATION, LIMITED.

This company has been incorporated to own and control in England the shares and securities of the Klondike Mines Railway Company (of Canada), which has an authorised capital of \$2,500,000, and borrowing powers of \$2,520,000. The Canadian company holds powers to construct a line of 84 miles from Dawson City to the Stewart River, and the corporation acquired the right to build the line, on which it has spent £107,000 up to the present, £100,000 having been raised by prior lien debentures and debenture stock and £7,000 by loan. An issue of £225,000 6 per cent. consolidated debenture stock was made in the beginning of the week, of which £100,000 was reserved for allotment to the holders of the prior lien debentures and debenture stock, and £125,000 was offered for subscription at par. It is estimated that a gross revenue of £104,000 per annum should be earned at a cost of £57,260, giving a nett revenue of £46,740, or sufficient to cover the debenture interest more than three times over, without taking into account subsidies of about £30,000 granted by the Canadian Parliament, which will be available for interest on, or redemption of, debentures or for capital purposes. Stress is laid upon the success of the White Pass and Yukon Railway, which operates in the same territory, but a reference to that company's last report is not calculated to inspire confidence in the new undertaking.

LONDON AND HULL SOAP WORKS, LIMITED.

A wonderful tale is unfolded of the prosperity that awaits this new company, which takes over the business of Messrs. W. Darby and Co., of Islington and Hull, and it is estimated that the annual profits, excluding advertising charges, management and directors' fees, should amount to £24,024. Yet this bonanza is going for a mere song, the purchase price with £8,000 for goodwill being no more than £38,975, of which £8,500 is to be satisfied by the transfer of a mortgage for ten years of that amount, 20 per cent. of the balance is payable in cash, and the remainder in preference or ordinary shares or cash at the vendors' option, a year's guarantee of the preference dividend and 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares being thrown in as a makeweight. The total capital is £70,000, divided equally into 7 per cent. preference and ordinary shares of £5 each, and 6,000 of each class were offered for subscription. So impressed are the vendors with the successful careers of the Vinolia Company, Lever Brothers, Pears, and Joseph Watson, that they have filled the prospectus with reference to these undertakings, the dividends they have paid being given twice over as well as an extract from a speech by Mr. W. H. Lever. The stress laid upon these points, however, is more calculated to keep investors away from a business concerning the past results of which no information whatever is given, and although the directors profess to be so certain of a rush for the shares that they announce that priority in allotment will be given to those applicants who apply for both classes, we fear their task in deciding who is most worthy to receive the shares will not be a difficult one.

ACHILLE SERRE, LIMITED.

This is the well-known business of cleaners and dyers using the process known as "Nettoyage à Sec," which was established in London in 1877, and now has 43 branches in London and the provinces, as well as agencies in most of the principal towns and villages. Nett profits for the three years ended December 31 are stated to have amounted to £10,308, £10,693, and £11,970, or an average of £10,990 after providing for depreciation of buildings and plant, &c., and for redemption of leaseholds. Freehold and leasehold factories, with plant, &c., are valued at £40,053, the leases and underleases of branches at £17,923; the total assets, including book debts, stock of dyes, &c., and £36,992 for goodwill, being put down at £105,000, and for these the vendor takes £34,250 in ordinary shares, £20,750 in cash, and £50,000 in cash or preference shares at the option of the directors, three of whom are directly interested in the promotion. The total capital of the company is £150,000, divided into 90,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference and 60,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, and the present issue consists of 75,000 preference and 15,750 ordinary shares. It is provided that after paying 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares and placing not less than £1,000 to a special reserve, any surplus profits are to be divided equally between the directors and the shareholders of both classes, but the rate of progress shown for the past three years will have to be very materially improved upon if any benefit is to be derived from this arrangement.

DEASY MOTOR CAR MANUFACTURING CO., LIMITED.

This company is formed with a capital of £150,000 in £1 shares, of which 18,737 are issued with £1,000 in cash in payment for 14,990 shares in H. H. P. Deasy and Co., Limited, and 31,263 are held in reserve, leaving 100,000 to be offered for subscription. In addition to the shares purchased, an option to purchase for £10,850 the lease of a piece of land in Coventry, upon which there is a motor factory ready for immediate occupation, and a further option to acquire the machinery gas engines, belting, and small tools for £1,800 are handed over for £101. The company intends to provide entirely British-made cars

at a moderate price which will be second to none in excellence of design, materials, and construction, and it is estimated that with the working capital which will be available if the full issue of 100,000 is subscribed, 250 cars per annum can be produced, but on an output of only 200 cars per annum Mr. A. C. Hills, general manager of H. H. P. Deasy and Co., Limited, calculates that nett profits should be over £16,000, exclusive of dividends paid by his own company. Motoring being so fashionable at present, the company may do well for a time and the directors evidently have faith in their own pattern of car, as their holdings, including the shares issued as part of the purchase price, will be over 21,000 shares.

BAHIA BLANCA AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY, LIMITED.

On behalf of the directors of this Argentine railway company, the London Joint Stock Bank and Martin's Bank will receive applications for £1,000,000 of the company's 4 per cent. first debenture stock at 99 per cent. The amount of it already issued is £450,000, and the company has an issued share capital of £1,349,500. For many a year the Bahia Blanca and North-Western Railway was in a backward position, but recently it has been leased to the progressive Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company on terms which make this debenture stock a good security of its kind. Not only does the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company guarantee the Bahia Blanca Company's debenture stock at present issued or to be in future issued, but also a progressive dividend on the share capital rising from 3 per cent. for the first five years of the lease to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the succeeding four years, 4 per cent. for the next four years, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. ever after. The progress of the line appears to warrant these terms, for its gross revenue has risen from £71,950 in the year ended June 30, 1903, to £124,874 in the year ended June 30, 1905, and it is still growing. This new money is to be utilised in payment of an extension of 290 miles long, which will open up a wide tract of fertile country in the interior and connect with the leasing company's line at Huinca Renanco. The Bahia Company possesses a mole at Bahia Blanca with a railway line connecting it with the main line, and the facilities of that rapidly growing port are to be further improved out of this issue of stock. The subscription lists will close on or before Thursday next.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Another dull, indifferent week. Markets poor and prices generally easier on news of rain from India or heavy shipments on weak American cables. English wheat has been in fair supply, better in most cases than the demand, but prices have, as a rule, been maintained, except where samples were not up to condition. Farmers' deliveries were 91,606 qrs., averaging 28s 11d., against 44,495 qrs., averaging 30s. 5d. a year ago. Imports were 245,350 qrs., against 363,673 last year, and the quantities of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom are heavier than ever, Dornbusch putting them at 3,570,000 qrs., against 3,170,000 last week, while 1,780,000 qrs. go to the Continent against 1,760,000 last week. American markets opened weak, and were depressed also under the influence of heavy world's shipments, but recovered on the decrease in visible supply. Bradstreet's estimates of the quantities in sight East of the Rockies also helped them later, being a decrease on the estimate of last week 70,648,000 bushels against 71,550,000, but later the markets reacted again on favourable news from the South-West and weak interior markets.

WOOL.—Values of raw wool are still on the upward move, particularly in the better grades of both home and colonial produce, though it is difficult to say why except that demand is increasing. Consumers are certainly responding more readily to the stiff rates, but still hold back when they possibly can in the hope of relief later on, and there is a certain dulness in some of the manufacturing districts. It is more noticeable in the home trade than in exports, but spring orders everywhere are evidently being delayed as long as they can. One or two districts, on the other hand, are kept fairly busy, on cheap goods mostly, and exports for these show no falling off, Canada and South America remaining, as usual, the best markets.

LINEN.—Markets keep steady without any change in their position. Yarns are a shade quieter perhaps, but that is only to be expected, and prices are not in any way affected by the lull.

An increasing inquiry is in evidence for damasks, which show more promise than they have done for some time past, though the Barnsley report of them is that the finer qualities still move off slowly. Dress goods also are in the ascendancy, but otherwise there is nothing to note in any branch this end of the trade. Exports of bleached and finished goods are brisk to all quarters, the South American market being if anything the best, but the United States current business compares favourably with that of last year, the colonies are improving, especially Canada, and of the smaller markets India and Egypt are doing an increasing amount. The home and cross-Channel part of this branch is also showing a good all round demand.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—We have experienced a firm market during the week under review, and although the sales have not been of large dimensions, yet numerous small transactions have been arranged for several markets, and the aggregate sales of the week have been generally satisfactory. In some quarters the tendency of prices has been to harden, notably in Egyptian spinnings. On the whole, a confident tone prevails in the market, and sellers of both cloth and yarn show no pressure for further contracts. The tendency of the raw material in Liverpool has been downward, and the New York market seems to have been influenced by the large receipts at the United States ports. With regard to the American crop the opinion still seems to be that we shall have a yield of about eleven million bales. Reports to hand affecting the Egyptian growth are not very satisfactory. It is now said that the output will be a little more than six million cantars. The original estimate of the Alexandria General Produce Association was 6,750,000 cantars. A reduced crop is a serious matter for spinners in the Bolton district and South Lancashire. Prices as a consequence have during the last few weeks advanced. In cloth for export a steady trade has gone on from day to day, and although not many large orders have been given out, yet the aggregate sales have been fairly good. Buyers for India have again shown a fair amount of activity, and business for Bombay and Calcutta and also Madras has been put through to moderate extent. Clearances in Shanghai are said to be improving, but new orders for China are rather scarce. The Levant has dealt in goods of a miscellaneous character, and although the other minor markets are healthy in tone, yet buyers hesitate before paying to-day's rates, and giving such long time for delivery. Makers of nearly all kinds of goods hold firmly to quotations, and there is hardly any pressure for new contracts. Cheshire and Burnley printing cloths maintain their strong position, and T-cloths and Mexicans are deeply sold. Fine goods, such as dooties and jaconnettes, are well held at late rates. Coloured woven goods have improved in demand. There is now considerable activity in the home trade houses meeting the spring demand, but makers of cloths suitable for home consumption are not receiving many orders to make at the moment. Home trade American yarns have moved quietly from day to day. A healthy demand has been experienced for the superior marks, and on the whole the position of spinners is much better than at the beginning of the month. Coarse weft and the commoner descriptions of cop twist do not move very quickly, but stocks in first hands are seldom reported. In shipping bundles a fair business has been done for China, but our other Eastern markets have been quiet. Producers have held firmly to quotations, owing to their extensive engagements. 40's mule is very deeply sold. Cops for the Continent have been sold to an encouraging extent. Egyptian yarns as spun in the Bolton district are again dearer on the week, and owing to the advancing rates business has been restricted. Spinners, however, owing to their long order lists, have held well to quotations.

The cotton market in New York has exhibited a very dull and weak tendency. At first it opened steady, then declined on unfavourable cables, only to improve again on adverse weather and covering by shorts. "Bear" pressure followed, then the market temporarily rallied, but subsequently became heavy and closes weak. Closing prices are:—Feb.-March, 5.59d.; March-April, 5.60d.; April-May, 5.63d.; May-June, 5.66d.; June-July, 5.69d.; July-Aug., 5.70d.; Aug.-Sept., 5.67d.; Sept.-Oct., 5.54d.; Oct.-Nov., 5.51d.; Nov.-Dec., 5.50d.

COAL.—As a whole reports of trade are satisfactory, with only here and there a slight falling away. Home coals continue to be largely demanded, and probably only the lateness of the season prevents prices from going up. The output in steams from the South Yorkshire collieries is very large, but a good market is still found for them in the increasing importance of the steam trawlers' demands, though shippings to Hull and Grimsby are necessarily smaller with the close of the more important northern foreign ports. In the North of England business is quieter, and prices for steams are rather easier, bests being now quoted at 8s. 9d. f.o.b. for prompt delivery and 9s. 3d. for March. Gas coals are steadier, and a fairly large contract placed in the district has helped to stimulate them. Scotland has been doing a brisk trade in home coals at rather stiffer prices, but shipments have been disappointing during the week, clearances from the ports amounting to 228,688 tons or 24,225 tons less than the preceding week, and 53,888 tons less than in the same week of 1905. Wales, on the other hand, has had a good week, and steady clearances have taken place, Cardiff in one day dispatching 60,000 tons. Prices are steadier not only in best steam, but in smalls, best seconds, ordinary seconds, and Monmouthshire semi-bituminous. A further order from Italy of 100,000 tons is said to be on the way.

COPPER.—It cannot be said that the reported agreement between the rival American interests has had much effect on this

market. Operators seem apathetic as to whether the further amalgamation of the big copper producers will result in the maintenance of prices by regulating supplies or whether a drop is probable owing to the opening up of mines closed through litigation. Business opened in a rather quiet fashion, prices having an upward tendency, but dealers are very reluctant to enter into fresh commitments owing partly to the disturbed political outlook. Buying and selling just about balanced during the first few days, but towards the end there was a sharp rally on persistent "bear" closing, and prices ended at 79¾ for spot and 76½ for three months.

TIN.—Strong Eastern advices caused this market to open firm, and as sellers were very reserved in their attitude it was not difficult to maintain quotations. Chinese sales gave place to purchases, and the shipments for the first half of February were evidently less than expected. A fair amount of speculative support was also forthcoming, and with Eastern advices keeping good, final figures were a good deal higher on the week at 166½ for cash and 163¾ three months.

IRON AND STEEL.—The pig-iron trade shows distinct signs of weakness, business being exceedingly quiet. Prices, therefore, have weakened. The hematite trade is sympathising with this state of things and is likewise a little weaker. There is not much disposition to do business on a large scale, and buyers show considerable caution. Merchants and speculators are heavily bought forward, and there is still ground for the belief that the wants of consumers will be large during the summer months. In the North of England the output of manufactured iron and steel has never been so large, and most firms are said to be doing very well. Manufacturers have not followed the example of those in some other districts in putting up their quotations. In Scotland there is likewise a quieter feeling in business circles generally. The amount of new business coming forward has not been very large. Whilst, however, the trade position is not buoyant, there is a large amount of work done under contract, which gives manufacturers in some cases steady employment.

TEA.—Figures showing the distribution of Ceylon tea during 1905 are given in Messrs. Gow, Wilson, and Stanton, Limited's report, and show that the quantity exported from the island was a record one, amounting to 172,629,960 lbs., or 13½ millions in excess of that for 1904, and 23½ in excess of 1902. The bulk of this increase, says the same circular, was shipped to the United Kingdom. This week's auctions have shown a slight improvement in demand, but in the Indian market, at any rate, prices have not actually advanced. 34,815 packages were put up, of which 28,911 packages sold at an average of 6.76d. Ceylon auctions comprised 23,151 packages, and weakness was again noticeable in commonest descriptions, but where quality showed an improvement buyers were willing to pay a proportionate advance. The average obtained for the week was 6.76d. Java sales of 2,309 packages went generally at prices showing no alteration from those of last week.

SUGAR.—Rainy weather in some districts of Cuba, with a continuation of moderate weekly receipts, induced covering by shorts and some operations for a rise. This led the trade, says Mr. Czarnikow, after a long stagnation, to enter the market, which was not well supplied with offers, and consequently there was an improvement of 1½d. per cwt. The same authority says there is no further news about probable sowings. It appears from nitrate statistics that deliveries of fertilisers are well up to last season's, but it would be premature to draw conclusions therefrom. Reports from France continue to anticipate a shortage of 15 to 25 per cent. in that country; in Bohemia about 8 per cent. decrease is mentioned, whilst Moravia and Hungary, also Belgium, do not indicate much reduction as yet. In America transactions have been on a moderate scale at previous prices, but there appears to be a firmer undertone. Landings in the three ports for the week were 56,000 tons, and meltings reached 32,000 tons, raising stocks to 187,000 tons.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Patents to Inventors. By A. H. Stanley. (London: P. Marshall and Co., 26, Poppins Court, Fleet Street, E.C.) Price 3d. nett.

Street's Newspaper Directory, 1906. (London: G. Street and Co., 30, Cornhill, E.C.) Price 3s. 6d.

Secretaries. A Paper Read Before the Members of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries. By Russell Day, B.A., LL.M. (London: Institute of Secretaries, 65, London Wall, E.C.) Price 6d.

PATENT ENAMEL CO., LIMITED.

During the year ended December 31 last this company's capital was rearranged, partly with the object of paying a special dividend on the ordinary shares. Capital now consists of £21,000 in 8½ per cent. cumulative preference shares and £22,565 in ordinary, and the financial position is really excellent. Freehold land and buildings, plant, and machinery were increased in the 12 months by £2,797, making their total £32,127, against which the depreciation fund reaches £9,739. Sundry creditors are some way in front of debtors, but cash amounts to £10,283. A sum of £4,000 has been loaned to the Birmingham Corporation, and stock-in-trade is worth £9,800. Goodwill, £7,775 is by no means overwhelming, and the directors have commenced to build up a fresh reserve with an allocation of £1,000 from last year's profits. These came to £6,354, making, with the sum of £2,155 left after payment of the special dividend, a total of £8,509. Preference dividend absorbs £1,696, and the directors now propose a dividend of 3s. per share on the £1 ordinary shares, being 15 per cent., leaving £2,429 to be carried forward, after making the reserve allocation mentioned.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and February 17, 1906:—
REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Feb. 17, 1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Feb. 18, 1905.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£ —	£ 6,352,909	3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	30,627,000	32,099,000
Excise	30,200,000	26,409,000	27,555,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	11,301,000	10,798,000
Stamps	8,000,000	7,245,000	6,616,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	1,830,000	2,010,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	20,564,000	21,364,000
Post Office	16,500,000	14,030,000	13,430,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	3,775,000	3,505,000
Crown Lands	470,000	420,000	440,000
Receipts from Suez Canal ..	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	1,062,955	992,826
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	1,251,495	1,225,537
*Revenue	142,454,000	118,515,450	120,035,363
Total, including balance		125,945,728	124,299,205
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	680,000	510,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904 ..	—	700,000	970,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..	—	191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905 ..	—	2,175,000	1,819,500
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..	—	1,262,408	1,800,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	—	23,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	148,000	148,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..	—	—	35,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900 ..	—	—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..	—	—	5,912,631
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905 ..	—	9,854,604	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..	—	1,000,000	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares	—	8,461	7,460
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..	—	—	1,000,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency	—	2,000,000	3,600,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £4,500,000 Treasury Bills in 1905-6) and £13,500,000 in 1904-5 ..	—	8,000,000	21,800,000
Total		151,988,793	173,322,286
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	118,515,450	120,035,363
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	155,799	164,279
Excise	5,291,000	5,062,851	4,994,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	3,638,839	3,686,242
Total	9,756,000	8,857,489	8,845,194
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	127,372,939	128,880,557

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Feb. 17, 1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Feb. 18, 1905.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£ 28,000,000	£ 24,518,583	£ 24,000,884
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	1,453,200	1,445,020
Payments to Local Taxation ..	—	—	—
Accounts	1,160,000	743,967	743,927
Supply Services	111,304,000	91,557,336	95,664,493
Expenditure	142,084,000	118,273,086	121,854,329
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	640,000	370,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..	—	180,000	45,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900 ..	—	10,000,000	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904 ..	—	600,000	600,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905 ..	—	2,483,000	2,539,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..	—	900,000	3,500,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	—	23,000	11,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	193,000	149,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..	—	—	35,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..	—	545,066	—
Surplus Revenue 1904-1905 applied to reduce Debt	—	1,413,907	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares, applied to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1898 ..	—	8,461	7,460
Deficiency Advances repaid	—	586,093	8,600,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid ..	—	6,000,000	19,800,000
		141,845,613	164,040,289
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	£ 9,090,872	£ 8,348,492	—
Bank of Ireland	1,032,308	933,595	—
Total		10,143,180	9,281,997
Total		151,988,793	173,322,286

Letters to the Editors.

RATES ON EMPTY HOUSES.

SIR,—Re your article on Old Age Pensions of equal date, with which I would bracket the stalking spectre of unemployed, neither of these problems are unattainable even now, but the system whereby they may be attained is never broached, viz., a tax on all wages and incomes of all sorts and conditions throughout our civilisation in the British Isles, say 1½ per cent. on all wages and incomes over 5s. per week, to be deducted in the form of stamps, and subject to heavy penalties, as an Imperial insurance fund. It surely would not be more difficult to organise than the Post Office or telegraph systems. It is a disgrace to our so-called civilisation that we have any unemployed, but you cannot do it from the top; it will have to be done from the bottom, as all solid building is, and with the broadest foundations. The redoubtable Joseph would have proved himself a statesman if he had salved these two open sores, if he had given as much thought to them as he did with his other subject, of which he said the sands in the hour-glass are fast falling through, &c. To revert to your article, you harp upon rates and taxes, and it recalls a suggestion of yours of a week or two ago, viz., that empty property should be taxed. I beg to ask you if you have really considered what the proposition means. I myself have built a large quantity of workmen's dwellings in Leeds, amongst which are 70 built in a street, 22 yards wide, with gardens and pavement, consisting of keeping and coal cellar, kitchen, bedroom, and attic, with separate w.c., hot water, and bath in each. These I got 3s. 10d. per week for, previous to the present depression. Now I cannot pick tenants at a reduction to 3s. 6d., clear of all rates and taxes. I have 500 houses of various prices on this estate alone. A penny ride from centre of Leeds I have 50 empties amongst these, and the death rate on this estate is only 7 per 1,000, whilst Leeds death rate is lowest in England this year, with rate of 15.3. My rates and borrowed money account for last year was £1,000 more than the year before, with no more capital borrowed and £15,000 more revenue sunk. I wish to put it to you as the clearest thinker on general topics I know what you think of the foregoing facts. Do you not see that the unthrifty working man is getting off absolutely scot-free? All he has to do, say, in one of my 3s. 6d. replete cottages is to lock the door, dispose of everything he has, which he repeatedly does, save his bed, if he has one, and compel me to go to Court to summons him, for which I pay, and the Court gives him seven weeks in all to get out, and that is the law of this so-called civilised land. To this you would add a tax on unoccupied property. What about your thrift and self-denial here? Where is the security for thrift in cottage houses? Gone entirely. Mark, it is quite another thing if I had sunk my thrift in a bank or lending member of a building society. There are men being ruined right and left all over the country to-day by the foregoing conditions, and it will be God help this country when the security for accumulated labour is sapped and ruined as it is being in the existing conditions. I read your journal from back to back every week, and I also go to Church as regularly, and I must confess to you I would sooner miss the Church sermon than yours, as you, to my thinking, preach far and away the best, and that must be my excuse for inflicting upon you my foregoing epistle, as I think you are wrong in continually thrashing a dead horse. I most emphatically state that the average working man of Leeds has not paid a penny of the very heavy increase of rates of the last 10 years, and this applies to practically the whole lot, for houses that were 5s. 6d. 10 years ago are more difficult to let to-day at 5s., clear of all rates and taxes; and this is not lies, but fact, which can be proved, and which I will undertake to prove, if necessary.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

JOHN NEWTON SHARP.

Newton Lodge, Potternewton, Leeds,
February 17, 1906.

BAKU RUSSIAN PETROLEUM.

SIR,—In June, 1899, 100 Baku Russian Petroleum Company shares were transferred from Mr. H. N. Gladstone to my wife for £141, and they are now worth £15. The chairman in 1899 was sanguine as to the prospects of the company, but no dividend has been paid since January 7, 1901.

Shareholders have just received from the directors an appeal for their votes at meeting to-morrow, February 19, and accompanying this appeal for confidence is a report of the sub-committee, which speaks of the directors as directing operations "without adequate knowledge." The report otherwise seems to whitewash the promoters and directors in a way that indicates great goodwill and insufficiency of whitewash. Next comes an urgent appeal from Mr. Dvorkovitz, stating that the whole of his allegations are practically confirmed by the report. Then comes a circular from Mr. J. A. Whitty, also condemning the directors' "ignorance and incapacity," and asking for support for a reorganisation scheme.

This matter must concern scores of subscribers to the INVESTORS' REVIEW, so that I am not writing for private advice, but in the hope that you will deal with it as a matter of widespread interest. Is Mr. Dvorkovitz's suggestion that something might be recovered by law practicable? The insolent contempt which the directors show for the intelligence of shareholders makes one hope that such a plan were feasible. I would sup-

port it to the extent of the £15 left me from the shares transferred from Mr. H. N. Gladstone's name. I enclose letter in which he denies that the shares were his personal property.

It seems to me that one of the first things that the Labour Members of the House of Commons should do in the interests of the working classes is to make it by legislation impossible or not worth while to over-capitalise public companies.

In case you may not have seen the documents referred to re the Baku Russian Petroleum, I enclose them.

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD WILSON.

23, Cromer Terrace, Leeds,
February 18, 1906.

Answers to Correspondents.

NEMO.—Both are over-valued if judged by immediate prospects, but the very name of that part of the world seems to dazzle speculators just now, and it is quite possible prices may go higher. The market, however, is entirely at the mercy of a clique, and therefore dangerous.

TIMOTHY.—You need not be in any hurry to sell. The stock has gone down sympathetically, but we think the setback should prove only temporary.

BACHELOR.—(1) The high dividend paid seems to have been possible only by a disregard of the need for adequate reserves, and we should judge that the company is now on the down grade. (2) There is a possibility in these as a speculation, but they are at best a third-rate security.

AUSTRALIAN.—(1) At the meeting held this week the chairman seemed to be thoroughly well satisfied with the position of affairs, and the company ought to do well, at any rate for a few years, until competition becomes more acute. We think the shares should go a little higher yet, and would therefore hold on, but they are, we fear, hardly things to keep. (2) We think you had better take your profit while you can, as a further rise is very doubtful.

INQUIRE.—We fear by joining the reconstruction you would be only throwing good money after bad.

T. R. W.—The company is a prosperous one, and the preference shares are a very fair security yielding about 4½ per cent. at the present price.

MITHRA.—(1) This company has lately shown some improvement, and the management is now good. At the same time the investments are still rather heavily depreciated, and present prices look high enough. There is a speculative possibility, that is all. (2) Highly speculative, and not likely to turn out a satisfying investment. (3) These offer a fair chance if obtained at a reasonable price. (4) It would be a very long lock up, and we do not think the prospects sufficiently attractive. (5) It is very difficult to say, as to answer such a question means forecasting the company's future. There ought to be a fair chance, but it is rather a long look ahead. (6) Yes, they are almost certain to do so. The second part of the question presents a difficulty, but dividends should soon be forthcoming. (7) These shares are a pure speculation. Everything of this kind is now controlled by syndicates whose business it is to rob. (8) These shares have lately risen, and although the company is believed to be doing better they seem high enough, bearing in mind the financial position.

MINING RETURNS.

Brilliant Block Gold.—Crushed 685 tons, 227 ozs.; residues (tailings and concentrates) £720.

Brilliant Extended.—Crushed 3,000 tons, value £7,300; cyanide £470; tailings £466.

Camp Bird.—Crushed 6,829 tons, yielding 7,929 ozs., and approximately 489 tons of concentrates.

Central Chili Copper.—Production of regulus contains 196 tons fine copper; and gold and silver value £718.

Chinese Engineering.—Output of coal, 2,500 tons; sales, 6,000 tons; consumption, 1,425 tons.

Cobar Gold.—Mill 880 tons, 106 ozs.; tailings 760 tons, 183 ozs.; slimes 570 tons, 266 ozs.

Eaglehawk.—Crushed 960 tons, 355 ozs.; 149 ozs. from cyanide.

Esperanza.—Crushed 12,921 tons dry ore; shipped to smelter, 5,529 tons of dry ore; value of bullion, \$124,481; value of concentrates, £45,343; value of ore shipped, \$393,574; total, \$563,398.

Golden Blocks (Taitapu).—Crushed 135 tons, 83 ozs.

Kamfersdam.—Diamonds, 3,946 carats.

Maryborough Leviathan.—Crushed 490 tons, 74 ozs.

Mungana (Chillagoe).—1,145 tons of ore containing 130 tons copper, 19,675 ozs. silver, and 80 tons lead shipped smelting works.

North Broken Hill.—Treated, 1,700 tons, producing 314 tons concentrates containing 217 tons 12 cwt. lead and 5,652 ozs. silver.

Pena Copper.—14,383 tons; shipments of ore, 12,160 tons; 93 tons of fine copper in precipitate.

Tasmania Gold.—Crushed 3,897 tons, 2,403 ozs.; concentrates, 495 tons, 619 ozs.; cyanide, 1,652 tons, 214 ozs.; total, 3,236 ozs.

Victoria Proprietary (1903).—Crushed 675 tons, 216 ozs.

Weardale Lead.—Ore raised, 314 tons; pig lead smelted, 203 tons; average price obtained for lead sold, £15 18s. 10d. per ton nett.

Ymir Gold.—Crushed 1,740 tons, 223 ozs.; concentrates shipped, 124 tons, value \$2,525; cyanide, 1,330 tons; tailings, value \$520.

The recent issue of shares in the Central Insurance Company, Limited, was applied for between four and five times over.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for ten days ended February 7, \$3,750, increase \$1,061.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 19, \$17,428, decrease \$2,004; aggregate from January 1, \$47,567, decrease \$534.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 20, Rs. 64,175, increase Rs. 5,157.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 14, \$79,500, increase \$28,600; total from July 1, \$3,198,300, increase \$736,600.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 20, Rs. 44,078, increase Rs. 1,963.

Midland Uruguay.—Receipts for January £5,106, increase, £85; aggregate for seven months £35,603, decrease £2,122.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 4, £339, increase £6.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 2nd week of February, \$14,024, increase \$3,445; aggregate from January 1, \$89,276, increase \$20,876.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 20, Rs. 7,051, increase Rs. 1,963.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended February 7 amounted to \$5,075.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending February 17, £1,212, increase £31; aggregate from January 1, £8,322, increase £117.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending February 17, £701, increase £41; aggregate from January 1, £4,940, increase £415.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for November, £4,099, decrease £203.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending February 17, £468, increase £35; aggregate from January 1, £3,304, increase £170.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 16, £1,303, increase £147; aggregate from January 1, £9,185, increase £1,513.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 18, £7, increase £1; aggregate from January 1, £45, decrease £1.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 16, £4,574, increase £143; aggregate from January 1, £32,379, increase £1,098.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending February 16, £26,133, increase £3,119; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £180,966, increase £30,675; 435½ miles, against 423.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 17, £1,078, increase £114; aggregate from January 1, £7,582, increase £651.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 18, £91, increase £2; aggregate from January 1, £639, increase £10.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 16, £87, decrease £5; aggregate from January 1, £580, decrease £68.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 16, £4,336, decrease £18; aggregate from January 1, £30,727, increase £949.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 17, £4,350, increase £161; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £32,383, increase £1,607.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 16, £180, decrease £48; aggregate from January 1, £1,323, decrease £208.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 15, £310.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 17, £215, decrease £26; aggregate from October 1, £5,169, decrease £494.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 10, £13,329, increase £467; aggregate from April 1, £661,784, increase £88,050. Miles 52½ against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 17, £19,799, decrease £2,515; aggregate from January 1, £142,683, decrease £6,345.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 17, £6,746, decrease £946; aggregate from January 1, £48,187, decrease £192.

Rosendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 17, £169, decrease £16; aggregate from January 1, £1,316, increase £79.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 18, £810, increase £275; aggregate from January 1, £4,975, increase £1,441.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 18, £14,640, increase £1,842; aggregate from January 1, £102,326, increase £10,416.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of January, 1906, £11,016, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to December 31, \$597,573, increase \$133,652. Nett earnings from July 1 to December 31, \$278,089, increase \$89,167.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending February 18, £3,396, increase £317; aggregate from January 1, £24,578, increase £2,461.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 20, £1,194.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of January, \$292,200.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 17, Rs. 43,349, increase Rs. 4,286; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 3,27,175, increase Rs. 41,222.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, £5,078, increase £2,722. Total to January 31, £5,078, increase £2,722.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of November, \$417,218, increase \$63,017; aggregate from January 1, \$4,320,887, increase \$390,457. Nett traffic receipts, \$226,858, increase \$35,361; aggregate from January 1, \$2,359,439, increase \$272,120.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			No. of Weeks.	Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.			Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Feb. 18	£ 2,126	+	72	7	£ 14,772	+	572
Cambrian	" 18	4,646	—	100	7	32,392	—	550
Central London	" 17	6,976	—	216	7	48,748	—	1,643
City and South London ..	" 18	3,038	+	222	7	21,204	+	208
Furness	" 18	10,087	+	1,261	7	64,956	+	9,204
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 18	69,643	+	2,076	7	484,146	+	20,833
Great Eastern	" 18	93,300	+	200	7	632,400	—	4,600
Great Northern and City ..	" 17	1,796	+	36	7	12,619	+	228
Great Northern	" 17	106,200	+	3,088	7	722,500	+	14,738
Great Western	" 18	209,400	—	1,500	7	1,443,200	—	2,000
Hull and Barnsley ..	" 18	9,362	—	141	7	65,307	+	2,117
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 18	99,658	+	813	7	675,225	+	14,791
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 17	48,849	—	1,611	7	303,232	—	626
London & North Western ..	" 18	260,000	+	6,000	7	1,771,000	+	51,000
London & South Western ..	" 18	78,300	—	2,100	7	538,100	—	108
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 18	7,486	+	86	7	54,713	+	1,980
Metropolitan	" 18	16,352	—	441	7	118,267	—	904
Metropolitan District ..	" 18	8,260	+	105	7	56,838	+	3,113
Midland	" 17	218,558	+	6,440	7	1,503,057	+	39,132
North Eastern	" 17	168,915	+	6,629	7	1,132,698	+	47,987
North London	" 18	8,500	—	248	7	64,646	—	1,046
North Staffordshire ..	" 18	17,627	—	138	7	120,003	+	3,256
Rhymney	" 18	6,158	+	92	7	42,168	+	29
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 17	69,975	—	3,921	7	518,117	—	1,257
Taff Vale	" 18	19,260	+	54	7	134,217	+	3,334

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Feb. 18	79,466	+	244	3	237,654	+	3,466
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 17	30,160	+	454	3	91,197	+	2,004
Great North of Scotland ..	" 17	7,910	—	120	3	23,565	—	86
Highland	" 18	7,708	—	558	3	23,222	—	1,194
North British	" 18	85,276	+	973	3	251,709	+	915

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Feb. 16	2,253	—	258	§	14,921	—	579
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 16	1,243	—	316	§	9,155	—	223
Great Northern	" 16	15,772	—	276	7	107,070	+	404
Midland Great Western ..	" 16	8,462	—	858	§	60,426	—	4,717

§ From January 1.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, Feb. 19.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, Feb. 19.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
3 1/2	Angelo	3 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	May Consolidated	2 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	Anglo-French Ex.	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Apex	4 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Modderfontein	2 1/2	2 1/2
6 1/2	Aurora West	4 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Do. B.	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Bantjes	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	New Goch	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Block B.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	New Primrose	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	City and Suburban, £4	4 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	Comet (New)	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	North Randfontein	2 1/2	2 1/2
5 1/2	Cons. Goldfields	5 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Pref.	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Crown Reef	12 1/2	12 1/2	6 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	6 1/2	6 1/2
2 1/2	Driefontein	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	3 1/2	3 1/2	8	Robinson Gold, £4	8	8
5 1/2	East Rand	5 1/2	5 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	East Rand Extension	1 1/2	1 1/2	2	Roodpoort United	2	2
1 1/2	Ferreira	18 1/2	18 1/2	1 1/2	Salisbury	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	French Rand	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2	Sheba (New)	7 1/2	7 1/2
2 1/2	Geuld	2 1/2	3	1 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Geldenhuis Estate	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	3 1/2	3 1/2
3 1/2	Ginsburg	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Steyn Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Glencarm	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Development	1 1/2	1 1/2
7 1/2	Harmony Proprietary	9 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Henderson's Transvaal	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Treasury	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Heriot	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Van Ryn	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Johannesburg Con. In.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Jubilee	2 1/2	2 1/2	4	Welgeacht	4	4
1 1/2	Lumpers	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Wenimer	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Kleinfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	West Rand Consols	2 1/2	2 1/2
3 1/2	Knight's	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Woluter, £4	2 1/2	2 1/2
3 1/2	Lancaster	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Worcester	2 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	Langlaagte Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2			

DEEP LEVELS.

1 1/2	Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bonanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Cinderella Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Robinson Deep (new)	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Crown Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Roodpoort Cn. Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
7 1/2	Deep	7 1/2	7 1/2	4 1/2	South Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
7 1/2	Geldenhuis Deep	7 1/2	7 1/2	4 1/2	Village Main Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2
2 1/2	Knight's Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	Nigel Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2			

DIAMONDS.

8 1/2	De Beers Deferred	18 1/2	18 1/2	7 1/2	Koffyfontein	7 1/2	7 1/2
8 1/2	Do. Preferred	18 1/2	18 1/2	2 1/2	Lace Diamond	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Eland's Drift Diamond	4 1/2	4 1/2	8 1/2	Orange Free State	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	Frank Smith Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2	9 1/2	Diamond	9 1/2	9 1/2
8 1/2	Jagersfontein Deferred	8 1/2	8 1/2	7 1/2	Premier Diamond Def.	7 1/2	7 1/2
4 1/2	Do. Preferred	4 1/2	4 1/2	7 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	7 1/2	7 1/2
8 1/2	Kamlersdam	8 1/2	8 1/2	7 1/2			

RHODESIANS.

1 1/2	Bechuanaand Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Rhodesia Exploration	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Charter Trust and Agency	13 1/2	13 1/2	1 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	5	Selukwe	5	5
1 1/2	Lomagunda Development	1 1/2	1 1/2	10 1/2	Tanganyika	10 1/2	10 1/2
1 1/2	Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wankie Coal	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Willoughby	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2		1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2

WEST AFRICAN.

1 1/2	Abontiakoon	18 1/2	17 1/2	10 1/2	Gold Coast Agency, new	10 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Ankobra	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau)	6 1/2	6 1/2
3 1/2	Ashanti Consols, 2/- paid	3 1/2	3 1/2	6 1/2	Deep	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Goldfields	13 1/2	11 1/2	6 1/2	Goldfields East'n Akim	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Sansu	6 1/2	5 1/2	14 1/2	Himan Concessions	14 1/2	14 1/2
1 1/2	Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Obuassai Syndicate	2 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	British Gold Coast	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2	Prestea	8 1/2	8 1/2
2 1/2	Broomassie	27 1/2	30 1/2	1 1/2	Sekondi and Tarkwa	1 1/2	1 1/2
6 1/2	Efuenta (Wassau)	7 1/2	6 1/2	2 1/2	Taqah and Abosso	2 1/2	2 1/2
14 1/2	Fanti Consolidated	15 1/2	14 1/2	1 1/2	Wassau	1 1/2	1 1/2
				3 1/2	W. A. Gold Trust	3 1/2	3 1/2

AUSTRALIAN.

1 1/2	Anglo-Aus. Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2	Ida H.	7 1/2	7 1/2
2 1/2	Associated	2 1/2	2 1/2	6 1/2	Ivanhoe Gold Corp.	6 1/2	6 1/2
2 1/2	Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2	Ivanhoe South	7 1/2	7 1/2
3 1/2	Bellevue Proprietary	3 1/2	3 1/2	8 1/2	Kalgarli	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	Boulder Deep Levels	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 1/2
8 1/2	Brownhill Extended	8 1/2	8 1/2	1 1/2	Lancefield	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Chaffers 4/-	2 1/2	2 1/2	12 1/2	London & W.A. Explor.	12 1/2	12 1/2
5 1/2	Comopl'n Pr'p'ty	7 1/2	6 1/2	4 1/2	Mount Boppy	4 1/2	4 1/2
5 1/2	Golden Horseshoe, New	5 1/2	5 1/2	2 1/2	North Kalgarli	2 1/2	2 1/2
3 1/2	Golden Links	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	2 1/2	2 1/2
3 1/2	Golden Pole	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Peak Hill	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Great Boulder, 2/-	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	South Kalgarli	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Perseverance	11 1/2	11 1/2	1 1/2	Sons of Gwalia	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Great Fingall	5 1/2	5 1/2	2 1/2	W. A. Goldfields	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	W'st'ria Mt. Morgans	2 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	Hampton Plains	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2			
2 1/2	Hannan's Star	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2			

MISCELLANEOUS.

14 1/2	Anaconda, 25 dols.	14 1/2	14 1/2	3 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	3 1/2	3 1/2
32 1/2	Balaghat, full paid	33 1/2	44 1/2	4 1/2	Mount Lyell	4 1/2	4 1/2
12 1/2	Brilliant and St. George	12 1/2	11 1/2	3 1/2	M't. Morgan	3 1/2	3 1/2
4 1/2	Broken Hill, Prop.	3 1/2	3 1/2	7 1/2	Mysore, 10s.	7 1/2	7 1/2
4 1/2	Camp Bird	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Mysore Goldfields, 15/-	2 1/2	2 1/2
24 1/2	Cape Copper, £2	5 1/2	4 1/2	12 1/2	Do. West, 19/-	12 1/2	12 1/2
4 1/2	Champion Reef, 10s.	24 1/2	25 1/2	12 1/2	Do. Wynaad, 19/-	12 1/2	12 1/2
2 1/2	Con. Gold N.Z.	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Namaqua, £2	4 1/2	4 1/2
2 1/2	Copapo, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Nile Valley	6 1/2	6 1/2
2 1/2	Coromandel 19/6 pd.	3 1/2	2 1/2	28 1/2	N'ndydroog, 10/- shares	28 1/2	28 1/2
4 1/2	Esperanza	4 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	Ooregum	16 1/2	16 1/2
1 1/2	Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
10 1/2	Frontino and Bolivia	11 1/2	11 1/2	65 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	65 1/2	65 1/2
2 1/2	Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	10 1/2	St. John del Rey	10 1/2	10 1/2
2 1/2	Do. (No. 2)	2 1/2	2 1/2	5 1/2	Tharsis	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Libiola, £5	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2	Waili	7 1/2	7 1/2
5 1/2	Linares, £3	5 1/2	5 1/2	7 1/2	Ymir	7 1/2	7 1/2

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904-5.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904-5.	
Alcoy and Gandia	Feb. 17	Ps. 20,000	+ Ps. 2,000	** Ps. 126,400	- 13,500	
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia	Jan. 17	\$88,867	+ \$30,059	** \$88,867	+ \$30,059	
Argentine Gt. Western	Feb. 16	14,397	+ 1,940	** 412,201	+ 71,283	
Algeiras (Gibraltar)	Feb. 3	Ps. 30,451	+ Ps. 1,276	** Ps. 998,874	- Ps. 78,660	
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	" 17	35,900	+ 10,011	** 928,400	+ 262,826	
Buenos Ayres & Ros'c and Cen. Argentine	" 17	98,946	+ 14,239	** 541,080	+ 46,035	
Buenos Ayres G. Stn.	" 18	87,365	+ 10,507	** 2,331,946	+ 392,470	
Do. Western	" 18	35,855	+ 179	** 1,032,900	+ 144,307	
Do. Ensenada	" 18	368	+ 53	** 11,283	+ 414	
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	" 17	9,423	+ 1,651	** 270,841	+ 4,961	
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 17	2,557	+ 894	** 64,256	- 945	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 17	1,194	- 74	** 36,876	- 6,441	
Do. Western Ex.	" 17	1,291	- 175	** 38,988	+ 4,546	
Cordoba Central	" 18	3,100	+ 570	** 21,430	+ 4,170	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 18	7,075	+ 1,700	** 44,410	+ 10,720	
Do. N. W. Argtn. Ex.	" 18	1,790	+ 650	** 10,395	+ 2,725	
Cordoba and Rosario	" 18	4,235	- 2025	** 149,320	+ 1,040	
Costa Rica	" 17	7,574	- 1,705	** 148,524	+ 18,318	
Cuban Central	" 17	12,239	+ 405	** 188,820	+ 7,195	
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 17	12,800	+ 2,965	** 81,869	+ 19,402	
Entre Rios	" 17	6,287	+ 285	** 114,845	+ 15,653	
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico	" 14	\$120,300	+ \$1,050	** \$3,687,490	+ \$111,220	
Leopoldina	" 17	9,029	- 6,337	** 85,376	- 23,622	
Mexican	Dec. 3	\$562,100	+ \$85,100	** \$3,161,900	+ \$207,960	
Mexican	Feb. 14	\$134,200	- \$1,000	** \$840,700	+ \$46,000	
Do. Southern	" 21	\$28,220	+ \$5950	** \$174,940	+ \$15,151	
Do. Central	Nov. 3	\$2,171,540	+ \$161,537	** \$112,044	+ \$974,067	
Do. Do.	" 1	\$549,406	+ \$48,619	** \$3,374,035	+ \$362,177	
Manila	Feb. 17	\$35,447	- 2,862	** \$26,957	+ \$377	
Nitrato	Jan. 31	25,777	- 2,863	** 530,304	+ 97,308	
Ottoman	Feb. 17	3,994	- 1,017	** 31,143	- 1,286	
Peruvian Corporation	Jan. 17	\$603,400	+ \$90,725	** \$4,462,075	+ \$551,300	
San Paulo	Feb. 11	24,035	+ 1,828	** 107,840	+ 6,528	
Salvador	" 17	\$49,000	+ \$21,500	** 374,814	+ 72,951	
United of Havana	" 17	25,734	+ 9,033	** 8,604	+ 1,115	
Villa Maria & Rufino	" 17	1,471	- 100	** 138,410	- 2,402	
Western of Havana	" 17	3,837	- 168	** 138,410	- 2,402	

* Month ended. † Fortnight ended. ‡ Nett § From July 1, 1905.

** From January 1, 1906.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.	
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Established 1824.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Assets over 4 MILLIONS Sterling.

The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

THE SURPLUS DIVIDED WAS **£597,415.**

Chief Office:

15, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,
LONDON, S.W.W. J. H. WHITTALL,
Actuary.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

TOTAL FUNDS NEARLY **£6,000,000**FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE
MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Please apply for particulars to

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.

London: 3, King William Street, E.C.

The Central Insurance Company, Ltd.

CHAIRMAN: WALTER CHAMBERLAIN, J.P.

Total Security to Policy-Holders over £1,000,000.

FIRE. ACCIDENT. BURGLARY.

NON-CONTENTIOUS POLICY CONDITIONS.

Head Office: 12-13, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.

HUGH LEWIS, General Manager.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE $\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent.
on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

It begins to look as if the worst of the Money market stringency were over. All this week, however, credit jobbers have had a rough time of it, and the Bank of England has been completely master over current quotations. It was hoped that when on Wednesday the Bank repaid its borrowings from the market credits would ease, or at any rate that the market would be able to use the money to reduce its indebtedness to the Bank on other securities. The reverse happened, and not only did the market have to re-borrow all it had contracted to pay off on that day out of the money released by the Bank, but it considerably added to its already existing debt there. The Bank return, however, indicated that the market had over-estimated the amount which the Bank had removed from the market. The Government securities of the banking department have increased only £2,550,000, instead of £4,000,000 as estimated. Altogether the market received during the week upwards of £6,000,000 through this Bank repayment, through its additional borrowings of £1,511,000 on other securities, and through an increase in the reserve of £2,063,000, but of the total £3,148,000 was swept up by the Exchequer, so that other deposits rose only £2,979,000.

The total of the Bank's other securities is now nearly £36,000,000, and any release of balances by the Exchequer will have to be first used in reducing this debt. Nevertheless, we think the supply of credit in the open market should now be on the average of days more plentiful. Rates

eased down this afternoon, but that was simply because the Stock Exchange payments had been completed, releasing balances, and because the North-Western and De Beers dividends, aggregating upwards of £3,000,000 were dispersed this morning. To-morrow more than £2,000,000 will be paid out in Midland Railway dividends, and this will all help the market at the end of the month. Also the Exchequer must now begin to pay out, or very early in next week at latest, and although its balances may rise above this week's figure of £16,810,000, they cannot in ordinary course go much higher, and ought to begin to diminish long before March has run its course. In other words, the Exchequer cannot leave its payments to the very last days of the final month of the fiscal year. For these reasons, and because gold is coming in from various quarters in a fashion now satisfactory, £1,299,000 nett having been received during the last Bank week, we look for diminished tension and some chance of profit to the discount houses, who thus far in 1906 have had everything against them.

Evidently the market is also inclined to take this view, because, although leading bill brokers are unwilling to admit lower quotations, it is only thirty and sixty-day Bank bills which cannot be freely discounted at rates sensibly below $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The rate on full three months' paper of this class is not better than $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., and holders of Eastern bills claim to be getting their paper disposed of at $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. If, therefore, we call the general working rate $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., we shall be nearer the mark than if we give the high quotation of $3\frac{1}{2}$, which is really above the market. Short loans commanded $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. this morning, whether for the day or seven days, and the moderate amount due at the Bank was renewed. In the afternoon, however, balances were offered till to-morrow at $3\frac{1}{2}$ and sometimes even 3 per cent. Earlier in the week call money has often been $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

These last two days large parcels of gold have been received from a source unknown. Yesterday the amount was £364,000, and to-day it was £362,000, making in all £726,000. Some say this metal came from Holland, but the Dutch exchange does not indicate any such disturbance as the transmission of so large a sum from that quarter would have caused. Others say it is gold from India, but the bullion brokers really do not seem to know, and it may be metal gathered from many quarters by the Rothschilds. About £600,000 raw gold is due in on Monday. Most of that will probably go to the Bank, as the price of bars in the open market is to-day quoted $\frac{1}{2}$ d. down at 77s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. Foreign exchanges, too, are more favourable, and do not point to any great demand upon the Bank's stock. That has now risen to £36,013,000, an increase of £1,908,000 on the week, of which nearly £680,000 came back from the internal circulation. By and by the circulation will expand again, but if in the meantime the arrivals from abroad are piled up at the Bank our market will soon be in a position to face spring demands and unforeseen contingencies with greater equanimity than has been possible any time this last three months.

SILVER.

The Indian Government has had very little outside demand to compete with in the silver market, but its requirements have been so large that prices of the metal have never gone back very far during the week. Quotations did dip to 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. for cash, and 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. for future shipment on Tuesday, but recovered on a resumption of local buying, and the market closed firm at 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. respectively. Tenders for Rs. 1,20,00,000 Council drafts in India on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 4,39,70,000, of which Rs. 3,63,70,000 were in bills and Rs. 76,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 92,76,000 were allotted in bills and Rs. 27,24,000 in transfers, applications at 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per rupee respectively receiving about 35 per cent. Next week the amount to be offered is reduced to Rs. 1,00,00,000.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, February 21, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Note Issued	£	Government Debt	£
.. .. . 52,707,585		.. .. . 11,015,100	
		Other Securities 7,434,900	
		Gold Coin and Bullion 34,257,585	
		Silver Bullion —	
	£52,707,585		£52,707,585

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£	Government Securities	£
Proprietors' Capital 14,553,000		.. .. . 15,228,867	
Rest 3,626,153		Other Securities 35,836,784	
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) 16,809,530		Notes 24,799,305	
Other Deposits 42,533,221		Gold and Silver Coin 1,755,386	
Seven Day and other Bills 98,431			
	£77,620,342		£77,620,342

Dated February 22, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. Feb. 22		Feb. 14, 1906.	Feb. 21, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
5,530,717	Rest	3,607,455	3,626,153	18,698	—
10,430,403	Pub. Deposits	13,661,795	16,809,530	3,147,735	—
38,612,289	Other do.	39,553,799	42,533,221	2,979,422	—
102,316	7 Day Bills	119,937	98,438	—	21,499
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,603,585	Gov. Securities	12,678,867	15,228,867	—	2,550,000
27,308,787	Other do.	34,325,615	35,836,784	—	1,511,169
30,316,353	Total Reserve	24,491,504	26,554,691	—	2,063,187
				6,145,855	6,145,855
				Increase.	Decrease.
£		£	£	£	£
26,986,870	Note Circulation	28,063,840	27,908,280	—	155,560
35,853,223	Coin and Bullion	34,135,344	36,012,971	1,907,627	—
55 p.c.	Proportion	46 p.c.	44½ p.c.	—	1½ p.c.
3 "	Bank Rate	4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £1,229,000 in.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders for £2,000,000 in six months' Treasury Bills were received at the Bank of England on Wednesday, when the amount applied for was £4,019,000. Applications at £98 12s. 2d. got 48 per cent., the average rate being £2 13s. 8½d. per cent.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
2,000,000	3 months	Mar. 7	3 1 8
2,000,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
1,800,000	6 months	June 1	3 2 6
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	3 2 0
11,200,000	—	—	—
1,000,000	6 months	June 29	2 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 12	2 10 8
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 26	2 13 8
19,833,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	155,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,366,000	215,590,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
July	1,003,888,000	830,361,000	173,527,000	—
August	1,098,366,000	945,164,000	153,202,000	—
September	879,323,000	678,546,000	200,777,000	—
October	1,006,632,000	861,123,000	145,509,000	—
November	1,187,821,000	1,117,870,000	69,951,000	—
December	979,424,000	817,877,000	161,547,000	—
Total for year	12,253,307,000	10,459,068,000	1,794,239,000	—
	1906	1905		
Jan. 3	340,266,000	276,940,000	63,326,000	—
" 10	228,921,000	215,482,000	13,439,000	—
" 17	287,646,000	254,259,000	33,387,000	—
" 24	214,923,000	186,205,000	28,718,000	—
" 31	289,938,000	300,388,000	—	10,450,000
" 7	231,817,000	206,614,000	25,203,000	—
" 14	271,821,000	259,450,000	12,371,000	—
" 21	213,118,000	199,865,000	13,253,000	—
	2,078,356,000	1,899,463,000	178,893,000	—

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Feb. 17.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs	National Debt Services ..
Excise	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties	Charges
Stamps	Payments to Local
Land Tax and House Duty	tion
Property and Income Tax	Supply Services
Post Office	Bullion Advances
Telegraphs	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds redeemed
Miscellaneous	Uganda Railway
Bullion advances repaid	Military Works
Uganda Railway	Naval Works
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts
count	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts	ings)
Naval Works Acts	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts	Act
Land Registry Acts	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Act
Public Offices Site (Dublin)	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Issue of Exchequer Bonds	in reduction of debt
under Conard Agreement Act	Cunard Agreement
Ways and Means	Surplus Revenue, 1904-5
Temporary Advances Defi-	Deficiency Advances
ciency	repaid
Suez Canal Drawn Shares	Ways and Means Advances
Issue of Exchequer Bonds	repaid
Transvaal and Orange River	Increase in Exchequer
Colony. Repayment of	balances
Temporary Advance	
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	
tion payments	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	
£4,487,580	£4,487,580

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.		WITHDRAWALS.	
Saturday, Australia ..	£807,000	Saturday, S. America ..	£50,000
Monday, Constantinople ..	30,000	Thursday, Gibraltar ..	10,000
Tuesday, Bars	32,000	" S. America ..	420,000
Wednesday, Bars ..	160,000		
" Paris	5,000		
Thursday, Bars	364,000		
" Holland	53,000		
Friday, Bars	362,000		
" Holland	31,000		
Total	£1,844,000	Net Influx	1,364,000
		Total ..	£1,844,000

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'16	25'15½	Antwerp	short	25'21	25'22½
Brussels	chqs.	25'21	25'21½	Italy	sight	45'16	25'16
Amsterdam	sight	12'14½	12'14½	Constantinople	3 mths	110'25	110'22
Berlin	chqs.	20'51	20'50½	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	17'12½	16'12½
Hamburg	chqs.	20'30	20'30	Valparaiso	90 dys	13'12½	14'12½
Frankfurt	short	20'49	20'47½	Calcutta	T.T.	1'43½	1'43½
Vienna	sight	24'05½	24'05½	Bombay	T.T.	1'43½	1'43½
St. Petersburg	3 mths	94'10	94'10	Hong Kong	T.T.	2'08	2'08
New York	60 dys	4'83½	4'82½	Shanghai	T.T.	2'10½	2'10½
Lisbon	sight	50'11	51'11	Singapore	T.T.	2'48	2'48
Madrid	sight	30'35	29'90	Yokohama	4 mths	2'08	2'08

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.	
			Last Week.	Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	2½	2½
Berlin	5	December 11, 1905	3½	3½
Hamburg	5	December 11, 1905	3½	3½
Frankfort	5	December 11, 1905	3½	3½
Amsterdam	5	November, 1905	2½	2½
Brussels	4	October 30, 1905	3½	3½
Vienna	4½	October, 1905	4	4½
Rome	5	September, 1904	4½	4½
St. Petersburg	8	January, 1906	7	7
Madrid	4½	August 21, 1901	4	4
Lisbon	5½	January 11, 1899	5	5
Stockholm	5	January, 1906	4½	4½
Copenhagen	5	October, 1905	4½	4½
Calcutta	9	February 1, 1906	—	—
Bombay	9	February 1, 1906	—	—
New York call money	3	—	—	—

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Feb. 22, 1906.	Feb. 15, 1906.	Feb. 8, 1906.	Feb. 23, 1905.
Gold in hand	£114,407,920	£113,834,960	£113,926,680	£112,837,200
Silver in hand	42,385,560	42,226,520	42,325,720	44,129,880
Bills discounted	33,977,840	35,265,000	36,837,040	23,806,200
Advances	19,368,000	19,829,960	20,092,200	19,339,000
Note circulation	186,623,960	188,776,400	189,458,400	172,328,440
Public deposits	7,808,400	8,187,920	8,363,160	10,213,000
Private deposits	21,670,120	19,895,800	21,038,040	23,322,840

Proportion between bullion and circulation 34 per cent. against cent. a week ago.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Feb. 15, 1906.	Feb. 7, 1906.	Jan. 31, 1906.	Feb. 15, 1905.
Cash in hand ..	£ 49,810,700	£ 47,917,050	£ 47,711,900	£ 55,514,400
Bills discounted ..	38,717,900	39,580,500	42,248,350	33,005,850
Advances on stocks ..	3,038,850	2,730,850	3,580,600	2,498,700
Note circulation ..	61,742,250	63,949,000	66,217,150	59,732,900
Public deposits ..	27,637,100	24,851,800	25,281,000	27,343,050

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Feb. 15, 1906.	Feb. 8, 1906.	Feb. 1, 1906.	Feb. 16, 1905.
Coin and bullion ..	£ 5,710,080	£ 5,758,440	£ 5,253,320	£ 4,784,080
Other securities ..	23,133,600	23,590,200	24,188,600	22,652,080
Note circulation ..	27,735,800	27,540,080	28,351,320	26,229,360
Deposits ..	3,527,520	4,214,400	3,447,960	3,048,360

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Jan. 23/Feb. 6, 1906.	Jan. 16/29, 1906.	Jan. 8/21, 1906.	Feb. 1/14, 1905.
Gold ..	£ 73,113,527	£ 72,613,354	£ 71,709,079	£ 89,291,736
Silver and subsidiary coin ..	3,601,959	3,499,815	3,418,353	6,146,311
Advances and bills discounted ..	64,498,337	65,749,600	67,992,874	39,602,451
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	7,576,013	7,147,065	7,486,374	5,323,742
Notes in circulation ..	117,384,611	117,126,734	118,572,677	89,467,258
Deposits and current account ..	45,056,642	45,740,721	44,360,221	50,914,876
Treasury account ..	13,731,852	7,279,695	8,774,439	11,522,581

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Feb. 17, 1906.	Feb. 10, 1906.	Feb. 3, 1906.	Feb. 18, 1905.
Gold ..	£ 15,063,126	£ 15,059,013	£ 15,051,920	£ 14,996,916
Silver ..	23,280,177	23,124,095	23,212,110	20,368,178
Foreign Bills ..	32,390,672	3,104,237	3,071,677	1,660,892
Discount and Short Bills ..	47,448,095	46,910,602	46,924,902	50,866,364
Treasury Account ..	20,439,497	20,444,378	20,457,995	21,362,760
Notes in circulation ..	62,096,268	62,375,010	62,112,477	64,215,416
Current Account deposits ..	23,462,835	23,555,930	23,290,441	25,740,345
Dividends Interest ..	1,406,272	2,326,043	3,570,249	2,766,737
Government Securities ..	6,312,806	6,205,400	7,003,992	3,572,463

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Feb. 15, 1906.	Feb. 7, 1906.	Jan. 31, 1906.	Feb. 15, 1905.
Gold Reserve ..	£ 45,773,458	£ 45,463,250	£ 45,338,291	£ 48,224,333
Silver reserve ..	12,606,916	12,494,041	12,463,833	12,701,291
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	1,601,791	1,762,333	1,793,541	1,846,458
Note circulation ..	67,680,750	69,688,416	71,439,125	64,461,666
Bills discounted ..	15,953,000	18,566,541	20,100,166	12,078,583

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Feb. 17, 1906.	Feb. 10, 1906.	Feb. 3, 1906.	Feb. 18, 1905.
Specie ..	£ 37,702,000	£ 38,178,000	£ 38,493,000	£ 44,190,000
Legal tenders ..	15,887,600	16,057,400	16,797,200	17,278,000
Loans and discounts ..	210,480,000	212,400,000	211,480,000	227,200,000
Circulation ..	10,195,200	10,290,000	10,395,800	8,570,400
Net deposits ..	209,720,000	212,200,000	212,280,000	238,520,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of nett deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £1,159,600 against an excess last week of £1,185,400.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Feb. 13.	Feb. 15.	Feb. 20.	Feb. 22.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam ..	short	12'3	12'3	12'3	12'3
Do. ..	3 months	12'5	12'5	12'5	12'5
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'47½	25'47½	25'47½	25'47½
Hamburg ..	3 months	20'71	20'71	20'71	20'71
Berlin & German B. Places ..	3 months	20'71	20'71	20'71	20'71
Paris ..	cheques	25'16½	25'16½	25'16½	25'16½
Do. ..	3 months	25'35	25'35	25'35	25'35
Marseilles ..	3 months	25'35	25'35	25'35	25'35
Switzerland ..	3 months	25'51½	25'50	25'50	25'50
Austria ..	3 months	24'35	24'36	24'36	24'36
St. Petersburg ..	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow ..	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'48½	25'47½	25'48½	25'48½
New York ..	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P. ..	3 months	38½	38½	40½	40½
Lisbon ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen ..	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'45	18'45
Christiania ..	3 months	18'46	18'46	18'46	18'46
Stockholm ..	3 months	18'46	18'46	18'46	18'46

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills ..	3½-4
Three months ..	3½-3¾
Four months ..	3½-3¾
Six months ..	3½-3¾
Three months fine inland bills ..	4-4½
Four months ..	4-4½
Six months ..	4-4½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	4
short loan rates ..	4½
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	2½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	3
7 and 14 days' notice ..	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	4
for call loans ..	4

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Considerable surprise has been felt this week at the apparent ease with which the Stock Exchange settlement payments went through. There is ground for this surprise, but not for the inference that all must therefore be well with the market. Instead of the paucity of failures being a proof that this is so, it should be taken as a warning. If the open account in the Kaffir Circus had been widely spread, and large numbers of brokers and jobbers involved in it, there would have been more failures. As it is, the absence of any impressive instances of insolvency merely proves that finance corporations, trusts, bucket shops, and banks are sufferers. They have to endure the brunt of the fall in quotations, and must bear it all without hope of relief. In other words, the hiding away of losses is ominous of the existence of a growing mass of concealed insolvency, which, in spite of every device, must one day come to the surface. We should have been more comfortable about the future of the market if there had been a crop of moderate failures at every one of the settlements this year. The absence of such is a sinister omen for the future; therefore we must continue to warn the public off South African mine shares. If an upward reaction forces prices up through the closing of accounts open for the fall, the outside holder ought still to take advantage of the rise and sell out. Prices on the average and almost without exception are still too high in this class of market plaything for anybody who cares to preserve his capital intact or who seeks a reasonable interest upon his investments.

Of the other sections of the market we have nothing new to say, and space does not permit any lengthened argument this week, but it is worthy of notice that the new companies coming out in considerable numbers do not appear to be finding favour with investing classes. We hear in various quarters of underwriters getting "stuck," as the phrase is, with the greater part of the new company capital offered to the public. This is a wholesome sign, quite as it should be, for all but a very small proportion of the new companies offered are more or less unfairly capitalised, and, therefore, not safe investments, often hardly promising objects of speculation. If the average promoter is not to be cured of his indiscriminate and insatiable esurience by the prevalence of a higher standard of business morality, it is well that his efforts should meet with scanty success when he contrives plots to draw money out of the pockets of the public. It is a public beginning to learn by bitter experience, and were it wise, as most of it is not, it would never touch any new security without first seeing what this newspaper says about it. We, at least, speak without prejudice, with nothing to gain, and often much to lose, by endeavouring to tell the truth. But what a nice rubbish heap of insolvency the underwriting industry is now piling up for itself.

The Week's Stock Markets.

This has been rather a troublesome week on the Stock Exchange owing chiefly to the further severe slump in Kaffir shares, and pay-day was looked forward to with a good deal of anxiety. It was known that sundry firms would experience considerable difficulty in meeting their engagements, and although only two small men actually went under, it was necessary to render a lot of assistance in order to prevent further open defaults. These accounts, now temporarily bridged over, must remain a source of weakness for some time, and, notwithstanding that prices were

disposed to rally when the settlement was concluded with comparative comfort, markets are obviously dangerous to touch just now. Pessimistic stories concerning the progress of the Algeciras Conference also had a depressing influence, and if the statements in the foreign press are to be believed, the prospects of an amicable arrangement are anything but bright. It is becoming increasingly difficult to keep up the inflation of Yankee shares, and wise people are taking note of the enormous bond issues lately launched or to be put out shortly. These are estimated at the tremendous figure of \$1,300,000,000, and when interest has to be provided on this vast sum of money the results may be surprising. Domestic politics cannot be said to have exercised much influence, the King's speech being much as expected, and no one took notice of a silly statement in one of the half-penny evening sheets about Cabinet dissensions over the Chinese labour question. Consols, after opening firm, fell away when all markets were in the dumps, but recovered again and closed only slightly easier on balance. Other British funds followed the lead, and Home County and Corporation and Colonial Inscribed stocks were steady to firm. Rand Water Board stock was rather flat in sympathy with Kaffirs. The underwriters were called upon to take about 60 per cent. of the Hong Kong loan which closes at a small discount. Colonial stocks were carried over at 4½-5½ per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS (Last year's dividends are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
90½	89	Consols (2½ p.c. Money)	90½	90½
90½	89½	Do. Account (Mar. 1)	90½	90½
89½	88½	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905	89½	89½
100½	100	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907	100	100
92½	90½	Irish Land (2½)	91½	91½
100½	99	Local Loans (3)	100	100
99½	98½	National War Loan (2½ p.c.)	99	99
99½	98½	Do. Account (Mar. 1)	99½	99
100½	99½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.)	100½	99½
295½	293	Bk. of England Stk. (9 p.c.)	295½	296½
106½	104½	India 3½ p.c. Stk. red. 1931	106½	106½
97½	96	Do. 3 p.c. Stk. red. 1948	97½	97½
81½	79½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stk. red. 1926	81½	81½
66½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper	66½	66½

The Foreign Bond market was still very quiet, and prices were usually rather dull. The absence of reassuring news regarding the Moroccan business kept most Continental stocks heavy, although Russians were disposed to improve. Japanese gave way slightly on the issue of the new internal loan, but Chinese recovered, after their recent weakness. Apart from Chilians, which still kept somewhat heavy, in anticipation of the early issue of the new railway loan, leading South Americans were stronger and sundry Argentines and Brazilians marked small rises. Buenos Ayres Cédulas, however, went back sharply on the admission of the Defence Committee that prospects of an early settlement are poor. They recovered again before the close on the circulation of the usual rumour that negotiations had been resumed. After some fluctuation Peruvians ended lower, and Central Americans were a little dull. The continuation charge on the South American group of securities was 4 to 6 per cent., Peruvian debentures and most Japanese being carried over at the same rate. Peruvian preferred and ordinary and Central American securities cost a little more, but rates were still easy on Continentals, Russians being done at 2 to 3 per cent., Spanish at 1 to 3 per cent., and Turkish "even." On the fortnight Argentines and Brazilians usually showed slight gains, but Chilians lost 1 to 2. Colombian were down ¾, French 3 per cent. lost ½, Greeks ¼ to 1½, Mexicans ½ to ¾, and Russians 1. Japanese showed irregular movements, but Spanish were up ¾ and Turkish ¾.

Scotch stocks have been prominent in the Home Railway market on the long-expected issue of new capital by the Caledonian company, which takes the shape of 4 per cent. convertible preference stock. The amount is £1,427,750, which is offered to existing shareholders at a premium of 10 per cent. in the proportion of £14 for each £200 held, and is payable in full by March 26. For some time past Caledonian issues have been thrown on the market freely, and it

was assumed that the selling was due to "bears" preparing for the new issue, but the position disclosed at the settlement on Tuesday dispelled this idea. Had the fall been due to mere "bear" operations there would have been a scarcity of stock, and carrying over charges would have been light, but the very reverse happened. Stock was in such ample supply that the contango rose to 11 per cent., and dealers were forced to the conclusion that one or more Scotch banks had

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
103½	102½	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886	103	103
101½	100	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly.	101	101
103½	100½	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c.	102½	102
93½	89½	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission	93½	93½
92½	89½	Do. 4 p.c. 1897	91½	91½
92½	90	Do. 4 p.c. 1899	91½	91½
104½	101½	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres	104	104
90½	86½	5 p.c. Debs.	89½	89½
102½	97½	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889	102	102
105	103½	Do. Western of Minas Rail	104½	104½
89½	86½	5 p.c. Funding	89	89½
102½	100	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees	101½	101
97½	96	1902	96	94
97½	96	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892	96	95
96	92½	Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885	96	94
101½	99½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1886	100	99
99	96	Do. 4½ p.c. 1895	98½	98½
105½	103½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896	104½	104½
104½	102½	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver	104	103½
101½	99	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold	99½	98½
105½	102½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold	102	101
52½	52½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1898, Gold	53	53
43½	42½	Do. 3 p.c. Imp. Rail.	43	42½
46½	44½	Costa Rica A	45	44½
108½	106½	Do. B	107½	108
105½	104½	Colombian External	105	105½
102½	101½	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904	102½	102½
104½	103½	Egypt Unified 4 p.c.	104	104
88½	87½	Do. 3½ p.c. pref.	88	88
52½	50	Do. 4½ p.c. State Domain	51½	52½
41½	39½	German 3 p.c.	41½	42
50½	49½	Greek, 1884	50	51
95½	94½	Do. Monopoly Loan	95½	95
104½	103½	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes	104½	104½
102½	100½	Do. Funding	102	102
104	100½	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881	103	103
91½	89½	Italian 5 p.c.	90½	90
103½	102	Japan 5 p.c.	103	103
105	101½	Do. 1901-2	104	104
69½	68½	Do. 4 p.c. sterling	69	69½
86½	84½	Do. 6 p.c.	84½	84½
82	80	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899	81	81
94½	93½	Portuguese 3 p.c. New	93½	93
102½	101½	Russian 4 p.c. 1889	102½	102½
105	103½	Servian 4 p.c.	104½	104½
92½	90½	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed)	92½	93½
73½	70½	Turks 3½ p.c. Tribute	71½	71½
98½	94½	Do. 4 p.c. Defence	97½	97½
54½	50½	Do. 4 p.c. Unified	50½	50½
		Uruguay 3½ p.c.		
		Do. 5 p.c.		
		Venezuelan, 1881		

been compelled to unload by the troubles in the Kaffir Circus. A big drop in North British stocks was obviously due to the same cause, and although a report was started that the Government had decided to abandon Rosyth as a naval base, it did not gain much credence. The rest of the market was comparatively idle, and inclined to be weak, owing to the nervousness caused by the reports from Algeciras, but the "heavy" stocks hardened in the beginning of the week on the announcement made by the chairman of the North-Western and Midland companies at their respective meetings that the two companies had come to an agreement to reduce competition as much as possible, and a good part of the early improvement was held to the end. As mentioned above, the charge for carrying over Caledonian deferred on Tuesday was very heavy, and the contango on Dover "A" was also stiff, but this was partly due to the fact that the new stock issued last year can now be delivered. In other respects the arrangement of the account presented no particular difficulty, and rates were much about the same as last time, at 5½ to 6½, and occasionally 7 per cent. On the fortnight North-Western and Furness were 1½ up, and North-Eastern, Great Central preferred, and City and South London rose ¼ each, but the bulk of the movements were downwards. The heaviest declines, however, were largely due to the deduction of the dividends, and were not, therefore, actual losses. For instance, Brighton ordinary was marked down 4 and the preferred and deferred 3½ and 6½, Central London ordinary and preferred were 1½ and 1, and the deferred 5 lower, Lancashire and York-

shire dropped $2\frac{1}{2}$, and South-Eastern ordinary and preferred 3 and 4. Chatham first preference, too, was 3 lower, carrying the seconds down 1, and Metropolitan ordinary and surplus lands stocks both lost $1\frac{1}{2}$. Great Eastern fell $1\frac{1}{2}$, Great Western and Hull and Barnsley 1, and Midland deferred $\frac{3}{4}$. Caledonian ordinary receded $2\frac{1}{2}$, and the preferred and deferred 1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$, and North British deferred was $\frac{3}{4}$ down.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
141 $\frac{1}{2}$	136	Brighton Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	137	135
157 $\frac{1}{2}$	157	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	152	150
130 $\frac{1}{2}$	123 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	124	122 $\frac{1}{2}$
120 $\frac{1}{2}$	115	Caledonian Ord. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	115 $\frac{1}{2}$	114 $\frac{1}{2}$
80	78	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	37
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	94	94
89	83	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$
16 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chatham Ordinary ..	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
44 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	City and South London (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	42	42
68 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	Furness (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
38 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Central Pref. ..	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. ..	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Eastern (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	85	84 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	103	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	102xd
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
144	140	Great Western (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	140 $\frac{1}{2}$	137xd
50	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	Highland (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hull and Barnsley (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	46	44xd
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lanc. and Yorks. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	106	106
89 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$
37 $\frac{1}{2}$	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan District ..	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	33
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	Midland Pref. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	69	68xd
74 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	70	69xd
78 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	78
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
147 $\frac{1}{2}$	144 $\frac{1}{2}$	North-Eastern (6 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	145 $\frac{1}{2}$	142 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
163 $\frac{1}{2}$	159 $\frac{1}{2}$	North-Western (6 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	161	157 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	South-Eastern Ord. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	88	88
132	127	Do. Pref. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	127	127
55 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. ..	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$
164	160	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	161 $\frac{1}{2}$	157 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	107	105xd
57 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	55	53 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd

The New York Bank's return was less unfavourable than had been anticipated, but it exercises a very small influence on the market, and in the struggle between "bulls" and "bears" on Wall Street everything at present is in favour of the latter. New issues for large amounts by one company and another have been matters of daily occurrence, the latest recruits being the Mexican Central with \$35,000,000 in bonds and the Chicago North-Western with \$16,267,400 in stock.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	Atchison Shares (4) ..	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	106	Do. Pref. (5) ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
120	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (5) ..	115 $\frac{1}{2}$	114xd
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4) ..	101	99xd
63 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	58
195 $\frac{1}{2}$	185 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	188	184
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	Denver Shares ..	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	46
52 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5) ..	92	91
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	80	Erie Shares ..	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
77	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4) ..	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$
185	177	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	71
160 $\frac{1}{2}$	153 $\frac{1}{2}$	Illinois Central (7) ..	180 $\frac{1}{2}$	177 $\frac{1}{2}$
41 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	154	151
159 $\frac{1}{2}$	151 $\frac{1}{2}$	Missouri and Texas ..	37	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	New York Central (5) ..	155	152 $\frac{1}{2}$
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Norfolk and Western (4) ..	91	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
52 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4) ..	93	93
75 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ontario Shares (3) ..	54	51 $\frac{1}{2}$
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pennsylvania (6) ..	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	Reading Shares (1 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	48	47xd
74 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	49	51
43 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern Pacific ..	69	67 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	103	Do. Pref. (5) ..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	102
163 $\frac{1}{2}$	151 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union Pacific (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	158 $\frac{1}{2}$	152 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	99	Do. Pref. (4) ..	101	99xd
26 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	Wabash ..	24	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
48 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. ..	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$
82	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Income Debs. ..	80	80
182 $\frac{1}{2}$	174 $\frac{1}{2}$	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	178 $\frac{1}{2}$	175xd
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	109	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$
27 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Guar. (4) ..	105	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
118 $\frac{1}{2}$	114 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	117 $\frac{1}{2}$	118 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$
67 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3rd Pref. ..	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$

The last-named had a favourable influence for a time, as the "rights" were estimated to be worth about 22 per cent., but the aggregate amount of fresh money required none the less has a depressing effect. Then the possibilities of a strike of coal miners on April 1 must be reckoned with, and although the cliques pro-

fessed to believe that the decision of the Supreme Court that coal carrying roads could not act as dealers would not hurt these undertakings, that decision helped to increase the depression. Occasional rallies took place during the week when "bears" covered, but the general drift has been towards lower figures, and the majority of the declines reach fairly large proportions. Making-up prices show declines of 4 in Milwaukee, 2 to 3 in Erie issues, and 3 in Union Pacific. Norfolk common and preference lost $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 3, Ontario fell $2\frac{1}{2}$, Atchison, Denver common, Louisville, Missouri, Southern Pacific, and Southern common were all 1 lower, and Baltimore ordinary, Chesapeake, Pennsylvania, and Southern preferred dropped $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1. Northern Pacific was lifted 13, Wabash preferred rose 1, and Baltimore preference and Illinois Central gained $\frac{1}{2}$ each. Money was rather less wanted in this section, some of the account having been transferred to the Continent and New York, but the lowest charge was 5 per cent., and in some cases borrowers had to pay $5\frac{1}{2}$ and even 6 per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
229 $\frac{1}{2}$	211 $\frac{1}{2}$	Antofagasta (10) ..	224 $\frac{1}{2}$	222 $\frac{1}{2}$
335	313	Do. Def. (15) ..	330	330
130 $\frac{1}{2}$	126	Argentine Gr. West. (6) ..	127	127
132	130	Do. Pref. (5) ..	130	129
88	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bahia Blanca Pref. ..	86	86
144 $\frac{1}{2}$	140	B. Ay. Gr. Southern Ord. (7) ..	142	142
129 $\frac{1}{2}$	127	Do. Pref. (5) ..	129	129
134 $\frac{1}{2}$	132 $\frac{1}{2}$	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	133	132 $\frac{1}{2}$
120 $\frac{1}{2}$	115 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	117	117
110	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109	109
117 $\frac{1}{2}$	115	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	117 $\frac{1}{2}$	117
113 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	115 $\frac{1}{2}$	113 $\frac{1}{2}$
170	165 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	169	169
109	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	106	106
138 $\frac{1}{2}$	135 $\frac{1}{2}$	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	138	138
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Central Uruguay (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	91	91
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	107	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	107	108
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cent. Nth. Sec.) ..	95	95
75 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	73	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
64 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	Costa Rica ..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
111 $\frac{1}{2}$	111	Cuban Central ..	7	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
106	103	Do. Pref. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	103	103
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	East Argentine (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	91	91
86 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Leopoldina (3) ..	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	79
108	108	Do. Deb. (4) ..	97	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	108	108
27 $\frac{1}{2}$	25	Do. "B" (6) ..	105	105
128	118 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
63 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1st Pref. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	125	128
53 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	55	56
117 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Southern (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	60	63
208 $\frac{1}{2}$	204	Nitrate Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
209 $\frac{1}{2}$	204	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	204	204
193	174 $\frac{1}{2}$	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	205	206
		United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	183	180

A very lively gamble has broken out in the junior issues of the Grand Trunk Company, and the ordinary and third preference were lifted in a substantial fashion. The buying came mostly from the provinces, where a considerable shortage of stock was said to be disclosed at the settlement, but the London market is decidedly bullish, and talks hopefully of being able to life the ordinary to 30 during the current account. Canadian Pacific shares were also higher at first, the movement being helped by an increase of \$300,000 in the traffic return, but the strength was only momentary and the price has since gone back below the starting-point. On the fortnight Canadian Pacific shares were hardly altered, showing a loss of $\frac{1}{2}$ only, but Trunk third preference was $4\frac{1}{2}$ higher, the first and second preferences put on $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$ and the ordinary and guaranteed 1 and $\frac{3}{4}$. Contangos on the first and second preferences were extremely light at round about $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but on the ordinary and third preference the charge rose to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

In the Foreign Railway section the stocks of the old Mexican Company again came to the front, and the play was particularly lively in the first preference. Mexican Southern ordinary also met with sufficient support to lift the price several pounds, and a demand for Inter-oceanic issues was ascribed by some to a scheme for reorganisation, and by others to talk of amalgamation with the Mexican Company. Argentine railway stocks continue idle and comparatively neglected, but the traffic returns were sufficiently well liked

to prevent anything like a set-back, and very few of them show material change on the week. Interest in Cordova and North-Western debentures has revived again to a moderate extent, and the wild gamble in Paraguay Central debenture stock has carried it up to about 53. Leopoldina issues have been heavy owing to the disappointing traffic returns, and realisations were again prominent in United Railways of the Havana ordinary stocks and scrip and Antofagasta ordinary. Money on Mexican Railways and on any South American securities in which there was anything of an account to be carried cost from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. On the fortnight the movements amongst Argentine railways were pretty well divided, gains of 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ in such things as Argentine Great Western first debenture stock, Buenos Ayres and Pacific ordinary, Rosario ordinary and deferred and Buenos Ayres Great Southern being balanced by losses of 1 in Bahia Blanca and North-Western preference and Buenos Ayres Western debenture stock, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in Cordoba and Rosario first preference and 2 in Cordoba Central

Havana ordinary gained $2\frac{1}{2}$ and San Paulo ordinary 1, but Leopoldina ordinary and debenture stocks were $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ lower and Antofagasta relapsed 3. Nitrate Railways have been bought quietly for some little time and the ordinary show an advance of $\frac{1}{4}$.

Miscellaneous markets displayed a little more activity, and a few interesting movements occurred. A noteworthy incident was the weakness of London General Omnibus stock, which fell 6 to par when the report came out, announcing that £500,000 of fresh capital must be raised. Other horse omnibus stocks kept pretty steady, and London Motors remained at $1\frac{1}{4}$. "Illustrated London News" issues collapsed on the report showing a further severe drop in the profits and dividends, but the close was above the worst. Theatre shares were still weak, particularly Coliseums, and Crystal Palace first debentures were marked down 5. Textile things were fairly good as a rule, but Bradford Dyers showed weakness on the proposal to increase the capital by £2,000,000. Catering shares were steady, but Nelsons remained dull, and dropped below 30s. Eastmans were slightly better on the report. Nitrates and Russian Oil shares showed heaviness. English Brewery securities continued to fall away, but Bieckert's ordinary rose to 200, closing somewhat below the top. Iron and Steel issues were not very active, but the Telegraph list was firm, and Anglo-American deferred again improved. London Docks deferred ended rather lower. Hudson's Bays were in some request, while Chinese Land and Exploration shares attracted little attention. Continuation rates in this section were much as usual, while making-up prices showed a good deal of irregularity. Brush Electrical ordinary and preferred rose $\frac{1}{4}$, Lautaro Nitrate $\frac{1}{4}$, Nobel Dynamite $\frac{3}{4}$, J. R. Roberts' Stores preference 5-32, San Jorge Nitrate $\frac{1}{4}$, Raglan Cycles $\frac{1}{4}$, and Rover $\frac{1}{8}$, Allsopp $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. debenture stock 2, Bieckert's Brewery ordinary 32, and the preference 6, Egyptian Delta Land $\frac{1}{8}$, Hudson's Bays 1, Eastern Telegraph 1, and Imperial Ottoman Bank $\frac{1}{16}$. On the other hand, Babcock and Wilcox dropped $\frac{1}{8}$, B. E. T. ordinary $\frac{1}{2}$, and the preference $\frac{1}{4}$, Charing Cross Electric $\frac{1}{4}$, City of London $\frac{3}{4}$, Illustrated London News 5-32, and the preference 3-32, Measures Bros. 2s. 9d., Rosario Nitrate $\frac{3}{4}$, Allsopp $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. debenture stock 7, and the 4 per cent. 6, Pekin Syndicate $1\frac{1}{2}$, and the deferred 15, Marconi shares $\frac{3}{4}$, and Commercial Union Assurance $1\frac{1}{2}$.

Markets picked up slightly to-day, and, in spite of some selling from Paris, even the Kaffir Circus rallied a little at the close, although weak throughout the morning. A fair amount of comfort was drawn by the Circus crowd from the Chinese slavery debate in the House of Commons, and in other departments strong buying of Russians was visible, although the market left off weak for these stocks because Paris was weak, and afraid of the yawning Russian deficit, glimpses of which now and again appear in the newspapers. The new Caledonian Railway stock has been welcomed, and the quotation for it to-night was $4\frac{1}{2}$ -5 premium. Japanese stocks were steady, and altogether, in spite of the thin volume of business doing, markets were a trifle happier.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

.. Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

A week of apprehension and gloom opened with the carry-over. So persistently had prices fallen during the past account that the settlement was looked forward to with great fear. There was the possibility, however, that on Monday morning insiders and the shop would make a concerted demonstration to lift quotations upwards, and thus reduce losses where possible. This hope was realised to some degree, for on that day the market assumed a buoyant appearance in the shape of a general recovery. Consequently the making-up list was not so dismal as previously it had threatened to be, though it was depressing enough in all conscience.

There was little or no change in carrying over charges compared with those ruling at the preceding settlement. Such

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
21	17	Allsopp Ordinary.. ..	18	18
50	44½	City of London Ord. ..	44½xd	49½
55½	540	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	550	550
19½	168	Ohlsson's Cape (40) ..	19	19
51/3	46/-	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22) ..	2½	2½
61/3	52/6	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	2½	2½
6	50	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4) ..	5½	5½
16	14	Do. Def. Ord. Stock ..	14	14
99½	96½	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4) ..	96xd	96
62	51	Do. Def. Stk. (12) ..	52xd	56
6½	5½	Aerated Bread (32½) ..	6½	6½
6½	6½	Apollinaris Ord. (5) ..	7	7
6½	6½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½) ..	6½	6½
27½	21/3	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7) ..	1½	1½
44/4½	40/-	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2	2½
11½	11	Brunner Mond (35) ..	5½	5½
13/9	11/6	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½) ..	11½	11½
53½	5½	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½) ..	5½	5½
500	495	Coats Ordinary (20) ..	500	500
26/9	19/9	Do. Pref. Ord. (20) ..	1½	1½
25/3	22/6	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil) ..	1½	1½
6½	6½	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4) ..	6½	6½
13½	12½	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	13½	13½
89/1½	81/3	Henley's Telegraph (15) ..	13½	13½
27/6	26/-	Harrold's Stores Ord. (20) ..	13½	13½
908½	107½	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½) ..	108	108
24/3	21/9	Do. Debenture (42) ..	108	108
6½	5½	Lipton Ordinary (7) ..	1½	1½
34/6	27/-	Lyons, J. & Co. (30) ..	1½	1½
15/6	13/6	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	1½	1½
7½	7	Russian Petroleum ..	7	7
18/-	13/9	Savoy Hotel (5) ..	7	7
16	16	Sweetmeat Automatic ..	7	7
12/6	11/3	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10) ..	16	16
18/6	17/3	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	18	18
103	102½	Do. Pref. Stock (6) ..	103	103
56	81½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4) ..	82½	86
54	42½	Hudson's Bay Co. (58½) ..	54½	52½
110	107½	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½) ..	109½	109½
9½	9½	Do. Debentures (6) ..	9½	9½
12	11½	National Discount (10) ..	11½	11½
6½	6	Union Discount (11) ..	11½	11½
11½	11	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8) ..	11½	11½
104½	100½	City of London Elect. Ord. (6) ..	11½	11½
133½	130	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (48) ..	131	131
66/3	63/9	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	3½	3½
85/-	75/-	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	4	4
28/6	28/-	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	1½	1½
30/9	30/9	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10) ..	1½	1½
14	13½	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½) ..	13½xd	13½
47	42½	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	42½	42½
117	108½	United States Steel Ordinary ..	111½xd	110
57/-	53/-	Do. Preference (7) ..	2½	2½
14½	13½	Vickers Ordinary (12½) ..	14	13½
24½	23½	Cunard Steam ..	24½	24½
54	48	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13) ..	53½	53½
9	8½	Royal Mail ..	8½	8
114½	109½	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5) ..	111xd	112
18½	16½	Anglo-American Telegraph—	18½xd	18½
150½	135½	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½) ..	149½	150½
14½	14½	Do. Def. Ord. ..	15	15
111½	109	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7) ..	111	111
14½	14½	Eastern Extension (7) ..	14½	14½
8½	7½	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	8	7½
9½	8½	Western Telegraph (7) ..	9	9
117	100	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6) ..	107½	100½
9½	8½	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8) ..	9½	9½
9½	8½	London General Omnibus (7) ..	9½	9½
9½	8½	London United Trams Pref. (5) ..	9½	9½

first preference. Cordova and North-Western debentures were 2 higher, Guayaquil and Quito Railway bonds put on $2\frac{1}{4}$ and Paraguay Central debenture stock $1\frac{1}{2}$. Mexican Railway preferences, too, advanced $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{1}{4}$, and the debentures were 4 up, while Inter-oceanic preference put on $\frac{1}{2}$ and the "B" debentures and Mexican Southern second mortgage debentures improved 1 each. United Railways of the

speculative things as Gold Fields, East Rands, Rand Mines, Modderfonteins, Johnnies and Gold Trusts were again continued at $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but the charge on A. Goerz was only 3-5 per cent. compared with $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., whilst on Simmer and Jack it rose from $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The general rate was as before— $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. In the diamond section the De Beers' rate was $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. against $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the charge on Jagers was unchanged at 4-5 per cent. and on Premier Diamond at 5-6 per cent. On Rhodesians the preponderating figure, including that on Chartered, was $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., Bankets being an exception with a charge of $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. against 6-7 per cent. West Africans and Egyptians were, as usual, arranged at 6-8 per cent., and this also prevailed amongst West Australians, with the exceptions of 5-7 per cent. on Great Fingall and Great Boulder Perseverance and a lighter rate on Golden Horseshoes.

The heaviest fall in South Africans during the fortnight was $1\frac{1}{2}$ in Bankets, with losses of $\frac{1}{8}$ in Welgedachts and Wit Townships, $\frac{1}{4}$ in S. A. Gold Mines and Rand Klipfonteins, $\frac{1}{8}$ in East Rand Mining Estates, Modderfonteins and H. F. Company, $\frac{1}{8}$ in East Rand Proprietary, Geduld Proprietary and Geldenhuis Deep, 17-32 in New Goch, $\frac{1}{2}$ in Crown Reefs, H. E. Props, and Village Main Reefs, $\frac{1}{8}$ in Rand Mines, General Minings, City and Suburban, Lace Diamonds and Rhodesia Explorations, with declines ranging from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ in many others. There were two or three gains, Premiers being the most conspicuous with a recovery of $1\frac{1}{8}$, with $\frac{1}{4}$ in De Beers preferred, and $\frac{1}{8}$ each in the deferred and Jagers deferred. In West Africans advances preponderated, and included $\frac{1}{4}$ in Ankobras, $\frac{1}{8}$ in Attasi Mines and 5-32 in Himans, against trifling losses in Amalgamated, Bibiani, British Gold Coasts and Wassaus. Amongst West Australians Horseshoes and Great Fingalls made up $\frac{1}{2}$ lower in each case, the other losses including $\frac{1}{8}$ in Associated and Ivanhoes, 5-32 in Lake View Consols and $\frac{1}{8}$ each in Golden Poles and Hainaults. In the miscellaneous list there were recessions of $\frac{1}{2}$ in Utahs, $\frac{1}{4}$ in Esperanzas, $\frac{1}{4}$ in Rio Tintos and Ymirs, $\frac{1}{8}$ in Spassky Coppers, with rises of $\frac{1}{8}$ in Anacondas and $\frac{1}{4}$ in Mount Lyells.

As already stated, the new account started in promising fashion, prices gaining fractionally, principally on "bear" support. The market professed to feel somewhat more hopeful and cheerful, and was not quite so apprehensive of difficulties. But there was a sudden change of sentiment when the King's Speech was published, its reference to Transvaal affairs giving the "bears" another pretext to force prices downwards, so that the early recoveries were quickly lost. Still improvements, though fractional, outnumbered the falls. On the following day, however, the gloom deepened, and rarely have we witnessed such an all-round slump even in the Kaffir Circus. It was not a mere dribble, but a deluge, losses of $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ being as numerous as one-sixteenths at ordinary times. Some sold, it was declared, because of the postponement of a settlement of the Chinese labour question, but the causes were deeper and more potent than this. Others attributed the liquidation to the Moroccan *impasse*, which prompted wholesale selling from Paris. Further stories declared that Scotch banks were throwing out Kaffirs in feverish alarm; that the Cape was selling heavily; that there were symptoms of serious trouble at Glasgow and Hamburg; that many firms were in grave distress, and so on. Anyway, the causes were many and are likely to persist. Speculators and the bosses have since made a despairing effort to stay the relapse, but only with partial success. True, falls have not been quite so heavy, but they continue, and there are no gains worth speaking of to set against them. Holders everywhere—at the Cape, in France and this country—are realising still, and it is declared that one individual has thrown his entire holding of mining shares of all kinds on the market. There has, however, been a partial recovery, principally on "boss" support.

The following dividends have been declared:—

	Div.	Issued Capital.	Amount.	Yield at Recent Prices of Shares.*
	%	£	£	%
$3\frac{1}{2}$ Durban Roodepoort Gold	15	125,000	18,750	4.3
$3\frac{1}{2}$ Nourse Mines.....	$12\frac{1}{2}$	675,000	84,375	4.1
$2\frac{1}{2}$ Glen Deep	$7\frac{1}{2}$	600,000	45,000	2.7

* Gross yield, no amortisation allowed for.

In comparison with the South African other sections of the Mining market have been quiet and uninteresting. Rhodesians have given way, especially Bankets and the shares of the allied companies, but the losses are not on so considerable a scale as those in the Kaffir Circus. West Africans and Egyptians have moved to only a trifling extent and are just steady. On the whole, West Australians have again shown a tendency towards weakness, particularly Great Fingalls and Great Boulder Proprietary, the latter, it is said, falling on the sale of 10,000 shares, nearly all of which were taken up on colonial account.

In the miscellaneous section, Esperanzas are irregular, also other Mexican things. Amongst Coppers, Mount Lyells have strengthened, but Anacondas, Rio Tintos, Cape Coppers, Arizonas and others have weakened. Champion Reefs and Mysore remain firm in the Indian group.

VILLAGE MAIN REEF AND WEMMER COMPANIES.—A week or 30 ago we announced that an amalgamation was afoot between these two leading Rand companies. A circular has now been

issued, giving some details of the scheme. It appears that a provisional agreement has been entered into between both companies for the acquisition by the Village of the property and assets of the Wemmer. This company has a moderate capital of £80,000, of which the Village holds one-quarter. These 20,000 £1 shares are to be cancelled and the capital of the Village Main Reef is to be increased by the creation of 72,000 fully-paid £1 shares in payment of the Wemmer property and assets, these shares to rank for dividend from January 1 last. It is said that these terms are based upon calculations made by the general manager of the Village Main Reef, he having examined the properties and assets of both concerns; likewise that the scheme is approved of by the board of directors, the local board, the general manager and the manager, Mr. R. Raine, which is not at all astounding, otherwise why go to the trouble of proposing it? Would it not be strange conduct to propose an amalgamation and disapprove of it? The inducement held out to the shareholders in both companies is that the union will reduce working costs and increase the extraction—an old plea.

SHEBA GOLD MINING COMPANY.—The directors issue the general manager's report for the six months ending December 31, but it is not as favourable and encouraging as shareholders would like it to be. In speaking of the amount of development and exploration work done, the manager says that, had the ground passed through been all payable, he would have had a very large tonnage to report as developed, but as this was not so he has had to draw on the ore reserves. In all, 37,550 tons were milled, yielding 15,551 fine ozs., worth £66,748, including 207 ozs. recovered from the accumulated slimes. The manager complains of the great scarcity of native labour, which helps to keep mining costs very high.

FANTI CONSOLIDATED MINES.—This Jungle company is not able yet to issue a profit and loss account. Its main income still comes from interest on contango loans, but as this money cannot last for ever there is every probability that losses in the future will be considerably heavier than they are now, for the company has large interests in about a dozen other West African concerns, none of which show prospects of becoming early or large dividend payers. There is, of course, money to be made in speculating in such shares, but only when there is an active market, and activity in the Jungle is a remote possibility. The report for 1905 tells us that, whilst the company's interest in Prestea Block "A" has been extensively increased, it has realised its holding in Abbontiakoon Block 1 and a portion of its shares in the Abbontiakoon (Wassaw) Mines, "but," it is added, "the company has obtained options at favourable prices on a considerable number of shares in both these companies, which will enable it to a large extent to replace the shares it has disposed of." Such is the manner in which the West African market is bolstered up. Interest and transfer fees last year bought in £3,789, and as the ordinary administration expenses absorbed £3,454, there was actually the small balance of £335 on the right side, which reduces the deficit to £9,448. Loans amount to £55,703, debtors owe £11,152 and cash stands at £2,506, whilst the share interests have a book value of £331,359. As only £149 is owing to sundry creditors the financial position at present is comfortable enough.

EGYPT AND SUDAN MINING SYNDICATE.—The report and accounts of this company to the end of September, 1904, showed a credit balance of £84,461, as the result of the sale to the Sudan Gold Field, Limited, of the Syndicate's interests, rights and benefits over a concession in the Sudan. Out of this the directors paid a dividend of 5s. per share in cash, plus a distribution of 39,294 fully paid shares in the Sudan Gold Field. For the year ending September 30 last there appears to be a debit of £977, but after allowing for the balance left out of the deal with the Sudan Gold Field the directors carry forward a credit of £19,091. This, however, seems to be all paper, for it is "subject to the realisation of certain" of the above-mentioned shares. At an extraordinary general meeting of the syndicate, held in February of last year, it was resolved to increase the capital of the syndicate from £52,500 to £80,000 by the creation of 27,500 additional £1 shares to be offered to the shareholders at a premium of 10s. Of these 26,750 have been issued, and at the date of the accounts 5s. had been called up in respect of capital and 7s. 6d. per share on account of the premium. It is impossible to say much about the prospects of the properties owned by the syndicate, as the work done upon them so far gives only the shadowiest indications of prospective value. These properties will eventually, if they be worth it, be sold to other concerns—in other words, will be new flotations. But the Egyptian market does not appear to be pining for new promotions. The shares of those companies already floated go a-begging.

DOLCOATH MINE.—Owing mainly to the high price ruling for tin there was a goodly increase in this company's earnings in the latter half of 1905 compared with those for the first half, although the quantity crushed was 1,881 tons less at 48,472 tons, whilst there were sold 867 tons of black tin, a decrease of 27 tons. The production of tin was at the rate of 40.06 per ton of ore against 39.79 twelve months ago, and the average price was £1 12s. 0.46d., an increase of 4s. 7.04d. For the black tin the price averaged £9 17s. 11d., an advance of no less than £14 12s. 6d., the total realised being in the aggregate £10,555 higher at £79,669. Although the quantity of ore treated was less than in the preceding half-year, the quality, though still of low grade, was better than in the four previous half-years, which more than counteracted the reduction in quantity, whilst

the price realised was the highest in the company's history. After deducting the lord's royalties the nett profit was £22,385, an increase of £8,668. Before the last three half-years the development charges were debited to a separate suspense account, from time to time written off from profits. Since then they have been charged directly to the profit and loss account. There is still a sum of £12,000 at the debit of this account, of which the directors have now written off £6,000, and propose to deal with the balance in a similar manner in the current year. The dividend is 9d. per share, compared with 6d. per share for the first half of the year, making 1s. 3d. for the year. Development in depth is stated to have revealed ore of improved grade, and the directors feel that every effort should be made to continue the exploration of the mine in the direction of the discovery without loss of time, in order to take advantage of the present good market.

CARN BREA AND TINCROFT MINES.—There was a considerable improvement in this Cornish company's financial results in the half-year ending December 31, compared with preceding half years, owing principally to a considerable advance in the price of tin, which averaged £83 18s. 8d. per ton compared with £73 8s. 7d. in the first half of 1905. A larger tonnage was likewise treated, and there was a slight improvement in the yield of the ore. The profit was £6,690 compared with £1,012 in the preceding six months, and with the previous highest of £3,571 in 1900. Despite this there is still a debit balance of £11,800. Should the price of tin continue, the directors say they are very hopeful that the receipts will still further exceed the expenditure in the current six months, but it needs no exceptional dialectic gift to argue so.

ESPERANZA, LIMITED.—For some weeks past quotations of Esperanza shares have been fluctuating in a manner that has given anything but peace of mind to the shareholders. Rumours have been put in circulation from time to time calculated to depress prices, but it is impossible to ascertain if the stories are fictitious or based upon facts. Anyway, the directors have issued a statement which, as far as it goes, looks reassuring, though it would not justify jubilation. That is to say, the consulting engineers estimate the "actual" ore reserves at 127,400 metric tons, which in their opinion should yield a profit of \$5,261,000 (American money). They further advise that this estimate does not include "probable" ore reserves, and likewise point to the possibility of developing ore on the west vein system in the extensive territory north of the fault, which is as yet only partially explored. This fault has been proved to traverse the property from east to west at about 800 ft. from the south boundary line, and 1,700 ft. from the north boundary. A diamond drill hole which was put in to search for the continuance of the west vein north of this fault has encountered at the spot where it was thought it should be found, 6 ft. of quartz, with an average assay value of \$19.80 per metric ton. It is added that a crosscut is now being driven to open up this vein, "which may prove of great value to the property, as from this point to the boundary line there still exists about 1,500 ft. of practically unexplored territory on the west vein system. The most recent developments on the west vein continue to open up extremely rich ore." It is expected that the full reports of the consulting engineers and mine manager will be received shortly, and the annual report and accounts will then be issued. The previous statement of ore reserves was issued in September, when the total nett profit in sight was put at \$5,621,338, or a little more than the total given above. It is to be noted that the probable ore reserves are not now given, but in September these were estimated at 6,307 tons of milling ores and 27,737 tons of shipping ores, which would yield jointly an additional profit of \$2,611,557, making a grand total of 128,523 tons and \$8,232,895 profit. The latest figure is equal to a little over £1,050,000 in sterling, or £2 6s. per share.

RED HILL, WESTRALIA, GOLD MINES.—It looks as if this company is making some headway, though at slow pace, towards a dividend, but even now it cannot be predicted when one will actually be paid. Though the quantity of ore treated in the twelve months ending October 31 was four times as much as that dealt with in the preceding year, the yield of gold was only about 2,800 ozs. more, thus showing a low grade of ore. Nevertheless, the directors have faith that this poor stuff can be put through the mill profitably. Gross proceeds show an increase of £10,000. In the accounts the directors have not only charged against revenue the whole of the general development expenditure, amounting to £8,940, but also the credit of £1,516 in the previous balance-sheet. After deducting depreciation the nett revenue is £5,142, and in view of the fact that the greater proportion of this has been utilised in the mine for sinking the new main shaft, additions to machinery and plant, &c., the directors have decided to place £5,000 to a reserve account for contingencies, equalisation of dividends, &c., and to carry £142 forward.

BRILLIANT EXTENDED GOLD MINING COMPANY.—According to the directorial report the operations of this company for the past half-year show a surplus of £15,972, and as £12,911 was brought forward, the credit balance was raised thereby to £28,884. Out of this £2,620 has been appropriated to depreciation of buildings, plant, &c., at the rate of 5 per cent., £25,000 has been placed to a "reserve fund specially invested in mine and milling plant," and £1,263 is carried forward. The directors are getting an up-to-date plant for the company's mills, which should be at work in about eight months' time, and they expect to resume quarterly dividends in March next.

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY.—A cable from Melbourne briefly summarises the results of the past half-year's working. The

profit for the period is stated to be £196,959, and the credit balance to be £633,429. This profit is equal to 12s. 10d. per ton of ore treated, compared with 9s. 11d. per ton for the preceding half-year, thanks to the higher price of lead. The sum spent in construction was £17,040, of which £5,578 was on account of the zinc concentration plant and the sulphuric acid plant. Alterations in the furnaces at Port Pirie have been completed, resulting in a better recovery of lead and silver at a saving in cost of bullion reduction of 3s. 6d. per ton.

QUEEN CROSS REEF GOLD.—The output for the half-year ending November 22 was 12,400 ozs. from 10,977 tons, value £40,727, with 12,009 tons of residues worth £1,989 and 434 tons of concentrates of a value of £6,570, total £49,286, equal to £4 9s. 9-5d. per ton. Owing to a dynamite explosion in the proximity of the mill, destroying the battery, the directors decided to concentrate operations on prospecting work, consequently the output practically ceased at the beginning of October. In regard to the future the comparatively large area above and to the eastward of No. 3 "A" level has failed to yield up to expectations. But further to the eastward the reef in the stopes above the extremities of No. 1 "A" east and No. 7 east main level shows some promise and it is possible that another narrow chute of good stone will be found to extend from the old eastern workings of the Victoria and Queen mine and traverse, on a north-easterly course, the large undeveloped portion of the company's eastern ground, which has a measurement of six acres. Dividends totalling £20,000 were paid in the half-year and there is left a credit balance of £18,265.

FRASER GOLD REEFS.—Mr. Wentworth Sturgeon, the managing director of this company, writes to the shareholders in rather a pathetic fashion, which may or may not assist him in getting more money out of them. He argues that the crushing in January and the recent cables from the mine manager, "go to show that the future of the mine is worthy of the most instant and serious attention," and thinks the newly opened-up ore in the southern workings of the 300 ft. level, assaying 10 dwts. of gold per ton, and a battery yield of over 8½ dwts. over the plates, with 4 dwts. in the tailings, "demand and justify the employment of sufficient working capital, so as to ensure thorough and complete development, and thereby win the profits which now appear to be within the grasp of the company." Eloquent and vigorous phraseology, but the possibility that a few more thousands will put into the coffers of the company profits that are merely imaginable, may prove to be as delusive as past expectations. So Mr. Sturgeon will be glad to learn what number of shares the shareholders will be willing to purchase at 2s. per 10s. share, but we do not think he will be overwhelmed by applications.

QUEENSLAND MENZIES GOLD MINING COMPANY.—An expert in the person of Mr. W. M. Thompson has visited this company's property, and regrets that he cannot give a favourable report. As far as he can see, the mine is practically worked out, but there is the faint hope that with further prospecting "some new discovery may be made which will give the mine a new lease of life." With this object in view, the Minister of Mines for Perth has been approached to see if the West Australian Government will give the company some assistance to further prospect the property by putting down bores at different points to be selected by the manager. Mr. Thompson has recommended the purchase of a property called the Goodenough Lease, and the directors have decided to act upon this advice, and some portions of the plant are being removed. It is admitted to be a low grade property, but is said to be "cheap." This is hardly an attractive recommendation.

GREAT BOULDER PROPRIETARY GOLD MINES.—The directors of this West Australian company have issued a statement of the estimated ore reserves at the end of December last, which is to appear also in the report of the general manager now on the way. These reserves are computed at 453,649 tons containing 456,371 ozs., compared with 379,166 tons and 433,199 ozs. at the end of 1904, 132,052 tons having been treated during the year, giving gold worth £545,521.

COROMANDEL GOLD MINING COMPANY OF INDIA.—It will be recalled that operations at this mine have again had to be suspended pending an increase in the reserves. In the twelve months to the end of September last the expenditure on mining and general account amounted to £17,387, against £7,279 received from sales of gold, rents, rebates, &c., leaving a debit of £10,108. Prospects look very dark. The directors have decided to waive their fees and the managers to forego their salaries for the present.

YMER GOLD MINES.—Further news of an unpleasing character is sent from the mine. As there was a great discrepancy between the value of the ore milled in January and the assay results obtained in the course of development, the directors instructed the now consulting engineer, Mr. Gilman Brown, to again visit the mine. After his visit Mr. Brown cabled to say it was very desirable to shut down the mill until the raise in the 1,000 ft. back level reaches the 700 ft. level, and that there is at present no prospect of any improvement in the returns of ore milled under prevailing conditions. Neither has he discovered the new vein. This news is somewhat in contrast to the optimistic circular issued by the directors a short time ago. Mr. Edward Hooper has resigned his position of consulting engineer, which the directors offered to Mr. Brown.

THE MINING INDUSTRY OF NATAL.—The report upon the mining industry of Natal for 1904 has just been issued. Coal mining continues the principal industry, the output increasing, new markets being opened and the equipment being improved. Despite this the dividends declared by the various companies

were lower, owing mainly to a fall in prices. The mineral output compared with 1903 was as follows:—

	1903. Tons.	1904. Tons.
Coal—		
Round.....	610,087	726,359
Nuts.....	75,349	98,136
Slack.....	25,714	33,801
Unclassified.....	2,398	—
	713,548	858,296

The value of the output was £457,000, compared with £418,975 in 1903.

	1903.	1904.
Lime.....	580	816
Mica.....	1,037 lbs.	—
Gypsum.....	700 lbs.	—
Gold.....	4 oz.	—
Copper ore.....	—	100

The following table records the dividends paid by coal mining companies:—

	Number of Companies.		Dividends.		Percentages.	
	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.
Companies producing..	19	14	178,113	92,600	7.68	4.65
Companies not producing.....	1	1	—	—	—	—
	20	15	178,113	92,600	7.68	4.6

GOLD YIELD OF NEW ZEALAND IN 1904.—From the annual statement of the New Zealand Minister of Mines we learn that, though there was a falling off in the production of precious metals and kauri gum during 1904, the gold exports exceeded those of 1903 by upwards of £36,000. In the output of coal and other minerals there was a considerable increase. The quantity of gold entered for export was 520,323 ozs., valued at £1,987,501, and of silver 1,094,460 ozs., of a value of £112,875, making a total of £2,100,376, this being a decline of £28,952 compared with the export returns of the previous year. Other minerals, including coal, lignite and kauri gum, represent a value of £1,338,858, a falling off of £62,468. The total value of all products (including coal and kauri gum) was £3,439,234 against £3,530,654; inclusive of kauri gum the figure was £89,252,474. A sum of £2,569 was spent in prospecting subsidies for the year ending March 31 last. The royalty received by the Government in respect to the purchase rights of the cyanide process now amounts to £9,356, or practically 93½ per cent. of the sum originally paid. The balance will, in the natural course of events, be received during the present year, and thereupon all further royalty charges for the use of the cyanide process in New Zealand will cease. In the references to the Auckland goldfields a *résumé* is given of the work at the principal mines during the year. The output from the Waihi mines during 1904 was 259,978 tons of quartz, from which bullion to the value of £673,101 was obtained, whilst the dividends paid totalled £297,544. Tables show that the export of gold from the Auckland goldfields from 1857 to December 31, 1904, was 3,464,706 ozs., of a value of £12,858,706. The yield of gold for the same district in 1904 was 223,010 ozs., valued at £791,529. For the twelve months to the end of March last the figures were 222,652 ozs. and £815,499.

NEW SOUTH WALES MINERAL OUTPUT.—For the month of January the gold yield of New South Wales was 40,251 crude ozs., valued at £138,485, compared with 41,683 ozs., worth £148,540 in the corresponding month of 1905. For the whole year the mineral production is valued at £1,165,013, an increase of 4,450 ozs. at a total of 274,267, the gain in value being £18,904. Exports of silver, lead, and zinc were worth £2,717,864, an improvement of £468,382, whilst the copper output was £105,753 higher at £511,754. Tin exports amounted to £173,806, an increase of £14,571, and the coal output totalled 6,632,138 tons against 6,029,809 tons.

MOUNT ZEEHAN (TASMANIA) SILVER-LEAD.—The directors announce that they are able to distribute the whole of the preferential dividend of 4s. per share for the financial year ending June 30 next. They also propose to pay next June an interim dividend on the ordinary shares and a further dividend on the preference.

WEST AFRICAN GOLD OUTPUT.—For the month of January the output of gold from the Gold Coast is a record, amounting to 18,715 ozs. against 16,833 ozs. from December. But when will dividends be possible?

NEW ZEALAND GOLD RETURNS.—The gold returns of New Zealand for January are given at 61,704 ozs., valued at £249,828, compared with 58,132 ozs. and £234,812 for the corresponding month of 1905.

val 3 per cent. stock has been reduced about one-half, in order to invest some money in Water Board stock, the total of these investments, together with £340,000 Consols, taken at 83, being £438,250 compared with £437,000. Other securities reach £219,739, or a rise of £60,512, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is £4,115,148 compared with £4,155,526.

LONDON, PARIS AND AMERICAN BANK, LIMITED.

During the year ended December 31 the gross profit of this small but well-conducted bank amounted to £79,421 or £1,192 more than in 1904, against which the working charges were less by £344 at £35,661, and as the sum brought in was somewhat larger at £6,815, the net balance is £50,575 against £48,815. An interim dividend at 8 per cent. per annum has been already paid, and the directors now propose to repeat this distribution making 8 per cent. for the year, adding another £10,000 to reserve and carrying forward the considerably increased sum of £8,575. Reserve now reaches £240,000 compared with a paid-up capital of £400,000. At the date of the balance-sheet the liabilities on current, deposit and other accounts reached £1,570,858 or £117,102 less than at the corresponding period, and there is a decline of £202,697 to £1,404,007 in the bills of exchange, bills receivable and advances. Cash on hand, at call and at bankers is also lower at £293,020, but investments have been slightly increased to £350,830 and the sum due by correspondents is £119,349 larger at £187,575.

ANGLO-CALIFORNIAN BANK, LIMITED.

More business appears to have been done during the year ended December 31, but the larger resources available were not so profitably employed and gross profits fell short of the previous year's by £1,620 at £82,852. Current expenses rose by £245 to £34,473, but this was offset by a reduction of £463 to £5,634 in State and other taxes in San Francisco and income-tax, and with £11,563 or £171 more brought in the net balance came to £54,308 compared with £55,539. The directors, however, after paying the customary dividends and bonus making 8 per cent. transfer another £20,000 to reserve, making it £200,000 against a paid-up capital of £299,700, and reduce the carry-forward by £1,231 to £10,332. Liabilities on deposits, bills payable and current accounts are £411,153 up at £2,386,954, against which cash in London and the United States, in hand and at call and short notice amounted to £977,196 or £118,709 more, and bullion in hand and in transit was £81,341 up at £137,677. Bills receivable, current and other accounts were £172,809, higher at £1,537,553 and investments increased by £72,674 to £217,959, but real estate has been reduced by £15,298 to £34,632.

CIVIL SERVICE BANK, LIMITED.

This institution, which is peculiar amongst banks in that it has issued founders' shares, has not yet managed to reach the dividend-paying stage, but has advanced so far on the way that the directors express a hope that they will be able to declare a dividend in the near future. Gross profits during the twelve months ended December 31 amounted to £2,812, and with £313, or £72 more brought forward the net balance was £225 larger at £1,388. The reserve, however, continues the first consideration, and £869 is transferred to that account bringing it up to £2,600, of which £1,700 is specially invested in ear-marked securities. Then another £150 is put to reserve for contingencies, and £40 is utilised to wipe out the balance of the cost of structural alterations, leaving £329 to be carried forward. Current and deposit accounts have risen by £7,915 to £43,859 against which cash comes to £9,262, securities other than the special investments are £1,077 up at £13,731 and loans, advances and overdrafts show an increase of £3,026 at £45,830.

BAKER STREET AND WATERLOO RAILWAY CO.

From the time of its promotion by the late Whitaker Wright up to the present moment this undertaking has encountered a good deal of adversity, but the enterprise is by far the best thing that the so-called financier ever put his hand to, and we hope that the pertinacity of those who came to the rescue when the whole business looked like foundering may be well rewarded. Originally the line was intended to run from Baker Street to Waterloo, as its name implies, but the Yankees who provided the dollars to continue the construction had ideas in advance of this, and there is no doubt that the extension to the Elephant and Castle at the one end and to Paddington at the other has greatly enhanced the chances of success. Board of Trade and Press inspections of the line have already taken place, and the report tells us that that part from Baker Street to Kennington Road will be opened for public traffic during the month of March, while the section from Kennington Road to the Elephant and Castle will be ready in a few months' time. Moreover, the works from Baker Street to Edgware Road are being actively pushed on, but beyond the latter point no work has yet been done. The company is promoting a Bill in the present Session of Parliament to modify the arrangements for interchange with the Great Western system at Paddington. Satisfactory arrangements have been made for the interchange of traffic, either by railway or foot bridge, with the several companies whose line the railway crosses, and we are inclined to think that the undertaking has in it the elements of success. It has not been so very expensive to build, and an aggregate outlay of, say, £3,500,000 should see the business through. During the past six months the expenditure was £349,621, bringing the total to date to £2,489,914, and it is estimated that in the current half-year the sum spent will reach £600,000, with £390,000 subsequently. Last half-year the capital received was £462,710, and the debit to capital account is not very deadily at

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

"The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

ROBARTS, LUBBOCK, AND CO.

On January 31 last the liabilities of this excellent private bank on current and deposit accounts were £3,575,939, or £9,516 less than at the corresponding date last year, but the bills discounted, loans, and advances show an increase of £68,160 to £1,427,943. Cash in hand and at the Bank of England is less by £50,387 at £805,199, and there is the important decline of £125,900 to £876,800 in the cash at call and short notice. Trans-

£92,774. Powers are sought for the creation and issue of the share and loan capital authorised by the Companies Act of 1904.

CHARING CROSS, EUSTON, AND HAMPSTEAD RAILWAY COMPANY.

During the half-year ended December 31 the capital expenditure on this tube railway was £561,783, including £481,905 for construction and £63,884 for land and compensation. This outlay brings the total to date to £3,934,477, and as it is estimated that £400,000 will be spent during the current six months with £1,433,522 subsequently, it will be seen that the approximate cost of the undertaking is put down at £5,767,999, for rather over eight miles. That is less than some of the tubes are being constructed for. Debit to capital account is the huge sum of £1,172,035, of which the Underground Electric Railways of London have lent £967,911 and £200,000 is represented by the contractor's retention fund.

CAMBRIAN RAILWAYS CO.

Gross receipts for the six months ended December 31 were £186,066 or a decrease of £6,409, of which £4,621 was in passengers, parcels, mails, &c., £2,072 in merchandise and live stock, and £443 in minerals, miscellaneous receipts showing an improvement of £727. Reductions of £1,039 in maintenance of way, £2,145 in locomotive and carriage and wagon expenses, and £1,336 in traffic and general expenses together with a small saving in miscellaneous charges brought working expenses down by £4,808 to £112,707, the ratio to receipts being 60.57 per cent. against 61.19 per cent. Net revenue, however, was £1,601 lower at £73,359, and with only £252 brought in, compared with £1,320 a year ago, the balance available showed a decrease of £2,669 at £73,611, out of which interest on the various debenture issues, together with bankers' and general interest and land rent charges, took £60,674 against £59,803, leaving £12,937 to be carried to the new account. Capital expenditure for the half-year came to £7,457, making the debit balance on this account £113,641, of which £110,000 has been raised by temporary loans.

EAST AND WEST YORKSHIRE UNION RAILWAYS COMPANY.

In September, 1904, this company discontinued its passenger service, so that there were no receipts from this source during the half-year ended December 31 compared with £245 a year ago. Merchandise traffic fell off by £417 to £646, but there was a much more serious decline of £2,189 to £8,169 in the mineral traffic, arising from a decrease of 21,529 tons to 345,415 tons carried, and gross receipts from all sources consequently showed a decrease of £2,799 at £9,527. Expenses were reduced by £1,707 to £5,401, the ratio being 56.69 per cent. against 57.01 per cent. but the net revenue including £123 or £218 less brought in was £1,281 smaller at £1,633 and the preference shareholders have to submit to a reduction from 4 per cent. to 2 per cent. per annum in their dividend leaving £323 to be carried forward. Capital expenditure in the six months only came to £649, but this brings the debit on that account up to £5,955, and it is estimated that £541 will be spent in the current half-year and £6,747 in subsequent years against which the capital powers available amount to no more than £826.

ALEXANDRA (NEWPORT AND SOUTH WALES) DOCKS AND RAILWAY.

For the half-year ended December 31 the gross revenue was £115,053 (decrease £7,908) and the expenditure £69,248 (increase £448), the ratio between expenditure and income being 60.18 per cent., against 55.95 per cent. The company's minute passenger business returned an increased income; but minerals, merchandise, live stock, &c., fell £1,665, dock receipts £4,651, and miscellaneous £1,674. On the expenditure side the movements were slight, the principal increases being in traffic expenses and repairs and renewals of docks and dock plants, while locomotive power, general charges, and dock working expenses showed decreases. Law charges and parliamentary expenses show the exceptionally heavy advance of £942, but rates and taxes were slightly lower. Balance of net revenue was £45,805, or £8,357 less, and the sum brought in was over £2,000 smaller at £17,801; so that, despite a small receipt for interest, the available credit is over £10,000 less, at £63,903. That is a very serious decline, and, as other South Wales railway and dock companies suffered in their dock receipts, it must be assumed that business last half-year was a good deal reduced, but up to the present we have heard no adequate explanation of the set-back. This company's fixed charges were down by £2,313 at £12,761, leaving £51,141, compared with £58,977, and the directors seek to adjust the position by allowing £10,966 only, against £18,939, towards expenditure on new works. An increased sum is then provided for preference and preferred ordinary dividends, and a distribution at 2 per cent. per annum or 1 per cent. per annum less proposed on the deferred stock. As before, nothing is left to be carried forward. On capital account the company laid out the rather heavy sum of £86,825, and further important expenditures must be contemplated, as the directors are seeking power to make a new entrance, channel and lock entrance, and to construct sundry other works. In the half-year now current the sum to be spent is £70,000, and the directors will probably have difficulty in finding the money, as the capital account is already overdrawn £18,399, and there are no important reserves to fall back upon.

BUFFALO AND LAKE HURON RAILWAY COMPANY.

For the half-year ended December 31 last this company received the fixed rental of £35,000 from the Grand Trunk Company and £924 from other sources, making £35,924 in all. Interest on first and second mortgage bonds takes £21,003 and

administration £550, leaving £14,370 available for dividend. From that the directors again make a distribution of 5s. 3d. per share, carrying forward £586 against £544. During the half-year the company has acquired two first mortgage bonds, thereby increasing the nominal amount of investments by £200.

WESTMINSTER ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORPORATION, LIMITED.

Another 53,151 8 c.p. lamps at 764,930 lamps were connected with this company's system during 1905, but the sales of current were only 385,406 units larger at 14,899,170, and as the average price charged was reduced from 3.58d. to 3.36d. per unit, the income from private lighting fell off by £10,351 to £208,345. With receipts from public lighting, meter rents, &c., the total revenue was £10,167 down at £237,964, and although, on the other hand, generating expenses were cut down by £1,766 to £49,328 while the amount paid to the Central Company was very little higher at £32,325, expenditure was swollen by very heavy law charges amounting to £4,298, and with an increase of £795 to £28,296 in the allowance for depreciation the outgoings were £6,085 up at £163,555, leaving a net revenue of only £74,409 compared with £90,661. Adding £4,304 more at £13,798 brought forward and £3,733 from interest and rents, the amount available, after providing for debenture and other interest, came to £83,271 or £10,444 less, so the dividend on the ordinary shares has to be reduced to 13 per cent. against 14 a year ago and 13½ per cent. in 1903, and the sum carried forward is £5,137 down at £8,661. Against the transfer from revenue only £2,666 was charged to depreciation account, leaving that fund at £162,755, in addition to which the sinking fund was increased by £3,500 from revenue and £936 from interest, making a total of £32,959, and there is also a reserve fund of £26,604, so that the capital overdraft of £51,781 is well provided for. Trading balances are well in favour of the company, £25,579 being due to sundry creditors against £70,458 to come in, and in addition to £44,561 in cash, investments, apart from the holding of £60,863 in the Central Electric Supply Co.'s securities, are valued at £66,065.

SOUTH METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER CO., LIMITED.

Very good progress was made by this company in the 12 months ended December 31, when 17,283 8 c.p. lamps were added to the system, making a total of 125,674, and although the number of units sold is not given the receipts from sales amounted to £33,454. This was brought up by meter rents, &c., to £35,421 against a gross income of £28,797 a year ago, and the improvement was gained at a cost of an increase of no more than £1,068 to £13,290 in expenses, so that the net revenue was £5,336 higher at £22,131. Adding £6,707 or £1,487 more brought in, the sum available came to £28,838, and after meeting debenture and other interest and preference dividend and putting £4,000 to depreciation account against £2,250 transferred and £2,325 written off sundry items, the directors are able to pay a dividend at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum on the amounts paid up on the ordinary shares, and still have a balance of £7,748 to carry forward. During the year £51,708 4½ per cent. debenture stock, 32,600 preference, and 10,300 ordinary shares of £1 each were issued, and of the £4,245 realised from premiums, £1,745 was written off preliminary expenses and the balance was used to commence a reserve fund. The expenditure of the Crystal Palace and District Electric Supply Co. has been brought into the accounts at the figures certified by the official auditor to the Board of Trade at the date of transfer, and of the difference between this amount and the price paid by the company £13,116 has been applied to writing down the Crystal Palace machinery and plant, £17,806 in reducing cost of provisional orders, &c., and £22,158 in wiping out the cost of obtaining release of debenture stockholders' rights. Capital expenditure for the year was £41,523 against £84,189 received, and after deducting the depreciation fund of £8,500 there is a credit balance of £3,780 in hand. The company owes £10,728 for plant supplied, &c. and £2,862 on open account, against which it has £14,603 due by sundry debtors and £16,613 in cash.

NOTTING HILL ELECTRIC LIGHTING CO., LIMITED.

The equivalent of another 10,970 8 c.p. lamps was added to this company's system during the year ended December 31, making a total of 143,102 lamps connected, and the sales of current increased by 66,463 units to 1,711,955 units. A slightly lower average price, however, was realised, giving an increase of £744 only at £32,997 in the revenue from this source, and as a small increase in meter rentals was offset by a drop in the receipts from connecting installations, &c., the total income was £752 higher at £35,315. Expenses, on the other hand, rose by £649, owing to heavier law and Parliamentary costs, leaving a net profit of £19,948 against £19,845, which was increased to £19,984 by interest receipts. Of this £3,000 or £250 more was transferred to depreciation and renewal fund, debenture interest, and charges on Kensington and Notting Hill joint debenture stock took £5,465, and after paying the usual dividend of 6 per cent. on both preference and ordinary shares a balance of £3,249 was left, half of which goes to the founders' shares, and gives them £3 per share, while the balance with £597 brought forward enables the directors to pay an extra 1½ per cent. on the preference and ordinary shares compared with 1 per cent. a year ago. Capital expenditure, including £2,302 on new mains and £1,157 on new machinery at Bulmer Place station, amounted to £4,093, raising the debit balance to £20,360, which has been met out of the depreciation fund of £23,500. The amount due on contracts for plant, &c., has been reduced by £2,165 to £3,771, and liabilities to sundry creditors are still moderate at £777, against

which sundry debtors come to £12,465, or much about the same as a year ago, but cash is down £2,540 to £2,289.

CHELSEA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CO., LIMITED.

Another 11,150 8 c.p. lamps were added to this company's system during 1905, making 221,809 lamps, but some of the large consumers took less, and the falling off in building operations in the district had an adverse effect on the sales of energy, which were only 9,626 units larger at 3,222,038 units. Receipts from this source consequently rose by £52 only to £56,602, while meter rents, &c., showed a decrease of £212 at £3,309, but on the other hand a saving of £1,127 at £23,881 was effected in expenses, and with £1,170 brought forward and £281 from interest the nett revenue amounted to £37,481 compared with £36,263. Debenture interest and preference dividend having been met, £10,918 or £574 more is put to renewals and depreciation fund, but this is partly offset by the reduction of £472 to £1,891 in the sum written off suspense account, and after repeating last year's dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, giving 3 per cent. on those issued in exchange for the founders' shares, £916 is carried forward. Against the amount transferred from revenue to renewals and depreciation fund £1,026 was written off for renewals of plant and £3,783 for balance of cost of change from 100 to 200 volts, leaving £53,513 to the credit of this account. The cost of extinguishing the founders' shares and other Parliamentary expenses in safeguarding the company's interests came to £949 and was charged to suspense account, but this item is now extinguished by the transactions above mentioned. Liabilities to sundry creditors came to £6,021 or £1,861 more, while sundry debtors are much about the same at £20,844, but cash is £2,525 down at £1,312, and the temporary loan against security has been reduced by £2,500 to £7,500. Capital expenditure for the year was £15,348, but after deducting the depreciation fund there is still a credit balance of £35,491 on its account.

YORKSHIRE ELECTRIC POWER CO.

In presenting their report for the half-year ended December 31 the directors of this undertaking express their conviction that the usefulness and need of the enterprise have been fully demonstrated during the period under review. Demands for the power which the company was formed to supply are flowing from all quarters, local authorities, colliery proprietors, textile manufacturers, railway and navigation companies, and so forth, and it is a matter of satisfaction that many consumers already connected have decided, from their experience of the company's supply, to increase their original installations. The generating station at Thornhill is now in thorough working order, the load on the station is increasing, and the unit cost of producing the power is diminishing in a most gratifying fashion. Capital expenditure during the half-year was £20,549, making the total to date £246,948, against which the receipts are £249,500, leaving a credit of £2,551. An early issue of debenture stock is contemplated.

MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL.

Although this great enterprise can never become a real financial success, the construction of the waterway must have been of inestimable benefit to trade in and around Manchester, and what the district and city lose in one way they undoubtedly gain in another. It was chiefly Manchester money which built the canal, and those who found it have been content to patiently wait for better results, never harassing the directors in their uphill fight or attaching blame to anyone for the want of financial success. But the outlook is by no means hopeless, and the half-year to December 31 last witnessed further substantial progress in all directions. Weight of toll-paying merchandise which passed over the canal was 2,127,504 tons, compared with 1,868,465 tons in the corresponding period, and although there was a decline of 12,557 to 132,723 in the barge traffic the aggregate tonnage for the six months was larger by 246,482 tons at 2,260,227 tons. For the complete year 1905 the total seaborne traffic was 3,993,110 tons or an advance of 375,106, and allowing for a shrinkage of 39,330 in the barge business there is a nett gain of 335,776 tons at 4,253,354. Ship Canal revenue in the past six months was £240,691 or an improvement of £21,196, all items of income, with the exception of live stock and rents, showing increases. Against that the expenditure was up only £4,359 to £126,297 and the advance would have been smaller still but for the special outlay of £2,377 in connection with the official opening of Dock No. 9. This seems a lot of money. On maintenance the expenditure was £2,116 smaller, which is not altogether satisfactory, and there was a fair saving under the head of compensation, but traffic expenses were up £1,654 and general charges £675; working of locks, sluices, &c., cost £569 more, rates and taxes increased £1,321 and rents £994. Law charges were also considerably larger, but Parliamentary expenses were only £13 against £937. In the Bridgewater department the income was £146,334 showing an advance of £12,004, but the working expenses were up by £8,487 to £128,108, leaving the nett balance at £18,226 or an improvement of £3,517. Ship Canal nett revenue being better by £16,839 at £114,394, the total gain is £20,356 at £132,620. To that is added £882 for bankers and general interest, making £133,502, from which the directors provide interest on the first and second mortgage debentures £44,743, interest upon debenture stock £2,656 and upon mortgage of surplus lands £1,000. Rents absorb a further amount of £6,803, and after setting aside £9,000 to reserve fund as a further provision in respect of the pending litigation with Warrington traders a sum of £69,300 can be handed over to the

Manchester Corporation on account of the interest on the debentures held. This brings the total amount paid to the Corporation in respect of the year 1905 to £123,243 and the balance required to make up the £160,000, being the annual amount of interest payable in respect of the £5,000,000 loan from the Corporation, will be satisfied by the issue of £36,757 of Manchester Ship Canal (Corporation) 3½ per cent. preference stock in accordance with the provisions of the Act of 1904. Receipts on capital account for the half-year were £54,767, and the expenditure reached a nett sum of £70,471.

REGENT'S CANAL AND DOCK COMPANY.

For the six months ended December 31 the gross revenue was £47,902, against £48,420, but £837 at £19,520 was saved in expenditure, and the net balance was £320 larger at £28,382. The decline in expenses was largely due to a drop of £685 under pumping machinery. An increase of £888 to £1,543 in the sum brought forward and £47 in interest to £103 raised the available sum to £30,029, against £28,774, and after providing about £100 more at £10,944 for debenture interest, pensions, and annuities, the directors again propose a dividend at 2½ per cent. per annum on the capital stock, advancing the carry forward from £952 to £2,109. Capital expenditure in the six months was £2,270, but a small amount of debenture stock was issued, and there is now a credit to the account of £2,127.

BENT'S BREWERY CO., LIMITED.

After analysing the report and balance-sheet of this undertaking 11 months ago we finished up with the remark that "this is the kind of company that investors should leave alone." It was not a mere chance phrase, but an expression based on the unassailable principles which we apply as a test when examining company balance-sheets of all kinds. This company, for example, committed itself to a policy of expansion, involving a heavy increase in capital at a time when the utmost circumspection was called for, and the directors should, if possible, have taken in rein. Then there are huge masses of assets which never have a penny written off, so far as we can tell, and all the time profits are shrinking instead of expanding in proportion to the heavier burdens undertaken. The result is acute suffering for the ordinary shareholders, nervousness for the preference, and a weakened security for the debenture holders. The debenture debt, be it not forgotten, is £50,000 more than the issued share capital of £550,000, apart from mortgages and loans of £196,590, and if this great load of debt does not become disquieting one day we shall be surprised. Freehold and leasehold properties, including breweries and other business premises, stand at £1,330,637, including £1,673 added during the year, and, as already stated, we cannot trace any depreciation allowance against this great item. Reconstruction of the brewery and spirit stores cost £59,634, but a reserve of £28,000 brings this asset down to £31,634; book and other debts come to £27,465, and short leasehold interests, fixtures and fittings, and loans to customers stand for £69,740. Business being bad, the directors have carried forward £2,361 out of total compensation charges of £3,149, meaning that the balance-sheet will be perpetually encumbered with this account. Shareholders should also note that for the current year the charge against revenue will be very much greater. Stock-in-trade is considered worth £74,806, and brewery plant, &c., £15,353, while the cash balance is £7,037. Trade creditors are, fortunately, not oppressive at £46,817, and there is a reserve of £122,867, but how much of that would be required to make good neglected depreciation only the directors can say. Or, perhaps, the auditors might vouchsafe a few words. Profits tumbled by £4,837 to £61,214 in the year to December 31 last, and there was a decline of over £600 to £2,066 in the sum brought forward, making £63,280. From this, debenture, mortgage, and loan interest require £31,409, and £1,600 goes to the directors for their services during 1904. Preference dividend takes a further amount of £19,950, and an interim distribution at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares has already been paid, leading shareholders to expect a final return at least of similar amount. Unhappily hopes must be bitterly disappointed, as the dividend for the second six months of the year can be only 1 per cent. per annum, making 3 per cent. for the 12 months, with £2,000 allowed for depreciation of short leaseholds and £2,321 carried forward. Each of the last three years has brought with it a drop of 2 per cent. in the dividend, the return having fallen from 9 per cent. to 3, and we can hold out no hope that the worst has yet been encountered.

BODDINGTON'S BREWERIES, LIMITED.

A very slight recovery to £45,061 took place in this company's profits for the year to December 31 last, and as £3,411 had to be provided under the Compensation Act, the directors have less to do with. Therefore, after providing the preference dividend and 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, as before, only £5,000, or £1,000 less, can be placed to reserve, with an increase in the carry forward from £2,408 to £2,758. Depreciation at 2½ per cent. is allowed on brewery buildings, offices, and stables, and 10 per cent. on plant and machinery, but nothing against freehold and long leasehold hotels, public and beer houses, &c., and as capital expenditure still goes on the items continue to increase. The last-named, for example, now amounts to £804,559, a ponderous figure, and the heavy depreciation which has taken place in licensed property of all kinds during recent years renders necessary an assurance that this valuation is true worth. Cash is still very poor at £1,478, but trading accounts are a long way in favour, and the leased houses and

goodwill of £158,583 are covered by a reserve of similar amount. The general fund now reaches £23,000.

W. H. BRAKSPEAR AND SONS, LIMITED.

We should not care to be financially interested in this brewery business, despite the dividend at 11 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year to November 11 last. That, by the way, is $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. less than the return for the previous year, and 1 per cent. smaller than in 1903, and it will be a great surprise to us if the shrinkage does not continue. In fact, the financial position does not justify anything more than 5 or 6 per cent., but we suppose most of the shares are vendor-held, four out of the five directors being named Brakspear, and when it comes to dividends versus stability the latter has to be sacrificed. The position being thus, it may be said that the vendors are taking all the risk, and would suffer alone if anything went wrong, but on this point we are not so sure, because the debenture debt is no less than £129,000, against a share capital of £95,000 only. Do the tangible assets cover the debentures? Property account including goodwill stands at £218,943, or a slight increase on the year despite an unnamed allowance for depreciation of leaseholds, plant, and machinery, and we suppose the next balance-sheet will show a much greater advance, as the directors say that Mr. A. J. Baily, late of the Rock Brewery, Brighton, has joined the board, and the share capital has accordingly been increased as from November 13, 1905, by the issue of shares to that gentleman. The premium received on these shares will be placed to reserve, which can well do with the addition, but we are not very sure what all this means. Has the Rock Brewery been acquired, and, if so, at what price and under what circumstances? Debenture-holders and others are surely entitled to know. At present the reserve account is just £6,171, and we do not know when it last received an allocation. Floating liabilities come to £13,927 against debtors £19,109 and stocks £15,703; but cash is only £392, and it is pretty clear that the bankers will have to lend the £10,000 for the dividend. Some money had to be found last year in connection with the Licensing Act, which was no doubt partly responsible for the further decline of about £1,000 in the profits. Including £989 brought forward, these amounted to £16,208, from which debenture and other interest, after crediting £164 for interest received, absorbed £5,749, leaving £10,459. From that the directors propose a dividend of 11 per cent. on the share capital, reducing the carry-forward to £531, so that this return was not quite earned. A very weak position, however looked at.

SOUTHDOWN AND EAST GRINSTEAD BREWERIES, LIMITED.

This company's profits continue to steadily fall away. During 1905 the gross revenue was £38,268, rents and interest gave £5,078, and transfer fees £3, or a total of £43,349. This is reduced to £20,706 by a variety of charges, amongst which may be mentioned repairs and depreciation £5,435, a drop of £798, trade expenses, etc., £7,913, discount and bad debts £2,604, and salaries and wages £5,891. The net balance is smaller by £890, and after adding £1,579 brought in there is £22,285 for disposal. Debenture interest draws off £6,800, and the preference dividend £4,750, so that the ordinary dividend has to come down 2 per cent. to 12 per cent., with an increase in the carry forward. This is still a very good return, and would be most acceptable were it in the least degree justified. But no addition is made to the reserve, which remains at the ridiculous figure of £9,017 against estates and goodwill of no less than £313,664. This shows a small increase on the year, proving that the depreciation allowance is hopelessly inadequate. Including loan and interest of £4,760, floating liabilities reach £15,003 against book debts £16,578, stock £11,527, and cash £325, apart from £7,663 in the hands of the debenture trustees. A very unsatisfactory position.

WOOLCOMBERS, LIMITED.

This undertaking was built up from the remains of the unfortunate Yorkshire Wool Combers' Association and the report for the year ended December 31 is the first of the new concern. On the whole, it is a fairly satisfactory statement, and those who were at such pains to save something from the wreck are entitled to a good deal of congratulation on the results achieved. After allowing £38,742 for repairs, alterations and improvements the profit for the year is £45,686, from which is deducted a sum of £1,921 payable to guarantors under agreement, leaving £43,765. To that is added £80 for interest and transfer fees, making £43,845, from which administration takes £6,663, directors' remuneration £2,000, interest on purchase money £7,984, debenture interest £7,494, and sundry other charges £601. Balance left is £19,103, which enables the directors to pay the full dividend at 7 per cent. per annum on the preference shares calculated from the due dates of payment of the several instalments. The whole of the preliminary expenses, £4,613, are then written off and £2,368 is carried forward. In view of the considerable sum allowed for maintenance, repairs, &c., it is not proposed to write off any sum this year for depreciation. We are, however, glad to learn that this decision does not affect the full intention of the directors to in future years build up thoroughly adequate depreciation and reserve funds. Property account stands in the balance-sheet at £439,728 and the position on the whole seems a fair one. Only £27,619 is owing to sundry creditors against which debtors owe £59,585, investments come to £12,117, and cash reaches the excellent total of £63,028. Underwriting charges, however, figure for £31,500 and must be got rid of in due course.

HAYES, CANDY AND CO., LIMITED.

Nett profits for the twelve months ended January 19 showed a further improvement of £1,971 at £19,271, and with a larger balance of £1,299 brought forward the balance available after paying managing directors' salaries and directors' fees was £2,320 up at £16,420. The directors consequently are able to raise the dividend on the ordinary shares by $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and in accordance with the terms of the prospectus transfer £1,200 more at £2,400 to reserve leaving £1,220 to be carried forward. Liabilities to sundry creditors are £1,404 up at £30,660, while sundry debtors have been slightly reduced at £58,265 and bills receivable are £4,156 smaller at £2,817. Cash, too, is £2,219 lower at £5,766 and stocks on hand and goods paid for in advance show a reduction of £975 at £71,350. With the present addition the reserve fund amounts to £13,528, and is all invested in high-class securities. Goodwill is still valued at £50,000, and leasehold premises and fixtures, fittings, &c., after deducting an amount not disclosed for depreciation stand at £8,800 and £4,909 respectively.

THOMAS WALLIS AND CO., LIMITED.

A remarkably sound concern in all respects, this well-known business again did well in the year to January 31 last, earning a profit of £36,733, or £670 more than in the previous 12 months. From that the preference dividend, directors' fees, income and property tax, and loan interest and premium on debentures, together with costs of conversion of ordinary shares, extinction of debenture debt, &c., altogether required £15,182, leaving £21,551. With £6,236 brought in, the sum for disposal is £27,787, and after maintaining the ordinary dividend at 10 per cent. there is the increased credit of £7,787 to be carried forward. All expenses attending the conversion of the £5 ordinary shares into a £1 denomination were met from revenue, and the directors are doubtless very pleased to record the total extinction of the debenture debt, which stood at £150,000 in the first balance-sheet of the company. It is unquestionably a very excellent achievement, and as a reserve fund of £154,400 has been built up as well, our opening remarks seem quite justified. Including £25,000 owing to bankers, floating liabilities are no more than £31,606, and book debts are equally light at £29,017. The depositary in City-road is now completed.

SPENCER, TURNER, AND BOLDERO, LIMITED.

A recovery of £2,951 to £28,280 was shown in the nett income of this drapery company for the year ended January 15, and with £11,287 or £1,275 more brought in, the total available for distribution was £4,226 larger at £39,567. The directors, however, consider it advisable to keep the dividend on the ordinary shares down to the reduced level of 5 per cent. paid a year ago, and after writing off £1,013 for depreciation on fixtures, fittings, plant, &c., put £2,000 to reserve for contingencies on book debts against £500, and increase the carry forward by £2,767 to £14,054. Sundry creditors, including £43,744 due on loans and deposits and £55,797 for trade liabilities, have risen by £7,599 to £112,599, but on the other hand stocks are £1,990 up at £163,238, and sundry debtors owe £21,425 more at £305,807 against a decrease of £10,655 to £12,667 in cash and bills. Long leaseholds and goodwill are valued in the balance-sheet at £139,909, and fixtures, &c., at £19,141, while the reserves, including provision for depreciation of leaseholds, amount to £67,500, of which only £14,141 is represented by investments in Consols.

HOLBORN AND FRASCATI, LIMITED.

A further slight dip to £115,508 occurred in the profits of this well-known business during the past year, but the directors consider the results fairly satisfactory taking into account the dulness of trade during the first nine months of the year. Fortunately an improvement took place in the last quarter which is still being maintained. After providing all expenses, debenture interest, leasehold redemption and debenture trustees' remuneration the nett balance is £27,959, a drop of about £2,000. This comes on top of a decline of £5,253 shown a year ago, and but for the improvement of which the directors speak the position would begin to look somewhat serious. However, the directors again pay a dividend of 8 per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent. on the ordinary shares, adding £5,000 or £5,000 less to reserve and carrying forward £6,976. During the year sundry improvements have been effected at the Holborn and Frascati Restaurants, involving a capital expenditure of £10,849 and bringing the total outlay to £609,583. That is a tidy figure and shareholders will be pleased to hear that the accounts in connection with these additions are now being finally adjusted, meaning that during the present year the directors should be in a position to definitely close the capital account. Reserve fund now reaches £85,000, but sundry liabilities are still pretty heavy compared with the sums owing to the company, and cash is not very startling at £10,926. Shareholders are invited to take note of certain proposed alterations in the articles of association and we fancy they will do so rather critically. That relating to the appointment of managing directors may be all right, although the directors seek rather wide powers, but we are not so sure about the new article dealing with directors' fees. The board wants to be paid £1,000 a year "together with a sum equivalent to 5 per cent. per annum on the profits derived in each year from working the businesses of the company." What is meant by profits in this case? Apparently the actual balance on working and as this in the past year was nearly £40,000 it seems to us that the board is asking a little too much. How much are the fees at present?

R. AND J. HILL, LIMITED.

Sales of the lower-priced brands of cigars and common tobaccos of this company showed a decrease during the year ended December 31 owing to the closer competition in these articles, but the demand for its packet tobaccos and cigarettes seems to have been very satisfactory and trading profits were £3,670 up at £18,819, this improvement following a rise of £3,145 in the preceding twelve months. Administration charges, including £575 set aside for bad debts and £803 for interest charges, absorbed £4,840 or £1,706 more, and with £1,174 brought in and £530 from interest and transfer fees the nett profits came to £15,683 or £2,146 more. Debenture interest, bonus on debentures paid off, preference dividend and £717 written off for depreciation took £9,048 of this after which £1,000 is put to general reserve and £250 to reserve for depreciation of debentures and shares against £500 and £725 a year ago, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is increased from 2½ per cent. to 4 per cent. leaving £1,357 to be carried to the new account. The acquisition of the business of H. Archer and Co. sent the company to its bankers and a loan of £15,000 has been obtained against securities, in addition to which the second debentures issued to pay for the trade marks and goodwill of that firm amount to £4,800. Freehold and leasehold premises and goodwill are valued at £210,182, and although the leaseholds are covered by a sinking fund insurance policy the general reserve of £4,500 seems totally inadequate. Liabilities to sundry creditors are up £4,380 to £8,477, but sundry debtors have risen by £12,365 to £34,412, stocks are £3,387 higher at £43,549 and cash comes to £3,564 more at £8,078, so that the position is sound enough.

W. T. HENLEY'S TELEGRAPH CO., LIMITED.

In the calendar year 1905 this company's gross profits rose to almost £50,100, which means an increase of £3,578 on the gross profits for the present year. After deducting debenture interest, directors' and auditors' fees, the expense of issuing new debenture stock, making what is described as a sufficient but undisclosed allowance for depreciation, the nett revenue is £40,187, brought up to £66,698 by the £26,511 brought forward. The nett income is thus about £1,923 more than that for 1904, leaving out of account the balance brought forward, which is upwards of £1,000 less compared with 1903. The directors transfer £5,000 of this profit to the reserve account, raising it to £125,000, and again make up the dividend on the ordinary shares to 15 per cent. for the year, tax free, of which 5 per cent. was paid last September. This dividend and the preference dividend of 4½ per cent. is now paid on the whole of the authorised capital, £200,000 in each class of share, and after meeting it £22,698 will be left to carry forward or £3,813 less than the amount brought in. The balance-sheet shows an increase of about £53,000 in the book valuation of the freehold land, buildings, machinery, plant, etc., the total of which is now £334,977. Expenditure under these heads amounted to £58,469 after writing off depreciation in the past year, but the actual increase in the balance-sheet item is only about £53,000, so that we may infer the amount allowed for depreciation to have been £5,000. Stocks are down by about £13,000 to £177,295, and debtors up by about £25,000 to £195,100. There is also on the debit side an increase of about £23,000 in the item creditors and contingent reserves which now appear in the balance-sheet for £101,751. Cash at bankers and on hand amounted to £42,911. The directors say that to meet the growing requirements of the business £300,000 new debenture stock has been created, of which £150,000 has been issued. Out of this the former debenture stock has been redeemed.

WEBLEY AND SCOTT REVOLVER AND ARMS CO., LIMITED.

As far back as March, 1905, a reconstruction of this over-capitalised gun business was attempted, but it was so inequitable that the chances of its being carried through were exceedingly remote. Indeed, so determined was the opposition that the only sensible course was to abandon the scheme, which was done. It has now given place to another which probably stands a better chance of meeting with support. At present the capital amounts to £335,000 in equal amounts of ordinary and preference £5 shares, and it is proposed to trim this down to £217,750 divided into 23,500 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £3 10s. each and 67,000 ordinary shares of £1 10s. each, existing preference shares to receive the preference and the ordinary share for every share now held and the ordinary holders share for share. This will relieve the company of a larger fixed charge than it at present earns, while giving the preference shares an interest in future profits should they improve. A revaluation of the assets shows some tidy discrepancies compared with previous figures, freehold land and buildings being scaled down from £49,165 to £29,532 and the plant, machinery and tools from £27,307 to £24,987. Stock has already been put on a good basis by utilising the special reserve of £5,000 and applying £256 from profits, but foreign acceptances must be reduced by £1,451 to £2,734 and the investments from £19,873 to £17,073, while £91,015 is knocked off the goodwill, lowering it to £79,218. The reorganisation is therefore pretty drastic and it goes without saying that the shareholders and not the vendors suffer. The directors present a balance-sheet made up to September 30, a period of nine months, and this shows that the trading profit was £12,051. Interest on investments gave a further amount of £1,024 and transfer fees £5, a total of £13,080. After providing administrative and other charges and allowing small sums for depreciation and repairs the nett balance is £3,873. The directors propose a dividend on the preference shares at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, but to do this the carry forward is reduced from £1,401 to £149.

THE LIVERPOOL DAILY POST, THE LIVERPOOL MERCURY, AND THE LIVERPOOL ECHO, LIMITED.

Evidently the amalgamation of these important Liverpool newspapers has turned out well. No proper profit and loss account is given, and the details in the report of the board are of the most limited description; but as far as the figures go they look quite satisfactory, profits for the whole year 1905 having amounted to £58,327. In the six months ended December 31, 1904, the actual amalgamation of the papers having taken place on November 12 of that year, the profits were £21,384, so that there has been a substantial increase in the past year. These figures were arrived at, the report says, after allowing for depreciation, but what the amount of this depreciation is we are not told. The net profits, however, after meeting the preference share dividend (which takes £10,000 per annum) and paying an assumed dividend of 10 per cent. upon the ordinary capital, are ample enough to leave £8,325 for the management shares, or other purposes, without counting £5,000 set aside to reserve. We hope to see this reserve grow to large figures in the future, because goodwill, copyright, &c., figure in the balance-sheet for £501,377, a total evidently not at present excessive, looking at the fine revenue of the company, but still one to be written down.

CARL HENTSCHEL, LIMITED.

Trading for the twelve months ended December 31 is described by the directors as having been very satisfactory, and with interest on investments yielded a gross profit of £16,407. Administration charges absorbed £7,563, discounts, bad debts, depreciation, and interest took £2,822, and after paying managing director's salary, including £500 balance due for 1900-1 and directors' fees a nett profit of £4,572 was shown. This was increased to £5,270 by the amount brought forward, out of which the preference dividend is paid and the ordinary shares receive 9 per cent. for the year, leaving £1,066 to be carried forward. The company is said to have made steady progress since its conversion seven years ago, and the directors point with pride to the fact that the average dividend on the ordinary shares during that period has been at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, but we fear that this result has only been obtained by a systematic disregard of the necessity for building up adequate reserves. Out of a paid-up capital of £59,606 no less than £23,471 or 37.7 per cent. of the amount is represented by the intangible asset of goodwill, £16,407 is in leases, plant, &c., and £16,048 in shares of other undertakings controlled by this company, yet the reserve fund all told, after seven years' existence, amounts to a mere trifle of £502. The company has a loan of £3,000 and owes £12,013 to sundry creditors, but the current position is good enough, as against these liabilities stocks are valued at £2,139, sundry debtors owe £16,408 and cash comes to £4,227. As the businesses of Meisenbach, Limited, and Hentschel-Colourtype, Limited, in which this company holds controlling interests, are becoming so entwined with its own, it is suggested that the interests of shareholders will be greatly strengthened by consolidating the three into one large company. It was announced at the meeting on Wednesday that this new company is to have a capital of £130,000 of which £110,000 will be called up. The purchase price is £90,000 and preference and ordinary shareholders in this company will receive an equal number of the new shares with a cash bonus of 2½ per cent. on the preference and 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares.

RAILWAY DEBENTURE AND GENERAL TRUST CO., LIMITED.

The twelve months ended January 15 proved rather more favourable for this company, and gross profits showed a recovery of £6,042 at £17,113, but with a smaller sum of £6,296 brought in the total income was only £5,284 up at £123,409. Administration charges and debenture interest having been met another £2,090 was written off the difference between par and issue price of debentures and debenture stock, and £15,000 or £8,793 more was put to reserve, leaving a nett balance of £29,825 compared with £31,206, out of which the usual dividend of 5 per cent. is paid and £4,815 is carried forward. The company has cancelled £9,200 5 per cent. debentures and £21,620 4½ per cent. debenture stock which were included amongst the investments, with the result that the securities held are down £26,514 to £2,117,762, and as a valuation of these shows a surplus of £27,256 over book values the company may be considered to have a hidden reserve of this amount in addition to the accumulation of £200,000. Temporary loans and advances are £4,062 higher at £51,132 against which there is a reduction of £2,331 to £57,081 in cash balances, and the position therefore seems fairly good. Considerably more attention, however, should be devoted to the item of discount on the debentures and debenture stock which is carried as an asset, and still amounts to the very heavy sum of £62,319.

RAILWAY SHARE TRUST AND AGENCY CO., LIMITED.

A further improvement of £6,222 to £66,880 in the gross revenue for the year ended January 15 was recorded by this company, which is a companion to the above, and as the balance brought forward was also larger at £16,808 the amount available was £7,245 up at £83,688. After paying the dividend on the "B" stock and all administration expenses the additional funds enable the directors to transfer £12,119 to reserve against £10,315 a year ago, and to raise the distribution on the "A" stock by 1 per cent. to 5 per cent with £656 more at £17,463 to carry forward. The valuation of the securities showed an appre-

ciation of £10,881, and this sum has been added to the reserve bringing that fund up to the round £100,000. Investments as per new valuation stand at £887,100 or an increase of £32,476, and in addition loans and advances have risen by £2,250 to £8,250. Sundry debtors are down £11,064 to £7,716 against £7,035 due to sundry creditors, and cash although £983 lower is still satisfactory enough at £25,412.

UNITED STATES TRUST AND GUARANTEE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

Gross receipts for the 12 months ended December 31 rose by £1,396 to £16,291, and after meeting all expenses and transferring £311 to reserve, the nett revenue, including £4,035 brought forward, was £1,570 larger at £15,060. Of this, the dividend on the preferred stock took £7,085, and the directors are in the happy position of being able to increase the distribution on the deferred stock by 1 per cent. to 3½ per cent., and still carry forward £633 more at £4,668. In addition to the trifle from revenue, £1,541 was put to reserve from profit on realisations, but the whole of this was then written off for depreciation, leaving the fund at £18,000. Investments, taken at cost, less amounts written off, stand at £320,800, but whether this represents anything like their present market value it is impossible to say, as no list of securities is furnished, and the auditors apparently are doubtful on the point, as their certificate is given "subject to any depreciation existing."

LAW GUARANTEE AND TRUST SOCIETY, LIMITED.

Receipts from premiums, fees as trustees and commissions in the year ended December 31, after deducting reassurances, were £15,619 up at £173,648, but interest, rents, and miscellaneous receipts were slightly lower, and the total revenue showed an increase of £15,019 at £188,146. Against this claims rose by £25,068 to £105,145, management expenses and commission took £4,297 more at £39,774, or 23 per cent. of the nett premiums, and after meeting all other outgoings the nett income was £13,654 smaller at £35,743. Part of this was made good by an increase of £6,897 to £22,392 in the amount brought forward, and by setting aside £9,500 less at £8,000 for claims in suspense, the balance available after putting £5,000 to reserve was £2,843 up at £45,135, so the directors can repeat the dividend at 10 per cent., and carry forward £25,135. During the year the loan of £10,000 from the bank appears to have been paid off, but £74,134 has been added to the liabilities to sundry creditors, raising them to £127,301. On the other hand, investments are £24,652 up at £215,200, advances against securities and sundry debtors have risen £21,484 to £77,723, and premiums and interest outstanding come to £4,769 more at £23,694. Properties taken over, we are glad to see, have been reduced by £73,910 to £210,639, while cash has gone up from £4,982 to £106,624.

SCOTTISH AMERICAN INVESTMENT CO., LIMITED.

This company's operations for the year ended December 31 were remarkably successful, as besides the interest received on investments of £161,055, there was a balance of profits on securities sold of £95,926. Sundry other revenue gave £1,401, and £27,558 was brought in, making £285,941 in all. From that debenture interest absorbed £34,670, general expenses £7,575, and income-tax, &c., £4,326. The directors then write off £4,000 from premises account, and add no less than £100,000 to reserve, leaving £135,360. So after providing the preference dividend with £40,000, a distribution of 12½ per cent. is made on the ordinary shares, of which one-half has been already paid, and £32,860 is carried forward. The total of the balance-sheet is £3,243,473, represented on the credit side by ordinary investments of £3,077,052, British funds and office premises £111,188, interest accrued £30,321, cash £24,662, and furniture £250. Share capital is £1,500,000, and the debenture debt just under £1,000,000, besides a temporary loan of £50,000. With the addition now proposed the reserve fund is brought up to £600,000, and although we have no list of investments to enable us to make sure, the position of the trust is no doubt very sound. It is proposed to increase the capital by £300,000, conferring two-thirds borrowing powers, £200,000 to be in preference and £100,000 in ordinary shares. The directors want the money in order to take advantage of any favourable opportunity for investment that may arise.

EASTBOURNE GAS COMPANY.

During the six months ended December 31 this company sold 95,995,800 cubic ft. of gas at 2s. 8d. per 1,000 cubic ft., producing £26,147, while rentals gave £2,446, residual products £6,137 and miscellaneous items brought the total revenue up to £35,187. Costs of manufacture came to £17,713, distribution expenses were £5,701 and after meeting management and other charges the nett profits, including £15,067 brought forward and £61 from interest, were £24,424. Of this income-tax took £537 and £500 was transferred to insurance fund, and the directors now pay dividends at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum on the original and "C" shares, and at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum on the "B" shares carrying forward £15,549. Capital expenditure for the six months, after deducting £400 written off for depreciation, came to £352 bringing the total up to £173,734, of which £122,500 was met out of ordinary shares and £49,202 out of premiums leaving a debit of £2,032, to meet which there are £40,798 in unissued shares and £37,500 in authorised borrowing powers not yet exercised. The reserve account is only increased by the interest earned on the investments representing that fund and amounts to no more than £4,497, while there is also a tiny insurance fund of £1,000.

Trading balances are distinctly favourable, liabilities to sundry creditors being £9,770 and on deposits £1,052 against £16,486 to come in from sundry debtors, and the company is comfortably off with a balance of £10,142 in cash.

AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURAL COMPANY.

The interim report issued by the directors of this company to be laid before a special meeting of the shareholders on Tuesday next, shows that on the whole the company's business has been pretty well maintained during the past year. A slight increase occurred in the profits of the colliery department, and the wool revenue expanded by upwards of £6,300, but there was a considerable decrease in the profits of the stock department due to the decidedly lower price for sheep, the average obtained being only 16s. 3d. against 19s. 4d., a shrinkage not compensated for by a small increase in sales. The demand for building land at Newcastle was not so good as in the previous year, and only a few lots were sold, but there seems to have been an increasing demand for land on Platt's Estate. A considerable portion of the remaining land at Port Stephens has also been disposed of. After making provision for depreciation of colliery plant and machinery, colonial land tax and office expenses the nett revenue amounts approximately to £89,886, which together with £12,316 brought in makes a total of £102,203. Debenture interest and income-tax absorb £94,738, from which the directors propose to restore to reserve the sum of £10,000 taken in 1902 and placed to the credit of the Hebburn purchase account. A dividend is then proposed of 35s. per share, payable on and after 24th inst.

PERRY AND CO., LIMITED.

This company again did well in the year to December 31 last, earning a trading profit of £50,418 compared with £47,088 in the preceding twelve months. Transfer fees and dividends on investments are included in these totals, which are arrived at after making provision for depreciation of leaseholds, buildings, plant, and fixtures. Income tax takes £954 and directors' fees £2,000, leaving £47,465, which is raised to £48,506 by the sum of £1,041 brought forward. So after paying the preference dividend with £15,044 the directors provide dividends and bonus aggregating 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares, writing off £7,704 from goodwill account and carrying forward £1,704. Goodwill was also reduced by a transfer of £3,000 from reserve, bringing it down to £125,000; but it is not low enough yet, especially as the reserve is now extinguished. Otherwise the position looks fairly sound, as there is a large preponderance of debtors over creditors; bills receivable amount to £8,316, cash reaches £34,580, and high-class investments amount to £75,211. Freehold and leasehold land, buildings, plant, &c., are entering at a further sum of £115,669, and stocks are valued at £87,705.

THE LANARKSHIRE STEEL CO.

In 1905 this company did remarkably well. Its nett profits were £69,415, making with £2,969 brought forward £72,384 of free revenue, out of which the dividend on the first issue of preference shares was paid for the first half of the year, together with the dividends for 1903 and the first half of 1904 on the 1899 preference shares. This left £61,134, out of which £19,428 has been written off for depreciation, the dividend for the second half-year paid on the first preference shares, and the full dividend of 5 per cent. for the 18 months ended December 31 last on the 1899 preference shares. This done, there is still enough to pay 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year and to enable the board to add £10,000 to reserve, a balance of £4,077 being left over to carry forward. The preference dividends are subject to income-tax, but the dividend on the ordinary shares is tax free. It is added in the report that in addition to the depreciation provided for in the accounts the works have, as hitherto, been fully maintained, and have further been improved in efficiency out of revenue. The balance-sheet is thin, but looks clean as there is no fixed debt, and as the company owes its creditors about £8,000 less than its debtors owe to it, sundry creditors being £78,139 and sundry debtors £96,289. Cash in the bank and on hand amounts to £60,842, altogether a very strong exhibit.

EASTMANS, LIMITED.

The directors of this well known meat business present rather a good report for the year ended December 31 last. Trade in the country during 1905 showed a general improvement, supplies of all kinds of meat were abundant at moderate prices, and there is a prospect of a continuation of these conditions in 1906. Balance on trading account showed the excellent improvement of £24,890 at £104,848, which interest and transfer fees raise to £106,848. Directors' and auditors' fees take £2,626 and income tax £3,610, while £15,000 or £8,000 more is allowed for depreciation. Nett profit therefore comes to £85,527 against £67,921. Preference dividend requires £38,013, and after increasing the ordinary distribution from 5 per cent. to 6, the directors add £10,000 to reserve, and raise the carry forward from £6,500 to £8,314. This is the initial contribution to reserve, notwithstanding that the capital expenditure runs up to £977,546, but we know what few opportunities have presented themselves for saving money, and now only express the hope that previous omissions will be rectified as speedily as possible. Little is owing to sundry creditors, and the company is well supplied with liquid resources.

PEARSON FIRE ALARM, LIMITED.

The directors of this undertaking, whose shares have furnished some attractive meteoric displays during the past two-

or three years, present a report for twenty-one months to December 31 last. The ordinary annual accounts might have been issued, but as a committee of the Tariff Fire Insurance Offices was sitting to consider the question of recognising automatic fire alarms, the board thought it well to postpone the general meeting until the committee had made its report, and the Tariff Offices had come to a decision. Happily a favourable decision was arrived at and the directors have no doubt at all that business will now rapidly improve. Debit balances have of course been the order up to the present, the total to date being £10,692 apart from £16,878 spent on development account, but the current year is expected to witness the beginning of steadily increasing annual credits. We hope it will. Meanwhile the shareholders must pay up the remaining 2s. per share uncalled, as cash is poor, and the company must have some money to keep itself going. Patent rights and goodwill are valued at £88,042, and up to the present the directors have not seen their way to accept an offer for the foreign rights. The Central Insurance Company seems to have been intimately connected with the concern, a member of the board of each company joining the other, but when the Pearson system was recognised by the Tariff offices and the Central Insurance became one of them, this intimacy had to cease. The episode is a rather curious one.

STAR OMNIBUS CO. (LONDON), LIMITED.

This well-known omnibus business makes a very disappointing display for the year ended December 31 last. The substitution of motor for horse vehicles is proving an expensive and troublesome business. Revenue in the twelve months was £174,181 and the expenditure £158,447, leaving £15,734 as net profit, which is raised to £18,142 by the credit brought forward. Fees of managing director and directors amount to £2,579, interest on debenture stock is £482, and the dividend on the preference shares requires £8,250. It is then necessary to write off £4,670 from omnibuses and horse stock, so that after providing £52 for trustees' fees the sum remaining is £2,109, or rather less than the amount brought in. Ordinary shareholders therefore must go without a dividend. The £75,000 of debenture stock issued last year was by no means eagerly competed for, only £25,000 having been placed up to the date of the balance-sheet, but a further amount has been issued since the end of the financial year, and ample funds are now possessed for the company's present requirements. When offering this debenture stock the directors surrendered £50,000 worth of ordinary shares and now announce that the item of "Times, etc." has been written off during the year. The conversion of some of the premises into motor garages will be quite an easy matter and the company therefore considers itself in an exceptionally good position for running motor omnibuses on any route that may be considered advisable. Up to the present eleven motors have been delivered, and further deliveries may be expected before the date of the general meeting. The balance-sheet now looks much less overloaded, but we wish the directors would separate the horse omnibus stock from the motors.

WESTERN WAGON AND PROPERTY CO., LIMITED.

Gross receipts for the twelve months ended December 31 fell off by £944 to £21,416, and although expenses were reduced by £317 to £4,830, the nett revenue, including £370 or £37 more brought in, was £590 lower at £16,956. Interest on debentures and deposits required £3,148 of this against £2,962, and as the directors choose to repeat the dividend of 10 per cent. nothing can be written off the simple hire wagons account compared with £899 a year ago, but the balance forward is raised to £508. Advances, investments and other securities stand at £223,739, and the company owns 1,146 wagons let on simple hire which are valued at £26,864, in addition to which £54,342 is due for balance of purchase money on 2,047 redemption wagons not matured, and against these there is a reserve fund of £80,000, all however in the business. Sundry debtors owe £8,930, and cash amounts to £1,247, while liabilities to sundry creditors are comparatively trifling at £728.

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX FREEHOLD ESTATES CO., LIMITED.

After a temporary improvement in 1904 income again declined heavily in 1905. Profit on the sale of land was only £4,409 compared with £7,937, the total income, including interest, rents, transfer fees, &c., amounting to £5,429. So the nett profit fell from £7,524 to £3,836 and the dividend is reduced by 6d. per share to 2s. 6d., the same as was paid two years ago, but the forward balance is £5,165 less at £1,876. Thus the dividend is really maintained out of the preceding year's profits. Deducting the cost of the land sold and adding expenditure on roads, the value of the property now stands at £31,688, but sundry debtors owe £7,133 less at £33,105 and cash has shrunk £329 to £1,320, whilst sundry creditors are £412 lower at £1,079. Reserve for expenditure on roads has decreased by £792 to £6,921, though the directors profess to believe better times are coming.

EAST END DWELLINGS CO., LIMITED.

The directors report a marked improvement in the letting of the buildings in and near Victoria Park Square and Globe Road, Bethnal Green, and with the new buildings in Old Ford Road fairly well filled the profits for 1905, including £1,016 or £68 more brought in were £927 up at £13,722. Of this an extra £1,000 at £3,000 was put to reserve, and after paying the preference dividend the ordinary shares again get 5 per cent. and £92 is carried forward. Another £16,500 was borrowed from the Public Works Loan Commissioners at 3½ per cent. per annum, repayable by instalments over 30 years,

and the total liabilities on mortgages with accrued interest now come to £123,249. In addition the company holds £20,141 on deposit and owes £1,955 to sundry creditors, while the share capital amounts to £201,440, against which freehold properties are valued at £105,868 and leasehold buildings at £285,224. Sundry debtors owe a mere trifle of £254, but loans and cash come to £4,479.

LONDON PAVILION, LIMITED.

There was again a heavy decline in the business done last year by this well-known music-hall, a state of things the directors attribute to growing competition, general depression in trade and the loss of the services of the late Mr. Dan Leno. With £276 from programme advertisements the receipts totalled £43,316 against £55,094, but as outgoings decreased by over £5,000 to £35,257, the nett profits were £6,673 less at £8,059, which compares with a shrinkage of £8,353 in 1904. Once more the directors take £2,000 from the reserve and after paying the dividend on the 6 per cent. preference shares, give the ordinary 5 per cent. against 9 per cent. and 11 per cent. in the two preceding years. Only £882 is written off furniture and fittings account, and neither reserve nor premises account receives any help from revenue. In view of the prospective opening of the tube railway, a station of which is opposite the Pavilion, the directors look for an increase of business in the future.

METROPOLITAN THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LIMITED.

Gross receipts from all sources during the twelve months ended December 31 amounted to £24,436, and after providing for all outgoings, including interest on mortgage and debentures and £268 for depreciation of fixtures, &c., a nett profit of £2,346 was left. To this is added £2,755 brought forward making a total of £5,100, out of which a dividend of 6 per cent. is paid and £2,400 is carried forward. Freehold and leasehold property, goodwill and licences are valued at £117,052, and as the share and debenture capital only amounts to £75,007 the company has had to borrow £40,000 on mortgage. It has, however, managed in former years to build up a reserve fund of £12,000, of which £4,524 is invested in Consols and £4,500 in freehold property in the Edgware Road. Trading balances are adverse, £1,337 being due to creditors against sundry debtors of £600 including proportion of licences and insurance unexpired, but stock of wines, spirits, and cigars come to £811 and cash stands at £4,102.

ENGLISH ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN BOND AND SHARE HOLDERS, LIMITED.

With £2,970 from profit on investments realised the revenue for the year ended December 31 was £923 up at £9,987, but expenses absorbed £5,606 or £368 more, leaving the nett revenue £555 larger at £4,381. Adding £554 from the previous account the disposable balance was £4,936 against £4,157, and after paying the usual dividend of 6 per cent. the amount placed to reserve was raised from £500 to £1,000, and £834 or an increase of £279 was carried forward. Investments taken at or under the official list price on December 30 are valued at £61,301, in addition to which there are loans against security of £7,680, and cash comes to £4,662.

THE CENTURY INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

This modest Scotch company does life and annuity, fire, and sickness and general business, and last year seems to have progressed fairly in all three, an increase from £96,000 to about £130,000 having taken place in the funds of the life and annuity department during the year 1905. In the fire department 34 per cent. of the premium income of £4,860 was carried to the fire fund, making it £13,653, and in the sickness and general department the revenue was £48,700 and the funds raised by £21,000 odd to £130,198. The directors recommend a dividend of 20 per cent., tax free, upon the paid-up capital of £20,000.

CAR AND GENERAL INSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

This company again devoted a good deal of attention to the establishment of agencies and branches in the year ended November 30 and appointed 1,624 agents and 10 district managers. As the result of this activity the nett premium income jumped by £37,646 to £64,475 and the total revenue came to £37,889 more at £65,021, of which claims took £28,123 compared with £6,970 and commission and expenses were £12,261 higher at £26,067 or 40.4 per cent. of the nett premiums. One-eighth of this, however, was carried to what is called capital account, but which we hope is meant to be a suspense account, for establishment and extension expenses, and after setting aside one-third of the nett premiums as reserve for unexpired risks and writing off £1,752 for balance of preliminary expenses £1,410 or £465 less was carried forward.

WORLD MARINE INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

Claims, returns and reinsurances paid during the past year on the 1904 underwriting account amounted to £125,230, and after providing for these a surplus of £2,182 was left, to which were added £28,113 brought in, £6,360 from interest on investments and £44 from profit on sale of securities, &c. Deducting income-tax and sundry small sums written off, the nett balance available for distribution was £33,789, and the directors again pay dividends making 5 per cent. for the year leaving £32,286 to be carried forward. The reserve is again passed over, as well as the provision against depreciation of the investments, but that is not a matter of so much importance as the market value of the securities held is now slightly above the nett figures at which

they stand in the books. Nett premiums received during 1905 came to £228,224, of which claims took £79,646 and expenses £20,991, leaving a balance of £127,588.

AGRA OUVAH ESTATES CO., LIMITED.

Companion to the above, this company had an equally good result to report for 1905, its crop from 487 acres amounting to 351,088 lbs. or an increase of 22,667 lbs., while the nett average price rose from 44.95 cents to 47.32 cents per lb. Proceeds of sales were Rs.1,66,140, to which was added Rs.1,890 from rents, making a total of Rs.1,68,030, and after meeting all charges and transferring Rs.3,000 to reserve, the nett profits, including Rs.2,321 brought in, were Rs.66,633, out of which dividends making 17 per cent. are paid and Rs.2,883 are carried forward. With a paid-up capital of Rs.375,000, expenditure on land and buildings amounts to Rs.4,09,840 and Rs.46,837 has been spent on machinery, but against the last two items there is a depreciation fund of Rs.62,182. In addition the company has an extension fund of Rs.32,500, and a reserve for equalisation of dividends of Rs.15,000. Its current position, too, is satisfactory, as against Rs.5,361 owing to creditors tea held was valued at Rs.13,485, cash amounted to Rs.52,454, and coast advances to Rs.7,809.

HIGH FORESTS ESTATES CO., LIMITED.

This is a Ceylon tea company, owning 1,630 acres, of which 1,113 acres are in full bearing, and for the year ended December 31 secured a crop of 621,166 lbs., or 102,539 lbs. more than in the previous season. The average nett price realised was 3½ cents up at 45.86 cents per lb., and with Rs.181 from rents, gave a total income of Rs.285,048, of which expenses, including superintendent's commission, took Rs.163,253, and after writing off Rs.3,000 for depreciation, the nett profits, including interest and transfer fees, amounted to Rs.124,742. Administration charges having been met, a dividend of 12 per cent. is paid for the year, leaving £6,702 to be carried forward against £5,811 brought in. The land held is valued at Rs.863,410, or say £48 per cultivated acre, which seems high, but otherwise careful attention seems to have been paid to the question of depreciation. As against buildings valued at Rs.95,116, and machinery which cost Rs.81,708, funds amounting to Rs.82,865 have been accumulated, and are apparently held in cash, together with the reserves of Rs.10,000 for equalisation of dividends and Rs.5,071 for coast advances. Liabilities to the superintendent and others come to Rs.16,534, but, on the other hand, stocks stand at Rs.14,985 and cash, including the deposits above mentioned, at Rs.1,23,822. Coast advances, however, are very heavy at Rs.27,027.

LIBERTY AND CO., LIMITED.

This famous Regent Street business performed splendidly during the past year and earned a nett profit of £53,455 or about £13,500 more than in the previous twelve months. Gross revenue was £57,423 and interest, &c., gave £2,021 making £59,444, from which £5,726 was required for alterations, repairs and new fittings and £262 for auditors' fees. Dividend on the preference shares takes £6,000 only and the directors again provide dividend and bonus aggregating 20 per cent. on the ordinary shares. Another £5,000 is then placed to reserve, provision for other bonuses and income-tax requires £4,623 and £17,832 or about £13,500 more is added to rest account. The amount saved is therefore a good deal more than the sum distributed on the ordinary shares, and it is not surprising to find the financial position all that could be desired. Rest account is now £110,196 and the reserve £60,000 or £170,196 together, which is a good 85 per cent. of the issued share capital. There is no debenture debt, and trade and other creditors, bills payable, &c., are quite unimportant at £26,908. On the other side, debtors owe £62,847, stocks are worth £141,205, investments on account of reserve come to £65,536 and cash amounts to £32,561. Few companies can present a better statement.

MORGAN AND CO., LIMITED.

Profits for the year ended December 31 of this coach-building business, with dividends on investments and £60 profit on sale of securities, amounted to £6,544, and according to the directors' report show an increase over the previous twelve months. After providing for mortgage and debenture interest and sinking fund and administration charges £322 is written off for depreciation of plant and £539 for additions and improvements to premises leaving £3,414 to be dealt with. To this was added £2,017 brought forward making a total of £5,432, out of which a dividend is paid at the rate of 4 per cent. against 3 per cent. for 1904, and £3,297 is carried to the new account. With a paid-up capital of £53,366 the company owes £20,187 on mortgages and £10,000 on debentures against which leasehold property in London is valued at £26,339, freehold property in Leighton Buzzard at £9,923 and plant, &c., at £4,175. The sinking fund for leasehold and freehold property stands at £558, represented by £618 of Consols taken at £547, and in addition the company holds £4,500 in Consols and £2,565 in shares upon which it has a lien. Sundry debtors come to £16,571 against £6,363 due to creditors, and stocks are taken at £27,184, while cash is fairly good at £4,110.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Forth and Clyde Junction.—At the usual rate of 7 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £480.

Great North of Scotland.—At the rate of 1 per cent. per annum

on the deferred ordinary stock for the half-year ended Jan. 31, carrying forward £3,972.

Sligo, Leitrim and Northern Counties.—One and a-half per cent. on the "C" debenture stock for the whole year, carrying forward £97.

BANKS.

Bank of Africa.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, placing £3,000 to pension fund, and carrying forward £20,000.

Ionian.—Final of 3s. 6d. per share for the year ended Dec. 31, making 6 per cent. per annum for 1905.

MINES.

Alaska Mexican Gold.—30c. per share.

Alaska Treadwell Gold.—\$1 per share.

Alaska United Gold.—40c. per share.

Durban-Roodepoort Gold.—Interim on account of the year ending Dec. 31, 1906, of 3s. per share (15 per cent.), payable March 31.

Great Boulder Proprietary Gold.—Interim of 9d. per share.

Linares Lead.—8s. per share, payable 10th prox.

Nundydroog.—Balance for 1905 of 1s. 4d. per share on shares fully paid on Sept. 1 and 10½d. per share on shares on which 6s. 8d. per share account of capital on Sept. 1, making at the rate of 3s. 8d. per fully-paid share, or 36½d. per cent. for the year.

Talisman Consolidated.—Third of 1s. per share, payable March 7.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Aberdeen Jute.—6d. per share for the year ended Jan. 31.

Antrim Iron Ore.—Further of 3½ per cent., making 5½ per cent. for 1905.

Bolckow, Vaughan, and Co.—Interim for the half-year ended Dec. 31 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares.

Bournemouth and Poole Electricity Supply.—On the ordinary shares at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for the year ended Dec. 31.

Broken Hill Water Supply.—No. 50, of 6d. per share, payable April 2.

Brown Bayley's Steel Works.—Final of 10 per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £6,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £12,083.

Canadian and American Mortgage.—Five per cent. for 1905, placing £5,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £2,859.

Cardiff Junction Dry Dock and Engineering.—Three per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £2,167.

Crossley Brothers.—Final of 6 per cent., making 11 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £21,768.

David Thom and Co.—Two and a-half per cent. on the preference shares for the nine months ended Dec. 31.

F. Steiner.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

General Reversionary and Investment.—Five per cent., payable in equal instalments on March 26 and Sept. 29 next.

Leopold Schwabacher.—Interim at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, and at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, for the half-year ended Dec. 19.

Macdonald Fraser.—Six per cent. for year to Jan. 31.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply.—Further of 5½ per cent., making 8 per cent. for 1905.

North British Locomotive.—On the preference shares of 2½ per cent. for the half-year ended Dec. 31, making 5 per cent. for the year, and on the ordinary shares of 10 per cent. for 1905.

North's Navigation Collieries (1889).—Further of 5s. per share on the preference shares, and 5s. per share on the ordinary shares, making for the year ended Dec. 30 10 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, and at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares.

Plymouth Breweries.—Five per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £3,500 to reserve.

Queen Hotel, Harrogate.—Further of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for 1905.

River Plate Trust, Loan, and Agency.—Further of 8 per cent. on the "A" shares, making 14½ per cent. for the year, and 2 per cent. on the "B" shares, making 3½ per cent. for the year, and a bonus of 1s. 6d. per share on the "A" and "B" shares for 1905, placing £25,000 to reserve.

Sanitas.—Final of 4½ per cent. and a bonus of ½ per cent., making 7½ per cent. per annum for the year ended Dec. 31.

Santa Catalina Nitrate.—First quarterly of 3 per cent. on account of the current year.

Smedley's Hydropathic.—At the rate of 12½ per cent. for the half-year ended 31st ult.

Surrey Commercial Dock.—£2 10s. per cent. on the ordinary stock, and on preference stock "A," making £5 per cent. for the year.

United Alkali.—Final of 7s. per share, making 7 per cent. on the preference shares for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £90,000 to reserve and £18,000 forward.

United Carlo Gatti, Stevenson, and Slaters.—At the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the six months ended Dec. 31, making 5 per cent. for the year.

Vulcan Boiler and General Insurance.—5s. per £2 10s. paid share, carrying £9,000 to investment depreciation fund, £1,155 to current risk and reserve fund, and £1,570 forward.

W. T. Henley's Telegraph Works.—15 per cent. for the year.

Wharnccliffe Dwellings.—One per cent. on the deferred shares, carrying forward £125.

Willer and Riley.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

CARL HENTSCHEL, LIMITED.

The seventh annual general meeting of the shareholders of Carl Hentschel, Limited, was held on Thursday, at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. Carl Hentschel (chairman and managing director of the company) presiding.

The secretary (Mr Herbert J. Gibbins) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the showing for the year 1905 was very satisfactory. The gross profits on "trading and dividends on investments" account of £16,407 exhibited an increase over the previous year. After paying the preference dividend the directors recommend a final dividend on the ordinary shares for the half-year to December 31 at the rate of 13 per cent. per annum, making the total distribution for the year 9 per cent., carrying forward £1,066. He then proceeded to deal with the history of the company, and said it was very gratifying that a business started in 1887 with six hands and a capital of £500 should now be employing 400 hands and earning substantial dividends for 300 shareholders. Since the conversion, seven years ago, the business had made steady progress, while the dividends paid over the whole period worked out at an average rate of 8 per cent. per annum. The record of progressive profits started with the year 1888, and a point to which he attached a special importance was that these profits had always responded proportionately to each introduction of additional working capital. Shortly after the formation of the company, when they were on the look-out for further premises, they were fortunate enough to secure those of the Meisenbach Company, at Norwood. That company, who were the pioneers of half-tone engraving, were feeling the strain of the competition to which Carl Hentschel, Limited, had chiefly contributed, and they were able to negotiate for the purchase of the whole of their shares upon terms which had since proved very advantageous. In 1901 they took a substantial interest in the Hentschel Colourtype Company, then founded to exploit a new colour process. Previous to that date Carl Hentschel, Limited, had expended a good deal of money on experiments with certain colour processes, but on the discovery of the new colourtype process it was thought advisable to form a new company to provide the fresh capital required, rather than increase the capital of the parent company. They considered this the more prudent course, as in the event of the process not proving successful the established business of Carl Hentschel, Limited, might have suffered. But from the start of operations there never had been any doubt as to the practical and commercial success of the Hentschel colourtype process. They had on their books the names of all the principal printers, publishers, and newspapers. Their turnover had steadily increased. The fact that over fifty cameras were steadily kept busy might give some idea of the enormous amount of work that was done. The company held contracts with some of the leading papers of the day, and illustrations were becoming a feature more and more, not only of the weekly Press, but of the daily Press and for commercial purposes. The company's plant was the most up to date obtainable, and was kept in that condition by renewals year by year. The auditors had satisfied themselves that full allowance for depreciation had been made every year. The position the company held to-day was a high one. The works controlled by Carl Hentschel, Limited, now constituted the largest process engraving establishment in the world. The names of Carl Hentschel, Meisenbach, and Hentschel colourtype were recognised throughout the trade as pioneers of process work in line, half-tone and colour, and were in themselves a valuable asset to the shareholders.

At the present day, when process productions were the chief constituent of the illustrated papers, it was difficult to realise the struggles and prejudices of the early eighties when wood engraving held the field. Process having revolutionised the Press, there was yet another process which would create another revolution, and that was the Hentschel colourtype process. The coloured department of their business had steadily developed, and the Hentschel colourtype process was not likely to lose the ground it had gained, for they were improving it year by year. Colour work in the past was monopolised by Germany. That no longer was the case, for England could now boast that the finest colour work was being produced and printed here, and for this the Hentschel colourtype could claim the credit. The present capital of the three companies was £85,000, the share capital of the Meisenbach Company being £10,000, which was held by Carl Hentschel, Limited. It had been decided to amalgamate the three companies into one, with a capital of £130,000.

Mr. Arthur J. Tatham seconded the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts, which was put to the meeting and unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman next moved the following resolution:—"That the company in general meeting hereby approves the scheme of the amalgamation of the affairs of this company with Hentschel Colourtype (1901), Limited, and confirms the action of the directors in entering into a contract with the trustee for an intended company for the sale of the undertaking and assets of this company to a company to carry out the said amalgamation, and directs the board of directors to take the necessary steps to make the said agreement binding upon the new company when formed, and to carry out the sale thereby agreed to be made."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Tatham and carried unanimously.

The Chairman said he might incidentally mention, as showing the confidence the shareholders had in the directors, that proxies in favour of the scheme had been sent in by the holders of 80,000 out of the 85,000 shares of the two companies. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Louis Posener proposed a resolution approving payment of the preference dividends for the year 1905, of the interim dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the six months ended June 30, 1905, and 13 per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares for the six months ended December 31, 1905, making a total dividend for the year of 9 per cent.

Mr. Critchley seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

The retiring directors and auditors having been re-elected, the meeting closed with the usual compliment to the chairman.

EDISON ORE-MILLING SYNDICATE.

The sixth ordinary general meeting of the members of the Edison Ore-Milling Syndicate was held on Thursday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., under the presidency of Sir Joseph Lawrence (the chairman of the syndicate).

The Secretary (Mr. J. Hall, Junr., F.C.I.S.) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:—"The syndicate was originally formed, as you are aware, for the purpose of exploiting Mr. Edison's patents for the crushing, separation, concentration and briquetting of ores and minerals, especially iron. The first four years we were looking out for properties upon which to work the process. It is four years ago since the Dunderland Iron Ore Company in Norway was formed, and from that we received a very large consideration for the licenses to use our patents and for the pioneering and prospecting work we had done. We have had to wait until that profit developed sufficiently to enable us to put forward further efforts based on the success of the Dunderland Company. We were also waiting the outcome—the successful outcome as we hoped, and which is now assured—of Mr. Edison's own experiments in America with ores and minerals, and also for the development of his gigantic cement enterprise. The cement works in America are now fully established, and are running successfully. In the case of the Dunderland Iron Mines in Norway, we are in the happy position of being able to say, with Sir David Dale, the chairman of the Dunderland Iron Ore Co., Limited, at the meeting in September last, that we are nearing the point at which we shall be turning out iron ore briquettes of a very high quality. As is stated in our report, the price of iron ore is now materially higher than it was at the company's formation, and the briquettes should fetch prices largely in excess of the amount stated in the prospectus of that company. (Applause.) Coming back to the position as set forth in the report, the valuation at December 30 of holdings in the Dunderland Company and other companies shows an excess of £234,000 over the sum at which they stand in our balance-sheet. We have been patient and long-suffering people in this syndicate, but at length we can see our way to safely distributing some of the profits which have accrued to us in respect of our past investments and labours. We have had these assets for some three or four years, but there has always been a difficulty about distributing any of them, because of the liability for income-tax. After negotiations, which have been going on for some two or three years, we have now arrived at a satisfactory settlement with the Inland Revenue Commissioners, and we are now in a position to make a distribution in the way of dividend. The division we propose to make is only of a portion of our assets, but it is a substantial dividend, and the recommendation in our report is that 40,000 fully paid ordinary shares of the Dunderland Iron Ore Company should be forthwith distributed as a scrip dividend (free of income-tax), being in the proportion of one £5 ordinary share in the Dunderland Iron Ore Company for every four £1 shares in this syndicate. In individual cases there are some small fractions which are not a multiple of these figures, and we are proposing to pay those fractions in cash. With regard to the Dunderland Works, I think I should be going outside my province as the chairman of this syndicate if I said anything more than is contained in the last annual report of the directors of the Dunderland Company issued to the shareholders last September: "Your directors confidently expect that by the end of the current financial year, March 31, the company's products will begin to be placed on the market and profit earned thereby, and they looked forward to the outputs steadily increasing until the quantity and profit estimated in the company's prospectus are reached." Since then the works have been steadily proceeding, the harbour and the railway were finished some time ago, and the plant is practically completed. What is being done now is in the nature, so far as the machinery is concerned, of what is called by engineers "tuning up." After dealing with other matters, the chairman concluded by moving the resolution.

This was seconded by Mr. Francis H. Pollen, the managing director, and carried unanimously after some discussion.

A resolution was afterwards carried approving of the scrip dividend, and another voting the sum of 1,000 guineas to the directors for their remuneration for the year 1905, no fees having been paid since 1902.

It was then decided by resolution that the remuneration of the directors for 1906 be fixed at £300 each per annum, with an additional £200 for the chairman.

The retiring director and auditors having been reappointed, the meeting closed with the usual votes of thanks.

NATIONAL TELEPHONE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The twenty-seventh ordinary general meeting of the National Telephone Company, Limited, was held on Thursday, at Hamilton House, Victoria Embankment, E.C., Sir Henry Fowler, M.P., chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Albert Anns) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, first of all dealt with the accounts. They would see that the income accrued in the past half-year was £1,125,977, an increase over the corresponding half-year of 1904 of £92,272. There was likewise an advance in the Post Office royalties from £95,195 to £105,866. To show how largely the company had contributed to the public purse in this way, he stated that the total amount of the royalties since the first licence was granted in 1881 had been over £2,000,000. The working expenses for the half-year amounted to £647,846, an advance of £56,000. The nett result for the six months was a balance profit, after deducting the Post Office royalties, of £372,000, as compared with £346,874 in the corresponding six months of the previous year. Besides paying the usual dividends, the distribution on the deferred stock being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, it was proposed to add £125,000 to the reserve fund, and to carry forward £9,858. Dealing with the figures for the whole of 1905, he stated that the profit during that period had increased from £678,346 to £730,743, and the reserve fund from £1,503,410 to £1,912,475. In the same period the company's stations had grown from 315,829 to 362,413, and the staff now numbered 15,702 persons, or 1,858 more than at December 31, 1904. The telephonic messages transmitted in the year were 1,053,000,000. To appreciate that figure, they must bear in mind that during the same period the inland telegrams were only 88,000,000. The average receipt per exchange telephonic message was a fraction under ½d. He thought it would be admitted that the growth of the business had been most remarkable. There was a good deal of uneasiness felt by the shareholders as to whether what was known as the "London agreement" would interfere with the undertaking. The Post Office had now been in competition with them for practically four years, and they had got 31,000 entirely new stations. If there had been an excess of supply the company's operations must have been affected materially, but the fact was that during those four years their own stations had increased from 47,000 to about 73,000. These figures proved that there was ample room in London for a further extension of the telephone service. The result of the arrangement which they made in 1902 to work amicably with the Post Office encouraged the board to believe that the pursuit of a similar policy elsewhere during the short period of existence that remained to the company would be beneficial to the Post Office, to the public, and to themselves. With regard to the agreement for the sale of the undertaking to the Post Office at the end of 1911, he said that a modification introduced by the Select Committee which considered the agreement would ensure that practically the whole of the company's staff, with the exception of those in receipt of £700 per annum and upwards, would be in the same financial position as if they remained with the company. It was a matter of great satisfaction to the board that such an arrangement had been made for the employees. As to the limited number to whom the Postmaster-General's undertaking did not apply, including their able general manager (Mr. Gaine), it was proposed to establish a fund from revenue applicable to compensation in their cases. (Hear, hear.) Having taken office in the Government, he considered it to be his duty to retire from the board. He had taken a keen interest in the company since his first connection with the directorate, and he was satisfied that a great injustice had been done to the undertaking by many of the criticisms to which it had been subjected. (Hear, hear.) He considered that the position of the company was sound and satisfactory, and he left the board with no regret except that which he felt at severing his connection with his colleagues and the shareholders. In conclusion, he moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. George Franklin seconded the resolution, and spoke highly of the services of the chairman, expressing regret that he was giving up his position.

After several shareholders had made complimentary remarks with regard to the chairman's retirement, the resolution was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors were re-elected, and at a special meeting the alteration in the articles of association appearing on the notice paper were agreed to.

LONDON ROAD CAR CO., LIMITED.

The forty-sixth ordinary half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the London Road Car Co., Limited, was held on Monday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. John Howard Moore, J.P. (chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. John C. Mitchell, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting, and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: The report commences by a statement that there has been a considerable reduction in the receipts of our horse-drawn cars, due to the unfavourable weather which was experienced in the late summer and autumn months, and to the competition of the new motor omnibus companies. This is perfectly true, but there might perhaps be added the further competition in consequence of the electrification of the Metro-

politan and Metropolitan District Railways, and, to a more limited extent, the steamboats of the London County Council. The decrease in our horse-car receipts has been more than made good by the takings of our motor cars, with the gratifying result that the total traffic receipts are £204,417 against £200,160 for the corresponding period of 1905, and we have carried 36,275,065 passengers against 35,687,413 (applause)—or an increase of 587,652—the number of passengers carried by our motors during the half-year being 2,527,174. As regards expenses, owing to the higher prices of feeding stuffs ruling during the half-year, the cost of foraging each horse per week has advanced from 8s. 2½d. to 9s. We estimate that this increase in the cost of forage, due to increased prices, has cost the company no less a sum than about £7,000 for the half-year. Under the heading of "Car and Motor Repairs and Renewals," the figures show a considerable increase, but on the other hand the reduction under the head of "Horse Renewals" is even more considerable. As a matter of fact, the motor stands in the position of the horse, and as we have always had to suffer loss in horse-flesh when we added to our stud, or simply made good "wear and tear," a similar result is natural in the case of the motor. The item of car and motor repairs and renewals, however, has been swollen by our having added thereto the loss which we made on the sale of some motors which were found to be unsuitable for London traffic. The chairman proceeded to reply to criticisms based on the alleged apathy of the directors towards motor traction, and epitomised what had actually been done in this direction for the past six years. As a consequence of the trials made and of the successful running of motors in provincial towns, the board came to the conclusion in December, 1904, that the experimental stage of motor vehicles had been passed. They consequently placed orders with makers of reliability and informed the shareholders by circular dated January 2, 1905, that in the directors' opinion the time had arrived when the operation of substituting mechanically-driven vehicles for the present horse cars should be seriously commenced, and the existing horses and cars disposed of by degrees. To enable them to carry this through, they offered the remaining unissued shares of the company, amounting to £116,004, for subscription by the shareholders in accordance with the terms of the resolution by which the capital had been authorised. The bulk of the shareholders did not make the hearty response to this appeal which the directors had anticipated, but of the amount asked for £60,000 was raised at the small cost of £350, and the board proceeded with their scheme. The delays and disappointments, however, which had hampered them from the beginning, and which appeared to be inseparable from the motor business, continued, and one of the contracts referred to in the circular he had mentioned had not yet been completed. For five or six years the directors had been using every effort to secure a machine which would be quite suitable for public service. When this was on the eve of fulfilment, last year, the promoters of several new motor omnibus companies, who had done nothing to aid the evolution of the motor omnibus, appeared on the scene, and appealed to the public for funds to enable them to oppose this company and other omnibus proprietors. It must, of course, be perfectly obvious that the horse-drawn car could have no chance against the swifter running motor, and the substitution of the one for the other must therefore be now accelerated and carried through with the utmost possible expedition. This will also need money for its fulfilment, which in the circumstances the directors felt sure that the shareholders would provide when called upon.

The motion for the adoption of the report and accounts was carried unanimously.

NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.

The seventieth annual ordinary meeting of the members of the National Provident Institution for Mutual Life Assurance was held yesterday at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., the Hon. Vicary Gibbs, the chairman of the company, presiding.

The Actuary and Secretary, Mr. L. F. Hovill, having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, after referring to the death of Mr. C. S. Read and the resignation of the Master of Elibank, M.P., announced that the vacancies thus created had been filled by the appointment of Messrs. A. Smither and H. E. Hoare. He then continued by saying that the new business which they had put on their books was just over £600,000, or some £50,000 more than they received last year. Although they had often exceeded this figure, especially in the years immediately preceding or following a bonus declaration, they were particularly pleased to have done so much this last year, as it was the middle year of the quinquennium, when their new business returns were generally at their lowest. The reason for this no doubt was that at that time there was no special force operating to bring them in new policy holders. The effect of the preceding division of profits had worn off, and the next was too far off to attract the public, for they always found that they liked to assure just before a bonus division. It must not be forgotten, too, that last year certain alterations were made in their rules, and they had, in consequence, been able to add to the forms of assurance they had been previously offering to the public, and that had helped to contribute to the increase which they showed on last year's business. Anyhow, they had never done so much as £600,000 in the corresponding year of any past quinquennium. (Hear, hear.) One of their new tables that had met with a very fair measure of support and quite justified its introduction was the children's deferred assurance table. Under it policies were granted on the

lives of children, the sum assured becoming payable only in the event of death at any time after attainment of the deferred age selected, which was either 21 or 25. They must not look at the amount of new business transacted by a life office without considering the expense the office had been put to in obtaining it. Last year the total expenses worked out at 10.7 of the premium income; this year the expense ratio had further decreased to 10.2 per cent., which he was sure they would agree was a very satisfactory feature of the report. They were again able to say that the mortality experience of the institution continued to be very favourable. The next item of interest was the amount received as interest and rents from invested funds. This had increased by some £6,000 to £245,000, and represented an average rate of £4 1s. 2d. per cent. on the average total funds of the year invested and uninvested, or if they deducted income-tax, £3 17s. 3d. per cent. The increased rate of interest had more than made up for the higher income-tax. He had thus shown them that owing to the increasing rate of interest the funds had been able to earn the high rate of income-tax had not harmed them, but he must make some reservation, as life assurance must naturally be affected by any increase in the burden of taxation, imperial or local. Turning to the balance-sheet, he said they had experienced no difficulties in the investment of their surplus funds during the year. Good securities had been sufficiently plentiful and remunerative rates of interest obtained. The total sum they had had to invest was about £400,000. Referring to the criticism of American life companies, he said they had no wish to make capital out of the misfortunes of others, but the exposures they had read about must tend to injure the cause of life assurance here as well as in America. But such a state of affairs could not exist here. In America the public had relied too much on a system of State supervision of insurance companies, which had not proved effective. In this country policyholders were protected by the provisions of the Life Assurance Companies Acts. In addition they had their auditors, two of whom were professional auditors. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report.

Mr. R. M. Curtis seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The usual formal business having been transacted,

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

BAKU RUSSIAN PETROLEUM CO., LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Baku Russian Petroleum Co., Limited, was held on Monday at Winchester House, E.C., for the purpose of receiving and considering a report of the shareholders' committee which was appointed at the extraordinary general meeting held on December 12, 1905, with a view to determining whether any, and, if so, what steps should be taken in consequence of such report. Colonel Ivor Phillips, M.P. (chairman of the company), presided.

The Secretary (Mr. A. S. Evens) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said the committee appointed at the previous meeting to consider the question of reorganisation had met and had in turn appointed a sub-committee, who had dealt, not only with the question, of reorganisation, but with a number of serious allegations made against the management of the company. The future management and the reorganisation of the capital of the company were matters which were reserved for further consideration; but the sub-committee had reported that they had been unable to find any evidence to lead them to believe that any director had left the board or that any new director had been placed on the board through the influence of Mr. H. N. Gladstone, and the committee also found that the allegation that Mr. Gladstone had used his position on the board improperly to promote his personal interests was wholly unjustified. In moving the adoption of the sub-committee's report, he would like to remind the shareholders that the board of directors was now a new one, that the management of the company was new, and that up to August last the position of the company was daily improving. Unforeseen circumstances which occurred in August and September had dashed their hopes, and the position which they had been slowly recovering was lost, owing to incendiarism, revolution, and labour troubles. In due course the sub-committee, in conjunction with the directors, would be prepared to submit a scheme of reconstruction, and he might ask them to come together shortly to go into that matter. Meanwhile they had had an offer from a syndicate to lease their property, and a circular urging the shareholders to accept that offer had been sent out by Dr. Whitty. But the proposal recommended itself neither to the board nor to the sub-committee, before whom the directors had placed it. Beyond this he only desired to say that, in his opinion, the continuous agitation against the board and against the management of the company was very damaging to the property of the shareholders, and there was no doubt that the constant agitation for reorganisation did much to depreciate their shares. His only hope was that it would cease after that meeting.

Mr. Lea Smith seconded the motion. He was pleased, he said, that the committee had investigated the charges made, and had come to the conclusions which they had submitted in their report. In times like these they certainly did not want to swap horses, but rather to keep their friends together, because, in his opinion, there must in all these companies be very great financial arrangements made.

Dr. Whitty proposed as an amendment "that, in view of the present dissatisfaction amongst shareholders owing to the absence of dividends during the past five years, the meeting

agrees in principle with the scheme of reorganisation as laid before them by Dr. Whitty, whereby guaranteed dividends will be regularly forthcoming, and demands the appointment of a new committee to reopen negotiations on the lines suggested; that the said committee report to a general meeting of shareholders before concluding a final agreement; and that the report of the sub-committee now presented be not adopted."

Surgeon-General De Renzy seconded the amendment.

Mr. Young adversely criticised Dr. Whitty's scheme.

Mr. Dvorkovitz contended that the report of the sub-committee justified the agitation that had been conducted against the management of the company.

On the amendment being put to the meeting it was rejected by 28 votes to 15 (many of those present not voting), and the chairman's motion to adopt the report was carried by 26 votes to 22.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26.

Automobile Cab.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.

Liberty.—152, Regent Street, noon.

Pearson Fire Alarm.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

South Metropolitan Electric Light and Power.—Winchester House, 3.30 p.m.

South Essex Water Works.—Cannon Street Hotel, 3.30 p.m.

White Feather Main Reef.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27.

Bank of Mauritius.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Cambridge Railway.—Palmerston House, 3 p.m.

Civil Service Supply.—Cannon Street Hotel, 6 p.m.

Dunlop, James.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.

Exploration.—Winchester House, noon.

Illustrated London News and Sketch.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.

Fanti Consolidated Mines.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Legal and General Life Association.—10, Fleet Street, 2 p.m.

Merchants' Trust.—Winchester House, noon.

Mercantile Investment and General Trust.—Winchester House, 12.45 p.m.

Southdown and East Grinstead Breweries.—Lewes, 1 p.m.

Telegraph Construction and Maintenance.—38, Old Broad Street, 1 p.m.

West Ham Gas.—Liverpool Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.

Yorkshire Electric Power.—Leeds, 2.45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28.

Bradford Dyers' Association.—Bradford, noon.

Chelsea Electricity Supply.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

General Hydraulic Power.—Winchester House, noon.

Harrod's Stores.—Brompton Road, 3 p.m.

Isle of Wight Central Railway.—3, Lothbury, 12.30 p.m.

Law Life Assurance.—187, Fleet Street, 1 p.m.

Mellersh and Neale.—Regate, 4.30 p.m.

Oakey (John) and Sons.—Albion Hotel, 12.30 p.m.

Star Omnibus.—Cannon Street Hotel, 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1.

Boumahon Copper Mines.—Cannon Street Hotel, 3 p.m.

London General Omnibus.—Salisbury House, 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2.

Gas, Water, and General Investment.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.

Lisbon-Berlyn.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.

BRITISH LAND CO., LIMITED.

There was a further substantial increase of £6,000 at £73,063 in this company's sales last year, in addition to which rents yielded £4,878, interest £7,168 and transfer fees £108. Advances were made to the extent of £29,177 and the repayments were £27,702, the balance due to the company at the end of the year being £66,149. The profit and loss account shows an available balance of £23,949, and the directors again recommend a dividend of 5 per cent. with a bonus of 1s. per share leaving £5,949 to be carried forward. Another £3,000 is put to the reserve increasing it to £6,000.

THROUGH DELIVERY GOODS.

THE LONDON AND INDIA DOCKS COMPANY have issued a Schedule of Wharfage Rates applicable to Import Goods which are required only to be passed over the quay for immediate delivery from the ship's side to conveyance. The Directors believe that the rates are sufficiently low to enable traders and others to avail themselves of the facilities afforded by the Company for taking delivery of goods from the quays of the Docks where the vessels discharge.

Arrangements have also been made by which delivery of goods can be taken on low terms at any Dock of the Company most convenient to the trader, and for the conveyance of goods direct to the trader's premises.

The Company are open to appoint Agents or Representatives in all parts of the United Kingdom, America, the Continent, or the Colonies.

Further information can be obtained at the Dock House, 109, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.

J. G. BROODBANK,
Secretary.

21st February, 1906.

The Investors' Review

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Questions about Public Securities will be answered each week in the *Investors' Review* on the following terms:—

For each question thus answered the charge will be One Shilling. Where more than One Question is put they should be numbered, and a copy kept. No Security is ever named in the Answers Printed.

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Lists of Investments furnished by correspondents will be annotated, or new lists of suggested investments will be supplied on the same terms, viz.:—10s. for the First Three, and 2s. 6d. for each Additional one. But no group of securities forming a trust calculated to yield a given income will be supplied for less than One Pound.

The charge for Wires about New Issues appearing on days that prevent timely criticism in the *Investors' Review* will also be 2s. 6d., plus a prepaid telegram form.

The Editors cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

Letters from correspondents must, in every case, be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

The Investors' Review.

South African Affairs.

The subjoined paragraphs appeared in last Saturday's *Manchester Guardian*. They are extracts from a letter dated Cape Town, January 29 last. It was written by a business man in South Africa, at one time resident in Manchester. The fact that the writer is a British subject and not a mere Boer—one of a race whom Lord Milner, with the savage fatalism of a mean-minded man continues to despise, notwithstanding all his past experience—gives the observations additional weight. It is a revealing letter, one of those documents which tell us more of what a community is thinking and feeling than any amount of newspaper correspondence or bureaucratic asseveration. Note particularly the expression used about the Continental Jews who are described by the writer as the "wretched Jewish financiers of the Rand," "the greatest enemies we have ever had here." In a sense this is true enough, and an accurate description of a suddenly emancipated class of people reared under despotic and oppressive conditions, but though the ghetto-bred foreign Jewish financier, by his skill and unscrupulousness, his complete emancipation from anything like constitutional ideas or moral considerations in business, has been the most prominent and active agent in the degradation and ruin of South Africa, it is not for us here to join in hounding him down. Whenever we look into the miserable story of crime and injustice, of bloodshed and oppression, the recent history of our government of South Africa presents, it is not upon the Jewish financier that our wrath is most prone to explode, it is on men like this bitter-hearted German satrap, Lord Milner, upon men, aristocrats all, or academic decadents, who have been not merely the willing tools of the Jew financier, but eager to outstrip him in every form of inhumanity, race hatred, ruthlessness, greed, and brutal cruelty. It is our dukes and peers, our upper classes, so-called, of all descriptions who have been fervid disciples in every form of social and political injustice, eager and degraded scramblers after the money which the financiers were supposed to be capable of creating for them out of nothing whom we must scorn and despise. If the democracy has risen at last in its strength, and got ready to overthrow the whole fabric of corruption and iniquity built up by these abandoned personages, it must not rest satisfied with mere victory at the polls, mere cursing at the Jews. Vigilance constant and determined is necessary against the Christians in high places if the victory is to be made secure and abiding.

We can see the wisdom of this attitude in the debate which took place last Monday and Tuesday in the House of Lords on Lord Milner's motion. That gold-worshipping, vengeful-minded man's speech must have been a revelation to the people of this country—if they cared to read it. Had they known what sort of a man this was at the time of his appointment it is not improbable that such a clamour would have arisen against it as might have prevented his being sent out. The nation did not know, the more is the pity, but it is something even at this late day to have revealed to us the utter insignificance of mind, the narrowness of vision, the complete absence of anything approaching enlightened statesmanship which go to form the char-

acteristics of this martinet and misanthrope, this exponent of the imperialism of race hatred, as a public servant.

And it is not upon Lord Milner's melancholy performance that we care to dwell as affording a warning to all lovers of liberty to be vigilant; nor even upon the speech of the Earl of Elgin, the Colonial Secretary in the new Government. We watch because of the dukes and bishops, the honourables and right honourables, male and female, whose self-interests make them zealous for slavery. Instead of manfully standing up to the bitter naturalised satrap, who prophesies war, war, more war, as fruit of crimes against the human race of his own committing, Lord Elgin rather bowed before him, yet while lamely adhering to the decision the Government came to last week about Chinese labour, even the Earl had to make it plain that, though not himself a very strenuous guardian either of the rights of the white population or of the interests of black in South Africa, the will of the nation has to be obeyed. Chinese labour is not "slavery" to him, and he appears to be wholly oblivious to the danger the white population of all races is running in South Africa through the growing discontent of the black natives with its presence in their land. So far it is in Natal alone where discontent of any sort has openly manifested itself, leading to alarm, to the massing of troops, to measures of coercion and bloodshed, but there can be no doubt whatever that a feeling of resentment, a fruit of the Chinese slave labour experiment, pervades the minds of the blacks from one end of South Africa to the other. The fact comes out incidentally in the subjoined extracts, and if the Government of Natal does not take care it may provoke a general explosion. That poll tax ought to be given up even if Natal is driven into bankruptcy, as it probably will be in any event before many years are over. Its white government is the most extravagant among those of the self-governing colonies, and the shameless manner in which it added loan to loan when the war came to an end proves it to be a government possessed of very little moral scruple of any kind. It doubtless wants the poll tax now, wants every shilling of revenue it can wring out of the people, but the Colonial Office may have to interfere lest the injustice done to the blacks in Natal proves to be the last straw, provoking a black rebellion in the Transvaal, in Orangia, and in Cape Colony. We do not want the Natalese any more than Lord Milner to bring upon us another war almost as difficult and perhaps nearly as costly as the white man's war our German bureaucrat brought about in obedience to the wishes of his Continental financier masters and their hirelings, hangers-on, lackeys, and dupes in our most delicate and refined "Society" here.

Now read the following letter and be thankful that Mr. Asquith, last Friday, spoke out with such emphasis and lucidity as to dissipate all fears about the fate of the unhappy Chinese. We almost hope now that the Government may find a decent pretext to confiscate the mines altogether in the public interest:—

We are cheered by the glorious news of your elections at home, which will, we hope, mean five or six years of sane and sober government, with the assurance that we in South Africa will be left in peace to work out our own salvation free from interference by Downing Street in the interests of the greatest enemies we ever had here—the wretched Jewish financiers of the Rand. Also we confidently look forward in due course to see the last of the pigtailed disappear over the horizon; and what a relief that will be to South Africa at large you at home cannot realise.

We dread the complication of the native question, which hangs ever like a sword over our heads. You people at home do not seem to realise that we out here form only a very small body of white men in the midst of hordes of actual savages. To avoid trouble with the natives all our efforts have been directed to evolve a system by which they can be kept happy and comfortable. They have latterly always looked for work on the mines to turn to when "hard up," or when they have wished to acquire cattle wherewith to buy a wife. If the Chinese are going to take away that resource from them, I for one shudder to think what is likely to be the result. Naturally, the gentlemen who live in Park Lane and who have been wont to pull the strings of Downing Street do not make any account of such

little difficulties as these—where their own pockets are concerned.

Can you wonder, then, that we are delighted with the result of the general election? We see every ground for confidence that the dark days of government in the interests of Jewish financiers are over, and that now at last we shall be helped, not thwarted, in our own efforts at progress out here. May it be so, indeed!

Apposite further illustrations of the spirit prevalent in what is called society were afforded on Tuesday by the speeches of Earl Roberts and Lord Halifax. Both these men preached the doctrine of race hatred, the one from perverted militarism and the other in imitation of the attitude of Lord Harris, who, on the previous day, intervened in the debate as a self-interested company director. Happily such a spirit was wholly overborne, and the evil effects of its display swept away by the speeches on the Liberal side of the House. To Lord Portsmouth belongs the credit not only of having spoken out manfully and frankly on the right side, but of having convicted Lord Milner of disregard for the law, of contempt not merely for common humanity—that we expect from him always—but for the sacred obligations of the Government he professed to serve towards these miserable Chinese serfs. In admitting that he sanctioned flogging, or corporal punishment as he delicately preferred to call it, he strove to throw the blame upon Mr. Evans, the superintendent of Chinese labour. Had he not had the grace to acknowledge that he was wrong, cowed, perhaps, by the force of the moral indignation displayed towards him, we should have called him a coward, but he is only a bureaucrat, good in subordinate services perhaps, wholly unfitted to lead. And it was mean of him to try and shirk his responsibilities even while admitting that he had broken alike the law and diplomatic engagements.

But the speech of the evening, of the entire debate whether in Lords or Commons, was that of the Lord Chancellor. Dignified, eloquent, full of a noble strain of feeling, graceful in construction, luminous all through with righteousness, was the speech of the man whom the country as yet knows best as Sir Robert Reid, a man who, with many humbler individuals, bore the brunt of the foul abuse and cowardly attacks made upon those who had the courage to submit to be called "pro-Boers," ever courageously fighting in the best interests of empire, country, and humanity, bore all and never flinched. He lifted the whole debate on to the higher plane of constitutionalism, righteousness, and liberty. If this empire of ours is to be ruled in the spirit exhibited by men like that discredited and lip-serving soldier Earl Roberts or decadents like Lord Halifax, and South African bubble company directors like Lord Harris, then, indeed, its end is near. That empire can only endure as an influence and power on the whole beneficent and helpful to mankind, if it bases all authority on absolute and impartial justice. It is not justice in any sense to hound down the Boers, to treat them as pariahs, as creatures unworthy of any rights whatever, or even as Egyptian fellaheen. It is not justice or even patriotism to exalt the Continental Jews and their satellites in the Transvaal, men there for the year or the ten years, in order to suck out of the country every farthing they can lay hands on, and then gone for ever, into the position of noble and unselfish upholders of the British Empire. It is not justice to deny to the black population of South Africa the right to live, the right to perform such labour as the industries of their own country affords, not justice but inhuman cruelty. And because all interests, white and black alike, are at stake in South Africa the mere fate of the mine shareholder so largely represented by these aliens, who have fastened upon the wealth of the country and eaten it up, must fall into a secondary place, and Chinese labour be dispensed with. Upon that we can have no going back. It does not matter how "cheap" that degraded, that slave labour may be, it is a curse to South Africa, a source of strife and danger, and it must go. It will go. After speeches like those of Mr. Asquith and Lord Loreburn there can

be no other end to it, and Lord Loreburn has done more than seal its doom, he has sent a feeling of healing and assuagement of painful wounds into the hearts of thousands of those who fought behind him in the old bad days, and of tens of thousands of the silent sufferers throughout the length and breadth of the land. Respectfully and gratefully we salute him and press on in hope.

London and Globe.

THE END OF A TRAGEDY.

The curtain has now fallen on the final scene of a memorable and sordid tragedy, whose repellent details we may forget, but the moral lesson of which should remain. The dominating figure in this once glittering drama came to a pitiful end, but there are others still walking abroad in the light of day, respected by some, trusted by the foolish, execrated by others, and all calmly defying the powers of justice and the law's weakness. Had these unscrupulous thieves met with the barest justice they would be "doing time." They have been no cleverer than some who have gone to jail, merely luckier. It was not so much the law we had to thank for the unravelling of the London and Globe frauds as the persistent efforts of one or two individuals who eventually overcame the Government's inertia. Others, still living and free in the enjoyment of their ill-gotten gains, have probably in the aggregate stolen from the investor six times as much as the late Mr. Whitaker Wright. And some continue to steal without fear of the consequences, their thefts being limited in amount only by the waning trust of their dupes. This proves how useless experience is to teach the mass of men. Here and there an individual, with more than average brains and prudence, may learn a lesson to last him a lifetime; others will curse, only to fall on the morrow into any trap suitably baited to excite their greed. How many to-day remember vividly the trial of Mr. Whitaker Wright, with its revelations, or their relief that the law showed itself strong enough to reach and punish that "criminal"? It is all well-nigh forgotten or but faintly recalled, and the sordid game continues, as the prospectuses now raining down on us prove. How many remember the part played by a large section of the Press in the promotion of the London and Globe and its subsidiaries? Who can say off-hand whether it was £10 or £10,000 that was dispensed to the representatives of leading financial organs in payment for puffs not charged as advertisements by the newspaper proprietors? The same thing is going on under our very noses to this hour, and who cares? Nothing can be more true than that it does not pay, in a money sense, to be honest in the City. The newspaper owner cannot afford to be honest, and his City editor had no need for higher morals than his master. Nor does the public appear to care much for probity. Thousands seem to prefer to be robbed rather than have the truth told to them. The truth spoils business, the "sport" of plucking goslings. To persist in telling the truth earns no gratitude from the multitude, only from the few; and the sacrifice involved makes it much the more a primrose way to go with the crowd, and lie or keep silent from lying as seems most profitable. We, at least, do not blame the City editor whose palm itches. He would probably lose his job if he told the truth. It is better to lie, or to wink at lying, and pocket some share of the booty the promoter rakes in from the fools.

Coming back to the London and Globe, Mr. H. Brougham, Senior Official Receiver, having applied for his release, has issued a summary of his receipts and payments during the liquidation, which commenced as long ago as December, 1901. The publication of his report closes this suggestive chapter in the history of swindling company promotion. So intricate are the ramifications, the intrigues, and schemings, as almost to baffle the skill of the most experienced official to unravel. But the work has been accomplished with in-

defatigable and most praiseworthy thoroughness, and behold the result:—According to the company's statement, its assets were estimated to produce £2,901,020 and the total receipts amounted to but £515,194, from which £293,317 had to be deducted in respect of payments to redeem securities (£290,317), and remuneration to the voluntary liquidators took £3,000, leaving the nett result at £221,877. Board of Trade and Court fees, law costs, special manager's charges, and other expenses amounted to £37,495, and a total of £184,317 has been paid away to the unsecured creditors, representing dividends of *rs.* 5 1-26d. in the £ upon claims amounting to £2,591,675. There is no possibility of any return to the shareholders.

Wretched though this result may be, it is fully better than we expected, for most of the commodities in which the London and Globe Corporation traded were fantasies, as we failed not to demonstrate at the time. Any substantial assets it possessed were pawned before it failed. It held, for example, 52,695 shares in the Lake View Consols Mine, but these were in the hands of its creditors and sold by them to repay advances made. It was so with other assets paraded in the directors' statement of affairs, a statement which showed a fine aggregate total of assets. The late Mr. Whitaker Wright organised the London and Globe Corporation for the purpose of making magic profits by floating other companies, and he and persons of his character regard last of all the quality of the companies manufactured by them and "floated" in order to meet what they take to be the popular appetite. Hence we had the British America Corporation, the Standard Exploration Company, the Columbian Proprietary Company, the Caledonian Mining Corporation, Caledonia Copper, the Nickel Corporation, and the Loddon Valley Goldfields, with swarms of others, hatched or embryonic. That properties like Le Roi or enterprises like the Baker Street and Waterloo Railway did possess some substance was accident rather than design, and even when the properties were of some intrinsic value the system rendered it necessary to over-capitalise them to an extent which made them practically worthless. And in order to make a market and sustain prices for these fantastic creations of the busy promoter's scheming brain, all sorts of cross obligations were instituted. The one company lent to the other, or borrowed or bought from the other. Securities, so called, were pledged here; there, and wherever a spot could be found in which to deposit them. The result was plentiful litigation, disappearance of assets, and that dividend of *rs.* 1-26d. in the £ to the creditors of the London and Globe Finance Corporation, to say nothing of a supplementary dividend of *rs.* 4-21d. in the £ to the creditors of the Standard Exploration Company, shareholders in neither receiving a farthing. Among the assets which the Globe Corporation held were some valued by its board at £1,104,000, and they realised rather less than £440,000. The Baker Street and Waterloo Railway enterprise was in a state of insolvency when the company failed, and had not the Yerkes London Electric Railways Company stepped in there would have been a complete loss on that item. As it was, the amount received went for the most part to the creditors, who had raised money in order that the Globe Corporation might not prematurely stick with the work. Among the assets ultimately realised was £13,445 paid back out of the bribes given to City journalists in the form of press calls. The directors of the London and Globe also refunded a little money to the liquidator in payment of their qualification shares, but these insignificant items did nothing to bridge the gulf, and in looking through the ably drawn-up official record of this miserable crime against the community it is impossible to resist the conviction that something will have to be done, some amendment of the law passed, which will at least mitigate the devastation of such scourges in time to come. To put an end to company promoting dishonesty altogether is probably impossible as long as the present habits of extravagant living and senseless emulation in expenditure in social ranking

gauged by money continues to dominate such large masses of the people. A move, however, must be made, and we should be glad to receive hints and suggestions for a reform of the laws relating to the initiation and sale of shares in joint-stock undertakings. Something might be done by the Stock Exchange itself, as we have often insisted, but failing its initiative, the Government will have to step in and provide for the swift and sure punishment of those who make it their business systematically and always to cheat the ignorant and greedy public. Were the Stock Exchange a corporation, it might be made liable for losses incurred through the employment and prostitution of its machinery in the perpetration of fraud. It is not a corporation, and cannot be sued, but would it not be reasonable to make newspaper proprietors liable as partners for the losses caused by the publication in their papers of the lying advertisements of the company promoter? A time limit might be fixed. As for directors, we should subject them to imprisonment without option when fraud had been committed.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE REVENUE AND THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

Last week's income, exclusive of £200,000 paid back on account of advances for the purchase of bullion, came to £4,767,500. At this rate, in spite of any decline which may yet take place in income-tax or possibly in Excise, it looks as if the financial year would end with a handsome surplus not only over the estimated outgoings for the year, but over the estimated revenue. There are still thirty working days of the fiscal year to be accounted for, and at the rate of last week's receipts this would mean about £24,000,000 to be received, whereas the estimated expenditure would require but little more than £19,000,000 to cover it all. On this basis, and taking note of the fact that the supplementary estimates for the expiring year are quite insignificant, a surplus of something approaching £4,000,000 may be regarded as quite within the bounds of possibility. Much will depend upon the extent to which the income-tax has been this year promptly paid up. We rather think the receipts have been greater than usual up to this date, thanks to some growth in a habit of paying taxes when due, and should this prove to be a correct guess, the surplus might be £1,000,000 or £2,000,000 smaller. In the worst event, Mr. Asquith ought to have a solid nucleus upon which to work for a substantial reduction in the public burdens.

We, however, are less concerned with the actual condition and prospects of the current year's revenue than with the estimated outgoings for next year. It would be unfair to complain of Lord Tweedmouth's inability to make a more substantial reduction than he has done in the navy estimates issued this week. He has not had time, and has, therefore, been compelled to accept the figures of his predecessor the Earl of Cawdor; none the less is the total a lamentably excessive one, for the nett estimated outlay is put at £31,869,500. This is £1,520,000 less than the estimate for the closing year, and nearly £5,000,000 less than the expenditure for 1904-5, but it is not by any means enough, and if we remember that the figures for 1904-5 included well on to a £1,000,000 of the price paid for two Chilean warships, bought in haste without authority, and in mere gratification of the late Government's profligate disposition to devour the substance of the people, the reduction upon the highest nett total is in no wise remarkable. Therefore, we again ask, would it not be well to submit these estimates of the late Government to the scrutiny of a carefully selected committee of the House of Commons? That House is full of ardent representatives eager for work, and we feel perfectly sure that if nine to a dozen men were selected and given the task of carefully going through the details of these masses of figures, a substantial reduction might be

made. No valid reason exists for spending £32,000,000—with the "works" outlays and extras it is really £36,000,000—upon the navy. The nett amount for the year ended March 31, 1898, which was under £21,000,000, ought to suffice to-day were it wisely spent and carefully husbanded.

Ah, but, said Mr. Edmund Robertson, in introducing these appalling estimates to the Commons and the country, other nations are spending and spending on their navies. "In 1894 the annual naval expenditure of Europe and America" was £48,500,000, and it is now £101,500,000. Well, whose fault is that if not ours? Is not about half the increase ours alone, and has not our insanity in this direction prompted other nations also to go mad? Was it to display moral cowardice such as these estimates display that the democracy rose in its wrath and kicked out the Balfour band of bunglers? No, a thousand times no. These estimates must be revised and cut down; the heaping up of debt that the demented naval works programme involves must be ended, and our deeds be made to correspond with our words. We do not ask for a sudden stop, that is impossible, but what we regard as imperative is such a root and branch change of aim and policy as will set an example to other nations, and insure a gradual slowing down and a release of the revenue now wholly wasted, so that it may fructify the fields of peaceful industry, and provide wholesome and beneficent employment for the men to be thrown out of work at armour plate forge, gun factory, and dockyard. Instead of this the prospect now opened before us is one of increased expenditure in future years, and it stands to reason that the more ships of war, especially the more monster "battleships," we build, the more men and material, the more dock accommodation, the more coal and up-keep furnishings of all kinds must be provided. This must not be. Where is your *entente cordiale*, your peace with all the world, if this abandonment of all correlation between word and deed is to stand? We have but one consolation; a naval budget such as that now before the country must, if repeated much longer and augmented, render us utterly impotent to make war on anybody. If persisted in we shall end in being so smothered in our own armour as to be impotent for effective self-defence.

ROSYTH.

This "new naval base" is not to be abandoned, far from it! The millions projected to be spent on that Scotch naval station are in abeyance, but let the usurers be of good cheer—they will be wanted yet. And after Rosyth, why not the Moray Firth? Perchance the race of Norse sea rovers is not yet dead, and we ought to be prepared for all contingencies, even for a Scandinavian invasion. Greater still may be the Colney-Hatch urgency for a naval station on the Solway Firth, for did not our last would-be invader, Paul Jones, land somewhere thereabouts and burn or loot something? What if the redoubtable and many-clothed German Kaiser should steal round the North of Scotland and, ignoring Rosyth, land in Solway to split the United Kingdom in two, the better to eat it up piecemeal? Horrific thought! Let us make haste; the usurers are ready! Most dangerous spot of all, perhaps, is the exposed condition of Milford Haven, a place where all the navies of the world might even yet ride in safety, overgrown though they may be. It is an awfully open place, don't you know, lying in the way of an eastward-speeding Yankee jerry-built navee. What if Kaiser Roosevelt the A-onest were to take it into his head to proceed with his fleets to invade England, and find us unprepared at Milford Haven? Why, his roughriders might be in possession of the Welsh hills before our ships could get round from Devonport or Portsmouth to stop them, modern vessels of war being so notoriously slow and hard to guide at sea. In that event the "Brodricks" might have to be called into play, to suffer grievously by "making frontal attacks" delivered in the Kitchener's-

Paardeberg patent manner. Let us be up and doing therefore. Rosyth must not stand alone. Fortify, fortify; dig, dig; build, build; borrow, borrow; and at least enjoy the satisfaction of thinking that the wreckage left by a vanished British Empire, for the antiquarian enjoyment and moral instruction of future ages of a human race grown sane and enlightened will far outstrip in magnitude and variety those of ancient Carthage.

THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON THE LIFE OFFICE SCANDALS.

It embodies many drastic changes which, if adopted, would go a long way to put a stop to corruptions of the kind with which the committee's investigations have made us so painfully familiar. Probably it will not be adopted in its entirety, but there can be no question that in the present temper of the American public reforms of far-reaching description will have to be introduced. Though the committee was abruptly cut short in its investigation, the business of throwing light into the dark places of these big offices is by no means given up. In the New York Life Company's Office there is what is called a "domestic house-cleaning committee" busily at work, and it has been tracking down the transactions of the late president, John A. McCall, with that mysterious agent, Andrew Hamilton. Already it has issued a report which makes some further ugly revelations, amongst other things disclosing the fact that a judge of the Supreme Court, Mr. John A. McCall's brother, had apparently participated in the financial dealings of Hamilton and the president. To put a stop to things of this kind, to ensure passably decent book-keeping, to give policyholders some effective voice in the control of their own affairs, and to prevent the life offices from becoming mere instruments in the hands of the giant gamblers on Wall Street, the Armstrong Committee recommends that the payment of presidents of these life offices should in future be made contingent upon the amount of business written during the preceding year, but that no president of an insurance company shall hereafter draw more than £10,000 per annum, the scale being graduated from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Several members of the committee think that the maximum ought to be \$40,000, but that is a secondary point, although Mr. Paul Morton, the new president of the Equitable, is said now to have \$80,000 a year, and J. R. Hegemann, of the Metropolitan, an office mercifully not known on this side, \$90,000 a year. Then the amount of new business which any individual office can do in one year is to be limited to a maximum of \$150,000,000, or £30,000,000. It seems that in 1905 the New York Life Office issued policies for more than \$330,000,000, the Equitable for \$300,000,000, and the Mutual for nearly \$230,000,000, the Metropolitan following with \$125,000,000, so the robbery touched the sublime.

Stipulations are also made as to the "loading" which may be laid upon the premiums charged against these policies, and the report insists that the expenditure upon the first year of any policy must be kept within the loading. In other words, extravagant commissions or salaries may no longer be paid to agents who provide new business, it being pointed out that in many cases insurance companies have derived no revenue whatever the first year from new policies. That we fear is true of other companies than these big American ones. In order to give the policyholders at least a chance of having a say in the management of the business, there is to be no such thing as what might be called permanent proxies. Twenty days before the time stated for the annual election of directors the administration must file with the Superintendent of Insurance its "ticket" or list of candidates, and no proxies may be voted unless they shall have been granted subsequent to the previous election. Furthermore, 100 policyholders may draw up a petition, and put forward a ticket of their own in opposition to the administration one. We doubt the value of these re-

commendations, and they assuredly would not command the adhesion of our noble British army of directorial freeholders on insurance boards. These and other measures recommended might be effective if policyholders had any public spirit or feeling of partnership, but they have none. There are likewise recommendations dealing with the handling of bonuses, their prompt payment, the stoppage of rebates, and so forth which are good, but which we have not space now to set forth in detail. The future history of this committee's recommendations should, however, be interesting. Indications are by no means wanting that the Albany Legislature is not particularly enthusiastic about insurance reform, and the Governor of the State is certainly not a zealot therein, but popular indignation may overcome all resistance, and should it do so there is a possibility that these American life offices may assume a new character and become respectable, ceasing to be dens of thieves.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Whatever we may think of many of the practices usual in American railroad management, or of the financial devices by which they bring about consolidations, "mergers," combines, and so on, it remains true that progress of a marvellous kind does take place. No railroad in the United States illustrates this progress more worthily and emphatically than this Southern Railway Company. It was formed less than twelve years ago, gathering together a number of disjointed roads and welding them into a great system, 3,523 miles in length. Some of the roads forming the Southern Company were in a bankrupt condition, and all of them were backward, so that the task of the voting trustees and the board was a gigantic one. It has been successfully tackled, and out of the chaos existing before the corporation was formed order has come, and development of a magnitude rarely equalled within the same space of time even within the Union. At the end of December last the total length of line directly or indirectly worked by the company was 8,278 miles, an increase of about 4,100 miles. The first year of the new company ended June 30, 1895, gave gross earnings amounting to \$17,115,000, while those for the current fiscal year ending June 30 next are expected to exceed \$51,000,000. In the first year of the company the free income over and above fixed charges was barely \$896,000. In the current year it is expected to be about \$5,600,000, an increase of 525 per cent. In 1905 the gross earnings per mile of road worked directly were \$4,134, in the current year they will exceed \$7,000. All this has been accomplished, too, with remarkably little addition to the load of debt carried by the company. The bonded debt in 1905 was \$21,519 per mile worked, and at the present time it is about \$22,500. Thus, while gross earnings have increased nearly 70 per cent., the debt per mile of road has risen only about 5 per cent.

No greater tribute to the skill and ability with which this now powerful corporation has been managed could be furnished than these figures supply. During all the eleven years it has been growing, developing its business, building additions, adding to its rolling stock, improving its facilities, its road-bed, securing terminals in cities within its area, and so gradually has this been done that nothing but prosperity has followed. Making every deduction in the way of allowance for American methods of finance, there remains much to the credit of the management, and not least the fact that the company has not indulged in fancy finance of any description. Its new equipment, the President, Mr. Samuel Spencer, points out in a memorandum to the voting trustees, has cost it \$38,358,000, but only \$22,971,000 of this has been charged to capital, while the balance of the original cost, \$15,386,000, as well as all expenses of keeping up the full quota of both old and new equipment, has been or will be charged against income. This is a direction in which the finance of United States railroads always excites our envy and admiration. But the company now wants

more money, as is natural enough, and the occasion for writing the summary of its history from which we have been quoting has been given by the necessity for raising this capital. The sanction of the voting trustees is necessary to enable it to be raised, and naturally that was given at once. These trustees, Messrs. J. Pierpont Morgan, Charles Lanier, and George F. Baker, congratulate the President and his staff upon the success achieved in the extension and operation of the property, and agree that the additional capital required should be promptly provided. It looks a formidable amount, no less than £40,000,000, in fifty-year bonds, bearing 4 per cent. interest as a minimum, but only £3,000,000 of this is to be immediately issued and a good deal of the remainder will be utilised to withdraw divisional prior lien bonds, collateral trust bonds, to buy up the stocks of certain leased lines, and for other purposes of that kind. Of the balance an amount not exceeding £1,000,000 per annum is to be made available for betterments and improvements on the entire system and for new equipment. As the annual interest upon the proposed \$15,000,000 of these bonds to be now issued will only take \$600,000, or £120,000, leaving over £1,000,000 as the estimated free revenue for the current year, it is clear that no objection whatever can be raised to this measure. The only unfortunate point is that the issue comes into collision with an enormous mass of similar creations of new capital recently made by American railroad and other corporations. Mr. Noyes, the eminent financial editor of the *New York Evening Post*, in telegraphing to the *Observer* last week-end, estimated that already new securities to an amount exceeding £100,000,000 had been put upon the New York market this year, a market impoverished by the consequences of rather delirious speculation. The consequence is that the new issues have had to be syndicated, to be carried by means of credit operations. He mentions one transaction of this sort which left a syndicate, after several months, with 60 per cent. of the holdings still on its hands. Should the reforming zeal of the people now investigating the corruptions of the big American life insurance companies lead to the stoppage of the Wall Street performances of those companies, it might be very difficult indeed to find the means to finance these new issues. Time given, they doubtless will be absorbed, those of them at least that are worth absorbing, but the money is urgently wanted at once, or most of it, and it is therefore by no means a remote contingency that the very pressure of legitimate demands coming upon a market exhausted by its furious gambling might just precipitate the crisis New York financiers are fighting to avoid.

LONDON UNITED TRAMWAYS (1901).

The financial handling of this well-known enterprise has surprised and disappointed us not a little. We used to think the name of Clifton Robinson was a real guarantee of sound financial methods, but unless the tactics pursued by the directors of the company, under the guidance of Mr. Robinson, the managing director, are quickly and drastically altered, our opinions will undergo a very considerable change. To a large extent we fear they have done so already, because it is impossible to hide the fact that the stability of the venture has been sacrificed to the payment of dividends. Although the immense responsibilities which the company had undertaken were well known and a vast capital expenditure, much of it quite unremunerative for a very long time, had to be faced, the company divided right up to the hilt, paying as much as 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares only two years back. On at least one occasion very questionable means had to be resorted to in order to render this payment possible, and at the time we uttered a serious warning against the grave risks which were being run. By the next year the 8 per cent. had dropped to 6, and we, at least, are not surprised to find that for the past twelve months only 3 per cent. can be squeezed out. As a matter of fact, no distribution at all should be made, and it is

hardly too much to say that the haste to make a splash with ordinary dividends has endangered the position of the prior charges. Only a week or so ago we referred to the heavy and serious depreciation that had occurred in the market value of the company's securities, the fall in the preference shares being particularly severe, and we fancy it will be a very long time before this loss—a real loss for a good many people—is recovered. The worst of it is that even now the board professes not to grasp the gravity of the position. After relating the details of the year's achievements which, by the way, they have pleasure in submitting, the directors go on to say that "the sum proposed to be placed to the reserve fund (£10,000) would have enabled the directors to pay a dividend on the ordinary shares of 4 per cent. for the year but the board feel that the policy of substantially strengthening the reserve fund out of revenue, in addition to maintaining the company's plant and equipment in the highest state of efficiency will commend itself to the shareholders." From this it is evident that the directors are rather proud of their aggregate reserve fund of £15,000 against a capital outlay of £3,302,013 with some hundreds of thousands of pounds still to be spent. It is the intention to proceed immediately with the construction of the tramways from New Malden to Wimbledon, Merton, and Tooting. The carrying out of these lines is considered of paramount importance, inasmuch as when complete they will afford valuable through facilities over the company's system in Middlesex and London and the electric tramways of the London County Council. We have no doubt that all the directors say is correct and quite likely to be borne out by events, but the burden of capital expenditure is becoming really stupendous and must weigh with increasing severity while these fresh lines are being constructed. Some help may come in the current half-year from the Kingston, Surbiton, and New Malden and Brentford and Hanwell sections just completed, but no one need be astonished if ordinary dividends have to cease altogether for a time.

The directorial statement about maintaining the company's plant and machinery in the highest state of efficiency induces us to make a rather interesting comparison. Sir J. Clifton Robinson is a director of the Bristol Tramways and Carriage Company whose capital expenditure is about £1,300,000, or say £2,000,000 less than that of the London United, and whose system is therefore vastly shorter. Yet the Bristol company spent £47,737 upon renewals and repairs against £33,803 by the London company, besides adding over £12,000 to contingencies account compared with the £10,000 put to reserve by the London United. Moreover the Bristol Tramways Company now possesses reserves aggregating £148,300, so that we cannot help noticing the striking differences between the two. Last twelve months the London United spent capital to the tune of £396,918 bringing the outlay to date to £3,302,013, as already mentioned, and to provide the money the debenture capital was increased by £300,000 to £1,331,000, and the share capital by £119,980 to £2,010,042. Passengers carried, however, were only up 1,030,412 to 49,157,139, and the increase in the receipts was £5,114 to £301,350. Working expenses £175,314 showed a reduction of £874, leaving the net revenue at £126,036 or an improvement of £5,988. For the sake of record it may be mentioned that the traction outlay was £23,389 or £190 more, traffic expenses reached £96,429 being a decline of £3,848; there was an increase from £18,211 to £21,692 in general expenses and the allowance for maintenance and repairs was actually less at £33,803. On this occasion £8,100 of the debenture interest of £44,878 is charged to works account, that is, capital, leaving the amount to be provided from revenue at £36,778 or £8,000 more. Then the preference dividend charge increases by £5,650 to £59,375 and after paying 3 per cent. on the same amount less on the ordinary shares, £10,000 is placed to reserve and the carry forward is raised

from £563 to £1,116. The company is fairly well supplied with cash just now, thanks to the new capital issues, but creditors are still heavily in advance of debtors, and the stores and materials on hand, £24,792, seem very small for an enterprise of such magnitude. Mr. C. J. Cater Scott has joined the board, and become chairman in place of the late Mr. C. T. Yerkes. We hope his influence will be productive of good.

MILITARISM IN INDIA.

Most of the papers are full of congratulations to Mr. John Morley for his able handling of the dispute between the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief in India. We should be the last to dream of uttering a discordant note, and to a great extent are disposed to join in this chorus of praise. At the same time it is obvious enough that Mr. Morley's settlement can only be temporary. He has not solved the riddle, but only smoothed away certain differences and tried to put some checks and safeguards into the administrative machine so as to prevent the Commander-in-Chief from being absolute master of the Government. In all probability he could do no more than he has done while Lord Kitchener retains the position of Commander-in-Chief of the Indian army, but gradually more will have to be done, and at no distant date either if the civil government of India is to be again supreme without question in its own house. We think the direction in which reform should go was, as the *Manchester Guardian* opportunely reminds us, abundantly indicated many years ago by Sir Donald Stewart and other eminent Indian soldiers and civilians. The Commander-in-Chief ought not to be a member of the Governor-General's council at all. His business is outside the civil government altogether. To put him in the Viceroy's council alongside an inferior in the military hierarchy, who discharges the controlling civil functions in connection with the army, is to provide for continual bickerings, jealousies, and efforts on the part of the Commander-in-Chief to seize despotic power, results tending to bring the whole administration into a state of wasteful confusion. The soldier head of the army, like every man beneath him, ought always to be the servant of the civil power and nothing else, and the head of the civil administration of the army in the Viceroy's council ought to be a civilian, not a military man at all. Only in this way can the extremely feeble initiative of a non-representative governing body be in any measure safeguarded, and the people shielded against despotism. Will Mr. Morley endeavour to work along this line so as to be ready on the first opportunity to recast in a vital but essentially necessary manner the relations between the fighting organisation and the civil administration of the Indian Empire? We hope so, and regard the present patch up as a truce, not a peace!

CANADIAN LIFE INSURANCE: A ROYAL COMMISSION.

It is interesting to learn from a message sent to the *Standard* by its Ottawa correspondent that the Laurier Ministry has decided to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the position of Canadian insurance companies. It was certainly high time, for some of these companies, as we had occasion towards the end of last year to show when dealing with the Canada Life Assurance Company, outpace the discredited United States companies in their ruthless absorption of the substance of policyholders. We dealt only with the Canada Life Company, partly because its affairs were more prominently brought under our notice, and also because it was the oldest and most aggressive of colonial insurance companies. It seems to us, however, that the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada is very much in the same position—a driving, heartless concern which works its business at upwards of 30½ per cent. of the premium income, and employs all the enslaving expedients so long familiarised to us by this class of institution. We hope, therefore, that the Commission to be appointed will be strong and able to be impartial. If so, its institution will be a great credit

to the Laurier administration, some of whose loudest supporters, men like Mr. Cox, the president of the Canada Life, have been mixed up in the least scrupulous forms of Dominion life insurance. We continue to get bitter complaints about the robberies perpetrated upon policyholders by such agencies, and although these protests may sometimes be heated in language there is only too much justification for them. The truth is that unless a better morality comes to prevail in the conduct of life insurance business of that description, it will be necessary to strenuously and insistently caution the public against touching such forms of investment on any pretext. Under the guise of enabling people to provide for unforeseen contingencies, old age, or early death, some of these institutions are nothing more than elaborate modifications of the confidence trick, whose object is to transfer the money of the public into the hands of those who make away with it for their own ends. We shall therefore watch the proceedings of this Canadian Royal Commission with great interest, and beg meantime to commend the articles on the subject in this JOURNAL to its earnest attention.

THE LATEST DUNLOP SCHEME.

We fear it is not much better than the multitude which have preceded it, but such is the apathy and ignorance of the great mass of shareholders that the thing may easily be got through. Indeed, the remarkable fact has to be recorded that the last proposal, which we should have expected shareholders, the deferred apart, to contemptuously reject, evoked an immense amount of support, and but for the stout resistance offered by the intelligent minority the present proposal might never have been necessary. The former plan, it may be recalled, involved the cancellation of all prior rights possessed by the cumulative ordinary shareholders, who were asked to forego all arrears of dividend and submit to a consolidation with the deferred shares in a proportion that would give the latter 40 per cent. of any divisible profits after meeting the fixed charges and the preference dividend. Anything quite so impertinent as that we have not encountered for a very long time, particularly when it is remembered that these deferred shares were merely so much promoters' swag, the proceeds of robbery, not to put too fine a point upon it, and whether they still remain in the hands of original allottees or not the proposition to give them a lift up at the expense of the ordinary shareholders cannot on any grounds be defended. Nevertheless, it is again being attempted in a rather less violent form, and as we have already remarked, the chances are that the plan will be carried through. At present the share capital consists of £3,994,833 divided into 994,990 5 per cent. preference shares, 999,993 8 per cent. cumulative ordinary shares, and 1,999,850 deferred shares, all of £1 each, and the idea is to slice this down to £2,119,948. The preference shares are not to be touched—on previous occasions when the board tried to play tricks with the preference gentlemen they got pretty badly worsted—but the ordinary shares are to be reduced to £624,996 and the deferred to £499,962. In order to effect this ordinary shareholders are asked to accept five shares in the reduced capital for every eight now held, besides giving up all their arrears amounting to about £245,000. They retain, however, their cumulative and preferential rights, which is something gained; but the fact remains that although the deferred capital is cut down by 75 per cent., one share for every four being given, the immolation is purely nominal and that when it comes to a question of dividend the ordinary shares alone make a sacrifice. It matters nothing to the deferred shareholder whether his dividend is declared on a nominal £1 or £4, but the ordinary shareholder is asked to give up £30,000 a year in perpetuity, besides foregoing the immense sum now owing for arrears, and if he consents he will be very foolish indeed. But the directors know the type of men they have to deal with. Just note some of the

statements which are served up for shareholders' consumption. We are told, for example, "that the primary object of the directors throughout has been to arrive at an equitable readjustment of the capital," but proprietors will doubtless think that the ideas of equity prevailing at the Dunlop offices are somewhat crude considering that the consolidation plan was nearly rammed down their throats. Happily it could not be quite managed, and we are, therefore, treated to another gem. "The claim of the ordinary shareholders for preferential treatment is, in the directors' opinion, not unreasonable, having regard to all the circumstances of the case." That is quite delightful in view of the fact that the ordinary shares are preferential as to dividend and possess cumulative rights. One of these days we can fancy the debenture holders being told that the directors have been carefully considering the matter, and they really do think that holders have a right to the properties specifically allocated for their security. By the way, in case anybody should think harshly of the present position of the company it must not be supposed that over-capitalisation has anything to do with it. We used to have some vague idea that the goodwill of £4,000,000 seemed a little big, but the true facts of the case have only just leaked out. And what is said must be right, because the directors say it. The board, indeed, are quite concerned about the matter, their unsullied reputations being at stake, and cannot allow any reorganisation scheme to see the light without laying powerful stress on the fact that the "necessity for reorganisation stress on the fact that the "necessity for reorganisation by the laws of the country to the monopoly to which, while the patents existed, the company was entitled under the letters patent issued by the Crown." But surely some of the directors are familiar with the famous epigram about fooling the people.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

A correspondent informs us that the directors of this miserable wreck are inviting tenders at the price of about 14s. in the £ to redeem a portion of the "B" series of special or trust certificates, the "A" series having been completely paid off. As far as may be judged from the balance-sheet of the company submitted for the half-year ended December 31 last, this is quite as much as it could afford to pay, for, according to a note at the foot of the balance-sheet, the deficit upon the property in the control of the Special Assets Trust was at the date given £1,389,000. The Trust, that is to say, was liable for £2,974,000, and the value of the assets of the old bank in its possession was put at £1,585,000. How the bank can go on and pay even a 3 per cent. dividend on its preference shares in circumstances like these only an Australian financier could explain. It was only by putting aside and in a manner ignoring these enormous liabilities, this stupendous loss, that the business was able to go on in any form, but the new bank cannot escape liability for the debts of the old. Ultimately the whole burden of the loss must fall upon it and upon its shareholders; therefore, we consider the show of profits merely a piece of accounting legerdemain, indulged in so as to involve unfair treatment to some classes of creditors. Nett revenue is brought out for half-year at £71,487, exclusive of £13,669 brought forward, and of this amount £31,760 is devoted to the payment of the aforesaid dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum. Then £28,956 is transferred to the Special Assets Trust Company, being the amount of the loss on its operations in the half-year, and another £10,000 is transferred to the Special Assets Trust reserve, leaving £14,439 to be carried forward. These provisions are obviously quite insufficient if the bank's debts are to be all paid. To put aside £10,000 against a prospective loss of £1,400,000, a loss which may very well be much greater, is to mock at honest dealing, and we have as strong a feeling as ever that this bank ought to be wound up. It cannot offer a valid security to any creditor under present conditions, and must

be at the mercy of the more powerful or clamorous of its debtors. Yet the figures in the balance-sheet bulk largely, and there is actually a note circulation of £163,160, while the deposits amount to £3,760,000, including £498,000 due to the Government, presumably the Government of Victoria. How unreal, however, some of the assets may be is indicated by the item £449,000 set against "bank premises at valuation" and other real estate, and the fact that the balance-sheet totals up to more than £7,000,000 does not alter the position to any appreciable extent. Who benefits by the present arrangement?

REACTION IN RUSSIA.

It is with great regret that we note the tendency of the Russian bureaucracy to go back in all respects upon the pledge given by it through the Tsar on October 30 last. Something approaching to constitutional government was then promised, and for a time the liberal tendencies of the autocrat were suffered to have free play, causing the people to indulge in all manner of extravagant hopes. Soon, however, the bureaucrats repented of this liberality, and proceeded first to incite the people to premature rebellion, and then on one pretext or another to withdraw, curtail, or destroy every preparation made for the granting of liberty and every means sketched out whereby the people could exercise their right to vote. A Duma is still talked about, an Imperial Parliament of a sort, numbering 476 members; but the elections are to be so hedged round as to make it impossible for the people to express their minds; and the Duma, when it does meet, is, according to recent advices, to be immediately prorogued until the autumn. Meanwhile, murders on both sides, but especially by the bureaucracy and its police and troops, go on unchecked. The prisons are crowded with suspects, with people believed to have liberal tendencies. Thousands have been already deported to Siberia, and slowly the reign of terror has been re-established all over European Russia. It is now said that the restored constitution of Finland is again to be taken away, and it almost looks as if the robberies perpetrated upon the Russian Bank of Finland had been instigated by Russian agents there, so as to give a pretext for armed interference. Darkness thus again settles down on the unhappy empire of the Tsar, darkness with scarcely a ray of light in it, and meanwhile the bureaucrats are endeavouring to persuade moneylenders in the West that order has been, or is being, restored, and that all will soon be well with Imperial finance. On the strength of this they are said to have succeeded in getting French bankers to subscribe a loan of £45,000,000, and if this proves true then reaction will once more triumph for a season in the empire and the doom of autocracy be postponed. We sincerely trust in the interests of the Imperial family, as well as in those of the people at large, that this loan will fail. There is but one way by which the Russian people can be free, one way also by which the credit of Russia can be restored, so that instead of it being a crime it may be a sensible and legitimate piece of business to lend her Government money, and that is by preventing the bureaucracy from obtaining any more funds from the investors of Western Europe until the present reign of terror has been completely put an end to.

UNITED STATES DEBENTURE CORPORATION.

A year ago the founders' shares of this corporation were extinguished at a most extravagant cost, and now the directors propose to indulge in a further juggle, for which there does not seem to be the slightest justification. In a circular dated February 23 they state that it is their desire to still further strengthen the financial position and extend the business, but the proposals they put forward are, to our mind, much more likely to have the opposite effect. According to the circular, the debenture stock of £1,000,000 has a floating charge over assets, including uncalled capital of £1,050,000 of the nominal value of £2,373,000, in

addition to which there is a reserve fund of £172,000, but a recent valuation of the investments showed a value so largely in excess of the paid-up capital and reserve that the directors suggest that £150,000 of this reserve should be distributed as a dividend or bonus of £1 per share on the ordinary shares. The corporation does not happen to have this sum available for distribution in actual cash, and it will therefore be ledgerly applied in paying up another £1 per share, making them £2 paid. But the supplemental trust deed of 1893 expressly stipulates that any money so applied in paying up uncalled capital must be handed over to the trustees for the debenture stock holders for investment or for the redemption of a similar amount of stock, and if this arrangement is strictly adhered to the cash will have to be found in any event. To get over this difficulty the directors ask the debenture stock holders to waive this clause, "which was intended to meet other circumstances," and as an extra inducement for them to agree it is proposed to increase the capital by an issue of £200,000 preference stock. These new funds they hope to invest in securities yielding 5 per cent., and point out that by these means an improvement of £10,000 may be expected in the revenue after meeting debenture interest. If, however, the new preference stock is to be the same as the existing issue—i.e., $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.—it will take more than the extra earnings to meet the dividend on this alone, and as the revenue from the reserve investments has been used to eke out the ordinary dividend in the past it is impossible to see how, with double the amount of ordinary capital to find dividends for, the directors can substantiate the claim that their plans will put the financial constitution on a stronger basis or materially enhance the general credit of the corporation. Should the debenture stock holders sanction the scheme at the meeting on March 20, arrangements are to be made for splitting the ordinary shares into two of £4 each, £1 paid, in an endeavour to make them more attractive to the investor. All which rather savours of the bucket shop.

LEVER BROS., LIMITED.

The directors of this world-famous soap business have made a new departure in the method of presenting the annual report and accounts, and we much regret to see it. The statement has been reduced to an absurdity, and we hardly looked for such retrograde action at a time when the tendency is towards greater enlightenment. Companies that used to hide their light are gradually emerging from the darkness, and recognising the principle that when the public puts a huge sum of money into a business it is entitled to some information concerning the way matters are proceeding. Although the accounts were never so full as we should desire the directors of Lever Bros. have always supplied details of profits and dividends, and what object they have in view in now suppressing this information must be left to the imagination. However, the fact remains that so far as the year to December 31 last is concerned shareholders must content themselves as best they can with the following: "The balance remaining at the credit of profit and loss account, after payment of interim dividends, is £237,271. This amount has been appropriated to the payment of final dividends on the preference and ordinary shares and to the transfer of £2,271 to the reserve fund." It would be idle to attempt to elucidate the actual profits from this bald statement, and we can only say that they appear to be a good deal larger than the £286,600 earned in the previous year, when the ordinary dividend was 15 per cent. During the past twelve months the subscribed capital has been heavily increased, and now amounts to £2,000,000 in preference shares, largely in the hands of the public, and £1,850,000 in ordinary shares, entirely held by the old partners in the business. Reserve will now be £315,757, a sum of £303,524 is owing to sundry creditors, and the undivided profit of £237,271 completes the balance-sheet total of £4,704,281. On the credit side freehold

works, premises, and plant £1,625,905 constitute the largest item, and we may be sure the allowance for depreciation is not mentioned. Leasehold premises and plant are put in at £72,667, and shares in associated companies are estimated to be worth £99,325. It is useless to ask for details until an amendment of the Companies Acts renders the disclosure of all material facts imperative, but shows of this sort will impel us to agitate for the speedy enactment of such amendment. Debtors owe less than the sum due to creditors, but stock is valued at £592,750, and cash at bankers' and in hand amounts to £186,226. Trade marks and goodwill continue, of course, at £975,000.

SOUTH AFRICAN COLOURED NATIVES.

Nothing that has thus far occurred could better illustrate the changed temper of the new House of Commons than its reception of Mr. W. P. Byles's motion demanding that some consideration should be shown to the black natives of our South African dependencies. In the last House of Commons an attempt to call attention to the depressed and hopeless position of these natives would probably have been howled down. To the Jingo imperialist mind all coloured people, black or brown, South African or East Indian, are "niggers," useful only to produce wealth for our spending. It was high time that some stand should have been made against this attitude, one ominous of an early destruction of this great empire of ours. We are therefore delighted to find that the Government, through Mr. Winston Churchill as its spokesman, heartily accepted Mr. Byles's motion to the effect that "in any settlement of South African affairs this House desires a recognition of imperial responsibility for the protection of all races excluded from equal political rights, the safeguarding of all immigrants against servile conditions of labour, and the guarantee to the native populations of at least their existing status with the unbroken possession of their liberties in Basutoland, Bechuanaland, and other tribal countries and reservations." There was practically no opposition, but some excellent speeches were made in support. As Mr. Byles pointed out, the question he raised referred to 5,000,000 of black people, and he might well demand whether they were to be left to the mercies of the whites, Dutch and British, settled in South Africa. In some respects the speech of the evening was made by Mr. John M. Robertson, the triumphant member for Tyneside. It was full of wise sayings and pungent criticism, such as his remark that in the Transvaal it was not so much the sinking of gold mines that was thought of as the floating of them, and his re-statement of the old doctrine of Adam Smith that gold mining was a source of impoverishment to a people much more than a source of wealth. The few might profit by it, grow rich, but the community as a whole became poorer. Surely the history of gold mining in the Transvaal has illustrated this eternal truth. "Of all expensive and uncertain projects," said Adam Smith in his "Wealth of Nations," "which bring bankruptcy upon the greater part of the people who engage in them, there is perhaps none more perfectly ruinous than the searching after new silver and gold mines." It is the least profitable of all industries on the average and in the long run. Any kind of mining is better for a community than gold mining. At the very best rich "strikes" of gold debauch a people, stimulate it to extravagance and to neglect the cultivation of other and more permanent sources of wealth. To South Africa the gold deposits of the Witwatersrand have been an unmitigated curse from first to last, a source of bloodshed and strife, of every conceivable oppression and heartless crime.

The London and Westminster Bank, Limited, will, on completion of the necessary alterations, open a branch at Nos. 58 and 59, Shoreditch, E.C.

Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited, announce the opening of an agency at Penhalonga (near Umtali), Rhodesia.

The Bank of British North America has opened a branch at the corner of King and Dufferin Streets, Toronto, Ontario.

Passing Events.

Over the encounter between Mr. John Burns and Mr. Claude Hay on Monday night in the House of Commons, has anyone a doubt which was the gentleman? Why is it that so many of the high-born and presumably well-bred and educated among our *jeunesse dorée* should be so eager on all occasions to advertise their essential vulgarity and mean-spiritedness? They will have to learn better manners or emigrate by help of the Salvation Army.

We commend to those who are disposed to be zealous about old age pensions the answer given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to a question put to him on Monday afternoon. The number of persons, said he, above 65 years of age enumerated in the 1901 census was 2,018,716. To provide them all with a pension of 5s. a week would therefore require over £26,225,000 per annum. Is anything more needed to show how raw and unformed the popular mind is about this much worried over subject? It is entirely impossible for the nation, above all, in its present overloaded condition, to provide half this money annually, and we trust that the leaders and members of the Labour party will display once more their common-sense and level-headedness by refusing to continue this agitation. Let them investigate, consider what can be done in the way of self-help, agitate if they like for the splitting up of gigantic landed estates, for the reforestation of the mountain regions of the Kingdom, for practical measures of all kinds tending to extend the means of employment to the working classes and to put them in the position to provide for their old age themselves, but let them cease to follow this misleading will-o'-the-wisp, set alight by the ever-volatile Joseph.

Here are the opening sentences from a Bloemfontein telegram published in Thursday's *Times*. It is from that paper's "own" correspondent in the capital of Orangia, and from the bad English in which it is written, as well as from the ignorance the writer displays, not only of the history of South Africa and of our relations to the free peoples there, but of English sentiment and political traditions, we might infer that he was some Teuton whose speech was tinged by a continental accent. Be that as it may, what we should like to know is whether the material on which he bases his criticism of the Lord Chancellor's speech was furnished by the Reuter message professing to give an account of the debate in the Lords.

The speech made by the Lord Chancellor in the House of Lords yesterday makes loyalists in the Orange River Colony ask, Has the Liberal Government no knowledge of the history of South Africa nor of its present situation? Lord Loreburn urges that absolute justice must be done to the new Colonies. Was not "absolute justice" done, according to Liberal declarations, by the retrocession of the Transvaal in 1881? And what was the result? To-day the Cabinet considers that it is doing absolute justice by giving the Orange River Colony what it never had before—party government.

The rest is the usual blether by help of which jingo papers lose their circulation. And here is what the *Tribune* correspondent says about the source of inspiration. What has Reuter to say to it? Has a mere news agency the right to garble reports in this fashion, to hide from the people all but that side of the question which pleases the dominant faction? Is Reuter's agency also a mere creature of the South African mine share multipliers and vendors? Perhaps someone will ask a question in the House about it, for Reuter may have been garbled by the journalistic bondmen on the spot, poor wretches.

It is interesting and significant to note that Reuter's Agency cabled to South Africa a report extending to two columns of Lord Milner's speech in the House of Lords, while it sent only eight lines of the Lord Chancellor's speech, and two lines of the Earl of Portsmouth's. Every South African daily newspaper except one depends upon Reuter for such news. The *Argus* Company's service actually states that the British Radical Press practically refrains from replying to Lord Milner's "masterly exposition," preferring to pour abuse upon him.

As an example of the eagerness with which the various portions of our world-wide empire are drawing together, it is interesting to note the latest effort of

the Canadian Customs department to increase the revenue. Under the existing tariff it seems that molasses enters the Dominion duty free, while sugar pays 40 cents, or 1s. 8d. per 100 lbs., less a preference of one-third in favour of the West Indies. This provision has not worked well, for the practice has been adopted of converting sugar into syrup, and then getting it through duty free as "fancy molasses." Henceforth this is not to be allowed, and Canada is doubtless proud of her vigilance in preventing anything like free intercourse between her people and those of the West Indies, both regions living joyfully under the shadow of the Union Jack.

It is stated in the annual report of the New York Equitable Life Assurance Society just issued that last year's revelations caused it a loss of £6,000,000 in outstanding insurance and of £16,200,000 in new business. This is good news, and we trust the loss in the current year will be very much greater, unless something approaching to common honesty is made to guide the management of this and other gigantic American life-premium-swallowing offices' affairs. In spite of this decline in business the report boasts that the total assets of the society on December 31 last amounted to £84,195,000, and that the "receipts and profits" of 1905 were £17,821,000. What this last expression means we do not know. Obviously the profits alone did not amount to any such figure, could not do so even on the most extravagant scale of premium stealing, but we can wait patiently for further information.

Mr. George E. Roberts, director of the United States Mint, has published his annual statistics relating to the world's gold production, and the *New York Commercial Chronicle* sums up the results, which correspond very nearly with those it has independently arrived at. Briefly, last year gave the world 18,211,419 ozs. of new fine gold, or 1,472,000 ozs. more than the output for 1904. The total value of this in sterling is put at £77,358,466. As recently as 1899 the output was only £64,653,000. Last year's gain came almost exclusively from South Africa, which showed an increase of 1,331,000 ozs. against only 327,000 ozs. more from the United States mines, 41,000 ozs. more from Mexican, and 42,000 more from other sources. Australian, Canadian, and Russian mines showed decreases. The money value of the South African production was about £23,500,000. One can only look at these figures with a sort of dazed amazement, wondering what on earth the world wants with such a mass of dead yellow metal. That its existence and continued production encourages nations to emulation in waste, to perpetrate wars, and to indulge in every description of reactionary public policy is, we fear, beyond a doubt.

Last week's telegram from the Viceroy of India states the number of victims of famine on relief works at 323,000, of which 143,000 were in the United Provinces. The Governor-General, however, reports that rain has fallen in these provinces and in Rajputana as well as in the Punjab, but that parts of Bombay still want moisture. Rain, moreover, has come too late to materially affect the situation in the most distressed districts. Nevertheless, grass will grow, and famine may be mitigated, which is something to be thankful for where hunger is always at the door.

Messrs. Hoskier and Co., the eminent Paris bankers, this week gave the *Daily Telegraph* some interesting particulars about the Russian debt. As it is a careful firm, likely to be sure of the facts, the items are worth repeating. The total fixed indebtedness is put at about £819,400,000, exclusive of £234,080,000, which seems to be floating debt, presumably created in good part by the war. Add this in, and the total debt of the Empire is brought up to more than £1,050,000,000, a sum France might carry or England, but which Russia in her poverty and anarchy cannot even stagger along under. From 1899 to 1906 the funded debt had increased by more than £160,000,000, and during that time Russia had paid away £176,000,000 for debt ser-

vice, interest, and so on. From this we infer that most of the interest had to be borrowed, for Messrs. Hoskier add that probably the assets of Russia have not been increased by these loans, and the remark is, we fear, significantly true. Also they tell us that the resources of the private and post office savings banks to the amount of £106,400,000 have been sucked into the floating debt, although repayable at sight, and the note circulation of the Bank of Russia on February 5 last had risen to £124,807,000, against which the Imperial Bank and the Imperial Treasury together held cash to the amount of £104,970,000. It is rather a dreary story, and there is, we fear, worse to come.

Sir John Pound, Bart., had a lot to say about horses, but very little about motors, at the meeting of the London General Omnibus Company held on Thursday. The directors, however, seem to have recognised the inevitable at last, and predict the complete replacement of horses by mechanical traction within three years, at a cost of, roughly, £1,000,000. Half of that will be provided by an entirely fresh capital issue, and the balance from the business itself, that is by the non-replacement of the horse and rolling stock. Motors will be built instead. We are glad to learn from some figures quoted by the chairman that the writing down during the last ten years has been somewhat more liberal than most people thought, but is it not a fact that the item of "Times" or goodwill was added to the leaseholds? We know it has disappeared from the balance-sheet, but has it actually been written off out of profits? That is the question, and we fear others of a similar character must arise when horse traction has been entirely superseded, despite Sir John's optimism regarding the position of the assets. By the way, reserves of £318,000 were spoken of, £145,000 being in the business, and the balance outside. That is surely something new, and the chairman might have been a little more explicit.

Critical Index To New Investments.

CARL HENTSCHEL (1906), LIMITED.

Owing, it is said, to the rapid extension of the business, it has been decided to amalgamate the original Carl Hentschel Company with the Meisenbach and the Colourtype Companies which are controlled by it, and at the same time to raise the further capital required. The new company therefore has a capital of £130,000, divided into 70,000 ordinary and 60,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares, of which 50,000 ordinary and 60,000 preference were issued in the beginning of the week. Of these the Carl Hentschel Company took 39,500 preference and 20,500 ordinary shares, with £4,966 in cash or shares, and the Colourtype Company 5,000 preference and 16,060 ordinary shares, with £3,974 in cash or shares for their respective assets, leaving 15,500 preference and 13,440 ordinary shares to provide the additional funds required. These assets include freehold and leasehold premises, fixed plant and loose tools standing in the books, "after allowing for depreciation to the satisfaction of the chartered accountants, at £46,634, book debts guaranteed at £23,355 and £33,945 for goodwill, etc." Profits are set out from 1899 to 1905, the last four years including the results of the Colourtype Company, and the results of the two together show an increase from £8,135 in 1902 to £10,593 last year, but in calculating the probabilities the directors take the average of 1904 and 1905 only. These figures, it is pointed out, would give enough to pay the preference dividend and 8 per cent. on the ordinary, with £1,950 for directors' remuneration, and £641 for reserve, etc., and it seems evident that the old policy of dividing profits up to the hilt is to be continued.

ATLANTIC MERTHYR COLLIERIES, LIMITED.

The Express Colliery Syndicate, which is "a syndicate composed of the directors and others," purchased

the Cilely Colliery, near Llantrissant, Glamorganshire, for £42,500 in cash and £30,000 in debentures and transfers it to this company at a profit of £22,500. Apparently this profit is to be taken in cash as out of a share capital of £70,000, divided into 3,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference and 4,000 ordinary shares of £10 each, and £50,000 in 5 per cent. first mortgage debentures of £100 each, 200 debentures, 3,000 preference, and 3,300 ordinary shares are offered for subscription, the remaining 700 ordinary shares having been allotted to the signatories of the memorandum of association. The property comprises a mineral area of 540 acres held under leases of the usual character, from which the output in 1905 was 213,998 tons, but it is intended to sink another pit, so as to further develop the property, and largely increase the output with the £25,000 of fresh money provided out of this issue. It is estimated that the output can be increased to 350,000 tons per annum within a period of four years after the commencement of the sinking of the new pit, and that this rate can be maintained for 20 years. Profits have fluctuated violently during the seven years for which the figures are given, rising from £12,422 in 1898 to £48,475 in 1901, and then slumping to £15,948, £9,466, and £9,589, but the bumper periods of 1900 and 1901 bring out an average of £22,455 per annum before providing for depreciation of plant and machinery, exhaustion of minerals, or administration charges. The profit on the deal, considering that the syndicate is merely acting as go-between, seems unduly heavy, and the determination of both promoters and vendors to take cash and debentures for the purchase price is not a good sign.

Letters to the Editors.

THE GAMBLER PASSION.

SIR,—I hope you will pardon me for trespassing upon your valuable time with this letter. I have done so on account of the chapter on "Stock Exchange Gambling" which you contributed to the volume on "Betting and Gambling," edited by Mr. B. S. Rowntree.

This contribution seemed to me one of the most valuable portions of the volume. I was particularly interested in it because I am a member of a committee of Belfast gentlemen interested in moral reform, and during the spring of 1905 we devoted a considerable amount of thought to the problem of checking the mischief caused by "bucket-shop" circulars.

This question has occupied my thoughts a good deal since I had the privilege of reading your article. Recently it has occurred to me that the operations of the "bucket-shop" keeper might be checked, at least in the matter of the circulars, by an adaptation of the 5th Section of the Betting Houses Act of 1853.

Under this provision all money deposited within a period of six years as cover for bets with bookmakers or commission agents can be recovered, with costs.

Now the transactions which the "bucket-shop" circulars expound are almost invariably on the "cover" system, and are obviously nothing but wagers. But these documents are phrased in such an alluring fashion that many people who would never dream of "backing" a horse are induced to indulge in this still more insidious form of gambling.

As far as I know, the 5th Section of the Betting Houses Act only refers to wagers on such contingencies as races, sports, or fights. If legislation applied similar treatment to money deposited as cover for bets on the price of stock or shares, do you think this would prove an effective check on the more dangerous of the operations of the "bucket-shop"? It seems to me that it would have this effect, without interfering with the legitimate dealings of the Stock Exchanges. Moreover, whatever may be said against the existing law (which permits losses by betting on horses to be recovered from bookmakers) does not apply to the legislation suggested, for I am certain that in very many cases those who are induced to gamble on the "cover" system do not recognise the true ethical character of what they are doing.

I should not have troubled you were it not that those with whom I am associated have devoted a great deal of time to efforts to check the rampant evils of betting and gambling.

I remain, faithfully yours,

R. G. GEALE.

Belfast, February 22, 1906.

TAXATION OF LAND VALUES, EMPTY HOUSES, &c.

SIR,—Like your correspondent in the current number of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, I would rather miss going to Church than miss your weekly journal. And to your correspondent's admirable letter I should like to add a few remarks. I would go a little further, and not merely refrain from taxing empty cottages or small houses, of, say, 5s. a week, for I see no reason why an empty house that is waiting for a tenant at a rent of 10s., 15s., or

20s. a week should be taxed any more than the humbler tenement. Indeed, the higher the rent the greater is the loss to the landlord if he is unfortunate in having it empty, and the greater hardship would it appear to add to that loss of income by imposing a tax in consequence of such misfortune. With the very best intentions Liberals and reformers are sometimes, by not considering all circumstances, very apt to propose legislation that would be a great hardship on many persons whom they would be reluctant to injure. The probability is that those who propose indiscriminate taxes on land or other real property are not themselves landlords. It is surprising with what a different aspect matters are viewed according as one is the landlord or the tenant. It might be asked, Why is a law to tax landlords always so popular? It may be because in past times landlords may have been, as it were, a class apart, and looked upon as oppressors. But at the present time there is not much more difference between a landlord and his tenant than between a tradesman and his customer.

About 30 years ago a very valuable Blue Book was issued, being a return of all the landowners in Great Britain, excepting those in London. To have included the Metropolis would have made the work too voluminous and too costly. I forget whether Ireland was also included. Being published so long ago, it may not be known to the present generation, and may also be forgotten by those who are older. It was then sometimes spoken of as the Modern Doomsday Book. I think the return was made to answer the allegation so often made that the land is in the possession of the few. But as the transfer of land and other real property is now so often effected, things are very different from what they were in former times. And this Blue Book shows what a very great number of people now own land and houses. My remembrance of this return is that it was in two very large volumes, each with from 500 to 1,000 pages, and each page with the names of from 50 to 100 owners of land. That would make from 50,000 to 200,000 people owning land or houses. Some of them are, of course, the names of the great landowners. I remember one being down with a million acres. But as all holdings from one acre upwards are down, it will readily be seen, without consulting its pages, what a very large number of small owners of land there must be.

So, with all recognition of the well-meaning of those who want to tax land, empty houses, &c., with the idea that in so doing they are only taxing the very wealthy, it must be observed that great discrimination is needed, as was pointed out in the letter the week before last.

With the exception of those who own large estates for pleasure and not for an income, there does not seem to be any perceptible difference, as I have said, between a tradesman in relation to his customer and a landlord in relation to his tenant. And it seems to me that there is no particular reason why such a difference should be made between one who gets his income from land or houses and one who gets it from some other kind of thing. Some men build houses with their capital, in order to get an income. Others make soap or pianos with their capital for the same reason—to get a living or an income. Where is the difference? Suppose a man used his capital in buying or making pianos, and then got an income therefrom by letting them out on hire, would it not be very unjust to make him pay a tax on all his pianos that were not out on hire. And where is the difference between doing that and taxing a man's houses that happen not to be on hire?

My letter has become a little longer than I intended, but the importance of the subject must be my excuse.

I remain, yours truly,
T. S. B.

SIR,—In my previous letter some misapprehension must occur at the point where I state that rates and borrowed money were £1,000 more than the year before, with £15,000 more revenue sunk. To make the position clearer, a clear profit of £8,000 on a large estate was sunk during 1904, as it was realised; at the end of 1905 a profit of £7,000 was realised only, and all the £7,000 being sunk as it was realised. The revenue, of course, ought to have been very much larger in 1905, but lo! it was £1,000 less. I think the figures should be sufficiently convincing to you respecting the serious disintegrating sapping and mining there is going on here on accumulated labour invested in houses, thereby justifying my statement about thrashing a dead horse when you advocate rating empty houses. Now, Sir, I don't complain about the principle of rating accumulated labour if you attempt to do it all round, and collar the accumulated saved labour sunk in banks, building societies, general investments, mortgages, Government bonds (foreign and local), trade union funds, &c.; it would then be fairer but to raid like highwaymen one class of accumulated labour and leave the remainder is iniquity indeed. But to me the whole system of raising money for the poor and unemployed is wrong. Why don't we tax all wages and incomes at their source? Labour is the foundation principle of civilisation, and ought to be safeguarded as a first principle of self-preservation. The accumulated labour of our forefathers is well represented by the marvellous revelation of last year's trade—viz., £13 per head imports, £7 per head exports, plus a balance of many millions in gold, plus renewed bills in foreign, colonial, and Indian loans of many millions more. Thus, is not labour worthy of conserving and safeguarding to the utmost degree possible? I see a case reported in this day's paper where a man committed suicide because he failed day after day to find work. This sort of thing offends the moral sense quite as much as the doctrine of everlasting punishment. It is not intended by the Most High

who feeds us as a nation so bountifully, and it ought to be avoided by civilised means, but not by robbery.

Yours sincerely,
F. N. SHARPE.

Newton Lodge, Potternewton, Leeds, February 27, 1906.

Mr. A. C. Heckle also writes:—"I was much interested in the letter which you publish in this week's REVIEW from Mr. J. N. Sharp, of Leeds. There is a good deal of sound sense in what he states in regard to the tenants of small property in towns and cities. The owners of such property in Liverpool are talking of raising the rents generally over the city, owing to the steady increase in the rates, in which the tenants have not as yet participated."

KAFFIRS.

MONSIEUR,—Je regrette que la rédaction hative de ma première lettre en aie rendu certains passages illisibles.

Vous n'en avez pas moins saisi le sens général.

La crise actuelle, crise de main d'œuvre et de capitaux tout à la fois, est le produit de l'activité désordonnée des trusts.

Il faut donc qu'ils reviennent à une allure normale.

Pour cela ils doivent concentrer leurs efforts sur l'amélioration des mines productives et sur la mise en train des mines voisines du stage de la production.

Il est non moins nécessaire, qu'ils se débarrassent des affaires non-productives, dont les titres enflent et alourdissent leurs portefeuilles, rendant ainsi la rémunération de leur capital dérisoire.

Ils n'ont qu'à distribuer ces titres à leurs actionnaires. Cela leur permettra de refondre leur propre capital sur une base plus modérée.

N'ayant plus désormais à pourvoir à des besoins de main d'œuvre et de capitaux pour ainsi dire illimités, ils auront en outre l'avantage de se soustraire aux aléas des affaires nouvelles, qui sont énormes, si l'on en juge par quelques exemples.

Mais quel sera le sort de ces affaires délaissées par les trusts et redevenues autonomes? Elles attendront du temps et des efforts de ceux qui y sont intéressés, les moyens en main d'œuvre et en capitaux de se développer à leur tour.

Quant aux trusts, leur capital réduit sera mieux rémunéré et ils retrouveront leur élasticité première.

Ils pourront même quand leur situation sera suffisamment éclaircie, co-opérer de nouveau au développement des affaires, qu'ils avaient créées et qui offrent le plus de chances.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée,

E. BELVAL.

Aix, 27 Février, 1906.

THE BAKU RUSSIAN PETROLEUM COMPANY.

SIR,—In your last issue of THE INVESTORS' REVIEW I notice that you devoted some of your valuable space to a commentary article upon the Baku Russian Petroleum Company—a subject which, I am sure, now possesses a most interesting aspect to many thousands of the English investors. With many of the opinions expressed in that article I am in full agreement, but there are others which, I venture to think, you would not have put forward had you been conversant with the actual facts.

As you truly state, the report which was presented by the committee of investigation was a most painful document, and I am pleased to see that you quite rightly condemned the promoters for their greediness and rapacity in grabbing at riches.

You then, Sir, go on to inquire why my attacks and energies have been concentrated upon Mr. H. N. Gladstone, inasmuch as you cannot understand why I should take such a step to destroy the character of that gentleman. I herewith forward you a copy of the current issue of the *Petroleum Review*, which contains the only verbatim report of last week's extraordinary meeting of shareholders that has been published, and from a perusal of the same I trust that you will come to the same conclusion that I have done long ago. It has been apparent to me that Mr. Gladstone was the Alpha and Omega of the whole concern, and that the other directors are only substitutes or nominees of his: therefore my attack against either the directors or promoters could only be directed against him as being the chief culprit. The statements that I made months ago to this effect have now been corroborated by the investigation committee, for they have shown that Mr. Gladstone was the manager of the promoting syndicate, and consequently it follows that he has been the responsible person who invited the other directors to join the board, and also for any changes that have from time to time taken place in the *personnel* of the board.

Then, further, you will find that he and his friends, though they have sold more than 35,000 shares at high premiums, still retain 56,000 shares, which give them the control of the management to a considerable extent.

Had I directed my attack against the other directors of the company, I should in all probability have been attacking those persons who were the least responsible for the present condition of the company's affairs.

You will, of course, be aware of the fact that what details have now been brought to light are the result of my agitation for an investigation, and I most emphatically say that the disclosing of the facts which shareholders now know is sufficient proof that I was right when I commenced my agitation. Therefore I am afraid you are not at all conversant with the recent disclosures in connection with the promotion of the company and the method in which it has since been worked, when you say that you do not see that I am really helping the shareholders.

Unfortunately it is a generally accepted rule in the City that the directors join underwriting and promoting syndicates in order to share in the anticipated plunder arranged for in a dishonestly excessive capitalisation. These principles have eaten away the conscience of many City men; they have done a great deal of harm to a great many old-established industrial enterprises; but they have done a still greater harm to the petroleum industry, which is as yet in its infancy.

It must not be forgotten that it is only during the past eight years that the British investor has taken any interest at all in the petroleum industry, but as a result of the unscrupulous conduct of the promoters of the Baku Russian and other companies, I am afraid that for a long time, at all events, the possibilities of the English investor taking an active and real interest in the development of the petroleum trade have altogether been ruined.

This, then, has been the chief reason, while I as representing the petroleum industry have felt it my duty to take up the enormous task of fighting against the inroads of these unscrupulous organisers, and I am pleased to know that as a result of my efforts many thousands of English investors in the petroleum enterprises have come to the conclusion that if they have not as yet received dividends from their investments, it has not been because the concerns have been commercially bad, but solely due to the greed of the promoters on the one hand, and the incompetence of many of the directors on the other.

One word more. I regret to see that you refer to my agitation as perhaps being useful to the "Standard oilers"—a remark which must strike those who have the slightest knowledge of the industry as being in the greatest degree absurd. Your remarks plainly show your attitude toward the great American corporation; but antagonistic as this may be, you have not one iota of justification for the sentiments expressed in the concluding portions of your article. By all who have any desire to arrive at actual facts, it is admitted that the Standard Oil Company has been the greatest benefactor to the Russian petroleum industry. When the prices for kerosene were falling down to ruinous figures, two years ago, the Standard Oil Company saw that it was not good for the future of the industry that oil should be sold for less than it had cost to produce and refine, and consequently they appeared as large buyers in Baku. The market prices immediately rose to a level which left profit instead of loss, and, lamentable as is the position of some of the Anglo-Russian petroleum companies, it would have been far worse but for the timely interference of the Standard Oil Company.

I thank you for the privilege you have allowed me in trespassing upon your valuable space at such length, and only regret that a misconception of facts has rendered the writing of this explanatory letter a necessity.

Yours faithfully,

P. DVORKOVITZ.

45, St. Mary Axe, London, E.C., February 28, 1906.

Answers to Correspondents.

OLIVE.—You need be in no hurry to sell these shares, although the outlook in this quarter is not very encouraging. The story about seizing the line is mere idle talk, and need occasion no alarm.

D. B.—Thanks for your letter. We will do our best to indicate the most acceptable securities in your list, which, on the whole, is a very fair one. Of course, a yield such as you want cannot be obtained without a certain amount of risk, but, with the money well spread, this should not be great. (1) This one should be passed over. Trade is very bad where the company operates, and capital has lately been spent at a great rate. (2) A well-managed and, we believe, a progressive business. A small investment should be all right. (3) One of the best enterprises in the kingdom, and the shares offer a reasonable chance. (4) A rather fluctuating business, but, on the whole, the company does well, and should always provide a good return on its capital. (5) These shares form a very fair investment, and we think you might buy rather more than the amount mentioned. (6) The preference shares should be quite safe, especially as trade is so much improved. (7) These shares seem rather dear, but they have some dividend in them, and a small purchase may turn out all right. (8) A splendid security in all respects, but, of course, not cheap. (9) These are also good, and we think the company will make good progress. (10) No. We feel very doubtful about the future of this company, and think its securities are best left alone. (11) The interest here should be safe enough. (12) Somewhat speculative, but we hear the company is doing well, and a small investment should do no harm. (13) Not a strong company by any means, and the shares do not form an attractive investment. (14) The existing rate of dividend on these shares seems fairly well assured, and the investment can be regarded as moderately good. (15) This is a very speculative venture, quite recently formed, and we think it is a little too risky for your purpose. (16) A very strong company, without doubt, and we see no immediate probability of a shrinkage in the dividend. (17) This company has greatly improved its position during the last two or three years, and the preference dividend should be safe enough. (18) This company had to face some important losses a little while back, and it may be well to await the issue of the annual report, now nearly due, before investing. (19) Not a strong company in any sense, and best left alone. (20) No. At current prices these shares are much too high. You still have to go to your credit.

A. K. Z.—(1) A very poor security, which could at best be described only as third-rate. Leave it alone. (2) Not at the present price, which makes the yield too low to compensate for the risks involved. (3) The loan must, of course, be regarded as

speculative in the present condition of the country, but the price has had such a heavy fall that it might be worth picking up. (4) Mine unknown here. Fear you have been imposed upon. Calls on fully-paid shares cannot be made legally.

MITHRA.—(1) A purchase of these shares would only be a gamble, and a gamble in the dark at that, as no accounts have been issued since June, 1903, and there is no way of telling what the position of the company may be. (2) These are two separate companies, of which the first has fair speculative prospects, but the second had better be left alone. (3) The market prophesies that there will be one within two years, but we doubt, and think the stock perilously high now.

INQUIRER.—See our issue of November 9 last.

H. A. KRAMERS.—The company does not appear to publish any particulars as to its business, and is not to be found in the usual reference books. It is backed by a group of Indian tea companies, and we believe the managing director has the reputation of knowing his business thoroughly, but the mere fact that the sellers will not name a price indicates that there is not a free market in the shares, and a purchase would be largely a leap in the dark. Your questions refer to one security only, and we therefore hold 2s. to your credit.

NOPIR.—(1) Company is carefully managed, but its receipts fell back rather heavily in the second half of 1905, and are still showing decreases week by week, so that the price may go lower yet. (2) An excellent company, very well managed, and at the figure you quote the ordinary stock seems reasonably priced. (3) Argentine prosperity has worked wonders for this company, and its history of the past few years is encouraging enough to make the deferred stock a fair speculative investment. (4) This is an excellent security, as the company's assets have a value largely in excess of its issued capital and other liabilities. (5) The falling off seems to be due to temporary conditions, and the company will probably pick up again when the rebuilding operations referred to in the last report are completed. In any case, the preference shares seem to have touched bottom, and should be a safe enough investment. We should be inclined to arrange your list in the following order: 2, 4, 3, 5, 1. Thanks for the remittance, of which we have put half to your credit against further inquiries.

C. D. H.—On the whole, we think the policies should be kept up, although at this stage it would, perhaps, be a saving in the long run to abandon them and take out new ones in first-class home offices.

D. C. H.—(1) We do not care much for these shares, even as a speculation. (2) This company was no doubt hit by the Sugar Convention, but apart from that the business appears to have been going down steadily for some years. Better leave the shares alone.

H. W.—(1) We are afraid not. Considering that the ordinary capital represents little but water, and that it has not received a dividend since 1901, the shares are already too highly valued. (2) The company is struggling along without much prospect of ever doing anything else. Even if matters took a turn for the better, it would, we fear, be a long time before a return on the ordinary shares could be expected.

Inquirer (Exmouth).—Prospects hardly seem encouraging enough to justify a further purchase just yet, but there is no need to accept a loss on your present holding.

WEST AUSTRALIAN CRUSHINGS.

During the month of January 40,909 ozs. of gold were entered for export, while 113,456 ozs. were received at the Perth Branch of the Royal Mint for coinage, a total of 154,365 ozs. of fine gold, against 165,452 ozs. for the corresponding month of 1905.

Name of Company.	November.		December.		January.	
	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.
Associated G. M. of W. A. . .	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.
Associated Northern Blocks . .	7,290	£19,750	7,590	£19,920	8,135	£19,932
Bellevue Proprietary	3,288	£15,809	3,365	£16,033	3,360	£16,020
Burbank's Birthday	3,337	1,620	3,400	1,604	3,346	1,656
Cosmopolitan Proprietary . .	2,123	677	2,218	498	555	246*
Golden Horseshoe	8,276	£9,180	8,599	9,553	8,248	£9,151
Golden Pole	19,442	13,220*	20,106	13,564*	19,839	12,937*
Great Boulder Perseverance .	1,677	2,043	1,320	1,685	1,170	1,196
Great Boulder Proprietary . .	13,485	7,336*	13,504	8,512*	13,909	8,362*
Great Fingall	12,327	14,065	12,186	14,135	12,253	13,067
Hainault	18,451	12,482*	19,521	11,790*	20,021	11,781*
Hannan's Reward	4,495	1,761*	4,511	1,724	4,649	1,643*
Hannan's Star	605	311	394	354	660	288
Ivanhoe	1,400	1,118	1,300	1,027	1,400	1,011
Kalgurli	16,410	10,613*	16,601	10,756*	17,010	10,433*
Lake View Consols	8,503	6,207*	9,171	6,642*	9,408	6,888*
Menzies Consolidated . . .	10,325	3,933*	10,098	3,732*	10,489	3,776*
Merton's Reward	1,552	£3,565	1,553	£3,240	1,495	£3,443
North Kalgurli	2,543	1,132	2,302	972	2,590	845
North White Feather . . .	1,900	1,106*	1,580	873	1,785	656*
Oroya-Brownhill	10,067	12,784*	10,534	12,804	10,620	12,719*
Peak Hill Goldfield . . .	5,341	1,177	—	—	—	—
Queensland Menzies . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red Hill	1,514	602	953	548	1,804	687*
Sons of Gwalla	10,916	5,332*	10,579	5,307	10,161	5,206*
South Kalgurli	7,110	3,310*	7,380	3,350	7,550	3,327*
Violen	1,528	580	1,381	346	1,346	537
Westralia and East Extension	2,557	1,117	2,448	1,066	2,900	1,341
Westralia Mount Morgans .	1,620	930	—	501	—	474
White Feather Main Reefs .	1,048	367	822	244	581	—

* Fine Gold.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for ten days ended February 7, \$3,750, increase \$1,061.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 19, \$17,428, decrease \$2,004; aggregate from January 1, \$47,567, decrease \$534.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 27, Rs. 65,364, increase Rs. 5,162; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 2,40,375, increase Rs. 7,366.

British Columbia Electric.—Nett income for January, \$39,978, increase \$3,983.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 21, \$66,900, increase \$17,400; total from July 1, \$3,265,200, increase \$754,000.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 27, Rs. 57,655, increase Rs. 25,919.

Midland Uruguay.—Receipts for January £5,106, increase, £85; aggregate for seven months £35,603, decrease £2,122.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 4, £339, increase £6.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 3rd week of February, \$15,024, increase \$3,040; aggregate from January 1, \$104,614, increase \$23,916.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 27, Rs. 9,064, increase Rs. 1,341.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended February 7 amounted to \$5,075.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending February 24, £1,264, increase £22; aggregate from January 1, £9,586, increase £139.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending February 24, £698, increase £48; aggregate from January 1, £5,638, increase £463.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for November, £4,099, decrease £203.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending February 24, £453, increase £47; aggregate from January 1, £3,757, increase £217.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 23, £1,416, increase £281; aggregate from January 1, £10,601, increase £1,794.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 25, £5, decrease £1; aggregate from January 1, £50, decrease £3.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 23, £4,637, increase £374; aggregate from January 1, £37,016, increase £1,472.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending February 23, £26,523, increase £4,288; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £207,489, increase £34,962; 436½ miles, against 423.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 24, £1,046, increase £161; aggregate from January 1, £8,628, increase £812.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 25, £85, decrease £6; aggregate from January 1, £723, increase £4.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 23, £89, decrease £2; aggregate from January 1, £669, decrease £70.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 23, £4,436, increase £302; aggregate from January 1, £35,164, increase £1,229.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 24, £4,330, increase £202; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £36,713, increase £1,809.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 23, £183, decrease £37; aggregate from January 1, £1,506, decrease £245.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 22, £335.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 24, £230, increase £8; aggregate from October 1, £5,399, decrease £486.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 17, £13,393, increase £515; aggregate from April 1, £675,178, increase £88,565. Miles 52½ against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 24, £19,878, decrease £470; aggregate from January 1, £102,561, decrease £6,815.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 24, £7,030, increase £100; aggregate from January 1, £55,217, decrease £117.

Rosendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 24, £189, increase £18; aggregate from January 1, £1,595, increase £97.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 25, £736, increase £215; aggregate from January 1, £5,712, increase £1,656.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 25, £14,654, increase £1,506; aggregate from January 1, £116,980, increase £11,922.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of January, 1906, £11,016, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to January 31, \$694,541, increase \$150,592. Nett earnings from July 1 to January 31, \$318,067, increase \$93,150.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending February 18, £3,396, increase £317; aggregate from January 1, £24,578, increase £2,461.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 27, £1,373.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of January, \$292,200.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 24, Rs. 43,651, increase Rs. 4,287; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 3,70,826, increase Rs. 45,509.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, £5,078, increase £2,722. Total to January 31, £5,078, increase £2,722.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of November, \$417,218, increase \$63,017; aggregate from January 1, \$4,326,887, increase \$390,457. Nett traffic receipts, \$226,858, increase \$35,361; aggregate from January 1, \$2,359,439, increase \$272,120.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	
Brecon and Merthyr	Feb. 25	2,050	+ 13	8	16,822	+ 385	
Cambrian	" 25	4,665	— 345	8	37,057	— 995	
Central London	" 24	7,017	— 231	8	55,765	— 1,874	
City and South London	" 25	2,978	— 20	8	24,182	+ 188	
Furness	" 25	9,609	+ 1,327	8	74,565	+ 10,531	
Gt. Central (late M., S. & L.)	" 25	70,283	+ 2,388	8	554,429	+ 23,221	
Great Eastern	" 25	94,200	+ 1,700	8	726,600	+ 2,900	
Great Northern and City	" 25	1,853	+ 88	8	14,472	+ 316	
Great Northern	" 24	105,300	+ 3,160	8	827,800	+ 17,898	
Great Western	" 25	212,500	+ 4,300	8	1,655,700	+ 2,300	
Hull and Barnsley	" 25	8,710	— 198	8	74,017	+ 1,919	
Lancashire and Yorkshire	" 25	102,457	+ 4,831	8	777,682	+ 19,622	
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast	" 24	49,382	+ 334	8	412,614	— 292	
London & North Western	" 25	263,000	+ 10,000	8	2,034,000	+ 61,000	
London & South Western	" 25	77,900	+ 600	8	616,000	+ 700	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend	" 25	7,835	+ 735	8	62,548	+ 2,715	
Metropolitan	" 25	16,620	— 140	8	134,887	— 1,044	
Metropolitan District	" 25	8,335	+ 548	8	65,173	+ 3,661	
Midland	" 24	219,806	+ 7,674	8	1,722,863	+ 40,806	
North Eastern	" 24	172,799	+ 7,259	8	1,395,497	+ 55,246	
North London	" 25	8,973	— 28	8	73,619	— 1,074	
North Staffordshire	" 25	17,08	+ 365	8	137,711	+ 3,641	
Rhymney	" 25	6,297	+ 17	8	48,465	+ 45	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover	" 24	71,792	+ 1,090	8	589,909	— 167	
Taff Vale	" 25	20,550	+ 2,412	8	154,767	+ 5,775	

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Feb. 25	79,461	+ 1,324	4	317,115	+ 4,790
Glasgow & South-Western	" 24	30,233	+ 317	4	121,430	+ 2,321
Great North of Scotland	" 24	8,140	+ 30	4	31,705	— 56
Highland	" 25	7,951	— 65	4	31,173	— 1,259
North British	" 25	85,562	+ 1,558	4	337,271	+ 3,473

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down	Feb. 23	2,437	— 42	§	17,338	— 621
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast	" 23	1,434	— 162	§	10,589	— 385
Great Northern	" 23	16,369	— 79	§	123,439	+ 325
Midland Great Western	" 23	9,312	— 1,162	§	69,738	— 5,879

§ From January 1.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, Feb. 19.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, Feb. 19.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
3 1/2	Angelo	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	May Consolidated	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Anglo-French Ex.	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
4 1/2	Apex	4 1/2	4 1/2	7 1/2	Modderfontein	7 1/2	7 1/2
6 3/4	Aurora West	6 3/4	6 3/4	1 1/2	Do B.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bantjes	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	New Goch	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Block B.	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	City and Suburban, £4	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2
5 1/2	Comet (New)	5 1/2	5 1/2	1 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Cons. Goldfields	5 1/2	5 1/2	1 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Pref.	23/	22/6	1 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Crown Reef	12	12	6 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Driefontein	12	12	1 1/2	Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	3 1/2	3 1/2	8 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	East Rand	5 1/2	5 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	East Rand Extension	5 1/2	5 1/2	1 1/2	Roodepoort United	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Ferreira	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Salisbury	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	French Rand	1 1/2	1 1/2	7/3	Sheba (New)	7/3	6/3
1 1/2	Geduld	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Goldenhuis Estate	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Ginsburg	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Steyn Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Glencam	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Development	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Harmony Proprietary	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Henderson's Transvaal	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Treasury	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Heriot	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Van Ryn	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Johannesburg Con. In.	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Vereniging Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Jubilee	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Vogelstruis	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Jumpers	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Weigedacht	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Kleinfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Wemmer	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Knight's	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	West Rand Consols	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Lancaster	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Wolhuter, £4	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Langlaagte Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Worcester	2 1/2	2 1/2

SOUTH AFRICAN.

1 1/2	Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bonanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Cinderella Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Robinson Deep (new)	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Crown Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Roodepoort Cn. Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	South Rose Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Goldenhuis Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Village Main Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Knight's Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			

DEEP LEVELS.

1 1/2	Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bonanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Cinderella Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Robinson Deep (new)	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Crown Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Roodepoort Cn. Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	South Rose Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Goldenhuis Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Village Main Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Knight's Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			

RHODESIANS.

1 1/2	Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Rhodesia Exploration	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Charter Trust and Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Selukwe	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Lomogunda Development	1 1/2	1 1/2	10/	Tanganyika	10/	10/
1 1/2	Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wankie Coal	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Willoughby	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2					Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2

DIAMONDS.

1 1/2	De Beers Deferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Koffyfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Preferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Lace Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Eland's Drift Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Orange Free State	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Frank Smith Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Jagersfontein Deferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	9 1/2	Premier Diamond Def.	9 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Preferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Kamlersdam	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2			

WEST AFRICAN.

1 1/2	Abbotiakoon	1 1/2	1 1/2	10/	Gold Coast Agency, new	10/	9/
1 1/2	Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Ankobra	1 1/2	1 1/2	6/6	Gold Coast (Wassau)	6/6	6/6
1 1/2	Ashanti Consols, 2/- paid	3/3	3/3	1/	Deep	1/	6/3
1 1/2	Do. Goldfields	11/6	11/6	1/	Goldfields East'n Akim	1/	1/6
1 1/2	Sansu	5/6	5/6	3 1/2	Himan Concessions	3 1/2	15/
1 1/2	Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	8/	Obhassu Syndicate	8/	7/6
1 1/2	British Gold Coast	1 1/2	1 1/2	1/	Prestea	1/	1/
1 1/2	Bromassie	30/6	29/6	1/	Sekondi and Tarkwa	1/	1/
1 1/2	Effueta (Wassau)	6/3	6/3	2 1/2	Taquinah and Abosso	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Fanti Consolidated	14/9	14/9	1 1/2	Wassau	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2				3/	W. A. Gold Trust	3/	2/6

AUSTRALIAN.

1 1/2	Anglo-Aus. Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	7/3	Ida H.	7/3	7/3
1 1/2	Associated	2 1/2	2 1/2	6 1/2	Ivanhoe Gold Corp.	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ivanhoe South	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bellevue Proprietary	3/3	3/3	8 1/2	Kalgurli	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	Boulder Deep Levels	1/6	1/6	1 1/2	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Brownhill Extended	8/6	8/6	1 1/2	Lancefield	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chaffers	1/9	1/9	12/	London & W.A. Explor.	12/	11/9
1 1/2	Cosmopol'n Pr'p'ty	6/9	6/6	4	Mount Boppy	4	4/4
1 1/2	Golden Horseshoe, New Shares	5 1/2	5 1/2	2/3	North Kalgurli	2/3	2/3
1 1/2	Golden Links	3/1	3/1	2 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Pole	1 1/2	1 1/2	1/6	Peak Hill	1/3	1/3
1 1/2	Great Boulder, 2/-	22/6	22/	1 1/2	South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Perseverance	11/6	11/3	2 1/2	Sons of Gwalia	2 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Great Findall	5 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	W. A. Goldfields	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	W'str lla Mt. Morgans	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Hampton Plains	2/3	2/3	2 1/2			
1 1/2	Hannan's Star	2/6	2/3	2 1/2			

MISCELLANEOUS.

1 1/2	Anaconda, 25 dols.	14 1/2	13 1/2	3 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Alaghat, full paid	33/6	34/6	46 1/2	Mount Lyell	46 1/2	46 1/2
1 1/2	Brilliant and St. George	11/6	11/6	3 1/2	M't. Morgan	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Broken Hill, Prop.	3 1/2	3 1/2	7	Mysore, 10s.	7	7
1 1/2	Camp Bird	1 1/2	1 1/2	2/6	Mysore Goldfields, 15/6	2/6	4/
1 1/2	Cape Copper, £2	4 1/2	4 1/2	12/	Do. West, 19/	12/6	12/6
1 1/2	Champion Reef, 10s.	25/	24/6	12/	Do. Wynaad, 19/	12/6	12/6
1 1/2	Con. Gold N.Z.	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Namaqua, £2	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Copiapu, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	6/	Nile Valley	6/	5/
1 1/2	Coromandel 19/6 pd.	2 1/2	2 1/2	28/	N'yndroog, 10/ shares	28/	29/
1 1/2	Esperanza	4 1/2	4 1/2	16/3	Ooegum	17/	16/6
1 1/2	Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Frontino and Bolivia	11/	10/6	65 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	65 1/2	65 1/2
1 1/2	Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	10/	St. John del Rey	10/	10/
1 1/2	Do. (No. 2)	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Tharsis	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Libiola, £5	2 1/2	2 1/2	7 1/2	Waihi	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Linares, £3	5 1/2	5 1/2	1 1/2	Ymir	1 1/2	1 1/2

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904-5.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904-5.	
Alcoy and Gandia	Feb. 24	Ps. 20,000	+ P. 11,400	** Ps. 146,400	- 2,100	
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia	Jan.	\$88,867	+ \$30,059	** \$88,867	+ \$30,059	
Argentine Gt. Western	Feb. 23	11,836	+ 1,711	** 427,127	+ 72,994	
Algebras (Gibraltar)	" 24	Ps. 29,912	- Ps. 3,806	** P1,090,619	- Ps 82,478	
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	" 24	36,700	+ 9,001	** 965,104	+ 271,827	
Buenos Ayres & Ros'co and Cen. Argentine	" 24	103,049	+ 8,433	** 615,033	+ 54,468	
Buenos Ayres G. Stn.	" 25	87,565	+ 6,728	** 2,422,511	+ 399,798	
Do. Western	" 25	38,996	+ 2,754	** 1,071,896	+ 147,061	
Do. Ensenada	" 25	235	- 99	** 11,518	+ 315	
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	" 24	10,675	+ 1,999	** 281,516	+ 6,951	
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 24	2,379	+ 298	** 66,635	- 647	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 24	1,552	+ 239	** 38,428	- 6,202	
Do. Western Ex.	" 24	1,323	- 110	** 49,311	+ 4,436	
Cordoba Central	" 25	3,320	+ 130	** 21,750	+ 4,300	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 25	6,810	+ 730	** 51,220	+ 11,450	
Do. N. W. Arg'n. Ex.	" 25	1,835	+ 520	** 12,230	+ 3,245	
Cordoba and Rosario	" 25	4,280	- 2,465	** 150,100	+ 1,425	
Costa Rica	" 21	7,582	- 1,576	** 156,106	+ 16,742	
Cuban Central	" 24	12,121	+ 1,392	** 200,941	+ 8,587	
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 24	13,024	+ 3,693	** 94,893	+ 23,035	
Entre Rios	" 24	5,818	+ 918	** 120,667	+ 14,735	
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico	" 21	\$113,600	- \$4,010	** \$3,801,036	+ \$107,210	
Leopoldina	" 24	10,479	+ 3,679	** 95,855	- 27,301	
Mexican	Jan.	\$592,500	+ \$75,000	** \$592,500	+ \$75,000	
Do. Southern	Feb. 14	\$134,200	- \$1,000	** \$40,700	+ \$46,000	
Do. Central	" 28	\$24,569	- \$6,304	** \$199,515	+ \$8,847	
Do. Do.	Nov. 5	\$2,171,546	+ \$161,537	** \$123,042	+ \$364,067	
Manila	" 24	\$549,106	+ \$48,619	** \$3,374,935	+ \$367,177	
Nitrate	Feb. 24	\$37,197	- \$2,101	** \$264,151	- \$1,726	
Ottoman	" 28	17,977	- 2,016	** 35,499	- 2,089	
Peruvian Corporation	" 24	4,266	- 803	** 35,499	- 2,089	
San Paulo	Jan. 5	\$693,400	+ \$90,725	** \$4,622,075	+ \$551,300	
Salvador	Feb. 18	21,876	- 174	** 129,716	+ 6,354	
United of Havana	" 24	\$46,000	+ \$18,500	** 401,690	+ 83,435	
Villa Maria & Rufino	" 24	26,876	+ 10,484	** 10,110	+ 1,129	
Western of Havana	" 24	1,507	- 14	** 142,024	+ 2,160	
	" 24	3,614	- 236			

GUARDIAN ASSURANCE

COMPANY, LIMITED. Established 1821.

II, Lombard Street, LONDON, E.C.

TOTAL ASSETS over £5,000,000

TOTAL INCOME over £940,000

LARGE BONUSES.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent. on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

We indicated last week that the worst of the short money stringency was probably about over, and this week's market movements have justified that forecast. Short credits are not yet cheap because, for one thing, the market still owes a great deal of money to the Bank, but we are away from the necessity of daily further borrowings at the Bank, and now start paying such, while call loans, instead of rising to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., occasionally sink to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and yesterday for the first time these many weeks it was possible to get seven-day money at $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. To-day that soon became the ruling quotation, whether for a week or a month, the India Council having renewed and lent to the end of March at that figure, though in the morning many still paid 4 per cent. Next Wednesday £2,000,000 of the deficiency three months' accommodation bills of the Treasury will be redeemed, and as gold flows in to a larger extent than had been looked for, our market is becoming more comfortable.

For all that "cheap money" is not immediately in sight, would not be even if we had only our own affairs to consider, and those who talk of a reduction in the Bank rate within a fortnight are probably wrong. Discount, indeed, is hardening slightly, thanks in no small measure to the zeal of American financiers in creating finance bills in order to raise the wind here to help Wall Street. There money has risen this week to 7 per cent. on call loan, and will probably go higher unless Europe comes to the rescue. Because of Wall Street requirements alone we must, therefore, hold our discount market up, and there is the condition of Berlin and Paris as affected by Russian poverty also to take into account. Yesterday and the day before fine three months' bank bills were discounted at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and six months' bills at 3 per cent. These, however, were exceptional rates, and we might call $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. a minimum rate for three months' bank paper in a general way. To-day $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. was the working rate, and there was a good supply of bills, partly for the reason just given. The joint-stock banks were not taking mixed parcels from the brokers under $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Money, it may be added, was firmer this morning than in the afternoon, when Treasury disbursements, or more probably Bank and County Council lendings and repayments, are believed to have provided the surplus which then became visible. The morning demand was caused by the large repayments made by the market at the Bank. These covered, overnight balances became plentiful and were offered at $3\frac{1}{4}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Within its week the Bank of England received £1,569,000 nett in imported gold, a good deal of which is said to be Russian gold sent here *via* Holland. It is estimated in some quarters that as much as £3,000,000 more of the metal may come from the same quarter, but there is really no certainty as to that, and Russian debts are not due much to us whether for interest or for war material. Berlin and Paris are the chief Russian creditor cities. It does not follow that the right to draw Russian gold has not been transferred here through the operation of other necessities. Be this as it may, the

Bank has now no formidable rival for the supplies of gold coming into the open market, and accordingly most of the raw metal is picked up by it on arrival, so that the bullion reserve is one way or another growing satisfactorily in magnitude. Adding in the amounts held by both departments it now amounts to £38,194,000. Some of this will go away again as the spring comes on, but if we hold what has been imported and add thereto there ought to be a season of comparative ease in our credit market later on.

The Bank return indicated that £18,096,000 was on Wednesday night lying at the credit of the Government on public deposits. This was an increase of £1,287,000 within the week, and such a mass of locked up credit is a cruel embarrassment to the market. The sooner, therefore, Mr. Asquith sees to it that most of this money is paid out the better. Had it not been for this market-stripping, and for the monthly balance-sheet showing requirements of joint-stock banks, the Bank of England, however, would have given the market almost enough to meet the week's addition to the Treasury balances, for it took back £1,160,000 of its securities. As it was, in spite of this help and an increase of £893,000 in the banking reserve, due solely to the above-mentioned nett import of gold, the borrowings at the Bank had to be increased by no less than £2,195,000 in order that other deposits or bankers' balances might be increased by £2,916,000. This latter sum was roughly the measure of the amount which the banks striking their balances on the last day of February required in order to make a decent show of cash in hand and at the Bank of England.

Further, in this week's Bank return, the "rest," or undivided profits account, has been adjusted for the half-year to February 28 by the addition of £54,743, making a total of £3,680,896. The surplus, therefore, over the £3,000,000 below which the fund is never allowed to fall, is £680,896, and it may be assumed that the dividend will again be $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the six months ended on February 28, or at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum, which has been the rate for the past two years. After paying this, the reserve will be £26,011 above the minimum.

SILVER.

The Indian Government has again been the principal, if not the only, buyer in the market for the greater part of the week, and as its requirements gradually grew smaller prices dwindled. During the first day or two a few orders were received from the bazaars, and quotations went up to $30\frac{1}{4}$ d. per oz. for cash and $30\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. for future shipment, but supplies became over plentiful at these levels, and a reaction set in, mainly on "bear" pressure, which carried them back to $30\frac{1}{2}$ d. and $29\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. respectively. Tenders for the Rs.1,00,00,000 Council drafts on India offered this week amounted to Rs.4,81,15,000 in bills and Rs.6,56,15,000 in telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs.83,22,000 were accepted in bills and Rs.16,78,000 in transfers, applicants at rs 4 1-32d. and rs 4 3-32d. per rupee receiving about 9 per cent. Next Wednesday another Rs.1,00,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, February 28, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 53,938,330	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,000
		Gold Coin and Bullion	35,488,330
		Silver Bullion	—
	£53,938,330		£53,938,330

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities	£ 16,388,867
Rest	3,680,896	Other Securities	38,032,070
Public Deposits (including		Notes	25,672,100
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin	1,775,554
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts)	18,096,249		
Other Deposits	45,449,388		
Seven Day and other Bills	89,358		
	£81,868,891		£81,868,891

Dated March 1 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year :—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. Mar. 1.		Feb. 21, 1906.	Feb. 28, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,674,212	Rest	3,626,153	3,680,896	54,743	—
15,190,746	Pub. Deposits ..	16,809,530	18,096,249	1,286,719	—
41,558,327	Other do. ..	42,533,221	45,449,388	2,916,167	—
93,720	7 Day Bills ..	98,438	89,358	—	9,080
15,589,185	Assets.	15,228,867	16,388,867	—	1,160,000
29,628,936	Gov. Securities ..	35,836,784	38,032,070	—	2,195,286
29,851,884	Other do. ..	26,554,691	27,447,954	—	893,263
	Total Reserve ..			4,257,629	4,257,629
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
27,593,105	Coin and Bullion	27,908,280	28,265,930	357,650	—
58,994,989	Proportion ..	36,012,971	37,263,884	1,250,913	—
52½ p.c.	Bank Rate ..	44½ p.c.	44½ p.c.	—	½ p.c.
3 "		4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £1,569,000 in.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
2,000,000	3 months	Mar. 7	3 1 8
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
1,800,000	6 months	June 1	3 2 6
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
1,200,000	—	—	—
1,000,000	6 months	June 29	2 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 12	2 10 8
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 26	2 13 8
19,833,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1905.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	932,886,000	803,068,000	129,818,000	—
February	966,517,000	811,478,000	5,039,000	—
March	1,201,956,000	986,566,000	215,390,000	—
April	996,321,000	754,883,000	241,438,000	—
May	1,167,805,000	1,073,148,000	94,657,000	—
June	822,368,000	778,984,000	43,384,000	—
July	1,003,888,000	830,361,000	173,527,000	—
August	1,098,366,000	945,164,000	153,202,000	—
September	879,323,000	678,546,000	200,777,000	—
October	1,006,632,000	861,123,000	145,509,000	—
November	1,187,821,000	1,117,870,000	69,951,000	—
December	979,424,000	817,877,000	152,547,000	—
Total for year	12,253,307,000	10,459,068,000	1,794,239,000	—
	1906	1905		
Jan. 3	340,266,000	276,940,000	63,326,000	—
" 10	228,921,000	215,422,000	13,499,000	—
" 17	287,646,000	254,259,000	33,387,000	—
" 24	214,928,000	186,205,000	28,723,000	—
" 31	289,938,000	300,588,000	—	10,650,000
Feb. 7	231,817,000	206,614,000	25,203,000	—
" 14	271,821,000	259,450,000	12,371,000	—
" 21	213,118,000	199,865,000	13,253,000	—
" 28	290,477,000	301,252,000	—	10,775,000
	2,368,932,000	2,200,655,000	168,277,000	—

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Saturday, Bars £139,000	Wednesday, S. America .. £30,000
Monday, Bars 307,000	Thursday, Ohii 6,000
" Holland 34,000	Friday, S. America 21,000
" Constantinople .. 40,000	
Tuesday, Bars 121,000	
Wednesday, Bars .. 178,000	
" Egypt 100,000	
Thursday, Bars 181,000	
Friday, Bars 10,000	
Total .. £1,110,000	Net Influx 1,053,000
	Total .. £1,110,000

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Mar. 1, 1906.	Feb. 22, 1906.	Feb. 15, 1906.	Mar. 2, 1905.
Gold in hand	115,003,400	114,407,920	113,814,960	112,229,800
Silver in hand	42,148,520	43,385,560	44,226,520	44,083,200
Bills discounted	39,457,520	39,977,840	35,265,000	26,886,080
Advances	19,657,320	19,368,000	19,829,960	19,303,800
Note circulation	190,908,480	186,623,960	188,776,400	172,925,000
Public deposits	6,901,600	7,808,400	8,187,920	7,010,160
Private deposits	27,624,760	21,679,120	10,808,800	22,441,560

Proportion between bullion and circulation 82½ per cent. against 84 per cent. a week ago.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Feb. 24.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs £ 673,000	National Debt Services .. £ 821,918
Excise 1,172,000	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties .. 210,000	Charges —
Stamps 152,000	Payments to Local Aut
Land Tax and House Duty .. 200,000	tion —
Property and Income Tax .. 2,205,000	Supply Services 890,500
Post Office 120,000	Bullion Advances —
Telegraphs —	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands 20,000	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares .. 15,000	Exchequer Bonds —
Treasury Bills (net amount) .. —	Exchequer Bonds redeemed
Miscellaneous 70	Uganda Railway —
Bullion advances repaid .. 200,000	Military Works —
Uganda Railway —	Naval Works 733,000
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts 150,000
count —	Land Registry (New Build-
Telegraph Acts —	ings) —
Naval Works Acts —	Public Buildings Expenses
Military Works Acts —	Act —
Land Registry Acts —	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act .. —	Act —
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Issue of Exchequer Bonds .. —	in reduction of debt —
under Cunard Agreement Act .. —	Cunard Agreement 71,308
Ways and Means —	Surplus Revenue, 1904-5 .. —
Temporary Advances Defi-	Deficiency Advances re-
ciency —	paid —
Suez Canal Drawn Shares .. —	Ways and Means Advances
Issue of Exchequer Bonds .. —	repaid —
Transvaal and Orange River	Increase in Exchequer
Colony. Repayment of	balances 2,300,344
Temporary Advance —	
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	
tion payments —	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances —	
£4,967,070	£4,967,070

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'15½	25'15	Antwerp	short	25'22½	25'22
Brussels	chqs.	25'21½	25'21½	Italy	sight	25'16	25'14½
Amsterdam	sight	12'14½	12'14½	Constantinople	3 mths	110'22	110'20
Berlin	chqs.	20'50½	20'50½	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	163½d.	163½d.
Do.	3 mths	20'30	20'30½	Valparaiso	90 dys	141½d.	141½d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20'49	20'49	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Frankfort	short	20'47½	20'47½	Bombay	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Vienna	sight	24'05½	20'05½	Hong Kong	T.T.	2/10½	2/10½
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	94'10	94'10	Shanghai	T.T.	2/10½	2/10½
New York	60 dys	4'82½	4'82½	Singapore	T.T.	2/4½	2/4½
Lisbon	sight	51½	51½	Yokohama	4 mths	2/0½	2/0½
Madrid	sight	29.90	29'31				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.	
			Last Week.	Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	2½	2½
Berlin	5	December 11, 1905	1½	3½
Hamburg	5	December 11, 1905	3½	3½
Frankfort	5	December 11, 1905	3½	3½
Amsterdam	3	November, 1905	2½	2½
Brussels	4	October 30, 1905	3½	3½
Vienna	4½	October, 1905	4½	4
Rome	5	September, 1904	4½	4
St. Petersburg ..	8	January, 1906	7	8
Madrid	4½	August 21, 1901	4	4
Lisbon	5½	January 11, 1899	5	5
Stockholm	5	January, 1906.	4½	4½
Copenhagen	5	October, 1905	4½	4½
Calcutta	9	February 1, 1906	—	—
Bombay	9	February 1, 1906	—	—
New York call money ..	4	—	—	—

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Feb. 1/14, 1906.	Jan. 23/Feb. 6 1906.	Jan. 16/29, 1906.	Feb. 1/14 1905.
Gold	£ 72,552,114	£ 73,113,527	£ 72,613,354	89,291,736
Silver and subsidiary				
coin	3,889,894	3,601,959	3,499,815	6,146,311
Advances and bills				
discounted	61,949,443	64,498,337	65,749,600	39,602,451
Securities belonging				
to the Bank	7,446,431	7,576,013	7,147,065	5,323,742
Notes in circulation ..	116,012,277	117,384,611	117,126,734	89,467,258
Deposits and current				
account	43,825,259	45,056,642	45,740,721	50,914,876
Treasury account	12,212,587	13,731,852	7,279,695	11,522,581

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Feb. 24, 1906.	Feb. 17, 1906.	Feb. 10, 1906.	Feb. 25, 1905.
Gold	£ 15,066,863	£ 15,063,126	£ 15,059,013	14,941,446
Silver	23,448,052	23,280,177	23,124,095	20,530,348
Foreign Bills	3,263,469	3,239,007	3,164,237	1,638,030
Discount and Short Bills				
Treasury Account	47,355,767	47,448,095	46,910,602	50,519,416
Notes in circulation ..	20,418,894	20,439,497	20,444,378	21,343,360
Current Account deposits				
Dividends Interests ..	61,833,362	62,096,268	62,375,010	64,012,834
Government Securities ..	23,613,167	23,462,835	23,555,930	25,669,078
	1,312,554	1,406,272	2,326,043	2,855,468
	6,682,555	6,112,806	6,205,400	3,677,111

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Feb. 23, 1906.	Feb. 15, 1906.	Feb. 7, 1906.	Jan. 31, 1906.
	£	£	£	£
Cash in hand ..	50,921,000	49,810,700	47,917,950	47,711,900
Bills discounted ..	40,181,600	38,717,900	39,580,500	42,248,350
Advances on stocks ..	2,630,000	3,038,850	2,730,350	3,580,600
Note circulation ..	60,013,950	61,742,250	63,949,000	66,211,150
Public deposits ..	30,673,300	27,637,100	24,851,800	25,281,000

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Feb. 22, 1906.	Feb. 15, 1906.	Feb. 8, 1906.	Feb. 23, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Coin and bullion ..	5,310,080	5,710,080	5,758,440	4,776,760
Other securities ..	23,403,040	23,133,600	23,590,200	22,915,040
Note circulation ..	27,310,680	27,735,800	27,540,080	26,098,520
Deposits ..	3,775,240	3,527,520	4,214,400	3,469,760

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Feb. 23, 1906.	Feb. 15, 1906.	Feb. 7, 1906.	Feb. 23, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Gold Reserve ..	45,853,458	45,713,458	45,461,250	48,254,250
Silver reserve ..	12,684,916	12,606,916	12,494,041	12,827,791
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	1,624,166	1,691,791	1,762,333	1,820,166
Note circulation ..	67,288,458	67,680,750	69,688,416	63,682,833
Bills discounted ..	15,120,633	15,953,000	18,566,541	11,128,291

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Feb. 24, 1906.	Feb. 17, 1906.	Feb. 10, 1906.	Feb. 25, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Specie ..	37,123,000	37,702,000	38,178,000	44,634,000
Legal tenders ..	16,012,600	15,887,600	16,057,400	17,286,400
Loans and discounts ..	209,860,000	210,480,000	212,400,000	224,260,000
Circulation ..	10,157,400	10,195,200	10,290,000	8,566,000
Net deposits ..	208,460,000	209,720,000	212,200,000	235,960,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of nett deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £1,025,000 against an excess last week of £1,159,600.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Feb. 20.	Feb. 22.	Feb. 27.	Mar. 1.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'3	12'3	12'3	12'2½
Do. do.	3 months	12'5½	12'5½	12'5½	12'5
Antwerp and Brussels	3 months	25'47½	25'47½	25'47½	25'47½
Hamburg	3 months	20'71	20'72	20'71	20'71
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'71	20'72	20'72	20'72
Paris	cheques	25'16½	25'16½	25'15	25'15
Do.	3 months	25'35	25'35	25'36½	25'36½
Marseilles	3 months	25'35	25'35	25'36½	25'36½
Switzerland	3 months	25'50	25'50	25'51½	25'51½
Austria	3 months	24'36	24'36	24'37	24'37
St. Petersburg	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places	3 months	25'48½	25'48½	25'47½	25'47½
New York	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B. P.	3 months	40½	40	40½	40½
Lisbon	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'45	18'44
Christiania	3 months	18'46	18'46	18'46	18'45
Stockholm	3 months	18'46	18'46	18'46	18'45

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3½-3½
Three months	3½-3½
Four months	3½-3½
Six months	3½-3½
Three months fine inland bills	3-3½
Four months	4
Six months	4

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	4½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	2½
" 7 and 14 days' notice ..	3
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	3½-4
" for call loans ..	3½-4

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Early this week markets were made very uncomfortable by the closing of the late Mr. Whamond's speculative account, and parts of them have been in misery ever since. That unfortunate man, overborne by his commitments, killed himself in a West-End hotel. It seems he employed a dozen or more different brokers, and had been plunging hither and thither in the vain hope of extricating himself from his difficulties. It is not for us, for any man, to cast stones at the dead, and we are in no wise disposed to do so. The very fact that Mr. Whamond took his own life proves him to have been a better man than many of those who plunge and ruin themselves, caring not what happens to those

they drag down in their ruin. We can well understand the road by which this unfortunate speculator travelled to his melancholy end, and feel nothing but sympathetic sorrow for his fate.

From what we heard around the Stock Exchange we judge him to have been one of that multitude which was beguiled about the time of the close of the Boer War by the calculating share peddler and his tipster press into a belief that peace was to bring a "boom." Hundreds of thousands of people throughout the country, throughout the world, were then, and on this plausible forecast, lured into the purchase of Kaffir shares, and multitudes of them have in consequence been already ruined. Some have taken their lives, all have endured time and again the misery of the damned. Being an active-minded and probably a determined man, Mr. Whamond sought to escape from the toils into which he had been drawn through swallowing the bait of the market magicians by plunging in other directions, by purchasing lumps of Home Railway stocks amongst other things, and, as usual, everything he touched but added to his embarrassments. Stocks he bought for the rise went down, stocks he sold for the fall went up, until the unhappy man could see no daylight anywhere, and preferred death to the disgrace of exposure, ostracism, and poverty.

It is no use asking what the South African raiders and bucket shop keepers think of episodes like this. Some of them have made their millions, and care for no human interest whatsoever, but to the great multitude of the deceived and misled the lamentable incident ought to serve as a warning. There is but one way to peace of mind for all such people, the way of complete abstention from any speculative dealing on the Stock Exchange in these mine shares. The man who buys or sells Stock Exchange wares of any kind on open account—thereby placing himself at the mercy of markets which are like the ever-restless sea, uncontrollable, liable to storms, treacherous always—is a man who surely makes his hell upon earth. For one amongst the multitudes of plungers who escapes with a profit or without loss, tens of thousands are in this way impoverished or hopelessly ruined. From this point of view the Stock Exchange is like a swirling maelstrom, which, once it gets hold of a victim, sends him down to destruction. Holders of Kaffir shares who still cling to the sources of their misery and loss, who keep hoping that the worst has come, that surely a turn for the better must soon occur, had better take warning even at this late hour. What ground is there for this hope? Is there anything more to go upon than the interested talk of yeasty-brained market leaders or parrots and their Press serfs? What is the value of the current "opinion" of a market man about "prospects," "chances of a rise" in this share or that? Is it worth anything more than, or so much as, the talk of the turf tipster? Is the buying and speculative holding of shares of any description anything better than laying odds on a racehorse? Why is it that "grave and reverend seigniors" think nothing whatever of making bets on the Stock Exchange, bets often of most reprehensibly extravagant magnitude, and yet would not be seen upon a race course or in intercourse with a "bookie" for half their remaining wealth?

There is only one way by which markets can be tested as to their solidity and prospects, and that way is never taken by the average stockbroker, the society tout, the fashionable lady share-pusher, it may be, whom one meets at dinners and what not. We have followed the true way always and unwaveringly, the way of impartial investigation of tested facts, with the result that while nearly every other financial journal in existence, whether in England or abroad, has either been silent and without guidance of any sort, or the more or less active agent of the all-devouring share manufacturer and bucket shop, we have told the public the truth throughout, and given it always an accurate forecast of the end that was to come. Had our advice been generally taken instead of cursed at in the early months of 1902, there would have been uncounted

thousands of people better off to-day than they are. We have never seen any "boom" in the Kaffir market, because the wares offered there presented nothing substantial to build hopes upon at the prices quoted. Even the shares of mines nominally paying high dividends were all too high-priced, tested by reasoned experience, prudent forethought in dealing with money. As for the multitude of shares manufactured to sell through such agencies as the Rand Mines Company, the Consolidated Gold Fields Company, and the like, rarely was one of them worth on an average one-twentieth of the price asked for it, a price at which, for a time, it might be impudently and fraudulently bandied to and fro by bucket shop agents playing with tally or pocket orders to draw the public in. It has been an abomination from first to last, this African market, and for all that has been suffered and lost retribution has yet to come.

Watch Wall Street. It is going to be tempestuous over there this spring. A suggestive relapse occurred there on Wednesday and Thursday, touching almost all classes of securities dealt in, and especially some of the shamelessly inflated copper mine shares. Money, too, is getting dearer all over the North American Union, and there is no probability that it can become cheaper until a drastic liquidation has taken place. Two influences press the market towards this liquidation; one is that glaringly inflated state of the speculative account, inflation brought about by tactics fully as unscrupulous as those so effectively used by our Kaffir Circus rulers here in past years. The other is the rapid multiplication of new securities. It is estimated, for instance, by the New York Journal of Commerce that during the month of February fully \$277,000,000 of new securities were put upon the market, and the manufacture of these securities is bound to continue excessive, because the railroad corporations of all descriptions, trunk, street, and rural, the building societies, and many industrial enterprises have all been launching out far beyond their means. The great trade and industrial prosperity which is continually flaunted before our eyes in American newspapers and in telegrams sent to this side is to an unmeasured extent the product of credit, and unless this credit can be liquidated by drafts upon the savings of the community, there is bound to be an overwhelming collapse. But has the community made enough money to provide the means with which to liquidate speculative and other obligations of gigantic magnitude lightly incurred? We think not. The community has already engaged itself for all it is worth, and probably for a good deal more, in gambles with previously existing securities; therefore, the New York market is charged with dangerous elements, and might explode any day, scattering ruin the world over.

The Week's Stock Markets.

Another very distressing week has been passed on the Stock Exchange, and from the general condition of markets we should infer that some really serious difficulties will presently have to be faced. They are internal troubles, too, brought about by over-speculation

helped to accentuate the depression, but these things were in no way responsible for it. The root of the trouble seems to lie in the Kaffir Circus, and the uninterrupted shrinkage in prices there is beginning to create real alarm. The actual failures at the last settlement were no indication at all of the extent of the trouble which lies buried in this morass. Since then a further serious decline in prices has taken place, so that the bolstering up process has been rendered a matter of extreme difficulty, and we fear the coming settlement is going to bring no end of upsets. In addition to their own troubles dealers had to face the difficulties connected with the speculations of the late Mr. Whamond, who, it was said, had accounts open with no less than 14 different firms of brokers. This multiplicity was no doubt partly responsible for the severe break which occurred in Home Railways when the various accounts had to be cleared up. The market was alive with sellers on Tuesday, and the fall was perhaps rather disproportionate to the amount of stock offered. The embarrassments in the north also aided the depression, but under the influence of good traffics and the heavy flow of gold into the Bank, Home Railway securities were disposed to recover after the breakdown. In other directions various attempts were made to bring about a rally, but the only effect was to let

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS (Last year's dividends are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
90 3/4	89	Consols (2 1/2 p.c. Money)	90 3/8	90 1/4
90 1/2	89 1/2	Do. Account (April 4)	90 1/2	90 1/2
89 3/4	88 1/2	2 1/2 p.c. Stock red. 1905	89 3/4	89 3/4
100 1/2	99 1/2	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907	100	100
92 1/2	90 1/2	Irish Land (2 1/2)	91 1/2	91 1/2
100 1/2	99	Local Loans (5)	100	100
99 1/2	98 1/2	National War Loan (2 1/2 p.c.)	99	99
99 1/2	98 1/2	Do. Account (Apr. 14)	99	99 1/2
100 1/2	98 1/2	Transvaal Loan (5 p.c.)	99 1/2	100
299 1/2	293	Bk. of England Sick. (9 p.c.)	290 1/2	299 1/2
100 1/2	101 1/2	India 5 1/2 p.c. Sick. red. 1911	106 1/2	106 1/2
97 1/2	96	Do. 5 p.c. Sick. red. 1918	97 1/2	97
82 1/2	80 1/2	Do. 2 1/2 p.c. Sick. red. 1926	81 1/2	81 1/2
66 1/2	65 1/2	Do. 3 1/2 p.c. Rupee Paper	66 1/2	66 1/2

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
103 1/2	102 1/2	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886	103	103
101 1/2	100 1/2	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly.	101	101
103 1/2	100 1/2	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c.	102	101 1/2
93 1/2	89 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission	93 1/2	92 1/2
92 1/2	89 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. 1897	91 1/2	91 1/2
92 1/2	90	Do. 4 p.c. 1899	91 1/2	91 1/2
104 1/2	101 1/2	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs.	104	104
90 1/2	86 1/2	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889	89 1/2	89 1/2
102 1/2	97 1/2	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c.	102	99 1/2xd
105	103 1/2	Do. 5 p.c. Funding	104 1/2	104 1/2
89 1/2	86 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902	89 1/2	89
102 1/2	100	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1902	101	101 1/2
96 1/2	95	Chilian 4 1/2 p.c. 1885	94	91
97 1/2	94	Do. 4 1/2 p.c. 1886	95	95
96	93 1/2	Do. 4 1/2 p.c. 1895	94	95
101 1/2	99	Do. 5 p.c. 1896	99	99
99	96 1/2	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver	98	98
105 1/2	103 1/2	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold	104 1/2	104 1/2
105 1/2	103 1/2	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold	103 1/2	103 1/2
101 1/2	98 1/2	Do. 4 1/2 p.c. 1898, Gold	98 1/2	96 1/2xd
105 1/2	100 1/2	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail.	101	101
52 1/2	52 1/2	Costa Rica A	53	52 1/2
43 1/2	42 1/2	Do. B	42 1/2	42 1/2
46 1/2	44	Colombian External	44 1/2	44 1/2
108 1/2	106 1/2	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904	108	105 1/2xd
105 1/2	104 1/2	Egypt United 4 p.c.	105 1/2	105 1/2
102 1/2	101 1/2	Do. 3 1/2 p.c. pref.	102 1/2	102 1/2
105 1/2	103 1/2	Do. 4 1/2 p.c. State Domain	104	104
88 1/2	87 1/2	German 3 p.c.	88	88
53 1/2	50	Greek, 1884	52 1/2	53 1/2
53 1/2	50 1/2	Do. Monopoly Loan	52 1/2	53 1/2
42 1/2	39 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes	42	42 1/2
52 1/2	49 1/2	Do. Funding	51	52
95 1/2	94 1/2	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881	95	95
104 1/2	103 1/2	Italian 5 p.c.	104 1/2	104 1/2
103 1/2	100 1/2	Japan 5 p.c.	102	102
104	100 1/2	Do. 1901-2	103	100 1/2xd
91 1/2	89 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. sterling	90	89
103 1/2	102	Do. 6 p.c.	103	103
105	101 1/2	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899	104	104
69 1/2	68 1/2	Portuguese 3 p.c. New	69 1/2	69
86 1/2	84 1/2	Russian 4 p.c. 1889	84 1/2	83 1/2
82	79 1/2	Servian 4 p.c.	81	81
96	90 1/2	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed)	93	93 1/2
102 1/2	101 1/2	Turks 3 1/2 p.c. Tribute	102 1/2	102 1/2
105	103 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. Defence	104 1/2	105
93 1/2	90 1/2	Do. 4 p.c. United	93 1/2	93 1/2
73 1/2	70 1/2	Uruguay 3 1/2 p.c.	71 1/2	71 1/2
98 1/2	94 1/2	Do. 5 p.c.	97 1/2	97 1/2
54 1/2	50 1/2	Venezuelan, Dip. (3)	50 1/2	50 1/2

out more wreckage, and the close is heavy and spiritless, with prices in most directions little above the worst. Happily the public is exercising a commendable caution amidst the disturbance, holding on to the good things and keeping out of the gambles, and while it sticks to this attitude no great harm will result. Tuesday was carry-over day in Consols, and the rate for continuation was fairly steady at 4-4 1/4 per cent. throughout. The making-up price was 90 1/4, or an improvement of 3/8 on the month, and the settlement was concluded without difficulty. This had a strengthening effect upon prices, which had suffered in common with other sections earlier in the week, and after making allowance for the dividend deducted on Thursday, there is little change on balance. Other British funds were:

and an utter disregard for repeated warnings. No doubt the wretched financial position in Russia and the fluctuating character of the news from Algieras

also firmer near the close, and Bank of England stock went up $2\frac{1}{2}$. The Bank's half-year has now closed, and the balance of the "Rest" or surplus profit indicates that the forthcoming dividend will be $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., or at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum. Home County and Corporation and Colonial Inscribed stocks were firm, but several South African municipal loans fell away.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
141 $\frac{1}{2}$	136	Brighton Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	135	135
157 $\frac{1}{2}$	150	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	150	151
130 $\frac{1}{2}$	122	Do. Def. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	122 $\frac{1}{2}$	121 $\frac{1}{2}$
120 $\frac{1}{2}$	114	Caledonian Ord. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	114 $\frac{1}{2}$	113 $\frac{1}{2}$
80	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	38	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	94	93
89	83	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$
10 $\frac{1}{2}$	15	Chatham Ordinary ..	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
44 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	City and South London (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	42	42
60	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	Furness (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	65 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	65 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
36 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Central Pref. ..	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
9 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. ..	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Eastern (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	83 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	102xd	101xd
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	44 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	44 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
144	136 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Western (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	137 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	136 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
50	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	Highland (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hull and Barnsley (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	44xd	43 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lanc. and Yorks. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	106	105
80 $\frac{1}{2}$	79	Metropolitan (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	79
37 $\frac{1}{2}$	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan District ..	32	30
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	Midland Pref. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	68xd	67xd
74 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	69xd	68xd
78 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	78	77 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
147 $\frac{1}{2}$	144 $\frac{1}{2}$	North-Eastern (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	142xd	142
163 $\frac{1}{2}$	157 $\frac{1}{2}$	North-Western (6 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	157 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	157xd
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	South-Eastern Ord. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	88	88
132	126	Do. Pref. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	127	127
53 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. ..	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$
161	156 $\frac{1}{2}$	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	157 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	155 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	105xd	105xd
57 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	53 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	52xd

The Foreign bond market opened with a decidedly weak tendency, the principal incident being the heavy selling of Japanese securities, largely on American account. This was partly in anticipation of the call on the latest 4 per cent. loan due on Wednesday, the scrip of this issue falling to $3\frac{1}{2}$ discount, and there is no doubt that investors are regarding Japanese loans with much less enthusiasm. A block of 150,000 50-yen shares of the Industrial Bank of Japan has just been placed on this side, and dealings in the shares have taken place at $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$. The operations of the

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	Atchison Shares (4) ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$ xr	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5) ..	106xr	106
120	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (5) ..	114xd	113 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	99xd	99xd
65 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	58	57
195 $\frac{1}{2}$	182	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	184	182
52 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	Denver Shares ..	46	45
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	91	91
52 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	Erie Shares ..	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	80	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$
77	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. and Pref. (4) ..	71	69
185	170 $\frac{1}{2}$	Illinois Central (7) ..	177 $\frac{1}{2}$	174
161	150	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	151	150
41 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	Missouri and Texas ..	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	35
159 $\frac{1}{2}$	151	New York Central (5) ..	152 $\frac{1}{2}$	150 $\frac{1}{2}$
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Norfolk and Western (4) ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	87
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	92	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	93	93
57 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ontario Shares (3) ..	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	51
75 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pennsylvania (6) ..	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	71
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	Reading Shares (1 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	70
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	Do. 1st Prefd. (4) ..	47xd	47xd
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. and Prefd. (4) ..	51	51
74 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern Pacific ..	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$
43 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern ..	39	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	102	102
163 $\frac{1}{2}$	151 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union Pacific (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	152 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	153 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	99	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	99xd	99xd
26 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	Wabash ..	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	24
50	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. ..	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	52
85	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Income Debs. ..	80	85
182 $\frac{1}{2}$	174 $\frac{1}{2}$	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	175xd	174 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	109	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$
29 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Guar. (4) ..	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105
119	114 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	118 $\frac{1}{2}$	118 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$
68 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3rd Pref. (2) ..	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$

revelal of the missionary outrages, but steadied again before the close. Leading South Americans were somewhat irregular, but Cédulas had a jump when the split in the counsels of the Defence Committee was known. There is now a disposition to accept more moderate terms, and it is said that Messrs. Baring Bros. have been approached with a view to securing a settlement on a $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. basis. This is rather humorous after all the tall talk. Venezuelas were rather easier in the Central American group, but Peruvians had a late spurt, and Russians, Spanish, Turkish, Greeks, and other Continental things showed steadiness. Russians, however, were still decidedly lower on the week, as early prices were decidedly flat owing to the alarming financial outlook. Gold is now being sent out of the country at a great rate, and disaster does not seem far off.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
229 $\frac{1}{2}$	211 $\frac{1}{2}$	Antofagasta (10) ..	222	222 $\frac{1}{2}$
335	313	Do. Def. (15) ..	330	330
130 $\frac{1}{2}$	126	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	127	127
132	129 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	129	130
88	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bahia Blanca Prefd. ..	86	86 $\frac{1}{2}$
144 $\frac{1}{2}$	140	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	142	142 $\frac{1}{2}$
129 $\frac{1}{2}$	127	Do. Prefce (5) ..	129	129
134 $\frac{1}{2}$	132	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	132 $\frac{1}{2}$	132 $\frac{1}{2}$
120 $\frac{1}{2}$	117 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	117	117
110	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109	109
117 $\frac{1}{2}$	115	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	117	118
114	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	114 $\frac{1}{2}$
170	165 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	169	168
109	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	106	106
382	135 $\frac{1}{2}$	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	138	138
192 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Central Uruguay (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	91	90
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	103	108
96	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	95	95
75 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	72
59 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	Costa Rica ..	56	56 $\frac{1}{2}$
7	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cuban Central ..	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
106	103	Do. Deb. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	103	103
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	East Argentine (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	91	91
98	6	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	8
86 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	Leopoldina (3) ..	79	80
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	Do. Deb. (4) ..	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
108	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	108	108
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. "B" (6) ..	105	105
28 $\frac{1}{2}$	25	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
129 $\frac{1}{2}$	118 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1st Pref. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	128	128 $\frac{1}{2}$
59	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	56	57 $\frac{1}{2}$
66	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Southern (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	63	64
16	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nitrate Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	16
21	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	21
209 $\frac{1}{2}$	203	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	206	212
193	174 $\frac{1}{2}$	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	180	180

The suicide of Mr. Whamond last Monday had a very depressing effect on Home Railway stocks, where he was said to have been heavily committed in a "bull" speculation. Just how heavily could not be ascertained with certainty, and estimates as to the amount involved ranged from £250,000 down to £100,000 nominal, but the influence on the market was enhanced by the fact that the deceased had employed a number of brokers, who were all busy trying to adjust their accounts in order to avoid or reduce their losses. North Western, Midland, and Great Eastern issues were amongst the chief sufferers in the slump, but Metropolitan and District were both sold with some persistence, and Scotch stocks continued to show weakness. An attempt to bring about a rally revealed more wreckage, and Great Western, North-Western, and Midland were offered freely for a time, but the market generally was inclined to harden under the stimulus of a batch of traffic returns, which were regarded as excellent. In spite, however, of the improvements towards the close, prices were mostly down on the week, and Scotch stocks in particular were dull, as there was still a good deal of forced liquidation in the provinces to contend against.

The New York money market is in an exceedingly sensitive condition at present, and very little has been required to send loan rates up to 7 per cent. and over, so that it is not surprising to find that Wall Street has been disinclined to do much in the way of supporting its favourites. Except for a passing interest in Atchison and Southern, dealers have confined their attention almost entirely to Union Pacific shares, and in these fluctuations have been both wide and wild. The persistent report that the company intended to distribute

bank are supervised by the Government, and it will apparently devote attention to the flotation of Japanese industrial ventures. Chinese bonds were dull on a

a scrip bonus of 35 per cent. was used as a lever to hoist the price several dollars, but, as usual, this advance tempted speculators to secure their profits. Rumours of a hitch in the negotiations for the sale of the Great Northern Railroad ore lands to the Steel Trust helped to make the market uneasy, and this feeling was intensified by the banks calling in loans and by talk of some big operators being in trouble. The "bears" consequently had everything their own way, and as their offerings of stock uncovered "stop loss" orders, prices tumbled in all directions. Northern Pacific was naturally most affected by the failure, or according to some reports the suspension, of the ore lands deal; but Union Pacific and other Hill stocks were also driven down, while "Coalers" suffered from the uncertainty as to the intentions of the miners, and "Grangers" were weak on fears of damage to the winter wheat by the cold wave.

"Bulls" of Grand Trunk stocks took their profits freely after the publication of the traffic return last Saturday, and there was also a good deal of selling for the fall, especially in the ordinary, with the result that quotations are all lower on the week. Canadian Pacific shares were also heavy, in spite of a satisfactory increase in the traffic, but there was not a great deal doing in them, and the nett loss was small.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
21	162	172	Allsopp Ordinary	18
51	44	—	City of London Ord.	49 1/2
55 1/2	540	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	550
19 1/2	16 1/2	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	19
51 1/2	45 1/2	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	2 1/2
61 1/2	47 1/2	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	2 1/2
56	49 1/2	51	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	51 1/2
16	14	14 1/2	Do. Def. Ord. Stock	14
99 1/2	95	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	96
62	51	—	Do. Def. Stk. (1 1/2)	56
6 1/2	5 1/2	6 1/2	Aerated Bread (32 1/2)	6 1/2
7 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	7
6 1/2	6 1/2	1 1/2	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5 1/2)	6 1/2
27 1/2	21 1/2	1 1/2	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	1 1/2
45 1/2	40 1/2	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2 1/2
7 1/2	5 1/2	—	Brunner Mond (35)	5 1/2
11 1/2	11	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12 1/2)	11 1/2
13 1/2	11 1/2	13 1/2	Calico Printers Ordinary (2 1/2)	11 1/2
5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	Coats Ordinary (20)	5 1/2
500	495	495	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	500
26 1/2	19 1/2	24 1/2	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nll)	1 1/2
25 1/2	22 1/2	24 1/2	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	2 1/2
6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	6 1/2
1 1/2	1 1/2	—	Henley's Telegraph (15)	1 1/2
89 1/2	81 1/2	4 1/2	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	13 1/2
27 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5 1/2)	4 1/2
108 1/2	107 1/2	108	Do. Debenture (4 1/2)	108
24 1/2	21 1/2	23 1/2	Lipton Ordinary (7)	1 1/2
6 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	5 1/2
34 1/2	27 1/2	30 1/2	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	1 1/2
15 1/2	13 1/2	14 1/2	Russian Petroleum	1 1/2
7 1/2	6 1/2	—	Savoy Hotel (5)	7
18 1/2	13 1/2	17 1/2	Sweetmeat Automatic	6 1/2
16 1/2	15 1/2	—	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	16
12 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	Welsbach Ordinary Stock	10
18 1/2	17 1/2	18 1/2	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	18 1/2
102 1/2	102 1/2	103	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	103
5 1/2	5 1/2	85	Hudson's Bay Co. (58 1/2) ..	86
54 1/2	42 1/2	52 1/2	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1 1/2)	52 1/2
110	107 1/2	109 1/2	Do. Debentures (6)	109 1/2
9 1/2	9 1/2	—	National Discount (10)	9 1/2
12	11 1/2	—	Union Discount (11)	11 1/2
6 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	5 1/2
11 1/2	11	11 1/2	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	11 1/2
104 1/2	98	—	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4 1/2)	99 1/2
133 1/2	129 1/2	—	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5 1/2)	131
66 1/2	62 1/2	3 1/2	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	3 1/2
85 1/2	75 1/2	4	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	4
28 1/2	28 1/2	1 1/2	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10)	1 1/2
30 1/2	30 1/2	—	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7 1/2)	1 1/2
14	13 1/2	13 1/2	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	13 1/2
47	4 1/2	42 1/2	United States Steel Ordinary ..	42 1/2
117	106 1/2	109 1/2	Do. Preference (7)	110
57 1/2	52 1/2	53 1/2	Vickers Ordinary (12 1/2)	2 1/2
14 1/2	13 1/2	—	Cunard Steam	13 1/2
24 1/2	23 1/2	—	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13)	24 1/2
54	48	—	Royal Mail	53 1/2
9	8 1/2	—	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5)	8
114 1/2	109 1/2	111 1/2	Anglo-American Telegraph—	—
18 1/2	16 1/2	18 1/2	Do. Pref. Ord. (2 1/2)	112
150 1/2	135 1/2	150	Do. Def. Ord.	18 1/2
14 1/2	14 1/2	15	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	150 1/2
111 1/2	109	111	Eastern Extension (7)	15
14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	111
8 1/2	8 1/2	7 1/2	Western Telephone (7)	14 1/2
9 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	7 1/2
117	98 1/2	—	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)	9
9 1/2	8 1/2	—	London General Omnibus (7)	100 1/2
—	—	—	London United Trams Pref. (5)	9 1/2

chiefly directed to Rosario ordinary, that company's return being exceptionally fine; but the improvement was not maintained, and at the end consisted of a fraction or two only. Cordova and North-Western debenture stock suffered from profit-taking and dropped back to about 44, but other movements were mostly favourable. Profit-taking was also responsible for weakness in the stocks of the old Mexican company, while Mexican Southern ordinary went back 2 on very slender provocation. Brazilian stocks were firmer and San Paulo in particular rose substantially on the better weather reports, but Uruguay issues were inclined to be heavy. Paraguay Central, which came into favour recently, has now fallen back; Guayaquil and Quito Railway bonds were again lifted sharply, and Antofagasta ordinary improved 1. Interest in United Railways of the Havana stock seems to have died down altogether for the time being, and other Cuban things were likewise left alone. Egyptian Delta Light Railways have been rather sought after this week, and a little buying of the ordinary shares of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin left them a fraction or two up.

Miscellaneous markets were idle and dull, most of the movements on the week being adverse. Hudson's Bays at first were rather better, but fell back near the end, and Pekin Syndicates and other Chinese land and exploration shares were dull throughout. Nitrates were very flat, and there seems small prospect of a renewal of the combination, although the news is somewhat conflicting. Motor 'bus companies' shares showed weakness, and London Generals fell well below par. Road Cars were also heavy, and there is evidently a stiff fight ahead. Daimler Motor shares, on the other hand, were strong. In the shipping list P. and O. deferred fell 2, but active dock stocks showed no particular alteration. Textiles were irregular, but dull for choice, and in the Catering group Gordon Hotels, Spiers and Pond, and British Tea Table all showed weakness. Russian Oils were a little easier, and in the Iron and Steel group Vickers improved on the increased dividend. Illustrated London News again went down, and Drury Lanes relapsed sharply in the Theatre group, but "Moss" Empires had a good recovery. Anglo-American Telegraph stocks were offered a little towards the last, but investment securities such as Trusts, Gas and Water stocks and Insurance shares showed strength. Nelsons and River Plate Meats were rather dull, and B.E.T. shares again ended weak. The declines in the Brewery list were not so severe, but the market is still dull and heavy.

A rather steadier appearance came over Stock markets this afternoon, and the public is said to be buying a few Kaffir shares, so even that market left off somewhat harder. Paris still sold, and the liquidation is by no means at an end, but it may pause now until the mid-monthly account is over. It begins on Tuesday, the 6th inst., for Mines, and ends on Friday, so that there is no time left for effective play by either "bull or bear." Rio Tinto shares were again strong on Paris buying, the report being that a 50s. dividend will be paid at the end of the company's year, also the statistical position of copper is better. American Railroad shares were not so feverish to-day, but the Home Railway market continued flabby, partly because of forced sales made in order to provide means to cover losses arising elsewhere.

United States Trust Companies

With commendable enterprise, the New York Commercial Chronicle of the 3rd inst. presents to its readers 12 pages of tables, in which the summary balance-sheets of these companies are set forth, not only for the State of New York, but for other cities throughout the Union where this modern form of finance institution has taken root. In many respects there is nothing new to be found in an examination of these tables, but the article by which they are accompanied is interesting

Business has been almost at a standstill in Argentine Railway stocks, except for a little spurt of activity after the splendid traffic figures came out. Interest was

and well worth some notice. We always have had the feeling that these mushroom growths were dangerous in various ways, not least in the powerful stimulus they apply to speculation upon the stock markets. It is, however, undeniable that they have weathered several storms, and that their popularity with the monied classes would seem to be on the increase. In the last three months of 1905 the total deposits held by the New York State trust companies fell off somewhat, but it still amounted to \$1,127,627,100, an increase of some \$661,000,000 compared with six years before, or say about 152 per cent. The decrease in the later months of last year is ascribed by the *Chronicle* chiefly to the effect of those exposures of life insurance methods which took place before the Commission of the New York State Legislature. Some of these big companies reduced their swollen-out deposits with the trust companies, and thereby brought down the aggregate, which as recently as September 5 last was nearly \$1,250,000,000, to the figure given above. It does not, however, appear that the general public in any marked way withdrew its patronage from these companies, for some of them, which are probably more dependent upon the masses for their means than the companies specially affiliated with the big insurance companies, show increases in their resources compared with a year ago. Nor does the business of these companies seem to have been much affected by the reduction in their resources in this manner caused. As their deposits contracted they simply drew upon their cash resources and on their balances lying with their bankers, but did not reduce their investments either in bonds or stocks, nor yet their loans on personal security. On the contrary, all these went up. Loans on collateral, however, fell off by about \$25,000,000 to \$656,945,000, and their cash in hand dropped from \$35,134,000 to \$26,638,000, and their deposits dropped back by over \$56,000,000 to \$123,150,000.

What do they do with all this money? All manner of things, some of them good, others very questionable. They have been, and probably still are, hand-and-glove with the big insurance companies, whose premium money is still so largely in their hands, in underwriting enterprises, in supplying the funds which helped to float the monstrous capitals of many of the American trusts. They invest direct in the securities created by the railroads and other corporations, they lend upon these enterprises to private borrowers and on personal security, thus fomenting the habit of gambling amongst the population, and evidently the business has hitherto been most profitable, unreal and in some of its aspects fantastic in its venturesomeness though it seems to be. They pay comparatively low rates of interest upon the money deposited with them—2 to 3½ per cent. is said to be the range—and they squeeze as much out of their customers as they can get. No wonder, therefore, that the past half-year was made to appear highly profitable, for towards the end of it money sometimes became extremely dear, not only on Wall Street, but in all the principal business centres throughout the Union. We miss from the return a statement of the dividends paid, but are informed that after these disbursements had been provided for the surplus profits carried forward were increased by upwards of \$12,000,000 to \$159,488,000. What the fate of many of these companies is likely to be should the over-strained credit machinery of the Union break one day it is not easy to imagine, but many of them, in spite of their fine current profits, have comparatively little between them and trouble. Very few have any appreciable amount of cash in hand, and although the money on deposit with banks or with other trust companies looks all very well and large as an asset while the machinery of credit runs without hitch, it would be quite unavailable in an emergency. Let but a financial crisis arise in the United States, and between one-half and two-thirds of these trust companies seem to us likely to be compelled to close their doors, at any rate, for a time. Their power to absorb securities held on borrowed money by the speculative public would, for the time being, be quite

paralysed, and they would be run upon by depositors, clamorous for the repayment of their money. In this respect they may be said to be no worse off than an ordinary bank, but that is a superficial view of their position, unless where the ordinary bank has simply fallen into the position of a trust company, and, ceasing to concern itself with ordinary mercantile affairs, become a mere security pawnshop. Perhaps some of the United States banks are in this position, but the great majority of them must now, as ever, depend largely upon the commerce of the Republic, and must, therefore, possess many millions in bills of exchange and in credits lodged abroad, upon which they could draw in an emergency. None of these resources are open to the financial trust. It is only a pawnshop, a dealer in usury that takes in pledged commodities of the stock market, new ventures of the monopolist manufacturers of "mergers," "combines," and so on, and would be altogether powerless to get money into its possession were a storm to arise severe enough to induce its customers in numbers to draw cheques for the amount of their deposits.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

*. Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

The Kaffir Circus continues to drift and all attempts made to arrest its progress towards chaos are unsuccessful. Liquidation continues without abatement, and the latest misfortune has been the suicide of unhappy Mr. Whamond, who appears to have plunged too deeply into this vortex; indeed, it was the extent of his commitments therein that seems to have unhinged his mind. There are doubtless many more in similar predicaments, wondering how they will emerge from their troubles without disaster. At the last settlement many had to be financially assisted, and experience will repeat itself at the settlement in the coming week, for unless a speedy and unforeseen change for the better shows itself there will again be heavy and serious losses for the "bulls" to face. Unfortunately, the international political horizon is still clouded and the financial one more so, giving speculators no chance to throw off depressing forebodings. It is not the Chinese bogey alone that is responsible for the continued slump, for prices steadily declined when there was no talk of ending coolie servitude. With the long experience before us, it seems a ludicrous argument that the public will not buy because liberty of choice is to be given to the Chinaman. The feeling against Chinese labour throughout the length and breadth of the country is more intense than market speculators and the bosses know. Indeed, it is probable they do know, assuming they are intelligent men, but it suits their purposes to cry out when they are not hurt, so as to divert attention from the array of swindling promotions really at the root of the mischief. Is it not presumption on the part of the bosses, after a two years' slump, and after the teachings of the election, to tell the public they are acting against their expressed convictions? Would the public come in and buy to-morrow if the Government declared they had no intention of altering the conditions of coolie employment? Certainly not, for they know this would not alter the character of the magnates; would not change them from dishonest into honest men. As in edacious greed lies all the trouble, hence we see no symptoms of its early ending. Paris is hardly likely to buy in its present nervous mood, and it too is growing wary in spite of a fettered Press.

The other sections of the market are almost as gloomy as the Kaffir. We can discern no genuine business transacted anywhere. Prices are receding in all directions a little each day, but aggregating big losses on the week. It is, therefore, unnecessary to differentiate where conditions are practically identical. Rhodesian Bankets, despite "reassuring" cables and bucket-shop energy, slide away with irresistible persistence. Premier Diamonds still shrivel up, notwithstanding the cable stating that the nett profit for the year ending October 31 amounted to £623,000, compared with £668,000 for the preceding year. De Heers and Jagers, on the other hand, manage to keep fairly firm.

There have been no changes to speak of amongst West African and Egyptian shares, but West Australians have, in the majority of instances, lost ground. Great Fingalls have been particularly weak, on the recent estimate of ore reserves, whilst Ivanhoes have not benefited from a similar official statement, the quantity of ore in sight showing an increase, with a falling off in value.

In the copper section Mount Lyells have lost rather heavily, on provincial selling, it is said. Anacondas have moved in spasmodic fashion, recovering one day its loss on the preceding day, thus demonstrating the artificial character of the market. Rio Tintos have also been erratic. Elsewhere Talismans have improved, Esperanza have weakened, whilst Balaghats and Nundydroogs are better.

JUPITER GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This company is a member of the Consolidated Gold Fields group, and is still in the development stage. It is estimated that the work so far done on the South Keer indicates a total tonnage of 137,800 tons, giving a milling grade of 7.34 dwts. over 44 inches, besides which a small tonnage of lower-grade ore is exposed. As this company does a considerable contango business its revenue still appreciably exceeds the ordinary expenditure. Receipts from interest, commission, exchange, rents, &c., totalled £22,342 in the twelve months to the end of October, and as administration costs took only £6,841, there was a profit of £15,501 to add to the old credit of £194,247, thus increasing the accumulation to £209,749. Contango loans amount to no less than £503,179, but in addition to the surplus profits and the issued capital of £575,000 the coffers have been swollen with £402,500 from premiums. Thus we may say the financial position is at present very strong, but probably all this money will be wanted at the mine. Development work will probably last another two years, whilst a mill of 200 stamps, with all the supplementary cyanide and other plant, has yet to be provided. So dividend earning still looks remote, although the company has been in existence since 1896. This company's property adjoins that of the Simmer and Jack West, and both are worked under one management. At the annual meeting of the Jupiter the chairman said there was a probability, though it had not yet been decided upon, that crushing operations will be conducted by means of a joint plant.

VIOLET CONSOLIDATED GOLD MINING COMPANY.—It has been declared more than once by the directors of this Albu company that work on the property has been delayed by the scarcity of natives. For once in a way, however, they declare that conditions have now been improved by the arrival of Chinese, so some development work has been done since the financial year ending June 30. During the year, however, no active work of any kind was done, except the hard labour of folding arms, smoking pipes and waiting for the coolies. In conjunction with the West Rand Mines and West Rand Consolidated, which are neighbouring companies, a scheme has been prepared to work the combined properties as a whole, for the sake of economy. This is ideal at present, and may not be practical for a long time to come. Meanwhile money is going out and precious little is coming in. Expenditure during the twelve months amounted to £9,590 nett, after allowing for £401 received from rents and transfer fees, the income being swollen by one shilling for a copy of the articles of association. Including this shilling the deficit in the balance-sheet now totals £34,167. But the company has abundance of cash, in all £188,865, of which nearly the whole is on deposit.

CONSOLIDATED EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT (RHODESIA) CO., LIMITED.—Further disappointments are recorded in the directors' report, which covers the lengthy period of two years to the end of June. One of the controlled companies is the Morven, and in the twelve months to June 30 it crushed 16,040 tons for a yield of 2,852 ozs., realising £38,761. But at the third level development was disappointing, and it has to be admitted that the results do not justify any great outlay on permanent work. After some confabulation it has been decided to try and let the Mikado claims on tribute. The Killarney-Hibernia Company, however, is doing better, and is at present turning out a fair quantity of gold; but another property, called the Etal, has also been let on tribute. On July 1, 1904, a two years agreement was entered into for tributing the Celtic claims, but at the end of June last the company had to face heavy payment for protection fees. Under such circumstances, and acting on the advice of the engineer, the directors decided to abandon 385 claims. The miserable experience of this is only similar to that of dozens of other Rhodesian companies.

LISBON-BERLYN.—Once again this ill-fated company is to be reconstructed. The old directors have resigned and a new board has been appointed, and as additional money is necessary to enable the company to exist it is proposed to try and get it by means of reconstruction, which is the only way to find out if the shareholders are still bleedable. The new company is to allot to the old one 1,250,000 shares of 2s. 6d. each, credited with 1s. 6d. paid up, but it is not to be bound to allot any unless at least 625,000 shares are taken up within eight weeks from the date of the agreement. Thus the 1s. per share would provide £62,500, which we think the shareholders would be very foolish to provide.

GREAT FINGALL CONSOLIDATED.—The general managers now estimate the reserves blocked out and probable ore at 753,042 tons of an average value of £2 15s. 6d. per ton; there are also 42,950 tons of sands and slimes, of an average value of about 18s. 6d. per ton. They further advise that the output should be fixed at £45,000 per month, excluding additions from treating accumulated sands and slimes. It is added that in the new reef opened up at the No. 4 level the prospects are very encouraging, and considerable quantities of ore may be expected. In June last, we may recall, the reserves were computed at 657,871 tons, worth about £1 19s. per ton, so there is a considerable fall in value. On the new figures the profit in sight appears to be about £1,130,000, equal to £4 10s. per share, against £6 10s. per share at the end of June last. This would account for the steady decline in the price of the share.

IVANHOE GOLD CORPORATION.—The directors have issued a summary of the ore reserves standing at the end of December last, which amount to 769,060 tons of an average value of 13 dwts. 23 grs. per ton. This compares with 695,162 tons at the end of June, 1905, when the average value was 14 dwts. 20 grs. per ton. Though there is an increase in the quantity, the value

has depreciated. With reference to the cable of February 8 reporting the intersection of a lode 6 ft. wide, assaying 9 dwts., in the west crosscut, 1,203 ft. level, 40 ft. west of the middle lode, and supposed to be a branch of the middle lode, instructions were cabled out to put a diamond drill on the 1,373 ft. level vertically below. A cable has been received to the following effect:—Diamond drill at 274 ft. from shaft cut west part of middle lode, width is 7 ft., assay value 6 dwts. per ton. Pending further development, says an official note, it is impossible to say whether these two lodes are the same, whether either is a branch of the middle lode, or whether they are the continuation at depth of the west lode.

MEXICO MINES OF EL ORO.—Mr. Raymond, in his report to December 31, gives a provisional estimate of the ore blocked out in the mine and available for extraction above the fourth level only. In this estimate he practically disregards the No. 1 ore-body as, owing to its irregular development, he says it is difficult to arrive at any exact information as to the amount of ore it contains. So he puts the figure at 81,800 tons, which he estimates to contain \$11.82 gold and slightly over 8 ozs. of silver per ton, or, roundly, \$17 gold per ton of ore. Since the end of the year another ore body, called the No. 3, has been encountered in the south end of the mine, and as this was not met with in any of the upper workings it is regarded as a new make of ore at that depth. The directors have thought it more prudent to defer the erection of a mill until the Nos. 5 and 6 levels have proved beyond question the continuation of the ore bodies exposed above level No. 4, but pending the erection of such a mill they are seeking to make arrangements with the El Oro company whereby a limited amount of ore per month may be treated in the mills of that company, and this it is expected will provide all the money necessary for the further development of the property, producing some profit besides, and leaving the present working capital available for the erection of a mill at a later date.

HIMAN CONCESSIONS.—At the last general meeting of this Jungle company the chairman foreshadowed the necessity of having to provide further funds, which was not an unexpected and amazing announcement, and now the directors "have pleasure" in stating that satisfactory arrangements have been made whereby £50,000 will be placed at the company's disposal. This is to be secured by the issue of £50,000 debentures at par, bearing interest at 6 per cent. per annum, being part of an issue of £75,000, to be secured on the whole of the property. The debentures are payable at the end of seven years at par, or can be redeemed after three years, at the option of the company, at 10 per cent. premium, which is also payable in the event of the company being wound up. They are convertible into fully-paid ordinary shares at the price of 25s. per share, and to provide these shares the capital is to be increased by 40,000 new shares.

GOLDFIELDS OF DHARWAR (INDIA).—The report and accounts cover the period from the incorporation of the company, February 27, 1904, to September 30 last. Ordinary costs in India and England amounted to £4,976, and sundry receipts were £41. It is said that operations have been restricted to the No. 3A, or Hosur block, where three distinct reefs have been traced at the surface through the entire length of the property, known as the Western Reef, Centre Reef, and Hosur Main Reef. As the last-mentioned reef appeared to possess the most favourable indications, the principal work has been carried out on it. It is declared to be of a distinctly promising character. Concerning the Hosur Block, the superintendent says developments have proved that the reef continues in depth, and that there is no falling off in size or value below the old workings. It is the intention of the directors to continue the explorations at this block with all possible speed. So they "congratulate the shareholders on the success which has attended the initial operations of the company at Hosur Block, and they are of opinion that the work so far undertaken has proved this area to be a highly promising mining property."

NO. 2 SOUTH GREAT EASTERN GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This rich and flourishing mine continues to turn out a goodly quantity of gold, and the lucky shareholders still pocket large dividends. During the half-year to January 4 the output amounted to 33,260 tons for a yield of 20,548 ozs. of smelted gold, the total value of which, including proceeds from the residues sold, was £73,611. The reserve fund was increased by £500. As usual, the financial position is a very strong one. The mine manager, judging by the appearance of the various faces in the mine, expects as good, if not better, returns in the current half-year than in the past half.

LYELL COMSTOCK CONSOLIDATED COPPER COMPANY.—The directors announce that they have been in consultation with Messrs. Alexander Hill and Stewart, mining engineers and metallurgists, in reference to the future policy and to the treatment of the 120,000 tons of ore already proved on the northern section of the property. The representative of the above firm will visit the mine early next month, and his report is to be issued as soon as it is available. The directors add that they have before them a proposal to assign a portion of the southern section of the property, to be independently prospected, and developed, with a view to its eventual sale to a subsidiary company.

GREAT WESTERN COLLIERY COMPANY.—The output of coal in 1905 was 906,105 tons against 819,133 tons, and receipts amounted to £77,202. Without attending to any such thing as depreciation, the directors exhibit a profit of £50,640 and bring forward £1,560, giving a total available balance of £52,200. After paying the dividend on the preference "A" shares they reserve £15,000 for improvements and £5,000 for short workings, and

make up the dividend on the ordinary "B" shares to 10 per cent. for the year and carry forward £2,200. A further sum of £8,464 was spent on collieries, works and properties, raising their book value to £421,701. The two reserve funds will now total £110,000, but these are invested in the business. In addition there are loans on cottages £39,041 and temporary loans £9,550, whilst sundry creditors appear for £40,096, in all £88,680, against debtors £55,149, bills receivable £6,273 and cash £21,846, so the financial position cannot be said to be over strong, especially as nothing is allowed for the ordinary wastage of the properties and exhaustion of the collieries.

NORTH'S NAVIGATION COLLIERIES.—During 1905 the output of the collieries was 1,236,606 tons against 1,255,109 tons for 1904, and it is pointed out that had it not been for the closing of the Park Slip colliery there would have been a substantial increase in the output. The make of coke was 74,858 tons against 79,242 tons. After debiting the account with all charges the profit for the year is £64,999, whilst £11,914 is brought forward, making an available surplus of £76,913. The directors pay a further dividend at the rate of 5s. on each ordinary share, making 8 per cent. for the year, write off £8,000 for depreciation, carry £5,000 to reserve for development of properties, and take £10,913 to the current year.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

During the second half of 1905 this bank earned a nett profit of £59,067 or a decrease of £2,274 compared with the corresponding period of 1904, but as an improvement was then shown of £18,872 the decline is of no consequence. Balance brought forward was a good deal larger at £9,505, making the sum for disposal £68,572 against £67,674. As before, the dividend will be at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, another £20,000 is placed to reserve and £10,000 is again credited to premises account. Other appropriations are £514 to the officers' widows' and orphans' fund, £606 to the pension fund and £200 to the life insurance fund, leaving £7,252 to be carried forward. At the date of the balance-sheet the sum owing on deposit and current accounts was £4,155,545 or £479,990 more, while the bills payable are over £1,000,000 larger at £3,316,173. Notes in circulation show an increase of £72,117 to £692,173, but the actual cash holding is not very much larger at £777,216. Money at call and short notice, however, amounts to £2,240,873 against £1,630,535, investments are about the same at £34,758 and bills receivable, loans on security and other accounts are £1,000,000 larger at £5,900,152. Reserve fund now amounts to £440,000 and the paid-up capital is £1,000,000.

COMMERCIAL BANKING CO. OF SYDNEY.

This bank just marked time during the half-year ended December 31, the profit of £72,296 being very little different from that of the corresponding period. Balance brought in was a little larger at £21,593, making the total for disposal £93,889 against £93,336. Rebate on bills current absorbs £7,033, and after providing the usual dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, the directors add another £15,000 to reserve and carry forward £21,856. Notes in circulation show a rather sharp drop to £488,627, but bills in circulation are up £220,523 to £821,883, and deposits and other liabilities have risen by £1,563,545 to £13,165,595. Nevertheless, the bills discounted, advances, &c., show a reduction of £390,011 to £8,318,151, meaning that the "cash assets" have advanced by £2,247,932 to £7,877,418. Coin and bullion in hand amounts to £3,280,468 against £2,719,912, cash at bankers is a little larger at £108,990, and money at short call in London has increased from £15,000 to £1,087,850. Consols and other Government securities next figure for £1,400,600 or £292,000 more, and bills receivable in London and remittances in transit amount to £1,906,635 compared with £1,611,375. Bank premises have gone up £11,575 to £459,425, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is £16,654,994 against £14,785,498.

AUSTRALIAN JOINT STOCK BANK, LIMITED.

The gross profit of this bank for the half-year ended December 31 was £110,323 or £5,351 less than in the corresponding period. That, however, was partly made good by a sharp advance to £7,567 in the credit brought forward, making the sum for disposal £117,890 compared with £115,674. Moreover the management expenses were somewhat lower at £40,637, and thanks to repayments, the interest on the various classes of deposits required £3,241 less at £68,265. The directors are therefore able to commence a new reserve fund with £5,000 at a cost of a drop in the carry forward of £1,435 to £3,088. According to the balance-sheet there is a small increase to £791,805 in the inscribed deposit stock, but the "A" and "B" deposits have been reduced by £290,695 to £3,290,988, chiefly by the payment of "A" fixed deposits as mentioned at the meeting of the bank held in July. Notes and bills in circulation are larger at £66,687 and £132,011 respectively, and the current accounts and new fixed deposits show an increase of £111,118 at £1,150,018. There is a trifling decline in the coin and bullion, cash, investments and other "cash assets" to a total of £1,247,551 partly the result of the repayment of deposits, and the bills discounted and advances are less by £74,347 to £4,073,107. We are glad to note that the directors are taking steps to build up a fresh reserve fund instead of rushing into

dividend payments, and now that the assets have been so violently written down the bank stands a better chance of making headway.

BANK OF MAURITIUS, LIMITED.

This little bank continues to do well, and during the year ended December 31 further increased its profits by over £2,000 to a total of £26,899. Balance brought in, however, was down to a similar extent so that the actual credit comes out at £28,925, against £28,856. General charges, including directors' fees, &c., required £9,764 leaving £19,161, from which the directors provide two dividends aggregating 6 per cent., the same as before. Reserve fund then receives £5,000 or £5,000 less, but the carry forward is increased to the large sum of £6,628. There is an increase of over £10,000 to £195,204 in the deposit, current, and other accounts, and drafts issued amount to £38,909 compared with £32,976, but liabilities on bills rediscounted show a reduction of £22,378 to £62,616. Loans on securities to the amount of £20,000 have been paid off. On the credit side bills discounted, advances to customers, &c., are less by £32,542 at £165,871, but bills of exchange amount to £128,071 or an advance of £27,333. Investments in Consols and other high-class stocks are just £300 less at £45,200, and the cash in Mauritius and with bankers has been increased by £11,190 to £76,415. Freehold bank premises and furniture are valued at £9,500.

SURREY COMMERCIAL DOCK COMPANY.

During the year 1905 the tonnage of wood-laden vessels entering this company's dock showed a further decrease of 25,804 tons to 543,572 tons, making a total shrinkage of 152,584 tons in two years. That is a very serious decline, but it appears to be solely due to the depression in the timber trades and not to the diversion of any part of the wood business from the docks. Happily there was an improvement in the grain tonnage of 11,756 tons to 138,456 tons, coals improved 9,587 tons to 104,912 tons and sundries 135,247 tons to 259,501 tons, so that there was a nett increase of 130,786 tons to 1,046,411 tons. Earnings from the wood department were down by £18,413, and a slight decline occurred in the canal earnings, but the warehouse department gave £33,439 more, dockage rose £7,318 and rents not quite £1,000. From all sources, therefore, the revenue was larger by £23,002 at £376,393, but there was a heavy increase in the expenditure of £25,046 to £264,515. Outlay of the wood department was £6,069 smaller, but the warehouse cost £17,646 more, dockage rose £767 and charges £1,773. Repairs, mudding and special works were up no less than £8,905 and management and salaries advanced £2,412. These big increases were only very slightly offset by declines under canal expenses, rates and taxes and law charges, &c., so that the nett balance is over £2,000 smaller at £111,878. The directors, however, again provide a total dividend on the ordinary stock of 5 per cent., after meeting all prior charges, although to do this it is necessary to draw upon the reserve of undivided profits to the amount of £6,538. The promoters of the Thames Harbour Bill, to which reference was made in the last report, have notified their intention of again applying to Parliament for powers to construct a dam across the Thames at Gravesend, and to incorporate a board of commissioners for the control of the river. A petition has been lodged on behalf of the company against this bill and should it reach the committee stage measures will be taken to protect the company's interests.

MILLWALL DOCK EQUIPMENT CO., LIMITED.

For the year ended December 31 this Millwall Dock "relief" company received the full rent of £12,000 from the Dock company and £19 for interest and transfer fees. Debenture charges and administration expenses absorbed £6,462, leaving £5,537, to which must be added £89 brought forward, making £5,626. Sinking fund for share capital takes £200, and after providing two dividends, aggregating 7 per cent. for the year, or 3½ per cent. more, there is a credit of £196 to be carried forward. The proposed amalgamation of the Millwall Dock Co. with the London and India Docks Co. will not affect the provisions of the lease which the company holds from the Millwall, excepting that such a fusion of interests may tend to bring about an earlier termination of it by purchase at the price provided for by the lease.

BARROW HEMATITE STEEL CO., LIMITED.

This well-known undertaking makes a better display for the year ended December 31 than for the previous twelve months, and although prices have not quite maintained the high points recently reached we think there is a good prospect of a continuation of improved business. Since last September the values of pig-iron and shipbuilding material have been decidedly higher, the company's plate mills are in full operation and the colliery continues to produce a large output. Ten additional Simon-Carves bye-product ovens have been erected and recently put into operation. The rail mill, however, is only moderately supplied with work, and there does not seem much likelihood of an improvement in the near future. Including £3,826 for rent, interest, &c., the nett profit is returned at £71,997 or £24,842 more than in the preceding twelve months. From that directors' and auditors' fees require £3,315 and debenture interest £16,467, while the expenditure on new works £992 is written off. An allowance of £16,222 is then made for depreciation leaving £35,002, which enables the board to pay the first preference dividend and eighteen months' dividend on the second preference shares. The ordinary shares then receive 1 per cent., which entitles the second preference shares to an extra ½ per cent., the sum carried forward being £3,692 against £1,327 brought in. A moderate amount of capital expenditure has been incurred during the year, and the total value of the properties is now £837,663, an extravagant and, we should think,

altogether unjustifiable figure, especially in view of the fact that no success has attended the explorations for iron ore deposits during the year. On the other side there is a reserve of £40,000 and there seems small prospect of this being increased. About £124,000 is owing to sundry creditors against debtors £107,800 and stock-in-trade £242,826, while cash and bills are in excellent supply at £200,882.

JAMES DUNLOP AND CO., LIMITED.

This company's nett profits for 1905 are given at £54,078 exclusive of £114 brought forward, which makes the disposable total £54,192. Out of this £18,000 has been set aside for depreciation, or about 3¼ per cent. upon the capitalised value of the properties, £9,379 having been added to this value by fresh capital expenditure during the year. The preference dividend for the whole year takes another £18,000, half of which was paid in June last and the other half on January 1. Then 7 per cent. is given to the ordinary shareholders, absorbing £17,437, leaving £755 to be carried forward. The works and collieries have been maintained in a state of efficiency out of revenue, the directors say, and really the accounts seem clean and pretty satisfactory. Debts due to the company are fully £7,000 larger than debts due by it, and the cash in hand, deposited, or on loan at short notice amounts to £64,058, while the company has also £18,475 invested in railway preference and debenture stocks. This is not so much as the reserve fund which is now £50,000, exclusive of £2,127 reserved for relining. Still the position is rather a good one as things go, and as the iron and coal trades are at present rather flourishing there seems no reason why the business should not continue good.

MARBELLA IRON ORE CO., LIMITED.

The output of all classes of ore in 1905 was 43,950 tons, a decrease of 1,284 tons, but as the iron ore market improved during the autumn the directors obtained higher prices. Gross proceeds amounted to £24,934 and other income was £781 making £25,715, on which the nett profit was £6,380. Adding £555 from 1904 there was an available surplus of £6,935 and a final dividend of 3s. per share is recommended, which will make 5s. per share for the year, leaving a slightly larger balance of £385 to be carried forward. A strong balance-sheet is issued, but nothing seems to be added to the reserve, which is still £20,000.

KENSINGTON AND KNIGHTSBRIDGE ELECTRIC LIGHTING CO., LIMITED.

This company continues to extend its system in a fairly regular fashion, and added another 23,779 8 c.p. lamps during 1905, making a total of 326,826 lamps connected. The increase in sales of current to private consumers, however, did not keep pace with this extension, and at 4,734,269 units came to no more than 251,438 units compared with 526,000 in the preceding 12 months, while public lighting took 2,393 units less at 72,952. At the same time further reductions have been made in the charges, bringing the average price to private customers down to 3.73d. against 3.95d., with the result that the income from sales is £796 lower at £74,195. With meter rents and miscellaneous receipts the total revenue is brought out at £77,373 or a decrease of £776, but expenses, including £10,349 for maintenance and repairs, £346 written off purchase of South Kensington order, and £5,030 set aside for depreciation, were £1,531 heavier at £51,715. Of this £6,005 or £565 more was absorbed by charges on the Kensington and Notting Hill joint debenture stock, and £3,708 went in debenture and other interest, leaving £15,965. To this was added £8,434 from the previous account, making a total of £24,399, and after paying preference dividends the ordinary shares again receive 10 per cent., but this time have to forego the extra 2 per cent. bonus, and £8,399 is carried forward. Against the transfer of £5,030 from revenue £3,293 was charged to the renewal fund for plant removed, so that the nett increase was only £1,738, making a total of £57,670, while the leasehold depreciation fund has only been increased by £26 for interest to £671. The capital account now shows a debit of £67,166, expenditure for the twelve months having been £7,022, and in addition to an increase of £2,044 at £12,295 in the amount due to sundry creditors £6,000 has been obtained on temporary loan. Sundry debtors, although slightly lower, still amount to the fair sum of £22,531, and cash is £861 up at £2,642, but even so the position is none too good, and it is not very surprising to find that shareholders are objecting to the proposal to increase the directors' fees from £1,000 to £1,750. At the last annual meeting the question of the board's remuneration was brought forward without previous notice, and the few shareholders present took upon themselves not only to vote the extra £750 for that year, but to make the increase a permanent one. This action has called forth a strong protest, and a large shareholder has announced his intention of moving that the resolution be rescinded.

SOUTH SUBURBAN GAS CO.

In spite of an advance of 1d. to 2s. 6d. per 1,000 cubic ft. in the price charged for gas, the gross revenue from public and private lighting increased by no more than £3,902 to £83,190, owing, it is claimed, to the economy effected by consumers using the incandescent mantle. Meter and stove rents produced £310 more at £5,769, but sales of residuals fell off by £2,202 to £24,750, and the total income came to £113,779 against £111,769. Expenses, however, rose by £2,986 to £93,061, an increase for which the directors blame the local authorities, who forced the company to resume what is described as "totally useless" enrichment, and with a smaller balance of £3,522 brought in, the amount available was £3,285 down at £24,240.

Interest on temporary loans and debenture stock absorbed £3,276 or £205 more, and in order to pay the dividend at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum to which shareholders are entitled under the sliding scale the reserve fund gets nothing compared with £2,200, and £3,652 or £130 more than a year ago is carried forward. With £6,776 spent during the six months, the capital expenditure is brought up to £799,544, leaving a debit balance of £11,129, but against this the reserve stands at £41,864, of which £32,436 is represented by investments. Sundry debtors are large at £48,370, stocks are valued at £18,220, and as £8,261 for outlay on No. 3 retort house and trucks is carried in suspense, while cash comes to no more than £1,186, the company, notwithstanding an insurance fund of £14,740, a superannuation fund of £3,842, and workmen's bonus and savings deposited of £5,456, owes £15,199 to sundry creditors and has raised £16,606 by temporary loan. Another application is to be made to Parliament for permission to reduce the illuminating power of the gas by two candles, and in connection with this the directors, after detailing their experiences of the past three years, express a hope that the "local authorities will at last be reasonable, and thus avoid further unnecessary outlay."

WILLIAM DOXFORD AND SONS, LIMITED.

All the directors of this prosperous shipbuilding company are named Doxford, and their interest in the enterprise is still very important as the holders of all the issued ordinary capital. Only the preference shares are in the hands of the public. In the year to December 31 last the nett profit was £88,308, and the directors state that 1905 was the first period during which the company has felt the full advantage of the large expenditure upon recent developments. They think the result shows that the outlay was fully justified, as during the 12 months 20 steamers, with a total of 86,632 tons gross register, were built, being a larger output than that of any other firm in the Kingdom. Moreover the amount of work in hand is satisfactory. Including £1,824 brought forward, the aggregate for disposal is £90,132, from which debenture interest takes £6,000, preference dividend £12,189, and the 20 per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares £40,000. Reserve fund and equalisation of dividend account then receive £15,000 each, bringing the total accumulations to £100,000 and £1,944 is carried forward. Despite additions of £14,834 the capital expenditure has been reduced from £485,803 to £472,418, pointing to a fair allowance for depreciation, and the amount of work in progress, after allowing for £31,337 already received, is £85,496. Trading accounts are well in favour, investments in shipping and other companies amount to £27,229, and cash and bills reach £74,384.

RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE CO.

Another substantial addition of £16,045 at £323,816 was made to the gross premium income of this company during 1905, and with £16,601 or £1,256 more from interest, the total revenue, after deducting £15,738 for rebates and bonus to policy-holders, was £17,392 up at £324,679. Claims, however, rose by £14,616 to £172,607, and commission and expenses took £4,603 and £4,626 more at £41,568 and £45,525, the proportion of these items to premiums being 26.89 per cent. This seems a very heavy ratio, but we suppose that high costs are inevitable in a business of this nature. The usual sums of £3,000 and £4,000 are put to investment reserve and premises renewal fund, and including £152,887 brought forward compared with £138,456 a year ago, the amount available was only £7,979 larger at £210,866. Out of this £5,000 is again put to reserve, and the dividends are brought down to the regular 8s. per share. A year ago a bonus of 1s. per share was paid, but the omission of a similar distribution means nothing as it was then stated definitely that the question of this extra payment was only to be considered after periods of five years. Investments are valued at £426,209, of which £102,035 is in mortgages and ground rents, £45,030 in Consols, and the balance is spread over a number of securities in amounts ranging from £14,000 downwards. The cost of a lease of premises expiring in 1937 has been entirely written off, and there is £39,917 to come in from sundry debtors; against £24,079 owing, while cash comes to £33,416, so that the position is satisfactory enough.

WESLEYAN AND GENERAL INSURANCE SOCIETY.

For the past two years the board of this old insurance office—it was founded in 1841—has followed the excellent plan of making a yearly valuation of its position. As the result for the past year, certified to by Mr. H. W. Manly, the well-known actuary, a surplus of £38,806 is brought out, including £5,080 brought forward. This enables the directors to carry out that gentleman's recommendation and give a reversionary bonus of 30s. per cent. on all with-profit policies more than two years in force. To do this takes £15,834: £15,000 is then added to the reserve, leaving £7,972 to be carried forward. The business of the company appears to be flourishing, and its premium income of £681,748 is a very handsome one. Presumably, however, the business is mostly with very small weekly payments, insurances for the ordinary expenses of management and commissions take nearly 35 per cent. of its premium income, and if we add in the £83,540 ascribed to "extension expenses" the total proportion rises to about 47.2 per cent. This applies to the life account alone, but there is a considerable sickness business done, and also a small annuity business, neither of which appears to cost the society any expenditure worth mentioning. Anyway, the funds of the life department were augmented by about £90,000 in the past year, which raised the total to £883,085. On the other hand, the sickness fund fell off nearly

£6,000 to £46,671, and the annuity fund diminished by £296 to £8,591. Altogether the assets of the society foot up to £996,123. Claims paid in the life department amounted to fully 39 per cent. of the year's premium income.

LEGAL AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Another large new business was done during 1905, the nett new premiums received in the life department being £113,722 and in the general department £2,707. The total nett premium income was £517,047 or an increase of £50,006, while claims on the life assurance fund fell back from £369,630 in 1904 to £199,428. Commission and expenses in this branch took £67,949 or 13.7 per cent., and with interests and miscellaneous receipts the funds were increased by £483,680 to £4,742,637. General business, however, seems to be dwindling and against an income from all sources of £27,763, claims, surrenders and expenses came to £66,815, reducing the fund by £39,052 to £154,180. Including £24,298 brought in the income on account of the proprietors' fund was £31,695, of which £15,500 was paid away in dividends, leaving a balance of £16,195 to be carried forward.

THE SCOTTISH LIFE ASSURANCE CO.

Further progress was made by this still young Scotch life office in the past year, and its quinquennial valuation, made on a 3 per cent. basis, with the help of the new tables compiled by the joint committee of the Institute of Actuaries in London and the Faculty of Actuaries in Scotland, enables the directors to pay a vested bonus addition of 2 per cent. per annum for each year of the past quinquennium. This means £100 added for that period to each £1,000 policy. Moreover, in the case of claims arising prior to the next division of profits an intermediate or prospective bonus of 25s. per cent. will be paid for each year the insurant survives. The business is worked at a fairly moderate cost of little over 16 per cent. of the nett premium income, and the funds of the company now amount to £1,095,153, having grown steadily and uninterruptedly each quinquennium from a modest £106,260 at the end of 1886.

CITY OF GLASGOW LIFE ASSURANCE CO.

This company did not do so well in the matter of new business during 1905, the nett addition to the annual premiums being £14,714 or £1,453 less. The premium income, including £1,868 from single payments, was £232,100, and with £4,613 from annuities and £111,355 from interest, &c., the total revenue was £348,068, of which claims took £209,343, commission and expenses £36,960, or 15.8 per cent., and after meeting all other outgoings £68,646 was added to the funds, making them £2,899,504, against an increase of £103,938 a year ago. The annual valuation of the liabilities showed an excess of assets of £68,475, of which £41,806 is distributed, of which £4,180 went to the shareholders, enabling the directors to pay a dividend of 8 per cent., while policy-holders receive a compound reversionary bonus of 1 per cent. for 1905.

PRICE'S PATENT CANDLE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The profits of this fine old business increased by £630 to £80,978 during the year ended December 31 last, and shareholders again receive two dividends aggregating 35s. per share. Another £10,000 is written off for depreciation of building and plant, and as £5,607, or £607 more, is added to the insurance fund the carry forward is slightly reduced from £6,385 to £6,130. The insurance fund is now £100,000, making it equal to the reserve, and including the pension and accident funds the total accumulations now reach £245,246. All this money, and a good deal more, has been invested in high class securities, and we know that while any depreciation in their value is always promptly provided no movements the other way are ever taken into account. Sum due to creditors is £49,978, but debtors alone reach £77,560, and besides the stock of material and produce of £145,258 cash amounts to £68,627, and bills receivable to £1,288. A trifling capital expenditure was incurred during the year, but after allowing for depreciation the freshhold land buildings and plant amount to £267,189 against £275,130, and it would be difficult to imagine a sounder financial position. In speaking of the year's business the directors say that the increase in profits is due more to the larger output of the company's manufactures than to the remunerative character of trade generally in which competition has been increasingly acute.

JOHN OAKEY AND SONS, LIMITED.

This excellent company again did well in the year to December 31 last. After making allowance for bad and doubtful debts and depreciation the profit on working is returned at £29,901 or £1,182 more than in the preceding twelve months. Dividends, rents and transfer fees raised this to £32,312, from which income-tax absorbs £995 and directors' fees £500, leaving £30,817. That provides the preference dividend and a total return of 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares, 10 per cent. being dividend and 5 per cent. bonus. This is the same distribution as for the preceding year, but the directors are wise to again emphasise the fact that the extra bonus can only be looked for when business is really good. Reserve fund is to receive another £5,000 and the balance carried forward is increased from £2,513 to £3,580. Reserves will now reach £77,735, practically neutralising the goodwill of £82,455, and the position all round is a very solid one. A large part of the savings is invested outside the business in high-class stocks, and against creditors of £11,717 debtors alone reach £44,449, cash and bills amount to £10,342 and stock on hand is worth £30,226.

ALBERT BAKER AND CO. (1873), LIMITED.

Perhaps the most important statement which the directors of this, of the 12,000 company have to make in their annual report

is that the operations at the station stalls resulted in a loss. Altogether 31 depots have been opened at various stations on the Metropolitan District and other railways, the result of the first year's working being a deficit of £905. That is not a very formidable sum, and we hope the directors are justified in the policy they intend to pursue of spreading this loss over a number of years. They are, if it is fairly certain that deficiencies are now at an end; otherwise the loss should be squarely met at once. On account of the past year it is proposed to write off one-fourth or £226. Profits were also affected, we are told, by the continuance of the increased tobacco duties, but the gross amount was all right at £59,471, being a slight increase compared with the preceding year. Transfer fees gave another £54, profit on sale of lease was £850 and the balance of suspense account against the stall loss, £679, is brought into the revenue statement, making a total of £61,054. From that rents, rates, taxes, &c., take £20,377, salaries and wages £20,808, directors' and auditors' fees, &c., £658, advertising and petty expenses £3,208, repairs and maintenance £1,644 and depreciation £2,850. Balance of profit is £11,508 or £3,507 less, and as the dividend is maintained at 6 per cent. no contribution can be made to reserve, the carry-forward being reduced from £697 to £205. Reserve therefore remains at £14,000, and goodwill and trade marks are big at about £86,000. This is included in the machinery, plant, fixtures, &c., the whole standing at £134,879, including additions for the year of £1,543 and after allowing £2,850 for depreciation. Stocks have been somewhat reduced to £98,965, there is a large preponderance of creditors over debtors and cash amounts to £15,049.

FOREST HILL BREWERY CO., LIMITED.

The directors of this company report that the sales were fully maintained during 1905, meaning a slight increase in gross profit, but there seems to have been rather more money spent on repairs and renewals. Also the full compensation charges have been provided from the year's revenue, so that the nett income is down by £1,312 to £9,546. Actual trading profit was £22,460 and rentals and transfer fees gave £1,339, making £23,799 in all, or a gain of £437. Including £5,050 brought in the sum for disposal is £14,506, and after providing the preference dividend and paying 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, together with a bonus of 6d. on both classes, the directors add £5,000 to reserve, and carry forward £2,496. Reserve fund will now be £30,000, which is a very fair accumulation considering the extent of the assets, but unfortunately it is all in the business. Including sundry deposits the floating liabilities are £31,858, against which there are book debts, loans, rents, etc., £20,390, stock £8,848, and cash £4,736.

MELLERSH AND NEALE, LIMITED.

This Reigate brewing company earned a profit of £12,213 in the twelve months ended December 31, and after writing off £3,242 for repairs, improvements, depreciation, &c., the amount available, including £1,926 brought in, was £10,897. Administration charges, debenture interest and preference dividend having been met, £116 is charged for proportion from October to December 31 of the first levy made under the compensation clauses of the Licensing Act. Out of the balance of £5,118 the ordinary shares receive a dividend of 6 per cent or 1 per cent. less and £1,000 is put to reserve, leaving £1,268 to be carried forward. Estates, goodwill and fixed plant are valued in the balance-sheet at £148,843 and casks, horses, drays and effects at £5,085, against which the reserve amounts to no more than £3,000, although the company was formed in 1899, and even of this only £898 is invested outside the business in Consols taken at cost. Trading accounts are against the company, £6,497 being due to sundry creditors against £5,506 to come in, while stocks are small at £3,680 and cash, considering the amount now to be distributed, is not very grand at £2,753.

MERCHANTS' TRUST, LIMITED.

This company worked to great advantage during the year to January 31 last, and besides receiving interest and dividends on investments of £109,935, derived £46,548 or £28,974 more from the balance of profit and loss on sale of investments. Commissions and trusteeships gave a further sum of £5,102 and £52 came in from transfer fees, so that altogether the income was £161,697 against £131,661. Management expenses were about the same at £10,746, debenture interest absorbed £34,163, and sundry small charges £49. The directors then transfer the above-mentioned £46,548 to reserve leaving £70,192, which is raised to £72,075 by the credit brought forward. Income-tax takes £454, and after providing for the preference dividend the directors return 6 per cent. on the ordinary stock as before, place another £10,000 to reserve and carry forward £2,245. Total credits to reserve therefore come to £56,653, but the directors have written down the cost of investments by £41,653 leaving the fund at £150,000 or £15,000 more than a year ago. The investments, a list of which is published, seem to be fairly well spread, and a valuation based on quotations of January 31 shows that after providing for all liabilities, including the debenture stock, there is a surplus over the capital stock, reserve and dividend fund, the last still standing at £37,500, equal to another 6 per cent. on the ordinary stock.

MERCANTILE INVESTMENT AND GENERAL TRUST CO., LIMITED.

During the twelve months ended January 31 this company's revenue was £147,116 or £4,066 more than in the previous year, from which debenture interest requires £37,000 and administration £6,561, leaving £102,555 as the nett balance. To that must be added £3,753 brought in making £106,309, which enables the board to pay 5 per cent. on the preferred and 4½ per cent. on the deferred stock, adding £15,000 to reserve and

carrying forward £1,059. The deferred dividend shows an improvement of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. In addition to all this the company made a profit of £105,776 on changes on the investments, which is also added to reserve making it £246,183. On the other hand, sundry securities have been written down by £73,700 leaving the reserve at £172,477. The capital and reserve are intact with a small surplus in addition.

RIVER PLATE TRUST, LOAN AND AGENCY CO., LIMITED.

There was a slight fall to £171,778 in the revenue of this well-managed undertaking for the year to December 31 last, but that is hardly surprising in view of the big increase shown for 1904. After meeting general and other charges and debenture interest the sum remaining is £105,665, increased to £127,634 by the credit brought forward. Dividends at 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on the "A" and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the "B" shares having been provided, the directors declare a bonus of 1s. 6d., or 6d. more, on each class, adding £25,000 or £10,000 less to reserve, and £2,500 against £2,500 to the pension fund, carrying forward £26,534. There is an increase of about £5,000 to £10,000 in the properties taken over under foreclosure, but the total is still very trifling when we remember that the gold loans on first mortgages reach £1,464,213. Sundry creditors and bills payable are over £200,000, but general investments alone reach £352,455. Consols at 85 stand at £85,000, and loans, sundry debtors, and constituents balances amount to £177,228. Cash in hand is £53,954, and bills receivable are worth £52,620, a position of all-round excellence. General reserve fund is now £400,000.

CANADA LANDED AND NATIONAL INVESTMENT CO., LIMITED.

This Canadian company is restricted in its investments to loans on real estate, Canadian Government or Provincial securities, stocks of any chartered bank or company incorporated in Canada, and life assurance policies having a surrender value. It is not allowed to receive money on deposit, but may borrow on debentures in Great Britain and Canada up to an amount equal to twice its subscribed capital, and seems to be prepared to sell these debentures at any time, as the document just issued is described as an annual report and debenture prospectus. The operations during the 12 months ended December 30 yielded a gross income, including £323 brought forward, of £54,084 compared with £50,109 a year ago, to which was added £4,110 taken from the contingent fund, making a total of £58,194. This larger revenue was earned at a cost of increases of only £510 to £5,613 in management expenses and £136 to £3,014 in commissions, and although debenture interest required £1,137 more at £24,148 the directors are able to repeat the dividend of 6 per cent., and to transfer £12,329 to reserve against £6,164, carrying forward £481. With a paid-up capital of £206,300, the debenture debt, including accrued interest, is up £52,355 at £632,498, and the reserve now amounts to £94,521, but the contingent fund is down to £2,055. On the other hand, loans on mortgage securities, which form the principal asset, come to £789,079 or £54,339 more, investments are £6,285 higher at £97,309, and call loans and cash show increases of £17,002 and £7,689 respectively at £34,873 and £20,671.

PEEK, FREAN, AND CO., LIMITED.

This company presents its accounts in a curious and somewhat unsatisfactory form which prevents the possibility of any real comparison of the results, but so far as we can gather it enjoyed a moderate recovery in the 12 months ended December 31. The improvement was more apparent than real, as it was largely due to the fact that nothing needed to be written off formation expenses compared with £3,635 in 1904. After providing £10,233 or £390 less for renewal and maintenance of plant, &c., and increasing the allowance for depreciation by £144 to £4,282, the profits are given at £51,140 against £47,077. A much smaller balance of £8,523 was brought forward, making a total of £59,662 available for distribution, and debenture interest and preference dividend having been paid, the dividend on the ordinary shares is maintained at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but nothing is added to reserve compared with £5,000 and £10,000 in the two preceding years, and the balance forward is increased to £17,662. Liabilities to sundry creditors amount to £36,602, and £12,677 is due to depositors, but, on the other hand, £106,545 is owing by sundry debtors, stocks have risen to £107,422, and cash and bills come to £13,489, so that the current position is good enough. Goodwill, however, still stands at £81,416, plant and machinery, in spite of £4,282 written off, is £7,939 up at £91,945, and the item of freehold land and buildings and house property is £1,099 higher at £475,949, against which the reserve of £20,000 seems very inadequate, even if it is represented by the holding of Consols valued at £23,794.

ARTIZANS', LABOURERS', AND GENERAL DWELLINGS CO., LIMITED.

During the year ended December 31 this company spent £118,474 on its various estates, of which £85,733 was at Wood Green and £27,051 at Streatham, but owing to the refusal of the Paddington Borough Council to continue compounding the rates on the Queen's Park Estate necessitating new arrangements, the gross revenue from rents was £410 smaller at £188,083. This apparent falling off, however, was more than accounted for by a decrease of £3,117 in working expenses due to the tenants on part of that estate now paying rates, and the nett income, including £1,786 from reserve funds investments and transfer fees, was £2,713 up at £126,994. The lease of the property in Kilburn Lane having been extended from 99 to 999 years, the sinking fund of £912 which had been accumulated is no longer required, and is, therefore, retransferred to revenue, making

with £3,188 brought forward a total available of £131,094 or £3,658 more, but fresh capital is constantly being raised, so that in spite of the extra revenue the directors can only maintain the dividend on the ordinary shares at 5 per cent. by reducing the carry forward to £243. A sum of £12,338 from premiums on new shares was added to reserve, bringing the total up to £243,486, but the only other provision made was an increase of £800 to £20,876 in the leasehold redemption fund and the total accumulations, including £5,000 for fire insurance fund on cottages, amount to no more than £269,362 against an issued capital of £2,826,830, and of this only £55,108 is invested outside the business. Liabilities to sundry creditors are down £1,246 at £11,644, and deposits have been reduced by £13,215 to £90,069, but rents due and sundry debtors have risen by £1,702 to £10,239, and cash is £5,820 higher at £13,180.

LAW LAND CO., LIMITED.

During the year ended December 31 this company issued 6,000 preference shares of £10 each at a premium of 2s. 6d. per share and 5,000 ordinary shares at 10s. premium, meaning an increase in the nominal capital of £110,000. At present the new ordinary shares have £2 paid up. With the money thus provided the directors paid off a mortgage of £21,750 on Norfolk House, and purchased a house in Arundel Street with the object of converting it into offices and chambers. In the 12 months rents produced £82,063 or £1,379 more than in 1904, which is increased to £83,055 by interest and transfer fees. After meeting all charges the sum remaining is £31,158, and the directors propose to pay the preference dividend and 7 per cent., together with a bonus of 1 per cent., on the ordinary shares. Leasehold redemption fund has already received £2,098, and after adding £8,170 to reserve, there is a balance of about £1,700 to be carried forward against £1,800 brought in. Leasehold redemption fund is now £17,000, and the reserve £66,500, or total savings of £83,505 against the outlay on properties of £832,765. The mortgage debt is very heavy at £378,634, besides temporary loans of £6,305, and the company is poorly supplied with liquid resources.

CITY OFFICES CO., LIMITED.

During the year ended December 31 the total receipts were £43,175, and £100 was brought in, making £43,275. From that the charges reached £36,097, leaving £7,178, or a considerable decline compared with the previous 12 months, and after paying the preference dividend the directors reduce the ordinary distribution by 1s. 6d. to 6s. 6d. per share, carrying forward £114. Baltic House has now been completed and handed over by the contractors, and the directors are pleased to state that the second, third, and fourth floors, together with the sub-ground floor, have been let on lease to substantial tenants, leaving only the first and ground floors on hand. Rebuilding of these premises has cost a nett sum of £109,141, including interest during construction, and just now the company is leaning heavily on its bankers and others for loans. The borrowings indeed in this form reach £100,000, an increase on the year of £53,500, and we hope the directors will soon devise a means of liquidating these big debts.

SWAN LAND AND CATTLE CO., LIMITED.

This company did not do very well during the year to December 31 last. Severe storms were experienced in the early months causing cattle and sheep to suffer severely, with the result that the calf and lamb crops were on a much reduced scale. Moreover the prices obtained for cattle sold were not so good on the average, an expected advance in the price of beef in the spring of the year not being realised. A favourable circumstance, however, was the abundance of grass, owing to the excessive moisture, and the hay in stock at the beginning of the winter amounted to 14,586 tons. The wool clip realised 123,738 lbs., which fetched 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per lb., but there is little change to report in the position of the lands, 360 acres having been disposed of and 329 acres added. Revenue for the year was £29,251 only against £42,005, a drop of £12,754, and after providing £23,135 for ordinary expenditure and depreciation, £240 for deputation expenses, and £147 for income-tax the balance over is only £6,015. Preference dividend takes £5,000, and the directors are not in a position to repeat the 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. paid on the ordinary shares a year ago. The sum carried forward is £1,015 against £286 brought in. Rather less than £1,000 has been spent on the construction of a reservoir to increase the irrigation of the Chug Valley.

S. HILDESHEIMER AND CO. LIMITED.

This company's trading profit for the year ended December 31 was £5,801 or £191 more than in the previous 12 months. From that directors' remuneration absorbed £850, and auditors' fees £75, leaving £4,876 as the nett balance, which is increased to £6,704 by the sum of £1,828 brought forward. The preference shares first received 6 per cent., and as 7 per cent. is paid on the ordinary, they are entitled to another 1 per cent., so that both classes get the same return. Reserve is then credited with £500 and £1,819 is carried forward. Reserve is now £5,000, not a large sum, and we note that the freehold premises have been mortgaged for £10,000. Otherwise the position seems pretty comfortable, as debtors are a long way in advance of creditors, and cash and bills amount to £5,842.

CIVIL SERVICE SUPPLY ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

Purchases of goods during the year ended December 31 were £5,765 smaller at £1,411,180, and sales fell off by £15,156 to £1,665,511, but gross profits and working expenses, exclusive of carriage, were identical with those of the previous 12 months at £263,712 and £174,123 respectively. Carriage, however,

cost £1,093 more at £32,723, and after writing £800 against £1,200 off premises and providing £3,465 for interest on the reserve fund, the nett profits showed a decrease of £756 at £45,393. Adding £6,288 or £377 less brought in, the amount available was £1,133 down at £51,681, but by putting £1,000, or half last year's amount, to reserve the dividend is maintained at 24s. on every 10 shares, and the usual contributions are made to pension and provident funds, leaving £6,156 to be carried forward. Liabilities to sundry creditors have risen by a trifle of £637 to £109,742, against which stocks are £6,371 up at £326,189, and sundry debtors owe £289 more at £9,378, but cash has fallen off by £11,662 to £62,246.

CLEATOR AND WORKINGTON JUNCTION RAILWAY.

Gross receipts in the six months to December 31 amounted to £31,497 against £31,154, whilst expenses were £7 less at £21,042, hence nett revenue was £350 higher at £10,454, and the ratio was reduced from 67.52 per cent. to 66.90 per cent. The increase in the revenue came principally from merchandise and passengers, there being slight decreases in minerals, live stock, parcels, horses, &c. With £448 brought in the nett revenue available was £10,902, and after paying interest on the debenture stock and dividends on the preference stocks the ordinary dividend is raised $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum to 3 per cent. per annum, so that only £64 against £627 is carried forward. Nothing was spent on capital account during the half-year, and the debit balance still stands at £18,298.

COCKERMOUTH, KESWICK AND PENRITH RAILWAY.

Gross receipts for the half-year to December 31 were £25 less at £25,040; working expenses £15,031, £131 less, nett revenue £106 higher at £9,108. The principal falling off was £656 in minerals, all the other classes of traffic showing fair increases. With £206 brought in and £128 received from the Cockermouth joint station interest the nett revenue balance is raised to £9,445. Interest on mortgage loans, debenture stocks, banking balances, and other charges absorbed about £40 more, and the dividend on the consolidated ordinary stocks is again 4 per cent. per annum, whilst the carry forward is increased from £87 to £104. There was no expenditure on capital account and the debit balance is a trifle higher at £35,315.

ALABAMA, NEW ORLEANS, TEXAS AND PACIFIC JUNCTION RAILWAYS CO., LIMITED.

Of the three railways in which this company holds stock, two, the New Orleans and North Eastern, and the Alabama and Vicksburg increased their nett earnings in 1905, whilst those of the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific showed a decrease. All paid dividends on their common stocks, the two first of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and 7 per cent. respectively, the same as in the previous year, and the third of 2 per cent. against 3 per cent., whilst the company through its holding in the South-Western Construction received dividends of 3 per cent. and 2 per cent. from the Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Pacific railway. These receipts, with interest, amounted to £167,003, and the nett profit was £163,806. Adding £57,715 brought in the available balance was £221,521 against £191,772, so the full 5 per cent. was again paid on the "C" debentures, leaving £88,900 or £31,000 more to be carried forward.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIMITED.

As this popular music hall was closed from June 30 last year to October 9, in order to carry out extensive alterations, no just comparison can be made between the earnings of the past two years, nor do the directors make any comment this time upon the business done nor on the circumstances affecting it, but allow shareholders to form their individual opinions. The cost of the alterations was upwards of £42,000. Entertainment and other receipts were only £78,839, yet the nett profit was £1,482 compared with £1,371, for working expenses were naturally much lower as a result of the closing down. But the dividends are less—9d. against 1s. 6d. per share on the 15s. paid shares and 6d. against 1s. on the 10s. paid shares, £2,015 being carried forward. These results are very poor compared with 1903 and 1902.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

BANKS.

Agricultural Bank of Egypt.—7s. 6d. per share on the ordinary shares, and £15 15s. per share on the deferred shares, payable March 15.

Standard Bank of South Africa.—For the half-year ended Dec. 31 at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum, adding £13,000 to officers' pension fund and carrying forward £38,000.

MINES.

Broken Hill Proprietary Block 10.—No. 73 of 4s. per share, payable March 28.

Mills' Day Dawn United Gold.—1s. per share, payable March 28.

Mount Morgan Gold.—3d. a share for Feb., payable March 1. No. 2 South Great Eastern Gold.—No. 91, of 9d. per share, payable March 6.

Oroville Dredging.—12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. per share, payable March 29.

Oroya-Brownhill.—Interim of 4s. per share, payable March 24.

Quintera.—Interim of 1s. 3d. per share ($6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.) for 1905, payable March 1.

South Kalgurli.—Interim of 2s. per share on account of year ending Sept. 30, 1906, payable March 5.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Aerated Bread.—Interim of 3s. per share, payable April 3.

Astley and Tyldesley Collieries.—Dividend and bonus of £1 per share on the fully-paid shares, and a corresponding distribution on the £8 paid ordinary shares, making 20 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £10,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £4,657.

Black and Green.—Final of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £5,298.

Briton Ferry Chemical and Manure.—Final of 1s. 3d. per share, making 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £1,680.

Brompton and Kensington Electricity Supply.—On the ordinary shares at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum, making 10 per cent. for the year, placing £8,000 to depreciation account, and carrying forward £8,680.

Chamberlain, King, and Jones.—Further at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, making 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year to Jan. 31.

Charles Kinloch and Co.—2s. per share on the ordinary, carrying forward £714.

City of London Electric Supply.—Final on the ordinary shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31, making 5 per cent. for the year, placing £20,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £4,000.

D. H. Evans and Co.—Final of 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year, and £7 10s. on the founders' shares, making £9 10s. for the year, carrying forward £17,200 to credit of ordinary shares, and £400 to credit of founder's shares.

D. H. Evans and Co. Founders' Shares.—Final of 2s. 5d. per share, making 3s. 1d. per share for the year.

Dronfield Gas Light and Coke.—7 per cent. per annum.

Eastman Kodak of New Jersey.—Usual quarterly of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum) on the preferred stock, and of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum) on the common stock.

General and Commercial Investment Trust.—At the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock for the six months ended on the 28th ultimo, making 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year.

Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagon.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Great Western Colliery.—Further of 6s. per share on the ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £5,000 to reserve for short working, and carrying forward £2,199.

Hastings and St. Leonards Gas.—At the rate of 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on the 5 per cent. converted stock, 5 per cent. on the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. converted stock, and £6 1s. on the 5 per cent. additional stock.

Hawthorn, Leslie, and Co.—Interim of 5s. per share, being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Herne Bay Waterworks.—At the rate of 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Indemnity Mutual Marine Assurance.—6s. per share.

John Greenish and Sons.—Final at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, making 6 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31.

Leeds Forge.—10 per cent., together with a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share, on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31; writing off £20,000 for depreciation, placing £15,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £23,093.

Manchester Bonding Warehousing.—Further of 1s. per share, making 1s. 6d. per share for 1905, carrying forward £1,099.

Metropolitan Electric Supply.—Final for 1905 of 5s. per share on the ordinary shares, payable March 14, making for the year 10s. per share, or 10 per cent., carrying forward £2,219.

Palmer's Shipbuilding and Iron.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Prince Line.—Interim for the half-year ended Dec. 31 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Real Estate of South Africa.—Second interim of 5 per cent, payable March 8.

Simpson and Sons.—3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year ended Jan. 31.

Vickers, Sons, and Maxim.—Final of 2s. per share on ordinary shares, making 3s. per share for the year, carrying forward £210,000.

W. B. Reid and Co.—Further of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £5,680 to reserve, £6,300 carry forward.

William Beardmore and Co.—6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, carrying forward £103,680.

William Jessop and Sons.—4s. per share and a bonus of 1s. per share, making 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year.

William W. Nell.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £433.

A branch of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China will be opened in Kurrachee on March 5, under the management of Mr. John Greig.

The Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope learns by cable that the nett Cape Government Railway earnings for the year 1905 amount to £3 6s. 10d. per cent. on a capital of £29,047,000. In the expenditure on railway account are included payments for relaying and regrading to the amount of £84,000, and for redemption under Act 42 of 1902 of £252,500. If these items were eliminated, the return on capital would have been £4 10s. per cent., or 16s. per cent. over and above the payment of full interest charges.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and February 24, 1906:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Feb. 24, 1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Feb. 25, 1905.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£ —	£ 6,352,909	£ 3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	31,300,000	32,762,000
Excise	30,200,000	27,581,000	28,168,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	11,511,000	11,077,000
Stamps	8,000,000	7,397,000	6,746,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	2,030,000	2,210,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	24,769,000	23,683,000
Post Office	16,500,000	14,150,000	13,630,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	3,775,000	3,595,000
Crown Lands	479,000	440,000	440,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,054,000	1,077,955	992,826
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	1,251,565	1,232,633
*Revenue	142,454,000	123,282,520	124,346,459
Total, including balance		130,712,798	128,610,301
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		880,000	510,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		700,000	970,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..		191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905		2,175,000	1,819,500
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		1,262,408	1,800,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900		23,000	6,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		148,000	148,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		—	5,912,631
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905		9,854,604	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904		1,000,000	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares		8,461	7,460
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904		—	1,000,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		2,000,000	8,600,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £4,500,000 Treasury Bills in 1905-6) and £13,500,000 in 1904-5		8,000,000	21,800,000
Total		156,955,863	177,633,382
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	123,282,520	124,346,459
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	155,799	164,279
Excise	5,291,000	5,062,851	4,994,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	3,802,839	3,741,242
Total	9,756,000	9,021,489	8,900,194
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	132,304,009	133,246,653

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Feb. 24, 1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Feb. 25, 1905.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£ 28,000,000	£ 25,340,501	£ 24,322,802
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	1,453,200	1,445,020
Payments to Local Taxation			
Accounts	1,160,000	743,967	743,927
Supply Services	111,304,000	92,447,836	96,103,498
Expenditure	142,084,000	119,985,504	122,615,247
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		640,000	370,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		180,000	5,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		10,000,000	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		750,000	600,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905		3,216,000	3,453,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		900,000	3,500,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	11,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		193,000	149,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		616,374	29,000
Surplus Revenue 1904-1905 applied to reduce Debt		1,413,907	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares, applied to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1898		8,461	7,460
Deficiency Advances repaid		586,093	8,600,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		6,000,000	19,800,000
		144,512,339	165,715,207
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	1906. Feb. 24. £ 11,460,716	1905. Feb. 25. £ 10,991,671	
Bank of Ireland	982,808	926,504	
Total		12,443,524	11,918,175
		156,955,863	177,633,382

Treasur., &c., Feb. 24, 1906.

Notes on Books.

Racial Supremacy, being Studies in Imperialism. By John George Godard. (Edinburgh: Geo. A. Morton. London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co.). Price 6s.

We have read much of this book with appreciative interest. The view Mr. Godard takes of imperialism is nearly always our view, and he deals with the various aspects of the new-fangled spirit of domination in an effective and temperate style. Perhaps he makes a little too much of the swashbuckler, racial supremacy, Christianity expounded by preachers like Mr. Bernard Snell; and some of the authorities he cites with reference to South African questions are not among the most reliable, but the tone and points of view of the book are quite to our liking, and we have seen nothing more effective in recent publications than Mr. Godard's observations upon the perverse spirit of the Birmingham type of imperialism, which continually cites self-governing colonies as if they were illustrative of that race domination they glorify. It is not to these colonies we must look for the display of imperial temper, of that spirit which is inimical to freedom, but to India, to the annexed Republics in South Africa, to our Crown Colony dominions in all parts of the world, and regarding these Mr. Godard well observes:—"The idea that we govern well is firmly rooted, but it is a delusion. Doubtless other nations would not govern better, and most of them govern worse, but that is not the point, government at the best is necessarily imperfect because it is conducted by fallible beings; but the rule of one race or nation by another is inevitably bad, though different races may live happily together under the same régime if it is their own." Imperialism, the dominance of race, is now as it always has been, the enemy of freedom, a curse to mankind. As this book ably combats this overbearing temper, and as it is not at all hard to read, earnest students of politics ought to give it their attention.

MINING RETURNS.

Brilliant Central.—Crushed 2,400 tons, 1,138 ozs.; value of cyanide, £329; concentrates, £1,322.

Brilliant and St. George United.—Crushed 2,542 tons; yield 1,422 ozs.

British Broken Hill Proprietary.—4,484 tons crude ore produced 718 tons concentrates, containing 445 tons lead and 20,104 ozs. silver.

Broken Hill Proprietary.—Fine silver, 379,847 ozs.; soft lead, 5,181 tons; antimonial lead, 58 tons.

Broken Hill Proprietary (Block 10).—Treated 11,672 tons; producing 1,571 tons of concentrates containing 974 tons of lead and 50,272 ozs. of silver.

Broken Hill Water Supply.—Consumption of water 24,227,000 gallons.

Carrington's Lion P. C.—Crushed 296 tons for £1,400; tailings assay, 5 dwts. gold, 3 per cent. copper.

Chinese Engineering.—Output of coal, 7,000 tons; sales, 4,500 tons; consumption, 1,700 tons.

Dolores.—Ore crushed, 851 tons.

Glencoe (Natal) Collieries.—Output 10,765 tons.

Hutti (Nizam's) Gold.—1,038 ozs.; crushings, 768 ozs.; tailings | cyanide, 270.

Lloyd Copper.—Treated 4,700 tons for 64 tons copper.

Mills' Day Dawn United.—Crushed 1,520 tons, value £4,800.

Mitchell's Creek Gold.—583 tons crushed, 288 ozs.; concentrates, 24 tons; £300.

Mount Lyell Blocks.—Ore struck at Main Drift Level No. 1.

Mount Roudny Gold.—Crushed 3,300 tons, 414 ozs.; concentrates 99 tons, 190 ozs.; tailings, cyanide, 1,754 tons, 32 ozs.; total yield, 637 ozs.

New Vaal River Diamond.—Diamonds registered by diggers for Feb. value £3,575.

No. 2 South Great Eastern.—Crushed 5,080 tons, 2,812 ozs.

Pahang.—Crushed 2,300 tons, producing 26 tons black tin, Premier (Transvaal) Diamond.—161,666 loads treated, yielding 45,277 carats.

Raub Australian.—Crushed 6,200 tons, 660 ozs.

St. John del Rey.—Gold produce, £6,580; yield per ton, 56 of an oz. troy.

Spassky Copper.—Production, 6,000 poods = 96.77 tons.

Tolima.—60 tons, value £3,500.

Victorian Cornish Gold.—Crushed 1,330 tons, 1,002 ozs.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Markets were a little better during the early part of the week, spot parcels were more firmly held, and forward wheat also advanced a little on a fair buying demand, but the improvement was not maintained. Each day prices fluctuated a little and generally closed with an easier tone. English wheat has been in good supply, but received only a moderate demand, and prices occasionally showed a decline. Farmers' deliveries amounted to 79,142 qrs., averaging 28s. 10d., against 42,165 qrs., averaging 30s. 10d., last year in the corresponding week. Foreign sorts also were dull in most country markets, and tended lower. Imports during the week were not so heavy, amounting to only 141,190 qrs. against 245,350 qrs. last week, and 264,647 in same week last year. The estimated quantities on passage are again larger, 3,730,000 qrs. of wheat and flour being on their way to the United Kingdom—1,840,000 to the Continent. In American markets the tone has been rather uneasy at times, depressed as a rule, and weak under heavy liquidation and poor flour business, an equally poor cash demand, and other bear elements, though a revival of export buying, which disposed of about 250,000 bushels of wheat in one day, had a stimulating effect for a short time.

WOOL.—Topmakers are this week asking 1d. more for botanics than last, and fine crossbreds are difficult to procure at the rates ruling then. There seems no end to the rise in prices everywhere, yet wools are being taken in fairly large amounts, and both spinners and manufacturers are alike busy. English wools follow the same lines as the colonial, and as they are growing more scarce, demand for them is proportionately increasing. The old clip in all probability will be entirely exhausted before the new arrives, at any rate in the better wools, low grade varieties being more difficult to dispose of. With regard to the export trade, Continental demand is chiefly in the direction of Scotch worsted and tweeds, and is increasing favourably. South American orders also are coming in freely, as are also those from Canada and Australia, but South Africa continues depressed, and the United States demands are not satisfactory.

LINEN.—Supplies of local flax to the Irish markets are rapidly decreasing, and last week's total did not reach 100 tons, which sold at from 6s. to 8s. per stone. Foreign flax is selling at advancing prices, particularly Russian, which is not yet offered freely, and water retted may be said to be going to extremes. Linens in the Irish market continue in their prosperous condition without any change in prices, or without any special branch coming much to the front. Great things are expected from the spring trade with the States, and also with the colonies, where demand is steadily improving. Barnsley exports also are of a substantial character, and the home department is beginning to show signs of the long hoped for improvement. Dundee flax is slightly dearer.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—Our market continues healthy in tone, and a generally firm attitude has been shown by sellers in all sections. A rather hardening tendency has been felt during the latter part of the week, and full prices are demanded for anything wanted. Makers of cloth are now so deeply engaged that some are quite indifferent as to further extending their engagements. The raw material has fluctuated as usual, and after showing a lower tendency at the beginning of the week, during the last few days has hardened. A few points, however, either up or down in raw cotton does not affect our market very much at the moment. In piece goods for export a fair business has again been done for several markets. Buyers for India have operated pretty freely, and from day to day a steady trade has been done for the outlets of our Dependency. Makers of goods suitable for India are very deeply engaged, and early delivery cannot be obtained. China buyers have been in the market for fancy cloths and also for grey staples. The business, however, cannot be said to be general, but an improvement in the demand has taken place. The smaller markets, on the whole, have been healthy in tone, and have provided business of a miscellaneous character. For the outlets of South America, printing cloths have moved fairly well, and buyers for the Levant have operated to an encouraging extent. Stocks are said to be accumulating in Egypt, but this notwithstanding, orders have been placed for distant delivery. A fair number of orders have again been given out in goods suitable for the home trade. All kinds of cloth are now deeply sold, and full rates are demanded for anything required. T-cloths and Mexicans are well held, owing to the extensive order lists of manufacturers. Both Burnley and Glossop printers have moved fairly well, and rates are firmly held. Coloured woven goods and sateens have moved to an encouraging extent. All round, the position of manufacturers is healthy, and most makers have plenty of work to go on with. In American yarns a steady trade has been done from day-to-day, and spinners on the whole have not had much to complain of. The demand has chiefly run on the better kinds, as users do not wish to have any trouble with their hands, and the superior qualities of cop twist are sought after. Spinners of these kinds have no difficulty in clearing the production of the spindles. The commoner kinds, however, and coarse weft do not move very well, but on the whole few stocks are to be met with in first hands. In shipping yarns not very much has been done. Late rates are firmly held by producers, but new contracts are not of an extensive character. China buyers have operated to a small extent, and cops for the Continent have moved fairly well. Egyptian yarns as made in the Bolton district are distinctly dearer than a week ago. The higher rates which producers are quoting has restricted business, and the turnover has not been important.

At the opening of the week quotations for futures rose in New York, but this rise was followed by large Liverpool spot sales and hammering by room traders. Subsequently a recovery set in, and the market steadied. It later strengthened on a strong general spot demand, firm cables, and decreasing stocks, but there was another reaction on New Orleans selling and general realisations.

This "bear" pressure and liquidation prevailed, and the end was weak.

COAL.—Activity in house coal continues unabated, and heavy tonnages are being sent to the London and Eastern Counties, but prices have not quotably risen. Everywhere the steam trade is in good condition, and though the output is heavy, very little of it is going into stock. Foreign shipments in particular are good, and as the spring advances will grow increasingly heavy, while quotations for them are everywhere rising. North of England best is up to 10s. per ton f.o.b., seconds to 9s. 3d., and at Cardiff some exceptional cargoes this week were sold at 14s. 9d., though for the moment general prices are from 14s. 3d. to 14s. 6d. at this exchange; at Swansea, 14s.

COPPER.—This market opened strong under the influence of strong American advices. The short interest is still believed to be very extensive, and the small stocks appear to be very strongly controlled. Large lines were quickly absorbed for covering purposes, the demand for forward metal being the feature of the first day or so. The inquiry from consumers is fair, and after a slight reaction, due to the paucity of business, prices went forward again closing at £79 5s. for spot and £77 15s. for three months. During the past month the total supplies of copper amounted to 24,826 tons, against which deliveries were 26,831 tons, with the result that the visible supplies fell by 2,005 tons, to 8,946 tons compared with the end of January. According to Messrs. Henry R. Merton's monthly circular the stocks in England and France on February 28 stood at 5,096 tons, against 5,185 tons on the 15th, and 5,676 tons on January 31. The quantity on passage from Chili was no more than 1,850 tons against 2,050 and 2,475 tons respectively, and from Australia 2,000 tons compared with 3,000 and 2,800 tons. After dropping from £78 10s. to £77 15s. in the middle of the month, the price of G. M. B. and Standard copper recovered, and advanced to £78 17s. 6d. at the end of February.

TIN.—The Chinese are said to be holding back supplies, and eastern cable advices came firm, but the demand at the commencement was very slack. Moreover, there was a certain amount of realisation for March delivery and an early gain was soon lost. This was followed by lower Eastern bids, and as the demand from consumers is very restricted just now a sagging tendency set in. A favourable reaction soon ensued, however, there being no sign of selling pressure by importers, and although the monthly statistics were not quite so good as expected the close was fairly steady at £163 7s. 6d. for spot and £163 12s. 6d. for three months. Messrs. A. Strauss and Co. give the visible supply as 14,261 tons, against 15,115 tons a month ago; the quantities on the spot and landing are 2,187 tons, against 2,033 tons at the end of January. London deliveries for February are 1,139 tons, and Dutch 954 tons, making a total of 2,093 tons, against 2,638 tons for previous month. Straits shipments aggregate 4,445 tons, of which 2,600 tons are for London, 1,130 tons for America, and 715 tons for the Continent.

IRON AND STEEL.—The position of the pig-iron market is in many respects a peculiar one in face of the increasing consumption. For one thing, the speculative iron market has not yet recovered from the demoralisation of recent weeks, but this does not reflect a worse state of things in the manufacturing centres, where in many branches full employment is assured for a long time to come. The relative prices of pig-iron show rather a remarkable disparity. All over the country consumption is rapidly growing, and with the single exception of the Cleveland iron market prices keep as firm as ever. In view of the unsettlement in pig-iron, a good deal of work is being held back in many directions, and this may be expected to be released as opportunities offer. In the Midlands business is rather quiet and consumers are buying only for early needs and where working stocks are reduced. Some manufacturers find that customers wish to keep back specifications, due under contracts, with the object of securing easier terms; but makers are insistent, as there is sufficient work in hand to carry them over the next month. Activity is increasing in the home trade, whilst the demand for shipment is most satisfactory.

TEA.—Last week's improvement in the markets is still maintained, particularly at the Indian auctions where the 34,189 packages offered received more general inquiry, and more confidence was shown in the bidding. Autumn teas were in better selection, and showed an improvement in quality, though no specially notable flavour has yet appeared. 30,297 packages were sold at 6.8d. per lb., against 6.76d. last week, and 6.56d. a year ago. Ceylon prices were more irregular, practically following the same lines as last week. That is for better qualities higher prices were willingly paid, but common sorts, such as broken leaf between 6d. and 7d. per lb., were difficult to dispose of at previous rates. 28,649 packages were brought forward, and the average obtained on the quantity sold was 6.75d., against 6.76d. last week, and 6.63d. last year. The better grades of Java, of which 2,123 packages in all were offered, received most attention.

SUGAR.—There has been a further improvement of 1½d. per cwt. during the past week, as the effect both of trade and speculative demand, which was partly to provide actual requirements due to the unusually small stocks in the hands of distributors. The supply of white sugar, in consequence of the large exports to India, is not large. Our refiners experienced a better demand, enabling them to raise their prices, and stimulating inquiry for raws, sellers of which, Mr. Czarnikow observes, had to cover in paper, as German refiners absorbed most of the factory offerings. No further news has been received about probable savings, but opinions just now seem to differ only by a few per cent. The German factory stocks, though they come up to the large figures of 1904, are not as large as expected, but they did not affect the market. In America the market has developed further firmness, and with a more active demand for Cuban centrifugals to arrive, transactions have been on a larger scale. Landings in the three ports for the week were 55,000 tons, and meltings 33,000 tons, increasing stocks to 209,000 tons.]

SOUTH AFRICAN MINE RETURNS.

The Rand did not open the new year with a brilliant achievement; the yield for January falling much below that for the last month of the old year, which it will be recollected, was a "record," as schemed by the bosses. From the Witwatersrand proper the return was 411,256 ozs. of fine gold, whilst 17,382 ozs. came from those mines operating in the outside districts, making a total in weight of 428,638 ozs., and in value of £1,820,739, against 431,594 ozs., with £1,833,295 in the preceding month. Thus the decreases were 2,956 ozs., and £12,556 respectively. There was a further loss of natives, this time of 962, reducing the total at the end of the month to 79,992. It happened, too, that 100 less coolies were

MINE.	November.			December.			January.		
	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.
Angelo	13,853	7,965	16,678	13,621	7,965	16,059	15,153	8,264	15,046
Barrett	395	450	2,132	433	433	600	415	415	—
Bonanza	8,350	4,903	10,026	8,600	4,475	10,000	8,450	4,600	10,000
Buffelsdoorn Estate	502	1,276	538	538	1,330	542	542	1,181	—
City and Suburban	23,705	8,688	13,362	24,700	9,549	16,301	25,300	9,729	17,297
Comet, New	15,702	6,517	9,175	15,360	6,305	8,276	15,473	5,630	4,966
Cons. Langlaagte	16,472	5,656	8,826	15,950	5,634	6,217	16,265	5,932	4,886
Cons. Main Reef	17,505	6,339	8,809	17,755	6,273	8,561	17,724	6,242	8,048
Crown Deep	20,482	11,770	21,250	30,022	11,460	21,600	29,106	11,443	20,900
Crown Reef	19,586	11,454	25,300	21,155	11,482	25,053	20,168	11,399	25,005
Driefontein	20,058	8,027	10,724	22,429	8,819	12,303	22,653	7,601	6,477
Durban Roodepoort	11,195	4,699	10,625	4,426	8,300	10,995	4,562	7,300	—
Do. Deep	9,606	4,171	3,150	10,050	4,097	3,000	10,130	3,798	1,850
Ferreira	20,100	12,404	28,552	20,950	12,343	28,574	20,245	12,686	29,298
Do. Deep	19,154	12,050	30,300	19,104	11,781	30,000	19,400	12,090	31,100
French Rand	18,300	6,204	3,796	17,300	5,895	3,515	17,000	5,620	3,223
Geldenhuis Deep	24,050	10,241	14,100	17,150	7,300	15,990	22,200	9,621	14,150
Geldenhuis Estate	16,825	7,188	15,950	23,440	9,973	14,550	17,265	7,758	16,604
Ginsberg	6,951	3,084	2,717	1,707	3,145	2,642	8,181	2,861	2,131
Glencairn	12,704	3,905	4,784	13,222	3,986	5,006	14,386	4,090	5,017
Glen Deep	15,140	5,952	7,150	15,720	5,836	7,100	14,370	5,609	7,150
Glynn's Lydenberg	2,050	1,256	2,100	1,351	2,050	1,291	2,050	1,291	—
Goch New	1,785	3,321	15,430	4,966	4,273	17,286	5,088	3,575	—
Henry Nourse	11,280	5,704	9,956	11,120	5,185	8,680	—	—	—
Heriot	8,770	3,586	3,846	9,060	3,670	3,555	9,300	3,819	4,411
Jubilee	5,094	1,806	5,461	2,063	5,620	1,901	—	—	—
Jumpers	11,360	4,556	5,031	11,756	4,121	5,089	12,900	4,809	5,594
Jumpers Deep	15,679	5,564	1,650	15,723	5,376	2,950	15,991	6,068	2,850
Knight's	28,250	8,942	8,020	28,750	9,497	10,038	29,040	9,162	8,408
Knight's Deep	24,181	7,570	8,701	22,373	7,702	9,814	22,402	7,576	7,936
Lancaster	14,234	4,646	1,957	13,700	4,545	585	13,883	4,040	448*
Lancaster West	6,350	2,376	2,967	6,507	2,310	3,479	6,595	2,490	2,791
Langlaagte Deep	19,007	6,733	6,650	19,355	6,766	6,450	20,103	6,962	6,550
Do. Estate	26,588	7,654	8,200	27,288	7,702	7,530	26,750	7,748	8,200
May Consolidated	13,650	5,992	11,907	14,010	5,961	12,221	14,200	5,982	12,461
Meyer and Charlton	3,244	4,685	8,100	11,011	4,806	8,164	11,200	4,657	7,508
Modderfontein	9,575	3,621	3,464	9,770	3,637	3,223	9,753	3,619	3,203
New Kleinfontein	24,001	8,003	4,377	26,810	8,839	5,612	28,522	9,022	7,610
New Unified	8,610	2,735	1,185	8,875	2,670	1,222	8,787	2,560	867
Niekerk	6,024	3,411	5,378	6,260	3,456	5,559	6,850	3,712	5,646
Nigel	2,925	1,856	1,055	3,000	1,941	1,748	3,180	1,827	982
North Randfontein	14,242	5,975	7,000	15,109	6,221	8,200	14,458	6,230	7,900
Nourse Deep	14,740	6,776	8,550	14,610	6,566	8,000	26,500	11,471	13,300
Porges Randfontein	13,121	5,868	7,200	13,729	6,065	9,600	14,145	6,229	8,600
Primrose	15,405	7,106	13,551	15,631	7,279	13,950	15,902	7,099	13,508
Princess Estate	5,600	11,263	971	5,551	2,638	884	3,810	2,972	1,884
Rietfontein New	8,520	4,559	8,965	8,972	4,526	5,574	9,021	4,804	9,030
Robinson	11,541	18,590	47,429	28,500	18,969	49,065	29,500	19,601	48,932
Robinson Cent. Deep	13,994	9,221	25,150	14,780	9,291	25,158	15,114	9,419	26,860
Robinson Deep	20,055	14,995	33,244	29,545	14,877	32,400	29,325	15,387	33,502
Robins'n Randfontein	14,277	5,526	5,800	15,109	5,694	5,800	15,110	5,346	3,720
Roodepoort Central	7,472	3,039	2,967	7,730	3,070	2,978	7,872	3,019	2,570
Roodepoort United	9,140	4,164	5,201	9,040	4,199	4,960	9,140	4,003	4,500
Rose Deep	20,500	9,017	11,650	25,600	8,809	11,600	24,500	8,829	11,650
Salisbury	5,400	1,860	2,275	5,350	1,980	2,250	5,500	1,795	2,000
Sheba	3,240	3,240	—	—	3,216	—	—	2,920	—
Simmer East	15,520	5,174	3,537	16,576	5,498	4,384	16,335	5,544	4,429
Simmer and Jack	57,700	19,648	32,697	53,000	20,104	31,991	52,950	19,605	29,687
South Randfontein	13,334	5,886	6,756	14,797	5,826	5,500	14,200	5,922	5,100
Transvaal Gold	8,194	3,757	—	8,992	3,804	—	9,061	4,041	—
Treasury	24,010	2,906	3,054	7,330	2,354	1,019	6,400	2,580	1,497
Van Ryn	16,509	7,905	13,351	22,040	8,057	10,870	21,800	8,091	11,099
Village Deep	24,704	9,981	18,363	6,345	4,763	18,991	6,406	5,540	—
Village Main Reef	24,704	9,981	18,363	6,345	4,763	18,991	6,406	5,540	—
Vogelstruis Estates	5,250	2,035	5,410	1,922	—	—	6,300	2,316	—
Wimmer	8,480	3,675	8,800	3,883	—	—	8,640	3,870	—
W. Rand Central	2,500	890	1,250	2,575	1,102	1,325	2,550	1,191	2,775
Windsor	4,644	1,168	252	4,950	1,458	433	4,750	1,311	458*
Wt. Deep	25,500	10,404	15,933	26,010	10,422	15,588	25,290	10,265	15,163
Worcester	757	—	—	498	—	—	742	—	—

* Loss.

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
January	—	70,340	199,279	288,824	369,258	428,638
February	—	81,405	196,513	289,502	363,811	—
March	—	104,127	217,465	308,242	399,823	—
April	—	119,588	227,871	305,946	399,166	—
May	74,888	138,602	234,125	314,480	416,395	—
June	19,779	142,780	238,320	308,219	412,317	—
July	25,960	149,179	251,643	307,840	419,505	—
August	28,474	162,750	271,918	312,277	428,581	—
September	31,936	170,802	276,197	312,286	416,487	—
October	33,393	181,439	284,544	325,625	415,527	—
November	39,075	187,375	279,813	336,167	424,757	—
December	52,897	196,023	286,061	302,264	431,594	—
Total ..	238,992	1,704,410	2,963,749	3,779,621*	4,897,221	428,638

Includes 7,949 ozs. not previously declared

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
January	£	£	£	£	£	£
February ..	—	293,786	846,489	1,226,846	1,568,508	1,820,739
March	—	345,782	834,739	1,229,726	1,545,371	—
April	—	442,303	923,739	1,309,329	1,698,340	—
May	—	507,980	967,936	1,299,576	1,695,550	—
June	31,271	588,746	994,505	1,335,826	1,768,734	—
July	84,014	606,493	1,012,322	1,309,231	1,751,412	—
August	110,269	663,674	1,068,917	1,307,621	1,781,944	—
September ..	120,953	691,322	1,155,039	1,326,468	1,820,496	—
October	135,654	725,522	1,173,211	1,326,506	1,769,124	—
November ..	141,848	770,706	1,208,669	1,383,167	1,765,047	—
December ..	165,986	795,922	1,188,571	1,427,947	1,804,253	—
Total ..	224,692	832,652	1,215,110	1,538,800	1,833,295	—

* Includes £33,766 not declared previously.

at work, owing to the death of 97 and the discharge of three. The reduced profit of the Durban Roodepoort Deep, of the Wernher, Beit group, is officially attributed to the continued falling off in the grade of the ore. Although a couple of tube mills are working at the Rose Deep, the results, it will be seen, are but slightly better.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, MARCH 5.

Anstralian Pastoral.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
International Investment Trust.—Winchester House, noon.
Motor 'Bus.—Winchester House, noon.
Nile Valley.—Winchester House, noon.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6.

Alabama New Orleans Railway.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
Buenos Ayres Grand National Trams.—Winchester House, 11 a.m.
Bank of British North America.—5, Gracechurch Street, noon.
Colonial Securities Trust.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
Eley Brothers.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Moorgate Street and Broad Street Buildings.—Winchester House, noon.
North Navigation Collieries.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
Scottish Life Assurance.—Edinburgh, 2.30 p.m.
Violet Consolidated Gold Mining.—Winchester House, noon.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7.

Anglo-Californian Bank.—18, Austin Friars, 1 p.m.
Burmah Development Syndicate.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.
Chicago Great Western Railway.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
City of Glasgow Life Assurance.—Glasgow, 2 p.m.
Eastmans.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
Highland (Kootenay) Mining.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
Highland Railway.—Inverness, noon.
London, Paris, and American Bank.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Law Accident Insurance.—215, Strand, 2.30 p.m.
Star Life Assurance.—32, Moorgate Street, noon.
United States Trust and Guarantee Corporation.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
Weardale Lead.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8.

Brompton and Kensington Electricity.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
British Law Fire Insurance.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Price's Patent Candle.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Surrey Commercial Dock.—105, Fenchurch Street, 1 p.m.
Walkers Parker.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9.

River Plate Trust, Loan, and Agency.—52, Moorgate Street, noon.

H. E. RANDALL, LIMITED.

This boot manufacturing and retailing business experienced a further decline in profits during the year to December 30 last, the total of £22,023 comparing with £22,937 in 1904 and £23,941 in 1903. A sum of £4,193 is allowed for depreciation, and after providing this, together with debenture interest and administration charges, the nett balance is £14,734. Add £7,473 brought in, and the credit for disposal is £22,207, from which the directors pay the preference dividend, repeat the 12½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, add £250 less at £4,000 to reserve, and carry forward £7,432. The directors tell us that the stocks at the various branches have been carefully inspected, and where found necessary very liberal depreciations made. We are glad to hear this, because while profits have been going down stocks held have been rising, which is not a good sign. The total is now £156,535, an increase on the year of £12,080, and we hope the directors will watch the item carefully. Properties, plant, &c., have been increased during the year by £7,851, making the total £122,370, but the aggregate depreciation allowance to date reduces the balance-sheet figure to £104,651. Reserve will now be £27,000, but it is all used in the business, and floating liabilities are exceedingly heavy at £56,090, besides loans of £17,250 on mortgages of shop leases. Rather an overloaded position.

COMPANY MEETING.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY,
LIMITED.

The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Prudential Assurance Co., Limited, was held on Thursday at the offices, Holborn Bars, Sir Henry Harben, the chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. D. W. Stable) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said: You have all heard of the death of our late Chairman, Mr. Horne, who for so many years explained to the annual meeting in the most clear and intelligent manner our annual accounts, and whose exposition left nothing to be desired. He was an able director, and of the most valuable assistance to the board by his expert knowledge of property, in which the company transacted a very large business, as purchasers of ground rents and as lenders on mortgage; one whose counsels were always prudent and wise, and above all things he was a loved and loving companion. (Hear, hear.) In moving the adoption of the report and accounts I intend to depart from the usual practice of taking the items seriatim, because the large array of figures will be apt to confuse the mind when we come to deal with paragraph 5 of the second page of the report, which is the dominant feature on this occasion. The directors have decided upon removing and transferring the sum of £750,000 from the reserve fund and placing it back into the life assurance fund of the industrial branch. (Hear, hear.) This is unparalleled in magnitude, but it is merely developing on a larger scale the system which the directors have always pursued. It must be remembered that when the Prudential first adopted the system of industrial assurance nothing whatever was known of the subject, and the directors were obliged to adopt sets of tables which would be certain to be safe, and which were merely tentative. The directors, therefore, instituted an examination into all necessary details by means of which they could obtain the same scientific knowledge of industrial assurance as has been obtained in ordinary assurance, and they resolved to increase the tables as experience demonstrated. They have on many occasions made alterations in the tables for the benefit of the policyholder, and I would merely give an instance of two. In 1887 in Table A the sum assured was increased, after five and ten years' duration, and in 1889 all whole life policies remaining a certain period in force were relieved, after attainment of a certain age, from paying any further premiums, and 54,000 of such policies have been freed from payment of further premiums up to the end of 1905. The present operation will enable the directors to increase the sum assured under Table A in that branch by 2½ per cent., and this increase will eventually affect 13,000,000 policies—or nearly one-third of the population of Great Britain and Ireland. Ten million policies will receive an immediate increase, and the others as time goes on. The deduction of £750,000, which is the estimated cost of this concession, from the reserve will still leave £1,000,000 in that fund, which is adequate for the purpose of the fund. And now as regards the ordinary branch. The policies issued last year were 75,293, as against 71,874 in 1904, assuring the sum of £7,211,427, as against £6,954,650, and producing a premium income of £395,029, as against £377,587. Of the policies issued during 1905 2,825 were for sums of £250 and over, the total sum assured by these policies being over one and a quarter million pounds, producing a premium income of over £70,000 a year. (Hear, hear.) The premiums received were £4,123,318, as against £3,969,016, the increase being practically the same as in the year 1904. The claims were £1,812,618, as against £1,654,753, but of this, £170,000 was an increase of the matured endowments, of which 7,775 matured, as against 6,259 in the previous year. The mortality was very favourable, the actual deaths being far below expectation. The amount paid in death claims was actually less by £17,000 than that paid in 1904, although there were 30,000 more policies at risk. In the industrial branch the increase in the premiums was £159,715 over the previous year, being a larger increase by £20,000 than that obtained in 1904. The claims were £2,261,748, as against £2,230,180, and the deaths 238,220, as against 233,015. In this branch also the mortality experienced during the year was most favourable, the actual deaths being more than 50,000 less than the expected deaths. The free policies granted during the year to policyholders of five years' standing and upwards were 123,586, being practically 11,000 more than the previous year, the number of free policies in force being 1,102,267, as against 1,003,377. 24,698 claims on free policies were paid during the year. The number of policies in force at the end of the year was 16,065,268, as against 15,577,161, and I am happy to say that their average duration is now eleven years, as against 10½ of the previous year. The assets of the company in both branches are £59,464,376, being £4,104,871 over those of 1904. This increase, together with the repayments of capital, involved the necessity of investing a sum exceeding £5,500,000, or an average of more than £100,000 a week. You can quite understand that the state of the money market has been favourable to investors, and we have obtained an average rate of interest of £3 10s. 10d. on the whole of this large sum. (Hear, hear.) The interest received in both branches is £1,860,000—an increase of itself. The staff provident fund is still in a healthy state, and amounts to £148,941. The valuations have been made upon the same basis as in previous years, and it is not necessary for me to recapitulate them, but only in this respect, that the net premiums have, as usual, been valued

in both branches and the interest assumed at 3 per cent. In common with other holders of first-class securities we hold a large amount of Indian Railway stocks. This class of stock is a trustee security and is known on the Stock Exchange as a "gilt-edged" security, but in consequence of the terms upon which the Secretary of State for India was entitled to purchase the railways, the stocks were much depreciated, and you will be glad to know that although the depreciation is a comparatively large amount, the directors met the depreciation out of the surplus for the year and still added £150,000 to the investments reserve fund and also maintained the same rate of bonus to policyholders as last year. The investments reserve fund in the ordinary branch now stands at £950,000, as against £800,000 last year, and the shareholders will be glad to be informed that this is considerably more than the total difference between our ledger values and the middle market prices of our marketable securities at the end of the year, and it is a curious circumstance that the depreciation is greater in the case of trustee securities than in others. The industrial surplus is £967,709, being 50 odd thousand pounds more than the previous year, and the directors have added £250,000 to the reserve fund, which stood at the close of the year at £1,750,000.

Mr. Simmonds seconded the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts, which was carried unanimously.

RAILWAY PASSENGERS
ASSURANCE COMPANY.

(Established 1849.)

Directors:—

Chairman—RT. HON. EVELYN ASHLEY.

Vice-Chairman—RT. HON. SIR S. PONSONBY-FANE, G.C.B.

ROLAND Y. BEVAN, Esq. ALFRED FARQUHAR, Esq.
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FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

Gross Premium Income - - -	£323,815 13 7
Income from Investments - - -	£16,601 11 5
Total Income from all Sources	£340,417 5 0
Claims Paid - - - - -	£172,607 10 8
Bonus to Policy Holders - - -	£15,737 17 6

FUNDS AT CLOSE OF 1905.

Capital Fully Subscribed - - - - -	£1,000,000
Capital paid up - - - - -	£200,000
Funds in hand - - - - -	£501,988 19 0

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£5,025,607 10s. 9d.

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The Investors' Review

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The Investors' Review.

The Cost of the Army and Navy.

The multitude of the Radical members of all sects must be growing rather aghast at their helplessness. Most of them were returned by enthusiastic electors after having given emphatic pledges to work for economy, for the reduction of expenditure and the burdens of taxation. They now find themselves helpless before the permanent services, and compelled to endorse the behests of these services without inquiry, examination, or the slightest effective chance of expressing their own will. Last week the navy estimates gave the House of Commons what may be described as a facer, showing as they did not only a mere derisory reduction in the current outlay, but a prospective increase which Mr. Edmund Robertson estimated at some £2,000,000. Adding in the outlay on "naval works," the total charges for the coming year involved by the maintenance and expansion of our sea fighting machines is about £36,000,000. This week we have the army coming along, with a demand from the taxpayer of almost £30,000,000, and total showing a reduction of only £17,000 upon the figure for the year now nearly ended. Add in the "military works" outlay, most, if not all, of which will probably be borrowed, and the total charge upon the resources of the country in the coming fiscal year in time of profound peace for the two branches of our man-killing services will be not much short of £70,000,000, or more than the entire cost of every description for governing the country thirty years ago.

Why is it that no lightening of this intolerable load can be effected? Is the excuse of the Ministry sufficient to justify them in the eyes of the people? We think not. It is true enough that they have been only a short time in office, and that they doubtless have been duly impressed by the arguments of the permanent officials tending to demonstrate the impossibility of altering the estimates as framed by the last Government; but it was at least open to them to say, "well, be it so, only we wish to submit these estimates to the scrutiny of committees of the House of Commons, specially selected and appointed for the purpose, before accepting them in their entirety." No minister, we do not care what strength of character he may possess, is now-a-days, and, by himself, able to stand up against the united mass of the permanent officials. Alone he must become helpless before them, they can so easily circumvent and mislead him. Therefore, the new ministers should have made haste at once to put themselves in the hands of the House, to take the flood of enthusiasm there at its crest, and get the Commons as a body to assist them in restoring the control of the public expenditure to the representative body ultimately responsible for it to the nation. In having failed to do this, in tamely accepting the figures put before them by the bureaucracy, the ministers have gone a long way to render themselves impotent for the remainder of their term of office, and to reduce the control of the House of Commons to a greater nullity than ever. It is a mere registering machine so far as the spending of public money is concerned. Well may Radical members chafe and talk of devising means of exposing their own weakness, but unless they are led by the ministers whom Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman selected to fill the principal offices in the State,

they can do nothing. They may storm in the lobbies and cabal in the smoking-room, but the bureaucracy is master and will go serenely on its way, ever asking for more.

What is the justification for all this outlay of money upon navy and army? We know of none capable of bearing examination. In old times, under the *régime* which prevailed down at least to the date of the French Revolution, wars were affairs of monarchs who organised armies to slay each other, and play the wild beast, in the interests of dynasties, for the purpose of stealing territory, of asserting domination over the weak, for mere personal glory. There is still something of that spirit in the world, and yet democracy has travelled far in the last hundred years, so far as to have quite changed the motive forces behind present-day enormous armaments and excessive burdens upon taxpayers. It is no longer the monarch who is supreme war-maker, but the corporate land-grabber or mine-stealer, the hungry contractor, the iron-master, the engineer, the designer of new ships of war, the inventor of new murder machines, the esurient, ever-restless multitude of those who profit much by getting nations into debt, through wanton wars and "freak" peace outlays. It is in the interests of these classes that our huge peace expenditure on warlike preparations has been initiated and continues to be maintained. In reason, in the attitude of democracy towards democracy throughout Europe and America, there is no ground for the creation or maintenance of these tremendous murdering agencies. We, as a people, have no quarrel with, or desire to ravage the peaceful inhabitants and territories of the German Empire, not the slightest intention to repeat our mediæval invasions of France, or to steal anything from Spain or Italy. Africa has been apportioned until there is little left there to quarrel about. There is no substantial reason at all, as between the peoples of the various countries for keeping up these enormous establishments and formidable stocks of implements for human slaughter; but a fashion has grown to prevail, diligently cultivated by the aforesaid contractors, usurers, masters of industry, intriguers, designers, people of all sorts interested in making money through vending their wares and inventions to the various governments, and by these Europe, since the close of the Franco-Prussian war, has been led on to over-spend profitlessly until ruin literally stares the various nations in the face. Germany is eagerly adding to her ships, her poverty notwithstanding. In the French Chamber a clamour has arisen that if the Government does not lay down more ironclads the German navy will outstrip the French, and the end of the world be at hand. It is all utter madness; we are not back in the days of Rollo the Norman, or Barbarossa, nor even in those of Napoleon Bonaparte, and every year, as the inhabitants of Germany, France, and England grow to know each other better, to understand each other's interests better, there is less and less necessity for the maintenance of these formidable peace armaments, sources of ruinous expense, and therefore of deadly peril to established order, and the internal concord of nations thus afflicted. Why, then, cannot our new Government have the courage to throw itself upon the ardent and earnest democratic representatives by whom it has been placed in a position of unrivalled strength, and get them to assist it in inaugurating a healthier and better policy whereby many millions of money might soon be released for the benefit of social reform, for the lightening of the now hopeless miseries of the poor, for the regeneration of the land? We asked for a £10,000,000 reduction; it might soon be three times ten with good will and resolution.

Just think of it. In the eleven years ended March 31 next this country will have spent upwards of £92,500,000 on the construction of new ships of war alone. Add in the "new construction" estimate for the coming year, and the outlay in twelve years will have exceeded £102,000,000. What have we to show for this? How many of the ships, between 120 and 130 all told, of which our navy now consists, are effi-

cient? What is the condition of the ships built in the earlier years of this period? What are they worth, whether as fighting engines or as scrap iron? A committee of the House of Commons might have elicited some information on a point like this. Instead of that the House goes on absolutely in the dark, without any means of testing whether the designs of the ships in course of building are good or bad, whether the system of arming them is excellent or the reverse, whether we can man them or not. They only know the gross sums to be paid out, to be voted at the average speed of a million a minute, and have even no means of judging whether the terrific and expanding outlay upon huge battleships is or is not a complete mistake. Are the ships built ten years ago obsolete, and, if so, what is to be the position of the navy ten years hence, when on the present scale another £95,000,000 or so will have been laid out, when new docks will have been built in order to contain the monster and often unseaworthy vessels constructed in obedience to the schemes and agitation of naval designers, interested alarmists, shareholders in iron works and ship yards, experimenters in the manufacture of monstrous and unwieldy slaying machines, any one of which may be sent to the bottom by a tiny torpedo the first time it goes out to encounter the enemy? It is like a nightmare the whole lurid phantasmagoria, and yet the House of Commons stands perfectly impotent before the absolute masterfulness of the permanent officials. There will have to be a change and soon, else something other than radicalism will begin to prevail amongst the masses of the people, and we shall have not merely socialists, but anarchists, revolutionists of all types, beginning to question everything, to advocate the wiping out of the National Debt, confiscation of the railways, a general redistribution of property. Cannot you see danger ahead? "No," say the good zealous new members, "but we enjoyed that row over Mr. Buxton's Post Office committee the other night." "Best division we have yet had," chuckled the Opposition. Yes, and they should all have been busy on the naval estimates. "Never mind, we can vote them in chunks all the bigger for the delay."

But we must not end in a tone of mockery. There is a large number of genuine economists and advocates of retrenchment in the new House of Commons, and they are going to make themselves heard. Mr. Chiozza Money, for example, made an admirable beginning of the attack on Wednesday afternoon, and had it not been for that absurd arrangement whereby the business of the House is stopped in order that decadent members may leisurely dine, this debate might have developed into a formidable discussion upon the accept-things-as-they-come attitude of the political heads of the Army and Navy. Mr. Money's speech was in the right tone, admirably clear, and in excellent temper. He succeeded in exhibiting once again the utter disregard of any "standard" in the programme of shipbuilding which our masters the contractors and bureaucrats have laid down. It is no longer a "two-power" standard, it is not even a "three-power" standard; it is just the blind gratification of a senseless and unbridled passion for wasting the nation's substance. From this point of view it is no wonder that the Government is easily persuaded of the necessity to build more docks. We shall soon have no accommodation in any of our existing harbours or dockyards for the mass of gargantuan tin kettles which the Admiralty is constructing at the bidding of the designers and schemers, without regard to the wisdom of the designs or to the necessities of the country. After all, perhaps, there is some kind of an argument possible in favour of the construction of new naval stations with gigantic dock capacity, for the life of those armour-plated monsters is, perhaps, liberally stated at 10 years. By that time their hulls will have rusted largely away, their machinery will have become antiquated, their killing tools obsolete, and the only thing we can get back from them might be oxide of iron, extracted out of the dock waters. Lying in open roadsteads, this rust would flow away; kept in docks,

It might, perhaps, be utilised to supplement our rapidly disappearing strata of iron stone. More rational ground there is none that we can think of for the expenditure of money at Rosyth, for the outlays of millions upon millions in constructing imposingly gigantic vessels of war, whose utility has never been demonstrated. The Spanish Armada did not conquer, though its ships were the leviathans of their day.

While on this subject, we should like to ask one question—How much money does the Government intend to spend this year on those projected vast naval manœuvres? The papers have been talking about an insurance policy of £10,000,000 to be taken out to cover the mercantile shipping which may be involved in said manœuvres, or endangered thereby. What is the meaning of this waste? What are we going to learn by these manœuvres that could not be known by the ordinary employment of our ships of war in the various fleets which we have scattered about the oceans of the world? Will some of the reformers look into this matter, and prod up the officials about it? Surely there might be two or three millions saved in this direction alone. "Manœuvres," indeed; so much ramming and sinking, probably.

Our Foreign Trade in February.

It continues amazingly good, and we cannot help again commiserating the Brummagem tariffites on the, to them, distressing fact. Imports rose to the magnificent figure of £47,528,835, an increase of £4,683,898, or nearly 11 per cent., on February, 1905. Exports of British and Irish produce also went up by £3,512,060, or nearly 14 per cent., to £28,781,123. Also our reshipments of foreign and colonial merchandise increased by £376,137, or almost 5 per cent., to a total of £7,995,860. On the two months the increase in merchandise imported has been £10,393,268, in exports of British and Irish produce £9,297,094, and in reshipments of foreign and colonial merchandise £1,708,105. Adding in the movements of bullion and specie, the increases on the two sides of the account almost keep step with each other, being in imports £12,945,242 and in exports £13,117,958. Part of this remarkable expansion is doubtless to be attributed to the coming of the new German tariff, which has led business men in Germany to hurry up imports. Also values have been heightened to some extent on both sides of the account by enhanced prices. Making all allowances of this kind, however, the fact remains that the foreign trade of the United Kingdom is displaying an elasticity almost, if not altogether, unprecedented, and it is a well-spread elasticity, in which many foreign countries have shared, and, so far as imports are concerned, most of the expansion is due to raw or semi-raw materials utilised in our own manufactures. We have imported less wheat last month than in the corresponding month of either of the two preceding years, but rather more wheat flour, more barley and oats, and more maize. In imports of raw materials, however, the increased value is to some extent due to the higher price of raw cotton, the quantity of which imported has risen by little more than 11 per cent., while the value has gone up nearly 39 per cent. Wool has also been dearer, but the quantity imported was nearly 18 per cent. down, so that, on the whole, the aggregates of value have not been materially increased by the rise in prices natural to an expanding business.

What is more striking even than the growth of the imports is the remarkable development of our export trade, in spite of tariffs and every form of obstruction. We have sent nearly 72,000 more tons of pig iron abroad this year to the end of February than in the same months of 1905, and our principal customer has been the United States, followed by Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, and Germany. The Argentine Republic has been conspicuously our biggest customer for rails last month and this year, India coming next, a long way behind, and the colonies, in spite of 2,632 tons exported to New Zealand, lagging well to the rear. Also the Argentine Republic is our best cus-

tomer for galvanised iron, again followed by India and Australia, but British East India leads this year as a customer for tin plates, the United States demand having, doubtless temporarily, fallen off, and Germany for this article coming third, closely followed by the Netherlands. As now arranged, in another year or two the accounts relating to trade and navigation will

IMPORTS.

	February.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as com- pared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
General merchandise	£ 44,110,519	£ 42,844,937	£ 47,528,835	+ 4,683,898
Gold	2,631,550	4,457,109	5,585,838	+ 1,128,729
Silver	1,367,085	842,829	2,083,594	+ 1,240,765
	48,109,154	48,144,875	55,198,267	+ 7,053,392

EXPORTS.

	February.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as com- pared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
Brit. & Irish Produce	£ 23,894,813	£ 25,269,063	£ 28,781,123	+ 3,512,060
For. and Col. M'dse..	7,405,341	7,619,723	7,995,860	+ 376,137
Gold	3,231,320	1,698,367	1,573,377	— 124,990
Silver	1,455,530	1,159,501	2,278,534	+ 1,119,033
	35,986,794	35,746,654	40,628,894	+ 4,882,240

IMPORTS.

	Two months ended February.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as com- pared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
General merchandise.	£ 90,243,039	£ 90,611,397	£ 101,004,665	+ 10,393,268
Gold	5,604,019	7,480,119	7,977,615	+ 497,496
Silver	2,553,955	2,118,384	4,172,862	+ 2,054,478
	98,400,113	100,209,900	113,155,142	+ 12,945,242

EXPORTS.

	Two months ended February.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as com- pared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
Brit. & Irish Produce	£ 47,978,178	£ 50,258,840	£ 59,555,934	+ 9,297,094
For. and Col. M'dse..	13,117,341	13,733,610	15,441,715	+ 1,708,105
Gold	6,372,751	4,586,862	4,878,901	+ 292,039
Silver	2,993,844	2,267,028	4,087,748	+ 1,820,720
	70,462,114	70,846,340	83,964,298	+ 13,117,958

VISIBLE BALANCE OF TRADE.

	February.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as com- pared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
Imports	£ 48,109,154	£ 48,144,875	£ 55,198,267	+ 7,053,392
Exports	35,986,794	35,746,654	40,628,894	+ 4,882,240
Excess value of im- ports over exports	12,122,360	12,398,221	14,569,373	+ 2,171,152

	Two months ended February.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as com- pared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
Imports	£ 98,400,113	£ 100,209,900	£ 113,155,142	+ 12,945,242
Exports	70,462,114	70,846,340	83,964,298	+ 13,117,958
Excess value of im- ports over exports	27,937,999	29,363,560	29,190,844	— 172,716

The values of the imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

The values of the exports represent the cost and charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

be full of interesting material, illustrative of the developments, recoils, distribution, and general changes in our great iron and steel export trade, and even as they are, the figures illustrate how widespread that trade is, and how solidly it must be established on the Continent, in South America, and even in the United

States to keep up and grow as it does. Our exports of copper keep growing, too, in spite of the extraordinary manner in which the price of the metal has been manipulated against the consumer. It is interesting, however, to note that a new theory, which looks plausible, for this unpleasant enhancement of prices has been put forward this week in the "Commercial and Financial Supplement" of the *Times*. There the demands of China for copper to be coined is given as the source of an exceptional demand and of enhanced prices. Copper consumed in this fashion does not come back to the melting pot, as all industrial products of copper manufacture do, and, therefore, a special fillip was given to the demand for the metal in this way, which had an unusual effect on the price. We are not able to determine the weight of this theory, but it is interesting, and deserves to be noticed in passing.

We have even done better this year in cutlery and hardware, branches of our highly skilled manufactures which specially excite the alarm of the Protectionists, and here also foreign countries are, on the whole, our best customers, although Australia stands first in cutlery and British East India second. The United States, however, has this year been a good third, and takes also some of our hardware, though not much. Our best customers for hardware are the colonies, and it is satisfactory to note that the British South African demand is again growing, indicating that some measure of prosperity is beginning to return to that unhappy country. In locomotives our best customers are British India and countries in South America, no doubt because the orders are paid for by British capital invested in these regions. It is interesting also to note in passing that where indications are given Russia does not seem to be in a worse position as a buyer this year than last, notwithstanding the disturbed condition of the country. At any rate, that country has taken more machinery from us this year than last, and there is, on the other hand, no very remarkable decline in her exports to us of cereals. She has sent us decidedly less wheat and barley, as also rather smaller quantities of other cereals, but the decline at worst is hardly what we should have expected, in view of the miserable condition of the people and the disorganisation of society from one end of the Empire to the other. Perhaps the newspaper correspondents exaggerate, and, after all, the daily life of an Empire must go on, revolution or no revolution. The people must be fed and clothed if they are to live. Russian textile industries, for example, seem to be requiring more of our cotton yarn this year than last, and as our textiles are practically shut out of the Empire by the tariff, that is an interesting fact. Other countries in Europe, however, have been better customers for cotton piece goods than in the previous year, German demands having more than doubled both on the month and the two months; doubtless because of the coming enhancement of the tariff, but the Netherlands and Belgium, Portugal, Italy, and Greece have all been larger customers for this class of textile, and their trade has not been stimulated by fears of what a savage increase in the tariff may do. Altogether we have exported 1,065,325 yards of cotton textiles this year, against less than 991,000,000 in the first two months of 1905. Also our woollen and worsted manufactures have been in larger demand, and the demand is ever world-wide. Our shipbuilders have likewise been doing better, as is proved by the fact that the value of new ships exported from British yards to foreign countries has risen from £456,624 in February, 1905, to £820,265 in the month just closed. For the two months, moreover, the value has nearly doubled, rising from £584,200 last year to £1,018,503 this year. It is much the same for the minor, although often important, manufactured articles, the destination of which is not often classified. There has been an improvement in our export of writing paper and envelopes, in the foreign demand for our paper bags, and for other descriptions of what may be called paper manufactures. We have sent more earthenware and glass out of the country this year

than last, and more arms and ammunition, more saddlery and harness also, and our trade in cycles, motor-cars, motor cycles, and such like is also expanding. Thus our business is all round better, and indicates how impossible it is to set a limit upon the capacity of a world at peace to produce and interchange commodities.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE COMING BUDGET SURPLUS.

We are inclined to agree with the *Tribune* that, even on the crushing basis of our projected Imperial outlay for the coming year, Mr. Asquith may have a surplus of, perhaps, £3,250,000 to handle when he unfolds his Budget. All the estimates of expenditure have now been published, and foot up to a total of rather more than £141,721,000. This is thus split up: £30,780,000 for the National Debt and other consolidated fund charges, £31,869,500 for the Navy, £29,796,000 for the Army, £29,316,629 for the civil services, and £19,958,941 representing the outlay on the revenue departments. As mentioned elsewhere, the figures for the Army and Navy do not include the expenditure on "works," which, presumably, will have to be borrowed, as usual, raised by short annuities, and charged to that account mockingly called the Consolidated Fund; that is to say, upon the hard-won earnings of the people. Taking these estimates, so far as they relate to revenue charges alone, on the basis of existing taxation, and making some little allowance for natural growth, it seems not unreasonable to look for a gross revenue of £145,000,000 in the coming year. There will probably be some increase in the present year over Mr. Austen Chamberlain's estimate or the Treasury estimate of last April. He looked for an income of £144,000,000, and the figures published up to the end of last week indicate that this total may be somewhat exceeded, in spite of a dragging tendency in the receipts from income-tax and the stagnation of Excise. Up to the end of last week the total income was only £700,000 less than that of the previous year, whereas Mr. Austen Chamberlain estimated a decrease for the whole year of £916,000. Should the next four weeks' income keep up to the level of the past fortnight, then it will be reasonable enough to look for an income of £145,000,000 next year. On the basis of the estimated expenditure to be laid upon current revenue, this would give a prospective surplus of about £3,280,000, assuming taxation to remain where it is. That is a good deal to play with as a beginning, but it will go only a very short way in meeting the socialistic demands of the House of Commons or those "old age pensions" which Mr. John Burns has been impulsive enough to hold out some prospect of forthwith granting to the working classes. This prospective surplus, however, assuming it near the truth, is only part of the means put into the Chancellor's hands in order to, at least, make some show of granting the demands of the Socialists and in reducing taxation, for this year terminable annuities to the amount of £3,188,538 fall in. Add that to the estimated surplus as reasonably foreshadowed by the estimates of next year and the revenue figures of the current year to date, and Mr. Asquith should have altogether nearly £6,500,000 to play with. It will be interesting to see what he proposes to do with his chance. After our experience with the Army and Navy estimates, we are too much disillusioned to be disposed to indulge in any large measure of hope. Probably a new terminable annuity will be started to prop the Consol market, and without adequate consideration, or the floating debt will be in part thus funded, or all the money may be used to relieve the taxpayer.

THE PROGRESS OF SOCIALISM.

It is not the extreme form of socialism, perhaps, but it tends that way, and if the House of Commons is doing nothing to cut down expenditure, thanks to its

helplessness and fettered condition, it is, at any rate, paving the way for largely increased demands upon the payers of rates and taxes. On Tuesday last it unanimously agreed to put the expenses of Parliamentary elections upon the revenue within the constituencies, and we quite expect it soon to go a step further, and charge these rates with some measure of wage for the chosen representative. We should not object to either of these reforms, and think that payment of members by the constituencies ought to follow as a logical corollary to the payment of their election expenses. We shall never have much improvement in the intellectual quality of the House of Commons or in the capacity of the bulk of the members to devote their attention wholly to the national interests they are supposed to serve and govern until all members are paid, and it would be much better for them to be the direct servants of their constituencies than to draw salaries from the Consolidated Fund. That was the old English fashion when the burgesses returned to Parliament were paid by the constituencies, and we should be delighted to see it revived. It is somewhat different, however, with regard to that proposal to feed the hungry school children. For these children one cannot but have the deepest pity, but the question is where is this sort of thing going to end? How is the money to be provided, and demoralisation through the habit of dependence upon State mothering or grandmothering to be prevented from spreading? Is not a proposal of this kind an attempt to begin reforms at the wrong end? Surely the proper and durable basis for ensuring the well-being of the children of the poor is to be found in the reduction of public burdens, in the readjustment of local rates, so that the wealthier portion of the community may pay their fair share. Open the door to the workman by easing the wrestle for existence to him, so that he may be able to step up to a higher plane of social existence, so that it may be possible for him to cultivate self-respect in his home, to be surrounded by some of the amenities of life, and, as a rule, he will be not only willing but eager to see that his children are properly fed. It is much the same with old age pensions. Here, again, the necessity for charity—for it must be charity under any possible scheme with our present poor law standing in the way and loaded with corruption and waste as its administration is—appeals to soft hearts, and leads to the disregard of prudence. The true way to provide for the poor in old age is to give them the chance of earning enough to lay something by in the years when they are able to work. We distrust and dislike, for reasons often enough indicated by us, proposals of this kind. They are like poultices applied to a broken leg, and cannot possibly do anything durable to cure the evil that exists. Intensify it they may, but remove it they cannot. Why is no effort made to plumb the morass of extravagance and waste amid which our poor-law administration functions?

PLUNDERING IMPERIALISM.

The latest report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General upon the store accounts of the Army is melancholy reading. We need not go into details, because the Ministerial daily papers have picked out all the plums, especially in regard to the systematic robbery which accompanied that great outburst of Imperial "ruling race" prowess in South Africa. "Imperialism in action" there wears a gruesome appearance now, when we come to look at the way in which contractors and soldiers, or commissariat officials, united to swindle the nation in a most unblushing and wholesale style. There was nobody to look after them, and our War Office here was really as powerless as war demigod Brodrick, swathed in red tape, and incapable of asserting itself, even had it been inclined. Horses by the tens of thousands disappeared, nobody now knows where, but we paid like Russians. The usual business of deals in what we call "surplus supplies"—sales at ludicrous prices to contractors, and buyings back at full market value or more—went on, and it seems impossible to touch the financial side of this war at any

point without stumbling upon gross corruption. It is really useless to pretend any longer that the officials concerned were mere ignorant numskulls, incapable of knowing one side of a shilling from the other, and that the contractors were all gentlemen of honour. It was a "put up job" all through, very full-flavoured thieving, and those who were honest men did not touch the infamy, or were not allowed to know anything about it, or, in the case of high officials, were not sufficiently concerned for the public purse to care much what happened. The millions were poured forth. Why should not those help themselves who could? "In the examination of the Pretoria new dépôt supply account for the June quarter of 1903," the Auditor-General says, "it was noticed that about 2,000,000 lbs. of oats were written off, charged as sold to Messrs. Wilson and Worthington at 6s. per 100 lbs., and that these oats formed part of the quantity previously returned in April, 1903, by Messrs. Meyer, Limited, in respect of which that firm received a refund of £21,232." The Auditor-General inquired whether this damaged stock, as it was called, had been examined by a board of officers, and duly classed as such, but he does not appear to have as yet got any definite answer.

One of the most curious examples of the way things went on is furnished by the story of the "damaged" port wine. It seems that no less than 68,953 bottles of good wine were sold at 15s. a dozen, instead of 26s., under the allegation that the wine had deteriorated. There seems to have been no justification whatever for this grave allegation made against the liquor, and, anyway, the officials in South Africa had no liberty whatever to sell any such quantity. The War Office, it appears, approved of the sale of 12,000 bottles only at the lower price, being told, doubtless, that this wine was bad, which it probably was not. We poor taxpayers stood the racket either way, and there are many bejewelled upholders of the British Empire on show in the park and West End resorts. We found the diamonds, and were proud to do it, being such patriots when murder was afoot. Then there was the way in which the taxpayers here lost on the carriage of other damaged goods, or alleged damaged goods, sold by the Army commissariat department to its friends "sheep," and conveyed at its charges to whatever destination the buyer condescended to indicate. Often, after paying for the carriage of the goods, the transaction left the British taxpayer with a dead loss. The carriage we had to pay—that is to say, came to more than the amount received for the stuff sold. It would have been better to have made bonfires of it in honour of "Bobs" and the Kitchener. The concentration camps, too, seem to have given fine opportunities to steal, for altogether they cost the country in mere money £3,359,537, thus furnishing an admirable object-lesson in military economy and the art of civilisation by fire and sword. First destroy all the means of subsistence for an unarmed and defenceless people, make war on helpless women and children, burn down homesteads, destroy crops, cut down fruit trees, knock holes in the banks of irrigation dams, make bonfires of all furniture, loot all portables, and then gather the wretched dispossessed into pest camps, so that opportunities may be given to the Army contractor to fill his pockets while the people languish and die. Surely war is a lovely thing, and most economical when we look at it from this side, and it is no wonder that such large numbers of interested individuals are ever-eager to embark in it. Why the taxpayer should also be eager baffles us completely to comprehend. But it is so good for trade while it lasts. Will those who robbed us wholesale be punished—made to disgorge? No fear.

MUNICIPAL SINKING FUNDS.

A correspondent raises the question of the power enjoyed by municipalities in the matter of dealing with their own sinking funds. It is an interesting point, well worth discussion; but we fear there is no general law governing the action of municipal corporations in this matter. They each have their own Acts and special

powers, some of them scores of such Acts, and it is quite possible that some municipalities may be free to invest their sinking funds in Colonial stocks and others not. Those who have such power may be wise in exercising it, and we are entirely of opinion that there ought to be much wider liberties allowed in this respect than the State itself enjoys. We are doubtful, however, whether the knowledge that this liberty may exist in the case of municipalities would just now have the effect of enhancing to any appreciable extent the price of their stocks upon the market. Two main causes have contributed to the depression of these prices. One is the rapidity with which municipal debts have been added to during the last 25 years, to go no further back. Necessarily, the more of a commodity the market gets thrown upon it the more the price of that commodity tends to go down. The other governing influence has been the attacks made upon what is called the municipal trading, municipal socialism, and so on by organisations like the British Electric Traction Company and its allies amongst reactionaries of all descriptions in civic affairs. The effect of these attacks has been to create prejudice in the minds of the public against municipal securities. Doubt has been thrown upon the quality of such stocks as a class, and, naturally, the prices of all the group have suffered. Witness the effect of both rapid borrowing and joint-stock enmity on London County stocks. This does not alter the fact that the great bulk of them are amongst the very best and most stable investments the country possesses; nor does it in any way contravene the further statement that the great bulk of the hundreds of millions laid out by municipalities throughout the United Kingdom during the present generation has been laid out remuneratively, in a way which gives the stockholder an improving investment.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

This institution is playing the highly important and useful part of rescuing the Egyptian fellaheen from the clutches of the usurer. It is not a philanthropic business by any means, and turns its operations to very profitable account in the way of dividends, but no one will object to that when the excellent purpose served is taken into consideration. The Egyptian agriculturist is now able to obtain accommodation from a powerful institution of recognised standing at comparatively mild rates of interest, and we should judge from the language used in the report that no harsh measures are resorted to should interest payments or loan redemptions fall into arrear. This is entirely as it should be, and a study of the annual report and balance-sheet makes it plain that the bank can afford to be generous. It is closely allied to the National Bank of Egypt, the governor of that bank being the president of the Agricultural, but that is not necessarily a drawback. The London committee consists of "big" men as things go, Sir Vincent Caillard, Viscount Esher, Mr. Arnold Morley, and Mr. S. Peel constituting the board. During the year 1905 the nett profit reached £302,286, from which the service of the debentures absorbed £96,202, and the fixed contribution to the reserve £25,790, leaving £180,293. Next the dividend on the preferred shares requires £46,128 and 5 per cent. on £180,293 or £9,023 is payable to the National Bank of Egypt. A dividend of 5 per cent. is then payable on the ordinary shares, and of the balance remaining of £63,141 one-half is available for further dividend on the ordinary shares, and the remaining moiety for dividend on the deferred shares. So the ordinary get another 2½ per cent., making the total return 7½ per cent., and the deferred shares of £5 each receive a distribution of £15 15s. per share. Only the interest actually received during any financial year can be taken into account in making up the balance-sheet, which is a very proper way of doing things. Accordingly the amount brought into the account was £432,719, no notice being taken of the interest accrued, £89,628. One year with another this method works out quite satisfactorily for all con-

cerned, and the accounts are always straight and clean. At the end of 1905 the overdue loans for the year amounted to £48,400, and the overdue interest to £28,660. The greater part of these arrears was outstanding in the Behera province and the northern parts of Gharbieh and Dakahieh, and of the total, over £E30,000 has been collected up to February 8. Moreover the non-payments were quite natural, as owing to the lateness of the cotton crops in these parts the payment to the fellaheen against sale of their cotton was delayed, and the bank was late in collecting its money. The proportion was small, too, compared with the business transacted, the total sum put out in loans being £2,937,960 against £2,497,300 in 1904. Number of loans was 1106,373 in 1905, the total outstanding at the end of the year being 185,530, covering a sum of £5,900,000 as against 134,207 amounting to a little over £4,000,000 at the close of the year 1904. Of the 185,530 mentioned, 21,829 were "A" loans, consisting of sums of under £E10 to £E20, repayable within fifteen months, and 163,701 "B" loans, covering amounts from £E10 to £E500, and repayable by instalments over a series of years. Of the loans granted during the year 47,941 were "A" and 106,373 "B," the average of the small ones being £E8.4, and of the larger loans £E42.1. Capital was increased during 1905 by £625,000 in 3½ per cent. bonds and the whole of the balance of the preferred shares thus completing the issue of the £5,000,000 of capital authorised in 1904. Not only that, but resolutions were passed in May last to raise the share capital to £3,740,000 by the issue of 248,000 new ordinary shares of £5 each, and to increase the debenture capital by over £4,000,000 to £6,570,000. This is an enormous advance, but it was sanctioned by the Government, subject to the condition that from the beginning of the year succeeding that at the end of which the loans outstanding should have reached £E7,000,000, the maximum rate of interest charged to the fellaheen should be reduced to 8 per cent. for both old and new loans. And 8 per cent. seems a pretty good rate. What is the maximum now and whatever did the old moneylenders charge? The new ordinary shares were issued *pro rata* to the original shareholders at par in October last, and, it may be added, provided them with a nice fat bonus. They will rank equally with the old shares from January 1 of this year.

THE CONDITION OF THE POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.

Appended are the answers given by the new Postmaster-General to questions on this subject put to him by Dr. Macnamara. They are not very satisfactory, and we are sorry that here also it seems to be the rule, "new puppets, the old play." It is something, however, to have got the cost price of £60,715,000 nominal of Consols held by the Post Office Savings Bank department on December 31 last. This, it will be seen, was £102 16s. 5d. per cent., and the actual price obtained for the Consols sold on the Post Office Savings Bank account during the past year was only £89 13s. 7d. There is thus an apparent loss of £13 2s. 10d. per cent. upon £61,000,000 of Consols, or about £8,000,000; only a book loss, the glib official will tell us, but it is one that the taxpayer will none the less have to pledge his credit for when the account comes to be made up. Doubtless this is one reason why we are still denied a sight of the balance-sheet, which, until the effects of the devastating South African war made themselves felt, was always duly published in the Postmaster-General's report; but the new Government now falls into line with the old in this matter, and, sheltering itself behind the recommendations of an *ad hoc* select committee in 1902, denies Parliament and the nation the information necessary to enable them to see how the account really stands. This will not do, and it surprises us that some of the more earnest of the new men have not made sufficient noise about it to compel the officials to give way. They might at least tell us how much new stock the Government will be obliged to create to bridge this deficiency and make

the account secure. Also, we should like to know what the loss has been upon the terminable annuities held by and on behalf of the Post Office Savings Bank. Perhaps Dr. Macnamara will pursue the subject and ask some questions about that. We do not blame Mr. Buxton, he is only in matters of this kind the mere conduit for the permanent officials, but they must not be allowed to trifle with Parliament, as these answers to Dr. Macnamara indicate that they are inclined to do.

The total amount due to depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank on December 31, 1905, is estimated to have been £152,113,000. The exact figures cannot yet be given.

The amount of Consols sold from the Post Office Savings Bank fund during the year 1905 was £1,445,525, the average price being £89.13s. 7d. per cent.

The amount of Consols held on account of the fund on December 31, 1905, was £60,715,140, the cost price on balance of the stock averaging £102 16s. 5d. per cent. It will, of course, be understood that these Consols were bought for the most part in years when the stock bore a higher rate of interest, and stood at a higher price.

The preparation and publication of the balance-sheet, containing a valuation of the securities held on behalf of the Post Office Savings Bank was discontinued in accordance with the recommendations of the Select Committee of 1902, who considered such a return to be misleading, and I am not aware of any sufficient reason for reversing that decision.

The deficiency in the income account of the Savings Bank for the year ended December 31, 1905, is estimated at £92,032.

The system of withdrawals "on demand" only came into force on July 3, 1905. The total amount withdrawn under this system between that date and the end of the year was £1,279,163, and it has been found to be a great convenience to the small depositors.

SOUTH KALGURLI GOLD MINES AND WHITE LABOUR.

This West Australian company was formed in 1895 and for over ten years it has been struggling to pay a dividend. For the shareholders it has been a long period of anxiety, and matters have proceeded anything but smoothly with the mine management. In 1904 Messrs. Bewick, Moreing, and Co. were appointed managers, but Mr. Ralph Nichols remained in charge of the property. They could not work harmoniously together, however, so Mr. Nichols left. It must be admitted that the company has done better in the past twelve months than before, and for the first time in its unhappy career the prospects of the mine begin to look hopeful. The report and accounts cover the financial year to the end of September last, but as the new treatment plant did not commence operations until the preceding June there were practically only four months in which to earn a revenue from gold winning. In this time, however, 20,350 short tons of ore were treated for a yield of 9,573 ozs. of fine gold and 1,069 ozs. of fine silver, of the value of £40,555. Sundry receipts at the mine, dividends, interest, etc., brought the total revenue to £41,896. Expenses at the mine, including general expenses, absorbed £26,922; whilst the London expenditure took £2,008, so the nett profit was £12,966. A sum of £6,387 was brought from the previous accounts, and after allowing for some small adjusting entries and writing off trifling depreciation on stores account, the nett credit left was £19,360, which the directors have written off against the cost of development work. Having regard to the large sums written off plant, machinery and buildings in 1903 and 1904, and to the fact that the plant was worked for four months only, the directors do not consider that further depreciation was needed. It is briefly announced that the nett revenue earned in the current financial year is very satisfactory, so the directors last week declared an interim dividend of 2s. per share, thus inaugurating the dividend era. There is no fault to find with the financial position, which is commendably strong. According to the report of the general managers, the estimated reserves of ore blocked out on September 30, after treating 20,350 tons, amounted to 123,200 short tons, of an average value of 9.3 dwts. per ton, compared with 102,049 tons and 10.6 dwts. at October 31, 1904; whilst the conviction is expressed that in actual working a much larger tonnage than the above will be extracted from the present workings. It is worth noting that the working expenses, excluding development, are

under 20s. per ton, which compares most favourably with expenses on the Rand, where the mines are worked with cheap (sic) coolie labour. From ore yielding less than 10 dwts. per ton the mine is earning a profit exceeding £6,000 a month over all colonial expenses, except taxes. This should make it possible, say the managers, profitably to treat ore yielding 6 dwts. per ton. And this with white labour only! If such profits can be earned in Australia they can be earned much more easily, with white and black labour, on the Rand, for the average quality of the ore on the Rand is higher and the difficulties of working are less.

AUSTRALIAN PASTORAL COMPANY.

This wretched enterprise managed to do a little better during the year ended June 30, 1905, and actually produces a profit of £12,741. It goes in reduction of the debit to profit and loss, bringing it down to £96,583. The revenue for the twelve months, including value of the wool unsold, etc., after allowing for depreciation on stud flock, was £72,293, from which management alone required £15,479, a pretty extravagant sum. Then shearing, scouring, and carriage of wool cost £9,148, rental of properties, rates and taxes £10,413, improvements and plant maintenance £4,317, interest £16,434, and rabbit prevention £3,761 leaving £12,741 as the so-called profit. Both the gross and nett revenues are, however, altogether illusory, because the company is not in a real sense making any profits at all. Quite apart from the £96,000 or so standing to the debit of profit and loss account, there must be immense depreciation in the capital value of the pastoral properties. Those originally acquired and since purchased continue to be held up at cost, but the long succession of waterless years must have involved frightful losses. How much, the directors do not seem in the least anxious to find out, but go serenely on their way pocketing fees and leaving the company to work out its own salvation. Would it not be better to face a disagreeable business at once and make a genuine effort to discover the wastage that has really occurred with a view to putting the company on some kind of solid foundation? Better to take steps for liquidation than to continue as at present because the company is serving no useful purpose. The directors prattle about the season being a good one, and, although a dry period was experienced on a portion of the properties in November and December last, recent reports of rains give promise of a favourable season for the current year. But what is the use of that when £1,100,000 of capital gets no return, and has no prospect of receiving one within a period that the mind cares to contemplate? At least not legitimately. To keep the thing going as at present is a farce, and were we shareholders we should take steps to bring the long drawn out misery to an end. In the balance-sheet the various properties, estates, etc., including £126,190 spent on improvements, are put down at £1,473,633; but various deductions aggregating £246,061 must be made from this total. The principal items are stock lost in the drought and not replaced £158,194, and stock sold £41,035, the proceeds being deposited with mortgagees pending replacement, the latter item finding another place in the balance-sheet as a separate entry. Some good class investments are valued at £56,302, part of which have been given out as security for loans, wool unsold at date of the accounts and since realised is worth £6,306, sundry debtors owe £3,012, and cash is £1,367. Including short loans of £17,000, the floating liabilities come to £35,440, and the loans secured by mortgage to £296,827.

TRANSVAAL CHAMBER OF MINES.

The Transvaal Chamber of Mines has not yet issued its usual large red volume in the shape of its report for the past year, but the latest mail from South Africa brings us summaries of its contents. The major portion of it apparently deals with the eternal question of the labour supply, particularly the great difficulty of

getting blacks. We are assured, for instance, that the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association has exerted itself tremendously to induce natives to work, with the result that it managed to increase the supply. Nevertheless, the Chamber is very pessimistic, for it fears that this increase will not be permanent, as it is alleged to be due to a decline in the demand for such labour from other parts of South Africa. As such a falling off in the demand must be considered temporary the Chamber argues that the supply for the mines must eventually diminish. There may be something in the argument, and there may be very little; but as there is plenty of white labour about there is no need for whining. As we show elsewhere, mines can be worked very cheaply in Western Australia with white labour, and there is no reason why this should not be possible on the Rand. Thus the Chamber chooses to meet trouble half-way, and the magnates prefer to sit in their comfortable arm-chairs and sigh rather than bestir themselves to earn profits with labour other than black or yellow. Besides, if they were to offer the natives a decent wage they would not only attract larger numbers, but would save much of the cost now incurred in bringing over Chinese. Why do they not try this? What could they possibly lose by it? During the year the Association spent £273,000 in getting labour from the various territories, but this is trifling in comparison with the money spent on Chinkees, and the £273,000 would go a long way towards the cost of employing whites. And how much of this money was spent on the native, and how much in luxuries and perquisites for the recruiters? It is pointed out, too, that since 1901 to the end of 1905 the Association has got rid of £1,000,000 sterling, yet all this can be squandered without any qualms and in defiance of the plea that the mines are too poor to employ Englishmen. Had the Association gone to the expense of printing and distributing a proclamation that the wage of the black would be double what it has been there would have been a considerable saving in the dismissal of unnecessary officials, and this money would have come back to the shareholders in other ways. Machinery would have been set going that is now rusting and we probably would not have witnessed a disastrous slump in the market. As regards Chinese, during the year fourteen emigrant ships arrived at Durban with 27,064 indentured labourers. On the journey 58 died; 15 deserted at ports of call; and 55 were undesirables. At the end of 1904 there were 20,918 coolies in the employ of sixteen mining companies, increased to 47,217 employed by thirty-five companies at the end of December last. The number repatriated last year was 2,142, of which 1,414 were declared of unsound mind or permanently incapacitated for work by physical infirmity or disease. As for the conduct of the Chinese the Association, despite all the evidence of murders and other atrocious crimes, characterises many of the statements made as exaggerated. But is it to be expected that the magnates would allow their pets to be condemned without making some defence? Such defence must be accepted for what it is worth; part of the price paid to exclude whites with their political ideals and trade unions.

FREDERICK SAGE AND CO. (1905).

In its present form this company first saw the light in March, 1905, the well-known shopfitting business being taken over as from the previous September. The assets acquired were valued at £255,000, including £107,164 for goodwill, and the vendors took £177,502 in cash and £77,498 in shares, so that they at least are all serene. Total capital is £300,000 nominal, and the public was invited to apply for £200,000 in equal amounts of ordinary and preference shares. They gulped the bait, too, as was natural, having regard to the profit statement, as the directors say that, all the share capital offered for subscription having been taken up, the transfer of the business was completed on June 8, 1905, in accordance with the purchase agreement. In the prospectus profits were given

for periods of two years, covering six in all, as stocks had only been taken every other year, not altogether a satisfactory method. There is, however, no doubt about the fact that the average nett income per annum was brought out at £23,580. Well in the year to September 30 the nett revenue was £46, and shareholders will be wondering where the odd £25,534 has vanished to. The directorial explanation is painfully thin. They say "The year has proved to be a period of unexampled depression and difficulty, causing a sudden and unexpected drop in the trading and prices which has rendered realisation of profits impossible." To put things quite plainly, this is all rubbish. It is impossible to believe that business can have collapsed in this fashion in a single year, and we have one or two questions to ask. To begin with, let us remark that the profit on trading, after charging materials, wages, salaries, &c., was £23,142, while transfer fees gave £12 and dividend on investment £5, making £23,159 in all. From that there are first deducted total charges of £17,719, and we may single out such items as rents, rates, taxes and insurance £8,078, advertising £2,945, maintenance of buildings, plant and machinery £2,631, depreciation of plant and machinery £1,790 and bad debts £524. Now we want to know if all similar charges were deducted before the prospectus profits were arrived at. But that is not all. There is a further and, we should think, unparalleled charge for a company of the size, of £4,441 for directors' fees and management. Fancy £4,441 for earning £46. Was this charge always so great, and also deducted before profits were brought out? We have rarely come across such a remarkable vanishing trick, and do not wonder that there is talk of an investigation committee. The meeting of the company was only held yesterday, and we shall have more to say on the subject next week. The preference dividend, by the way, has been paid up to September 30, absorbing £3,385, and another £1,006 went in interest on purchase money paid to vendors, so that deducting the £46 profit the first year's operations wind up with a deficiency of £4,345. Decidedly inquiry is called for. Needless to say the position of affairs did not prevent the company from spending capital. The amount was not heavy, only about £2,150, but it was hardly the time to lay out anything at all. After deducting moderate sums for depreciation, the leaseholds, machinery, plant and fittings in London are valued at £32,955 and the Cape Town premises, &c., at £13,381. Stock-in-trade is worth a further sum of £76,704, according to the balance-sheet, but sundry creditors come to £69,419 against debtors £51,959, and cash is not over startling at £11,475. Preliminary expenses were remarkably heavy at £10,327, and will probably disfigure the balance-sheet for some time. A very unpleasant position looked at anyhow, and the only crumb of comfort is that since the end of the financial year "the volume of trade has been well maintained, and shows signs of improvement." But shareholders will hardly be satisfied with that.

VICKERS, SOXS AND MAXIM.

We cannot refrain from a feeling of regret that the directors of this powerful enterprise are contemplating a departure from what must be considered the company's legitimate business. When we dealt with the report and accounts twelve months ago it was our pleasant duty to accord the board unstinted praise for their handling of the company's finances, and so far as the matters then touched upon are concerned there is nothing to retract. On the contrary in fact, for the directors propose to appropriate another large sum to the reduction of goodwill and patent rights, and this sensible and business-like action renders more difficult of comprehension the venture into unknown and, we fear, dangerous realms. The company's "maxim" should be: "Leave Well Alone." However, the board thinks otherwise and announces to the shareholders that the company has occasionally had business

submitted for consideration which, if carried through, would have necessitated its giving a financial guarantee for the payment of directors, or interest on shares, stocks, or other securities in other companies. Up to the present the directors have been unable to carry these matters further owing to want of the necessary powers, but they now submit an alteration in the articles of association which will definitely confer authority to deal with business of this kind as it arises. It is assumed, of course, that the change will be in the interests of all concerned, and we shall be delighted if benefits accrue, but we know the risks involved in ventures like this, and contemplate the new order of things with much misgiving. Have the directors never heard of the troubles which have lately beset the once flourishing firm of Willans and Robinson, partly owing to enterprises of a similar nature. That company took securities in other concerns in payment for work done, and soon discovered that the business involved most distressing losses. In a sense the Vickers departure is even more risky, because, for all we know to the contrary, the company may have to find interest on non-productive securities *ad infinitum*. Shareholders will be glad of the further details which the chairman will doubtless supply at next Wednesday's meeting. Another proposal is that the directors should be given authority to issue share warrants, and there is really nothing to be said against this, although the long list of regulations necessary is rather significant. People who deal in bearer warrants know the risks to be run, and if they prefer convenience to safety that is their affair.

To come now to the year's operations, we must first of all add to the torment of the tariff reformers. Business was magnificent during the twelve months, and while all the large branches have contributed, the directors are specially pleased to note that the improvement is largely due to the increase in business done with foreign countries, both in goods manufactured at home and in those made to the company's systems abroad. Not only that, but, encouraged by substantial orders for guns and mountings from Italian shipbuilders, the directors have entered into a combination with three of the largest manufacturing firms in Italy, the Terni Steel Works, the Shipbuilding Yards of Orlando of Leghorn, and Odero, in Genoa, to erect gun works at

forward £215,146. A very fine display, without a doubt, heightened by the fact that it was not in any way the product of fresh capital outlay, as the nett additions for the year were only £12,616, bringing the value of the land, buildings, machinery, tools, plant, &c., to £3,201,014.

Goodwill and patent rights have now been reduced to £500,000, but interests in subsidiary companies are somewhat larger at £2,112,363. We wonder what they return. Stocks, £1,152,712, are up by £251,440, but sundry debtors owe £126,204 less at £1,077,620, marketable securities are down by £40,810 to £30,741, and cash and bills figure at £659,298 against £719,602. A small increase has taken place in the ordinary share capital, raising it to £3,700,000, but the debenture debt is £50,000 smaller at £2,207,494. This decline takes place in the second debenture stock, bringing it down to £950,000, and if the redemption was effected from profits, as we fancy was promised when the issue was made, the revenue for the past year is that much greater. Sundry creditors and bills payable are smaller by £126,934 at £705,483, and the credit to profit and loss £620,771 completes the balance-sheet total of £8,733,748. Prospects for the current year are considered satisfactory, and shareholders will have an interim dividend of 5 per cent. on August 1.

THE CENSUS OF EMPIRE.

An area of 11,908,378 square miles or about one-fifth of the entire habitable earth; a population of 398,401,704 human beings, of whom 208,342,276 are Hindus, 62,884,811 Mahomedans, 57,500,000 Christians, 11,643,432 Buddhists, 8,910,826 Animites and Pagans, 2,195,444 Sikhs and 1,334,148 Jains; and of all this mass of people only about 41,500,000 at the census of 1901 inhabited the United Kingdom. The expansion of empire since 1861 has been about 40 per cent. in area and nearly 88 per cent. in population, for in 1861 the total population was given at no more than 259,000,000. Surely these statistics indicate an appalling growth in our responsibilities, and they do not nearly cover them all, for Egypt is not classed as part of our Empire nor yet the recent conquests of Egypt under our rule. Yet these are in all practical consequences as much a portion of the Empire as the East Indian Peninsula. The responsibilities are indeed overwhelming, and raise not so much the question, how long will this formidable aggregation of territories and races hold together, as, how long will the United Kingdom be able to bear the strain of maintaining the imperial supremacy over such unthinkable aggregates of humanity? No wonder our own budgets swell out almost past bearing, or that an increasing multitude of our people cry out for some diminution of their load. This thought leads us to ask whether a return could not be obtained of the gross and nett revenues collected in the whole of this Empire, together with a summary of the uses to which they are put. How much, for instance, goes in the upkeep of local instruments of imperial supremacy, public tranquility and the repression of rebellion or disorder. We are ruefully contemplating the magnitude of our peace budget for warlike purposes, but what is the amount of that budget for the entire Empire? Including police and gendarmerie, is half the revenue of all British possessions unendowed with any measure of self-government absorbed by the armed forces therein? Another question worthy of elucidation is the relation between the far-scattered component parts of this unwieldy Empire and the magnitude, condition, distribution and quality of our fleet. But the most suggestive inquiry of all, perhaps, is one designed to elucidate the causes which have retarded the peopling of self-governing territories. Why are Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa so poorly furnished with white inhabitants? Is not the weakness of these countries in this respect a source of danger, preventing as it does the furnishing by these free dependencies of any effective help to us in the peace upkeep of the

	1902. Dr.	1903. Dr.	1904. Dr.	1905. Dr.
Ordinary shares	£ 3,689,500	£ 3,689,500	£ 3,689,500	£ 3,700,000
Preference shares and stock	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Debenture stock	1,253,992	2,257,710	2,257,676	2,207,494
Creditors and bills payable	795,227	508,815	832,417	705,483
Reserve fund	665,311	765,311	—	—
Balance of profit and loss	382,631	353,074	503,412	620,771
	8,286,661	9,074,409	8,783,005	8,733,748
	Cr.	Cr.	Cr.	Cr.
Land, buildings, &c.....	£ 4,683,300	£ 4,738,937	£ 3,188,398	£ 3,201,014
Goodwill and patent rights	—	—	637,457	500,000
Interests in subsidiary companies ..	1,541,041	1,830,321	2,060,901	2,112,363
Stocks	1,327,101	981,784	901,272	1,152,712
Sundry debtors	489,085	746,241	1,203,824	1,077,620
Marketable securities	54,559	47,168	74,551	30,741
Cash and bills	191,575	729,958	719,602	659,298
	8,286,661	9,074,409	8,783,005	8,733,748

Spezia, in that country. Vickers's proportion of the profits will be brought to England to be distributed and spent. Last July the King and Queen visited the Sheffield works, and both Barrow and Sheffield were favoured with a visit by Prince and Princess Arisugawa of Japan, the Princess at Barrow performing the ceremony of launching the Japanese warship *Katori*. All this is very pleasing, especially as it coincides with an increase in nett profits of over £100,000 to £787,778. This came on top of an improvement in 1904 of over £130,000, and there is no doubt of the flourishing character of trade. Out of this profit the directors write off £137,457 from goodwill and patent rights, leaving £650,321, which is increased to £841,396 by the sum of £191,074 brought in. So, after providing the preference dividends, the directors increase the ordinary distribution by 2½ per cent. to 15, and carry

naval and military organisations demanded by that portion of the Empire held down by the strong arm of the central power? Four hundred millions of people in the grip of little more than forty millions—that does not seem a durable arrangement.

LONDON'S LATEST TUBE.

To-day the jaded Londoner has one more tube railway placed at his disposal, up-to-date, well lighted, safe; in fact, endowed with everything that can conduce to easy, speedy and comfortable travel along a route that has hitherto been provided with only the most primitive means of transit. This is the Baker Street and Waterloo Railway, and although it may not be quite true that when the other tubes which the Underground Electric Railways of London are constructing are finished London will have the finest system of underground railways in the world, there is no doubt at all that we are making good progress in the solution of the rapid transit problem. As its name implies, the railway was originally designed to run from Baker Street to Waterloo, and at one time it seemed very improbable that even this project would be carried out owing to financial vicissitudes encountered in the early stages of the company's career. But what the British capitalist was disinclined to do the Yankees seemed only too willing to perform, and when the line was included in the network which Mr. Yerkes and his party set themselves to construct for London a change for the better was quickly seen. The necessary capital to carry on the work which had almost been left derelict when the late Whitaker Wright foundered was soon forthcoming, and from to-day a vast host of travellers will reap the benefit. With the money came brains, and there is no question that the chances of success have been greatly enhanced by the extension proposed, at the one end to the Elephant and Castle and at the other to Paddington. For the present the line will be open from Kennington Road to Baker Street, running through Waterloo, Thames Embankment, Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus, Oxford Circus and Regent's Park. The extension to the Elephant is expected to be finished about August, and the Paddington extension will, it is hoped, be opened as far as Edgware Road at the end of the current year. Facilities for the interchange of passenger traffic with other railways will be provided by the construction of subways or foot-bridges connecting with the following railway systems:—The City and South London at the Elephant and Castle, the London and South-Western, Waterloo and City and South-Eastern and Chatham at Waterloo, the Metropolitan District at Charing Cross, the Great Northern, Piccadilly and Brompton at Piccadilly Circus, the Central London at Oxford Circus, the Metropolitan at Baker Street, the Great Central at Lisson Grove and the Great Western at Paddington. The termini at Charing Cross of the South-Eastern and Chatham Company and the Charing Cross, Euston and Hampstead Railways will be within half a minute's walk of Trafalgar Square Station. Thus the line touches about a dozen points of great passenger concentration, and it is hardly too much to say that the advantages which it will afford for getting quickly and cheaply from one point to another are without a parallel. As to the line itself, from a physical standpoint it need only be said that there is no finality about the construction of tube railways. Since the little City and South London Railway was built we have made vast strides in the matter of tube railway construction, and the Baker Street and Waterloo is, so far, the last work. The signalling arrangements are a masterpiece of ingenuity, and every useful innovation that science and engineering can suggest has been brought into play. It may be said that a collision on the line is absolutely impossible, and the risk of fire is reduced to a minimum. The station platforms are constructed of concrete and iron, and the permanent way sleepers of jarrah, an Australian wood which is non-combustible, while the rolling-stock is built almost entirely of steel, the small quantity of wood used being rendered non-inflammable. When

privately inspecting the line on Wednesday last we were much struck with the smooth, easy running of the trains, and travellers will be pleased to learn that the exhaust fans completely change the air in the tunnels at least once an hour. A novelty lies in the fact that the tiles of the lower station walls are coloured and arranged in various designs, each station being different, so that regular passengers should easily be able to distinguish their destination. From every standpoint we hope the enterprise will be successful, and those responsible went far to make it so when they captured Sir George Gibb from the North-Eastern Company, and made him deputy chairman of the "Underground Electrics."

SIR HOWARD VINCENT'S INSINUATIONS.

We see that Sir Howard Vincent intends to ask the Under-Secretary for the Colonies on Tuesday the following question:—

To ask the Under-Secretary for the Colonies if the records of the Colonial Office bear out the calculation that there are 200,000 British and 50,000 foreign shareholders in the mines of the Transvaal; and if the attention of the Earl of Elgin has been called to the fact that the property of these investors, many being persons of small means, has suffered a depreciation of upwards of £15,000,000 since the announcement of the policy of the Government in South Africa.

There are some curious mistakes here, natural enough, perhaps, to a man like Sir Howard Vincent, but not creditable to his knowledge of current history. Where he gets his 200,000 British and 50,000 foreign shareholders we do not know, any more than we know whether they are of "small means" or not—though that is probably true, they have been robbed so; but we should feel deeply obliged to him if he could direct us to the source of his information. He is surely aware of the fact that the great bulk of South African mining companies are not organised under British laws at all, but under the laws of the extinguished South African Republic. Their share lists are therefore kept at Pretoria or in Johannesburg, if adequately kept in any shape, and we can get no access to them here. How, then, does he know the numbers? Has he inspected the registers in the Transvaal? Another question: Sir Howard implies that the depreciation has been upwards of £15,000,000 since the announcement of the policy of the Government in South Africa. That is a purely gratuitous assumption, and the questioner ignores the fact that the fall in Kaffir shares does not date from the advent of the new Government or the announcement of its policy; it dates from the end of the South African war or from very near that time. For upwards of two years Kaffir shares have been dwindling in price simply because they were inflated by the most unscrupulous means and the most perfect dishonesty before that time, and they are still inflated. In reality the Chinese labour question has nothing whatever to do with the fall of the market. That fall is the fruit of corrupt finance, incompetent management, barefaced swindling. We hope Mr. Winston Churchill will give this gentleman of assumptions a little dressing-down. While upon this point, we should like to ask the Government whether it would not be conducive to the best interests of the unfortunate shareholders in South African mines were the share registers now kept in South Africa, and concealed, therefore, from public view, or from the shareholders themselves, ordered to be transferred to London? There is no reason at all why this should not be done, and if it is not done we should suggest that a law might be passed forbidding the Stock Exchange after a certain proximate date to quote or to authorise dealings in the securities of any joint-stock enterprise whose share register is not kept at Somerset House or within the United Kingdom.

The *World's Work and Play* for February contains more about work than play, the majority of the articles dealing with work-a-day subjects. "The House of Commons," written by the editor, and profusely illustrated by photographs; "How to Start Bee-Keeping," by "Home Counties"; and "On the Frontier of Tibet," by Ian Malcolm, are perhaps the most interesting.

Passing Events.

For 1905, Reuter says, the receipts of the Egyptian Government amounted to £14,813,346. After meeting the ordinary expenditure of £11,668,416 and a special expenditure of £456,400, there is a surplus of £2,688,524. The general reserve account, it is added, shows that up to the end of December receipts had been £17,905,855, expenditure £5,818,178, and open credits £2,467,639, so that the surplus here was £9,620,038. In the course of the year the public debt was reduced by £4,791,460, of which, however, £4,444,340 was provided by the reimbursement of the Daira Sanieh debt. The country is obviously in a most prosperous condition at present.

Quite a glowing account of the position of this Australian colony has been given by Mr. Joseph Carruthers, its Prime Minister. He looks for a surplus on the state revenue at the end of June next amounting to £900,000. Revenue in the last eight months had increased by £667,000, while the expenditure had decreased £74,000, and altogether the eight months showed a net gain of £750,000. This, too, has been obtained without starving any of the public services, all which is excellent news, and as fine rains have fallen in the colony recently it is not unreasonable to expect a continuance of this prosperity which should enable the Government to do something more than merely comply with the statutory provisions for a reduction in the public debt. What does the Premier mean by saying that 200,000 persons engaged in primary industries last year produced £175 per head? Was that the value of their earnings or of the product of their industry when sold, and what are "primary industries"? Is the work of the agricultural labourer to be therein included, and if so, must not the rainfall get some of the credit of this earning capacity?

What is the object sought to be attained by the publication of that return showing the indebtedness of local authorities in the United Kingdom? It is interesting in a way, but really instructs us very little. We learn, for example, that the debt of the United Kingdom has risen from about £193,000,000 in 1883-4 to £469,231,000 in 1903-4, being a total increase of about £296,000,000 in twenty years. It looks a very formidable expansion indeed, but why does the return fail to embrace particulars as to what has been done with the money? All depends upon the directions in which this borrowed money has been spent. We know what we have got for our National Debt, and what a perfectly unmitigated dead weight upon the country it is, but the local debts stand on another footing altogether, and we have more than wasted territories, ruined communities, more even than great additions to the area of the empire which yield us nothing and cost us much, to set against the expenditure of so much borrowed money within the kingdom. We are not justifying this expenditure. Some sensible proportion of it is probably mere extravagance, a craving after perfection even in a workhouse infirmary such as means money unwisely spent. Even so there is some return for the money, and it seems a mistake to put out a bald statement of this kind without some clear explanation, because the enemies of municipal progress, as also of everything relating to the control of industries, communistic in their nature, will be able to make effective use of these figures in beguiling the ignorant or the prejudiced.

From a correspondent we have a question about the Alliance Assurance Company, which may as well be frankly and openly answered, as the answer may be useful to many people. What he asks is whether the offer of shares in exchange for his interest in the Westminster Fire Office should be accepted, or whether it would be better to take cash for the shares, reckoned at the price of £12 10s. for each £1 fully-paid share. If we had the choice to make we should unhesitatingly take the shares, for the Alliance Company is unquestionably at the present time one of the strongest insurance corporations in the world, and likewise one of the most conservatively managed. Its acquisitions of other companies have undoubtedly strengthened its position,

and future years ought to see it able to pay higher dividends than it now distributes.

Last week the total of the hungry on relief works in India rose to 352,000, of whom 159,000 were in the United Provinces, 99,000 in Ajmer and Rajputana, and 56,000 in Central India. The total in Bombay Province has now risen to 28,000, and the numbers will be greater still in the near future. "Rain has fallen throughout the United Provinces," the Viceroy telegraphed on March 5, "and crops are in most districts doing well, but there is no substantial improvement in the affected tracts where fodder is scarce." It is something, however, to hear that rain has fallen not only in the United Provinces, but in the Punjab, and, partially at least, in Central India. In Bombay, however, there has been no rain, and, therefore, no appreciable change in the condition of standing crops. Distress is accordingly increasing there. The Indian people have no stores nowadays against disasters of this kind, either in money or in grain; they are stripped every year until millions of them rarely or ever enjoy a full meal, but the Indian Army flourishes, and Lord Kitchener has signified that it is his gracious pleasure to accept the compromise offered by Mr. Morley in the dispute between himself and the late Viceroy. So all is well with the Empire.

We do not like the telegrams allowed to come through from Natal. If things are going so well there, why is it necessary to send out so many fighting men and to round up the natives, or fire off guns to get the tax paid. Is it likely either that harmony between blacks and whites will be promoted by that sentence of flogging and six months' imprisonment passed on the presumed ringleader of the opponents to the poll tax in Gobizembe tribe? If the men of that tribe still standing out do not come in and pay the tax, will their country be ravaged by the forces sent out, and why was it necessary for Mr. Smythe, the Premier, to declare that "he would uphold the magistrates, even to bloodshed," or appeal for support "when a clean job might be made of the disaffection"? This does not seem the language of a man at ease or satisfied with the loyalty of the blacks. It rather seems to us that a policy of this description is preparing the way for a great black rebellion, and Colonel Leuchars is going about uttering threats of severe measures if the tribes do not bring in their cattle, assegais, and shields. Possibly some temporary success will attend measures of this kind, as the natives are probably unready for a fight, but they have long memories, and unless that poll tax is abolished the present success of repression now will only mean a more widespread disturbance at no distant day.

Our leader was written on Mr. Haldane's memorandum, not on his speech, but we cannot alter it by the later light. That it was a fine speech, well reasoned, bright, strong, we gladly admit; that it was good news also to hear that £800,000 of "automatic" growth in expenditure on the army had been cut off, making the real saving much greater than the apparent, we do not deny; but yet the speech failed to satisfy reformers and economists at many points. We shall have to return to the subject often; but, meanwhile, should like to raise one point: Is a garrison on the present scale wanted in Ireland any more? Why could not a reduction of the number of men kept away from all wealth-producing employment have been begun in that island now? Again, does modern soldiering require all this drilling, marching, and manoeuvring in order to make the pawns sure at the man-killing trade when need or occasion arises?

There will be no war between France and Germany in consequence of Germany's rebuff at the Algeiras Conference. Doubtless the great fire-eaters of Prussia are sadly down-hearted at this failure to provoke a great slaughter ruinous to civilisation, but they will have to put up with it. The sentiment of all Europe and of the United States of America is against any strife between these two great peoples, and, apart from the fire-eaters, there is no desire to see such strife break out either among French or Germans. On the contrary, the desire is for closer intercourse, more in-

timate commercial relationship, and, above all, for peace. There will not even, so far as one may hazard a guess, be any great amount of soreness left in the minds of either Frenchmen or Germans when the Conference has ended. France will not get her way to the full, but her dominant position as a neighbour of Morocco will be recognised by all the Powers, is even admitted by Germany, and, that being so, she can afford to give way on minor points, or to wait until the passing feeling of antagonism and the stirrings of the blood lust have passed away and subsided. Whether France will ultimately gain anything by dominating Morocco is a question we cannot now discuss.

Another revolution seem to have been threatened in Uruguay. Surely some enemies to the financiers, who have been floating a new loan, must have been at work? Can it be that there are "bears" of Uruguayan securities about? What otherwise can be the meaning of the statement that the vigorous measures taken by the Government nipped an attempt to bring about a revolution in the bud, all the leaders of the party having been arrested? These reassuring telegrams about the complete tranquility reigning throughout the country and so forth suggest other thoughts than those of peace. We trust, however, that it is all true, for this poor Republic has been so cursed by these continual uprisings of the disaffected that foreign loans alone have maintained in it some semblance of civilised order.

Last week's revenue came in so well that if the remaining four weeks of the fiscal year keep up the same pace, the total income of the 12 months will amount to quite £145,500,000, or fully £3,000,000 more than Mr. Austen Chamberlain estimated for. There is naturally considerable uncertainty about this outcome, because the income-tax is behaving somewhat capriciously. Last week it did remarkably well, but the next four weeks may be less productive. Still, at the worst, the income of the year appears to be certain to exceed the anticipations of last April by millions.

In appointing Mr. A. Kaye Butterworth to succeed Sir George Gibb as general manager, the directors of the North-Eastern Railway have made a most excellent choice. Mr. Butterworth, having acted as solicitor to the company for the past fifteen years, is admirably fitted not only to bring the schemes of the late general manager to fruition, but to institute reforms and improvements of his own which will all tend to maintain the high reputation for good management the company has acquired. The post of solicitor left vacant by Mr. Butterworth's promotion has been given to Mr. R. E. Dunnell, the late assistant solicitor and the present secretary of the company, and in this case also the directors' choice is admirable.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce continues to extend its field of operations, and has entered into a provisional agreement for the acquisition of the Merchants Bank of Prince Edward Island. No details of the liabilities or assets are published, but the purchase is entirely on a cash basis, no stock of the Canadian bank being given.

Critical Index To New Investments.

MANCHESTER DISTRICT MOTOR OMNIBUS CO., LIMITED.

This company proposes to establish a service of motor omnibuses for passengers, parcels, and goods, to connect the tramway undertakings of Manchester, Salford, Stockport, Chester, and Warrington, and has secured the services of Mr. Daniel Boyle, chairman of the Manchester Corporation Tramways, as managing director. Out of a total nominal capital of £300,000 in £1 shares, 200,000 were offered for subscription, which it was estimated would enable the company to purchase 150 motor omnibuses, and, in order to ensure early delivery of at least 40 vehicles, contracts were made by the promoting syndicate with the Wolseley Tool and Motor Car Company and John I. Thorny-

croft and Co. for that number to be delivered as soon as the company is ready. It is calculated that, with 100 buses running all the year round and 25 additional for summer traffic, a nett profit of 2d. per mile should be earned after meeting all charges and providing for depreciation at the rate of 20 per cent., and on this basis a nett revenue of £28,237 per annum is brought out. The British Transport Syndicate, which was the promoter, received for its services the sum of £8,500 and the right to subscribe at par at any time within two years for the balance of the shares, and, in addition, took a commission of 4 per cent. and an overriding commission of 1 per cent. for underwriting 75,000 of the shares offered. Two of the directors are interested in this deal as shareholders in the syndicate, and one of them as underwriter of 1,000 shares, while Mr. Daniel Boyle has a seven years' agreement at £1,000 a year, plus 2½ per cent. of the nett profits in excess of 7 per cent. on the paid-up capital, whether this surplus is distributed or not.

ENFIELD AUTOCAR CO., LIMITED.

The Enfield Cycle Company considers that, in consequence of the greatly increased trade in cycles and the anticipated large development of the motor-car business, its works are not of sufficient capacity for the proper conduct of the two businesses. This company has therefore been formed to take over the autocar department with a capital of £150,000 in £1 shares, of which 100,000 are at present to be issued. For a freehold site of over three acres and the factory at Redditch, together with plant, tools, drawings, &c., and stocks valued at £4,204, the vendor company takes £31,162 in cash, but it is stated that the company itself will apply for 15,000 shares and the directors and officers for at least 8,000 more. Out of the balance of the capital raised £10,000 is to be spent on additional machinery, £1,517 on extensions of buildings made since January 1, and formation expenses are put down at £2,500, leaving £54,820 for working capital. No estimate of profits is ventured upon, and certainly the history of the parent concern does not seem to hold out prospects of more than a moderate success.

GRAND TRUNK GUARANTEED STOCK.

To-night the announcement is made that the board of this company is issuing £1,000,000 more of its 4 per cent. stock. It is offered at par, payable £10 on application, £25 on allotment, £30 on May 1 next, and £35 on June 1. Applications will be received by Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co., the Grand Trunk Company's bankers, and when fully paid up the stock will be added to the existing amount already quoted in the official list. It will also be registered free of expenses. Sir Charles Rivers Wilson, the President of the company, states that after providing for fixed interest charges and the dividend on the existing 4 per cent. guaranteed stock, the nett revenue of the railway for 1905 showed a surplus of £437,000. With this million added, the total of the guaranteed stock outstanding will be £7,629,315, the total amount authorised being £10,000,000. To-day the quotation for the stock was 105, and the issue looks enticing.

ISSUES BY TENDER, ETC.

MARCONI'S WIRELESS TELEGRAPH CO.—Notice is given by the directors of this company that they have conditionally allotted to shareholders in proportion to their existing holdings 128,063 shares of £1 at par, one new for two old held on the 6th inst. Payment for these new shares is to be made: 5s. on acceptance of allotment not later than March 23, 5s. on April 6, 5s. on May 4, and 5s. on August 3. Holders abroad are allowed a latitude of dates as set forth with other particulars in the official notice.

How the Liberal and Labour legislation of the new Government will affect investment values is the subject discussed in an important article in the March issue of the new high-class monthly, the *Financial Review of Reviews*. Investors who desire to guard against depreciation of capital should not fail to read this article.—*Financial Review of Reviews* for March, 240 pages, post free 1/-, from the publishers, 2, Waterloo Place, London, S.W.—[ADVT.]

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for ten days ended February 28, \$3,778, increase \$1,284.
 Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended January 19, \$17,428, decrease \$2,004; aggregate from January 1, \$47,567, decrease \$534.
 Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 3, Rs. 68,088, increase Rs. 2,835; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 3,08,963, increase Rs. 9,292.
 Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 28, \$89,300, increase \$23,000; total from July 1, \$3,354,500, increase \$777,000.
 Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 3, Rs. 36,994, increase Rs. 5,864.
 Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 4, £339, increase £6.
 Midland Uruguay Railway.—Receipts for February, £4,574, increase £661; aggregate for eight months, £40,213, decrease £1,424.
 Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 4th week of February, \$17,997, increase \$4,356; aggregate from January 1, \$122,611, increase \$28,272.
 Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 3, Rs. 8,576, decrease Rs. 2,991.
 White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended February 7 amounted to \$5,075.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending March 3, £1,259, increase £9; aggregate from January 1, £10,845, increase £148.
 Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending March 3, £706, increase £22; aggregate from January 1, £6,344, increase £485.
 East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for November, £4,099, decrease £203.
 East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending March 3, £457, increase £63; aggregate from January 1, £4,213, increase £279.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 2, £1,340, increase £185; aggregate from January 1, £11,941, increase £1,979.
 Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 4, £7; aggregate from January 1, £57, decrease £2.
 Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 2, £4,793, increase £308; aggregate from January 1, £41,809, increase £1,780.
 British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending March 2, £27,222, increase £4,499; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £234,712, increase £39,461; 435½ miles, against 423.
 Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 3, £1,047, increase £105; aggregate from January 1, £9,675, increase £917.
 Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 4, £92, increase £2; aggregate from January 1, £815, increase £6.
 Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 2, £91, increase £2; aggregate from January 1, £760, decrease £68.
 Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 2, £4,489, increase £173; aggregate from January 1, £39,652, increase £1,440.
 Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 3, £4,361, increase £1; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £41,074, increase £1,811.
 Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 2, £192, decrease £20; aggregate from January 1, £1,698, decrease £264.
 Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 1, £330.
 Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 3, £239; aggregate from October 1, £5,638, decrease £386.
 London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 24, £13,620, increase £1,530; aggregate from April 1, £688,798, increase £90,095. Miles 52½ against 498.
 London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 3, £21,039, increase £46; aggregate from January 1, £183,600, decrease £6,768.
 London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 3, £7,270, increase £103; aggregate from January 1, £62,487, decrease £49.
 Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 3, £176; aggregate from January 1, £1,681, increase £97.
 Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 4, £782, increase £218; aggregate from January 1, £6,493, increase £1,874.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 4, £15,747, increase £2,018; aggregate from January 1, £132,727, increase £13,940.
 Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.
 Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.
 Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.
 Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of January, 1906, £11,016, increase £267.
 British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to January 31, \$694,541, increase \$150,592. Nett earnings from July 1 to January 31, \$318,067, increase \$93,150.
 Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending February 18, £3,396, increase £317; aggregate from January 1, £24,578, increase £2,461.
 Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending January 27, £1,373.
 Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of January, \$292,200.
 Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 3, Rs. 42,722, decrease Rs. 852; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 4,13,548, increase Rs. 44,657.
 Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.
 Carthagena and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of February, £4,186, increase £947. Total from January 1, £9,264, increase £3,669.
 Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.
 Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of November, \$417,218, increase \$63,017; aggregate from January 1, \$4,320,887, increase \$390,457. Nett traffic receipts, \$226,858, increase \$35,361; aggregate from January 1, \$2,359,439, increase \$272,120.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	%	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	%
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Mar. 4	£ 1,961	+	11	£ 18,783	+	395
Cambrian	" 4	5,594	+	70	42,651	—	925
Central London	" 4	7,660	—	164	62,825	—	2,038
City and South London ..	" 4	2,908	—	56	27,091	+	133
Furness	" 4	9,657	+	1,148	84,222	+	11,679
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.)	" 4	67,659	+	1,861	622,088	+	25,082
Great Eastern	" 4	97,000	+	2,800	823,600	—	100
Great Northern and City ..	" 3	1,877	+	119	16,349	+	435
Great Northern	" 3	109,500	+	2,097	937,300	+	19,995
Great Western	" 4	218,600	+	4,800	1,874,500	+	7,100
Hull and Barnsley	" 4	8,827	—	77	82,844	+	1,842
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 4	101,505	+	4,008	879,187	+	23,630
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 3	58,784	+	1,241	471,398	+	949
London & North Western ..	" 4	273,000	+	8,000	2,307,000	+	69,000
London & South Western ..	" 4	79,300	+	600	695,300	+	1,300
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 4	7,595	+	246	70,143	+	2,961
Metropolitan	" 4	16,562	—	312	151,449	—	1,356
Metropolitan District	" 4	8,148	—	373	73,321	—	4,034
Midland	" 3	224,029	+	6,000	1,946,892	+	52,806
North Eastern	" 3	175,384	+	9,799	1,480,881	+	65,045
North London	" 4	9,035	—	125	82,654	—	2,199
North Staffordshire	" 4	17,590	+	559	155,301	+	4,180
Rhymney	" 4	6,321	+	595	54,786	+	642
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 3	82,361	—	1,529	672,270	—	1,696
Taff Vale	" 4	10,708	+	1,201	174,475	+	6,957

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Mar. 4	82,744	+	1,566	399,860	+	6,356
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 3	31,068	+	517	152,498	+	2,838
Great North of Scotland ..	" 3	8,210	—	114	39,915	—	170
Highland	" 4	7,899	+	51	39,072	—	1,208
North British	" 4	87,309	+	1,797	424,580	+	4,270

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Mar. 2	2,108	—	120	19,466	—	741
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 2	1,547	+	3	12,136	—	382
Great Northern	" 2	16,666	+	365	140,105	+	690
Midland Great Western ..	" 2	10,713	—	154	80,451	—	6,033

§ From January 1.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and March 3, 1906:—
REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Mar. 3, 1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Mar. 4, 1905.
Balances, April 1:—			
Bank of England	£ —	6,352,909	3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	31,905,000	33,374,000
Excise	30,200,000	27,891,000	28,437,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	11,944,000	11,455,000
Stamps	8,000,000	7,568,000	6,931,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	2,250,000	2,430,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	25,373,000	25,987,000
Post Office	16,500,000	14,300,000	13,700,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	3,875,000	3,695,000
Crown Lands	470,000	440,000	410,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,034,000	1,077,955	992,826
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	1,293,874	1,266,434
*Revenue	142,454,000	127,917,829	128,618,260
Total, including balance		135,348,107	132,882,102
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		880,000	510,000
Repayment of Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		225,000	—
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		700,000	1,120,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..		191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905 ..		2,175,000	1,884,500
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		1,262,408	1,800,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900		23,000	11,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		148,000	149,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		—	5,912,631
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905		9,854,604	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904		1,000,000	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares		8,461	7,460
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..		—	1,000,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		2,000,000	8,600,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £4,500,000 Treasury Bills in 1905-6) and £13,500,000 in 1904-5		8,000,000	21,800,000
Total		161,816,172	182,126,183
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	127,917,829	128,618,260
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	155,799	164,279
Excise	5,291,000	5,062,851	4,991,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	3,802,839	3,741,242
Total	9,756,000	9,021,489	8,900,194
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	136,939,318	137,518,454

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Mar. 3, 1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Mar. 4, 1905.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£ 28,000,000	£ 25,367,351	£ 24,349,810
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	1,468,367	1,454,187
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	743,967	743,927
Supply Services	111,304,000	94,715,140	98,451,170
Expenditure	142,084,000	122,294,825	124,999,094
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		640,000	470,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		180,000	45,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		10,000,000	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		750,000	600,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905 ..		3,216,000	3,453,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		900,000	3,500,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	11,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		193,000	149,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		616,374	29,000
Surplus Revenue 1904-1905 applied to reduce Debt		1,413,907	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares, applied to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1898 ..		8,461	7,460
Deficiency Advances repaid		586,093	8,600,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		6,000,000	21,300,000
	1906. Mar. 3.	1905. Mar. 4.	
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	13,937,211	11,540,579	
Bank of Ireland	1,937,391	886,620	
	14,994,512	12,427,199	
Total	161,816,172	182,126,183	

Treasury, March 6, 1906.

Letters to the Editors.

WANTED, A NEW BEATITUDE.

SIR,—I write to ask you not to send me the *INVESTORS' REVIEW* any more. Your paper is presumably a financial publication, and from what I have seen of it, I believe your opinions and advice to be disinterested and intended for the benefit of your subscribers. It seems a pity that you should go out of your way to vitiate the financial matter by the gratuitous introduction of the most rabid effusions about politics and public men.

Your leading article on South African affairs in last Saturday's issue is full of such ignorant and scurrilous abuse of two of the greatest and wisest of living Englishmen—Lord Roberts and Lord Milner—that not only should I feel it impossible to put faith in a judgment so devoid of common fairness and common sense, but I consider it would be morally wrong to continue my subscription, and so indirectly countenance the propagation of such poisonous stuff.

Yours truly,

A. E. WRIGLEY.

Woodfield, Oldham, March 5, 1906.

[If to foment hatred between man and man, race and race, and to pile up burdens upon the taxpayers, increasing the misery of the poor, and clamour ever for more and yet more money to be spent upon preparations for wholesale slaughter; if to multiply the numbers of the widows and orphans, and to lay hundreds and thousands of hamlets and homesteads in ruins, as Lord Roberts did in Afghanistan and in South Africa, are attributes of greatness worthy of our admiration, then, indeed, are Lords Milner and Roberts our greatest men. But neither of them is an Englishman. Has Mr. Wrigley never heard of or read Mr. Chamberlain's denunciation of Lord Roberts's senseless and utterly brutal treatment of the Afghans?—Ed.]

REDEEMABLE CORPORATION STOCKS.

SIR,—The great bulk of British investors are more or less interested in these securities, and the stability of the capital is a matter of vital importance. The majority of these stocks are redeemable within 50 years at par, and as an investor, the question arises in my mind, Is there any law laid down as to the provision of a proper sinking fund? If so, is such sinking fund under the supervision of a Government Department? An authoritative statement on this subject from your fearless pen would be highly valued by your readers. It recently came under my notice that a provincial town purchased a large amount of Colonial stock, and on inquiry being made it transpired that the Corporation was investing its sinking fund. If this is the general plan, and loyally carried out, corporation stocks should steadily appreciate in value. I have in my mind at the moment great and prosperous cities in the north of England where the land is all freehold, without ground rents, and where the bulk of the citizens own the property, even the artisan class living in their own cottages; yet the three per cent. stocks of such cities hover in the neighbourhood of £90. Why is this?

Yours truly,

H. M. FORBES.

March 7, 1906.

Answers to Correspondents.

W.P. (Streatham Hill).—There is not much likelihood of the company defaulting on its preference shares, as that would mean its ruin, so you had better keep them.

STOTHANT.—(1) These are hardly worth holding, and we think you should get rid of them. (2) Similar advice applies to these shares, as prospects are exceedingly speculative. (3) You might hold, but perhaps it would be too risky to buy more. (4) These shares might also be held, unless you can sell without loss or with a profit. (5) These have fairish prospects, and seem worth keeping. (6) This company is also doing better now, and the shares may go higher eventually. (7) Sell out should you be able to do so without a big loss, otherwise hold for a time. (8) These might be held as the company is now doing better. (9) We think little of this company's prospects, and the shares are very speculative. (10) A pure gamble, but not a bad one at the price, and in the present state of trade.

W. P. (Guildford).—This is a very good company and a small investment should be all right.

D.C.H.—Prospects are certainly better in that part of the country, but we doubt if the stock will follow with a sufficient improvement to make a purchase profitable within a reasonable period. Thanks for your remittance, of which we have put the balance to your credit as requested.

NEWNES' MAGAZINES FOR MARCH.—Sir Nigel, in the *Strand*, continues his exciting career of arms, and this month does sundry deeds of derring-do, the most exciting being an encounter with a famous knight. The rest of the contents of the number is also excellent, though the members of the Strand Club are not perhaps so droll as they usually are. The *Captain* is filled with good things, and both old and young boys alike will appreciate the drollery of "A Candidate for Laurels," by Stuart Wishing. In the *Wide World* the articles cover a wide range, drawn from all quarters of the globe, and though in the main sensational and a bit gory, are none the less interesting. "Willie and I," in the *Sunday Strand*, is distinctly above the average short story, and the number generally will no doubt appeal to those for whom this magazine caters.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, Mar. 6.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, Mar. 6.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
3 1/2	Angelo	3 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	May Consolidated	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Anglo-French Ex.	1 1/2	2 1/2	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
4 1/2	Apex	4 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	Modderfontein	6 1/2	7 1/2
4 1/2	Aurora West	4 1/2	6 1/2	1 1/2	Do. B.	1 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Bantjes	4 1/2	6 1/2	1 1/2	New Goch	1 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Block B.	4 1/2	6 1/2	2 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	City and Suburban	4 1/2	6 1/2	2 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Comet (New)	4 1/2	6 1/2	1 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Cons. Goldfields	4 1/2	6 1/2	1 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Do.	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	2 1/2
12	Crown Reef	12	12	5 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	5 1/2	6 1/2
2 1/2	Driefontein	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Randfontein	1 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	4 1/2	6 1/2	7 1/2	Robinson Gold	7 1/2	8 1/2
4 1/2	East Rand	4 1/2	6 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	East Rand Extension	1 1/2	2 1/2	6 1/2	Rodepoort United	6 1/2	7 1/2
17 1/2	Ferreira	17 1/2	18 1/2	1 1/2	Salisbury	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	French Rand	1 1/2	2 1/2	6 1/2	Sheba (New)	6 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Getuld	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Simmer and Jack	1 1/2	2 1/2
3 1/2	Goldenhuis Estate	3 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	3 1/2	4 1/2
3 1/2	Ginsburg	3 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Steyn Estate	1 1/2	2 1/2
6 1/2	Glencairn	6 1/2	7 1/2	14 1/2	Transvaal Development	14 1/2	15 1/2
10 1/2	Harmony Proprietary	10 1/2	11 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates	1 1/2	2 1/2
3 1/2	Henderson's Transvaal	3 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Treasury	1 1/2	2 1/2
3 1/2	Heriot	3 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	Van Ryn	2 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Johannesburg Con. In.	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Jubilee	1 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Vogelstruis	2 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Kumpers	1 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	Welgedacht	3 1/2	4 1/2
3 1/2	Klemfontein	3 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Wemmer	1 1/2	2 1/2
3 1/2	Knight's	3 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	West Rand Consols	2 1/2	3 1/2
2 1/2	Lancaster	2 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Wolhuter	2 1/2	3 1/2
2 1/2	Langlaagte Estate	2 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Worcester	2 1/2	3 1/2

DEEP LEVELS.

1 1/2	Angelo Deep	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Bonanza	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Cinderella Deep	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Robinson Deep (new)	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Crown Deep	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Rodepoort Cn. Deep	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Rose Deep	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Deep	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	South Rose Deep	1 1/2	2 1/2
7	Goldenhuis Deep	7	8	3 1/2	Village Main Reef	3 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Knight's Deep	1 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	2 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Nigel Deep	1 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2			

RHODESIANS.

1 1/2	Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Rhodesia Exploration	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Charter Trust and Agency	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Selukwe	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Lomagunda Development	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Tanganyika	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Wankie Coal	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Witloughby	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2		1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	2 1/2

DIAMONDS.

1 1/2	De Beers Deferred	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Koffyfontein	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Preferred	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Lace Diamond	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Eland's Drift Diamond	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Orange Free State	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Frank Smith Diamond	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Diamond	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Jagersfontein Deferred	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Premier Diamond Def.	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Preferred	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Kamfersdam	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2			

WEST AFRICAN.

1 1/2	Abbotiakoon	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Gold Coast Agency, new	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Abosso	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Ankobra	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau)	1 1/2	2 1/2
3 1/2	Ashtanti Consols, 2/- paid	3 1/2	4 1/2	6 1/2	Deep	6 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Goldfields	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Himan Concessions	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Sansu	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Obbuss Syndicate	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Prestea	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	British Gold Coast	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Sekondi and Tarkwa	1 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	Broomassie	2 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Taguash and Abosso	2 1/2	3 1/2
6 1/2	Eftuwa (Wassau)	6 1/2	7 1/2	1 1/2	Wassau	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Fanti Consolidated	1 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	W. A. Gold Trust	2 1/2	3 1/2

AUSTRALIAN.

1 1/2	Anglo-Aus. Exploration	1 1/2	2 1/2	6 1/2	Ida H.	6 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Associated	1 1/2	2 1/2	6 1/2	Ivanhoe Gold Corp.	6 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	2 1/2	6 1/2	Ivanhoe South	6 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Bellevue Proprietary	1 1/2	2 1/2	8 1/2	Kalgurli	8 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Boulder Deep Levels	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	2 1/2
7 1/2	Brownhill Extended	7 1/2	8 1/2	1 1/2	Lancefield	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Chaffers	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	London & W.A. Explor.	1 1/2	2 1/2
6 1/2	Cosmopol'n Pr'p'ty	6 1/2	7 1/2	1 1/2	Mount Boppy	1 1/2	2 1/2
5 1/2	Golden Horseshoe, New Shares	5 1/2	6 1/2	2 1/2	North Kalgurli	2 1/2	3 1/2
2 1/2	Golden Link	2 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	2 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Point	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Peak Hill	1 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	Great Boulder, 2/-	2 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	South Kalgurli	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Perseverance	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Sons of Gwalia	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Great Fingall	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	W'str lia Mt. Morgans	1 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Hainault	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2			
1 1/2	Hampton Plains	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2			
1 1/2	Hannan's Star	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2			

MISCELLANEOUS.

1 1/2	Anaconda, 25 dols.	1 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	Mason & Barry £1	3 1/2	4 1/2
3 1/2	Balaghat, full paid	3 1/2	4 1/2	5 1/2	Mount Lyell	5 1/2	6 1/2
10 1/2	Brilliant and St. George	10 1/2	11 1/2	3 1/2	M't. Morgan	3 1/2	4 1/2
3 1/2	Broken Hill, Prop.	3 1/2	4 1/2	7 1/2	Mysore, 10s.	7 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	Camp Bird	1 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Mysore Goldfields, 15/6 4/-	2 1/2	3 1/2
4 1/2	Cape Copper, 2/-	4 1/2	5 1/2	12 1/2	Do. West, 19/-	12 1/2	13 1/2
2 1/2	Champion Reef, 2/6	2 1/2	3 1/2	12 1/2	Do. Wynnaad, 19/-	12 1/2	13 1/2
1 1/2	Con. Gold N.Z.	1 1/2	2 1/2	4 1/2	Namaqua, £2	4 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Copiapu, £2	1 1/2	2 1/2	5 1/2	Nile Valley	5 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Coromandel 19/6 pd.	1 1/2	2 1/2	28 1/2	N'ndydroog, 10/- shares	28 1/2	29 1/2
1 1/2	Esperanza	1 1/2	2 1/2	16 1/2	Oceguem	16 1/2	17 1/2
1 1/2	Exploration	1 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Pref.	1 1/2	2 1/2
10 1/2	Frontino and Bolivia	10 1/2	11 1/2	6 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	6 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Le Roi	1 1/2	2 1/2	10 1/2	St. John del Rey	10 1/2	11 1/2
2 1/2	Do. (No. 2)	2 1/2	3 1/2	5 1/2	Tharsis	5 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Libiola, £5	1 1/2	2 1/2	7 1/2	Wahi	7 1/2	8 1/2
5 1/2	Linares, £3	5 1/2	6 1/2	1 1/2	Ymir	1 1/2	2 1/2

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904-5.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904-5.	
Alcoy and Gandia	Mar. 3	Ps. 10,000	+ P. £8,000	** Ps. 162,400	+ Ps. 5,900	
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia	Jan.	\$88,867	+ \$30,059	** \$88,867	+ \$30,059	
Argentine Gt. Western	Mar. 2	12,907	+ 137	** 440,114	+ 73,131	
Algeiras (Gibraltar)	Feb. 24	Ps. 29,912	+ Ps. 1,806	** P. 1,090,619	+ P. 582,478	
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	Mar. 3	36,799	+ 6,977	\$ 1,001,903	+ 278,804	
Buenos Ayres & Rosario and Cen. Argentine	" 3	100,547	+ 9,451	** 745,580	+ 63,919	
Buenos Ayres G. Stn.	" 3	84,662	+ 7,077	** 2,507,173	+ 404,275	
Do. Western	" 4	37,602	+ 293	** 1,109,498	+ 147,359	
Do. Ensenada	" 4	383	+ 93	** 11,921	+ 408	
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	" 3	8,223	+ 862	** 289,739	+ 6,089	
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 3	1,917	+ 169	** 63,552	+ 816	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 3	1,249	+ 90	** 39,077	+ 5,292	
Do. Western Ex.	" 3	1,116	+ 167	** 41,427	+ 4,209	
Cordoba Central	Feb. 25	3,320	+ 130	** 24,751	+ 4,300	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 25	6,810	+ 730	** 51,220	+ 11,450	
Do. N. W. Argtn. Ex.	" 25	1,835	+ 520	** 12,230	+ 3,245	
Cordoba and Rosario	" 25	4,280	+ 2,465	** 150,600	+ 14,425	
Costa Rica	Mar. 3	7,279	+ 2,421	** 163,385	+ 14,321	
Cuban Central	" 3	13,395	+ 744	** 214,336	+ 9,331	
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 3	11,147	+ 1,710	** 105,040	+ 24,745	
Ente Rios	" 3	5,575	+ 505	** 126,258	+ 14,230	
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico	Feb. 28	\$134,300	+ \$18,600	** \$393,399	+ \$109,070	
Leopoldina	Mar. 3	13,406	+ 2,536	** 109,261	+ 29,837	
Mexican	Jan. *	\$592,500	+ \$75,000	** \$849,700	+ \$36,000	
Mexican	Feb. 14	\$134,200	+ \$1,000	** \$225,859	+ \$12,374	
Do. Southern	Mar. 7	\$26,344	+ \$5,527	** \$159,549	+ \$12,394	
Do. Central	Jan. *	\$2,457,188	+ \$210,561	** \$4,692,994	+ \$230,407	
Do. Do.	" *	\$735,662	+ \$8,941	** \$299,071	+ \$5,979	
Manila	Mar. 3	\$34,917	+ \$5,171	** \$99,871	+ \$1,721	
Nitrate	Feb. 28	17,977	+ 2,016	** \$4,692,994	+ \$230,407	
Ottoman	Mar. 3	4,207	+ 887	** 39,616	+ 2,976	
Peruvian Corporation	Feb. *	\$644,800	+ \$110,775	** \$5,106,755	+ \$661,975	
San Paulo	" 25	17,525	+ 1,190	** 147,241	+ 5,104	
Salvador	Mar. 3	\$29,000	+ \$30,000	** 11,642	+ 1,230	
United of Havana	" 3	26,767	+ 10,420	** 423,457	+ 93,855	
Villa Maria & Rufino	" 3	1,532	+ 101	** 14,078	+ 2,330	
Western of Havana	" 3	4,054	+ 164	** 14,078	+ 2,330	

* Month ended. † Fortnight ended. ‡ Nett § From July 1, 1905.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

NAME	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.
Bengal Nagpur.	Feb. 10	Rs. 5,70,209	+ R. 78,407	\$	R. 33,55,699	+ R. 63,38,866
Bengal & N.-W.	Jan. 27	Rs. 2,87,220	+ R. 42,671	\$	Rs. 9,70,400	+ R. 6,044
Bombay & Baroda	Mar. 3	Rs. 4,74,000	+ R. 29,000	\$	R. 35,47,000	+ R. 15,000
Do. State Lines	" 3	Rs. 5,20,000	+ R. 1,38,000	\$	Rs. 45,000	+ R. 37,000
Burma	" 3	Rs. 3,68,594	+ R. 10,103	\$	R. 85,43,773	+ R. 13,684
Delhi Umballa	" 3	Rs. 32,500	+ R. 5,297	\$	Rs. 3,30,400	+ R. 29,865
East Indian	" 3	Rs. 15,99,000	+ R. 58,000	\$	R. 1,45,92,000	+ R. 8,39,000
G. Indian Penin.	" 3	Rs. 14,03,200	+ R. 1,09,410	\$	R. 1,37,38,900	+ R. 10,04,193
Indian Midland	" 3	Rs. 2,40,500	+ R. 40,774	\$	Rs. 22,34,400	+ R. 3,18,155
Madras	" 3	Rs. 25,300	+ R. 1,641	\$	R. 222,475	+ R. 19,158
South Indian	" 3	Rs. 2,45,690	+ R. 4,077	\$	R. 1,39,30,300	+ R. 10,705
South Behar	" 10	Rs. 11,250	+ R. 1,712	\$	Rs. 62,714	+ R. 5,712
S'thern. Mahratta	" 10	Rs. 2,64,289	+ R. 56,800	\$	Rs. 14,73,351	+ R. 22,88,044
Southern Punjab	" 24	Rs. 70,975	+ R. 9,302	\$	Rs. 4,86,745	+ R. 47,195

Established 1824.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Assets over 4 MILLIONS Sterling.

The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

THE SURPLUS DIVIDED WAS £597,415.

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Actuary.

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HUGH LEWIS, General Manager.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent.
on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

In some respects the Money market has been less afflicted this week, but the position is still far from being one of comfort. Bill brokers, however, have generally got their seven-day money for $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and it has usually been merely the call money that has run up and down from 3 per cent., or less, to 5 per cent. this afternoon, when the hoardings of the Treasury and the magnitude of Stock Exchange settlement payments drove the market to rush about for over-night loans. The India Council until to-day got no more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on month to month money, but it did business this morning at $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. On the whole the prospect is still favourable to a certain degree of cheapness, but it depends upon the Treasury whether the market can provide for itself, and at the same time pay off the Bank. Treasury balances are now excessive, and the sooner they are reduced the better. Next week £1,000,000 will be paid off on balance, owing to the fact that £2,500,000 of Treasury bills fall due, while only £1,500,000 will be renewed. This week the Treasury released £2,000,000 on expired three months' Treasuries, but quite half this amount was paid out to the Japanese Government, whose agents held bills, and it is thanks to their lending that the market was in some measure delivered from its scarcity.

The only abiding influence calculated to assure ease is the increase of the stock of gold at the Bank, and that goes on in a fairly satisfactory way, no less than

£755,000 nett having been added to its stock during the past Bank week. Nearly half this amount, however, went into circulation, together with a few bank notes, so that the banking reserve has risen only by £374,000, and is still under £28,000,000, a fairly satisfactory total, but by no means one calculated to guarantee low rates throughout the spring and summer. None the less has discount tended downwards and some brokers have managed to quote the three months' bank bill rate at $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. Leading houses, however, do not admit anything below $3\frac{7}{8}$ per cent., and some of them continue to quote $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as a working rate in spite of reports that the Continent was competing and offering to take paper of this class at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. To-day the market was called weak by some of the brokers, in spite of the passing scarcity and dearth of short credits. Others, however, said that it was firmer at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., only these latter had no great amount of business to report. We may take it that the market inclines downward, and will swiftly go lower if the gold continues to come in.

And gold probably will continue to go to the Bank, although the weakness of the Paris exchange to-day points to French competition for the small supply of about £300,000 to be dealt with on Monday. The Japanese, however, have been getting their gold in New York, £500,000 having left San Francisco to-day for Japan, and one reason for the weakness of the New York exchange is said to be the fact that the Japanese have been selling drafts on New York to cover this and other gold shipments. It would be odd if the dollar were depressed until New York was able to draw gold from Europe.

This week's Bank return is interesting as indicating how difficult it is for the market to clear itself of its debt to the Bank as long as the Treasury holds so much of its current means. It struggled this Bank week, and paid off £4,777,000 of its debt on other securities, but to do this had to reduce other deposits by £3,712,000 to £41,738,000, thus bringing the market balances down close to poverty limit; and still there are some millions due for repayment at the Bank.

Calls next week are not heavy. The principal one is that on the London County Consolidated stock on Wednesday, amounting to £375,000. On Thursday the total is £155,180, spread over Barsi Light shares, Rhymney Iron, Whitworth Collieries, Edinburgh Investment Trust, and Pearson Fire Alarm. Friday and Saturday are free from calls of any kind. As far as can be seen, dividends will amount to about one million.

SILVER.

The supplies of silver from America were only moderate, but the market has been weak, owing to the gradual cessation of buying by the Indian Government. At the same time, there was a fair amount of "bear" selling, and quotations receded to 29½d. per oz. for spot and 29½d. per oz. for delivery two months forward. A few covering orders caused a rally to 29½d. and 29½d. per oz., but the firmness did not last long, and the final prices are again down to 29½d. and 28½d. on renewed "bear" pressure. Applications for Rs. 1,00,00,000 Council drafts on India on Wednesday reached a total of Rs. 4,21,75,000 in bills and Rs. 87,00,000 in telegraphic transfers, when the whole amount was allotted in bills, tenders at 1s. 4 1-32d. per rupee receiving about 36 per cent. The sum to be offered next week is reduced to Rs. 80,00,000.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the
Week ending on Wednesday, March 7, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

		£	
Notes Issued	..	54,346,495	
	..		11,015,100
	..		7,434,000
	..		35,896,495
	..		
		£54,346,495	£54,346,495

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	16,380,867
Rest ..	3,685,275	Other Securities ..	33,254,584
Public Deposits (including		Notes ..	26,054,545
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,767,724
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	17,404,157		
Other Deposits ..	41,737,581		
Seven Day and other Bills	77,707		

Dated March 8 1906.

£77,457,720

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year :-

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. Mar. 8.		Feb. 28, 1906.	Mar. 7, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,682,590	Rest ..	3,680,896	3,685,275	4,375	—
16,619,241	Pub. Deposits ..	18,096,249	17,404,157	—	692,092
37,890,899	Other do. ..	45,449,388	41,737,581	—	3,711,807
123,903	7 Day Bills ..	89,358	77,707	—	11,651
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,589,185	Gov. Securities	16,380,867	16,380,867	8,000	—
26,424,310	Other do. ..	38,032,070	33,254,584	4,777,486	—
30,856,138	Total Reserve ..	27,447,954	27,822,269	—	374,315
				4,789,865	4,789,865
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
27,343,750		28,265,930	28,291,950	26,020	—
39,749,888	Coin and Bullion	37,263,884	37,664,219	400,335	—
56½ p.c.	Proportion ..	44½ p.c.	47 p.c.	2½	—
2½ "	Bank Rate ..	4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £755,000 in.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders will be received at the Bank of England on the 12th inst. for £1,500,000 in six months' Treasury Bills in part replacement of the £2,500,000 falling due on the 16th inst.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
2,500,000	6 months	Mar. 17	2 10 6
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
1,800,000	6 months	June 1	3 2 6
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
†1,200,000	—	—	—
1,000,000	6 months	June 29	2 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 12	2 10 8
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 26	2 13 8
18,833,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Week.	1906.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Jan. 3	340,266,000	276,940,000	63,326,000	—
" 10	228,921,000	215,452,000	13,439,000	—
" 17	287,646,000	254,259,000	33,387,000	—
" 24	214,928,000	186,205,000	28,723,000	—
" 31	289,938,000	300,588,000	—	10,650,000
Feb. 7	231,817,000	206,614,000	25,203,000	—
" 14	271,821,000	259,450,000	12,371,000	—
" 21	213,118,000	199,865,000	13,253,000	—
" 28	290,477,000	301,252,000	—	10,775,000
Mar. 7	235,959,000	215,866,000	20,093,000	—
	2,604,891,000	2,416,521,000	188,370,000	—

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.		WITHDRAWALS.	
Saturday, Bars ..	£8,000	Saturday, S. America ..	100,000
" Australia ..	531,000	Wednesday, " ..	£150,000
Monday, Bars ..	52,000	Thursday " ..	50,000
Tuesday, Bars ..	65,000		
" Germany ..	6,000		
Wednesday, Bars ..	179,000		
Thursday, Bars ..	191,000		
Friday, Bars ..	130,000		
" Amsterdam ..	20,000		
Total	£1,182,000	Net Influx	882,000
		Total	£1,182,000

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Mar. 1, 1906.	Feb. 22, 1906.	Feb. 15, 1906.	Mar. 2, 1905.
£	£	£	£	£
Coin and bullion ..	5,022,760	5,310,080	5,710,080	4,851,760
Other securities ..	24,475,720	23,403,040	23,133,600	23,424,000
Note circulation ..	27,398,920	27,310,680	27,735,800	26,216,600
Deposits ..	4,587,440	3,775,240	3,527,520	4,038,240

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Mar. 3.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs	National Debt Services ..
Excise	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Charges
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion
Property and Income Tax ..	Supply Services
Post Office	Bullion Advances
Telegraphs	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds redeemed
Miscellaneous	Uganda Railway
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works
Uganda Railway	Naval Works
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts
count	Land Registry (New Build-
Advances for Interest on Ex-	ings)
chequer Bonds	Public Buildings Expenses
Telegraph Acts	Act
Naval Works Acts	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Military Works Acts	Act
Land Registry Acts	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	in reduction of debt
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Cunard Agreement
Issue of Exchequer Bonds	Surplus Revenue, 1904-5 ..
under Cunard Agreement Act	Deficiency Advances re-
ways and Means	paid
Temporary Advances Defi-	ways and Means Advances
ciency	repaid
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	Increase in Exchequer
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	balances
Transvaal and Orange River	
Colony. Repayment of	
Temporary Advance	
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	
tion payments	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	
£4,860,309	£4,860,309

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'15	25'15	Antwerp	short	25'22	25'24
Brussels	chqs.	25'21½	25'22½	Italy	sight	25'14½	25'16
Amsterdam	sight	12'14½	12'14½	Constantinople	3 mths	110'40	110'20
Berlin	chqs.	20'50½	20'48½	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	16½	16½ d.
Do.	3 mths	20'30½	20'30	Valparaiso	90 dys	14½ d.	14½ d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20'49	20'47½	Calcutta	T.T.	1'42½	1'43½
Frankfort	short	20'47½	20'45	Bombay	T.T.	1'42½	1'43½
Vienna	sight	20'05½	20'05½	Hong Kong	T.T.	2'08½	2'08½
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	94'10	94'10	Shanghai	T.T.	2'10½	2'10½
New York	60 dys	4'82½	4'82½	Singapore	T.T.	2'4½	2'4½
Lisbon	sight	51½	51½	Yokohama	4 mths	2'08	2'08
Madrid	sight	29'31	29'20				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.	
			Last Week.	Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	2½	2½
Berlin	5	December 11, 1905	3½	4
Hamburg	5	December 11, 1905	3½	4
Frankfort	5	December 11, 1905	3½	3½
Amsterdam	3	November, 1905	2½	2½
Brussels	4	October 30, 1905	3½	3½
Vienna	4½	October, 1905	4	4½
Rome	5	September, 1904	4	4
St. Petersburg ..	8	January, 1906	8	8
Madrid	4½	August 21, 1901	4	4
Lisbon	5½	January 11, 1899	5	5
Stockholm	5	January, 1906.	4½	4½
Copenhagen	5	October, 1905	4½	4½
Calcutta	9	February 1, 1906	—	—
Bombay	9	February 1, 1906	—	—
New York call money ..	3½	—	—	—

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Mar. 6, 1906.	Mar. 1, 1906.	Feb. 22, 1906.	Mar. 9, 1905.
£	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand ..	115,687,520	115,003,400	114,407,920	111,739,950
Silver in hand ..	42,109,280	42,148,520	42,385,560	44,011,440
Bills discounted ..	32,795,560	39,457,520	35,977,840	21,693,600
Advances	19,936,040	19,657,320	19,568,000	19,535,440
Note circulation ..	189,413,120	190,908,480	186,623,960	173,950,360
Public deposits ..	5,703,680	6,001,600	7,808,400	5,801,480
Private deposits ..	20,503,520	22,624,760	21,679,120	23,243,120

Proportion between bullion and circulation 83½ per cent. against 82½ per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Mar. 3, 1906.	Feb. 24, 1906.	Feb. 17, 1906.	Mar. 4, 1905.
£	£	£	£	£
Gold	15,068,910	15,066,863	15,063,126	14,943,574
Silver	23,482,987	23,448,052	23,280,177	20,568,035
Foreign Bills ..	3,363,723	3,263,469	3,239,007	1,640,814
Discount and Short Bills	47,095,559	47,355,767	47,448,095	50,381,234
Treasury Account ..	20,425,332	20,418,894	20,439,497	21,313,072
Notes in circulation	61,629,565	61,833,562	62,096,268	63,993,265
Current Account deposits	23,402,366	23,613,167	23,462,835	25,308,169
Dividends interests ..	1,258,291	1,312,554	1,406,272	2,845,390
Government Securities	7,882,850	6,682,555	6,312,806	4,330,661

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Feb. 28, 1906.	Feb. 23, 1906.	Feb. 15, 1906.	Feb. 28, 1905.
Cash in hand ..	£ 48,476,850	£ 50,921,000	£ 49,810,700	£ 54,818,050
Bills discounted ..	40,530,700	40,181,600	38,717,900	34,245,750
Advances on stocks ..	5,532,300	2,630,000	3,038,850	3,220,100
Note circulation ..	62,513,600	60,013,950	61,742,250	60,552,000
Public deposits ..	29,276,350	30,673,300	27,637,100	29,700,600

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Feb. 8/21, 1906.	Feb. 1/14, 1906.	Jan. 23/Feb. 6, 1906.	Feb. 8/21, 1905.
Gold ..	£ 72,716,914	£ 72,552,114	£ 73,113,527	£ 89,437,079
Silver and subsidiary coin ..	4,003,919	3,889,894	3,601,959	6,096,229
Advances and bills discounted ..	60,424,252	61,949,443	64,498,337	39,322,671
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	7,849,495	7,446,431	7,576,013	5,290,399
Notes in circulation ..	114,356,833	116,012,277	117,384,611	88,827,557
Deposits and current account ..	45,494,780	43,825,259	45,056,642	43,180,232
Treasury account ..	9,803,454	12,212,587	13,711,842	12,253,461

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Feb. 28, 1906.	Feb. 23, 1906.	Feb. 15, 1906.	Feb. 28, 1905.
Gold Reserve ..	£ 45,833,165	£ 45,853,458	£ 45,713,458	£ 48,051,958
Silver reserve ..	12,695,791	12,684,916	12,666,916	12,834,291
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	1,714,166	1,624,166	1,691,791	1,883,875
Note circulation ..	69,666,875	67,288,458	67,680,750	65,787,768
Bills discounted ..	17,724,291	15,120,833	15,953,000	13,166,166

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Mar. 3, 1906.	Feb. 24, 1906.	Feb. 17, 1906.	Mar. 4, 1905.
Specie ..	£ 36,534,000	£ 37,123,030	£ 37,702,000	£ 43,926,000
Legal tenders ..	15,944,400	16,012,600	15,887,600	17,250,300
Loans and discounts ..	208,160,000	209,860,000	210,480,000	226,830,000
Circulation ..	10,181,430	10,137,400	10,195,200	8,570,200
Net deposits ..	205,900,000	208,460,000	209,720,000	238,000,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of nett deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £1,003,400 against an excess last week of £1,025,600.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Feb. 27.	Mar. 1.	Mar. 6.	Mar. 8.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam ..	short	12'3	12'2½	12'3	12'3
Do. do. ..	3 months	12'5½	12'5	12'5½	12'5
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'47½	25'47½	25'47½	25'47½
Hamburg ..	3 months	20'71	20'71	20'72	20'71
Berlin & German B. Places ..	3 months	20'72	20'72	20'72	20'72
Paris ..	cheques	25'15	25'15	25'15	25'15
Do. ..	3 months	25'36½	25'36½	25'36½	25'35
Marseilles ..	3 months	25'36½	25'36½	25'36½	25'35
Switzerland ..	3 months	25'51½	25'51½	25'48½	25'48½
Austria ..	3 months	24'37	24'37	24'36	24'36
St. Petersburg ..	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow ..	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'47½	25'47½	25'47½	25'47½
New York ..	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P. ...	3 months	40½	40½	39½	39½
Lisbon ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen ..	3 months	18'45	18'44	18'44	18'44
Christiania ..	3 months	18'46	18'45	18'44	18'45
Stockholm ..	3 months	18'46	18'45	18'44	18'45

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

Per cent

Thirty and sixty day remitted bills ..	3½-3½
Three months ..	3½-3½
Four months ..	3½-3½
Six months ..	2½-3
Three months fine inland bills ..	3½-4
Four months ..	3½-4
Six months ..	3½-4

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

Per cent

Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	4
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	4½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	2½
" 7 and 14 days' notice ..	3
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	3½-3½
" for call loans ..	3½-4

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Partly because of the long period of dearish money from which the markets have suffered, but more, perhaps, owing to the incalculable loss suffered by holders of South African shares, the prices of Home Railway debenture, guaranteed and preference stocks have been shrinking for some time past. As we are now, perhaps, to be allowed to enjoy a brief season of comparatively cheap money, it might be worth while for people who are on the outlook for solid investments

with some little chance to improve were they to turn their attention to these classes of securities. Also there are some of our domestic and municipal stocks which have now reached prices tempting to those who look for income and safety.

Since the settlement began this week prices have shown a disposition to recover in speculative markets, but not so much in these investment classes of stocks which have not yet been touched. They only move when they are bought by those who can pay for them, whereas the speculative markets are driven about by "bull and bear." All this week "bears" have been closing, thanks to the appearance of an approaching accord between the Powers who have so long been discussing the Moroccan question at Algeiras. The improvement has extended to the Kaffir Circus, and quite a cheerful recovery has been exhibited there, a proof at least that the opposition to Chinese did not really cause the fall. To wise people, we still insist, these rallies give opportunities to escape. We do not say this in reference to Kaffir shares alone, but think that the commitments in American railroad and industrial markets ought to be cut down or wholly liquidated when prices are going up and the prophets are all prophesying booms.

As for the Kaffir Circus, nothing has really improved there; but just because the account has passed by without bringing to light any extensive bankruptcy the "bears" have been closing everywhere, at home and abroad. Also a certain amount of outside buying has undoubtedly occurred—buying on the part of that class of people who play without bothering to ask what intrinsic qualities securities possess, but just upon the ups and downs of the market. It is thanks to the operations of this class that the market itself often makes money. The outside speculator rushes in after a slump and buys, but fails to sell at the proper moment when he sees a rise. A minority may clear out in time, but the majority of those who enter upon commitments in this fashion hang on until they become victims. Therefore, as the mine controllers are not mending their ways, giving a larger proportion of their illicit gains to outside shareholders, endeavouring to provide more scientific and economical methods of extracting gold, or in any way setting to work to alter the conditions which have prevailed so long, there can be no substantiality in the present market rise. The moral still is to seize the opportunity this upward movement gives to reduce or extinguish commitments. There may be a few dividend-paying Kaffir shares nearing the point at which they might be regarded as passable speculative investments, and we have no doubt at all that the number of such could be sensibly increased were a wholesome revolution in management to take place such as Mr. Govett and others have so effectively brought about in West Australia, but until this occurs the market is one to escape from upon every favourable opportunity.

The Week's Stock Markets.

During the early part of this week markets were dull and spiritless, a very uneasy feeling being abroad regarding the outcome of the settlement, which commenced in the mining markets on Tuesday. Business was virtually at a standstill as neither professionals nor public showed much disposition to operate while such a condition of uncertainty prevailed. That matters are seriously amiss somewhere admits of very little doubt, but towards the close of the week markets assumed a brighter hue, and finished fairly well above the worst. The calmness of the Continental bourses was partly responsible for this, and dealers actually regarded the fall of the Rouvier Ministry as a "bull" point, the argument being that the French Cabinet would not have resigned unless a satisfactory settlement of the Moroccan difficulty had been practically assured. Be this as it may, the tendency was certainly better, but it was largely the result of a "bear" scramble in the Kaffir Circus, operators for the fall being almost

alarmed at the steady and persistent fall, and thinking it time to cover part of their commitments. Home Railways were stimulated by excellent traffics and still better Board of Trade returns, and Yankees tried to brace up after being decidedly flat. Bankers charged the Stock Exchange $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for loans which will cover a 19-day account, and as the week wore on the fears that the settlement would not be concluded without important failures were gradually dissipated. Yesterday was payday, and it is certainly remarkable, bearing in mind the serious shrinkage in prices during the fortnight, that up to the present no open defaults have taken place. Consols were quite buoyant on hopes of easy money and low bank rates after the financial year has turned, and close well up on the week, although not at the best. Other British Funds were also good, and War Loan, Irish Land, Transvaal 3 per cent., Local Loans, and India sterling issues all closed better. Very little went on amongst Home County and Corporation and Colonial Inscribed stocks, but South African municipal loans displayed a better tendency.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS (Last year's dividends are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	89	Consols (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Money) ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
91	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Account (April 4) ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
89 $\frac{1}{2}$	88	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907 ..	100	100 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	Irish Land (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99	Local Loans (3) ..	100	99 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	98	National War Loan (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	99	98 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Account (April 4) ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	100	100 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
300 $\frac{1}{2}$	293	Bk. of England Stk. (9 p.c.) ..	299 $\frac{1}{2}$	299 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	India 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stk. red. 1931 ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
97 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	Do. 3 p.c. Stk. red. 1948 ..	97	97 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
82	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stk. red. 1926 ..	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
66 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd

There was no particular character in the Foreign bond market, and the movements on the week are somewhat irregular, but prices generally closed steady. Moderate sales by Paris caused early dulness, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish being heavy in the European division, and a reported revolutionary disturbance in Uruguay had a depressing influence on South American stocks. Peruvians were offered moderately at first, and Cédulas went back to 22 $\frac{1}{8}$, but when other markets brightened foreigners were quite ready to follow. The lead was taken by Peruvians, which were bid up rapidly in order to give a good send off to the forthcoming Peruvian loan. It will amount to £2,000,000, and the arrangements for the issue are understood to be nearly completed. Cédulas also went forward, and the recovery in Russians was quite substantial. Argentines and Brazilians showed small gains, Chinese loans were steady to firm, and there was a pretty general recovery in Japanese. Carry-over rates again showed little change, all leading South Americans being continued at 4—6 per cent., along with Peruvian debenture, Peruvian ordinary and preference, and one or two Central Americans had to pay 1 per cent. more, but Uruguay 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. could be borrowed on at 1—3 per cent. Japanese 6 per cent. cost 4—6 per cent., the 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. second series 4—5 per cent., the earlier series 3—5 per cent., and the sterling and 5 per cent. 1902, 2—3 per cent. Rates were very light on Europeans and Turkish were carried over even. In the making-up list there was an all-round rise of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ in Greeks, Egyptians were up $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$, Japanese 6 per cent. were $\frac{3}{4}$ and 1 higher, and Spanish rose $\frac{1}{4}$. Leading Argentine and Brazilian issues, however, showed losses of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$, Honduras fell $\frac{1}{8}$, Japanese sterling 1, and the scrip 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, Russians 1 to $\frac{1}{4}$, and the Venezuelan Diplomatic Debt 1. Other issues were affected by dividend deductions.

A good deal of stock was thrown out in the Home Railway market by speculators who had to provide for losses sustained elsewhere, and the depression was increased by fears that this selling would cause contangos to be stiff at the settlement on Wednesday. Prices consequently dwindled in all directions during the early part of the week, but the mood of the market took a rapid change for the better on Wednesday, and

the earlier losses gave place to moderate gains in the majority of stocks. The reasons for the improvement were to be found in the flourishing condition of affairs shown by the Board of Trade Returns for February, and in the confirmation of these afforded by a batch of excellent traffic figures. Scotch stocks, which were weak at first, on fears of a strike amongst shipbuilders on the Clyde, became by comparison buoyant when the Caledonian and Glasgow and South-Western dividends were announced. Both of these companies pay an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on their undivided ordinary stock, giving the deferred stocks 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., compared with 1 and 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. a year ago, and the declarations added several fractions to the

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886 ..	103	103
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	101	101
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	102
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	93
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	90	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	104	104
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	99 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
105	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
89 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	89	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1898 ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	Chilian 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1885 ..	94	95
97 $\frac{1}{2}$	94	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1886 ..	95	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1895 ..	95	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	99	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	99	100
99	98	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	98	98
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	104
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	97 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	101	101
52 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	Costa Rica A ..	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B ..	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$
44 $\frac{1}{2}$	44	Colombian External ..	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	105 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	Egypt Unified 4 p.c. ..	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. pref. ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
88 $\frac{1}{2}$	88	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. State Domain ..	104	105
53 $\frac{1}{2}$	50	German 3 p.c. ..	88	88
53 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Greek, 1884 ..	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$
52 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Funding ..	52	52
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	95	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Italian 5 p.c. ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
104	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Japan 5 p.c. ..	102	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1901-2 ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	102	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	89	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. ..	103	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
69 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	104	104
86 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	69	69 $\frac{1}{2}$
82	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	83 $\frac{1}{2}$
96	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	Servian 4 p.c. ..	81	81
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Turks 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Tribute ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	105	105
73 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. United ..	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	Uruguay 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. ..	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. ..	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Venezuelan, Dip. (3) ..	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$

prices of the respective securities. The Highland company on Wednesday announced a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, or the same as last year, and this was so much above market expectations that the stock was promptly put up 2. It was announced that the proposal for the amalgamation of this company and the Great North of Scotland had not received sufficient support, and that the scheme had, therefore, been definitely abandoned, but the news had no appreciable effect. The North British dividend had a favourable influence on the quotations for the company's stocks, although the distribution on the deferred was again at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, as it was concluded that the increase in gross revenue shown by the weekly traffic returns had been applied towards maintenance of way in accordance with the chairman's statement at the last half-yearly meeting. Towards the end of the week a sharp advance was scored in South-Eastern deferred on buying against call options, which found jobbers short of stock, and the price touched 53. The market having been more or less under a cloud during the past fortnight, owing to circumstances already described, it was only natural that the majority of the movements in the making-up list should be adverse; but the largest changes were again due in great measure to the deduction of dividends, and were, therefore, more apparent than real. North-Western, for example, was 5 lower, South-Western ordinary 6, and

the preferred and deferred $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $3\frac{1}{2}$ down, Great Western fell 5, North-Eastern $4\frac{1}{2}$, Furness and Great Northern preferred 3, and Hull and Barnsley $2\frac{1}{2}$. Brighton ordinary and deferred dropped 2 and $1\frac{1}{2}$, but the preferred rose $1\frac{1}{2}$, Great Eastern also lost $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Midland preferred and deferred $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$. Metropolitan receded 3, District fell $2\frac{1}{2}$, and Central London ordinary and deferred $1\frac{1}{2}$. Of Scotch stocks, Caledonian ordinary and deferred declined 2 and 1, and the preferred $\frac{3}{4}$. North British deferred dropped $1\frac{1}{2}$. Carrying over charges were apparently considerably heavier than last time at $6\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 per cent. as a rule, and occasionally touching 10 per cent., but the increase was in some measure due to the fact that the new account is a 19 day one. Still, rates were by no means light, and the tendency towards stiffer charges increased as the day wore on.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
1412	133	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	135	137
1578	149	Do. Pref. (5 p.c.) ..	151	153
1308	120	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	121½	122½
1202	113	Caledonian Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	113½	114½
80	77	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	77½	77½
424	37½	Do. Def. (1 p.c.) ..	37½	38½
909	92	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	93	92
89	83	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	82½	82½
106	15	Chatham Ordinary ..	15½	15½
442	40½	City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	42	42
60	65	Furness (1½ p.c.) ..	65½	64½
38½	37½	Great Central Pref. ..	38½	38½
204	18	Do. Def. ..	18½	18½
918	83½	Great Eastern (3½ p.c.) ..	83½	83½
205	100	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	101	101½
478	432	Do. Def. (1½) ..	44½	44½
144	135½	Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	135½	135½
53	47½	Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	47½	51½
478	43	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	43½	42½
1093	104½	Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.) ..	105	105½
802	77½	Metropolitan (2½ p.c.) ..	79	79
378	29½	Metropolitan District ..	30	30
708	66½	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	67	67½
746	67½	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	67½	68½
784	77½	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	77½	78
478	44	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	44½	44½
478	140½	North-Eastern (6½ p.c.) ..	142½	142½
1634	150½	North-Western (6½ p.c.) ..	157	157½
904	87½	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	88	89
432	120	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	127	127
55½	50½	Do. Def. ..	51½	53
164	154½	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	155½	155½
1083	104	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	105½	105½
572	51½	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	52½	52½

When the news came through on Saturday that Mr Shaw had decided to deposit \$10,000,000 of Treasury funds with banks in important centres, the market here hailed the announcement as a "bull point," and proceeded to prepare for buying orders from New York by bidding prices up all round. Further consideration, however, led dealers to doubt whether the movement could be regarded in this light, and from that it was easy to arrive at the conclusion that it was just the reverse, the argument being that the condition of affairs on Wall Street must have changed considerably for the worse to cause Mr. Shaw to do now what he refused to do some time ago when matters on the surface looked much more serious. Instead of the expected buying from Wall Street the market on Monday was met with heavy realisations, owing it was said to the liquidation of a large Dutch account, and the decline was emphasised by sales from New York, where fears of a coal strike were again pronounced. A determined effort to bring about a rally sent prices of the favourites up \$1 or more, but the recovery had no real foundation and was not maintained. Even so, however, the changes on the week were by no means all one way, and gains of \$1 or more in such things as Atchison, Norfolk, Southern issues and Union Pacific balanced the declines in Reading, Erie ordinary and Illinois Central. Contangos began at 5 to 6 per cent., and in spite of talk about the big operators paying off part of their advances the need for money became more pronounced as the day went on, and the rate hardened until 6 per cent. became the minimum. Apart from gains of $1\frac{1}{2}$ each in Southern ordinary and preferred and improvements of 5 and 4 in Wabash preferred and "B" debentures, the movements on the fortnight were all adverse. Union Pacific, in which business was perhaps most active, were only $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 lower, but Baltimore ordinary and

preferred fell $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$, Louisville also dropped $2\frac{1}{2}$, Reading receded $3\frac{1}{2}$, New York Central 3, Illinois Central 6 and Milwaukee 2. Denver common and Erie ordinary and second preferences all lost $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Ontario and Norfolk common were $1\frac{1}{2}$ down. Great Northern and Northern Pacific, neither of which are much dealt in on this side, were marked down 20 and 12 as the result of the hitch in the ore lands deal.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
99½	91½	Atchison Shares (4) ..	91½	93½
109½	105½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	106	106½
120	113½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (5) ..	113½	113½
101½	96	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99½	99½
637½	56½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	57	58
193½	182	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	182	183
524	38½	Denver Shares ..	45	45½
936	90½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	91	91
524	442	Erie Shares ..	438	42½
852	80	Do. Pref. (4) ..	79½	79½
77	72½	Do. and Pref. (4) ..	69	70½
185	176½	Illinois Central (7) ..	174	172½
1602	150	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	150	149½
41½	34½	Missouri and Texas ..	35	35½
159½	151	New York Central (5) ..	150½	150
95½	88	Norfolk and Western (4) ..	87	88½
90½	92	Do. Pref. (4) ..	93	93
578½	51½	Ontario Shares (3) ..	51	51
754	71½	Pennsylvania (6) ..	71	71½
858	602	Reading Shares (1½) ..	70	66½
47½	47	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	47½	47½
514	48½	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	51	50
74½	67½	Southern Pacific ..	66½	67½
438	36½	Southern ..	38½	40½
1034	1034	Do. Pref. (5) ..	102	103½
1034	151½	Union Pacific (5½) ..	153½	155½
101½	99	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99½	99½
208	204	Wabash ..	24	24½
424	52	Do. Pref. ..	52	52
85	72½	Do. Income Debs. ..	85	84
174½	175	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	174½	175½
106½	104½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	106½	106½
109½	109	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109½	110
20½	20½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	27½	29½
29½	104	Do. Guar. (4) ..	105	105
105½	114½	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	118½	119
119	114½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109½	110
109½	105½	Do. 3rd Pref. (2) ..	60½	60½
68½	61½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109½	109½
109½	107½			

Canadian Pacific shares after a sharp advance in the end of last week went back when the shake out occurred on Wall Street, but the loss was as quickly recovered under the stimulus of a good traffic return, and although they became dull again in sympathy with the cessation of activity in Yankees, part of the improvement was retained to the end. Grand Trunk

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
229½	211½	Antofagasta (10) ..	223½	223½
315	313	Do. Def. (15) ..	330	330
130½	126	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	127	126
132	129½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	130	130
88	84½	Bahia Blanca Pref. ..	86½	86½
144½	140	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	142½	142½
129½	127	Do. Pref. (5) ..	129	128
194½	132	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	132½	132½
120½	115½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	117	117
110	107½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109	109
117½	115	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	118	119½
114	109½	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	114½	116
170	165½	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	168	167
109	105½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	106	106
138½	135½	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	138	137½
92½	88½	Central Uruguay (4½) ..	90	88½
109½	106½	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	108	103
90	92½	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	95	95
75½	71½	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	72	71
59½	55	Costa Rica ..	2½	2½
7	6½	Cuban Central ..	6½	6½
117½	114	Do. Pref. (5½) ..	114½	114½
106	103	Do. Deb. (4½) ..	103	103
93½	90½	East Argentine (4½) ..	91	91
94	8½	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	9	8½
86½	78½	Leopoldina (3) ..	80	79
98½	96	Do. Deb. (4) ..	96½	96
103	107½	Manila Bonos "A" (6) ..	108	108
105½	103½	Do. "B" (6) ..	105	105
28½	25	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	27½	27½
129½	118½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½) ..	128½	130
59	49½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	57½	58½
66	54½	Mexican Southern (2½) ..	64	64
16	14½	Nitrate Ord. (5½) ..	16	15½
21	19½	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	21	21½
209½	203	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	212	208
193	174½	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	18½	177

stocks also benefited by a traffic which was considerably better than dealers expected, and business in the ordinary and third preference especially has been active and at times even excited. On the fortnight the ordinary was $1\frac{1}{2}$ higher and the third preference $2\frac{1}{2}$ up, the first and second preference rising $\frac{1}{2}$ each, but Canadian

Pacific shares fell $2\frac{1}{2}$. Amongst other Canadian things Alberta capital and prior lien debenture stocks were both 1 up, and Quebec Central capital stock and new income bonds gained $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1, while Québec and Lake St. John 6 per cent. bonds dropped 1.

The stocks of the old Mexican Railway Company have been bought steadily throughout the week, and they finished with substantial gains, but the interest did not extend to the other lines in that country, and prices were either unaltered or fractionally lower. Entre Rios stocks sagged on reports that the wheat crop in the province had been attacked by rust and the weakness spread to other Argentine railways. Satisfactory

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
21	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	17	Allsopp Ordinary	18
51	44	—	City of London Ord. .. .	49 $\frac{1}{2}$
55 1/2	54 0	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	550xd
19 1/2	16 1/2	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40) .. .	19
51 1/3	45 1/2	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
61 1/3	47 1/2	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
56	49 1/2	50 1/2	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	51 1/2
16	14	14	Do. Def. Ord. Stock .. .	14
99 1/2	95	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	97
62	51	—	Do. Def. Stk. (12) .. .	55
6 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	Aerated Bread (32 1/2) .. .	6 1/2
7 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	Apollinaris Ord. (5) .. .	7
6 1/2	6 1/2	14 1/2	Ass'd Portland Cement Pf. (5 1/2)	6 1/2
27 1/2	21 1/3	14 1/2	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7) .. .	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
45 1/2	40 1/2	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
7 1/2	5 1/2	—	Brunner Mond (35) .. .	5 1/2
11 1/2	11	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12 1/2)	11 1/2
13 1/2	11 1/2	13 1/2	Calico Printers Ordinary (24) ..	13 1/2
5 1/2	5 1/2	105 1/2	Coats Ordinary (20) .. .	5 1/2
500	495	495	Do. Pref. Ord. (20) .. .	500
26 1/2	19 1/2	25 1/2	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
25 1/2	22 1/2	24 1/2	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	6 1/2
13 1/2	12 1/2	—	Henley's Telegraph (15) .. .	13 1/2
89 1/2	81 1/2	4 1/2	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) .. .	4 1/2
27 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5 1/2)	13 1/2
108 1/2	107 1/2	—	Do. Debenture (42) .. .	108
24 1/2	21 1/2	22 1/2	Lipton Ordinary (7) .. .	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	Lyons, J. & Co. (30) .. .	5 1/2
34 1/2	27 1/2	29 1/2	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
15 1/2	13 1/2	—	Russian Petroleum .. .	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
7 1/2	6 1/2	—	Savoy Hotel (5) .. .	7
18 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	Sweetmeat Automatic .. .	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
16 1/2	15 1/2	—	Short's Deleter Ordinary (10)	16
12 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	Welsbach Ordinary Stock .. .	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
18 1/2	17 1/2	18 1/2	Do. Pref. Stock (6) .. .	18 1/2
103 1/2	102 1/2	103	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	103
57 1/2	48 1/2	55	Hudson's Bay Co. (58 1/2)	86 1/2
54 1/2	42 1/2	52 1/2	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1 1/2)	52 1/2
110	107 1/2	109 1/2	Do. Debentures (6) .. .	109 1/2
9 1/2	9 1/2	—	National Discount (10) .. .	9 1/2
12	11 1/2	—	Union Discount (11) .. .	11 1/2
6 1/2	5	5	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	5xd
11 1/2	11	11	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	11 1/2
104 1/2	98	—	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4 1/2)	99 1/2
129 1/2	129 1/2	—	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5 1/2)	129 xd
66 1/2	62 1/2	3 1/2	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	3 1/2
85 1/2	75 1/2	4 1/2	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	4
28 1/2	28 1/2	35 1/2	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10)	1 1/2
30 1/2	30 1/2	—	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7 1/2)	1 1/2
14	13 1/2	13	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	13 1/2
47	4 1/2	4 1/2	United States Steel Ordinary ..	4 1/2
117	108 1/2	108 1/2	Do. Preference (7) .. .	108 1/2
57 1/2	52 1/2	2 1/2	Vickers Ordinary (12 1/2) .. .	2 1/2
14 1/2	13 1/2	—	Cunard Steam .. .	13 1/2
24 1/2	23 1/2	—	Peninsular & Oriental Det. (13)	239 1/2
54	48	—	Royal Mail .. .	53 1/2
9	8 1/2	—	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5) .. .	8
114 1/2	109 1/2	113 1/2	Anglo-American Telegraph—	—
18 1/2	16 1/2	18 1/2	Do. Pref. Ord. (2 1/2) .. .	114
150 1/2	135 1/2	149	Do. Def. Ord. .. .	18 1/2
14 1/2	14 1/2	15	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7) ..	150 1/2
111 1/2	109	111 1/2	Eastern Extension (7) .. .	15
14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	111
8 1/2	8 1/2	6 1/2	Western Telegraph (7) .. .	14 1/2
9 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	7 1/2
117	96 1/2	—	Anglo-Argentine Trains Ord. (8)	9
9 1/2	8 1/2	—	London General Omnibus (7) ..	9 1/2
—	—	—	London United Trams Pref. (5) ..	9 1/2

traffic returns helped to bring about a rally, but except in the case of Buenos Ayres and Rosario, where the earnings again exceeded £100,000, the movement did not gather sufficient strength to wipe out the earlier declines. Brazilian things were also heavy, San Paulo ordinary being dealt in as low as 207 1/2, but Great Western ordinary and preferred shares exceptionally gained a fraction or two. Buying of a somewhat wild description, which was said to be on foreign account, broke out in Paraguay Central debentures, and the quotation was lifted by no less than 10 points in two days. United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock was quite out of favour for a time, and although it recovered a little before the close the price was still down on the week. In the making-up list Argentine things were mostly lower, the only notable exceptions being

gains of 1 1/2 and 1 in Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary and deferred. Argentine North-Eastern preferred stock and ordinary debentures, Cordoba Central first preference and debenture stocks, and Buenos Ayres and Rosario preference stock, fell from 1 to 1 1/4, and Entre Rios ordinary and first preference lost 4 1/2 and 3 1/2. Amongst other South American things San Paulo ordinary advanced 3 and Guayaquil and Quito Railway bonds 2, while Midland Uruguay ordinary stock declined 2 1/2, Central Uruguay 2 1/2 and Uruguay Northern preference stock 1 1/2. Mexican Railway preferences were 5 and 3 1/2 better and the ordinary put on 7/8, Inter-oceanic shares and "B" debenture stock gained 1 1/8 and 1 1/2, and Mexican Southern ordinary and second debenture 3 1/2 and 1. United Railways of the Havana ordinary dropped 5 1/2, and Antofagasta undivided ordinary rose 1.

Only a very small business was transacted in Miscellaneous securities, and the movements in prices did not possess much significance. Hudson's Bays were taken in hand again, Pekin Syndicates had another run, and the Argentine Land group was harder. Investment stocks, such as Financial Trusts, Gas and Insurance securities, were all good, and the Brewery list was not quite so weak. British Electric Traction shares had a sharp fall, and the market fears that the dividend on the ordinary for the complete year will be no better than 3 per cent. Even that may not be earned. London General Omnibus stock continues flat, but Road Cars and London Motor 'Bus kept steady. Daimler Motors were a very good market, and rose to over 3, Nitrate shares were inclined to improve, but nothing of consequence happened in the Iron and Steel group. Textiles were very little dealt in, but the tone continues firm, and most Catering shares kept steady. Nobel Dynamite were offered, and in the Shipping list Furness, Withy were sold down to 31s. 9d., a large line of shares coming on the market, but they soon recovered. Royal Mails were also dull. Meat shares just about held their prices, Hope Brothers' preference receded to 4 1/2, and John Barker ordinary were dull on the new issue. Entertainment Companies' shares were rather better, Anglo-American Telegraph Deferred was again inclined to rally, and National Telephone deferred had a small rise. Carry-over rates in these sections did not show much change, allowing for the longer duration of the account, and making-up prices, as usual, were irregular, but mostly downward. Daimler Motor ordinary rose 1/8, Jay's and Paquin ordinary 3-32, Hudson's Bays and Pekin Syndicates 1, Anglo-American ordinary 1 1/4, the preferred 2, and the deferred 1/2, and Direct United States Cable and Telephone deferred each 1/2. On the other hand, Portland Cement issues were easier, B.E.T. ordinary dropped 1 1/4, and the preference 1/8, Bryant and May preference 1/8, City of London and Charing Cross Electric ordinary 1/2, and Lautaro Nitrate 5/8. Then Lyons fell 1/8, Metropolitan Electric ordinary, New Explosives, and Pease and Partners 5/8, Russian Petroleum 2s. 3d., Spratt's Patent 1/8, Underground Electric Notes 1, Westminster Electric 1/2, Parker's Burslem Brewery ordinary 1/2, Pekin Syndicate deferred 10, Standard Bank of South Africa 3 1/4, and London and District Motor 'Bus 1/8.

The, let us hope final, removal of the Moroccan cloud from people's minds in France, and all over Europe has had a stimulating effect on stock markets to-day. It is now believed everywhere that no trouble or any danger of war between France and Germany will spring from this long drawn out colloquy of the Powers at Algeiras, so prices were elastic in all markets to-day and left off here almost at the best. Complaint is still made that business is poor, but there is undoubtedly a revival of investment demand, and if favourable conditions remain dominant, we shall soon see speculation active as well, with plenty of new securities coming out to attract people's savings. The one great dark spot is Russian finance and about that we really can say, nothing fresh.

Notes on Books.

Frenzied Finance: The Crime of Amalgamated. By Thomas W. Lawson, of Boston. (London: Wm. Heinemann.) Price, 6s.

Readers of the INVESTORS' REVIEW have had so many specimens of Mr. Lawson's handwork in back numbers that a long review of this book is not required by them. It is undeniably a work of conspicuous ability and full of dramatic interest, a book therefore which people in this country who take an interest in the developments of modern finance ought not to miss reading. Mr. Lawson's style is unusually graphic, and whatever may be thought of the morality here and there exhibited, it is impossible to avoid the conclusion that the writer is telling the truth throughout to the best of his knowledge and belief, and a ghastly story it is he has to tell. We commend the book as something far more vivid and fascinating than the most successful novel of the season.

The Directory of Directors for 1906. By Thomas Skinner. (London: 1, Royal Exchange Buildings, E.C.) Price, 15s. nett.

This indispensable handbook for publicists of all kinds now makes its twenty-seventh annual appearance, and is fully up to its usual quality, which is one of great excellence. The publication has been slightly delayed in order that it might include the M.P. designations resulting from the General Election, and in Mr. Skinner's preface the interesting statement is made that while of the late House of Commons upwards of 280 members were directors of public companies, in the new Parliament there are only 180 thus ticketed. In other words, the Parliament of 1906 is not only the most democratic, but the cleanest, so far as dabbling in City finance is concerned, of any Parliament elected since the Limited Liability Acts came into existence. Some interesting figures are added as showing the remarkable variations in the company promoting business. Although during 1905 there was a distinct expansion in the number of new companies issued, the aggregate was still much below those of preceding years except 1904. In 1904 company promoting was abnormally slack, the total registrations having been 3,831, with an aggregate capital of £92,500,000 as compared with 4,075 companies and £126,600,000 of capital in 1903, while in 1905 4,354 companies passed through the initial stage of incorporation within the United Kingdom, providing for a total capital of £121,000,000. In spite of the increase of companies in 1905 the number of directors included in this directory shows practically no alteration. It has, however, been increased in size by several pages, and the inference is that individuals have added to their directorial engagements to a more than usual extent during the year. In the course of the past twelve months 1,700 names have fallen out of the list, while 1,800 have come in, so that the total number included remains at about 20,000. Much interesting material for the social history of the time might be compiled out of this book, but for the present at least lack of space forbids us to enter upon any such enterprise.

The Iron Trade of Great Britain. By J. Stephen Jeans. (Books on Business, London: Methuen and Co.) Price, 2s. 6d. nett.

What Mr. Jeans does not know about iron and steel is not much, and his contribution to the Books on Business is therefore most valuable and interesting. In addition to a brief historical résumé of the growth of iron and steel making in this country a glance is also taken at the progress made by other European countries and the United States. The development of the latter country and Germany has been in recent years the most remarkable feature of the industry, though, as Mr. Jeans indicates in another chapter, it cannot be said in either case to have moved on sound economic lines, nor is it based on such a stable foundation as in this country. We have certainly been deposed from the position of the premier iron-producing

country, and now stand third in the list, being distanced by the States and Germany. Yet the volume of our exports still far exceeds those of our most active rivals, notwithstanding their alleged "dumping" proclivities. On this subject Mr. Jeans has a good deal to say, and we advise Tariff Reformers to study his remarks and the illustrations he gives of the way prices fluctuate and the home consumer is bled when the producer operates behind a tariff wall.

The British Railway Outlook. By W. J. Stevens, F.S.S. (London: Effingham Wilson.) Price, 1s.

Though primarily intended to assist investors in Home Rails, this little book of Mr. Stevens has a wider interest, inasmuch as the figures he gives illustrating the present position of our railways as compared with the past form a valuable comparison of the changes introduced in recent years. Quietly and unostentatiously for the most part the past few years have witnessed the introduction of many economical reforms in railway management and finance, which are beginning to bear fruit now that trade shows signs of recovering from the awful depression induced by the war. To enable shareholders and investors in railways to gain some conception of what has taken place and is now going on, Mr. Stevens, whose reputation as a careful and painstaking statistician is well known, has extracted sundry figures from the balance-sheets and price lists, and from these has endeavoured to forecast the future course of railways as investments. Taking them all round he considers the future decidedly promising, since the causes of the recent depression are gradually passing away, while at the same time the experience gained is proving of inestimable value. Holders of railway stock can therefore do very much worse than study this book and the deductions drawn by Mr. Stevens from the facts and figures he has collated.

The Presidential Address of the Hon. G. H. Gokhale, C.I.E., to the 21st Indian National Congress.

Those who "think imperially" in the retaliationist, protectionist or Brummagem style might do worse than set themselves the task of reading this eloquent and striking address through from end to end. We are quite sure they would not suffer by the exercise, for the style is direct and lucid, and the mere fact that they would thereby obtain some conception, not only of the intellectual attainments of educated natives of India, but of the grievances under which these natives suffer—of the blight to all civic and political life induced by the hard, mechanical, formal, unsympathetic, bureaucratic rule under which these natives exist—might perhaps tempt them to give some little attention in future to Indian problems. You may depend upon it India is going to make itself heard in many ways during coming years. The very dead uniformity of our rule is forcing the people there to educate themselves in politics, and from this point of view the Viceroyalty of Lord Curzon has, probably without his intending it, done more to advance the cause of self-government in India than those of any other three Viceroys the Peninsula ever had. "We emphatically hold," said Mr. Gokhale, "that the resources of the country should be primarily devoted to the work of qualifying the people by means of education and in other ways" for self-government. "Even," he goes on, "the most bigoted champion of the existing system of administration will not pretend that this is in any degree the case at present. Our nett revenue is about £44,000,000 sterling. Of this very nearly one-half is now eaten up by the army. The home charges, exclusive of their military portion, absorb nearly one-third, these two between them account for about £34,000,000 out of the £44,000,000. Then over £3,000,000 are paid to European officials in civil employ. This leaves only about £7,000,000 at the disposal of the Government to be applied to other purposes. Can anyone who realises what this means wonder that the Government spends only a miserable

£750,000 out of State funds on the education of the people, primary, secondary and higher all put together." That is one grievance, and the curse of militarism with its devouring exactions is in this and other ways ruining India. We have said that these many years, and it is going to be proved true at no distant date. Mr. Morley has his work cut out.

The Work of a Bank. By H. T. Easton. (London: Effingham Wilson.) Price 2s. nett.

This little book is primarily intended to give those who are about to commence a banking career some insight into the routine of a bank, and perhaps the mere statement that the present is the third edition would be sufficient indication of the value of the work. It may be said, however, that Mr. Easton takes up one after another the various transactions which occur in the daily work of a bank, and explains each in so lucid a manner that the student who has mastered the contents will find it easy when he enters the office to put what he has learnt into practice.

Yield Tables for £1 Shares. Compiled by L. Spencer. (London: Effingham Wilson and Fred. C. Mathieson and Sons.) Price 1s. nett.

This is a neat and handy yield table book, which will go into the pocket without inconvenience, and the price is not ruinous. The tables show at a glance the yield per cent. on capital invested in £1 shares at any given price and rate of dividend. A supplementary table gives the equivalent in shillings and pence of the fractions of £1 from 1-32 to 31-32 and a fifth part of these for making calculations on £5 shares.

The Mining Year Book. Edited by A. N. Jackman. (London: *The Financial Times*, 72, Coleman Street, London, E.C.) Price 15s. nett.

The 1906 edition of this very useful mining manual and reference book is now published. It has been overhauled and brought up-to-date, and contains much new matter. Unlike other manuals the companies are arranged in alphabetical order, irrespective of location, and the items of information come under distinctive headings, an arrangement which certainly saves the time often spent in hunting through contexts or indices. In bulk it is some 1,500 pages, and gives particulars of over 4,000 companies, embracing such information as their officials, finances, dividends, property, outputs, and mining operations. The work is again prefaced by a review of the past year's mining by Mr. J. W. Broomhead, and there are the usual sketch maps, a glossary of mining terms, a directory of mining engineers and metallurgists, etc. In the present edition a valuable innovation is the inclusion in the outputs of the complete figures for 1905, such as the ore crushed, mill yield, average; total fine gold from all sources, with working revenue, expenses, and profit. In most cases these results are actually given in advance of the issue of the annual reports of the companies, which is commendable enterprise.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

*. Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

This week we have witnessed the settlement of another distressing account, not so disastrous to speculators for the rise as the preceding account, but none the less miserable, as the differences they had to meet were accumulatively heavier. Though prices did not fall in the same precipitous fashion that characterised the mid-February account, nevertheless they gradually slid away by small fractions, which in the course of the fortnight aggregated big individual losses. It is not so surprising under the circumstances that rates should be slightly easier than on the last occasion, for there is apparently a fairly large "bear" position. On such things as Gold Fields, East Rands, Rand Mines, Gold Trusts, and Johannesburg Consolidated the charge was 5-6 per cent., compared with 5½-6½ per cent., whilst the rate on Randfonteins went from 6-7 per cent. to 4½-5½ per cent. This was also the contango on Geduld Proprietary and T. C. L.'s, against 5½-6½ per cent. The Simmer and Jack rate was also much lower at 5-6 per cent., but on Modderfonteins it was still 5½-6½ per cent. A Goerz and General Minings were carried over "even," the general rate

being 6½-7½ per cent. On De Beers the charge was no higher than 2½-3½ per cent., and on Jagers 3½-4½ per cent., but Premiers were continued at 5-6 per cent. In the Rhodesian section the ruling figure was 6½-7½ per cent., the exceptions being 4½-5½ per cent. on Bankets, 5½-6½ per cent. on Lomagundas, Scottish Mashonaland, and Explorations, 8 per cent. on Chartered, and 5-6 per cent. on Charter Trusts. There was no change in the West African and Egyptian rate of 6-8 per cent., and this was also the prevailing charge amongst West Australians. Great Boulder Proprietary, Great Fingalls, and Oroya Brownhill were continued at 5-7 per cent., Ivanhoes at 3-5 per cent., and Sons of Gwalia later in the day at 2½ "back." On miscellaneous things rates were arranged generally at 6-8 per cent.

As already stated, the falls on the fortnight were heavy, Rand Mines losing 1½, Ferreira and H. F. Company 1 each, Gold Fields ½, Modderfontein and Central Mining ¾ each, with declines of ¾ in Apex, East Rand Mining Estates, Rand Klipfonteins, and Tanganyikas, ½ in Crown Deep, De Beers preferred, and Welgedachts, ⅞ in Casons, 13-32 in Knight's, ¾ in East Rands, Heriots, Rose Deeps, H. E. Props, and South Nourse, and ⅞ in Geduld Proprietary, Rand Victorias and Steyn Estates. Beyond an advance of ½ in Premier Diamond deferred and ¾ in the Preferred there were no rises to speak of in the South African list. In the Jungle Broomassies put on ½, but there were losses of 9-32 in Taquahs, ¼ in Amalgamated, ⅞ in Abossos, 5-32 in Wassaus and ¼ in Ashanti Goldfields Auxiliary. Amongst Egyptians Nile Valleys continued to droop and lost in all 1s. 9d., whilst "Mummies" fell 1s. There were several heavy recessions amongst West Australians, such as ¾ in Kalgurilis, ⅞ in Ivanhoes, ⅞ in Great Fingalls, 5-32 in Associated, and 3-32 in Northern Blocks. Golden Horseshoes were conspicuously ¼ better. Of the copper shares Anacondas fell 1½, but Rio Tintos advanced 1½.

Since the carry-over we have witnessed a sudden and remarkable change in the Kaffir Circus. The steady fall has stopped all at once, and prices all round have smartly recovered. This is not because the public have suddenly become large buyers, nor is it the result of any genuine business, as far as we can see, but it is owing to a capricious and probably a transient change in professional sentiment. Speculators profess to feel happy because there have been no disastrous failures, so some bidding for the principal speculative counters hastened a "bear" covering, and this is the kind of support on which the superficial change is based. There is likewise some talk that the Algenciras conference is about to end in the best way possible. Conjectural as it is this has helped prices a little, and has had some effect upon the "bears." There has likewise been some buying on French account. Angelos have improved on the announcement that 40 stamps of its own mill have started work, which will be increased to 110 stamps during the present month, whilst it is intimated that the returns for March will not be normal owing to absorption of the gold in the setting of plates, etc. Another member of the same group, the Cason Gold Mines, has announced that it will start to crush at the end of April.

In the diamond group Premier deferred have continued to display strength, benefiting both from Cape buying and the closing of a French "bear" account. Jagers and De Beers are likewise a little better. It is said that the revised contract with the selling syndicate has now been signed, involving a profit-sharing scheme from which De Beers will derive much benefit.

In sympathy with Kaffirs, Rhodesians look a little more cheerful on the surface, but it is of no moment, for no one is buying such stuff. This market is as weak and as flimsy as ever and those who hold the shares see prices dwindle day by day, with only the shadowy hope of eventual recovery.

The West African and Egyptian sections are as flat as ever, with no change of importance, either up or down, to record. In the past day or two West Australians have tried to show a little more vigour, and one or two of the leading shares have managed to gain a fraction or so, but, on the whole, the dullness here is as pronounced as ever, with no genuine business to put real life into it.

The only other group showing signs of vitality is the copper, where Anacondas fall and rise in the same bewildering fashion as other Yankee stocks. Holders are delighted to see them shoot up a dollar a day, only to see them flop down the next quite limp. Rio Tintos, on the other hand, have been consistently good, chiefly on Paris support.

NEW HERIOT GOLD MINING COMPANY.—Readers are aware that a meeting of this company is to be held in Pietermaritzburg on the 30th inst. to consider a proposal for purchasing some deep level claims from the Nourse Deep, and that such proposal has met with much opposition from some quarters. Mr. Francis J. Dormer, one of the most vigorous of these opponents, has given notice that at the meeting he will move five resolutions rescinding several Articles, and providing that every shareholder shall have one vote for every share registered in his name; that the number of directors shall be five, of which three shall be a quorum; that no person shall be a director unless he be a holder of 500 shares; that every notice issued by the company shall be served upon shareholders by letter, posted to them at the address registered at the office of the company, and that the following addition be made to Article 63:—"Provided that a meeting of the shareholders registered at the branch office or offices in the United Kingdom shall be held in the City of London in the month of May in each year for the purpose of electing three local directors, each of whom shall hold in his own right not less than 500 shares, who shall exercise all such powers and do all such things as above, and for the purpose of

considering the affairs of the company generally. Notice of not less than seven clear days shall be given by the London secretary of the intention to hold such meeting, and shareholders may vote thereat either in person, or by proxy. Local directors so elected shall not be subject to suspension or dismissal as provided by Article 64. Any vacancy occurring amongst such local directors shall be filled up by the local directors remaining. These resolutions are certainly in the interests of the general body of shareholders, by whom they should be supported. Together with such notice the directors of the New Heriot issue a lengthy letter from their consulting engineer, Mr. Sidney J. Jennings, replying to Mr. Dormer's criticisms of the purchase scheme. In his conclusion he says:—"It is clear that the value of the contingent advantage mentioned in my letter of November 20, 1905, is very great, i.e., of being able, with an enlarged plant, to profitably mine reef now considered unpayable. This advantage applies not only to your own ground, but with proportionate force to the area to be acquired from the Nourse Deep. I, therefore, beg to reiterate my advice to purchase these claims at the price fixed, which not only gives a large profit on the transaction itself, but justifies the addition to your plant on which the above-mentioned contingent advantage depends."

GEDULD PROPRIETARY.—In forwarding some cablegrams recording the progress of sinking during the month of February, the directors of the Geduld Proprietary intimate that they have not yet received the report of the Commission of Inquiry, the delay being due to the necessity of getting evidence from England. This refers to the investigations into the origins of the recent scandal. The assays of the ore met with during development are exceedingly poor.

MYSORE GOLD MINING COMPANY.—During 1905 the output of gold from this great Indian mine was maintained, both the quantity crushed and the yield therefrom showing but a trifling difference on 1904. The battery crushed in all 195,650 tons for a production by amalgamation of 184,957 ozs. of bar gold, giving an average of nearly 19 dwts. per ton. In the cyanide department 165,491 tons of tailings were treated, resulting in an extraction of 20,432 ozs. of gold, an average of 2 dwts. 11 grs. per ton. By these two processes, therefore, 207,049 ozs. of standard gold were obtained, which realised, after deduction of royalty, the sum of £764,587, and rents, interest, transfer fees and rebates brought up the year's income to £768,902. Expenditure in India and England chargeable against the gross receipts amounted to £318,345, leaving a nett profit of £450,556, to which falls to be added the £5,243 brought forward, making a total of £455,800. Two interim dividends were paid during the year, and the directors declare a balance payment of 5s. 6d. per share. The three aggregate 14s. 6d. per share, or 14s. per cent., the same as was paid in 1904. Comparing the results of the two years, there was an increase of 4,650 tons in the quantity milled and of 10,658 tons in the tailings treated, whilst the gold produced showed a difference of 3,480 ozs. in favour of 1905 and an excess in value of £17,322. Ore reserves have also largely increased, from 523,000 tons to 613,000 tons, notwithstanding an extraction of 195,650 tons. It is pointed out that heavy outlay is being incurred in connection with various new works, and shareholders will be encouraged to hear that the position and prospects of the mine justify this expenditure, in order to make development work more rapid and economical. As the directors consider such outlay is chargeable to capital they intend to issue more shares, to the number of 30,000, of 10s. each, to be issued at £6, or £5 10s. premium. As the present capital is £290,000 in 580,000 10s. shares, it would thereby be raised to £305,000 in 610,000 shares. It would probably be wiser policy to charge the money gradually to revenue, though that might have the unpleasant effect of reducing the dividend. Finally, the directors say the developments have shown so marked an improvement in the twelve months as to warrant them in saying that the mine is now in a more prosperous condition than it has ever been before in its long career of over a quarter of a century. To the end of December last the value of the gold produced was £8,308,014, whilst the dividends aggregate £4,406,542, a fine record.

LONDON AND WESTERN AUSTRALIAN EXPLORATION COMPANY.—The report and accounts cover the operations for the lengthy period of sixteen months to December 31. In their brief survey of the position the directors rather mournfully remind their shareholders that there have been no important discoveries in Western Australia in the year 1904-05, nor any revival of public interest in the mining industry, which are facts visible to the most superficial observer. Consequently there have been no special opportunities for market operations. However, the company managed to gather in a total income of £35,321, of which £13,207 consisted of dividends, £11,790 were the profits made on share selling, after deducting the unmentioned losses, £9,000 is a profit in fully-paid shares, and the balance came from the sale of property, interest, exchange, transfer fees, etc. After allowing for all items of outgo, including depreciation, the nett profit was £21,266, which enables the directors to reduce the debit balance from £27,219 to £5,953. Current liabilities are only £1,018, and the company has as much as £27,536 in cash, with debts owing to it of £18,492.

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN BANK.—The statement for Feb. shows current accounts and deposits of £13,840,071, other liabilities £416,023, and acceptances and endorsements £3,131, against assets consisting of cash in hand and at Bank of England £1,061,937, money at call and short notice £1,258,465, British Government and other securities £3,889,472, and bills discounted, loans, &c., £9,146,220.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

GREAT NORTH OF SCOTLAND RAILWAY COMPANY.

For the half-year ended January 31 the gross receipts were £254,392, or an increase of £2,573, but the working charges were less by £763 at £127,365, so that the ratio between expenditure and income worked out at 51.40 per cent. against 52.19 per cent. There was a small decrease in the passenger traffic, first and third class being down against an improvement in season tickets, and parcels, horses, carriages, &c., yielded about £350 less. Minerals also fell away to a trifling extent, but live stock gave £400 more, and merchandise yielded an additional £4,000. Miscellaneous receipts were also slightly larger. On the expenditure side the outlay on maintenance of way and works was reduced by £1,592, but locomotive power was up £824, and carriage and wagon repairs rose by £478. A saving of £1,000 on traffic expenses is satisfactory, general charges were rather lower, and compensation, we are glad to note, was on a reduced scale. Rates and taxes, however, are up, as usual, the increase being £908, and the balance of nett revenue comes out £3,335 to the good at £127,026. Add balance brought forward £2,722, and £313 for general interest, and the sum for disposal is £130,061 against £126,717. Fixed charges require rather more, but preference dividends are the same, so that after providing the dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the preferred ordinary stock, the distribution on the deferred ordinary is raised from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 per cent. per annum, with a sum of £3,972 carried forward. Capital expenditure during the half-year was quite trifling at £9,067, and we are glad to see that the contemplated outlay for the current six months is only £22,640, because the debit to capital account of £211,770 is already too large. It involves temporary loans of £52,000, besides the use of the savings bank, fire insurance and other funds. Shareholders are invited to approve the Bill for the amalgamation of the company's undertaking with the Highland Railway, but at a meeting of the latter company held on Wednesday it was announced that the projected fusion had been abandoned for want of sufficient support. Dividends payable April 3.

BILBAO RIVER AND CANTABRIAN RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

During 1905 the total shipments of iron ore from Bilbao River amounted to 4,305,405 tons against 3,830,796 tons in 1904, showing the substantial increase of 474,609 tons. At the same time the traffic carried over the company's line totalled 929,194 tons compared with 848,478 tons, or 80,716 tons more, so that the all-round improvement is most satisfactory. Thus the gross receipts advanced from £109,433 to £120,097, whilst working expenses were reduced by £500 to £48,528, bringing the ratio down from 44.85 per cent. to 40.41 per cent. This resulted in an increase of nearly £11,600 in the nett revenue at £73,680, and after deducting loss in exchange £18,297, also income-tax and Spanish Government taxes, £48,959 is left compared with £40,168. Interest gave a little more at £5,801 and £7,461 was brought from 1904, so the available balance is £10,000 higher at £62,222. Of this £1,000 more at £13,000 is put to reserve, with £2,000 to the staff fund, and the dividend and bonus on the ordinary and preference shares is increased by 3s. to 15s. per share, involving a small reduction in the balance of £6,216 carried forward. The whole of the improvement came from the mineral traffic, there being a slight reduction in the other traffic. Royalties gave a trifle extra, as did miscellaneous receipts. Stocks alongside the company's line on January 1 were estimated at 100,000 tons, a decrease of 10,000 tons on last year's figures. The financial position is remarkably strong. The whole cost of the property has been written off, and the fund for the redemption of the capital of £164,025 amounts to £152,621, in addition to which there is a reserve fund of £20,000. Cash totals over £51,000.

CITY OF LONDON ELECTRIC LIGHTING CO., LIMITED.

With an addition of 90,994 8 c.p. lamps, making a total of 818,955 lamps connected, the sales of current for 1905 rose by 3,333,538 units to 20,957,648 units. The average price charged to private consumers was further reduced from 3.25d. to 2.78d., but the revenue, including £12,989 from public lighting contracts, was £5,665 up at £240,787, and with £21,207 or £1,242 more from meter rents, &c., the total income was £6,907 larger at £261,994. Expenses, on the other hand, increased by £3,509 only at £116,318, leaving nett profits at £145,676 compared with £142,368, to which are added £21,877 brought forward and £1,744 from interest, &c., and after providing for interest on debentures and loans and putting the usual £45,500 to reserves, £2,500 is written off Parliamentary expenses, suspense account, and the ordinary shares again receive a dividend of 6 per cent., leaving £22,235 to be carried to the new account. The directors seem to have awakened at last to the necessity of cleaning up the balance-sheet, but the steps taken towards that end can only be regarded as a beginning, and much more must be done before the position becomes really sound. For years past the directors have been in the habit of crediting the reserve fund with the estimated value of old plant discarded, without at the same time writing off the original cost, with the result that the proportion of reserve to capital expenditure appeared much better than was the case. Now, however, the original cost of buildings, plant, cables, and other works dismantled has been

ascertained, and £89,058 is written off the reserve on this account together with £10,040 for depreciation of general stores. After making these adjustments the reserve is brought down to £196,321, while the capital expenditure, including £32,065 spent during the year, comes to £2,036,071, and still shows a debit balance of £236,121. In addition to this reserve, there is a debenture stock premium redemption account of £53,331, which is represented by investments of the nominal value of £59,303, but it would be interesting to know how this figure compares with present quotations for the stocks held. Liabilities for construction of plant, &c., have been reduced by £2,758 to £8,714, and the amount due to sundry creditors and depositors is £2,213 less at £9,302, but the advance from bankers is £1,500 up at £79,500. In addition, £50,785 has to be found for debenture interest accrued and the balance dividends just declared, and to meet all these liabilities the company has no more than £90,515 to come in from sundry debtors and £7,047 in cash.

COUNTY OF LONDON ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO., LIMITED.

This company is steadily increasing its supply of energy for motors, and during the twelve months ended December 31 added 2,121 h.p., making 9,932 h.p. in all. Including this, the equivalent of 122,929 8 c.p. lamps were connected, bringing the total up to 770,640 lamps, and the sales rose by 1,432,878 units to 8,614,187 units. Receipts from current came to £133,355, and with £4,447 from meter rents, £2,662 from rents, discount, and administration of associated companies, &c., and £5,549 from interest, the income from all sources was £146,014 or an increase of £10,224. Expenses were £4,632 higher at £61,545, but of these £7,328 or £926 more was charged to the reserve for repairs and renewals, leaving net profits £6,518 up at £91,797. Adding £4,852 from the previous account, the amount available was £96,649, of which debenture interest took £33,808 or £5,420 more, interest on temporary loans required £2,559 against £3,910 and £20,000 was put to reserve for depreciation, &c., compared with £19,153 and £10,000 in the two previous years. After making these provisions £40,281 was left, and the dividend on the ordinary shares is again increased by $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 5 per cent., leaving £4,181 to be carried forward. The reserve is debited with the £7,328 above mentioned, and £7,559 is written off machinery, leaving the fund at £52,453 against a capital outlay of £1,465,973, or say 3.58 per cent. Preliminary expenses have gone up a little to £24,856, and applications for provisional orders, &c., not yet allocated stand at £3,945, so that there is a terrible lot of dead weight amongst the assets, which should have been cleared away before the directors indulged their generous instincts to the extent of increasing the dividend on the ordinary shares. Liabilities to sundry creditors and on bills payable have gone up by £19,563 to £71,571, and in addition there are temporary loans, of £95,050, to meet which sundry debtors owe £82,393 or £14,017 more, and cash is about the same as a year ago at £8,716. The company holds shares in the Bournemouth and Poole Electricity and Supply Company and the Scottish House-to-House Electricity Company valued at £49,161, and has advanced £72,402 to these companies on mortgages, but the directors give no information worth having with regard to these two undertakings, although the second one has not even yet reached a paying stage.

METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO., LIMITED.

During the year ended December 31 this company spent capital to the amount of £156,425, raising the total outlay to £1,696,007. The greater part of the smaller sum was expended in the erection of Fisher Street sub-station, and on other works consequent upon the sale of Sardinia Street generating station, and also on further extensions of the system of low pressure distribution. Towards meeting this expenditure the company sold part of the securities in which some of the Marylebone purchase money temporarily rested, the transaction resulting in a profit of £4,120. This has been carried to a special reserve against depreciation of investments generally. In connection with the Marylebone sale sundry questions of title have been pending, and these being now settled, the company has been handed a sum of £10,000 paid into Court. After deducting from this the cost of certain severance works rendered necessary by the sale, and making final adjustments on account of arbitration and other expenses, there remains a balance of £2,649, which the directors carry forward for future disposal. A considerable portion of the Marylebone business was taken over by the Borough Council on August 6, and since that date further portions have from time to time been transferred. At the end of the period under review about one-third of the business remained in the hands of the company, and we may assume that within a very short time the complete transaction will have been carried through. During the past year new connections representing the equivalent of 80,834 eight-candle power lamps have been added to the company's system, excluding Marylebone, and connections representing 260,524 lamps have been transferred to the Borough Council, leaving the company with total connections on its own account of 607,762. Gross revenue for the twelve months was £260,007 or £37,533 less than in 1904, when the whole of the business was included. Working expenses, however, could not be reduced to the same extent, being down £20,978 to £108,725, an allowance of £20,000 for depreciation and reserve being made in each case. Net revenue, therefore, is £140,282 compared with £156,838, and after adding interest, dividends, etc., special payment of £7,500 from the L.C.C. for earlier possession of Sardinia Street station, and £8,157 brought forward, the sum for disposal is £171,496. Debenture and other interest takes £20,235, interest to Borough Council £31,914, and preference dividend £17,127, leaving £102,219. Already an in-

terim dividend of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. has been paid on the ordinary shares, and the directors now propose a further distribution of a similar amount, leaving £2,219 to be carried forward. Depreciation and reserve fund now reaches £236,355, and there is a reserve against investments of £4,120, making £240,475 in all. The company also has unspent capital in hand to the amount of £177,227, and possesses high-class securities to the amount of £447,899. Some of them may be realised presently to pay off the banker's loan of £45,000. In the last session of Parliament the company was granted powers to supply electrical energy in bulk to authorised distributors and to railway and other companies for purposes of traction in portions of London and Middlesex. Under these powers a supply of energy is being taken by the Acton District Council, and negotiations are in progress with other councils and companies.

SOUTH LONDON ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORPORATION, LIMITED.

At the end of 1905 the equivalent of 120,412 candle-power lamps were connected with this company's system, an increase during the year of 13,412 lamps, while signed applications were then in hand for a further 5,000 lamps. It must not be supposed, however, that these lamps consumed the huge quantity of 10,144,995 units sold, an increase on the twelve months of 939,653, because the company is still supplying energy to the L.C.C. for its tramways, and it will be difficult to form a good judgment of the company's earning capacity until this contract ceases. The company, however, is looking well ahead, and in order to meet the severe competition from the gas company, the directors decided on a substantial reduction in the price for lighting, to date from July 1 last. This will mean a rebate to consumers of about £4,000 per annum and naturally had an effect upon the revenue for the period now under review. Income from all sources was £76,473 or £3,967 more, and after meeting all expenses the nett balance was £32,483. To that must be added £6,447 brought forward, and £343 for interest, making £39,273. Interest on debentures takes £2,500, a sum of £4,300 is written off cost of provisional order, and £7,287 is added to the depreciation fund. Amongst other charges we note an item of £1,950 for costs incurred in opposing bills in Parliament, and there is no doubt that the necessity for this action often bears very hardly upon the various interests attacked. The promoters of that Administrative County of London Bill, for example, should have been mulcted in their opponents' costs. If the supply of electricity is to be under one control, it should be in the hands of the L.C.C. from the beginning, or ratepayers will one day find themselves paying an alarmingly extravagant sum in order to buy out. It has been necessary for the company to lodge petitions against some of the bills introduced in the current session, but the directors hope that the charges this year will be considerably less. Balance of nett revenue is £22,042, and after providing a dividend of 4 per cent., there is a sum of £9,042 to be carried forward. Capital expenditure during the year was £13,683, bringing the total to £351,063 against a sum received of £375,000, leaving £23,937 in hand. Depreciation fund is small as yet at £18,448, but the company has had a hard struggle, and the directors are no doubt doing all they can to strengthen the position. Cost of provisional order, £33,689, is still a blot on the balance-sheet, but the £4,300 written off this year is very fair.

BROMPTON AND KENSINGTON ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CO., LIMITED.

A further increase of 18,717 8 c.p. lamps to 188,586 lamps was accompanied by a reduction from 4.5d. to 4.43d. in the average price per unit, and gross receipts from all sources for the year ended December 31 were consequently only £960 up at £51,149. On the other hand, a saving of £710 at £21,209 was effected in expenses and £5,984 or £1,805 more was brought forward, but this time the interest paid out exceeded receipts and there was no windfall from sale of securities. The total available came to £35,924 against £32,944, of which £8,000 was again put to depreciation reserve, and after paying the same dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, £8,684 was carried forward. The depreciation fund was charged with £618 for sundry "demolitions," leaving it at £57,636, and after deducting this fund from capital account there was an overdraft of £3,092, due to £6,740 spent during the twelve months. Sundry creditors were £2,570 down at £3,417, while sundry debtors owed £18,653 or £569 less, while cash was £290 lower at £867 in spite of an overdraft of £1,500, which, however, has since been paid off.

SOUTH WALES ELECTRICAL POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY.

This undertaking began to be revenue-earning during the year ended December 31 last, and although the receipts month by month did not show an uninterrupted increase, the November revenue touched £1,428, against £750 in January. In December it amounted to £1,319, the shrinkage compared with the previous month being due to the Christmas holiday interruption. For the complete twelve months the receipts were £11,414, the horse-power connected at the end of the year being 6,138. The company's customers are slow in getting their arrangements completed, and consequently in getting connected to the mains. A considerable number, however, of important consumers have ordered the complete equipment necessary for electrical driving from their contractors, and in one case it is actually delivered and about to be put into work. But the full horse-power is never put into operation at the start, the conversion being a gradual process, even after the delivery of the machinery. When two engines of 1,250 horse-power each have been delivered, the company will have generating plant sufficient to deal with a total of some 16,000 horse-power connected to the mains. The whole of this, however, cannot be joined up without some

further capital expenditure, although it will be small compared with that already incurred. We note that a firm with which one of the directors is connected was paid a commission of £3,875 for placing £27,500 shares and £50,000 debenture stock at par. The firm also has the option of placing at par any shares (after the first 60,500) of the original capital proposed to be issued before December 31, 1906, with the right to take at par debenture stock for one-third of the amount of the shares allotted, subject in each case to the payment by the company of a brokerage of 5 per cent. There is nothing to be said against this arrangement when frankly set out as it is. At present the company is earning £2 10s. per annum per horse-power, and on the 16,000 basis this would provide all revenue expenditure and debenture interest, but there is good reason to believe, the directors say, that this figure will be improved upon. Including sundry other items the total receipts were £12,245, but generation of electricity alone cost £17,731, distribution amounted to £2,605, rents, rates, and taxes to £1,880, management expenses to £10,167, a heavy figure, and sundry other charges to £940. Total outlay, therefore, was £33,324, meaning a deficiency in the revenue account of £21,079. In addition £8,542 had to be provided for debenture interest, so that allowing for interest on money at deposit of £734 there is a nett loss to be carried out of £28,886. That is not a very encouraging start, and we fancy a good time must elapse before the company is really paying its way. Remember that there is over £138,000 of preliminary and other expenses to be transferred to a suspense account and written off out of profits, a task which will weigh heavily for a long time. Capital expenditure during the year was £154,025, bringing the total to £724,952, but £198,438 was received, and the amount in hand is now £79,058.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

A wonderful business was again transacted by this great and flourishing insurance company during the year 1905. In the ordinary branch the number of policies issued was 75,293, assuring the sum of £7,211,427, and bringing in a new annual premium income of £395,029. Total premiums received in this branch during the twelve months were £4,123,318, being an increase of £154,302, and the claims amounted to £1,812,618. The number of deaths was 7,437, and 7,775 endowment assurances matured, the number of policies in force at the end of the year reaching the great figure of 773,051. It will be noticed that the claims in the ordinary branch were only about 44 per cent. of the premium income, and the commission and expenses of management continue commendably low. In the industrial branch, which covers the poorer class of business, the figures are of still greater magnitude, the premiums received turning the £6,000,000 mark at a total of £6,139,050. That is an increase on the twelve months of £159,715. On the other hand, the claims were only slightly larger at a total of £2,261,748, and represent less than 37 per cent. of the premium income. Claims by death numbered 238,220, and 3,344 endowment assurances matured. In this department the expenses are naturally very heavy, because the company employed 16,234 agents for the weekly collection of premiums from 14,963,001 policies, the last a perfectly stupendous figure. Their salaries alone reached £1,125,335, and commissions on account of special new business were £549,379. Then expenses of management came to a further sum of £775,954, so that altogether this department of the business cost £2,450,668 to work, say 40 per cent. of the premiums. Nevertheless the company was able to grant free policies to those policyholders of five years' standing and upwards who desired to discontinue their payments to the number of 123,586, the total in force being thus increased to 1,102,267. This is a really marvellous figure, unapproached we should think by any other insurance company in the world. The number of free policies which became claims during the year was 24,698. Total of policies in force at the end of the period under review was 16,065,268, with an average duration of eleven years. The usual careful valuation of the company's assets has been made by the actuary, Mr. Frederick Schooling, upon the same basis, and at the same rate of interest as were adopted a year ago. In the ordinary branch the surplus shown is £1,187,149, including the sum of £176,249 brought forward. Out of this the directors have added £150,000 to the investments reserve fund, increasing it to £950,000. In the industrial branch the surplus is smaller at £967,709 including the rather large sum of £385,939 brought in, and the directors have added £250,000 to the reserve, which now amounts to £1,750,000. Therefore out of the total surplus of £2,154,858 in the two branches £400,000 has been reserved, and £1,227,647 is distributable among the participating policyholders and shareholders, leaving £27,211 to be carried forward, namely, £186,652 in the ordinary branch and £340,559 in the industrial branch. Thus the position is one of abounding wealth, so much so that since the completion of the valuation the actuary has reported that, in his opinion, a general increase of 2½ per cent. could, with safety, be granted under the principal industrial branch tables, if provision were made for an increase in the liability of £750,000. The board has accordingly revised the tables as from March 1, 1906, and has made provision to meet the increased liability by the transfer during the current year of £750,000 from the reserve fund to the life insurance fund in the industrial branch, leaving the reserve at the round million. This revision affects nearly 13,000,000 policies, and of these over 10,000,000 receive an immediate increase in the sum assured. We gather from the revenue account of the industrial branch that the dividends and bonus paid to shareholders amounted to £510,000, or rather more than 50 per cent. on the capital of £1,000,000. The balance-sheet

of the company reaches the immense figure of £59,464,376, the life insurance funds amounting to £55,633,132, reserve fund to £2,700,000, capital to £1,000,000, and claims under life policies admitted and presumably not paid at the date of the accounts to £131,244. Of this vast sum over £58,000,000 is invested in various ways, and no policyholders in the world seem better safeguarded than those belonging to the Prudential.

PROVIDENT LIFE OFFICE.

The report for 1905 is the hundredth issued by this office and is also its last, as the business is to be taken over by the Alliance Assurance Company on the terms stated in our columns a fortnight ago. Business fell off a little during the twelve months, 973 life policies insuring £413,135 nett and ten capital redemption policies for £13,700 having been completed, compared with 986 policies for £454,569 and six redemption policies for £2,150 in the preceding year. New annual premiums amounted to £14,164, in addition to which £1,781 was received in single payments, and the total premium income showed an increase of £274 at £244,607. With £23,703 received as consideration for annuities granted and £137,014 from interest, etc., the revenue for the year was £381,685 or an increase of £3,591, but the mortality experience was exceptionally favourable—claims by death requiring no more than £172,593 against £268,437 expected. Expenses of management and commission took £35,454, or 14.49 per cent., compared with 14.63 per cent. and 14.87 per cent. in the two preceding years, and after meeting all outgoings £129,106 was added to the funds, bringing them up to £3,644,076.

COUNTY FIRE OFFICE, LIMITED.

This old company which is a companion to the Provident Life Office and only a year younger is likewise to be absorbed by the Alliance. Nett premium income rose by £3,506 to £312,107, but claims took £1,143 more at £112,423, and expenses and commissions were £3,204 heavier at £108,284, the proportion to premiums being 34.7 per cent. against 34.1 per cent. After paying income-tax and writing off the expenses of converting the business into a limited liability company, the surplus on the year's working came to £108,322 against £112,197. Of this £38,230 or £587 less, was required to pay septennial returns to the insured entitled thereto, and with the larger balance of £5,870 brought in, the amount available was £1,908 up at £75,962, out of which the directors put an extra £5,000 at £35,000 to reserve, and pay a dividend of 22s. per share against 24s. a year ago, carrying forward £6,378. The general reserve fund now stands at £272,106, and in addition there are funds of £31,820 for equalisation of dividends, £124,843 for unexpired risks, and £135,000 for accrued septennial returns against which the total funds invested stand at £766,405.

WALKERS, PARKER AND CO., LIMITED.

The directors of this lead and shot manufacturing business have a good deal to tell their shareholders in the report for the year ended December 31 last, not much of it of an encouraging nature, despite the fact that the board thinks the results satisfactory, considering the continued stagnation in the building trade and the high price of lead. Pig lead seems to have reached an abnormally high figure, no less than £17 17s. 6d. per ton on December 27, representing an increase of £5 per ton since the previous stock-taking. The lowest quotation was £11 17s. 6d. early in March, and the average price for the year was £13 14s. 3d. The basis on which stock has been taken is the same as the previous four years, a statement which may be informing enough to old shareholders but is not very enlightening for new ones. All these circumstances seem to have affected the gross profit by about £2,000, the total being down to £29,469, including interest on investments. Against this the charges were £22,835, the principal items being general interest and discount £3,221, debenture interest £13,347, and directors' fees £2,100. Balance of nett profit therefore is £6,644, a decline of £2,830, which is a rather serious shrinkage, and there is not such a large credit from previous account as shareholders expected. It appears that the directors have had the questions of economy and reform well to the front during recent years, and have been overhauling in various directions. A close scrutiny into methods of detail formed an important part of their investigation, and it is quite in accordance with old-established custom that a faulty system of estimate was discovered affecting that portion of the stock-in-trade in process of chemical change. To set this straight requires the nice little sum of £6,375, so that instead of £16,048 being credited from previous account, the total is only £9,673. That added on to the profit of the year, £6,644, makes an aggregate of £16,318, and the directors again propose a dividend of 3 per cent. on the 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares, carrying forward £10,318. Dividends have now been in arrear for something like fourteen years, and the company is having a hard struggle for existence. Its land and buildings £318,862, and plant, machinery and utensils £66,511, do not appear to have anything written off for depreciation, and may be increased during the current year, because the directors have purchased the freehold and machinery of newly-erected works at Hull, where the prospects of doing a profitable trade seem good. On the other hand, the Liverpool premises vacated in 1902 have recently been disposed of at a price which will show a surplus on their valuation in the accounts. The proceeds will be used to pay off loans against security, in the balance-sheet at £26,903. Other floating liabilities amount to about £38,000, but stock comes to £145,501 and debtors reach the big sum of £110,073. Then £12,007 is held in cash, investment in the company's own debentures is entered at £9,991, and bills redeemable are valued

at £10,095. No further sales of surplus land have been made, but the laying out of a portion of the Chester property for building purposes referred to in the last report is now practically complete, and, the situation being good, realisations should be readily effected.

SAN PAULO GAS CO., LIMITED.

This company did very well indeed during the year ended December 31 an all round increase in business leading to an improvement in the gross revenue of £15,765 to £120,917. The principal advance came from residual products, but the private consumption was also very satisfactory. To earn the extra revenue cost £10,833 more at £87,250, and there were small increases in general charges and income-tax so that the balance of nett profit was £4,684 larger at £29,783. Add £3,399 brought in and the sum for disposal is £33,182. Service of the debentures takes £4,512, and after providing dividends aggregating 8 per cent., or 1 per cent. more, the directors increase the allocation to reserve by £2,000 to £5,000 and carry forward £3,671. This is a very good display, partly due, of course, to the rise in exchange, the average value of the milreis being 15.718d. as compared with 12.156d. in 1904. The revenue account has been converted into sterling at 15½d. per milreis and the assets and liabilities of the company in Brazil on December 31 last were valued at 16¾d. as against 13¾d. at the end of 1904. That means an increase in the value of the assets of £3,703, which has been carried to exchange account increasing it to £8,856. Reserve now amounts to £44,000 and the position generally looks a good one.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—A dull but on the whole steady tone has prevailed everywhere throughout the week, markets fluctuating a little in sympathy with American cables, but never to any great extent, except on Monday, when the heavy shipments, coupled with the depression in American, had a decidedly weakening effect. This week's estimates of the quantities of wheat and flour on passage are 4,005,500 qrs., against 3,730,000 last. Imports, 383,206 qrs., against only 141,190 last week, and 93,243 in the same week a year ago. Farmers deliveries were 63,392 qrs., averaging 28s 8d.; against 36,188 averaging 30s 8d last year. In America the depressed state of markets early in the week was due chiefly to heavy liquidations, the increase in world's shipments, and weak Western markets. Favourable weather reports did not improve matters, but a certain firmness was given by professional interest being heavy on the bull side, and the closing tone was steady. Bradstreet's estimates of the quantities in sight East of the Rockies are practically the same as last week, 70,530,000 bushels against 70,539,000.

WOOL.—Still the same cry of ever-advancing prices, and still consumers have to submit. Demand for the raw material is so great, in fact, and stocks so short, that there is a difficulty sometimes in getting prompt delivery of any large quantities. Cross-breeds are so scarce that this week consumers have had to pay another ¼d. advance to secure what they want, and in home-grown wools buying is on such a large scale as to warrant a further rise in their values. Merinos also are active, but as spinners are again raising their prices, there is more restraint than there might be, and a general inclination to keep contracts as much as possible to within the next three months or so. Manufacturers continue to complain of their narrow margin of profits, and where cheap makers are concerned this is particularly noticeable. The finer class goods yield more remunerative prices. Colonial and foreign markets as a rule continue to forward good orders, but the South African grows, if anything, gradually weaker.

LINEN.—The position of linens in the market has remained without change during the week, and as that position is so satisfactory this lack of variety is a pleasant thing. Demand for all branches continues steady, and if there is one more than another that may be said to have improved, it is the housekeeping end of the trade. A more general inquiry is also noticeable for Barnsley medium and better grades, and the foreign trade from this market remains active. Belfast home and foreign trade alike in bleached and finished goods is excellent, and, says the *Linen Market*, provided nothing crops up in the political world to cause a disturbance, the outlook is all that could be desired, and it is many years since things have looked so rosy. In yarns foreign varieties are again to the front, and fresh advances are being quoted and held to. Imports of flax into Belfast during last week were heavier than for any week since July, 1900, amounting to 2,087 tons.

COTTON. (from our Manchester correspondent).—During the week under review our market has continued very firm in tone, and although the amount of business done has not been very large, yet a healthy feeling has prevailed in practically all directions. Most producers of cloth and yarn have plenty of work to go on with, and quotations have shown a tendency to harden. Business in the cloth section has not been easily arranged, owing to the strong position of manufacturers. Shippers to most of our outlets abroad have been slow to pay the stiff rates quoted. There has been no lack of inquiry in goods suitable for India, but quite a number of offers have been too far out for makers. Here and there, however, numerous small lots have changed hands, and the demand for Calcutta has shown some improvement. Business for China has not been general, but rather more offers have been received, and they seem to be more based on current values than a short time ago. Shirtings have been sold to a fair extent, but opinions in the market vary as to the activity of buyers. The Levant has been rather quieter. While

stocks are heavy in Egypt, further orders for distant delivery have been given out. The outlets of South America, while healthy in tone, have not done very much. All kinds of goods have been very firmly held, and in most kinds of cloth full rates have to be paid for anything wanted. T-cloths and Mexicans are deeply sold, and there is no pressure on the part of Burnley or Cheshire printers for further business. Fine goods, owing to the recent advances in Egyptian cotton, have been for the most part placed out of the reach of buyers. Home trade American yarns have moved fairly well from day to day. The total sales have not been very important, but the position of spinners is well maintained, and producers of the better descriptions of cop twist and fine weft have held firmly to quotations. Coarse weft and common cop twist, while not moving very quickly, yet the production of the spindles is about cleared. Shipping yarns have been sold to a fairly large extent for China, and in cops for the Continent rather more has been done than in some previous weeks. Egyptian yarns are now very dear in price, owing to the advance in the raw material. Here and there sales have been made where users have had to provide for their wants, but the turnover has not been heavy.

In New York cotton opened with a steady tendency, some eight to nine points higher, but subsequently eased a little on favourable weather reports. After a temporary recovery on covering by shorts and some bull support, prices again fell back on heavy realising. Towards the end of the week the market became firmer and closes steady. The Cotton Exchange will be closed on the 13th and 14th prox. Closing prices are:—March-April, 5.74d.; April-May, 5.76d.; May-June, 5.78d.; June-July, 5.80d.; July-August, 5.82d.; August-September, 5.79d.; September-October, 5.63d.; October-November, 5.58d.; November-December, 5.57d.

COAL.—Again a satisfactory improvement may be noticed, and where gas and steam coals are concerned there are signs of increasing activity. In the North of England quotations for steams are higher than they have yet been this year, bests up to 10s. per ton, and seconds to 9s., and the London gas companies, now coming into the market for their yearly contracts, will find a considerable advance over last year's rates, best gas being quoted at fully 10s. per ton f.o.b. A good shipping season is expected, and export sales are already more active; but the imports, on the other hand, of German coke are interfering, to some extent, with that branch in Cumberland and Lancashire. Scottish shipments show a decrease for this week over last, but are still 1,793 tons better than in the same week of last year, and business is good in regard to home trade. Nothing of importance has happened to change the tenor of Welsh trade, where steams continue to be well demanded, and prices for all classes of coal are maintained.

COPPER.—This market opened with a strong tendency under the influence of firm American advices, and a more active demand from consumers. Second hand stocks have been gradually absorbed, and buyers have been compelled to take direct from producers. The Rio Tinto is reported to have sold its March output and a good proportion of the April production at the last prices, and is now asking an advance. A certain amount of "bear" covering and fair speculative inquiries helped to keep the market rigid, but there was a little hesitation when copper shares broke so severely. The market, however, soon steadied, and closed at 79½ cash and 78½ three months.

TIN.—The demand for this metal is still very slack, and at the opening the market was subjected to a considerable amount of aggressive selling and large realisations. This caused prices to break sharply, and a large business was carried through at the reduced levels. It appears that the heavy quantities of metal now about due have caused buyers to become extremely cautious. Later on the market recovered somewhat on bear repurchases and speculative support, Eastern cables coming decidedly firmer. Chinese dealers were also withdrawing offers in face of higher bids, and quotations rapidly recovered. Closing figures were 165¾ spot and 164¾ forward.

IRON AND STEEL.—There has been a slight lull in business in most centres in the past few days, but this is generally regarded as a temporary symptom. In the Midlands business is less active, and the orders come chiefly from consumers who have kept out of the market, whilst others are working on contract deliveries. Manufacturers show little or no inclination to quote lower prices for repeat orders, as they look for an improvement in the demand before the end of the quarter. In pig-iron in this district the new business is rather slow, but a fair trade is being done in contract material. In Middlesbrough the market has been weak, particularly for warrants, which at one time touched the lowest price of the year. Cleveland warrants have been on offer at 48s. 3d. There is a scarcity of the lower qualities of iron, and prices keep firm. In Glasgow there has been greater activity in pig-iron warrants, but prices have declined on realisations. The demand for finished iron and steel in several branches has diminished, but as manufacturers have plenty of orders booked, they can afford to wait, so do not reduce their prices.

SUGAR.—After an early weakening of quotations the sugar market has become slightly firmer. Regarding sowings, it seems that French fabricants, says Mr. Czarnikow, will perhaps have less competition from distillers, who are discouraged by the re-introduction of private distilling, and as fabricants offer fair prices, with participation in a rise, the worst anticipations may not be realised, though a serious reduction continues to be expected. The American market continues firm at a small advance. Landings in the three ports for the week were 36,000 tons, and meltings 35,000 tons, leaving stocks at 211,000 tons.

TEA.—Demand, says Messrs. W. J. and H. Thompson's circular, both for home and foreign trade, has been general throughout the week, and nearly all grades have shown an improvement, in spite of the uncertainty regarding the Budget statement as to the future of duty payments. Assams particularly are quoted higher, and for the first time since July last common teas have slightly risen in value. 35,128 packages of Indian were brought forward, of which 32,410 packages sold at an average of 7.09d., against 6.78d. last week, and 6.56d. a year ago, leaf teas between 6d. and 8d. benefiting most by the improvement. Ceylon auctions amounted to 22,195 packages, and the irregularity of last week disappeared under the better quality of some of the invoices. Common leaf was firm, poor liquoring broken teas the only grades where sellers had occasionally to give way a fraction. 6.78d. was the average price obtained, against 6.76d. last week, and 6.56d. a year ago. Java offerings of 3,558 packages, in sympathy with other markets, were received with a good demand.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Caledonian.—On the ordinary stock for the half-year ended Jan. 31 at the rate of $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £20,000.

Glasgow and South-Western.—For the half-year ended Jan. 31 at the rate of $4\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, being at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on the preferred ordinary stock, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per annum on the deferred ordinary stock, carrying forward £6,312.

Havana Electric.—Quarterly of 1 per cent. on the preferred stock, payable April 3.

Highland.—At the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on ordinary stock for the half-year ended Jan. 31, carrying forward £8,803.

North British.—Full on the ordinary preference stock, and at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock, for half-year ended Jan. 31, carrying forward £11,000.

BANKS.

Anglo-Austrian.—15 kr. per share ($6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.), placing £8,333 to reserve, carrying forward £16,088.

Disconto-Gesellschaft.—9 per cent. for 1905.

Dresdner.— $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for past year, placing £66,000 to reserve, and writing off £50,000 from bank premises account.

National of South Africa.—Usual of 8 per cent. per annum, placing £10,000 to reserve, £10,000 to capital adjustment account, and carrying forward £11,796.

Ulster.—Half-yearly at the rate of 18 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 1 per cent.

MINES.

Balaghât Gold.—Balance for 1905 of 1s. 6d. per share, on both preference and ordinary shares, payable March 30, making 5s. per share on the preference and 3s. per share on the ordinary shares for the year.

Brilliant Extended Gold.—1s. per share, payable March 28.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A. and F. Pears.—Interim for the six months ended December 31 on the ordinary shares at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum.

African City Properties Trust.—For the past half-year at the rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, placing £2,915 to reserve, and carrying forward £10,101.

Alliance House and Property Trust.—Final at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum in respect of the 15 months ended Dec. 31.

Antrim Iron Ore.—Final of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., making $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31.

Brear and Brown.—5 per cent. for the year to Jan. 10, carrying forward £3,074.

C. Davidson and Sons.—Interim at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

County of Durham Electrical Power.—At the rate of 4 per cent. on ordinary shares is proposed, and £1,083 transferred to the depreciation account.

Davis and Timmins.—On the ordinary shares at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum.

Dickins and Jones.—Balance of 16 per cent., making $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year, and a bonus of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the ordinary shares.

Direct Spanish Telegraph.—At the rate of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Dec. 31, payable April 2.

Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagon.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Hadfield's Steel Foundry.—Final of 2s. per share, with a bonus of 1s. 6d. per share, making $22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year ending Dec. 31.

Hammond's Bradford Brewery.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending March 31.

Hill, Evans and Co.—Further of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for 1905, placing £800 to reserve, and carrying forward £2,521.

Jones and Higgins.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the six months ended Feb. 20, making 13 per cent. for the year, placing £3,400 to reserve, and carrying forward £2,857.

Joseph Travers and Sons.— $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (or 1s. 6d. per share) on the ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. (or 2s. per share) for the year ended Jan. 31, placing £1,000 to the special reserve, and £11,493 forward.

Moss Bay Hematite Iron and Steel.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Oswald Robertson and Co.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Palmer's Shipbuilding and Iron.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the A and B ordinary shares for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Paquin.—Final on the ordinary shares of 11 per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £25,847.

Pearson and Knowles Coal and Iron.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares.

Railway Investment.— $2\frac{1}{2}$ 3s. 11d. per cent. on the preferred stock, making the full 4 per cent. for the year on that issue, and 4s. per cent. for the year on the deferred stock.

Reversionary Interest.—5 per cent., payable by equal instalments on June 30 and Dec. 31 next.

Rivet, Bolt, and Nut.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares.

South Durham Steel and Iron.—Interim on the ordinary shares of 1s. per share, payable April 14.

Stancliffe Estates.—5 per cent. for 1905.

Stewarts and Lloyds.—£40,000 for depreciation for the half-year ending December 31 at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, with £40,000 written off for depreciation. £25,000 to reserve and £57,000 carried forward.

Thomas Owen and Co.—Further of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 5 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £3,000 to reserve, and £3,035 forward.

Western Telegraph.—Interim, payable March 24, of 3s. per share, or at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, for the quarter ended Dec. 31.

MINING RETURNS.

Abbontiakoon Block 1.—5,000 tons, 2,965 ozs.

Abosso Gold.—Crushed 3,545 tons, 2,409 ozs.; tailings, 2,980 tons, 776 ozs.; total, 3,185 ozs.

African Gold Dredging and Mining Concessions.—312 ozs.

Akrokerrri.—Crushed 1,660 tons, 1,628 ozs.; 950 tons sands, 188 ozs.; total, 1,816 ozs.

Ankobra (Taquah and Abosso) Development.—304 ozs.

Anterior (Matabele).—Crushed 1,130 tons, 760 ozs.; cyanide 644 tons, 144 ozs.

Ashanti Goldfields.—Obuasi mill, 2,650 tons, 2,660 ozs. (this includes 420 ozs. from cyaniding the Obuasi tailings and 80 ozs. from the Ayeinm tailings.)

Associated Northern Blocks (W.A.).—Milled 3,091 tons; treated 501 tons of slimes, yield £14,173.

Associated of Western Australia.—Milled 8,065 tons, 3,347 tons slimes, yield £18,502.

Ayrshire.—Crushed 8,722 tons, 1,765 ozs.; 6,336 tons cyanided, 1,138 ozs.

Balaghat Gold.—4,200 tons, 3,368 ozs.; 2,750 tons tailings, 275 ozs.; total, 3,643 ozs.

Barrett Gold.—425 ozs., value £1,700.

Bayley's Mines.—123 tons, 430 ozs.

Bonanza.—Crushed 7,420 tons, 2,739 ozs.; cyanide and slimes 7,415 tons, 1,819 ozs.; total, 4,558 ozs.

Brilliant and St. George United.—Crushed 2,542 tons, 1,422 ozs. Residues, £3,884.

Broken Hill Proprietary Block 10.—Treated 11,672 tons crude ore, producing 1,571 tons concentrates, containing 974 tons lead and 50,272 ozs. silver.

Broken Hill Proprietary Block 14.—2,738 tons ore, producing 256 tons of concentrates, containing 220 tons lead and 9,339 ozs. silver.

Broomassie.—Crushed 1,052 tons, 1,512 ozs.; 10 tons concentrates, value, £41 10s. 10d.

Buifelsdoorn Estate.—Slimes treated 2,600 tons, 527 ozs.

Burbank's Main Lode (1904).—Crushed 620 tons, 440 ozs.; cyanide, 660 tons, 65 ozs.

Burma Ruby.—147,000 loads washed, producing rubies value Rs. 1,23,000; royalties, Rs. 24,000.

Champion Reef.—16,990 tons, 12,707 ozs.; scraping from plates, No. 2 Mill, 1,500 ozs.; 15,975 tons, tailings 2,179 ozs.; total, 16,386 ozs.

Chillagoe.—Total, 3,192 tons copper ore, producing 245 tons copper matte, containing 193 tons copper and 22,989 ozs. silver.

Chinese Engineering.—Output of coal: 8,000 tons; sales, 6,850 tons; consumption, £800 tons.

City and Suburban.—Crushed 23,400 tons, 8,904 ozs.

Consolidated Langlaagte.—Treated 15,639 tons, 5,287 ozs.

Consolidated Main Reef.—Crushed 16,300 tons, 5,753 ozs.

Copper Cliff of Montana.—Shipment: 57,785 lbs., running to 9.18 per cent. copper.

Crown Deep.—Crushed 26,648 tons, 6,471 ozs.; 20,400 tons sand and concentrates, 3,725 ozs.; 7,134 tons of slimes, 525 ozs.; total, 10,721 ozs.

Crown Reef.—Crushed 18,007 tons; yield from mill, 5,163 ozs.; yield from sands and concentrates, 3,582 ozs.; yield from slimes, current and accumulated, 1,718 ozs.; yield from dump process, 533 ozs.; total, 10,996 ozs.

Day Dawn P.C. Gold.—Crushed 110 tons, 205 ozs.

Durban Roodepoort Deep.—Crushed 9,410 tons, 2,292 ozs.; sands and concentrates 6,460 tons, 880 ozs.; slimes 2,807 tons, 225 ozs.; total, 3,397 ozs.

Durban Roodepoort Gold.—9,705 tons, 3,386 ozs.; tailings, 6,125 tons, 910 ozs.; slimes 780 tons, 64 ozs.; total, 4,360 ozs.

Durban Prospect Gold.—Crushed New Prospect ore 684 tons; crushed rubble 1,140 tons, yielding 338 ozs.

Ferreira.—Crushed 19,150 tons, 9,459 ozs.; sand 13,369 tons, 2,248 ozs.; slimes 5,482 tons, 493 ozs.; total, 12,200 ozs.
Ferreira Deep.—Crushed 17,308 tons, 7,613 ozs.; sands and concentrates, 12,600 tons, 3,422 ozs.; slimes 5,726 tons, 603 ozs.; total, 11,368 ozs.

French Rand.—Crushed 16,400, 3,259 ozs.; tailings 15,000 tons, 1,804 ozs.; total, 5,063 ozs.

Gaika Gold.—Crushed 1,254 tons, 666 ozs.

Geldenhuis Deep.—Crushed 20,660 tons, 5,371 ozs.; sands and concentrates 14,260 tons, 3,201 ozs.; slimes 6,300 tons, 570 ozs.; total, 9,142 ozs.

Giant of Rhodesia.—4,051 tons, 1,945 ozs.; slimes 4,051 tons, 166 ozs.; total, 2,111 ozs.

Ginsberg Gold.—Treated 7,161 tons, 2,875 ozs.

Glencairn Main Reef.—Treated 12,144 tons, 3,877 ozs.

Glen Deep.—Crushed 14,710 tons, 3,296 ozs.; sands and concentrates, 9,460 tons, 1,804 ozs.; slimes, 4,964 tons, 398 ozs.; total, 5,498 ozs.

Glencoe (Natal) Collieries.—Output, 10,765 tons.

Glynn's Lydenburg.—Crushed 1,980 tons, 512 ozs.; cyanide, 1,385 tons, 563 ozs.; slimes, 595 tons, 189 ozs.; total, 1,264 ozs.

Golden Horse Shoe.—Treated 18,400 tons, 12,640 ozs.

Golden Pole Gold.—Crushed 1,000 tons, 643 ozs.; sands, 1,060 tons, 244 ozs.; slimes, 966 tons, 139 ozs.; total, 1,026 ozs.

Great Boulder Proprietary.—Crushed 11,635 tons, 13,240 ozs.; tailings (old) 2,633 tons, 600 ozs.; total, 12,840 ozs.

Great Fingall Consolidated.—18,042 tons, 6,464 ozs.; tailings by cyanide, 19,563 tons, 2,882 ozs.; concentrates, 270 tons, 1,263 ozs.; total, 10,609 ozs.

Hainault.—Crushed 4,282 tons, 1,530 ozs.

Inverell Diamond Fields.—37 loads washed for 318 carats diamonds and 2,200 lbs. tin.

Ivanhoe Gold.—15,560 tons, 3,513 ozs.; sands, 7,410 tons, 1,415 ozs.; slimes, 6,930 tons, 2,928 ozs.; concentrates, 1,220 tons, 2,163 ozs.

Jumpers.—Crushed 11,000 tons; from mill, 2,851 ozs.; from tailings by cyanide, 1,469 ozs.; total, 4,320 ozs.

Jumpers Deep.—Crushed 14,700 tons, 3,142 ozs.; sands and concentrates, 10,335 tons, 1,081 ozs.; slimes, 4,880 tons, 312 ozs.; total, 5,335 ozs.

Kalgurli.—Treated 8,609 tons, 6,286 ozs.

Kelantan Gold Dredging Co. (No. 1).—No. 1, 188 ozs.; No. 2, 179 ozs.; No. 3, 25 ozs.; total, 392 ozs.

Killarney Hibernia Gold.—Crushed 3,914 tons, 1,555 ozs.

Knight's Deep.—20,888 tons, 7,413 ozs.

Koffyfontein.—2,600 carats diamonds recovered.

Komata Reefs Gold.—Crushed 1,350 tons, £2,875.

Lachlan Gold Fields.—Crushed 720 tons; result, £1,580.

Lancaster Gold.—Crushed 13,403 tons, 2,456 ozs.; cyanide 9,246 tons, 1,319 ozs.; total output, 3,775 ozs.

Lancaster West.—Crushed 5,985 tons, 1,468 ozs.; cyanide 4,964 tons, 776 ozs.; total output, 2,244 ozs.

Langlaagte Deep.—Crushed 17,648 tons, 4,226 ozs.; sands and concentrates 13,554 tons, 2,031 ozs.; slimes 9,994 tons, 161 ozs.; total, 6,418 ozs.

Le Roi.—Shipments 7,500 tons, containing 2,721 ozs. gold, 4,708 ozs. silver, 180,691 lbs. copper.

Le Roi No. 2.—Shipped 2,160 tons; receipts, \$34,916 for 2,251 tons shipped, and \$1,040 for 35 tons concentrates shipped; in all, \$35,963.

Maryborough Leviathan Gold.—Crushed 532 tons, 66 ozs.

May Consolidated.—Crushed 13,010 tons, 3,620 ozs.; cyanide 10,250 tons, 1,832 ozs.; slimes 4,189 tons, 283 ozs.; total, 5,735 ozs.

Merton's Reward.—Crushed 3,017 tons, 594 ozs.; 1,551 tons sands cyanided, 178 ozs.; total, 772 ozs.

Meyer and Charlton.—1,776 ozs. from 10,190 tons crushed, 2,621 ozs. from cyanide; total, 4,397 ozs.

Morven (Rhodesia).—Crushed 1,430 tons, 658 ozs.; 1,856 tons tailings, 177 ozs.

Mount Boppy Gold.—5,020 tons, 1,285 ozs.; cyanide 3,264 tons, 1,106 ozs.; slimes 1,500 tons, 569 ozs.; concentrates 16 tons, 125 ozs.; total 3,085 ozs.

Mount Lyell.—29,528 tons treated. In addition 1,473 tons of purchased ore and metal-bearing fluxes. Converters produced 730 tons blister copper, containing copper 730 tons, silver 64,809 ozs., gold 1,849 ozs.

Mount Morgan (Queensland).—Chlorinated 17,831 tons, 8,793 ozs.

Mysore.—15,150 tons, 14,740 ozs.; tailings 12,750 tons, 1,737 ozs.; total, 16,477 ozs.

Mysore West and Mysore-Wynaad Gold.—Crushed 1,395 tons, 840 ozs.; 120 ozs. from 2,016 tons cyanided.

Mount Zeehan.—370 tons silver-lead ore, containing 250 tons lead and 37,000 ozs. silver.

New Goch.—1,778 ozs. from 14,052 tons crushed, 3,114 ozs. from cyanide; total, 4,892 ozs.

New Hillgrove Proprietary.—Crushed 316 tons, 891 ozs.; three tons concentrates, 10 ozs.; cyanide 135 tons, 11.9 ozs.

New Modderfontein.—Crushed 9,060 tons, 3,568 ozs.

New Primrose.—Treated 13,925 tons, 6,585 ozs.

New Queen.—Crushed 492 tons, 250 ozs.; concentrates, £330; cyanide, £280 from 676 tons.

New Rietfontein Estate.—Treated 8,060 tons, 4,420 ozs.

New Rhodesia.—Crushed 640 tons, 309 ozs.

New Unified Main Reef.—Treated 7,662 tons, 2,072 ozs.

New Vaal River Diamond.—Diamonds registered by the diggers on the Vaal River Estate, £3,575.

New Zealand Crown Mines.—Crushed 1,966 tons; bullion £3,738.

Nigel.—Crushed 6,900 tons, 3,659 ozs.

North White Feather.—Crushed 900 tons, 514 ozs.; cyanide 920 tons, 700 ozs.

Nourse Mines.—Crushed 23,235 tons, 5,962 ozs.; sands and concentrates 13,702 tons, 4,095 ozs.; slimes 7,526 tons, 610 ozs.; total 10,667 ozs.

Nundydroog.—Crushed 6,200 tons, 4,964 ozs.; tailings 6,480 tons, 579 ozs.; total 5,543 ozs.

Ooregum.—9,696 tons, 4,627 ozs.; tailings 10,033 tons, 902 ozs.; total 5,529 ozs.

Oroya-Brownhill.—Crushed 9,845 tons, 12,647 ozs.

Premier (Transvaal) Diamond.—161,666 loads treated, yielding 45,277 carats diamonds; percentage, 28.

Princess.—Crushed 5,526 tons, 1,764 ozs.; cyanide 3,987 tons, 910 ozs.; total output, 2,674 ozs.

Red Hill (Westralia) Gold.—Crushed 1,735 tons, 724 ozs.

Robinson Gold.—Crushed 28,675 tons; from mill, 11,381 ozs. from tailings (by cyanide), 4,850 ozs.; from own concentrates (by chlorination), 946 ozs.; from slimes, 1,372 ozs.; total, 18,549 ozs.

Robinson Central Deep.—Crushed 14,538 tons, 6,583 ozs.; 8,800 tons of sands and concentrates by cyanide, 2,409 ozs.; 4,305 tons of slimes, 421 ozs.; total yield, 9,413 ozs.

Rooodepoort Central Deep.—Crushed 7,323 tons, 1,932 ozs.; cyanide 4,926 tons, 1,004 ozs.; including 186 ozs. from by-products; total output, 2,936 ozs.

Rooodepoort United Main Reef.—2,042 ozs. from 8,700 tons crushed, 1,865 ozs. from cyanide; total, 3,907 ozs.

Rose Deep.—Crushed 22,300 tons, 5,329 ozs.; sands and concentrates 13,600 tons, 1,961 ozs.; slimes 7,993 tons, 586 ozs.; total 7,876 ozs.

St. David's Gold.—Crushed 1,544 tons, 153 ozs.

St. John Del Rey.—Gold produce, £22,750; yield per ton, 6 of an oz. troy.

San Francisco del Oro.—511 tons shipped, value £1,302.

Selukwe.—Crushed 5,844 tons, 1,569 ozs.; cyanide 4,054 tons, 457 ozs.

Sheba.—3,030 ozs.

Simmer and Jack East.—15,352 tons, 5,633 ozs.

Simmer and Jack Proprietary.—48,000 tons, 18,044 ozs.

Sons of Gwalia.—Crushed 9,754 tons, 3,733 ozs.; tailings 5,940 tons, 834 ozs.; concentrates 207 tons, 623 ozs.; total 5,190 ozs.

South Kalgurli.—Crushed 7,150 tons, 3,012 ozs.

Surprise Gold.—Crushed 2,743 tons, 1,077 ozs.; cyanide 3,385 tons, 730 ozs.

Talisman Consolidated.—3,835 tons; value, £11,150.

Taquaah and Abosso.—Crushed 650 tons, 361 ozs.; tailings 300 tons, 40 ozs.; old tailings 320 tons, 67 ozs.; total, 468 ozs.

Thasmanian Copper.—Shipments of ore 1,078 tons.

Tolima.—50 tons, value £3,000.

Tomboy.—Crushed 8,600 tons, value \$49,000; concentrates shipped, 370 tons, value \$34,000.

Transvaal and Delagoa Bay.—Colliery output, 31,000 tons.

Transvaal Gold.—Crushed 7,923 tons, 1,719 ozs. Central cyanide, 3,510 tons, 722 ozs. Central slimes, 2,260 tons, 382 ozs.

Kameel's cyanide, 1,280 tons, 327 ozs. Kameel's slimes, 750 tons, 179 ozs.; old slimes, 850 tons, 258 ozs.; total, 3,587 ozs.

Treasury Gold.—Crushed 6,425 tons, 2,305 ozs.

Tyee Copper.—Smelted: Tyee ore, 2,224 tons; Customs ore, 292 tons; total, 2,516 tons. Matte produced, 240 tons; value, \$34,402.

Van Ryn.—Crushed 20,240 tons, 5,064 ozs.; 20,410 tons tailings, 2,872 ozs.; total value, £33,717.

Village Deep.—Crushed 17,555 tons, 3,715 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 13,500 tons, 2,308 ozs.; slimes, 4,357 tons, 373 ozs.; total yield, 6,396 ozs.

Village Main Reef.—Crushed 23,000 tons, 5,765 ozs.; cyanide 17,560 tons, 388 ozs.; total, 9,064 ozs.

Vogelstruis.—2,372 ozs.

Waihi Gold.—25,281 tons for £60,210.

Wanderer (Selukwe).—Cyanide 14,322 tons, 2,015 ozs.

Wemmer.—Crushed 7,690 tons, 2,487 ozs.; 5,720 tons sands, 572 ozs.; 2,160 tons slimes, 127 ozs.; 188 tons concentrates caught, average assay value 86 dwts.; total, 3,993 ozs.

Willoughby's Consolidated.—Crushed 1,376 tons, 900 ozs.

Windsor Gold.—Crushed 4,390 tons, 527 ozs.; cyanide, 3,335 tons, 592 ozs.; total, 1,119 ozs.

Witbank Colliery.—Output 28,250 tons.

Witwatersrand Deep.—Crushed 24,320 tons, 9,845 ozs.

Witwatersrand Gold.—Treated 27,450 tons, 8,962 ozs.

Zeehan-Montana.—355 tons silver-lead ore containing 230 tons lead and 28,500 ozs. silver.

ADOLPH FRANKAU AND CO., LIMITED.

This company managed to improve its position a little during the year ended December 31. Trade was still depressed in the early part, but during the latter months a decided change for the better occurred. Moreover the improvement seems likely to continue. Trading profit was £11,222 or £1,768 more, and after adding interest, transfer fees, etc., the total for disposal is £13,492. Directors' fees and managing directors' remuneration, auditors' fees and pensions absorb £2,772 leaving £8,719, which provides the preference dividend and 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares. The directors then add £500 to reserve, and £50 to the buildings reserve, carrying forward about £200 against £404 brought in. Reserves all told will now be £6,250, a good part of which are separately invested. Trading accounts are a long way in favour of the company, stock is valued at £59,219, bills receivable reach £6,345, and cash amounts to £3,900. Allowance for depreciation seems fair.

COMPANY MEETINGS. SUN LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

The annual general meeting of proprietors of the Sun Life Assurance Society was held on Wednesday at the chief office, 63, Threadneedle Street, E.C., Mr. Marlborough Robert Pryor (the Chairman) presiding.

The Secretary and General Manager (Mr. E. Linnell) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman: I need hardly say that the year 1905, the fourth of our quinquennial period, was a worthy successor of the preceding three years. It will not call for any lengthy remarks from me. The only striking feature was that the accumulation of our funds was a record one. One matter of interest is barely referred to in our report, and that is the Patriotic business. At the close of 1905 the Sun Fire Office arranged to acquire the business of the Patriotic, and, in accordance with the standing arrangements with this office, offered us on fair and, I think I may say, even liberal terms, the life business of that office. It is not a big thing, being rather a diminishing business than otherwise under the previous regime. The transfer of a life business, as you know, requires the approval of the Court of Chancery, and I am happy to say that yesterday the Irish Court of Chancery approved of this transfer, and the Master of the Rolls said that if he were a policyholder in the Patriotic he should regard this agreement as being one for his benefit. There are only five objectors, representing £700 insured, in the replies received from the policyholders, and none of them appeared at the hearing, so that the thing was practically carried nem. con., if a Court of Law could deal with a thing in that way. There was no real opposition whatever. The bargain is a very simple one. We take over the Patriotic Life Assurance Fund, which will probably slightly exceed £200,000, and we allow off that to the Sun Fire Office, for its outlay in the matter, something under 5 per cent. We collect the premiums due to the Patriotic for the future; we carry on the business at our expense, and undertake to pay all claims under Patriotic policies. In the case of "with profit" policies we undertake further to give them a reversionary bonus annually of 22s 6d, whereas they have only been receiving from the Patriotic for many years £1, so that they are appreciably benefited and all parties are benefited by the security offered by the Sun Life Office, and its very large proprietors' fund, £430,000, behind all its insurance funds. The Patriotic assured may, therefore, feel the most absolute confidence, and I believe that the board and active members of the Patriotic Assurance Company also will feel thoroughly satisfied and relieved from a great liability by this transaction. I trust that the goodwill which ought to follow our action may cause an excellent feeling towards these two offices, and that fair business may result therefrom. The effect on our business is that at the next quinquennial valuation there will be, in actuarial language, a slight, very moderate, and measurable strain on that valuation. Thereafter there is every reason to suppose that we shall reap a modest profit from carrying on the Patriotic business. All we have to wish, then, is that the Patriotic policyholders may, in the words of Rip van Winkle, "Live long and prosper," and then we shall all be happy and satisfied. The great event of the year 1905 in the life assurance world has been the disclosures as to the maladministration of the giant American offices. There are most important lessons to be drawn from what has happened in New York. It is quite impossible for me to deduce those lessons in the brief minutes at our disposal here to-day. It would take me some hours to state fairly the actual position of those American offices. I have just seen the sixth large volume of evidence which has been collected in the inquiry. It is a very bulky volume, and I would hardly suppose anyone in this room has mastered that evidence carefully. Before I try to go into what is to be learned from all this, I must try, however imperfectly, to tell you what the position is, because I am quite sure it is impossible for anybody not actively interested in the matter to derive from the scrappy telegrams which have appeared in our newspapers a consecutive conception of what has happened. I am afraid my epitome will be very imperfect, because, as I have said, the subject is so vast. As, perhaps, you know, the three giant American offices are either mutual or carried on on mutual lines. The Mutual of New York came into active being about 1843, the New York office in 1845, and the Equitable as late as 1859. Naturally, during the great war they did not develop very rapidly, but thereafter their growth was quite extraordinary. I have said that they are conducted on mutual lines. The two first are mutual offices; the third—the Equitable—has a capital of \$100,000 (£20,000), and the dividend thereon is limited to 7 per cent., or a trifle over £1,400 a year. When that is paid the shareholders have nothing more to do with the business. But that little capital has played a very important part in what has happened. The possessor of the majority of those shares had the absolute control over the entire business—I might say despotic control—and it is partly owing to that and to differences among the holders that the whole business has been so publicly canvassed and has excited such extraordinary interest. The business has always been conducted—that £1,400 a year having been duly paid—on mutual lines, and therein I hold the great weakness of the position has lain, and to that I attribute what has occurred. The businesses grew and grew fast, because results were very good. Rates of interest which make one's mouth water were easily obtained in America 50 or 60 years ago, and the result to the early policyholders was brilliant, so that everything helped the growth of the business. In those responsible for it, whom I must call the managements over there—

the presidents, vice-presidents, managers, and secretaries—I do not include the ordinary directors, because they generally are very distinguished men in America, being eminent financiers or public men, who have had no opportunity of knowing how the business was conducted, and are not, to my mind, to blame for what has happened; neither, probably, were the trustees—who were the same sort of people—to blame seriously. The salaries became such as are only received on this side of the Atlantic by Russian archdukes and Austrian archbishops, and I must say I think the American salaries were much the best earned, but that may be a matter of opinion. However, they were on a magnificent scale, but they did not satisfy the managements of those offices. They very soon found that they had accumulated vast funds, and vast funds not like the funds of a bank, in being subject to a demand without notice, or the funds or capital of a great railway or other industrial concern, which is all locked up, and cannot be in a liquid state, but in a state readily available. Having in their hands, then, this financial engine of extraordinary rapidly increasing strength—for these three offices have an average of more than 80 millions of accumulated funds each—they were sorely tempted to use their financial engine for their own purposes. They underwrote issues of railroad securities and things of that sort, they taking the commission, the offices taking the securities that the public did not take. They created financial and other institutions, even hotels and restaurants and all sorts of things, which insured to the profit of themselves and their friends. They did all this on a gigantic scale, and, what is more, they did it without the offices suffering very materially, because they were thoroughly good men of business, and nearly all the enterprises which they either underwrote or promoted were pretty good enterprises. Thus we cannot blame them for injuring the policyholders to any very large extent. But they did build up a most detestable and hateful system of business, which was sapping the foundations of commercial morality in America. The point I want you to bear in mind is that this would not have happened if these had been proprietary offices like this one. It would have been quite out of the question. At the worst, the proprietors in a trading company act like ballast to a ship, and restore equilibrium, and bring it on to an even keel without taking any action themselves. After dealing with the subject further, and dwelling upon the lessons to be learnt therefrom, the Chairman commented upon the report and accounts. You will see that the increase in your total funds has been £545,000. Last year it was £424,500; we thought that was a big sum, but this is a record. You will see that your own proprietors' fund has improved its position; that its interest is nearly £1,000 up, and that the accumulations are now considerably increased, being nearly £50,000, the fund standing at, approximately, £430,000. That is eminently satisfactory, because it makes it more and more independent, as its interest earnings now go a long way beyond providing our present dividend. Perhaps at this point I should remind you shareholders, that at the end of this quinquennium we have not got a fat bonus to look forward to. You have resolved, upon our advice, that the bonus shall be distributed equally throughout every year of the coming quinquennia, and in that you are very wise, and you will gain greatly. Of course, it was very nice to get a lump sum down, but it is infinitely better for us all to have a considerably increased income coming in steadily, and I hope with a tendency to improve from quinquennium to quinquennium for all time that we can look forward to. It is a much sounder position, and it is much easier for the market to estimate the true value of our shares. With regard to the life assurance fund, the figures are so nearly the same as last year that it would be a waste of time for me to make a comparison. The total expense ratio is 16.62, as against 17.03. That is a satisfactory reduction, but as the new business for the year has not shown a very marked increase, there is not any very great advantage in it; it does not work out so much better as one might have hoped, but still there is the broad fact that your expenses are 16.62, against 17.03. The general expenses over the whole business, but excluding the annuity account, the expenses of which, as you know, are quite trivial, is 16.10, against 16.4, but the annuity account expenses—that account having shown rather abnormal profits—have been saddled with rather a larger proportion of our general expenses than usual, and come out at 3.85, as against 2.09. It is quite fair that they should be called upon to pay their share of the burden in that they have been unusually prosperous. Your premium income shows an increase from £585,600 to £621,961, which is very satisfactory. The income from interest and dividends, &c., has also increased very healthily—by nearly £15,000—and the life assurance fund has increased by £384,454. Annuity business shows a very good increase, and has been very satisfactory. Your leasehold and general business also is in a markedly and increasingly sound position. As you all know, I think, such business as workmen's compensation has been going from bad to worse owing to undue competition, and I am happy to say that our business does not show any elasticity, because really I do not want to see it grow under existing conditions. I hope the time will come when we shall be able to do it on really remunerative lines, but at present that seems to be quite out of the question. We are only happy to say that these businesses are not likely to run away with us under existing conditions, and that they are thoroughly well in hand. (Hear, hear.) The Chairman concluded by formally moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr Charles A. Scott Murray (deputy-chairman) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously without discussion.

Mr A. W. Cousins moved that Mr John Crane, F.C.A., be re-

elected the proprietors' auditor, under Article 78 of the Society's laws and Regulations.

Mr Robinson seconded, and the resolution was agreed to.

The meeting closed with the usual compliments to the chairman, directors, managers, and staff.

STAR LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

The sixty-second annual meeting of the Star Life Assurance Society was held on Wednesday at the offices, 32, Moorgate Street, E.C., Sir George Hayter Chubb, Bart. (the Chairman), presiding.

The Actuary and Secretary (Mr. H. G. Hobson) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—In asking your adoption of our annual report, I think you will agree with me that it may be considered satisfactory in nearly every item. It is true that the amount of completed business is less, but this is easily explained, and such explanation will; I am sure, be readily appreciated by you. Some little time ago your directors made an exhaustive examination of the business of all their branches, and it was shown that the cost of new business on the Continent was not only more than in England and the colonies, but also entailed a considerable amount of anxiety, uncertainty and work, owing to the conditions imposed from time to time by the various foreign Governments. We, therefore, deemed it advisable to close several of these agencies. The business that would otherwise have come from such branches represents the diminution in the results of the new business, inasmuch as that which we obtained from British sources has remained practically the same. The concessions which were granted by these foreign Governments will, therefore, of necessity have to be forfeited, and the directors, of course, are sorry to lose that which was obtained with considerable trouble; but they felt that if those concessions would have the ultimate effect of bringing no increased profit on the general business, it was better to show lower totals of new business done than to attract the attention of the public by larger and less remunerative figures. Recent events would seem to prove that it is better, not only for British life assurance companies to restrict their operations as much as possible to British countries, but also for British assurers to take out their policies only in British companies. (Hear, hear.) The diminution in business is, of course, reflected in our premium income, the more so because the reduction in the last bonus quite unnecessarily troubled some who did not appreciate the exceptionally strong position which the society had attained by the judicious action of the directors. The creation out of profit earned of a reserve fund of £200,000 was in some instances hastily interpreted as a sign of weakness—really it was an absolute indication of strength—and we feel no doubt whatever that those who approved of our action and acted on their belief will reap their reward in future years. Not one penny of this reserve fund has been touched, while our securities have risen considerably in value, and the prospects of a further rise are encouraging. If some of our old policyholders were for a time a little disappointed at the prudent action of the board at the last division of profits, I think that they, and especially our new policyholders, have an excellent prospect before them, and the best thing everyone belonging to the society can do—the best thing for themselves and the best thing for the society, is to follow my example and double their policies at once. (Applause.) Except, therefore, in the amount of new business, every item of the report is equal to our expectation. Our mortality has been exceptionally favourable; only 73 per cent. of the policies expected have become claims, and we have been called upon to pay only £285,000, instead of £362,000, which we had reserved for that purpose, thus giving on this item alone a material profit towards our next bonus. Again, our average expenses have gone down 1 per cent., and those who know how great is the cost in consequence of competition which we have to pay for new business will appreciate this important reduction. The percentage in 1904 was 15.05 per cent., and last year was only 13.99 per cent. A very pleasing feature is the higher rate of interest obtained for our funds. The increased powers you have given us have helped us materially in our investments, so that we last year reached a percentage of £3 14s. 4d., against £3 10s. 8d. gained in the preceding quinquennium. To sum up: we have during the past two years an increase in the three sources of profit which form the elements of our next bonus—(1) a favourable mortality, (2) the reduction of expenses, (3) an increased rate of interest. The events of the next three years cannot be foretold, and much may happen in the commercial world entirely outside our control, and yet affecting us materially. But should the next three years prove as favourable as the past two, we have reason to anticipate a very satisfactory meeting at the end of the quinquennial period finishing in the year 1909. As to the unassailable position of the society, I would only draw your attention to the large sum which we are adding to our funds in hand—£250,000 in one year is a strong indication of stability and success, and invested funds of 6½ millions are a sufficient indication of the solid basis on which the society now stands. (Applause.) [With these remarks I beg to move: "That the report of the directors for the year ended December, 1905, and the financial statement and balance-sheet of the same period be received and adopted, and recorded on the minute book of the society."]

Mr. Edward Spicer (Deputy-Chairman) seconded the resolution.

The Chairman invited remarks from those present, but with-

out response, and he thereupon put the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved that Mr. Edward Spicer, Alderman Sir George Wyatt Truscott, Mr. J. E. Vanner, and Sir Horace Brooks Marshall, LL.D., be re-elected directors of the society. He remarked that all these gentlemen had given very valuable service during the year to the work of the society, and, with the exception of Mr. James Vanner, who was not very well at the moment, all of them were present at that meeting.

Mr. George Lidgett, in seconding the resolution, said he felt sure it needed no word of commendation from him, but doubtless the shareholders had noticed that these names came from four different spheres of observation, and in those several spheres they were men who were greatly respected.

The resolution was carried with acclamation.

The auditors having been unanimously re-elected, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, MARCH 12.

Argentine Great Western Railway.—Winchester House, noon.
Anglo-Californian Oil Syndicate.—Winchester House, noon.
Caledonian and Australian Mortgage and Agency.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
County of London Electric Supply.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Crosfields.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
Century Insurance.—Glasgow, 3 p.m.
Equity and Law Life Assurance.—18, Lincoln's Inn Fields, 1 p.m.
Hine Parker.—Institute of Chartered Accountants, 3 p.m.
Westralia Mount Morgan Gold Mines.—Winchester House, noon.

TUESDAY, MARCH 13.

Metropolitan Electric Supply.—Winchester House, noon.
Someri Gold Mining.—Winchester House, noon.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14.

Albert Baker.—Winchester House, noon.
Artizans', Labourers' and General Dwellings.—16, Great George street, noon.
British Nigerian.—Winchester House, noon.
City of London Electric Lighting.—Salisbury House, 2.30 p.m.
Davis and Timmins.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre.—Hotel Cecil, noon.
Hyatts.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Law Land.—30, Norfolk Street, 12.30 p.m.
Mysore Gold Mining.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
Property and Estates.—13, Walbrook, 4 p.m.
South London Electric Supply.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15.

Bilbao River and Cantabrian Railway.—9, Bridge Street, S.W. 2 p.m.
Plummer Roddis.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Metropolitan Life Assurance Society.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.
Samuel Courtauld.—Winchester House, noon.
Swan and Edgar.—Imperial Restaurant, noon.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16.

Egyptian Mines Exploration.—Winchester House, 11 a.m.
Limmer Asphalt.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Scottish Mortgage and Land Investment of New Mexico.—Glasgow, noon.

INDIAN GOLD MINES.

The output of gold from the Indian mines for the month of February totalled 48,538 ozs., and as it compares with 50,870 ozs. for January it looks a considerable decrease. It is the result, however, of the shorter month, as the daily average was better—1,773 ozs. against 1,641 ozs. The yield is smaller than for the corresponding month of last year and thus shows a real decline.

Name of Company.	Nov.		Dec.		Jan.		Feb.	
	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.
Balaghat	4,300	3,744	4,400	4,117	4,400	3,818	14,200	3,643
Champion Reef	19,540	17,762	19,720	17,705	19,350	17,222	16,990	16,386
Coromandel								
Mysore	16,400	17,010	16,650	18,469	16,150	17,190	15,350	16,477
Mysore W. and Wynaad	2,042	1,137	1,879	1,140	1,944	1,214	1,395	960
Nandhydroog	6,800	5,607	7,000	6,118	6,600	5,898	6,200	5,543
Ooregum	10,276	5,542	10,176	5,529	10,229	5,528	9,696	4,529

The following table gives the total monthly returns from the Mysore Field alone, for 1906 and the previous five years:—

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.	ozs.
January ..	42,829	41,612	48,080	50,935	50,999	50,870
February ..	40,764	40,053	46,268	49,500	49,629	48,538
March ..	42,727	41,575	48,327	50,914	51,629	—
April ..	42,038	38,329	48,271	49,991	52,324	—
May ..	42,110	38,093	48,628	50,445	51,093	—
June ..	41,829	37,466	48,980	50,800	51,553	—
July ..	42,071	43,847	50,571	50,476	51,086	—
August ..	42,048	49,628	50,286	50,613	50,541	—
September ..	41,524	49,420	51,452	50,526	50,962	—
October ..	41,670	47,858	51,380	50,631	51,287	—
November ..	41,669	48,332	51,559	50,422	50,802	—
December ..	43,069	48,078	53,984	51,560	53,077	—
Total ..	504,348	514,291	597,786	606,233	615,561	99,408

NATIONAL BANK.—On February 24 the liabilities on simple contracts were £11,683,559, and on notes or bills, including bank notes in circulation, £1,268,987, while the assets consisted of £1,411,048 in Government securities, £3,686,795 in bills of exchange and promissory notes, £1,461,604 in cash on hand and at the Bank of England, £1,879,789 in money at call and at short notice, and £6,576,157 in other securities.

ROBINSON GROUP OF MINES.

THE LANGLAAGTE ESTATE AND GOLD MINING CO., Ltd.

The Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the shareholders in the above-named Company was held in the offices of the Company at Mayfair, Johannesburg, on Monday, the 5th February, 1906, Mr J. W. S. Langerman, the Vice-Chairman, presiding.

The Directors' Report and the Statement of Accounts were unanimously agreed to, and the two dividends of 10 per cent. declared by the board in March and December, 1905, were confirmed.

Mr J. B. Robinson, the Chairman, who retired by rotation, was re-elected, and Messrs N. J. Scholtz, J. M. Pierce, and J. W. H. Stubbs were elected directors of the Company.

Statement of Liabilities and Assets as at 31st December, 1905.

Dr.				
To Capital	£470,000	0	0	
Share Premium	72,000	0	0	
Dividend No. 31, declared December, 1905	47,000	0	0	
Dividends Unclaimed	838	4	6	
Sundry Creditors	39,871	16	7	
Balance of Profit and Loss Account	1,043,628	11	0	
	£1,673,338	12	1	

Cr.				
By Property	£366,000	0	0	
Machinery and Plant	280,265	9	1	
Railway Siding	2,629	0	3	
Buildings	32,768	0	1	
Developments, Shafts, etc.	77,279	2	6	
Water Boring and Pumping Plants	8,420	8	1	
Permanent Works	1,352	2	0	
Dams and Reservoirs	23,015	10	11	
Roads and Fences	69	11	1	
Furniture	442	9	5	
Instruments	174	15	6	
Live Stock and Vehicles	1,343	10	3	
Stores	23,034	3	6	
Shares	771,252	10	0	
Bearer Warrants	1,729	15	8	
Native Labour Recruiting	2,620	17	8	
Sundry Debtors	10,220	12	2	
Cash Account	70,712	13	11	
Johannesburg	£6,372	15	11	
London	21,548	10	0	
At Mine	1,107	3	11	
Gold in Transit	41,684	4	1	
	£1,673,338	12	1	

J. W. S. LANGERMAN, Vice-Chairman.

JAS. H. CROSBY, Secretary.

We hereby certify that we have examined the Books of the Langlaagte Estate and Gold Mining Company, Limited, and compared same with Vouchers and Bank Book; that we have found them correct, and that the above is a true extract from said Books.

S. FLEISCHER,
C. L. ANDERSSON and CO., } Auditors.
Incorporated Accountants

Statement of Expenditure and Revenue for the Year ended 31st December, 1905.

Dr.				
To Mining	£143,167	2	1	
Hauling and Pumping	24,463	19	2	
Sorting	3,406	18	7	
Crushing	3,737	8	0	
Transport	4,577	10	0	
Milling	26,987	17	11	
Free Vanners	6,925	7	2	
Water Service	8,550	8	11	
Development Redemption	32,427	4	0	
Cyaniding Sands	29,155	2	4	
Carried forward	£283,398	13	2	

Brought forward	£283,398	13	2	
Cyaniding Concentrates	5,805	16	6	
General Expenses	23,575	1	0	
Salaries, Directors' and Auditors' Fees, etc.	£7,818	14	5	
London and Paris Agencies and Transfer Office	1,744	18	9	
Draughtsman and Survey Offices	584	12	3	
Interest, Commission, Exchange, and Insurance	2,126	2	8	
Maintenance, Buildings, Roads, etc.	2,401	14	6	
Electric Lighting	725	1	7	
Assaying	2,491	11	2	
General Charges, Stationery, Printing, etc.	5,672	5	8	

Balance to Profit and Loss ... 114,331 3 6

Cr.				
By Gold Account	£277,663	15	2	
Battery	104,599	6	8	
Sands	39,362	8	0	
Concentrates				
Dividend Account	216	0	0	
General Revenue	5,269	9	4	
	£427,110	19	2	

J. W. S. LANGERMAN, Vice-Chairman.
JAS. H. CROSBY, Secretary.

Examined and found correct,

S. FLEISCHER,
C. L. ANDERSSON and CO., } Auditors.
Incorporated Accountants

Profit and Loss Account for the Year ended 31st December, 1905.

Dr.				
To Dividends Nos. 30 and 31	£94,000	0	0	
Profit Tax	9,290	12	0	
For year 1905	£23,961	16	0	
Underestimated 1904	328	16	0	
Sundries	340	5	11	
Balance	1,043,628	11	0	
	£1,147,259	8	8	
Cr.				
By Balance as at December 31, 1904	£1032,928	5	2	
Balance Expenditure and Revenue Account	114,331	3	6	
	£1,147,259	8	8	
By Balance	£1,043,628	11	0	

J. W. S. LANGERMAN, Vice-Chairman.

JAS. H. CROSBY, Secretary.

Examined and found correct,

S. FLEISCHER,
C. L. ANDERSSON and CO., } Auditors.
Incorporated Accountants

LANGLAAGTE EXPLORATION AND BUILDING CO., Ltd.

The Sixth Annual Meeting of Shareholders in the above-named Company was held in the offices of the Company, at Mayfair, Johannesburg, on Monday, the 5th February, 1906, Mr J. W. S. Langerman, the vice-chairman, presiding.

The Directors' Report and the Statement of Accounts were unanimously agreed to, and Mr J. W. S. Langerman, who retired by rotation, was re-elected a Director of the Company. Messrs N. J. Scholtz, J. M. Pierce, and J. W. H. Stubbs were elected Directors of the Company.

Statement of Liabilities and Assets as at 31st December, 1905.

Dr.				
To Capital	£500,000	0	0	
Sundry Creditors	3,896	4	11	
	£503,896	4	11	

The Investors' Review

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The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

The Investors' Review.

"Enough of this Foolery."

These were the words in which the Prime Minister fittingly rebuked the frivolity of Mr. Arthur Balfour. "It might have answered very well in the last Parliament," said the Prime Minister, "but it is altogether out of place in this." That is true, and we need not occupy space with any analysis of the debate on Free Trade v. Protection which occupied the House of Commons on Monday and Tuesday. The usual able speeches were delivered by the Free Traders, and the usual sophistries and insincerities trotted out in reply; also was the accustomed vote given triumphantly affirming the adhesion of the new House of Commons to the principle of free imports—and when all was said and done, we are just where we were before. There is no honesty at all in the Protectionist agitation and never has been. Our trade is not going to the dogs in any direction as the tariffites allege, nor is it seriously threatened. The Protectionist agitation has been got up, not because things were going wrong, but for purposes of faction, and the only serious purpose behind it—apart from the desire of certain stick-in-the-muds, perpetrators or victims of dishonestly capitalised industrial enterprises and such like, to clutch at any means of salvation—is to establish a durable basis upon which to rear a crushing military burden permanently to be laid upon the nation for the profit of privileged castes and contractors. If we once could establish even the beginning of a system of protection, those who agitate for an ever-increasing navy, for a larger army, for more and more millions to be poured out every year in these wasteful directions, would begin to feel themselves safe, approaching victory, possessed of an "improving security." In every other respect the agitation for a return to protectionism started by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain is a dishonest and immoral futility of the most contemptible description, and probably he did not start it for any definite object in the way of furthering the plots of the mediævalists who foment militarism, while industrialism marches from triumph to triumph, but merely in order to try and divert the minds of the nation from the consequences of his crimes in South Africa, crimes beneath the moral blight of which he is now sinking. Debates, therefore, and votes in favour of the maintenance of Free Trade, carry us no further, because the entire agitation is either mere "tactics" or mere self-seeking, and the real difficulty remains, also the real danger. Both will remain unless the present Government makes up its mind to attack resolutely the all-devouring canker of militarism through whose ravages the nation is being threatened, not merely with protectionism, but with ultimate industrial paralysis.

The longer we look at the figures of the army and navy estimates presented to the House of Commons with such complacency by Mr. Edmund Robertson and Mr. Haldane, the less we are satisfied with them. In no direction can we find any justification for these excessive totals. Nearly £70,000,000 of money to be poured out upon defensive measures in a time of peace is an amount altogether intolerable and unwarranted, an amount, therefore, driving us towards the tyranny of a customs tariff. What are the Radical members about not to have already risen in revolt against de-

mands of such ruinous magnitude? How is our new Government going to enter the approaching Hague conference with clean hands and virtuous minds, there to work towards the attainment of universal peace among civilised nations, if it maintains a peace and war budget of the magnitude now displayed and defended? Why cannot the Government have the courage to make a beginning in reducing our armaments, as Mr. Leonard Courtney advocated in that noble speech of his delivered last Saturday to the members of the Russell and Eighty Clubs in Oxford? We wish we had space to print that speech, but it ought to be circulated throughout the length and breadth of the land, and the new members of the House of Commons returned to bring about honesty, economy, and sanity in the matter of military and naval expenditure should take alike the lesson and the impressive warning of this mature and wise statesman to heart. "I want," Mr. Courtney said, "to invite others by our example. I want a little courage in facing the risks of reduced armaments. There is always some risk that you may be attacked. There is some element of truth in the description put before you of the temper of particular statesmen and the aims of particular Governments. . . . I do not wish in the slightest degree to deny the existence of risks, but I am tired of the constant presentation to our imagination of the nations of the world as so many predatory hordes, ready at the least sight of an opportunity to seize upon what belongs to other nations, and to snatch and devour that which is not their own. I do not believe that this is the real temper of the civilised nations of Europe. They are all more or less in alarm, genuine alarm, at one another, and the country which can first show some confidence that the best way to prevent attack is not to invite it by distrust, that country will establish for itself a great reputation and will be glorified as the real pioneer in the formation of a League of Peace."

There in a few words is the humane, wise, and dignified aim, the true policy this brand new Ministry of ours ought to have courage to pursue, backed up as it would be by the steadfast loyalty of all lovers of peace and economy in the new House of Commons. Why cannot Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, who is a strong man, and a much more far-seeing man than most of his colleagues, insist that the murder trades estimates recently laid before the House shall be referred to carefully chosen committees in order to be revised and cut down? Let us make a beginning in economy forthwith, and not tamely accept the estimates of the late Government, tamely submit to the ungrateful task of carrying out their wild and corruption-fostering programme. Let an end be put at once to the laying down of monster battle-ships. That alone would stop the necessity for digging out further docks, for borrowing and borrowing more and ever more millions in order to create vulnerable points in various parts of the kingdom and of the empire. Why cannot the outlay upon the docks of Gibraltar, for example, be curtailed or put a stop to? It has been demonstrated by Mr. Gibson Bowles and others that the new docks there are in a position where ships lodged in them would be exposed to a destructive fire from the batteries of an enemy on Spanish territory. Are they being armed all the same? Let us at least have the facts. Everywhere throughout the estimates, moreover, whether for the army or the navy, there must be—there notoriously are—leaks innumerable which vigilant committees, intent upon doing their duty, could put a stop to. We have again and again cried out for a £10,000,000 reduction in the estimates only as a beginning. Before three years are over we ought, with due diligence used, to see the cost of the army and navy together reduced by at least £25,000,000, with a result probably beneficial to the striking capacity of both forces, certainly beneficial to our defensive power. This is the task before us. It is easy to make speeches in favour of Free Trade—few things in the world more easy, because Free Trade has demonstrated its own excellence. We have the practical illustration

before us from month to month in the swelling returns of our imports and exports. You have but to go round the suburbs of any of our cities and note the signs of wealth abundant there to realise what Free Trade has done for the nation. What is wanted to make this inestimably valuable heritage secure is not arguments, but hard, practical work—work calculated to bring about such a cutting down of the outlay upon the army and navy to begin with as will put it out of the power of Protectionist agitators to entrap the country into the sanction of any system of life-destroying and empire-ruining fiscal tolls and monopolist exactions.

There is the more urgency for immediate action in this direction because pressure is being brought to bear upon the Government to launch out in various other directions in order to fulfil the socialistic pledges of a large section of its followers. We have already had the President of the Local Government Board committing himself to old age pensions. We have had a promise that some means will be found to feed the hungry children in our elementary schools, and to relieve poor districts of the school rate. There are demands for State interference involving the expenditure of money in many directions—for payment of members of Parliament and of their election expenses, for an increase in the wages of dockyard employees, for better payment to the men engaged as pawns in the fighting services, for shorter hours and higher pay in the postal service, and so forth—some laudable, some dubious, some bad. On all hands the Government is being assailed by those who have come in as members pledged to the lips to effect amelioration at the State's expense in the condition of one or other among the important classes of their electorate. Money, money is called for on all hands, and we have none to give, will never have any unless we can slay the hydra of militarism. It is simply impossible to gratify demands for the amelioration of the condition of the working classes, for improved housing, for the opening up of the land to settlement once more—the waste and untenanted land of England—unless we can tackle this military dragon of Wantley, fling aside the brutish and brutal mediævalism by which we are being stripped, and gradually bereft of liberty, of the power to help ourselves. And because this is the one urgent work before Parliament, the one labour of Hercules without whose accomplishment all others are as the wandering wind, we can no longer occupy our thoughts and space with debates upon the merits or demerits of Free Trade. Free Trade will be all right, in spite of "Joe's patent new Article Club," and all the wisdom of the universities and guinea pigs, if the House of Commons, in the emphatic phrase of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, "gets to business." These naval and military estimates must be pruned, and incidentally the report of the Auditor-General on the dockyard accounts show us how a beginning with the shears may at once be made.

Mazawattee Tea.

The downfall of this at one time excellent but from the first excessively capitalised business has been due to a series of directorial blunders and miscalculations for which it would be difficult to find a parallel. In face of the most solemn warning that the course pursued would inevitably end in disaster, the directors seemed to go deliberately out of their way to do a maximum of injury to the company's legitimate business by offending and endeavouring to damage the trade of those on whom every dependence had to be placed if the undertaking was to thrive. Before proceeding further it may be useful to remark that all the members of the present board are not responsible for the break-up. Indeed, the kaleidoscopic changes that have recently taken place on the directorate are so bewildering that we find it hard to say who is blameworthy and who not. In order that the full effect of the collapse may be appreciated, it will be necessary to indulge in a little ancient history. During the first

few years of the company's career in its present form the business was evidently conducted with marked care and ability, and, thanks to the over-production which characterised the tea industry a few years back, and which was not reflected in the prices charged to consumers, the profits reached most satisfactory figures. High water-mark was attained in 1902, when the trading profits amounted to over £84,000, and it began to seem probable that the enormous figure of £382,629 standing for goodwill and trade marks might, perhaps, have some justification. But this giddy height was no sooner reached than the business began to show signs of exhaustion, and shareholders were soon called upon to face an uncomfortable and disturbing decline in the trading revenue to £59,000. That was for the year 1903, and in the early part of 1904 we first began to learn of a Mazawattee Export Company, which had, apparently, been formed the more easily to control the estates in Ceylon. Whether good or ill resulted we have never been able to find out, and at the present time are not very sure if this company is still in existence or not. However, the drop in profits induced the directors to go in for a general overhaul, and, as usual when the beaten tracks of industrial company operations are departed from, some rather distressing losses were brought to light. Their amount was £26,442, and although the directors made the entire sum good by a contribution from the 1904 profits, the event was not without significance. These profits, by the way, showed a marked recovery, and vain hopes were raised that all the weakness had been eliminated, and that the concern would soon be on the road to its former prosperity.

So it might have been had not the directors practically signed the company's death warrant by venturing into a sphere of activity for which the business and all those connected with it were absolutely unfitted. The thing was doomed to failure from the very start, but the directors had a large amount of funds in hand, owing to the abandonment of the trade in loose tea carried on by Densham and Co., and after the company had been so heavily committed to the new enterprise that there was no drawing back shareholders were informed that the directors had decided to embark a large part of the resources in the retail provision business. We do not know the precise legal aspect of a step like this, but it seems to us that those who ventured into the foolhardy business without first consulting the shareholders could be made personally liable for the tremendous losses that have come about. It is quite true that the proprietors subsequently sanctioned the new move, but, as we have said, a large amount of money had already been expended by that time, and the shareholders were to a large extent powerless, owing to the important obligations entered into. Not that vigorous protests were wanting, and a by no means insignificant section of those interested contemplated the directorial action with the gravest misgiving. It is interesting to recall what we ourselves said on the subject. It was very soon after the issue of the annual report in the early part of last year that the directors published details of their scheme, and in our issue of March 4, 1905, we said: "At whom or what the new policy is directed we have no means of knowing, and it is quite impossible to forecast the outcome of such a great change as this must bring about, but if the directors think they can make a violent onslaught on the retail trade without raising an immense conflict of interests they are much mistaken."

We have only to examine the report and statement of accounts for the year ended December 21 last to prove the wisdom of this forecast. The shop policy has been a complete and far-reaching disaster, with losses so violent that nothing short of a capital reorganisation can fill the hole. Long before the present report and accounts were due the devastating nature of the catastrophe had become known, and on January 12 last an extraordinary general meeting of the com-

pany was called by Mr. John Lane Densham, in conjunction with Mr. Edward Densham, Mr. A. Jackson, Mr. A. C. Oswald, and Mr. G. D. Densham, some of whom, if not all, had previously held seats on the board. The outcome was that, after very lively and protracted proceedings, the managing directors, Mr. R. A. McQuitty and Mr. J. H. McClean, were removed from the board, Mr. A. Jackson being appointed managing director in their place, while Mr. John Lane Densham, Mr. A. C. Oswald, and Mr. Harry Rose were appointed directors. Mr. Benjamin Densham and Mr. Jasper Keeble subsequently departed, and Mr. G. D. Densham has come in. And a nice state of affairs the new men came in contact with. It had been stated by the former directors that 500 small shops would be acquired at a cost of £200 each for fitting up, all of which were to have been opened within 12 or 18 months from the date of the circular announcing the new policy, that is, March, 1904. But what had actually happened? About 164 shops had been taken at an average rental of £160, but in some instances the rents were as high as £500 and £700, and in two cases considerably over £1,000 per annum. Moreover, the cost of fitting up these shops, which was done in the most lavish style, utterly unjustified, ranged from £500 up to over £2,000, and it is an incredible-looking fact that in two instances an expenditure of over £4,500 and £10,000 respectively had been sanctioned. In short, the company was committed to an outlay for these 164 shops of considerably over £300,000. Surely no language could be too severe in condemnation of such reckless and wanton waste, and the more we think of the business the more are we disposed to believe that an action for the recovery of some of the lost money would stand. We know from experience, because we have seen some of the shops, that the directors did not hesitate to take them in the midst of strong and well-established competitors, nor was it considered at all unreasonable to open two shops within a few hundred yards of each other. The whole venture was folly of the grossest and most inexcusable kind. Up to December last we gather that 70 shops had been actually opened, and had been trading at a serious loss from the day they started.

So a meeting of the largest shareholders was held at the factories, New Cross, on January 3, and a decision came to close up and realise the shops as soon as possible. This recommendation was immediately acted upon, and, with a single exception, the whole of the premises are now closed. Attention is now being directed to the disposal of these 164 failures, and thus far 37 have been got rid of. What the loss on the whole mad enterprise will be it is as yet impossible to say, but, on referring to the balance-sheet, we find that the sum expended was £178,426, a staggering amount. Just note some of the items. Seven freehold properties, including compensation to tenants—imagine it, tenants were actually bought out—£22,250; 87 leasehold properties, again including compensation, £29,645; rents, rates, taxes, insurance and repairs prior to commencement of trading, £21,799; sundry expenses, £3,172; stocks on hand, £29,829; payments on account of fittings, £61,285; and advertising expenses, £3,957. A note appended to these entries shows that the total loss cannot be ascertained until the outstanding claims not included in the figures have been delivered and settled and the properties and other assets realised. At present it is impossible to state even approximately the extent to which the company is committed, but probably the sum is very large. There is one good point which the directors are wise to make prominent, and that is the fact that little more than a tithe of the ground represented by the multitude of agents—some 15,000 in all—was covered by the shop policy. In other words, there is still a vast field where the company has not sought to destroy itself, and this is proved by the profits earned during the past year, notwithstanding the injury to the company's name.

There was a trading loss on the 70 shops, which were opened for an average period of eight weeks, of £8,602, and after deducting this the legitimate business of tea blending and selling produced a revenue of £43,900. Dividends, interest, profit on realisation of investments, and transfer fees gave a further sum of £6,949, and after deducting directors' commission on the 1904 profits, £1,059 was brought forward, making a total of £51,908. Managing directors' and chairman's remuneration and directors' fees absorbed the heavy sum of £3,900, all to the old board, trustees' fees amounted to £210, and secretarial and legal charges to £2,004, leaving £37,082. The directors therefore meet the debenture interest, and, having regard to the fact that the preference dividend is cumulative, think it wise to provide that as well. It is then proposed to place £9,000 to an advertising reserve, because, as is frankly pointed out, the profit

	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	£	£	£	£
Trading profit, &c.....	84,445	58,972	70,442	50,849
Brought forward	4,566	3,209	1,404	1,059
Total available	89,011	62,181	71,846	51,908
Managing director's remuneration, directors' fees, &c.....	4,180	4,393	5,724	4,110
Office expenses, depreciation and other charges	11,274	11,554	10,150	10,716
Interest on loans	3,574			
Interest on debentures	2,755	8,069	8,084	8,075
Net balance.....	67,227	38,164	47,888	29,007
Dividends	48,335	32,208	19,021	19,000
Placed to reserve.....	15,000	4,552	27,242	9,000
Carried forward	3,892	1,404	1,625	1,007

has only been earned by means of "drastic economies in advertising, which is most detrimental to the future welfare of the company's wholesale trade." Last year the amount spent for this purpose in the United Kingdom was £6,065, against £13,849 in 1904 and £29,727 in 1903. That is, indeed, a heavy decline, and the directors will immediately draw on the £9,000 now allocated, but whether the £29,727 spent in 1903 was quite justified is another question. Balance remaining to be carried forward is £1,007. The losses on the shop lunacy will have to be made a capital question, and we may therefore point out that the reserve fund stands at £51,000. In fairness, however, let it be said that the cost of establishing the cocoa and chocolate business, £62,919, which has probably been anything but a brilliant success, has been charged against this fund, which at one time stood well over £100,000. Changes in the balance-sheet are naturally important, and we note that the investments in trustee and other securities have been reduced £50,189 to £165,853. Then £40,303 has been raised on loan, debtors owe £42,704 less at £80,741, and stocks have been further lowered by £17,654 to £96,545. The money set free by these charges went into the shops. Sundry creditors are, fortunately, not very heavy at £35,025, but cash is slender at £15,296. Freehold land, leases, factories, &c., £102,550, and plant, machinery, &c., £72,936, may be good value, but while the directors are clearing up we hope they will give attention to the item of trade marks and goodwill, £382,629. We do not think that figure can ever be justified now, notwithstanding the directorial optimism regarding the future. The board naturally appeals for a fair chance, asking for "time and encouragement to enable them to try and bring the business back into the high position it had attained." That is a reasonable request, and if the shareholders want to vent their wrath it must be against the old directors, not the new.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

HORATIO BOTTOMLEY'S LATEST.

Horatio, the Legislator, has issued a further circular to the miserable victims of the Joint Stock Trust and Finance Corporation, pointing out that the directors have for some time past been endeavouring to spread the company's business over a large and more varied area, likewise to acquire control of those properties handed over to the Selected Gold Mines of Australia, the aim being to become a "mining, industrial, and financial corporation." This is funny enough, looking to the mocking past, and the following picture of the difficulties presenting themselves is in the best manner of Uriah Heap:—"First, the necessity of providing a considerably larger working capital than that at their disposal; and, secondly, the desire of the chairman (especially since his election to Parliament) to be relieved of the strain and anxiety of a position which, in spite of all disappointments, he has steadily filled for several years past." So the directors still hope, despite law proceedings, to get more cash and to give Horatio an opportunity to evade his moral and other responsibilities. For it is proposed to sell the concern to "certain financial groups," undisclosed in such manner as to involve no demand of any kind upon the shareholders. This is clever in the Horatio manner, we do not doubt, but that manner is of the hat-trick sort. A cash distribution is actually promised, and "fully-paid scrip in various undertakings provided with ample working capital." Really, now, Mr. Bottomley, do you expect anybody to believe all this in the light of past experience? Probably the man does, for he has tested the range of human folly and dupability more than most financial schemers of his time. "It is considered undesirable that further details should be made public," says he, and mystery is of the essence of the trick. "Resolutions" will be submitted at the meeting, to be held next week, and there is never a hint that the "Selected Gold Mines, Limited," a subsidiary Bottomley stage property, is in course of compulsory liquidation, or that successful actions have been raised against the corporation in connection with its various pocket-lightening "operations." On the 7th inst. an order was obtained for the production of the company's minute-book, cash book, bought book, and ledger at the registered offices, to the plaintiff's solicitors, but such production was refused when the solicitors made formal application for inspection. Thereupon an order was made to strike out the company's plea, which means that, rather than permit the books to be examined, the company preferred to abandon the defence it had set up, and allow judgment to go by default for the amount claimed.

It is about time this impudent humbug was exposed, and, happily, there are signs that this Horatio of infinite "cheek" will have to fight his hardest to escape discovery and to prevent investigation. A formidable opposition is already being organised, and a circular has been issued by three large shareholders—Messrs. Flint, Bennett, and Bush—pointing out that no accounts of the corporation have yet been issued; that one of the allegations in the petition for the compulsory winding-up of the Selected Gold Mines by the Court is that a fraudulent agreement has been entered into between this company and the Joint Stock Trust, and that no prior information is given to the proposed sale, so that the matter cannot be properly considered at Tuesday's meeting. These shareholders further say that they are acting as an advisory committee of over 400 debenture holders of the Selected Gold Mines, and ask those shareholders who cannot attend the meeting to send their proxies to Mr. F. S. Salaman, of 1, Oxford Court, Cannon Street, E.C., in whom 37,100 shares are already vested. Shareholders had better act promptly upon this suggestion, for it would be an outrageous triumph of sheer impudence if the Bottom-

LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK.—The balance-sheet for February shows that current, deposit and other accounts were £49,994,530 and acceptances on account of customers £4,127,406, against which there were cash in hand and at the Bank of England £7,747,484, money at call and short notice £7,816,695, investments £6,960,505, bills of exchange £4,625,058, and advances on current accounts, loans on security, &c., £27,898,679.

ley bucket-shop went quietly into limbo without a thorough investigation into all its past history. The fate of that £250,000, for example, effusively bestowed upon the ruined shareholders in Bottomley's bankrupt Hansard Union interests us much. How much of the money did Horatio disperse in his stagey charity, and how much draw back again from the dupes through this Joint Stock Trust?

ARMY STATISTICS.

In answer to Dr. Macnamara, Mr. Haldane the other day furnished some suggestive figures that taxpayers throughout the country might do well to ponder over. So suggestive are they that we make room for them in our crowded columns for study and future reference. In the matter of expenditure the army figures show an increase of nearly £11,000,000 comparing 1904-5 with 1895-6. At the same time the personnel of the standing army, including the South African garrison, has risen from 107,969 to 148,734. Of this increase fully 24,000 is ascribable to the home army, and surely one of the first things to be done is to reduce this home army to at most the total for 1895-6. There is no reason at all why the number of the home troops permanently with the colours should amount to more than 100,000. Provided that our subsidiary forces of Militia and Volunteers are properly treated and trained we could easily reduce it to less than 100,000 men merely by cutting down the garrison in Ireland. As it is, the increase in the total numbers here and in Africa is nearly 38 per cent., but the increase in the cost has gone up nearly 58 per cent., and we should like to know why. The African garrison, although it does now amount to nearly 20,000 men as against about 3,600 on January 1, 1896, cannot legitimately account for the whole of such an increase. It must be due to that indiscriminate waste which the House of Commons ought to have the power to overhaul and root out. All this expenditure, it must not be forgotten, and this maintenance of men in idleness, is exclusive of the large army of white troops kept in India, the total of which on October 1 last had risen to upwards of 78,000 men. But in 1901, at the height of the South African War crisis, the white army in India was reduced to little more than 63,000 men, and India remained calm, did not revolt. What reason is there, then, for adding 18,000 men to the army of occupation in India since that date? There is no reason within India itself, for the population of India has been disarmed and the military railways we have built there have now been so widely extended throughout the Peninsula as to make an army of 25,000 white troops more efficient now than one of twice that number would have been at the date of the Indian Mutiny. Consequently, the large army of British troops, whose cost is borne by the hungry and helpless native population of India, is maintained there merely to gratify that passion for militarism which threatens to swamp our Indian dominion in bankruptcy, or to bring us all into a condition of semi-slavery. And the Russian invasion bugbear is continually trotted out to furnish an excuse for this intolerable burden laid upon the Indian people. This is madness. There can be no invasion of India by Russia this century, probably no such attack would ever have been even talked about, still less prepared for, had the people of India been contented and prosperous under British rule. "As in 1895," with the cost of the army and navy; why that would at once give the Chancellor of the Exchequer £23,000,000 of revenue to play with, to remove taxes by. Mr. Haldane gives the following figures of expenditure on the army:—

1895-96, £18,941,650; 1896-97, £18,693,309; 1897-98, £20,051,854; 1898-99, £20,634,186; 1899-1900, £43,655,801; 1900-01, £92,305,792; 1901-02, £93,567,363; 1902-03, £66,673,851; 1903-04, £37,441,598; 1904-05, £29,595,651. These figures include the annuities charged on the votes in repayment of loans and the estimated expenditure incurred by other departments on Army account, but not the expenditure under loans.

Mr. Haldane also furnishes the following return of the strength of the British Army, Regular Forces, serving in the United King-

dom, in South Africa, and in British India respectively, for each of the years 1896 to 1905 inclusive:—

Date.	United Kingdom.	South Africa.	India.
January 1, 1896	104,396	3,573	78,043
" 1897	99,066	7,053	76,995
" 1898	97,539	8,413	74,623
" 1899	104,873	9,316	74,466
" 1900	96,094	103,329	66,581
" 1901	135,591	162,910	63,023
" 1902	116,918	165,386	63,958
" 1903	151,617	47,427	75,740
October 1, 1903	128,801	31,442	76,380
" 1904	136,342	22,127	76,938
" 1905	128,954	19,780	78,061

To complete the record take the following suggestive figures supplied by the Secretary of State for War in reply to a question put to him by Mr. Molteno. They disclose the fact that in three years since the peace our troops in South Africa and the "works" their presence involved have cost this country £15,830,000, or millions more than the entire nett revenue of the mines for the same period of time, and it must be noted that, for the last two years at least, part of the expenses of the garrison have fallen upon these same mines in the shape of the police budget borne by the Transvaal. Is it any wonder that, in such circumstances, our sympathies are with Major Seely, with the 56 members of the House of Commons who, on Friday evening, voted for a further reduction in the army estimates? And more significant even than the vote of this gallant band was the abstention from voting of a still larger body of Ministerialists. All have good reason for discontent, and the Prime Minister's statement that Mr. Haldane had, unaided, reduced the army estimates this year by about £1,500,000 must serve to increase the *malaise*. If Mr. Haldane can perform a feat of this praiseworthy kind "off his own bat," what might not a Committee of the House do were it allowed to probe and overhaul the indigestible masses of estimates the House is now asked to vote unexamined? Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman drew a stirring picture in his speech at the Reform Club of lobbies crowded with impatient members eager for work and finding none. Why cannot work be given to them? Is there any valid reason why all estimates—army, navy, civil service, revenue departments—should not be first subjected to the scrutiny of committees appointed *ad hoc*? Alone a minister can do little; he falls a victim usually to the blandishments and speciosities of the permanent officials. Bring these officials before committees of members, and compel them to disclose the origin of, the reasons for, each item in these globular masses of figures, and we feel certain that the power of ministers over the waste of public money that notoriously goes on in all directions would be most beneficially increased. It is not the abolition of the "linked battalions" system we are so anxious about; what we desire to see is the deliverance of the Treasury from the depredator, the briber and corrupter, the incompetent and indifferent bureaucrat and their outside agitators, by whom the nation is persuaded to think itself safe only when the totals of the millions disbursed go on expanding. Let the dissatisfied Ministerialists press for a reform of this kind, and the Government must give way. It is in its own interests to give way.

SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY BURDEN.

Year.	Average No. of Troops in S. Africa.	Cost on Army Estimates.	Expenditure on Military Works Loan.	Total of Two Preceding Columns.
		£	£	£
1903-4	31,000	7,760,000	1,430,000	9,190,000
1904-5	23,000	2,830,000	1,310,000	4,140,000
1905-6	20,000	2,400,000	300,000	2,700,000

The only contribution towards the above cost made by the Colonial Administrations is an annual payment of £4,000 by Natal.

CHINESE LABOUR.

The Government is to be heartily congratulated upon its firm stand upon this vexed question. Wednesday's debate in the House of Commons was in all respects satisfactory, so far as the Ministry is concerned, and the declarations of both Mr. Winston Churchill and Sir Edward Grey really leave nothing to be desired. Counsels of perfection might have demanded the instant stoppage of further imports of these unhappy serfs, and if the contention dealt with in another note is accurate, it might have been possible for the Government to forbid at once any further shipments. Such a step, however, might have produced too much disturbance at the mines and possibly some interruption of work, and we are content to accept the Government's decision to grant no more licenses, to put an end to the use of decoys in China by the Johannesburg Chamber of Mines, and to allow no Chinaman to enter the Transvaal as a slave in any shape after July 1, or whenever the existing licenses granted by the late Government or with its tacit consent have been exhausted. As usual, the twin leaders of the Opposition, Messrs. Balfour and Chamberlain, strove to combat this decision and did their best to conjure up all sorts of dangers, but the temper of this House of Commons is not tolerant of such exhibitions. The cry of danger to the mining interests, moreover, is one without real foundation, though mine share gambling interests may suffer for a time. As those five Chester men sent to South Africa by Mr. Mond have proved, the mines in the Transvaal may be worked by white labour just as easily as those in Western Australia or California, or any other part of the world. These men were sent to a mine in the Barberton district, and did there all the work the Chinese coolie does twice as fast and probably more than twice as well. They did it, too, for a wage of £3 a week, which was, as they say, less than they could have earned at similar work in this country. Given machine drills, white labour might be employed with profit at probably something like double this wage, and the returns to the mine shareholders would in all likelihood considerably improve. These returns have certainly not been increased by Chinese labour, although it is probable enough that the profits of the mine bosses have been augmented thereby in various ways. That is what they look to, not the good of the trusting, ignorant, profit-craving shareholders whom they have induced to buy their wares to a ruinous extent in the shape of inflated shares. Indeed, one cannot help the insolvent, lies behind this determined effort on the part of Messrs. Balfour and Chamberlain to prevent a reform necessary to the quieting of the public conscience and to the restoration of England's good name—necessary also to wholesome mining. All over the land, one might say over the civilised world, bankruptcy, dreary, hopeless, irretrievable, has been brought to the doors of ten of thousands of men and women by their heedless plunges into the exciting play of the Kaffir Circus. What is the condition of West-End society in relation to this altogether demoralised and demoralising market? Some day perhaps we shall know, and the occasional suicides ascribed to losses therein are only too suggestive of immeasurable wastes of undisclosed ruin behind. "Chinese labour is your only hope," cry the market leaders who beguiled you to your destruction, oh, noble punting patriot, and—fool still—you believe; and while you believe, neither Joseph nor Arthur, nor all the army of the faithful self-deceivers can avert your destruction.

SALT UNION.

When handling the annual report of this miserable and still over-capitalised trust a year ago, we advocated the suspension of dividends altogether until the financial position could be somewhat improved. It is now a case of "Hobson's Choice," the result of the past

year's operations having been so deplorable that not only must dividends—preference dividends that is—cease, but far from the finances being thus strengthened, it further is necessary to reduce the allocation to reserve. We now have £1,400,000 of capital receiving no return at all, and, be it not forgotten, this capital is now less than 50 per cent. of its former total, the huge sum of £1,600,000 having been written off three or four years ago. At the time it was made we predicted that the reduction, devastating though it was, would not meet the position, and it seems to us that the sacrifice of another £1,000,000 would not now make the undertaking even tolerably strong. Can anything more disastrous be imagined? What the end will be it is hard to say, but the company is not so very far off a deficiency in its debenture interest. Deliveries of salt during 1905 dropped a further 29,000 tons to 861,000 tons, but the directors seek to comfort shareholders by telling them that except for the decline in shipments to the East, due mainly to the dock strike, and to scarcity of tonnage—the last reason sounds most remarkable—the trade would have shown a satisfactory increase. In the same breath, however, they are compelled to relate that prices have dropped continuously since June when the Association of Manufacturers was dissolved. So the gross profit on salt, brine, carriage, and sundry trading further tumbles by £18,086 to £165,606, making the decline in two years £42,000. Rents, interest, dividends, etc., gave a further amount of £45,508, a drop of about £1,000, so that, all told, the revenue was £211,113 against £236,349, the company last year receiving a special payment of £6,175 from the Manchester Ship Canal. To earn this revenue cost £142,803, or only £6,523 less, although the outlay on maintenance was cut down by £4,874 to £44,506, administration reached £28,634 or very little less, rents were down rather over £100 to £37,301, royalties, etc., came to £9,602 against £9,715, and rates and taxes were unfortunately higher at £7,936. Balance of nett revenue, therefore, comes out at £68,400, or a drop of £18,623, and as the debenture interest requires £54,000, preference shareholders who are entitled to 7 per cent., must forego the 2½ per cent. they received a year ago. Moreover the allocation to reserve is cut down £5,000 to £15,000, and the carry forward sinks from £770 to £170. It is a melancholy exhibit, and the directors seem powerless to stem the tide of disaster which almost threatens to flood the company out of existence. The size of the balance-sheet items is simply appalling. Here we have freehold and other properties, machinery, plant, and goodwill £2,035,952, producer gas plant £44,958, vacuum evaporation plant £26,351, shares in other companies £72,199, steamers, barges, flats, and appliances £107,703, and rolling stock £83,545. And the best that can be accomplished is the £54,000 of debenture interest. Was that really earned? We think not. It is stated that the works, plant in operation, craft and rolling stock, have been maintained in good order, while depreciation has been written off craft at the same rate as in 1904, and the usual provision made for the replacement of rolling stock. But so far as we can tell that still leaves a good £2,000,000 of capital expenditure against which not a penny piece is allowed, and at best the reserves are not more than £82,390. Sundry creditors are a good way in front of debtors, but the company has stocks of various kinds valued at £131,593, high-class investments £46,365, cash £50,920, and its own debenture stock to the amount of £16,220. It can therefore go on paying its way all right for a time, but as a solid profit-earning enterprise we fear the company will never have its day.

CANADIAN LIFE INSURANCE.

A most vigorous and praiseworthy campaign is being carried on by the *Toronto World*, having for its object a thorough and independent investigation of the position of the Canada Life Assurance Company, the Sun Life Assurance Company, and other organisations of that description, whose headquarters are in the

Dominion. We have been looking through a number of articles in this paper and note with much satisfaction that the agitation makes progress. The effort of the *Toronto World* is to get policyholders to move, to band themselves together in order to bring about first an inquiry and then reform. That both are urgently needed is only too obvious, as we showed in detail when dealing with the accounts of the Canada Life Assurance Company. Canadian methods of insurance have imitated those fashionable in the United States, and to some extent have gone beyond them in the arts of plundering the unfortunate policyholders. Therefore, we trust the victims will unite and press upon the Government of the Dominion the demand for a thorough overhaul of the business, for restitution of moneys stolen, for reform in every direction. However reluctant the Government may be—and we fear its election or corruption funds have been largely replenished by these degraded specimens of life insurance societies just as in the United States—it cannot resist united and insistent pressure. How necessary action is may be gathered from some statistics supplied in the *Toronto World* of the 20th ult. relating to the investments of the Sun Life Company. These are classified under the head of mortgages, Government and municipal bonds, and “industrial promotions,” and the figures indicate a steady deterioration in the quality of the securities into which the money of policyholders has been placed. Thus at the end of 1900 the total amount invested by the Sun Office in mortgages was \$3,627,855, and by the end of 1904 this total had fallen to \$2,529,160. Within the same period the value of Government and municipal bonds had shrunk from \$1,570,915 to \$1,120,834. These declines have not occurred because the society was getting poorer in funds, but because it has been busy transferring the property of its clients to the company promoting business, for that is the plain English of it. At the end of 1900, for example, the total value of the industrial promotions, as the *Toronto World* calls them, participated in was only \$470,295, and the market value of this small amount invested was then \$643,648. Steadily, however, year after year, the book value of these so-called industrial investments went up, and in 1902 the market value began to show a loss. By the end of 1904 the par value of these investments had risen to \$3,014,170, while the market value had shrunk to \$2,253,303. There was thus a loss of upwards of \$760,000 on investments of this class at the end of 1904, as against a surplus four years before. Not only so but, as the *Toronto World* points out, the Sun Life has become a stock-jobbing affair, its record of securities bought during 1904 having reached a total of \$1,881,270, and of securities sold of \$1,014,100. Clearly, therefore, the Sun Life Company has gone into the “out and in” jobbing business, to the imminent peril of further loss to policyholders beyond that inflicted upon them most cruelly and shamelessly by the extravagant cost of administration. There are many other points brought out in the series of able articles appearing in this plucky Canadian newspaper, but we have not space to deal with them this week.

KAFFIR SHARE YIELDS AND DIVIDENDS.

During the past eight months we have published a series of analytical articles on Rand mining companies with the object of showing that in the majority of cases the shares are over-priced. Since we started them there has been a further heavy all-round depreciation, but despite this fall many even now are inflated, several, indeed, heavily so. For though the dividends and yields may look high in individual cases, the lives of many of the mines are so short that at the end of them the investor will find he is a heavy loser, whilst in other instances his gain will be but trifling. This we now illustrate by a table which shows the position at a glance. It sums up all we have previously said, and the results are revised in accord with later dividends, prices and life estimates. The yields are based on the dividends paid in 1905. It may well be that in

the future these dividends will be, in some instances, exceeded, but on the other hand, there is the probability that the 1905 average will not be maintained for the remainder of each mine's life. So the figures are based on present facts, not on future conjectures, for no man can estimate with any approach to precision the probable distributions of any individual company over a long course of years. Who can predict whether the ore, as in the Wemmer, will become poorer or richer; what the working costs will be; what accidents may happen, as in the recent experiences of the Wolhuter and Ginsberg, to suspend dividends; or what fusions may be schemed and carried out? And talking of amalgamation, we have not included the Henry Nourse and the Nourse Deep, as they have now become one company under the name of the Nourse Mines, whilst the Wemmer is being amalgamated with the Village Main Reef. Neither is it possible to calculate the lives of the mines with exactness; all are estimated and the limits guessed at may be largely affected by the future policies of the various companies. As far, however, as we can see the figures can be taken as conservative. Here and there the yields, after allowing for amortisation, look substantial, notably those of the Angelo, the Driefontein Consols, City and Suburban, Geldenhuis Deep, Geldenhuis Estate, the Nigel, the North Randfontein, South Randfontein, and Treasury, but it will be seen that these were fully priced round about the quotations we gave in our last issue. The Nigel looks the most attractive of all. We dealt fully with this company's career under date February 3, and therein showed how erratic its dividend record has been. Since 1888 the distributions have aggregated 247½ per cent., an average of a little over 13½ per cent. per annum, and if the yield were calculated on this, as it might justly be done, the Nigel district being notoriously irregular in value, it would be a risky business to invest in such a share. However, here is the table, with its approximate figures, and readers will never go far wrong in shaping their course by it.

	1905 Div.	Life.	Gross Yield.	Amortisation.	Percentage of Clear Revenue +, or of Dead Loss —
	%	Years.	%	%	
Angelo.....	43½	12	11	6½	+ 4½
Bonanza.....	57½	1	115		
City and Suburban (£4).....	10	17	9½	4½	+ 5
Comet (New).....	12½	12	5½	6½	+ 3½
Crown Deep.....	70	18	6	4½	+ 12½
Crown Reef.....	210	6	17½	15	+ 2½
Driefontein.....	22½	16	10	4½	+ 5½
Ferreira.....	262½	7	15½	12½	+ 2½
Ferreira Deep.....	30	15	6	5½	+ 2
Geldenhuis Deep.....	50	30	7	8	+ 5
Geldenhuis Estate.....	75	6	19	15	+ 4
Ginsberg.....	12½	4	10	23½	— 13½
Glen Deep.....	10	30	3	2	+ 1
Heriot New.....	20	12	6½	6½	+ 8
Jubilee.....	50	4	20	23½	— 3½
Jumpers.....	20	5	10½	18½	— 7½
Langlaagte Estate.....	20	12	8	6½	+ 1½
May Consolidated.....	40	4	15	23½	— 8½
Meyer and Charlton.....	55	7	14	12½	+ 12½
New Kleinfontein.....	7½	21	4½	38	+ 18
New Primrose.....	35	6	14	15	— 1
Nigel.....	35	15	13	5½	+ 7½
North Randfontein.....	10	45	6½	1½	+ 5½
Porges Randfontein.....	11½	25	6½	2½	+ 3½
Robinson (£5).....	17	12	10½	6½	+ 3½
Robinson Central Deep.....	40	9	8½	9½	— 1½
Robinson Deep.....	27½	25	6	2½	+ 3½
Rodepoort United.....	10	15	5½	5½	+ 3
Rose Deep.....	25	28	5½	2½	+ 3
Salisbury.....	20	6	18	15	+ 3
Simmer and Jack.....	7½	19	5½	3½	+ 18½
South Randfontein.....	10	28	6½	2½	+ 4
Treasury (£4).....	6½	8	15	11	+ 4
Village Main Reef.....	40	13	10	6½	+ 3½
Witwatersrand.....	15	20	4½	38	+ 4

A NEW “DAILY MAIL” OUTRAGE.

From many quarters we have lately been hearing that the circulation of the *Daily Mail* is rapidly on the dwindle. Probably enough this is true, for there is always a great mass of population in every country which follows the fashion in opinions, whether on politics or on any other question. This class will naturally now turn away from the rabidities of this jingo-jew's-harp in journalism, and seek its mental provender in other and more enlightened directions. Whether the

Daily Mail is suffering the usual fate of the discredited or not, it is obvious that its owners are being constrained to make unusual efforts to stir up popular excitement, with a view to once more reaping an abundant harvest of the people's halfpence. A house-to-house delivery of gory and hair-raising circulars has been going on all over London and neighbourhood, and the other newspapers are now being filled with advertisements of a bloody-minded, sensational yarn, which has begun to make its appearance in the aforesaid *Daily Mail's* pages. It is called "The Invasion of 1910," and is to contain "a full account of the siege of London." It has been blessed beforehand by Earl Roberts, Field-Marshal, ex-Commander-in-Chief, who tells the proprietors that "the catastrophe that may happen if we still remain in our present state of unpreparedness is vividly and forcibly illustrated in Mr. Le Queux's new book, which I recommend to the perusal of everyone who has the welfare of the British Empire at heart"—"British Empire" in this sense meaning titles, doles of money, opportunities for contractors' depredations, posts for the privileged or the idle rich, and a multiplication of risks for the quiet investor and slums for the poor.

This sort of outrage should go far to finish the *Daily Mail* altogether. It is bad enough to have antediluvian sentiments about the relation of one democracy to another ladled out to us by military orators and their journalistic decadent academic reactionaries of all types, but to find these crude anachronisms woven into a tale by an expert manufacturer of sensational fiction and put before the multitude as something likely to happen, just in order to fan the smouldering spirit of the mafficker and for filthy lucre, is an offence against common decency. We certainly would never dream of buying a copy of a newspaper containing pernicious hate and fear stimulating trash of this description, but weeds of all breeds will read it, and the mob to the extent it does will side with the hate-gospellers in uniform. Special attention will be given to the naval portion of this evil-designed tale of imaginary invasion and war, the circular we found in our letter-box said. Will the fellows engaged on the job also employ some writer to explain the action in invasion time of the great German and French banks which now have powerful branches in London? What will German banking capital, now so intimately linked with ours, be doing when German ships enter our ports without resistance and overrun the country with never a gun to be had worth firing in our defence, spite of all the millions we spend? The financier has more to do with modern wars than the monarch or the Field-Marshal or High Admiral. How will European banking tolerate an invasion of England; how will the financiers survive the catastrophe; how will dividends be paid upon National Debts, upon industrial stocks, upon railroad securities? One has but to ask questions of that description to see what a contemptible, though rascally, absurdity the whole degrading effort is. It is an effort that must fail because the forces making for peace grow yearly stronger, but which yet requires to be stamped upon by every friend of democratic harmony amongst nations, by every man who values the security of his investments, or who has any faith in and respect for the sentiments of humanity common to all civilised peoples. It may be depended upon that, as the tale has the imprimatur of Lord Roberts, it will contain insults more or less gross and gratuitous levelled against the nobler sentiments of neighbouring democracies with whom we have no quarrel and never can have any. The Prime Minister was probably right when he said, in answer to a question put to him by Mr. Rudolph Lehmann, that the Government could do nothing to stop the publication of such anti-patriotic rubbish, but can the War Minister do nothing to call Lord Roberts to account for his share in the plot? A *fac simile* of the letter of approval, written by that renowned warrior, has been sown broadcast, like the "testimonial" of a quack pill. Why?

THE POSITION OF CHINESE LABOUR.

We trust that when the debate on Lord Milner and his government of South Africa comes on next week Mr. Byles or some of the other speakers will not neglect a short but important article from the pen of Mr. H. C. Thomson, which appears in this month's *Contemporary Review*. Mr. Thomson is a lawyer, and has been devoting his attention to the ordinance under which the importation of Chinese labour into the Transvaal was authorised and to the breaches thereof which have subsequently taken place. His contention is that the terms of that ordinance have been broken in two important respects. It was a bad ordinance, and ought never to have been passed, seeing that it authorised a system of indentured labour practically indistinguishable from slavery in its worst form, but it did protect the wretched creatures brought to the Transvaal in various ways. They were not to be amenable to any chastisement, except that supervised by the ordinary law of the country, and yet Lord Milner, disregarding the contract entered into and the pledges given, authorised flogging. On March 5, 1904, Mr. Lyttelton, the Colonial Secretary, referring to a point raised by the Chinese Minister relating to corporal punishment, declared that no corporal punishment would be allowed, except for certain offences, presumably sexual offences, arising from the isolation of the labourers, and that in these cases it could only be inflicted after trial and sentence by a magistrate or judge. This was the undertaking given to the Chinese Government, and on this the convention was duly signed, but Lord Milner disregarded the compact, and, according to the testimony of Mr. Evans, the mine superintendent, he allowed the mine managers, in cases of breaches of discipline or trivial offences for which it was not considered necessary to prosecute, to understand that he would not interfere "if light corporal punishment, limited in degree to punishment of such a nature as is permitted in schools in England, was administered after due inquiry, at which the offender should be present, before the Chinese-speaking compound manager." To think of applying school-boy birchings to grown men, many of them powerful Chinese navvies, was surely ludicrous. Nevertheless, Lord Milner sanctioned this departure from the convention regulating the treatment of the Chinese, and the result has been abominable abuses, some of which have been brought to light by Mr. Boland and others. The scandal became such that Mr. Lyttelton had to interfere and endeavour to stop these floggings.

But if permission to flog was a breach of the convention, much more so was the amended ordinance of 1905, under which the whole position of the labourer was altered. Mr. Thomson quotes a statement made by the Attorney-General of the Transvaal, Sir H. Solomon, when he brought in the amended ordinance. According to this, there were about 1,000 Chinese labourers at that date in jail, a large majority of them for minor offences. In most cases, he added, they have had the option given them of paying a fine, but they refused to pay a fine. Even if the fine is only £1, with the alternative of seven days' imprisonment, they prefer going to prison. So power was given to the mine superintendents and inspectors to deduct that fine from the wages of the labourer. Now, a fine of "even £1" is a monstrous imposition upon a man earning only 1s. 6d. a day, and all through, the writer points out, the scale is excessively high—as much as £50, or over two years' wages—should a Chinese labourer be found to have any interest in a business outside the mine. On grounds like these, it is Mr. Thomson's contention that the Imperial Government is under no obligation to pay the expenses of sending the Chinese home again. Those who broke the bargain must pay the penalty. The Transvaal mines, he says, have cost this country a vast sum already; they need not be allowed to make her bankrupt in honour, and he expresses his astonishment that the churches have not protested more vehemently against the labour ordinances, which cut at the very

root of their mission work in China. But the point to be insisted upon in Parliament is that, by reason of the permission given to irresponsible mine superintendents and foremen to flog the labourers, and because the amended convention has contravened the provisions of the original contract in various important particulars, the mine owners are put out of court so far as any claim to compensation is concerned should the supply of coolies be cut off. The cost of repatriating the slaves should, in any event, be borne by them, and not by the British taxpayer, who has already suffered to an almost unbearable extent by the misdeeds of those responsible for the present mess in the Transvaal.

PREPARING FOR A BLACK WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

It only required the intervention of the Johannesburg correspondent of the *Times* to convince us that the view we have from time to time put forth regarding the behaviour of the white Government of Natal towards the black population of that territory is calculated to excite the most lively alarm about the future. This gentleman declares that the vigorous action taken to cope with the native insubordination in Natal "reflects the utmost credit on the Smythe Ministry," and the whole tone of his message is that of a man whose wits are deranged by fear, by hatred of the blacks, and of everything calculated to consolidate peace in South Africa. What did this so belauded Smythe Government do? It first imposed an iniquitous and oppressive poll tax, and then, when opposition to the collection thereof naturally arose amongst the blacks, and violence broke out, immediately proceeded to make a military display, and to fine the malcontents in the most cruel manner. As the *Manchester Guardian* summarises it, "Gobizembe and his tribe have been fined 1,200 cattle and 3,500 sheep and goats; they have been dispossessed of part of their land; they have heard the voice of the supreme chief speaking through the guns; they have seen their kraals go up in fire and their crops wasted; they have lost a few of their friends, and they have been reminded of the days of Dingaan and Cetewayo." This sort of thing is abominable, and, instead of bringing peace in South Africa, is certain to bring trouble. Probably enough a formidable black rebellion will be the end of it, disorganising life in South Africa and ruining property from Table Bay to the Zambesi. Perhaps, however, the gentlemen whose humble spokesman this *Times* correspondent always is would welcome such a war as giving them a chance to capture Basutoland, towards whose alleged rich mineral deposits they have long been reaching forth. We again say that the Imperial Government must interfere to protect the blacks, not only against exactions of this description by the utterly feeble government of Natal, but from the jealous greed of the white population of the Transvaal, among whom a movement is being furthered to prevent the native blacks from holding land.

Passing Events.

The revenue prospects are not quite so good this week as last. The receipts for the week at £4,213,000 fell off by £422,000 from the aggregate of the previous week. Even, however, upon the basis of last week's figures the revenue at the end of the year ought to show an excess of some £2,500,000 upon the budget estimate. Assume it to be £2,000,000, and Mr. Asquith will have a tolerably broad and solid platform upon which to begin to display his capacity as a reforming financier.

We are delighted to see that the trade unionist labour group in the House of Commons has issued an appeal for help to relieve the distress caused by that sickening and horrible mining disaster in France. Our only regret is that the appeal should be confined to members of the House of Commons, for we are certain that many among all classes would be willing to assist in giving practical and helpful expression to

their sympathy. Therefore, we trust that the trade unionist members will widen the area of their appeal and permit outsiders to contribute according to their means and goodwill. That a Mansion House fund should be got up is probably asking too much, but it would be peculiarly appropriate that the representatives of the organised working classes should be made the channel through which the people of the country as a whole could let the miners of France know that many far away do not forget them in their overwhelming sorrow.

A correspondent writes to ask us whether we think he did wrong in doing a little "cover" speculating business with a particular firm of bucket-shop keepers. His question is prompted by what was said in these columns a fortnight ago, with reference to time bargains and wagers, but it is not one that really touches the moral points raised by us. One bucket-shop is as another, and we do not know that there is any particular shade of morality by which one can be differentiated from another. That was not the question we raised at all. Our object was to point out the futility, and at the same time the misery, of indulging in efforts to make money on the Stock Exchange by laying bets. Let the writer ask himself what his object is and how the money he would gain, supposing he did gain, is found. Is it not by the loss of somebody else in 999 cases out of a thousand, and, if so—but we are not preaching, only asking whether the game is worth the candle. "Fat financier, lean dupe," is a very good proverb.

The directors of Rhodesia, Limited, were not allowed to voluntarily wind up the company at Monday's meeting in peace and comfort. The great body of shareholders, it is true, dumbly and resignedly submitted to the sacrifice, not so Mr. Percy Lindley, who gave vent to his feelings in vigorous and justifiable language. He characterised the history of the company as "terrible," for against the half-million subscribed by the shareholders only 166,000 £1 shares are offered them in a concern whose shares are already at a discount. Were there many shareholders as courageous as Mr. Lindley the lives of mining company directors would not be so easy and smooth, but the timid and docile for the most part deserve what they get. So Mr. Lindley was like one crying in the wilderness, he received no support from the other victims, and the resolution was carried, and maybe the directors drank a cheery bottle of champagne over their inglorious victory. We have said so much about this company since the directors proposed its winding-up that there is nothing more to say, especially as the shareholders mutely acquiesce and hope their losses will eventually be recouped. This seems to us impossible. Nevertheless, we can sympathise with such men as Mr. Percy Lindley, who will not let the shearers shear with impunity. Mr. Lindley says he is determined to call a meeting of the shareholders and submit the matter to the Board of Trade. We admire his vigour, but fear it is too late.

The last South African mail brings us the report of the committee appointed by the Administrator of Rhodesia to inquire into the causes of the periodical shortage of native labour. The committee has come to the conclusion that, though the Rhodesia Native Labour Bureau has been a failure, some sort of organisation for the collection and distribution of native labour is absolutely necessary. For the rest, it condemns the Bureau completely, whose failure is ascribed to reasons, some within the control of the management and some not. One cause is that the employers of labour have failed to co-operate in supporting the institution formed at their request, and for their own benefit, and naturally the bureau has been starved for want of funds. The committee enumerates the following as the chief causes of scarcity in such months as September, October, November, December, January, and February of each year:—

(1) That during the period above-mentioned the natives of the country are busy cultivating their land, sowing and reaping their crops.

(2) That the financial requirements of the natives are not such as to necessitate work during any considerable portion of the year.

(3) That no system at present exists among the natives to distribute their labour more evenly throughout the year.

(4) That whereas, formerly, Rhodesian industries received large supplies of native labour from adjoining territories during the above period, it must now be admitted that the operations of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association have drained the sources from which those supplies were obtained.

(5) That the average period of service for which labour is at present engaged is too short.

Having recommended the formation of a new association of labour employers, the committee makes a suggestion for the provision of adequate working funds by legislation. Another suggestion is the division of the country into three districts, and the collection of native taxes within these at different periods of the year. We do not think either will meet the trouble. What we would suggest is the offering of a decent wage to the native, but this seems to occur to no one. Moreover, can labour of any kind make such a country pay by enriching the innumerable reefs that contain no gold? We think not.

A cablegram from South Africa briefly intimates that the Robinson group of companies have ceased to be members of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines. No explanation is given, but it is reasonable to conjecture that the controllers of this leading group have become dissatisfied. We are not surprised at this. Mr. Robinson has always held aloof from the other mine bosses, has ever freely and courageously criticised them and their methods, and he has been heartily disliked accordingly. He has given away too many secrets to be loved by those who ever scheme to rob the public. He was the only mine boss who cried out against the war, and he has recently told us that the Chamber of Mines, through its labour bureau, has never made a right and energetic effort to get a sufficiency of blacks. As his own companies have long suffered from this failure—deliberately designed, we believe—they have gained nothing from membership of the Chamber. So we shall be interested to see what Mr. Robinson will do "on his own." Recently he publicly announced that he was willing and even anxious to experiment with white labour on his mines. He has now an opportunity of putting his desires into practice. We shall learn much from it. Will he also try to get more natives by offering them a higher wage? The ostensible reason for the secession from the Chamber is stated to be a protest against the slight offered to Mr. Langerman in passing him over in the election for the presidency. In a letter to a London newspaper, Mr. Robinson described the other magnates as a "Tammany ring." The truth of this would be well demonstrated by the successful employment of whites on the mines of the Robinson group.

On February 12 this year the number of hungry natives of India on relief works within the rainless or almost rainless central area of the peninsula was 274,000. On Saturday, March 3, it was 379,000, according to the Viceroy's telegram, an increase in three weeks of 105,000, and the numbers must continue to grow because it is now too late to save many crops. Moreover, much of the territory afflicted by drought is still waterless, and the Viceroy, in his message of March 12, referring to the facts of a week earlier in date, reports "no rain" in the United Provinces and Oudh, in Rajputana, or in Hyderabad. Elsewhere some rain has fallen, and in the Punjab it is said that the standing crops are now in good condition, though fodder is scarce still in many districts. In Rajputana, too, recent rains have greatly benefited the crops, but throughout Central India it is obvious that the coming months will see a great aggravation in the people's distress. Will it never be possible to waken up the routine bureaucratic mind of Simla responsible for this state of things in India to the danger underlying these recurrent famines, a danger not of revolt but of inanition, of such a devastation as will in time reduce large areas of our Indian dependency to the condition in which Asia Minor has lain for many

centuries? In the United Provinces 122,000 are on relief works, in Ajmer and Rajputana 105,000, in Central India 75,000 and in Bombay 33,000. What is already the rate of mortality in these stricken districts among men and animals?

It must be a sad thing for the Birmingham Tariffites and their new Article Club, or combination of dead-broke and other Protectionists masquerading as an unauthorised "Tariff Commission," to find the imports of Germany from England actually higher last year than in previous years. Reuter, quoting the *Berlin Post*, says that the German imports of coal increased from £2,860,000 to £3,390,000, of herrings from £1,660,000 to £2,040,000, of combed wool yarn from £3,620,000 to £3,840,000, of worsted textiles from £920,000 to £1,000,000, and of cotton goods from £650,000 to £720,000. The journal adds that, with the exception of India, Germany is England's best customer, and we are inclined to think that her people will continue to be that, tariff or no tariff.

We do not quite understand the proposed capital rearrangement set forth at the meeting of Lever Brothers, Limited, by Mr. W. H. Lever, M.P. There may be something wonderful about this soapery business of many subsidiaries which warrants the inclusion of a portentous amount of water in the capital; still, goodwill at £975,000 does not look well, nor can we profess any admiration for a provision whereby a business consisting of the British company and dependent or offshoot companies abroad is to be saddled, apparently in perpetuity, with a debenture debt of £1,000,000 bearing 5 per cent. interest. We say in perpetuity because this £1,000,000 of debt can only be paid off at 100 per cent. premium, or by finding £2,000,000 of money, an arrangement of which Mr. Lever seems to be rather proud. We cannot, however, from his speech, profess to give any mature judgment upon the scheme or this peculiar form of capitalisation, but, as it reads in the summary, we cannot say that it pleases us.

From all that is known of the leading members of the new French Ministry, it must be considered one of exceptional strength. The mere inclusion of M. Clémenceau, one of the most consistent and able advanced Radicals in France, in this Ministry as holder of the portfolio of the Interior leads us to expect a strong Government, making short work with the reactionaries who, without justification, are using the inventory of Church property as a means of stirring up social strife, riots, attacks upon the military, superstitious fanaticism and general obstruction. If that sort of thing were really widely prevalent throughout France it would justify the Government in closing the churches altogether and in altogether confiscating church property throughout the Republic; but the demonstration is only sporadic, designed to damage the Ministerialists at the forthcoming General Election. Probably, therefore, the new Government will bide its time and allow the excitement to die away before proceeding to carry out the law in the disturbed districts. So far as the declaration of M. Sarrien, the new Prime Minister, and his colleagues goes, the indications are that this Government will stand no nonsense on the part of factions of any kind, and everybody here must congratulate France upon her new Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Leon Bourgeois. His work at the last Hague Conference really did more than that of any other man to save the gathering from being an almost complete fiasco. He also is one of the strong men of the Republic. Altogether, we look forward with confidence to the future of France and her relations with other States. It is not a war Ministry in any sense, but a Ministry of peace, and the expiring Chamber did well to accept its programme by a majority of 108.

Just by way of record it may be well to make room for the fact that Sir James Kitson's Free Trade resolution was accepted in the House of Commons on Tuesday afternoon by 474 votes against 98, giving the Government a majority of 376. After this decisive

vote we trust that debates upon Free Trade will no longer waste the time of this Parliament. The nation may be trapped into Protectionism, but of its free will it will never submit to any such degrading bondage.

Will the decision of the United States Supreme Court really conduce to the breaking up of those soul-destroying and wealth-absorbing monopoly trusts with which the people have been increasingly cursed in recent years? It is to be hoped so, and certainly exhibitions such as that made by Mr. Rogers of the Standard Oil Trust before the Supreme Court of Missouri should henceforth be impossible. That gentleman thought it becoming to mock at the tribunal before which he came as witness, to defy it, to joke with it, to sneer at it, but the Supreme Court says, dealing with a case brought before it involving the tobacco and paper trusts, that such organisations must when called upon surrender all books and papers regardless of the effect which such surrender may have upon their business, provided that such books and papers are pertinent to the inquiry. Perhaps it will now be possible to know what the ramifications of the Beef and Oil Trusts are, and many things besides. Assuredly the judgment is one which satisfies the craving of the United States people for some relief from the blight under which their industries now lie.

Crowded though our columns be, we cannot resist the pleasure of quoting from that letter sent to Sir Thomas Barclay by a number of eminent Germans in furtherance of a good understanding between the two countries. "Two nations," the writers of this letter say, "so connected by blood, which have never crossed swords, are now being irritated against each other by a violent or unconscientious Press; by abuse and falsehood, hatred and opposition are engendered where only mutual confidence and joint industries should prevail." That is the truth, and every good citizen, every lover of harmony between nations, ought to do his utmost to stamp out the pestilent agitation which is being carried on in both countries in furtherance of a perfectly insane and ruinous naval and military expenditure.

There were lively times at the first annual meeting of Frederick Sage and Co. held on Friday of last week, and the chairman had his work cut out to appease the natural indignation of the shareholders. More than one damaging admission had to be made, and it may surprise a good many people to know that the vendors apparently had not the faintest idea of the position of the business when the prospectus was issued, for the very good reason that they took no trouble to find out. Naturally, shareholders' criticisms were crisp and to the point; but, as usually happens, the demand for a committee of investigation was not substantially backed up, and the chairman, who was quite indignant because one of the shareholders had ventured to hint at possible legal action, managed to force through the adoption of the report. Earlier in the meeting Mr. Sage offered to allow that portion of the ordinary shares in the hands of the public to receive a 6 per cent. dividend for five years before the vendor-held shares participated, provided the demand for an investigation committee were withdrawn, and he could be secured in complete control of the business. This proposal would apply to about one-half the ordinary shares, and the chairman also expressed his willingness to personally arrange for the payment of the current year's preference dividend. Moreover, he also agreed that the holders of 70,000 ordinary shares, with the suggested deferred rights, should not receive any dividend until a reserve of £10,000 had been accumulated for the protection of the preference shareholders. It was by no means clear, however, whether these proposals were accepted or whether they still stood, in view of the fact that the demand for investigation was pressed to the length of taking a poll. Ordinary shareholders, however, should note that this prior dividend is not guaranteed, but will only be forthcoming if profits actually permit.

We are glad to have that authoritative communication from the secretary of the Hudson's Bay Company intimating that the directors have no intention of

bringing forward a proposal for splitting the shares. What part the persistent rumours that the shares would be subdivided have played on the manipulation so skilfully carried out it is hard to say, but it is pleasing to learn that the board will give no encouragement to the speculators. There has been far too much gambling in the shares already, and more than one warning has come from high quarters that the company's position did not justify prices a good many pounds less than the quotation ruling to-day. But will the directors sanction splitting if an influential body of shareholders presses it upon them?

Shareholders of the South Bebar Railway Company will be glad to learn that a very satisfactory modification of the company's contract has been agreed to by the Secretary of State for India. It seems that the directors considered the construction of a new chord line from Sitarampur to Manpur would prejudicially affect the earnings of the railway, and therefore entered into negotiations with the Secretary with a view to safeguarding the company's interests. Correspondence on the subject has been protracted, but Mr. Morley has soon found a solution that should prove agreeable to all concerned. In lieu of the present arrangement it is proposed that the company should accept a fixed annual payment of £30,000, a sum which would provide a return of £4 18s. per cent. on the ordinary stock, after meeting debenture interest and administrative expenses. Moreover, the amount of undivided profits in hand will admit of this return being increased to 5 per cent. per annum down to June, 1919, at which date the Secretary of State has the right to purchase the line. Under these circumstances the directors naturally have no hesitation in recommending acceptance of the offer, pointing out the important fact that the company will be freed from the responsibility of providing further capital.

The directors of the Underground Electric Railways of London find themselves in need of more money, and at an extraordinary general meeting to be held on April 3 will bring forward resolutions for an increase in borrowing powers of no less than £5,000,000. Capital is no doubt being spent at a great rate just now, and we can quite understand that the resources possessed on June 30, 1905, the date of the last balance-sheet, have all been exhausted. We shall be rather interested to learn what form the borrowing may take. Will it be a further issue of profit-sharing notes, or another issue of debenture stock? The existing profit-sharing notes to the amount of £7,000,000 are due for repayment in June, 1908, and the progress of the tube railways opened and still under construction will be watched with the keenest anxiety.

Just as we expected, the directors of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company managed to get an overwhelming expression of opinion favourable to their iniquitous reorganisation plan. Mr. Harvey du Cros, M.P. now, you know, encountered very little real opposition at the meeting held on Wednesday, and although some of the bolder spirits demanded a poll, the result was a foregone conclusion. The votes for the board amounted to 2,021,800, representing 2,623,800 shares, against 3,200 votes representing 3,800 shares cast against the proposals. Surely human fatuity could reach no greater depths than such figures imply, and one of these days, when it is too late, the ordinary shareholders will wake up to the fact that they have been "done."

Where is Dr. Rutherford Harris, M.P. for Dulwich—awfully respectable church-and-chapel-going Dulwich? He was elected in his absence, and has not even turned up to swear allegiance. We do not know where he is, and, not being in his constituency, do not care. Said constituency seems to have made an ass of itself, and that is rather amusing.

Critical Index To New Investments.

COUNTY OF LONDON ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO., LIMITED.

In attending to the expansion of its business this company has raised temporary loans of £95,050, and it is apparently with a view to repaying these that the

Electric and General Investment Company has been commissioned to offer 10,000 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £10 each at the price of £12 per share. From a modest beginning with 36 consumers and 7,000 lamps in 1895, the business has expanded steadily, especially since 1899, and the company last year had 770,640 lamps connected, while its sales of current reached over 8,600,000 units. Nett profits for 1905, exclusive of profits on investments realised, amounted to £91,797, and after meeting debenture interest and preference dividend and putting £20,000 to depreciation reserve, the surplus came to £18,330, so that there was ample margin for the new issue. The total expenditure on undertakings within the County of London has been £1,465,973, and with investments in and advances to associated companies, stores, etc., the total assets, after deducting £219,074 for reserves, sundry creditors, and temporary loans, were valued at £1,493,270, against which the issued share capital, including the shares now offered, amounts to £800,000, out of a total authorised of £1,600,000, and the debenture debt is £800,000.

LANGKON NORTH RUBBER, LIMITED.

A concession of 12,000 acres of land in Marudu Bay, British North Borneo, for the purpose of cultivating Para rubber, has been acquired from the British North Borneo Company, and it is intended to commence planting at once on an area of 2,500 acres which is specifically named. The capital of the company has been fixed at £100,000 in £1 shares, and 85,000 shares were offered for subscription, of which 60,000 were underwritten for a commission of 5 per cent. and an over-riding commission of 1 per cent. For the concession, together with the buildings, stores, etc., on the 2,500 acres above-mentioned, the company paid £18,000 in cash, but of this £4,000 was paid away as consideration for the surrender of the Langkon Estate concession which had originally been granted for tobacco growing, and for the balance the British North Borneo Company guarantees a dividend of 4 per cent. per annum for the first six years, to be refunded without interest out of profits exceeding 6 per cent. in any year. The directors take as a basis for their calculation of probable profits the figures compiled for the Federated Malay States by the British Resident at Selangor, which show that, with rubber at 3s. per lb. and 250 acres planted, a revenue of £7,500 should be earned, rising to £30,000 in the eighth year. Whether the industry will prove a really paying one with all the new competitors in the field is doubtful, but this undertaking starts under favourable enough auspices.

AUTOMATIC WHEEL PHONOGRAPHS, LIMITED.

The contrivance acquired by this company is a Yankee notion for penny-in-the-slot phonographic entertainments, which is said to have been a success in the United States, and to have proved popular in this country when tested by a syndicate. Although the total capital is only £30,000 in £1 shares, the undertaking is described as a "parent company," formed to secure certain patent rights for improvements in phonographs granted in Great Britain, Belgium, and France, with the prospect of other European patents which have been applied for, and it is said that negotiations are in progress for the sale of these European rights on terms that are expected to yield a cash profit of over £20,000, which will be available for further working capital. The Northern Mercantile Corporation, Limited, which is acting as promoter, acquired the patents for £5,000, of which £1,000 has been paid in cash, and the balance is payable by £1,500 in cash and £2,500 in shares, but the price asked from this company is £21,000 in shares and £3,000 in cash. Of the £21,000 in shares the corporation retained only £7,375, the balance being distributed between the vendors, the trial syndicate and others, for services rendered. Messrs. Jackson, Pixley, Browning, Husey, and Co. were entrusted with the work of testing the machines placed in various stations during the period

from September 7, 1905, to February 2, 1906, and certify that the gross amount collected during the twenty-one weeks gave an average of £1 11s. 6d. per machine per week, but in order to be on the safe side the directors estimate that with 400 machines earning an average of 15s. per week, the nett profits should amount to from 20 to 25 per cent. from this source alone. The picture drawn looks attractive, but the working capital provided seems totally inadequate to carry out the programme.

PERAK RUBBER PLANTATIONS, LIMITED.

Out of a capital of £75,000 in £1 shares 25,000 shares are handed over, with £30,000 in cash, and £10,000 in cash and shares for the Sungei Krudda Estate, situated in Perak, Federated Malay States, and having an area of 986 acres, of which about 500 acres have been planted with rubber. The total number of trees planted is estimated at 80,000, ranging from six years old downwards, and it is calculated that between 1906 and 1910 the yield will increase from 20,000 lbs. to 80,000 lbs., rising gradually thereafter to 400 lbs. per acre in 1917. Several consignments of rubber have already been sold in London, realising 6s. to 6s. 3d. per lb., a result which is considered sufficient to justify the directors in taking the present price of rubber for their calculations of future profits, and they estimate that the average for the first five years should be £10,575 or enough to pay dividends of 12 per cent., with the prospects of these profits being more than doubled. The estimates are much too glowing, but the fact that rubber is the commodity dealt in may make the promotion successful. No underwriting commission has been paid, but the Straits Settlement Syndicate stands to make a good thing out of the deal, as after paying the original owners, preliminary expenses, and some small amounts for services rendered, it nets a profit of £8,250.

GENERAL ACCIDENT, FIRE, AND LIFE ASSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

This Scottish company having added life insurance to its other business has increased its authorised capital from £400,000 to £1,000,000, and now offers 60,000 ordinary shares of £5 each, on which 25s. per share will be paid up, for subscription at a premium of £1 15s. per share. Upon completion of this issue the subscribed capital will be £700,000, and the paid up capital £175,000, while in addition the corporation will have reserves, including the provision for unexpired risks, of over £300,000. The corporation last year earned a nett premium income of £485,420, of which £405,943 was in the accident departments, and the revenue balance including £10,043 from investments came to £63,249. For the past ten years the dividend has never been less than 10 per cent. per annum, and for 1905 it was 12½ per cent. with £50,000 transferred to reserve. The corporation has earned the reputation of being a go-ahead one, and to those who do not object to the heavy contingent liability of £3 15s. per share, the issue seems to offer a fair opportunity for investment.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO 3¼ PER CENT. REGISTERED STOCK.

Up to the present the Province of Ontario has had no funded debt, but it now offers, through the Bank of Montreal, an issue of £1,200,000 3¼ per cent. registered stock for the purpose of repaying Treasury bills for a like amount maturing on May 15. These bills were issued for the construction of the Ontario Government Railway from North Bay, where it connects with the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific lines, to the junction with the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway—a distance of about 265 miles. The price asked for the new stock is 98½ per cent., payable 5 per cent. on application, 5 per cent. on March 26 and 88½ per cent. on May 14, and the stock is redeemable at par on January 1, 1946, by the operation of a sinking fund of ½ per cent. per annum. It is secured on the

consolidated revenue fund of this Province, which is derived from the Dominion Government's fixed annual subsidy of £275,182, interest on trust funds, receipts from Crown lands, timber dues, &c. In 1905 the revenue amounted to £1,235,484 and expenditure, including £102,734 on capital account, was £1,108,093, leaving a surplus of £127,391, so that the stock should be a good investment yielding £3 11s. per cent.

PARRAL (MEXICO) RAILWAY AND MINING CORPORATION, LIMITED.

Formed to acquire the capital stock of the Parral and Durango Railroad Company of Mexico and of the Hidalgo Mining Company, this company has a share capital of £500,000 divided into 300,000 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each, with further profits sharing up to 10 per cent. per annum, and 200,000 deferred shares also of £1 each, entitled to 10 per cent. dividends after payment of debenture interest and preference dividend. The whole of the preference shares are offered for subscription, together with £400,000 5 per cent. first debenture stock, the deferred shares going with £550,000 in cash and £50,000 in preference shares or cash to the vendors. For the three years ended June 30, 1905, the profits of the railway were £26,267, £24,128, and £25,502, and those of the mine for the three years to December 31, 1904, £9,250, £12,896, and £12,705. These profits are sufficient to secure the payment of the debenture interest and preference dividend, and it is expected that the £100,000 additional working capital now provided will increase the income considerably. The railway at present runs through a good mining district, and it is proposed to extend it to Guanaveri, under a concession already granted, when a further important mining centre with over 500 registered mines will be opened up. On these statements both the preference shares and the debenture stock look like fair securities.

THE ROBINSON GROUP OF MINES.

This is the first of the great Rand groups to publish its reports and accounts for the past year, issued on this side with a promptitude others would be well advised to copy. As it is, the reports and accounts of the other groups are not issued in England for several months after they are due, and even some months after the annual meetings have been held in Johannesburg. Thus shareholders in South Africa always get prior knowledge of the achievements and positions of their companies, whilst European shareholders have to wait their despots' pleasure. There is no justice in thus favouring one class of shareholder at the expense of another. It is further evidence of the indifference of the bosses towards the needs and claims of their shareholders. Everlastingly crying out for "reform" which will be to their private advantage, they never move one step to reform their purlind and reactionary system of administration. Here is one opportunity amongst many. Is there the slightest hope that they will issue their annual reports earlier—that is, on this side—and place all shareholders on an equal footing? If they are as zealous to do their utmost for shareholders as they profess to be, let them show some evidence of their sincerity in this direction. It will be a small test of their earnestness. If the Robinson group can give early information so can the others.

The Langlaagte Estate is not only the principal member of this group of outcrop companies, but one of the greatest gold-producers on the Rand, though not one of the big dividend-payers. This is mainly because the company has never divided profits up to the hilt, but has always put a considerable portion of them into the business. Owing to the scarcity of native labour, the full mill of 200 stamps could not be run in 1905; but though the average was only 175 stamps, yet it is better, the directors assure us, by 25 stamps than in the previous year. This improvement was the result of a freer use of rock drills in the stopes, at the expense, however, of the grade, which suffered to a small extent in consequence of this policy. The quantity crushed was 314,068 tons, from which 100,395 ozs. of fine gold were recovered. The revenue from gold production and other sources amounted to £427,111 and the working expenses to £312,780, leaving a profit of £114,331. Costs show a considerable reduction, figuring at 19s. 11d. per ton against 22s. 10½d. per ton, and we should like to know why other mines cannot bring theirs down in this fashion, whether blacks be scarce or not. If one company can do it, it ought to be possible for all, seeing that the economic conditions are general, not particular and limited. We find, however, that where Chinese are employed the costs appreciably increase. What is more, the

management of the Langlaagte has not reached finality in economy, but hopes, with an increase in native labour, followed by a reduction in the number of rock drills used, to still further reduce the costs and obtain a higher production. We do not think this hope well grounded; more power drills, more science, less manual labour, is the way of true economy. No less than £1,032,928 was brought forward, making with the profit earned last year £1,147,259. And out of this colossal credit the dividend paid is only 20 per cent. and £1,043,628 is carried forward, represented mainly by £771,252 in shares held. As usual the financial position of the company is very strong, and there is no question but that this dividend will be maintained; rather is there a probability that the directors will increase it. It has been decided that the Langlaagte Estate shall lease the property of its neighbour, the Block B, for a period of 25 years. It seems that the directors of the Block B were again unable last year to get sufficient labour to proceed with the development of the mine and restart crushing. As the prospect of getting a sufficient supply in the early future seemed remote, the directors concluded that other means must be found to work the property, so that dividends might be earned within a reasonable time. It was also necessary to consider the question of the funds needed not only to develop the mine, but to replace the present machinery, plant and reduction works with a modern and up-to-date equipment. The cost, it was calculated, would not be less than £300,000. Hence the agreement with the Langlaagte company, which undertakes to thoroughly develop the mine and treat the ore at its own works, likewise to provide the Block B with £82,500 to pay out the preference shareholders. In order to carry out the terms of the agreement, the Langlaagte Estate will have to provide, in all, £250,000 if required. As it will take two years before the development of the mine and the necessary equipment will be completed, it has been arranged that the profits shall accrue on the operations as from January 1, 1908, when crushing from the Block B mine is expected to commence, during which period it will be released from the payment of the preference share dividend, all Government and municipal licences, and dues and taxes, and the available profits, after providing for the redemption by instalments of the amount furnished by the Langlaagte, will be divided between the two companies in the proportion of two-thirds to the Langlaagte Estate and one-third to the Block B. Such profits, however, from January 1, 1908, will be upon those jointly derived from both mines. It is proposed to crush between 40,000 and 45,000 tons per month, which will necessitate either the enlargement of the Langlaagte battery from 200 to 300 stamps, or the installation of tube mills. This is still under consideration, and will be decided upon before the ore from the Block B becomes available for crushing. On the whole, we think this arrangement will be mutually beneficial. Otherwise, shareholders in the Block B would have to wait a long and indefinite period for profits and dividends, and in the meanwhile the debit would increase to a formidable amount. Last year the excess of expenditure over revenue was £2,436, which raises the deficiency to £314,497. The advantages the Langlaagte Estate will derive from the policy will be the lengthening of the mine's life by 25 years, and the augmentation of its dividends in that period.

As regards the Langlaagte Exploration and Building Company, in which both the Langlaagte Estate and Block B companies hold large interests, the revenue in 1905 amounted to £5,674, whilst the expenditure totalled £9,771, of which £5,672 was for municipal assessment rates. So the additional loss of £4,097 has to be added to the former accumulated debit, raising it to £37,520.

The other companies comprising the Robinson group consist of the Randfontein Estates Gold Mining Company and its following twelve subsidiaries:—Porges Randfontein, North Randfontein, South Randfontein, Robinson Randfontein, Block A Randfontein, Mynpacht Randfontein, West Randfontein, East Randfontein, Ferguson Randfontein, Van Hulsteyn Randfontein, Johnstone Randfontein, and Stubbs Randfontein. Considerable progress was made by the first four in the past twelve months; so much so that the Porges re-entered the dividend list, after being out of it for some years, whilst the other three paid their first dividends, at the rate of 10 per cent. each. The fact that all are now earning dividends brings so much nearer the day when the parent itself will distribute some of its profits amongst the shareholders. It is still impossible to say when that day will dawn, as all the others will need considerable financing for some time to come, they being still in the early stages of development, but we can say that prospects are much improved, despite the difficulties of labour supply. The dividends received and accrued during last year amounted to £103,622 and sundry revenue gave £63,914, total £167,536, on which the nett profit was £139,771. This increases the accumulated credit balance to £3,453,957, a colossal sum, practically all invested in the shares of the subsidiaries, though cash still amounts to £480,221. Thus the company is rich, chiefly because of its huge capital of £3,000,000 and the sum of £2,255,957 it has received in premiums, and no wonder shareholders are getting impatient to have a slice of past profits. But, as already stated, the money will be wanted for some time to come to assist the other subsidiaries to the crushing stage. As regards these eight non-producing companies, little need be said about them. No development work was done on either during the past year, as no labour was available, though a considerable amount of prospecting work was carried out in the shape of boreholing. Very rich strikes were made on the Johnstone and Ferguson company's properties. As these were made 3½ miles north of

the crushing mines, it leaves no doubt, it is argued, of the great and permanent value of the reefs from the south to the north end of the vast area of the Randfontein Estates, a distance of over six miles of continuous reefs. "Our drilling operations," says the general manager, "have enabled us without doubt to correlate our series of reefs as identical to the Main Reef series. I know such has been the supposition for a considerable period, but it is only after our late extensive drilling that a positive statement could be made." The various shares held by the parent in the subsidiaries have a book value of £5,275,716, which is said to be far below their actual value, in addition to which there are debenture bonds to the amount of £975,000.

Dealing briefly with the results of the four crushing companies, the Porges commenced to mill at the beginning of August; with 100 stamps. In the five months 66,976 tons were dealt with, producing 28,850 ozs. of fine gold. From this and other sources the revenue was £121,795. As the expenditure absorbed £78,290 the nett profit was £43,505, and the dividend of 10 per cent. required £50,000 or £6,500 more than the profit earned. But no less than £293,007 was brought forward, and there were dividends received and accrued to the tune of £20,000, so even now there is the considerable credit of over £293,000 to take to the current accounts. The South Randfontein—in which the Porges holds 100,000 shares out of 450,000—crushed 165,315 tons yielding 68,775 fine ozs. of a total value with sundry revenue of £290,246. On this the nett profit was £69,821, equal to over 8s. 5d. per ton. Compared with 1904 the costs were 3s. 8.55d. per ton less, whilst the profit was £22,770 higher. The dividend of 10 per cent. took £45,000 and £55,316 is carried forward against £47,195 brought in. The full mill of the North Randfontein also ran during the year, crushing 175,675 tons, which produced 68,408 ozs., worth £287,092, and as £1,403 was received from other sources the revenue aggregated £288,495 and gave a profit of £77,287. The directors now transfer £82,386 spent during the war to the share premium account, and thus credit the profit and loss account with a like sum, which enables them not only to pay a dividend of 10 per cent., but to reduce the debit balance at one sweep from £102,375 to £1,173, a policy which may be questionable, but which shareholders are hardly likely to complain of. A similar policy has been adopted in the case of the Robinson Randfontein. This company milled 175,829 tons, the gold from which was 66,726 ozs. of a value of £279,787, whilst £1,546 was received from sundry sources. The profit was £62,170, to be added to £33,142 from 1904, whilst the sum now charged to share premiums is £22,941, making a total credit of £118,254. The dividend of 10 per cent., debenture interest, profits' tax, &c., absorbed all but £38,142, which is the amount carried forward. It is worthy of mention that the working costs of the North Randfontein and Robinson Randfontein were reduced by over 6s. per ton in each case. Taking the four companies, the average saving works out at 5s. 7.65d. per ton. The payable ore reserves are estimated as follows:—Porges Randfontein, 257,543 tons; South Randfontein, 424,070 tons; North Randfontein, 375,074 tons; and the Robinson Randfontein, 236,136 tons. There is every possibility of each of these companies doing better in the future, though it is doubtful if they will be able to increase their distributions.

In conclusion, a word as to the Trust. Readers will recollect that last year there was talk of the formation of a Robinson Trust, with a capital of £4,000,000, principally to prop up the market for the Robinson group. Since the announcement was made nothing has been heard of it, nor of its operations, and neither it nor other Trusts have put any backbone into an invertebrate market. Many people have been asking for months past what has become of these financial supports. As regards the Robinson, we now know that it was not carried through on the lines originally conceived. In fact, it fell through—the Trust was never actually formed—but the idea does not seem to be abandoned. At the annual meeting of the Randfontein Estates this is what the chairman foreshadowed: "It will be expedient for us to await a more favourable time, and when that time arrives the matter of the Trust will probably again be considered, and, if favourably, the shareholders will be made acquainted with any final decision come to in the matter."

Answers to Correspondents.

M. D.—You might hold for the present, on the chance of a recovery, although we doubt very much if the shares will ever get back to the price you paid.

W. J. H.—(1) The methods adopted by this company for securing business have proved to be unsound, but, unfortunately for the shareholders, the directors did not wake up to the true position in time, if, indeed, they have yet realised it. Under these conditions, we can see no other end but disaster, and would rather recommend you to cut your loss than to attempt to reduce it by averaging. (2) Yes, the purchase of a few more shares would probably turn out a profitable investment. Read our article on the company's position and prospects in the current issue. The management holds out the promise of increasing future dividends. (3) No. All these companies are doing very badly, and the prospects of improvement are much too remote to make an increase in your holding advisable.

NOTE.—(1) The company's progress is phenomenally good, but we should hesitate to recommend a purchase at the present high figure. (2) Matters have improved very much during the past few years, and the preferred stock should be a sound enough

security. The deferred is, of course, more speculative. (3) The position of this company is also gradually improving, and both preferred and deferred stocks seem to offer fair prospects.

C. H. PEMBERTON.—Considering the present condition of affairs in the electric industry and the keen, cut-throat competition to which undertakings like the one you name is subjected, the shares at the current quotation seem dear.

TRAMWAYS.—(1) You should hold for the present, to see what effect the promises made by the directors will have. (2) This is a Canadian concern, about which little information is obtainable, and as the shares are not officially quoted here, there can be no free market in them, and they, therefore, do not seem a desirable investment for one of small means.

MITHRA.—(1) We hardly think so. The business is a good one, but a good deal of progress is already discounted in the price. (2) This company's business seems to have been on the down grade lately, and the common shares do not seem a very desirable investment. We are unable to say if a quotation will be applied for. (3) This company has been pulling up again lately, after experiencing a rather bad time, but the ordinary stock is a good way off a dividend. (4) There is a chance here if you are prepared to wait, although you should note that the company is entirely American controlled. (5) We cannot find any particulars regarding this company, which does not seem to be known on this side.

N. E.—(1) These people do not appear to be members of the Stock Exchange according to the latest list, and if they are not you should choose another firm. (2) We do not think you need accept so severe a loss. When markets are brighter these shares will doubtless improve, although they may go further down meanwhile. (3) As you bought at so high a price you may as well hold on a little longer in the hope of getting out later at a smaller loss. (4) These may be kept for the present. The company is easily covering its debenture interest, and as the system develops may earn fair profits.

S. M. H. J.—(1) Keep for the present at any rate. Business may recover again later on, and then the shares should pick up. (2) The preference dividend should be fairly safe, we think, and in view of the abnormal depression it may be as well to hold on. (3) You bought these very high, but business seems to be flourishing, and there is no good reason for selling. (4) Not a strong company by any means, and as you can get near your price we are inclined to say, sell. (5) You are in error about the dividend. It is still 15 per cent., and you will shortly receive a final 7½ per cent. on account of the past year. Keep the shares. These are five questions, and we hold us to your credit.

Letters to the Editors.

CORPORATION REDEEMABLE STOCKS.

SIR,—I was glad to see your remarks on the above subject in THE INVESTORS' REVIEW of March 10. Judging from my own observation, the great fall in value began about three or four years ago, when there was a rush of new municipal 3 per cent. issues. The investing public were unable to absorb all of these, and the natural assumption is that the underwriters got stuck and rushed the stock on the market to quit the liability of borrowed capital.

It is most important that the question of a sinking fund for these redeemable stocks should be definitely settled. The working classes are especially interested, as millions of their money must be indirectly invested in these stocks, through trade unions, friendly societies and similar organisations. Then again, trust money to an enormous amount is invested in this way. Perhaps some energetic member of Parliament will take the matter up and endeavour to search out how far sinking funds are provided for and controlled. Surely it would not be difficult to get an Act passed to compel all municipal authorities to create sinking funds, so that at the termination of the loans the money would be forthcoming without the necessity of issuing fresh loans. All urban authorities would gain by the establishment of such a system. Their stocks would appreciate in value, and new loans could be negotiated at a lower rate.

Clear the cloud of doubt away from the minds of investors, and the redeemable corporation and county stocks of the United Kingdom will become the premier home security.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

F. Low.

20, Cranwich Road, Stamford Hill, London, N.,

March 13, 1906.

Sirs,—Your article on Municipal Sinking Funds struck me as being opportune.

It is regrettable to see first-class provincial cities touting in the Press offering 3½ per cent. and upwards for short loans.

Let them reassure the investing public as to the safety of capital, and the proper control of sinking funds, then they will get all the money they want by issuing 3 per cent. stocks in the neighbourhood of 98, and cheap at that.

Yours faithfully,

C. A. CRELL.

Rayleigh Lodge, Rayleigh, Essex,

March 13, 1906.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for ten days ended February 28, \$3,778, increase \$1,284.
 Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 9, \$18,051, increase \$3,506; aggregate from January 1, \$102,916, decrease \$369.
 Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 10, Rs. 68,952, increase Rs. 7,880; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 3,77,915, increase Rs. 17,081.
 Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 7, \$79,400, increase \$27,500; total from July 1, \$3,433,900, increase \$804,500.
 Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 10, Rs. 39,469, increase Rs. 7,868.
 Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 18, £427, increase £27.
 Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 1st week of March, \$16,240, increase \$3,864; aggregate from January 1, \$138,851, increase \$32,136.
 Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 10, Rs. 11,330, increase Rs. 5,269.
 White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended February 28 amounted to \$7,046.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending March 10, £1,225, increase £22; aggregate from January 1, £12,070, increase £170.
 Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending March 10, £734, increase £74; aggregate from January 1, £7,078, increase £559.
 East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for November, £4,099, decrease £203.
 East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending March 10, £431, decrease £10; aggregate from January 1, £4,644, increase £269.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 9, £1,438, increase £257; aggregate from January 1, £13,379, increase £2,236.
 Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 11, £8, increase £2; aggregate from January 1, £65.
 Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 9, £4,968, increase £482; aggregate from January 1, £46,777, increase £2,262.
 British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending March 9, £28,978, increase £5,682; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £263,690, increase £45,143; 435½ miles, against 423.
 Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 10, £1,126, increase £180; aggregate from January 1, £10,801, increase £1,097.
 Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 11, £89, decrease £7; aggregate from January 1, £904.
 Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 9, £91, decrease £2; aggregate from January 1, £851, decrease £70.
 Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 9, £4,626, increase £248; aggregate from January 1, £44,278, increase £1,672.
 Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 10, £4,616, increase £378; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £45,690, increase £2,189.
 Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 9, £218, decrease £6; aggregate from January 1, £1,916, decrease £271.
 Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 8, £403.
 Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 10, £300, increase £55; aggregate from October 1, £5,938, decrease £431.
 London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 3, £14,653, increase £2,423; aggregate from April 1, £703,452, increase £92,518. Miles 52½ against 46½.
 London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 10, £22,612, increase £1,107; aggregate from January 1, £206,212, decrease £5,662.
 London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 10, £7,793, increase £454; aggregate from January 1, £70,280, increase £384.
 Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 10, £195, increase £21; aggregate from January 1, £1,876, increase £118.
 Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 11, £727, increase £187; aggregate from January 1, £7,220, increase £2,061.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 11, £14,963, increase £1,685; aggregate from January 1, £147,690, increase £15,625.
 Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.
 Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.
 Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.
 Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of January, 1906, £11,016, increase £267.
 British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to January 31, \$694,541, increase \$150,592. Nett earnings from July 1 to January 31, \$318,067, increase \$93,150.
 Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending March 11, £3,492, increase £62; aggregate from January 1, £35,110, increase £3,332.
 Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 10, £1,436, increase £393; aggregate from January 1, £8,387, increase £1,977.
 Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of February, \$281,300.
 Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 10, Rs. 42,440, decrease Rs. 280; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 4,55,988, increase Rs. 44,377.
 Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.
 Cartagena and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of February, £4,186, increase £947. Total from January 1, £9,264, increase £3,669.
 Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.
 Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of November, \$417,218, increase \$63,017; aggregate from January 1, \$4,320,887, increase \$390,457. Nett traffic receipts, \$226,858, increase \$35,361; aggregate from January 1, \$2,359,439, increase \$272,120.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			No. of Weeks.	Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	£		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	£
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Mar. 11	2,053	+	44	10	20,836	+	439
Cambrian	" 11	5,080	+	100	10	47,731	—	825
Central London ..	" 11	6,867	—	328	10	69,692	—	2,366
City and South London ..	" 11	2,832	—	173	10	29,923	—	40
Furness	" 11	9,803	+	1,051	10	94,025	+	12,730
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 11	69,063	+	3,724	10	691,151	+	28,806
Great Eastern	" 11	93,800	+	200	10	917,400	+	100
Great Northern and City ..	" 10	1,824	+	75	10	18,173	+	510
Great Northern	" 10	106,000	+	3,394	10	1,043,300	+	23,389
Great Western	" 11	218,300	+	5,800	10	2,092,600	+	12,900
Hull and Barnsley	" 11	8,812	—	575	10	91,656	+	1,267
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 11	102,805	+	3,886	10	991,992	+	27,516
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 10	52,061	+	1,747	10	523,459	+	2,696
London & North Western ..	" 11	261,000	+	10,000	10	2,568,000	+	79,000
London & South Western ..	" 11	81,100	+	1,500	10	776,400	+	2,900
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 11	7,988	+	204	10	78,131	+	3,165
Metropolitan	" 11	16,633	—	492	10	168,082	—	1,848
Metropolitan District ..	" 11	8,064	+	311	10	81,385	+	4,345
Midland	" 10	214,123	+	5,813	10	2,161,015	+	58,619
North Eastern	" 10	178,021	+	11,131	10	1,658,902	+	76,176
North London	" 11	8,784	—	215	10	91,438	—	1,414
North Staffordshire	" 11	19,021	+	1,513	10	174,322	+	5,693
Rhymney	" 11	6,068	+	733	10	60,854	+	1,375
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 10	78,115	+	3,088	10	750,385	+	1,392
Taff Vale	" 11	18,949	+	2,253	10	193,421	+	9,210

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Mar. 11	79,603	+	1,690	6	479,463	+	8,046
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 10	30,970	+	1,186	6	183,468	+	4,018
Great North of Scotland ..	" 10	8,920	—	280	6	47,935	—	450
Highland	" 11	7,739	+	44	6	46,811	—	1,164
North British	" 11	85,327	+	2,733	6	509,997	+	7,003

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Mar. 9	2,793	+	43	§	22,259	—	698
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 9	1,641	+	142	§	13,777	—	240
Great Northern	" 9	17,117	—	26	10	157,222	+	664
Midland Great Western ..	" 9	9,435	—	363	§	89,889	—	6,396

§ From January 1.

The LIST will CLOSE on or before TUESDAY, 20th MARCH.

DOMINION OF CANADA.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

Issue of £1,200,000 $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Registered Stock.
Principal to be repaid in London, 1st January, 1948.

Interest to be paid 1st January and 1st July.

10/- per cent., being interest on instalments, will be paid on 1st July, 1906.

ISSUE PRICE $98\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., to be paid as follows:—

5 per cent. on Application.

5 per cent. on 25th March.

$88\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on 14th May.

$98\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Payment may be made in full on or after 25th March, under discount at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum.

The Bank of Montreal is authorised by the Government of the Province of Ontario to receive subscriptions for £1,200,000 $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Registered Stock, issued under the authority of the Acts of the Ontario Legislature 5, Edward VII., Caps II. and III., providing for the issue of a loan of £7,000,000 on the credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Province of Ontario, and chargeable thereon.

The Stock will be registered and transferable by deed at the Bank of Montreal, 46 and 47, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C., without charge and free of stamp duty. The interest, at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, will be paid on behalf of the Province of Ontario at the Bank of Montreal, London, on the 1st January and 1st July in each year, by warrants which will be sent by post to the registered holders. In the case of joint accounts, interest warrants will be forwarded to the first-named in the account, unless contrary instructions are given. A Coupon for 10/- per cent., being interest on the instalments payable 1st July, will be attached to the Scrip.

A Sinking Fund of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum will be provided.

The Province of Ontario has hitherto had no funded debt, and the present issue is for the purpose of repaying Treasury Bills of the amount of £1,200,000, due 15th May next, which were issued for the construction of the Ontario Government Railway from North Bay (where it connects with the Grand Trunk Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway), northerly to the junction with the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway—a distance of about 265 miles.

The Revenue of the Province is derived from—

1. The Dominion Government's Fixed Annual Subsidy of £275,182.

2. Interest on Trust Funds in the hands of the Dominion, receipts from Crown Lands, Timber Dues, Licences, Succession Duties, Corporation Taxes, &c.

For the year ending 31st December, 1905, the revenue was £1,235,484 and the expenditure £1,108,093 (including £102,734 on Capital Account), showing a surplus of £127,391.

The Province is possessed of Crown Lands and Pine Timber of great value.

The Government Railway, above mentioned, will also be a valuable asset. The working of the first section of 113 miles from North Bay to Liskeard, which was taken over from the Contractors in January, 1905, already shows a very considerable net revenue, and the railway, when completed, will have a large local revenue as well as the through traffic which it will obtain from the connecting of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway with the Grand Trunk system at North Bay.

Ontario is the chief province of the Dominion of Canada, having a population, according to the last census in 1901, of 2,180,000, and has great natural resources and a well-to-do and progressive people.

The Revenues of the Province of Ontario alone are liable in respect of this stock and the dividends thereon, and the Consolidated Funds of the United Kingdom and the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury are not directly or indirectly liable or responsible for the payment of the stock or of the dividends thereon, or for any matter relating thereto.—40 and 41 Vict., cap. 59, sec. 19.

Copies of the Acts under which this issue is made and other documents may be inspected at the Offices of Messrs. Bischoff & Co., 4, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.

Applications on the Form enclosed in the Prospectus must be accompanied by a deposit of £5 per cent. on the amount of stock applied for, and be lodged with the Bank of Montreal, 46 and 47, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.

The Subscription List will be closed on or before Tuesday, the 20th March.

In case of partial allotment, the surplus deposit will be applied towards the amount payable on allotment.

In case of the default of any instalment when due, all amounts previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

Scrip certificates will be issued after payment of the amount due on allotment, and such certificates, when paid up in full, will be convertible into registered stock.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained at the Bank of Montreal, 46 and 47, Threadneedle Street, London, E.C., and of Messrs. R. Nivison and Co., 76, Cornhill, London, E.C.

London, 16th March, 1906.

NOTICES.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.—NOTICE.

NO MEMBER OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE IS ALLOWED to ADVERTISE for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of The Stock Exchange or under the Control of the Committee.

A list of Members of The Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew Lane entrance of the Bank of England or obtained on application to EDWARD SATTERTHWAITE.

Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

Committee Room, The Stock Exchange London, E.C.

DELHI AND LONDON BANK, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the HALF-YEARLY ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of this Company will be held at the Bank Office, Royal Bank Buildings, 123, Bishopsgate Street Within, London, E.C., on WEDNESDAY, the 4th April, 1906, at Twelve o'clock noon precisely, to receive the Report of the Directors and the Accounts for the half-year ending 31st December, 1905, to declare a Dividend, and to elect Directors and Auditors.

Notice is also hereby given, that the Transfer Books will be CLOSED from the 17th March until the 9th April, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board.

Royal Bank Buildings, P. B. BAKER, Manager.
123, Bishopsgate Street Within, London, E.C.

17th March, 1906.

GUARDIAN ASSURANCE

COMPANY, LIMITED. Established 1821.

II, Lombard Street, LONDON, E.C.

TOTAL ASSETS over £5,000,000

TOTAL INCOME over £940,000

LARGE BONUSES.

MARINE & GENERAL

MUTUAL LIFE OFFICE.

ESTABLISHED 1852.

Funds - - £1,382,382.

ALL WHOLE LIFE and ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES receive the same liberal treatment in PRIVILEGES and BONUS ADDITIONS, and are granted at average premiums.

Apply for Prospectus to Head Office,

14, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, or to any of the Branches throughout the Country.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent. on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Another bad week has passed for the credit jobber, and this quarter altogether promises to be the worst discount houses have encountered for years past. Always the March quarter is disagreeable because of the way in which the Exchequer strips bankers of their working balances, but this year the disturbance has been greater than usual, and the relief given less sufficient. Partly that is always the fault of the present system of collecting the taxes, but this year the enormous masses of money handled by the Japanese Government has contributed to keep the open market more or less in distress. It is unable to get out of the Bank's debt, and has added this week to its obligations there, so that on Wednesday night the total of other securities was up by £468,000 to £33,723,000, and we fear there have been additions on balance since, notwithstanding the partial repayment made of loans due to-day.

Relief came this morning through the disbursement of £1,000,000 on account of expired Treasury bills, this being the amount of bills the Exchequer had to pay in excess of the amount renewed, as our Treasury bill table duly sets forth. For all that, the market could not pay the Bank back the whole of its loans falling due there this morning, and the joint-stock banks in general continued to get $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for seven-day money with no difficulty. Call loans have most days been $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. up to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the range to-day was from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. It is hoped, however, that next week the market will begin to reap the benefit of larger disbursements by the Exchequer. Mr. Asquith's department must pay out heavily between now and the end of the month. Even so, we cannot be sure that easy money will stay with us. Too many markets want assistance for confidence to be entertained that our own credit market will be comfortable for more than a few days or a week or two at a time.

The French cheque exchange, for example, has been flat all week and came this afternoon at 25.13 $\frac{1}{2}$. This is not the result of continued heavy selling on our market of securities held in France, but of preparations for a huge Russian loan, which is, we believe, all ready to be launched in Paris and Berlin. In fact, it was said here this afternoon that the loan was out, but though underwritten it will probably not make its appearance until the Algeciras colloquy of diplomats comes to the anticipated satisfactory end. Anyway a large Russian loan must be put upon the market and no one can say to what extent its appearance will upset calculations about future money rates. One thing, however, is sure, that between Russian and

Japanese requirements, together with the enormous fresh capital demands of American railroad and industrial enterprises of all kinds—a new issue of no less than £20,000,000 having been announced this very morning for the Hudson Tunnel Company in New York—the imminence of colonial and Indian loans, the pressure of domestic municipal borrowings and of joint-stock enterprises of all descriptions, steady cheap money is not to be expected this half-year. Occasionally it may well be very dear.

For the Bank is still weak in bullion, although it does show a stock of £38,112,000 in its last return. The risks sustained upon that bullion are so very much greater than they used to be that another £10,000,000 in stock would be none too much to ensure comparatively easy rates in the open credit market throughout the spring and summer. There is, however, little probability that the Bank's stock of gold will be largely added to, although the attempt of the United States to compete for fresh supplies has come to a sudden end. New York banks bought about £250,000 of the small amount received in the open market last Monday and immediately after the exchange began to go up again, while money on Wall Street rose yesterday to 8 and 9 per cent. Still it is improbable that the gold coming from the mines will flow freely to the Bank. It will be wanted by Japan, perhaps even by Russia, or the United States and South America; India may absorb more of it and the Bank of England will have to bid high if it is to retain any sensible proportion of the weekly amounts available. Thus the outlook in the credit market is a clouded one and we are glad to see that bill brokers are struggling to keep discount rates up. Business has not been done in three months' remitted paper below $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. since Monday. Some houses have all along striven to get $3\frac{1}{8}$ and $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. and to-day several of them boldly quoted $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as their minimum, but, as usual, other people more sanguine were ready to work at finer rates as in our table below. How rate-cutting pays we know not, but the foreign banker has often outbid home brokers and made the market flabby.

SILVER.

Heavy "bear" sales in the end of last week depressed prices for bars to 29d. per oz. for cash and 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per ounce for future delivery. News of a French Mint tender for 20,000 kilos, or, say, £80,000 of the metal, for delivery in the end of May, checked the decline. A revival of the inquiry on bazaar account and some talk of purchases by the Indian Government caused the "bears" to cover their sales, with the result that quotations rallied smartly to 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 29 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per oz. The rise, however, was felt to be overdone, and a fresh relapse left the market steady at $\frac{1}{4}$ d. under these figures. Tenders for Rs.80,00,000 India Council drafts on Wednesday amounted to Rs.4,38,10,000 in bills and Rs.60,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Of these, Rs.62,92,000 were allotted in bills and Rs.17,08,000 in transfers, applications at 1s. 4d. and 1s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per rupee receiving about 14 per cent. Next week only Rs.60,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, March 14, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued ..	£ 54,758,280	Government Debt ..	£ 11,015,700
		Other Securities ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	36,308,280
		Silver Bullion ..	—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 16,114,822
est ..	3,703,085	Other Securities ..	33,722,086
Public Deposits (including ..		Notes ..	26,831,555
Exchequer, Savings ..		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,803,723
Banks, Commissioners ..			
of National Debt, and ..			
Dividend Accounts) ..	19,120,720		
Other Deposits ..	41,012,269		
Seven Day and other Bills ..	84,012		

Dated March 15, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. Mar. 15.		Mar. 7, 1906.	Mar. 14, 1906.	Increase. ..	Decrease. ..
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,696,251	Rest ..	3,685,275	3,703,085	17,810	—
16,266,646	Pub. Deposits ..	17,404,157	19,120,720	1,716,563	—
44,515,143	Other do. ..	42,737,581	725,312	—	725,312
111,654	7 Day Bills ..	77,707	84,012	6,305	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,589,185	Gov. Securities ..	16,380,867	16,114,822	266,045	—
32,424,190	Other do. ..	33,254,584	33,722,086	—	468,402
31,129,319	Total Reserve ..	27,822,269	28,635,278	—	813,009
				2,006,723	2,006,723.
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
27,087,250	Coin and Bullion	28,291,950	27,926,725	—	365,225.
59,766,509	Proportion ..	37,664,219	38,112,003	447,784	—
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ „	Bank Rate ..	4 „	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	$\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £328,000 in.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders for £1,500,000 in six months' Treasury Bills were received at the Bank of England on Monday, when the amount applied for was £3,657,000. Applications at £98 13s. 6d. received about 24 per cent. and those above in full, the average rate being £2 11s. 5.19d. per cent.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
1,800,000	6 months	June 1	3 2 6
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
1,200,000	—	—	—
1,000,000	6 months	June 29	2 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 12	2 10 8
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 26	2 13 8
1,500,000	6 months	Sept. 16	2 11 5
17,833,000			

+ Issued privately to the India Council.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Week.	1906.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Jan. 3	340,266,000	276,940,000	63,326,000	—
„ 10	228,921,000	215,452,000	13,439,000	—
„ 17	287,646,000	254,259,000	33,387,000	—
„ 24	214,928,000	186,205,000	28,723,000	—
„ 31	289,938,000	300,588,000	—	10,650,000
Feb. 7	231,817,000	206,614,000	25,203,000	—
„ 14	271,821,000	259,450,000	12,371,000	—
„ 21	213,118,000	199,865,000	13,253,000	—
„ 28	290,477,000	301,252,000	—	10,775,000
Mar. 7	235,959,000	215,866,000	20,093,000	—
„ 14	261,348,000	268,032,000	—	6,684,000
	2,866,239,000	2,684,553,000	181,686,000	—

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.		WITHDRAWALS.	
Saturday, Amsterdam..	£10,000	Nil.	
Monday, Holland ..	19,000		
Wednesday, Bars ..	8,000	Total Influx ..	.. .. . 37,000
Total ..	£37,000	Total ..	£37,000.

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Mar. 8, 1906	Mar. 1, 1906	Feb. 22, 1906	Mar. 9, 1905.
Coin and bullion ..	£ 5,122,200	£ 5,022,760	£ 5,310,080	£ 4,826,800
Other securities ..	23,598,720	24,475,720	23,403,040	22,429,440
Note circulation ..	26,620,220	27,398,920	27,310,680	25,926,160
Deposits ..	4,650,950	4,587,440	3,775,240	3,331,320

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'15	25'13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Antwerp	short	25'24	25'23
Brussels	chqs.	25'22 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'22	Italy	sight	25'16	25'15 $\frac{1}{2}$
Amsterdam	sight	12'14 $\frac{1}{2}$	25'14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Constantinople ..	3 mths	110'20	110'25
Berlin	chqs.	20'42 $\frac{1}{2}$	20'47 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	16 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	16 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Do.	3 mths	20'30	20'30	Valparaiso	90 dys	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20'47 $\frac{1}{2}$	20'46	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4	1/4
Frankfort	short	20'45	20'45	Bombay	T.T.	1/4	1/4
Vienna	sight	24'03 $\frac{1}{2}$	24'03 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hong Kong	T.T.	2/0	2/0
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	94'10	94'10	Shanghai	T.T.	2/10 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/10 $\frac{1}{2}$
New York	60 dys	4'8 $\frac{1}{2}$	4'8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Singapore	T.T.	2/4	2/4
Lisbon	sight	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Yokohama	4 mths	2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Madrid	sight	29.20	28'90				

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Mar. 10.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs £ 726,000	National Debt Services .. £ 260,122
Excise 451,000	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties .. 280,000	Charges 7,500
Stamps 114,000	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty .. 110,000	tion —
Property and Income Tax .. 1,705,000	Supply Services 2,440,056
Post Office 780,000	Bullion Advances —
Telegraphs —	Treasury Bills (net amount)
Crown Lands —	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares .. —	Exchequer Bonds —
Treasury Bills (net amount) .. —	Exchequer Bonds redeemed
Miscellaneous 47,000	Uganda Railway —
Bullion advances repaid —	Military Works —
Uganda Railway —	Naval Works —
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts —
count —	Land Registry (New Build-
Advances for Interest on Ex-	ings) —
chequer Bonds —	Public Buildings Expenses
Telegraph Acts —	Act —
Naval Works Acts —	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Military Works Acts —	Act —
Land Registry Acts —	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act .. —	in reduction of debt —
Public Offices Site (Dublin) .. —	Canard Agreement —
Issue of Exchequer Bonds	Surplus Revenue, 1904-5 .. —
under Canard Agreement Act	Deficiency Advances re-
ways and Means —	paid —
Temporary Advances Defi-	ways and Means Advances
ciency —	repaid 2,000,000
Suez Canal Drawn Shares .. —	Increase in Exchequer
Issue of Exchequer Bonds .. —	balances —
Transvaal and Orange River	
Colony. Repayment of	
Temporary Advance —	
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	
tion payments —	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances 494,678	
£4,707,678	£4,707,67

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
		Last Week. Latest.
Paris 3	May 25, 1900.	2 1/2 2 1/2
Berlin 5	December 11, 1905	4 4 1/2
Hamburg 5	December 11, 1905	4 4 1/2
Frankfort 5	December 11, 1905	3 1/2 4 1/2
Amsterdam 3	November, 1905	2 1/2 2 1/2
Brussels 4	October 30, 1905	3 1/2 3 1/2
Vienna 4 1/2	October, 1905	4 1/2 4 1/2
Rome 5	September, 1904	4 4 1/2
St. Petersburg 8	January, 1906	8 8
Madrid 4 1/2	August 21, 1901	4 4 1/2
Lisbon 5 1/2	January 11, 1899	5 5
Stockholm 5	January, 1906.	4 1/2 4 1/2
Copenhagen 5	October, 1905	4 1/2 4 1/2
Calcutta 5	March 15, 1906	— —
Bombay 8	March 15, 1906	— —
New York call money .. 4	—	— —

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Mar. 15, 1906.	Mar. 6, 1906.	Mar. 1, 1906.	Mar. 16, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand	115,810,320	115,687,520	115,003,400	111,095,000
Silver in hand	41,903,280	42,100,280	42,148,520	43,952,680
Bills discounted	32,712,120	32,795,560	39,457,520	21,279,200
Advances	19,673,880	19,936,040	19,657,320	19,194,400
Note circulation	189,098,280	189,413,120	190,908,480	173,502,320
Public deposits	6,502,480	5,703,680	6,901,600	7,210,760
Private deposits	20,203,600	20,503,520	22,624,760	21,040,480

Proportion between bullion and circulation 83 1/2 per cent. against 83 1/2 per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Mar. 10, 1906.	Mar. 3, 1906.	Feb. 24, 1906.	Mar. 11, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	15,073,121	15,068,910	15,066,863	14,948,213
Silver	23,524,601	25,482,987	23,448,052	20,603,441
Foreign Bills	3,526,199	3,363,723	3,263,469	1,043,928
Discount and Short Bills .. —	—	47,095,559	47,355,767	50,355,742
Treasury Account	—	20,425,332	20,418,894	21,310,505
Notes in circulation	61,566,365	61,629,565	61,833,562	63,846,539
Current Account deposits .. —	23,606,684	23,402,360	23,613,167	25,661,536
Dividends Interests	1,221,412	1,258,291	1,312,554	2,417,722
Government Securities	7,241,030	7,882,850	6,682,555	4,060,757

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Feb. 23/Mar. 8, 1906.	Feb. 16/29, 1906.	Feb. 8/21, 1906.	Feb. 23/Mar. 8, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	74,722,534	72,342,398	72,710,914	88,753,033
Silver and subsidiary coin	4,613,376	4,317,880	4,003,919	6,328,720
Advances and bills discounted	56,470,906	58,881,657	60,424,252	38,953,054
Securities belonging to the Bank	7,930,740	7,566,030	7,849,495	5,435,998
Notes in circulation	113,074,453	113,073,595	114,356,833	90,229,005
Deposits and current account	45,129,676	45,787,163	45,404,789	48,568,612
Treasury account	6,746,636	10,068,122	9,893,454	10,919,406

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Feb. 7, 1906.	Feb. 28, 1906.	Feb. 23, 1906.	Mar. 7, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Cash in hand	48,362,150	48,476,850	50,921,000	54,197,050
Bills discounted	40,968,750	40,530,700	40,181,600	35,027,550
Advances on stocks	3,397,250	5,532,300	2,630,000	2,701,200
Note circulation	61,817,050	62,513,600	60,013,950	60,029,500
Public deposits	28,761,850	29,276,350	30,673,300	30,528,000

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Mar. 7, 1906	Feb. 28, 1906.	Feb. 23, 1906.	Mar. 7, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Gold Reserve	45,847,291	45,833,166	45,853,458	48,108,291
Silver reserve	12,661,250	12,693,791	12,681,916	12,836,083
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	1,645,291	1,714,166	1,624,166	1,888,583
Note circulation	68,195,667	69,606,875	67,238,458	64,282,958
Bills discounted	16,802,125	17,724,201	15,120,833	12,541,750

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Mar. 10, 1906	Mar. 3, 1906.	Feb. 24, 1906.	Mar. 11, 1905
	£	£	£	£
Specie	35,734,000	36,534,000	37,128,000	44,238,000
Legal tenders	15,655,800	15,944,400	16,012,600	17,001,000
Loans and discounts	203,900,000	208,160,000	209,860,000	226,530,000
Circulation	10,287,800	10,181,420	10,157,400	8,573,000
Net deposits	200,380,000	205,900,000	208,460,000	237,540,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of nett deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £1,294,800 against an excess last week of £1,003,400.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Mar. 6.	Mar. 8.	Mar. 13.	Mar. 15.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
Do. do.	3 months	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
Hamburg	3 months	20 7/8	20 7/8	20 7/8	20 7/8
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20 7/8	20 7/8	20 7/8	20 7/8
Paris	cheques	25 1/5	25 1/5	25 1/5	25 1/5
Do.	3 months	25 3/16	25 3/16	25 3/16	25 3/16
Marseilles	3 months	25 3/16	25 3/16	25 3/16	25 3/16
Switzerland	3 months	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
Austria	3 months	24 3/8	24 3/8	24 3/8	24 3/8
St. Petersburg	3 months	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Moscow	3 months	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
New York	60 days	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	39 1/2	39 1/2	40 1/2	40 1/2
Lisbon	3 months	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2
Oporto	3 months	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2
Copenhagen	3 months	18 1/4	18 1/4	18 1/4	18 1/4
Christiania	3 months	18 1/4	18 1/4	18 1/4	18 1/4
Stockholm	3 months	18 1/4	18 1/4	18 1/4	18 1/4

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3 1/2—3 1/2
Three months	3 1/2—3 1/2
Four months	3 1/2—3 1/2
Six months	3 1/2—3 1/2
Three months fine inland bills	3 1/2—3 1/2
Four months	3 1/2—3 1/2
Six months	3 1/2—3 1/2

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
Bankers' rate on short loan rates	4 1/2
Bankers' rate on deposits	2 1/2
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	3
7 and 14 days' notice	3 1/2
Current rates for 7 day loans	3 1/2
for call loans	3 1/2—4 1/2

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Has the Kaffir Circus lost its wits? Do the multitude of those there who are waiting and talking of "impending ruin to the Empire," with other nonsense of that kind, really pause to think? Have they been so demoralised by these many years of share punting, of fleecing the public, as to be incapable of taking a rational view of any political incident. It seems so, for the rubbish we have heard talked round about Throgmorton Street and other purlieus of the Stock Exchange these past two days is enough to make one think all the world has gone mad. The Empire, dear dancing Dervishes of Mammon, is not going to come to an end even in South Africa just because Chinese slave labour is no longer to be permitted there, because the conscience of this country, of people not ensnared in the Kaffir gamble, has so revolted against that kind of labour with all its immoral and degrading surroundings as to compel the Government to put an end to it. What is the economic value of an industry which can only prosper by degraded and degrading expedients of this description,

what the moral standing of men who are content to accept or to hope for gains through such instrumentality? We are ashamed of the City of all that section of the Stock Exchange which seems to have been so bewitched, through the debauch of gambling in which it has participated these dozen years back, as to have lost its reason.

Often we have wondered whether it might be possible to get together a committee of intelligent, sensible business men, who would take in hand the restoration of Transvaal gold mining to a healthy and honourable position, but the thought has always been abandoned because the whole of those engaged in the play appear to be actuated by only one motive, an eagerness to cheat the other fellow, to over-reach by hoisting prices and selling at a profit, or by kicking them down and buying back at a profit. If there be any men still possessed of enough reasonableness to look at this South African mining morass with ordinary business intelligence, let them come forward and lead the helpless flocks of sheep outside, let them demand complete accounts from the hitherto irresponsible cosmopolites by whom the mines have been worked and stripped, and insist that profits shall not be intercepted, that the share lists shall be transferred to this country, that the autocracy of the "boss" shall give place to careful and thrifty management, that slipshod and often unredeemably dishonest "eye-picking" shall give place to scientific mining. If a few good men will band themselves together to attain objects such as these, it will soon be discovered that there is no necessity to employ slave labour to make even low grade ore areas yield a reasonable profit. If at the same time the multitude of dishonestly formed companies, with their shameless over-capitalisations, are dealt with, and either swept away altogether or reshaped on more honest lines, then we might have a healthy Kaffir market, but not till then.

Whatever the players do, let them at least cease from wild talk about "transferring their investments to America," their expressions of feverish terror at the prospects of self-government in the Transvaal, for talk of this kind only exhibits the helpless subservience into which the habit of gambling has brought minds formerly sensible enough and still, we should hope, capable of reason. What have these cosmopolites ever done for the good of any market men or any shareholder in Kaffir mines throughout the world? What good have they done you that you should wallow before them and be content to echo their selfish outcry, which is about as patriotic as the chatter of a cockatoo?

We have not space this week to deal with other sections of the Stock Exchange, and it is really not necessary. As explained in another article, business has been struck by paralysis, and people are too poor in the sense of having all their banking resources locked up in the Exchequer to be free to indulge in any large operations, but if there is no reason why the Kaffir market should go to pieces because of the impending stoppage of Chinese slave labour, surely there is less reason why Home Railway stocks should come hurtling down, unless the selling of stocks like these and of trustee securities in other divisions of the market means a desperate struggle to avert bankruptcy, a great collapse in credit, fruit of ten or more years of as wild and irresponsible gambling as the world ever saw. Probably enough the end of it all will be a liquidation, some bank failures, the wiping out of a few monster bucket-shops, and however painful the process may be the moral atmosphere of the City, of all money and stock markets, will be healthier after the purge.

The Week's Stock Markets.

This has been a thoroughly unhappy week in the Stock Exchange and the complaints of absence of business daily grow louder. Jobbers report, a complete abstinence on the part of the public and do not seem very hopeful that the ordinary investor will make an early return. Nor is this surprising in view of the distress known to exist inside the Stock Exchange,

skilfully hidden so far, but which may any day come to the surface and cause much mischief. Besides we are in the midst of one of the traditionally unlucky 19-day accounts. Morocco and the stringency in the money market were in turn held responsible for the depression, but neither is really to blame and we shall not get really strong markets until prices in those sections which have become abnormally inflated are reduced to a saner level and the long drawn-out misery

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS. (Last year's dividends are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
90½	89	Consols (2½ p.c. Money) ..	90½xd	90½
91	89½	Do. Account (April 4) ..	90½xd	90½
89½	88	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	89½xd	89½
100	99½	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907 ..	100	100
92	90½	Irish Land (2½) ..	92	92
100	99	Local Loans (3) ..	99½xd	99½
96½	95	National War Loan (2½ p.c.) ..	98½xd	98½
99½	98½	Do. Account (April 4) ..	98½xd	98½
100	98½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	100	100
300	293	Bk. of England Stck. (9 p.c.) ..	299½	299½
106½	104½	India 3½ p.c. Stck. red. 1931 ..	105½xd	105½
97½	96	Do. 3 p.c. Stck. red. 1948 ..	97½xd	97½
82	81½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stck. red. 1926 ..	81½xd	81½
66½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66½	66½

in the Kaffir Circus reaches its end. Consols weakened a fraction day by day and there were also slight losses in other British funds such as Irish Land stock, War Loan, Transvaal 3 per Cent., Local Loans. India sterling issues and rupee paper receded on the announcement that the Indian Government will raise a rupee loan of 4½ crores during the current year. In the last Budget statement the loan was put at 4 crores only. The money is required for irrigation and other purposes. Home County and Corporation stocks were steady and there was not much going on in Colonial Inscribed stocks.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
103½	102½	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886 ..	103	103
101½	100½	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	101	101
103½	102½	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	102	102
93½	89½	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	93	93½
93	89½	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	92½	92½
92½	90	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	92½	92½
104½	103½	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	104	104
91	86½	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	90½	91½
102½	97½	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	99½xd	100
105	103½	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	104½	105
89½	89	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	89½	91½
102½	99½	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	101½	101
96½	95	Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885 ..	95	95
97½	94	Do. 4½ p.c. 1886 ..	95½	95½
96	93½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1895 ..	95½	95½
101½	99	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	100	100
99	66½	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	98	98
105½	103½	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	104½	104½
105½	102½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	104	104½
101½	98½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	97½xd	97½
105½	100½	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	101	101
52½	52½	Costa Rica A ..	52½	52
43½	42½	Do. B ..	42½	42½
46½	44	Colombian External ..	44½	44
108½	106½	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	105½	105½
105½	104½	Egypt Unified 4 p.c. ..	105½	106
102½	101½	Do. 3½ p.c. pref. ..	102½	102½
105½	103½	Do. 4½ p.c. State Domain ..	105	105
88½	87½	German 3 p.c. ..	88	88
53½	50	Greek, 1884 ..	53½	53
53½	50½	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	53½	53½
42½	39½	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	42½	42½
52½	49½	Do. Funding ..	52	52½
95½	94½	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	94½	94½
104½	103½	Italian 5 p.c. ..	104½	104½
103½	102½	Japan 5 p.c. ..	103½	102
104	100½	Do. 1901-2 ..	100½	100½
91½	89½	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	89½	90½
103½	102	Do. 6 p.c. ..	103½	104½
105	101½	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	104	104½
70½	68½	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	69½	70½
86½	83½	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	83½	85
82	79½	Servian 4 p.c. ..	81	81
96	90½	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	93½	94½
103	101½	Turks 3½ p.c. Tribute ..	102½	102½
105	103½	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	105	105
95½	93½	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	93½	92½xd
73½	70½	Uruguay 3½ p.c. ..	71½	71½
98½	94½	Do. 5 p.c. ..	97½	97½
54½	50½	Venezuelan, Dip. (3) ..	50½	51½

That the Moroccan deadlock has little to do with the general depression seems to be proved by the comparative steadiness of Foreign bond issues, especially those stocks dependent upon Paris, such as Russians, Turkish, Spanish, Italians, Greeks and Portuguese. These were all quite firm until the end of the week when

small offerings came from Paris which was upset a little by the further slump in Kaffirs. This caused a slight set-back in the principal favourites, such as Russians, German 3 per Cent., Spanish, Turkish and Portuguese, but the nett movement on the week is very slight. Japanese issues were inclined to improve at first, but closed below the best and Chinese were purchased in a small way for investment purposes. Argentine issues were not affected by the sudden death of the President, Dr. Quintana, and Brazilians and other leading South American stocks improved when they moved. Brazilian loans were specially strong. Peruvians fluctuated within narrow limits and closed dull, while Cédulas, Colombian, Costa Rica "B," Guatemala and Honduras were also easier. Uruguays ended harder and Venezuela had a fairly sharp rise on the more pacific attitude of President Castro.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
141½	133	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	137	137
157½	149½	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	153	154
136½	120½	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	122½	123
120½	113	Caledonian Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	114½	114
80	77	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	77½	77½
42½	37½	Do. Def. (1 p.c.) ..	38½	37½
96½	91½	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	92	92
59	52½	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	82½	82½
16½	14½	Chatham Ordinary ..	15½	15½
44½	40½	City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	42	42
60	64½	Furness (1½ p.c.) ..	64½xd	64½
59½	37½	Great Central Pref. ..	38½	40½
91½	18	Do. Def. ..	18½	18½
51½	82½	Great Eastern (3½ p.c.) ..	83½	84
105	100½	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	101½xd	102½
47½	43½	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	45½xd	45½
144	135½	Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	136½xd	136½
52	47½	Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	51½	51½
47½	43	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	42½xd	43
109½	104½	Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.) ..	105½	106
19½	77½	Metropolitan (2½ p.c.) ..	79	79
37½	29½	Metropolitan District ..	30	30
76½	66½	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	67½xd	67
74½	67½	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	68½xd	68½
47½	43½	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	78	77½
147½	140½	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	44½	44½
103½	156½	North-Eastern (6½ p.c.) ..	142½xd	142½
90½	87½	North-Western (6½ p.c.) ..	157½xd	157½
124	126	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	89	89
55½	50½	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	127	127
164	154½	Do. Def. ..	53	52½
108½	104	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	155½xd	157½
57½	51½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	105½xd	105
		Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	52½xd	52½

The Home Railway market began the week in a cheerful enough fashion and the "heavy" stocks in particular seemed inclined to improve, but this mood was short-lived as the depression which set in elsewhere caused speculators to endeavour to secure their profits. Business, however, has been small and the declines had never reached really important proportions when they were checked by the publication of a batch of excellent traffic returns. A fresh relapse on Thursday in sympathy with other markets rubbed another fraction or two off quotations, but even so the majority of changes on the week were still to the good. Great Central preferred has been outstandingly strong throughout and Great Eastern was justly steady, but an early gain in North-Western was lost on the accident at Stafford and there was not enough support forthcoming to bring about a rally. Metropolitan and District were weak without much doing in either of them, but the opening of the Baker Street and Waterloo line last Saturday brought the shares of that company into prominence and the ordinary and preference touched 8 and 9 respectively for the £10 shares. Allotment letters for the new Caledonian 4 per cent. convertible preference stock were issued last Friday and the scrip was quoted at 4—4½ premium.

Idleness has been the dominant characteristic of the market for American Railroad shares and New York has apparently been content to let things drift. The competition for gold in the open market here and the purchase of about £220,000 at a much higher figure than the Bank of England would give was not profitable as an exchange operation and it is generally thought that it was merely a market manoeuvre to influence stocks. If that was the case, however, the ruse failed in its object, as the public still keeps away and the minds of the professionals were too much occu-

pied with the probabilities of a coal strike to pay any heed to the announcement of a small amount of gold having been bought. Later in the week Wall Street took to supporting Atchison, Union Pacific and one or two others, but a stiffening of loan rates owing to banks calling in balances sent prices back sharply and they never recovered appreciably. The news that the Pennsylvania company had been authorised to issue \$18,000,000 of new capital for the purpose of acquiring the Yorkhaven and Rowanna and the South-West Pennsylvania lines attracted very little attention.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
99½	91½	Atchison Shares (4) ..	93½	96½
109½	105½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	106½	106
120	112½	Baltimore & Ohio Newf. (5) ..	113½xd	113½
101½	96	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99½xd	99
63½	56½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	58	58½
195½	181½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	183	181½xd
52½	38½	Denver Shares ..	45½	46½
93½	89½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	91	90½
52½	42½	Erie Shares ..	42½	44
85½	79½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	79½	80
77	69½	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	70½	70½xd
185	171	Illinois Central (7) ..	172½	175½
160½	148½	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	149½	153½
41½	34½	Missouri and Texas ..	35½	36½
159½	150	New York Central (5) ..	150	151½
95½	87½	Norfolk and Western (4) ..	88½	90
92½	92	Do. Pref. (4) ..	93	93
57½	49½	Ontario Shares (3) ..	51	51½
75½	70½	Pennsylvania (6) ..	71½	70½
66½	65½	Reading Shares (1½) ..	66½	65½
47½	46½	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	47½xd	47
51½	48½	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	50	50
74½	66½	Southern Pacific ..	67½	68½
43½	36½	Southern ..	40½	41½
104½	101½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	103½	103½
161½	151½	Union Pacific (5½) ..	155½xd	157½
51½	48½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99½xd	99
206½	200	Wabash ..	23½	24
55½	42½	Do. Pref. ..	52	52½
85½	78½	Do. Income Debs. ..	84	84
182½	173½	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	175½xd	175½
106½	106½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	106½	104½xd
109½	109	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	110	109½
25½	25½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	29½	29½
105½	102½	Do. Guar. (4) ..	105	104
119½	114½	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	119	118½
110½	109½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	110	109½
70½	60½	Do. 3rd Pref. (2) ..	69½	68½
109½	107½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109½	103½xd

The new issue of £1,000,000 guaranteed stock by the Grand Trunk last Saturday was very well received, and the lists were closed promptly at 10 o'clock on Monday morning. The price was quoted at 2½-2½ premium, but the existing stock was knocked down 1 and the ordinary and third preference fell nearly as much. Canadian Pacific shares on the other hand, although business was nearly non-existent in them, were firm until near the close, when they flinched in common with everything else.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
229½	211½	Antofagasta (10) ..	223½	220½
335	313	Do. Def. (15) ..	320	33½
130½	126	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	130	127
132	129½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	130	130
88	84½	Bahia Blanca Pref. ..	86½	84½
144½	140	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	142½	142
129½	127	Do. Pref. (5) ..	128	128
135	132	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	132½	135
120½	115½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	117	113
110	107½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109	109½
120	118	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	119½	119½
116½	109½	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	116	117
170	165½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	167	167
109	105½	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	106	106
138½	135½	Central Uruguay (4½) ..	137½	137
92½	88	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (5) ..	88½	88
109½	106½	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cent. Nth. Sec.) ..	105	108
90	92½	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	95	95
75½	70½	Costa Rica ..	71	70
59½	55	Cuban Central ..	56	56
7	6½	Do. Pref. (5½) ..	6½	6½
11½	11½	Do. Deb. (15) ..	11½	11½
100	102½	East Argentine (4½) ..	103	103½
93½	90	Imperial Mexican Pref. ..	91	90
9½	8½	Leopoldina (3) ..	8½	8½
80½	76½	Do. Deb. (4) ..	79	81
98	95	Munilla Bonds "A" (6) ..	96	95
105	107½	Do. "B" (6) ..	108	108
105½	103½	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	105	106
28½	25	Do. 1st Pref. (5½) ..	27½	27½
130½	118½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	130	129½
59½	49½	Mexican Southern (2½) ..	58½	57½
68	54½	Nitrato Ord. (5½) ..	64	67
10½	14½	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aden) (4) ..	15½	15½
21½	19½	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	21½	21½
212½	203	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	208	210
193	174½		177	175

Business in Argentine railways has been quite unimportant, with the usual exception of Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary, and in the selling rather predominated. The largest movements, however, were in Cordoba and Rosario first and second preference stocks, which were lifted a few pounds on very slender impulses, and the changes in several Buenos Ayres and Pacific issues were also to the good. Paraguay Central debentures relapsed sharply on profit taking, and United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock and Antofagasta ordinary dropped heavily, but Brazilian things were firm, and Manila railway issues came in for a good deal of support on rumours of a coming reorganisation. Mexican railway stocks went back steadily on profit taking, and Interceanic preferred shares were weaker, but Mexican Southern ordinary stock improved. Arica and Tacna shares, which came into favour recently on prospects of the line being sold to the Chilean Syndicate which was to build the Arica-La Paz line, were offered on the news that the Government had chosen the alternative route. The arrangement for the transfer was only made subject to the Tacna route being selected, so that the deal is "off," and although the theory was put forward that this decision might mean that the province of Tacna was to come under Peruvian rule, it failed to restore confidence, and the shares finished decidedly lower on the week.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
21	16	17	17	17
51	44	—	49½	49½
551	540	—	550	550
19½	16½	—	18	18
51/3	41/3	—	2½	2½
51/3	47/6	—	2½	2½
56	49½	50½	51½	50½
99½	95	—	97	97
62	51	—	55	55
6½	5½	5½	6½	6½
7½	6½	6½	7	7
61½	6½	1½	6½	6½
27/-	21/3	14/9	1½	1½
45/-	40/-	—	2½	2½
7½	5½	—	5½	5½
11½	11	—	11½	11½
13/9	11/6	13/3	13½	13½
5½	5½	105/6	5½	5½
500	492½	495	500	490
26/9	19/9	25/3	1½	1½
25/6	21/9	24/9	1½	1½
6½	6½	6½	6½	6½
13½	12½	—	13½	13½
89/1½	81/3	4½	4½	4½
27/6	26/-	26/7½	1½	1½
108½	107	—	105	107
24/3	21/6	22/3	1½	1½
6½	5½	5½	5½	5½
34/-	27/-	29/6	1½	1½
15/6	11/9	8	7½	7½
7½	6½	—	7	7
18/-	13/9	1½	1½	1½
16½	15½	—	16	15½
12/6	10/6	11/9	1½	1½
18/9	17/3	18/3	1½	1½
103½	102½	103	103	103
90½	80½	86	80½	88
54½	42½	52½	53½	53
110	107½	109½	110	110½
9½	9½	—	9½	9½
13½	11½	—	12	12
6½	5	5	5	5½
11½	11	11	11½	11½
104½	98	—	98½	99
133½	128½	—	129	129
66/3	61/10½	3½	3½	3½
85/-	75/-	4½	4	4½
28/6	26/-	35/6	1½	1½
31/9	30/9	—	1½	1½
14	13	13	13½	13
47½	40½	41½	41½	41½
117	107½	108½	108½	108½
57/-	52/3	2½	2½	2½
14½	13½	—	13½	13½
241	236	—	237½	237½
54	52	—	52½	52½
9	7½	—	8	8
114½	109½	113½	113½	114
20½	16½	18½	18½	20½
150½	145½	149	148½	148½
15½	14½	15	15	15½
111½	108½	111½	111½	113½
14½	14½	14½	14½	14½
8½	6½	6½	6½	7½
9½	8½	8½	8½	9
117	92½	—	92½	94½
9½	9½	—	9½	9½

Like all the others, Miscellaneous markets were very inactive, and no particular tendency developed.

Hudson's Bays after mounting almost to 90 fell back on realising when the directors announced that no share-splitting scheme would be brought forward. Pekin Syndicates were inclined to pick up, and Western of Canada Land shares had a moderate rise, but Argentine land shares ended rather dull. The Iron and Steel group was firm, and several small improvements were recorded, but Textiles were very neglected and showed little change. Daimler Motor shares continue to be bought, and Nitrates all firmed up on the statement that a meeting of producers had been summoned for March 26 to come to a final decision on the combination question. Meat shares were rather easier in tendency, and Catering issues generally kept steady. Sweetmeats rallied on the increase in the receipts for February. Docks were idle, but Trusts, Insurance, Gas and other investment securities were quite firm. Drapery shares were rather dull, and the debentures of Lewis and Allenby had a sharp fall of 8. United Lankats were wanted on Dutch account, the market for the company's tobaccos in Amsterdam being a good one. Breweries were still heavy, but the declines were not quite so numerous as of late. Anglo-American Telegraph issues were specially strong; and the deferred rose to well over 20. It is said that the company's business is very good just now. British Electric Tractions continued to recover, and the price of the ordinary is now about £1 above the lowest touched. Mazawattee debentures and preference shares were given a lift on the report, which was slightly less disastrous than had been expected, but the annual statement of Spratt's Patent was a little disappointing, and the shares gave way ½. Royal Mails were easier in the Shipping division.

This morning the Stock Exchange opened quite in the dumps with further declines in prices running all round the markets, Kaffir shares being sold a little from Paris and apparently on the way to the bottomless pit. Then a rally set in, a few buyers appeared, Paris stopped offering any paper, and Consols recovered, whereupon tales began to circulate indicating fanciful sources for the improvement. The most prominent of these were that Indian coolies are to be substituted for Chinese and that Lord Rothschild is to be chairman of the committee to inquire into the Transvaal franchise. There was no truth in either story and the inventors forgot that the committee will have to go to South Africa if it is to do any good, but the market is so narrow that it hardly needed lies to help it to rally. A few kerbstone punters closing their bears and the thing was done. Everything left off at an improvement to-night and Consols were as strong as any stock on the faint ripple of cheapness which came over the money market.

Great Central Railway Stocks ended a little dull on the announcement that the Company had abandoned its bill for the acquisition of the Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast Railway. The North Eastern wanted to have certain clauses inserted, to which the directors would not agree, and the bill was therefore withdrawn.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

.. Frank and unbiassed answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

We need not waste much labour and space this week upon the miseries of the Kaffir Circus. There is practically nothing to say, except that no good business is done, and that prices continue to fall. The market is not a whit the happier because it got over the last settlement without disaster, for it well knows that though the trouble has been concealed it has not been removed. There is the ever-accumulating mass of paper, which it knows not how it will eventually place with the ever hungry public. The magnates and gamblers cannot keep it, much though we wish they would. Lamentation is as loud as ever that the one and only cause of the slump is the attitude of the Government towards Chinese labour, as though it has not been persistent, as Mr. Winston Churchill pointed out, from the first

hour Chinese were imported. The decline this week has not been unchecked. Some days a few shares will show small gains, though not the same shares each day, for the selection of hourly favourites is as haphazard as ever. A bad impression has naturally been created by the secession of the Robinson group from the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, though it is no secret that the other bosses do not love Mr. Robinson; he has been too outspoken. To be called a "Tammany Ring" by him is not to be borne with equanimity even by those who have so little self-respect, for their ignorance, proof as it may be against satire and ridicule, can be pierced by a characterisation so pungent. And the February output, which was an actual increase over January, as we show below, has been of no help to cheer the market. Of course, the speculators have not overlooked the excuse of the Morocco business, which is not going through as smoothly as it looked a week ago. And there is the monetary situation. But the real cause of the market's distress is public apathy and selling. Why, however, should shares appreciate? We show in a separate article that appreciation is not justified on merits, that many shares are considerably inflated, and the rest fully priced.

In the diamond group, whilst De Beers and Jagers continue firm, Premier Diamonds are falling heavily, which is in striking contrast with their strength of a week ago. There is undoubtedly something seriously wrong with the mine, and it turns out that the recent advance was the result of a "bear" squeeze, there being a notorious "ratter" amongst the magnates. These are shares no prudent man would dream of touching, for the decline looks as if it will continue.

Dulness has prevailed in all the other sections of the market. No signs of life have been exhibited by any, not even by the copper shares. In the miscellaneous group, Broken Hills have been depressed by a fresh breaking out of the fire, which looks to be much more serious than the first outbreak. Indians have scarcely moved.

JUBILEE GOLD COMPANY.—This old company, which since 1887 has been one of the most regular dividend payers on the Rand, is rapidly coming to the end of its life, though the mine may possibly yield ore for another four years. Last year, in order to see if there were a possibility of prolonging its life, the directors acted on the suggestion of the manager to explore the property by a borehole, and an agreement was come to with the Salisbury company. A contract was entered into, and a borehole was put down from the 600 ft. level of the Salisbury main shaft to a depth of 2,014 ft., at which point it was discontinued, as nothing favourable was disclosed by the borehole, so the hopes have not been realised. In the past financial year, which ends with the calendar year, the number of tons crushed was 66,811 and the yield from all sources of treatment was 21,183 ozs., averaging 6.34 dwts. per ton. With £1,980 from sundry sources the total revenue was £91,116, equal to £1 7s. 3d. per ton, whilst the working expenditure amounted to £63,097, averaging over 18s. 10d. per ton, so the working profit was £28,019, equivalent to a little over 8s. 4d. per ton. This is £14,000 less than was earned in 1904, practically accounted for by a slight depreciation in the grade of the ore, and an increase of 2s. per ton in the working costs. The large sum of £40,695 was brought forward, and after allowing for depreciation, the profits tax, &c., 50 per cent. was again paid, and £29,973 remained to take to the current accounts. The company owes nothing worth talking about, and has a goodish lump of cash. The development of the mine is now practically finished, and as the mine manager estimates the ore reserves now remaining at 198,357 tons, any one can calculate for himself how long the mine is likely to last. At the rate of crushing last year all this would be exhausted in a little over three years, but as the manager makes the estimate on a very conservative basis, the life may be eked out to four years. Since 1887 the dividends paid aggregate 1,015 per cent.

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT.—For the month of February there was a slight improvement, showing some progress, despite the outcry over the scarcity of labour. From the Rand proper the production was 389,283 ozs., and from the outside mines 18,385 ozs., total 407,668 ozs., of a value of £1,731,664 against 428,638 ozs., worth £1,820,739 in January. This is a decrease of 20,970 ozs. in weight and £89,075 in value, but February being a shorter month, there was an actual increase of 733 ozs. per diem, or of 20,524 ozs. over the twenty-eight days. There was a further loss of natives, this time of 1,697, the total employed at the end of the month falling to 78,895.

NUNDYDROOG COMPANY.—This Indian company distinguished itself last year with another record. During 1905 79,070 tons were crushed for a yield of 63,553 ozs. of gold; 74,653 tons of tailings were treated, and 7,008 ozs. extracted therefrom, making a total production of 70,561 ozs., realising £265,251, which was £7,095 in excess of the gold income in 1904. Owing, however, to a considerable increase in the underground development work, the costs were £10,097 greater, so the profit fell from £116,636 to £115,579. After deducting all items of expenditure, including depreciation and expenses of issuing the new capital, the dividends paid aggregate 3s. 8d. per 10s. share, equal to 36.23 per cent., against 42½ per cent. in 1904, the reduction being due to the increase in the capital of 82,000 shares. The money was raised for the further development of the Oriental property, in which there is a probability that the chutes in the northern section of the Nundydroog mine continue; also, to defray the cost of additional electric machinery, and to carry out sinking and exploration operations. Official confidence continues to be expressed in the future of the mine, and we have no criticism to make on a good balance-sheet.

EGYPTIAN MINES EXPLORATION.—This is the Egyptian company, whose shares on the market are known as "Mummies," and it is a parent concern. It has not yet succeeded in earning profits, and that is not surprising, for it must wait until its subsidiaries can achieve success, and that may not be for many a year to come. Accordingly, no profit and loss account is prepared, though the company has been in existence for some years. In the past financial year ending December 31, the ordinary administration expenditure came to £2,186, against £305 received from interest and transfer fees, so the deficiency is thereby raised to £9,370. The financial position is at present tolerably comfortable, but may soon become strained. The following are the names of the properties worked by subsidiaries:—Atallah, Semna, and Eridia, and Mr. Alford, the superintendent engineer, is of opinion that the developments on these now justify the formation of a company with a working capital of £150,000. He estimates this will be sufficient to build a railway to connect them with Keneh, and to erect the milling plant and fully equip the mine. So the directors are now engaged in negotiations for carrying out these recommendations.

SPASSKY COPPER MINE.—This company, the shares of which have for many months been manipulated very freely, issues its first report and accounts, brought up to September 30 last, so they are not as new and as fresh as they might be. The company took over the mines and smelting works in July, 1904, and the amount of ore raised between then and September 30 was 8,824 tons, of an assay value of 21.77 per cent. The copper produced, says the report, realised the sum of £85,107. According to the profit and loss account the gross profit earned in Siberia was £33,438, and the nett profit £17,589, which, of course, is carried forward. It is explained that this is arrived at after writing off the preliminary expenses in addition to the ordinary, as well as the discount on the debentures issued during the period. Though the old Russian smelting works were ineffective, and in very bad condition, the directors decided not to close them down pending the erection of the modern plant. When the company commenced working the output of copper was under 50 tons per month, and it has steadily risen to 100 tons. It is quite within the bounds of possibility that this company may become a successful undertaking. A lengthy report upon the property is written by Mr. Edward T. McCarthy, who estimates the profit "practically assured" at £696,200, and that "reasonably assured" at £1,429,525, total £2,125,725. On the basis of an output of 300 tons of copper per month sufficient ore is available to last 10½ years, but it is confidently expected that further large bodies of ore will be opened up in the course of development.

NINE REEFS COMPANY.—In December, 1904, the debenture holders of this company agreed to waive their right of foreclosure for eighteen months, notwithstanding the non-payment of interest, and consented to the sale of plant, materials, and stores, not to exceed £1,000, to pay the costs of shutting down the mine, and preserving the company's property. As the prospects of the mine, in the opinion of the superintendent, did not justify further work, underground operations were suspended in October, 1904. The directors and managers, after waiting, have arrived at the opinion that the indications in the property have not proved sufficiently satisfactory to justify the recommencement of further mining work, and have concluded that no benefit can be derived from continuing the waiting policy for the full eighteen months granted by the debenture holders. So they advise the immediate liquidation of the company.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

CALEDONIAN RAILWAY.

For the six months ended January 31 the gross receipts were £2,202,125, an increase of £68,342, while the working expenses came to £1,141,840, increase £37,345, the ratio between expenditure and income being 51.85 per cent., against 51.72 per cent. The passenger traffic did very well indeed, first-class being up £2,627 and third £14,530, but there was a very trifling decline in season tickets. In parcels, horses, carriages, &c., the gain was not much over £1,000, and minerals produced only £1,369 more, but merchandise gave the excellent improvement of £47,788. In fact, no matter what part of the country is touched, we get the same evidence of abounding prosperity, and the increases in railway traffics shown last year, an almost certain indication of flourishing trade, are being followed by further improvement in this, the lines serving the great manufacturing districts giving the best results. We wonder if those ultra-wise people who see nothing but ruin in our magnificent volume of imports have ever stopped to think of their effect on the revenue-earning capacity of our railways. The handling and carriage of these goods must give employment not to tens but to hundreds of thousands of workers, meaning a vast dissemination of wealth in the shape of wages and salaries, and in a dozen other ways. Traffic in live stock last half-year was rather stagnant, and while rents from depôts and stores were larger, there was a decline under mileage of carriages and wagons on other lines and demurrage. The canal receipts were just a trifle larger at £62,713. On the expenditure side we are glad to note an increase of £6,260 in the maintenance charges. Locomotive power cost £15,292 more, chiefly owing to an increase under coal and coke.

as the additional mileage run was only about 200,000. On carriage and wagon repairs the extra outlay was £5,114, traffic expenses rose over £12,000, and general charges advanced by £2,467. Compensation charges were rather lighter, rates and taxes were about £2,000 larger, and the canal outlay showed very little change. Nett revenue is, therefore, some £30,000 better at £1,060,284, dividends on shares held in other companies gave £4,393 more at £32,046, and the balance brought in was £21,009, against £12,252. That means a total improvement in the disposable credit of £43,346 to £1,113,339, but the fixed charges were sensibly higher, much larger sums being required for interest on debenture stocks and temporary loans. Sum available for dividend, however, was still £28,408 to the good at £750,277, and as the preference charges were actually a trifle less the directors are able to raise the dividend on the ordinary stock from 4 to 4½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £5,327 more at £20,263. This means 3 per cent. per annum on the preferred and 1½ per cent. per annum on the deferred stocks. The directors are still making an effort to keep the capital expenditure within more reasonable limits, and laid out only £279,799 in the period under review. Of this, £156,253 was on lines already under traffic, working stock accounted for £38,451, and £84,139 was for the Grangemouth Harbour Extension. In the current six months the expenditure will be a little heavier at £338,000, and the company can certainly do with the money to be provided by the new preference issue of £1,427,750 just announced, as the capital account is overdrawn to the extent of £1,942,151. Already the company has temporary loans of £705,000, besides using up the savings bank and other funds, and bankers are evidently quite unable to provide further funds in time for the dividend disbursements on April 1. The stock must be fully paid up on March 26.

NORTH BRITISH RAILWAY COMPANY.

For the half-year ended January 31 the gross receipts were £2,373,966 or an increase of £50,173, against which the working expenses were £1,224,784 or £28,628 more, the proportion of expenditure to total income being 50.08 per cent. against 50.00 per cent. First-class passenger traffic went down by £1,773, and this was only compensated for to the extent of £439 by an improvement in third-class business. Season tickets, parcels, horses, carriages, etc., also showed small decreases, so that all told the coaching revenue was less by £2,164. Merchandise, however, yielded £22,481 more, and the mineral traffic improved by £34,851, so that a small shrinkage in live stock is not of great consequence. Miscellaneous receipts fell £3,588, chiefly because of a drop of over £3,000 under mileage of carriages and wagons. On the expenditure side locomotive power and traffic expenses each rose by over £11,000, and maintenance of way and works cost £8,783 more. Locomotive and traffic expenses were naturally higher in view of the large amount of extra traffic, and the additional expenditure in other directions was in conformity with a promise made by the chairman at the last meeting that the general upkeep outlay should be on a larger scale. Up to the present we fear the system has been a little starved, and it is a somewhat notorious fact that the Scotch lines do not spend so freely upon maintenance as their English neighbours. Carriage and wagon repairs were only £693 heavier, and no other increase was important, not even that in rates and taxes. On the other hand general charges went down £2,212, and the expenditure on the ferries and steamers declined £1,101. Nett profit amounts to £1,151,182 or £21,545 more, and in addition to a drop of £1,635 to £10,234 in the balance brought forward, the dividends on shares held in other companies showed a fall of £3,554 to £1,419. Sum available for dividend, therefore, comes to £1,192,835 or £16,356 more, from which the fixed charges absorbed £366,216, and the directors reserve £13,500 for repair and renewal of working stock, leaving £783,119, an increase of £1,319. Preference charges require £3,553 less at £518,412, and owing to conversions, it is necessary to provide a rather larger sum in order to pay the preferred ordinary dividend at 3 and the ordinary dividend at 2 per cent. per annum. Balance carried forward is £11,019 compared with £10,573. During the six months capital expenditure was £364,170, of which £135,714 was on lines open for traffic, £83,847 for new construction, and £28,479 for working stock. Another £49,330 went in subscriptions to other railways, and there was a nominal addition of £69,908 on conversion of stocks. In the current half-year the company expects to lay out £365,555, and will probably soon be following the example of the Caledonian Company in making a fresh issue, as the debit to capital account stands at the exceedingly heavy figure of £1,339,300. Dividends payable April 6.

GLASGOW AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

Gross receipts for the six months ended January 31 £891,324, increase £16,903; working expenses £510,293, increase £4,884; proportion of expenditure to total revenue 57.25 per cent. against 57.80 per cent. Ordinary passenger traffic exhibited a small decrease, but season tickets were better by £1,599, and parcels, horses, carriages, &c., gave over £1,000 more, so that the aggregate coaching revenue was returned at £385,083 or £1,318 up. Merchandise improved by £4,211, live stock advanced £117, and minerals showed the important gain of £9,572. Other revenue items were practically stationary, except that mileage and demurrage gave a credit of £581 instead of a debit of £910. The principal increase on the expenditure side was under locomotive power up £5,558, carriage and wagon repairs rose £3,000, and there were unimportant advances in traffic expenses and general charges. On maintenance of way

and works, however, the outlay was £564 less, compensation was down by a good £1,200, and rates and taxes actually showed a drop of £323. Working expenses, depreciation, and insurance of the steamboats were down by over £2,000, but we get no indication of the revenue, and are left to guess whether the service is run at a profit or loss. When the new President of the Board of Trade has time he will have to look into the question of railway accounts. At present they are all too meagre. Nett revenue is £381,031 or £12,019 more, and after adding balance brought forward, &c., the sum for distribution is £388,534 against £376,162. Fixed charges show a reduction of about £1,000 to £128,160, and after finding an additional £5,514 at £124,481 for guaranteed and preference dividends the directors are able to pay at the rate of 4¼ per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, being ¼ per cent. more, and giving 2½ per cent. per annum to the preferred ordinary stock and 1¾ per cent. per annum to the deferred ordinary stock. The balance carried forward is somewhat increased to £6,313. During the half-year the capital expenditure was £89,900 against receipts of £77,583, most of the outlay being on lines in course of construction and working stock, and in the current six months it is proposed to spend £117,303. Capital account, however, is already overdrawn £690,184, and the directors are seeking powers for raising further funds. A new capital issue may therefore be anticipated. Dividends payable March 31.

SWISS BANKVEREIN.

In their report for the year ended December 31 last the directors of this important bank favour their shareholders with a most interesting epitome of the financial and political events of the twelve months and very instructive reading it makes. Every incident of an important character is touched upon, prominence being naturally given to those directly affecting the bank. We are told, for example, that the increase in the share capital from £1,000,000 to £2,000,000 has been carried out and of the premium received amounting to £120,000 one-third or £40,000 was added to reserve and the balance put to special reserve. The two funds together now reach £520,092 or about 26 per cent. of the capital. Another important circumstance was the passing of a law for the establishment of a Swiss National Bank, this step being taken in consequence of the scarcity of bank notes during the year especially in the autumn. The new bank will have the exclusive right of note issue and will act as a general clearing and discount bank, its principal object being to regulate the money circulation and to facilitate internal payments. In addition to the increase of capital mentioned the bank decided to issue a further amount of 4 per cent. deposit certificates with a currency of five years and redeemable thereafter at six months' notice on either side. The public issue took place at par on August 25 and was largely over-subscribed. Certificates outstanding at the end of 1905 were £1,531,293 against £949,603 at the close of the previous year at an average rate of interest of 3.85 per cent. against 3.77 per cent. in 1904. These certificates do not find a separate entry in the balance-sheet but are included, we suppose, in the current and deposit accounts which have increased from £5,786,195 to £6,903,665. Bills payable and acceptances now amount to £2,545,908 or an increase of £386,717 and on the assets side the cash, coupons and bankers' balances are up £105,429 to £1,149,115. Bills receivable show a considerable advance to £2,041,069, but investments are down £36,981 to £493,036. Advances on current accounts have been increased £1,117,020 to £5,488,718, loans at short dates on securities stand at £2,415,370 or £574,340 more and "syndicates," that is the bank's direct interest in commercial or other ventures, stand at £390,895 against £260,956. It is rather significant that a reserve of £30,000 has to be provided from the year's gross revenue against syndicate engagements. Nett profit is returned at £161,338 including £10,502 brought in and after providing a dividend of 8 per cent. the directors and managers are entitled to £22,625 and £10,713 is carried forward.

NATAL BANK, LIMITED.

In 1905 this important colonial bank seems to have enjoyed full prosperity. Its nett profits for the year, including £15,600 brought forward, came to £100,434, out of which the directors are able to declare the usual 12 per cent. dividend and 2 per cent. bonus, making 14 per cent. for the fourth year in succession. This done £10,000 is added to the reserve, making it £300,000, and £5,000 to the pension fund, raising it to £38,166, after which £15,434 is left to carry forward. The chairman, in his speech, dwelt upon the hopeful future of the colony, and its present remarkable prosperity, giving statistics in illustration, the most notable of which showed an increase in the export of sugar between 1898 and 1904 amounting to about £325,000, the total for the last-named year being £343,259. In the balance-sheet liabilities on fixed deposits, current and other accounts, amounted on December 31 last to £3,892,552, and on the other side of the account bills discounted, loans, advances, etc., foot it up to £3,110,686, showing an increase of £486,152. The note issue, however, fell off from £126,011 to £117,282, and no explanation is offered of that reduction. Coin at head office and branches stands at the handsome total of £878,756, and in addition the bank held £5,160 in Bank of England and other bank-notes, cash orders, etc., besides bar gold on hand and in transit amounting to £148,209. The total of the balance-sheet is £5,801,579.

BANK OF VICTORIA, LIMITED.

A further small increase to £73,426 took place in the gross profits of this bank during the half-year ended December 31 compared with the corresponding period of 1904. The total

is arrived at after deducting interest and rebate and providing for bad and doubtful debts. Adding the reduced balance of £13,944 brought forward, and the total for disposal is £87,370 against £88,823, from which current expenses absorb £37,809 and bank note tax £1,093, leaving £48,467. That is a decline of £1,853, but after providing the preference dividend of 5 per cent. the directors propose to increase the ordinary dividend by $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 4, adding another £10,000 to reserve, but carrying forward £4,505 less at £6,823. Shareholders are no doubt quite willing to receive this extra $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., because their sufferings in the past have been severe, but the reserve could better have done with the addition. Its total is now only £170,000, and the paid up capital is ponderous at £1,478,010. Notes in circulation do not show much change at £121,426, but bills in circulation have increased £32,403 to £462,099. Government deposits £561,293 are up by £165,467, practically the whole of which are interest bearing. Other deposits bearing interest figure at £2,946,508, or £143,670 more, and those on which no interest is paid have risen by £369,602 to £1,833,979. Against these increased liabilities the "cash assets" show an advance of £373,887 to £2,105,592, coin, bullion, and cash at bankers being up £197,484 to £1,158,462, and bills and remittances in transit £151,946 larger at £604,379. Investments remain as before, £186,140, notes and bills of other banks amount to £100,300 against £68,993, while the balances due from other banks are somewhat less at £53,871. Bills discounted, loans and advances have been increased £330,218 to £5,143,194, and we note that bank premises are held at cost, showing a small increase to £255,035.

IND, COOPE AND CO., LIMITED.

We congratulate the directors of this big brewery company upon having had the courage to publish a report and balance-sheet. It needed courage, and we cannot help feeling that if this course had been adopted from the first a better display would have been made to-day. It is a wretched story the board has to tell, and nothing they are able to advance about dearer materials, trade depression, the difficulty of getting tenants for their houses, and such like, does much to mitigate the darkness of the picture. The truth is that over-capitalisation lies at the root of the mischief. This company's balance-sheet totals about £4,378,000. Its share capital paid up comes to £1,448,000, and it owes on various debenture stocks £2,250,000, besides about £360,000 due to depositors and to its bankers. The business is thus over-burdened to an appalling extent for clearly the brewery buildings, freeholds, etc., etc., less mortgages, cannot be worth the £2,929,335 set against them, and we should fear that the £89,478 set aside as provision against losses on customers' balances, rents, loans, and interest, etc., or as provision for discounts, is not enough, for the total of the loans, etc., is £615,142. We cannot this week go fully into the balance-sheet, but must mention in addition a suspense account of £272,249, which surely wants explaining. The stock on hand, including casks and horses, is put at £405,367. Against sundry creditors figuring for £295,540 over and above all the other obligations mentioned, the company held on October 7 last, the date of the balance-sheet, only £28,743 in cash, and had only £5,000 due to it by cash debtors. There is, moreover, a contingent liability of £170,162, not brought into the accounts at all. It is, however, when we come to the revenue of the year that the weakness becomes most patent. Profits are put at £155,822, after making full deductions for the year's bad and doubtful debts. Taking out of this sum £53,443 for mortgage and deposit interest, and £98,750 for debenture interest, there remains only £3,628 as the free profit available for a share capital of £1,448,000. We cannot accept even this tiny figure as a true exhibit of the company's present earning power because the amount written off for depreciation only aggregated £19,250. No wonder the directors long for an improvement in trade. They feel confident that sales will be considerably augmented when that comes, rest hopes also on an expanding export trade, and altogether cultivate the weeds of the fool's paradise with due diligence.

BEYER, PEACOCK AND CO., LIMITED.

Profits of this important locomotive and general engineering business recovered in substantial fashion during the year ended December 31 last, but the revenue is still disappointing compared with some of the company's previous achievements. It is insufficient to provide ordinary shareholders with a dividend, let alone allow a contribution to ordinary reserve, and unless further substantial improvement is shown in the current year we shall begin to fear the concern is over-capitalised. Profit on trading for 1905 was £44,252 compared with £17,979 in 1904, £48,690 in 1903 and £105,695 in 1902, so that there is a lot of leeway to be made up yet. With interest and transfer fees the total income is £46,704 and after providing general and other expenses £43,555 remains. Interest on debenture stock takes £12,750, a sum of £9,226 is reserved for depreciation, £300 is required for income-tax and it has become necessary to write off £334 from the company's investments. Actual nett balance appears at £20,945, but there was a small debit of £588 brought forward and the sum actually for disposal amounts to £20,357. The directors therefore propose to pay the full preference dividend, absorbing £16,500, and to carry forward £3,857. Twelve months ago, it may be recalled, the auditors hinted at possible losses in connection with the work then in progress amounting to £63,413, and it would be interesting to know how far these fears were borne out and what the effect was on the revenue. It must be noted that the workshops were full during the year

and the deliveries of engines so satisfactory that even the big output for 1904 was exceeded. That being so it rather looks as though revenues were affected by the exceptional circumstances mentioned. Happily there is, at the present time, a satisfactory amount of work in course of construction and the directors look forward with some confidence to a more prosperous year's trading. That is good news and there is certainly no reason why the company should fail to share in the general trade revival. Property account was increased during the twelve months by £9,811 raising it to £468,933, but £4,414 is deducted from this on account of loss on dismantlements, the sum being written off the depreciation reserve. Then sundry old materials sold realised £554, so that the freehold land and buildings, machinery and plant now figure at £463,964, apart from goodwill £144,501. Against this the depreciation reserve comes to £28,008 and is the only reserve at present possessed. Otherwise the position looks pretty good, as the comparatively small sum of £34,789 is due to sundry creditors and debtors alone owe £90,553. Work in progress at cost price is valued at £87,626, stores and materials are worth £24,345, and besides cash of £50,280 the company has an investment at market value of £10,113. Then premiums to the amount of £10,350 have been paid on sinking fund policies to provide for the redemption of the debentures on January 1, 1952. A suspense account of £8,000 for patterns and drawings will no doubt be presently written off.

WILLIAM BEARDMORE AND CO., LIMITED.

This great engineering and shipbuilding company, in which Vickers are so largely interested, earned a nett profit for the year ended December 31 last of £207,418. From that £25,000 is allowed for depreciation, debenture and loan interest, after crediting interest received, requires £33,270, directors' fees, and managing director's commission take £13,977, and debenture trustees' fees amount to £420. Then £1,190 is written off preliminary expenses and £10,497 off special expenses of preference share and debenture issues, leaving a balance of £123,056. To that is added £95,625 brought forward, making £218,681, and after meeting the preference dividend with £23,750 the directors provide 6 per cent. for the ordinary shares and carry forward £104,931. Up to the present the reserve fund question has not been thought of, and it seems to us that in view of the capital outlay for the year of £391,922, raising the property and goodwill account to £2,502,800, the depreciation allowance of £25,000 is a little ridiculous. Loose plant and tools are set down at £100,491 without hint of wastage provision, and we note that on some of the stock, which is altogether valued at £358,466, the profit has already been taken. Aggregate floating liabilities reach £183,926, against which the company has debtors £205,699, including £24,267 owing by Mr. Beardmore, investments and loans £134,070, and cash and bills £91,234. Special issue expenses still stand at £30,501, and at the present rate will be extinguished in three years, and the balance of the preliminary expenses, £1,190, will doubtless disappear during the current twelve months. Balance-sheet adds up to £3,402,607, of which £3,000,000 is represented, on the debit side, by the ordinary shares £1,500,000, the preference shares £500,000, and the debenture debt £1,000,000.

ELEY BROS., LIMITED.

Here we have an excellent illustration of the soundness of the principles we always advocate in connection with the finances of joint-stock companies. The company is a large and important manufacturer of sporting ammunition, and for a long time made really splendid profits, although they were not always so good as appeared on the surface. But stress of competition and more up-to-date methods on the part of competitors gradually undermined the company's business, and a year ago the position began to look a little serious. Profits were down to about £10,000, having fallen steadily from £60,000 to that figure. So a shareholders' committee was appointed to give things a general overhaul, and at the annual meeting of the company held the other day some rather important admissions had to be made. For example, until 1904 no depreciation had been written off the machinery and plant for 26 years, a fact which must have reflected itself on the trading profits to a very important degree. This neglect naturally prevented the directors from spending money freely on modernising the plant, and so enabling the company to meet the ever growing competition because the valuation of the item was already too big. Not only that, but the position must be faced sooner or later, and it is now necessary to write off the tidy sum of £24,857, reducing the machinery and plant to £45,680. All this money must come from reserve, which fortunately is pretty substantial at £89,857, a sum of £11,069 having been credited from the past year's profits and £3,788 on account of a transfer from leasehold property account. Reserve is now £65,000, and still stands in good relation to the total property valuation of £138,536, apart from the plant and machinery. A rather important sale took place during the year, £27,878 being received for the Pancras Road property. Only £19,043 is owing to sundry creditors, against debtors £72,763 and cash and bills £12,098. The stocks on hand are worth £128,656, meaning a good all round position, and with more enlightened methods the company should be able to recover its former excellent position. It went a good way towards that end during 1905, the nett profit being returned at £28,851. That is raised to £30,558 by the sum brought forward, from which debenture and loan interest takes £2,355, and directors' remuneration £2,000. Then £800 is written off the patent rights in Clay Bird Traps, £11,068 goes to reserve, and after providing a dividend of 5 per cent. there is £1,835 to be carried forward.

UNITED LIMMER AND VORWOLFE ROCK ASPHALTE CO., LIMITED.

This company's reserve having now reached the sum of £51,851 compared with the total capital of £60,000, the directors have brought forward resolutions for the customary juggle. It will be on the old familiar lines; that is to say, a special bonus of 10s. per share will be distributed to the shareholders, absorbing £30,000, and at the same time the capital will be increased by 30,000 new £1 shares. These will be offered to existing proprietors, who will doubtless readily subscribe, the effect being that they will receive for nothing one new share for every two now held. Whether future dividends will be lowered in proportion to the increased capital remains to be seen, but that is the usual experience, although in fairness it should be pointed out that last year less than half the profits were distributed in order to provide a 10 per cent. dividend. It is not improbable, therefore, that the dividend will be maintained, and the shareholders reap tangible advantages, albeit we must not forget that the finances must be correspondingly weakened. Real reserves imply strength, reserves as capital do not. Still many companies have similarly rearranged their capital with less justification than this one, because the financial position is undoubtedly good. Reserve, as already noted, is £51,851, against a paid-up capital of £60,000, and only £4,317 is owing to sundry creditors. The company has no other debts in any shape, and can point to such useful assets as investments at cost £15,347, debtors £14,246, stocks £7,363, and cash £10,714. The mines, freehold land, buildings, machinery, movable plant, &c., are valued at £72,751. Profit for the twelve months to December 31, including £283 for interest and transfer fees, was £13,919, and after providing £1,780 for administration and commission the balance over is £12,139. It provides a dividend of 10 per cent., with £6,000 to reserve, and an increase from £1,113 to £1,252 in the sum carried forward. The company's capital is to be raised to £100,000, so that after providing for the bonus shares £10,000 will remain in reserve.

SWAN AND EDGAR, LIMITED.

This company's profits fell off about £4,000 to £32,700 during the year ended January 31, the total including £20 for transfer fees. Nevertheless the directors say that the turnover again showed a marked improvement over that of any previous year. The margin of profit, therefore, must have been smaller. After providing directors' and auditors' fees, mortgage, loan, and deposit interest, and writing off £12,703 against leases, fixtures and for alterations and improvements, the nett balance is £15,279. To that is added £3,039 brought forward making £18,318, and the directors again propose dividends of 12½ per cent. on the preference and ordinary shares. The allocation to reserve, however, is cut down by one-half to £3,000, and the balance carried forward is reduced to £2,818. Reserve account now reaches £41,000, which is a very fair accumulation, although the company still continues to spend capital very freely. Last twelve months the outlay was £16,703, against which £12,703 was written off as already mentioned, leaving the leases, fixtures, fittings, alterations and improvements account at £172,000. In this total fixtures and fittings account represents £26,190. There is a mortgage on certain property of £37,500, but against that the company has a redemption policy on which the premiums paid with interest amount to £10,783. Sundry creditors reach £28,829 and £79,677 is owing on loan and deposit accounts, so that the company keeps the rather large cash balance of £44,453. Sundry debtors are not very important at £17,652, and stock-in-trade is valued at £51,290, a very fair position take it all round.

JAY'S, LIMITED.

We are very glad to note a considerable improvement in the revenue of this well known business for the twelve months ended January 31, because during the previous two years the profits had fallen by over 50 per cent., and unless the retrogression had been arrested the position would have been rather disturbing. Nett profits are now returned at £36,303 or an advance of £8,449 over 1904, but the total is still some £12,500 below the earnings of the year before that. Moreover the sum now brought forward is fully £4,000 less at £1,169, thanks to dividend payments in excess of earnings twelve months ago, so that after including £60 for transfer fees the credit for disposal is £37,533 against £33,160. Income-tax requires £1,408 and directors' fees £547 leaving £35,578, which enables the board to pay the preference dividend and add a bonus of 1 per cent. to the 7½ per cent. paid on the ordinary shares. A sum of £5,000 is then written off property account and £1,365 carried forward. No additions were made to the freehold and leasehold premises during the year, and the amount now to be set aside will reduce them to £382,792. Against this there is a leasehold reserve of £17,414 separately invested in high-class and other securities. In addition the general reserve stands at £77,500, and although this is invested entirely in the business, the general financial position is a pretty strong one. Stock-in-trade is valued at £75,134, cash amounts to £14,051, and sundry debtors owe £65,746 against £6,519 only due to creditors.

PLUMMER, RODDIS, LIMITED.

This seaside drapery business again did poorly in the year to February 7, the trading profit being only £67 better than in the previous twelve months at a total of £11,871. Transfer fees gave £31, making £11,902, and after providing £1,320 for directors' remuneration and income-tax the balance over is £10,582. To meet the preference dividend requires £4,750, and the directors manage to squeeze out 4 per cent. or 1½ more for the ordinary shares by reducing the carry forward from £1,764 to £946

Reserve must remain at £15,000, and the drop of about £2,000 to £181,646 in the freehold and leasehold premises and goodwill does not point to very lavish depreciation allowance. Trading accounts are rather adverse, but stocks are valued at £69,448 and cash is fair at £18,107.

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The new life business done by this society again reached very satisfactory proportions, the nett amount assured being £1,757,534, yielding £65,121 in annual premiums and £5,489 in single payments. Total premium income was £621,961 or an increase of £36,358, and the revenue from all sources was £52,014 larger at £834,563, while claims, including bonuses, took £55,097 less at £305,685. Expenses and commissions absorbed £100,890 or 16.22 per cent. of the premiums against 16.82 per cent. a year ago, and after putting an extra £500 at £2,500 to superannuation fund and meeting other outgoings £384,454 or £106,407 more was added to the accumulated funds, raising them to £5,336,854. The consideration received for annuities was £109,953, and with £25,184 from interest, the annuity funds, after deducting all charges, were increased by £72,989 to £638,945, while the result of the year's working in the leasehold, accident, and general branch was an addition of £84,602 to £547,582 in the fund. Including £1,443 for share of interim bonuses the proprietors' revenue for the year was £21,590, of which £18,000 was required for the usual dividend of 5 per cent., and expenses of management took £518, leaving £3,072 to be added to the balance of £426,915 brought forward.

LEEDS AND LIVERPOOL CANAL COMPANY.

In the half-year to December 31 the gross revenue advanced from £76,824 to £79,382, but as the expenditure increased by over £3,000 to £63,638, nett revenue was £664 lower at £15,744. Traffic through the Summit level of the canal was again interrupted by drought for thirty-one days, and was further interfered with by the bursting of a conduit under the canal at Lathom, so that the outlay on maintenance was exceptionally heavy. After paying the interest on the debenture stocks, on the terminable loans and carrying £2,742 against £4,500 to the subsidies and special expenditure account, the balance available for dividend is £15,329 against £10,056, as nearly £4,200 more was brought in. The insurance of contingent funds are again ignored, and after meeting the dividend on the 3½ per cent. preference stock, the distribution on the ordinary stock is again one per cent. per annum, leaving £900 less at £1,094, to be carried forward. Capital expenditure amounted to £5,429, of which £2,248 was caused by the subsidies. As £864 was received from the sale of land, etc., the nett outlay was £4,565, charged to the subsidies and special expenditure account, reducing it to £2,000.

FULLER'S, LIMITED.

During the twelve months ended December 30 this company gathered a profit from branches and agencies of £18,718, and £5 came in from transfer fees, making £18,723 in all. From that general and other expenses require £6,238 and depreciations £5,800, so that after providing income-tax £390, directors' fees £600, and law expenses £189 the nett balance is £5,505. That is much the same as for the previous year, but the preference dividend and sinking fund insurance premium of £542 having been met, the directors see fit to raise the dividend on the ordinary shares from 5 per cent. to 7½. That means no allocation to reserve against £1,500 and a decline in the carry forward from £1,811 to £1,302. To increase the dividend is therefore anything but a wise proceeding, as the reserve only stands at £8,500. The freehold land and buildings at Hammersmith valued at £32,943 have been mortgaged for £15,000 in order to redeem bankers' loans, and it is only fair to point out that a sinking fund has been initiated to extinguish this mortgage, the premium on which has been provided from profits. Other premises are valued at £41,195, and besides a favourable trade balance, the company possesses cash £4,161 and stocks £7,804.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Only a moderate amount of business has been done, and the markets as a rule have had an easier tendency. Supplies of English wheat in one or two places have been scarce compared with last week, and this has had a steadying effect, but farmers' deliveries as a whole were liberal, 68,737 qrs. compared with 38,118 qrs. a year ago, with the result that the average price is lower than ever—28s. 5d. per qr., against 30s. 9d. a year ago. Imports amount to 394,893 qrs., compared with 551,647 in the same week last year, and the quantities of wheat and flour afloat to the United Kingdom are again larger than ever. This week they amount to 4,100,000 qrs., against 4,005,000 last week. Speculative positions improved a little on the strength of better cables from America during the latter part of the week, the market over these advancing as a rule. An occasional set-back occurred on good crop news, or a poor flour trade, but was promptly checked on good buying by prominent interests and activity in cash wheat. Bradstreet gives the quantities in sight east of the Rockies at 70,626,000 bushels, against 70,530,000 last week, and 51,374,000 a year ago.

WOOL.—The record of this year's series of colonial sales commenced in London last Tuesday, and the available quantity for the eleven days shows a decrease of 44,000 bales compared with the corresponding sale of last year. With consumption so heavy, prices naturally went up, and in the first few days merinos and fine crossbreds rose 5 to 7½ per cent., coarse and medium crossbreds fully 10 per cent. The rise was to a great extent

anticipated by the Bradford market, but prices there have naturally stiffened, and tops of all descriptions are about $\frac{1}{2}$ d. dearer. Markets are animated, though considerable difficulty occurs between sellers and consumers as to a settled basis of values, the latter maintaining that the present rise is due to a temporary scarcity. Spinners are busy, and those who have already secured a good quantity of raw material are in a good position, but those who have let their stocks get low in the hope of a fall find themselves rather awkwardly placed. Manufacturers are better employed all round, but still complain of their lack of profits.

LINEN.—The transactions in the yarn market were heavy last week, and prices for all descriptions went steadily higher. Coarse weft numbers sold in large quantities at a rise of $\frac{7}{8}$ d. per bundle, and for ordinary range numbers 4s. $10\frac{1}{2}$ d. per bundle was freely given, an advance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. Business in damask yarns is better than it has been for some time, and though manufacturers are not yet enthusiastic, they also say that demand for them is on the up grade. Otherwise there is nothing to report upon the trade, except that union goods seem to be gaining strength every week, and that demand from the U.S. is steadily growing. Last year's yield of flax in Ireland was probably the largest ever obtained, increasing from 29.4 stories per acre in 1904 to 37.7 stories in 1905, the acreage sown showing an increase of 1,865 acres or 4.2 per cent. over 1904.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—During the week under review a firm tone has shown itself in our market, but the turnover has been less than in some weeks since the beginning of the year. Here and there small transactions have been arranged for different markets, but buyers have not been as keen to enter the market as a few weeks ago. The position of manufacturers is very strong, and business is not at all easy to arrange. The raw material in Liverpool has fluctuated as usual, and at the close of the week values are on a rather lower basis than at the beginning. News received a few days ago with regard to the East Indian crop is rather disappointing. It seems likely that the yield will be about five hundred and seventy-five thousand bales less than last year. High authorities, however, in Manchester consider that the crop will be much the same as 1905. In piece goods for export small transactions have been arranged here and there, but most of the offers from India have been too low for acceptance by manufacturers. The aggregate sales for our dependency have not been important. Most makers, however, of fine goods are deeply engaged, and buyers have difficulty in paying the price, and giving the required delivery. China business has only been done to a small extent. The stocks of piece goods in Shanghai are still extensive, and until clearances are made, new orders to make on a large scale cannot be expected. The Levant has dealt here and there in goods of a miscellaneous character, but not much has been done for Egypt. Printing cloths have been sold to a fair extent for the outlets of South America. The minor markets on the whole have not been very active. Buyers have hesitated to pay to-day's rates, and give such long time for the completion of orders. T-cloths and Mexicans continue well held, and both Burnley and Cheshire printing cloths are well sold, and late rates firmly adhered to. Here and there orders have again been given out in goods suitable for the home trade. Cops made from American cotton for home consumption have not been in very active demand, but spinners for the most part have held firmly to late rates. Users have not been in the mood to purchase before hand, and retail orders have only been placed. The margin for the better kinds of cop twist and ring yarn continues remunerative. Coarse weft rather lags behind, and so does common cop twist. Shipping yarns have been quiet in demand, but spinners, owing to their engagements, have held firmly to quotations. Cops for the Continent in the earlier part of the week moved fairly well. Egyptian yarns are rather easier in quotation, but the demand from users has been quite unimportant.

As usual, the cotton market in New York has been very erratic, with no pronounced tendency. It opened weak, prices falling a little on reports of favourable weather and "bear" pressure, but quotations quickly recovered on an unfavourable weather forecast, covering by shorts and a little "bull" support. Subsequently prices went lower, and steadied a little towards the end of the week. Closing prices were: March-April, 5.58d.; April-May, 5.60d.; May-June, 5.62d.; June-July, 5.64d.; July-August, 5.66d.; August-September, 5.63d.; September-October, 5.51d.; October-November, 5.46d.; November-December, 5.45d.

COAL.—Again house coals have had a lift through the cold weather, and for the present there is no further word of lower prices. In the steam branches activity is the rule everywhere, and apart from home requirements, which are good, much is expected when the export season gets into full swing. As it is, the figures of the Hull returns show a remarkable activity for what may be considered the passive season, the total exports for the first two months of the year amounting to 295,445 tons against 210,644 tons in the corresponding months of last year. Prices in the North of England are still going up, and in gas coals sellers are refusing the London gas companies' offers of 9d. more than they paid for last year's contracts, as from other consumers they can get as much as 1s. to 1s. 6d. Shipments for the Scottish ports show an increase during the week of 54,742 tons compared with the same week last year, and prices in this part of the country are steady. Quotations on the Welsh exchanges remain about the same, though with an evident hardening tendency, and trade is brisk.

COPPER.—Business has been fairly active in this market, and it is stated that consumers are taking a renewed interest. Consumption is large, and the big shipbuilding programmes of all countries mean a big demand for copper for a long time ahead.

Trade in refined is reported active, and heavy buying for April and May delivery of lake and electro has lately taken place. It is said that the Calumet and Hecla have sold their make-up to the end of June. The opening was strong on American advices, and good buying orders, and although there was a slight hesitation at one time on the small speculative interest, the tone soon firmed up. Closing figures were £80 $\frac{3}{4}$ for cash and £78 $\frac{3}{4}$ for three months.

TIN.—The tendency was again strong at the opening, and a continuance of buying orders soon established a further improvement in values. Subsequently the market became a little irregular, but buying orders from America, good speculative continuance of buying orders soon established a further improved a strong tone again, and the closing prices were steady at £167 for spot, and £164 $\frac{3}{4}$ for three months.

IRON AND STEEL.—Business continues to keep quiet, but manufacturers are still confident. There are moderate orders for finished iron, especially for round and flat bars, and selling rates are maintained. The hematite iron trade in the North is steadier, and there has consequently been no further reduction in prices. It is not generally expected that prices will improve as long as merchants and others hold large stocks, but there is a good prospect of a more active demand by the reopening of sales on Bessemer steel making account. In Middlesbrough the demand exceeds production, and the stocks in the public warrant stores are being drawn upon. Foundry and forge iron is scarce and firm, and East Coast hematite is in better request at higher prices, whilst exports of pig-iron are increasing. After falling to the lowest price this year, Cleveland warrants advanced this week to 45s. 9d. cash, and the tendency is still upwards. In Scotland the condition of trade is, on the whole, satisfactory. There is, of course, room for improvement in some departments, but in the larger industries works are well supplied and business is active.

SUGAR.—There has again been a good demand for sugar from consumers this week, and with a scarcity of ready granulated, which commands $\frac{3}{4}$ d. premium over March and even May-August, prices for these deliveries have advanced. As an effect of this there was an active inquiry for English refined, resulting in an advance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. This enabled our refiners to pay a corresponding advance on raws, raising paper quotations under the influence of unfavourable weather reports from Cuba and lower crop estimates. Part of this improvement was lost when the Cuban receipts were advised as having reached the full figure of 56,000 against 47,000 tons, says Mr. Czarnikow, and when the French and especially the German consumption in February turned out disappointing. The American market continues its upward tendency, and there are buyers of spot as well as forward sugars at an advance of fully $\frac{1}{8}$ cent. Landings in the three ports for the week were 52,000 tons and meltings 37,000 tons, raising stocks to 226,000 tons.

TEA.—The tone of the Indian auctions again showed an improvement this week, and the improved flavour of the invoices from Assam and Dooars brought a still further rise in prices even of common teas. 36,239 packages were offered, and sales amounted to 33,092 packages, averaging 7.25d. against 7.09d. last week. Ceylon importers brought forward 22,816 packages, and here also the improvement of last week was fully maintained, the average price obtained for the week amounting to 7.10d. against 6.78d. last week. Java sales of 3,181 packages met with a good demand, and for all useful sorts prices tended in sellers' favour.

MINING RETURNS.

Alaska Mexican Gold.—Crushed 19,572 tons ore, value \$21,691; saved 825 tons sulphurets, value \$17,381.

Alaska Treadwell Gold.—Crushed 34,832 tons ore, value \$39,935; saved 600 tons sulphurets, value \$30,348.

Alaska United Gold.—Crushed 20,060 tons ore, value \$26,130; saved 301 tons sulphurets, value \$10,721.

Angelo.—Tons milled 14,608, 4,587 ozs.; tons sands, 10,866, 3,100 ozs.; tons slimes 2,234, 280 ozs.; total output 7,967 ozs.

Battlefields (Rhodesia).—682 tons, 503 ozs.; cyanide 580 tons, 337 ozs.

Bayley's Mines.—Crushed 123 tons, 430 ozs. gold; concentrates, sands, and slimes have not yet been reckoned.

Bibiani Goldfields.—Crushed 2,864 tons, 1,873 ozs.; 3,260 tons tailings, £2,762.

Brilliant Extended.—Crushed 3,074 tons, total value £9,492.

British Broken Hill Proprietary.—4,799 tons crude ore produced 713 tons concentrates, containing approximately 443 tons lead and 20,020 ozs. silver.

Cape Copper.—Ookiep, 924 tons of 14 per cent., equal to 129 tons fine copper. Nababeep, 3,993 tons of 4.2 per cent., equal to 167 tons fine copper.

Carrington's Lion P.C.—10,200 tons for £960; tailings assay 7 dwts. gold, $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. copper; sludges assay 18 dwts. gold, $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. copper.

Chinese Engineering and Mining.—Output 24,000 tons; sales 19,150 tons; consumption 2,000 tons.

Clitters United.—1,518 tons; mineral sold and on hand, value £2,393.

Consolidated Gold Fields of New Zealand.—Progress—Crushed 4,000 tons, value £8,198. Wealth of Nations—Crushed 965 tons, value £2,120.

Copiano.—580 tons copper ores, averaging 14 per cent.

Day Dawn Block and Wyndham Gold.—1,560 tons, value £2,800.

De Lamar.—Prospecting and development, \$11,100; mill reconstruction, machinery, \$3,500; mill reconstruction, extraneous

expenses, \$850; repairs, \$600; total amount, \$16,050; pan mill clean up nett proceeds of proportion of product realised upon during last month \$670; miscellaneous \$200.

Driefontein.—Tons 19,016, 3,589 ozs.; tons sands 15,631, 2,494 ozs.; tons slimes 4,742, 408 ozs.; total output, 6,491 ozs.

Durban-Rodeport.—9,705 tons, 3,386 ozs.; tailings 6,125 tons, 910 ozs.; slimes 780 tons, 64 ozs.; total 4,360 ozs.

East Gwanda.—East Gwanda mill—Crushed 4,571 tons, 758 ozs.; concentrates, 133 tons, 324 ozs.; Geelong cyanide 2,040 tons, 131 ozs.; total yield 1,213 ozs.

Elandslaagte Gold.—Milled 2,300 tons; cyanided 2,100 tons; total 528 ozs.

El Oro Mining and Railway.—Crushed 18,372 tons, producing total of U.S. \$181,171. Profit from railway, U.S. \$5,000, nett profit £17,880.

Geldenhuis Estate.—Crushed 15,675 tons; from mill, 4,061 ozs.; from tailings by cyanide, 1,888 ozs.; from slimes, 698 ozs.; total, 6,647 ozs.

Globe and Phoenix.—Crushed 5,653 tons, 3,109 ozs.; cyanide, 3,800 tons, 530 ozs.

Golden Horse Shoe Estates.—Ore 18,409 tons, 12,640 ozs.

Great Boulder Perseverance.—Sulphide plant treated 11,997 tons, 7,332 ozs. gold and 934 ozs. silver.

Hannan's Reward and Mount Charlotte.—Tons crushed 705, 369 ozs.; royalties from tributors £203.

Hyderabad (Deccan).—Output of coal from the Singareni Collieries, 37,304 tons.

Ida H. Gold.—1,259 tons crushed, 944 ozs.

Johannesburg Consolidated Investment.—New Primrose, 6,585 ozs., 13,925 tons; Glencairn Main Reef, 3,877 ozs., 12,144 tons; Ginsberg, 2,875 ozs., 7,161 tons; New Rietfontein, 4,420 ozs., 8,000 tons; Witwatersrand, 8,962 ozs., 27,450 tons; Consolidated Langlaagte, 5,287 ozs., 15,639 tons; New United Main Reef, 2,072 ozs., 7,662 tons; Buffelsdoorn, 527 ozs. from 2,600 tons slimes.

Jubilee.—1,171 ozs. from 5,032 tons crushed; cyanide, 615 ozs. from 3,521 tons.

Lake View Consols.—9,716 tons treated, 2,800 ozs.; 3,120 tons old tailings, 605 ozs.; total, 3,405 ozs.

Langlaagte Estate.—Ore crushed, 25,140 tons, 4,735 ozs. concentrates. Cyanide—Tons 475, 720 ozs. Tailings—Cyanide, tons 17,600, 1,645 ozs. Slimes—Tons 9,720, 902 ozs. Total 8,002 ozs.

Matabele Reefs.—Crushed 1,518 tons, 622 ozs.

Mills's Day Dawn United.—Crushed 1,438 tons, value £4,600.

Mount Lyell Blocks.—Treated 3,884 tons crude ore for 46 tons 11 cwt. 2 qrs. 2 lbs. copper.

New Comet.—Tons milled 14,397, 2,998 ozs.; tons sands 10,001, 2,246 ozs.; total output, 5,244 ozs.

New Heriot.—3,519 ozs., 8,410 tons crushed.

New Kleinfontein.—Tons milled 27,752, 6,426 ozs.; tons sands 19,764, 2,703 ozs.; tons slimes 7,624, 350 ozs.; total output, 9,479 ozs.

Nigel Deep.—2,983 tons, 1,899 ozs.

North Broken Hill.—Treated 1,210 tons, producing 230 tons concentrates, containing 100 tons of lead and 2,415 ozs. silver.

North Randfontein.—Ore crushed 13,169 tons, 3,422 ozs. Concentrates—Cyanide, 1,410 tons, 502 ozs. Tailings—Cyanide, 7,755 tons, 1,363 ozs. Slimes—3,981 tons, 476 ozs.; total, 5,763 ozs.

Oroville Dredging.—Gross returns \$18,600.

Palmarajo and Mexican.—Crushed 3,268 tons, treated 2,600 tons, producing \$14,040 gold, \$41,580 silver.

Penhalonga Proprietary.—Crushed 4,600 tons, 622 ozs.; 61 tons concentrates, 378 ozs.; total, 1,000 ozs.

Porges Randfontein.—Ore crushed 12,571 tons, 3,868 ozs. Concentrates—cyanide, 1,446 tons, 565 ozs. Tailings—cyanide, 7,812 tons, 1,253 ozs. Slimes—3,493 tons, 352 ozs. Total, 6,038 ozs.

Rhodesia Consolidated.—Nelly: 1,340 tons crushed, 618 ozs.; 1,091 tons by cyanide, 383 ozs., equals 1,001 ozs. Sabi: 630 tons crushed, 148 ozs.; 460 tons by cyanide, 141 ozs., equals 289 ozs. Total 1,290 ozs.

Rhodesia Goldfields.—Crushed 1,625 tons, 283 ozs.; cyanide, 1,100 tons, 167 ozs.

Robinson Deep.—26,638 tons, 14,197 ozs.

Robinson Randfontein.—Ore crushed 13,421 tons, 2,999 ozs. Concentrates cyanide, 1,360 tons, 397 ozs. Tailings, cyanide, 8,190 tons, 1,280 ozs. Slimes—5,157 tons, 440 ozs. Total, 5,116 ozs.

Salisbury.—1,530 ozs., 5,300 tons crushed.

South Randfontein.—Ore crushed, 12,715 tons, 3,350 ozs. Concentrates, cyanide, 1,200 tons, 380 ozs. Tailings, cyanide, 7,315 tons, 1,371 ozs. Slimes—4,208 tons, 563 ozs. Total, 5,654 ozs.

Star of the East.—Trial crushing 129 tons for 88 ozs.; tailings assay 6 dwts. per ton.

Sulphide.—14,693 tons milled, producing 2,528 tons lead concentrates, also 3,001 tons middlings, and 5,676 tons tailings treated, producing respectively 991 and 2,078 tons zinc concentrates. 2,277 tons lead concentrates, 237 tons residues, and 1,030 tons purchased ores smelted, yielding 1,619 tons lead, containing 108,473 ozs. silver and 5,666 ozs. gold. There was also treated 227 tons zinc concentrates, producing 49 tons.

Tanganyika Concessions.—Ruwe Mine—Boxes, 250 ozs.

Tasmanian Copper.—2,575 tons of ore, fluxes, &c., producing 160 tons of copper matte, assaying 58 per cent. copper.

Vivien Gold.—1,312 tons, 319 ozs.; 900 tons tailings, 98 ozs.; 317 tons current slimes, 40 ozs.

Worcester Exploration.—591 ozs.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Horncastle.—At the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum for the past half-year.

San Paulo (Brazilian).—For the half-year ended Dec. 31 on the ordinary stock of 5 per cent., being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 1 per cent., placing £50,000 to reserve, £100,000 to rolling stock-suspense account, £30,000 to income-tax fund, and £162,000 forward.

Piræus, Athens, Peloponnesus.—3.50 drachmas per share for 1905.

Wellington and Manawatu Railway.—4 per cent. for the half-year ended Feb. 28.

BANKS.

Colonial.—3½ per cent. for the half-year ended Dec. 31, being at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum.

Northern.—Interim at the rates of 11 per cent. per annum on the "A" shares and 5½ per cent. per annum on the "B" shares for the half-year ended Feb. 28.

Yokohama Specie.—12 per cent. per annum for the six months ended Dec. 31, placing yen 360,000 to reserve, yen 200,000 to silver reserve, yen 1,000,000 to special reserve, and yen 678,000 forward.

MINES.

Ferreira Deep.—Interim dividend of 17½ per cent. for half-year ending March, 1906.

Globe and Phoenix Gold.—2s. 6d. per share, making 4s. per share for 1905.

Great Fingall Consolidated.—Quarterly interim of 5s. per share, payable April 10.

Kaiguri Gold.—Interim No. 16 of 5s. per share, payable April 6.

Zeehan Montana.—Dividend of 1s. 3d. per share, making 10 per cent. for 1905.

MISCELLANEOUS.

African Steamship.—Final of 8s. per share, making 14s. per share, for the year ended Dec. 31.

Alexander Pirie and Sons.—3 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £10,000 to reserve and £1,006 forward.

Australian Mutual Shipping.—10 per cent. for 1905.

Bon Marché.—Final of 6½ per cent., together with a bonus of 4 per cent., making 14 per cent. for the year ended Feb. 15, placing £3,000 to reserve and £2,626 forward.

British American Land.—Further of 12s. 6d. per share on the "A" shares, making 25s. per share for the past year, with £1,000 appropriated to the redemption of "B" shares.

Cammell, Laird, and Co.—7½ per cent., making for the year 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares.

Campbell, Johnstone, and Co.—At the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares.

Coltness Iron.—Interim at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares and the usual interim dividends on the first and second preference shares for the half-year ended Jan. 31.

Edwin Woodhouse and Co.—7½ per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended Jan. 31. £524 carry forward.

Gandy Belt Manufacturing.—Further of 3 per cent., making 5½ per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31; £3,000 written off goodwill and patents, £1,000 added to reserve, and £1,011 carried forward.

Glasgow Subway.—1¼ per cent. on the ordinary stock, carrying forward £1,131.

Hunter and Ryland.—Dividend of 8 per cent. for the year.

J. Mandleberg.—10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 19.

Nicholson's.—Final of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 7½ per cent. for the year ended Feb. 12, placing £1,750 to reserve, and £603 forward.

Peter Robinson.—Dividend and bonus on the ordinary shares of 18 per cent. per annum, placing £10,000 to reserve and carrying forward £23,155.

Shanghai Water Works.—37s. 6d. per share.

Sheffield United Gas Light.—For the half-year ended Dec. 31, of 5 per cent. on Class "A," "B," and "C" stocks.

Standard Property Investment.—10 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £1,250 to reserve.

Stanley Brothers.—Further of 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 6 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying £7,631 forward.

Thompson and Shackell.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Val de Travers Asphalt Paving.—Further of 1s. per share, making 1s. 6d. per share for 1905.

LICENCES INSURANCE CORPORATION AND GUARANTEE FUND, LIMITED.

Business fell off with this company in 1905, and nett premiums were £5,255 lower at £92,758, while claims paid, after deducting £36,975 reserved for claims in suspense at the end of the previous year, took £5,397 more at £57,204. Expenses of management and commissions at the same time rose by £2,209 to £31,173, and the nett result of the year's working, including receipts from interest, &c., was a profit of £10,112 compared with £13,379. With a smaller balance of £3,461 brought forward, the amount available was £4,015 smaller at £13,573, but no allocation to special reserves was considered necessary against £10,000 provided last year, so that the dividend of 6 per cent. is repeated and £9,446 is carried forward. The transfer of £10,000 set aside in 1904 as a guarantee for the mutual brewers' class has been released, owing to the class now possessing funds exceeding this figure, and the sum is added to general reserve, raising it to £50,000.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and March 10, 1906:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Mar. 10, 1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Mar. 11, 1905.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£ —	£ 6,352,909	£ 3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	32,631,000	34,054,000
Excise	30,200,000	28,342,000	28,925,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	12,224,000	11,646,000
Stamps	8,000,000	7,682,000	7,052,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	2,360,000	2,520,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	27,078,000	27,710,000
Post Office	16,500,000	15,080,000	14,480,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	3,875,000	3,605,000
Crown Lands	470,000	440,000	—
Receipts from Suez Canal	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,051,000	1,077,955	992,826
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	1,340,874	1,270,434
*Revenue	142,454,000	132,130,829	132,695,260
Total, including balance		139,561,107	136,959,102
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	880,000	510,000
Repayment of Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	225,000	—
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	—	700,000	1,120,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..	—	191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905	—	2,175,000	1,884,500
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..	—	1,262,408	1,800,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900	—	23,000	11,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	148,000	149,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..	—	—	35,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900	—	—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	—	5,912,631
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905	—	9,854,604	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904	—	1,000,000	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares	—	8,461	7,460
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..	—	—	1,000,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency	—	2,000,000	8,600,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £4,500,000 Treasury Bills in 1905-6) and £13,500,000 in 1904-5	—	8,000,000	21,800,000
Total		166,029,172	186,203,183
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	132,130,829	132,695,260
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	155,799	164,279
Excise	5,291,000	5,075,851	4,994,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	3,857,839	3,796,242
Total	9,756,000	9,089,489	8,955,194
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	141,220,318	141,650,454

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Mar. 10, 1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Mar. 11, 1905.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£ 28,000,000	£ 25,627,473	£ 24,714,932
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	1,475,867	1,454,187
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	743,967	743,927
Supply Services	111,304,000	97,155,196	100,586,550
Expenditure	142,084,000	125,002,503	127,499,596
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	540,000	470,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	180,000	45,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900	—	10,000,000	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	—	750,000	700,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905	—	3,216,000	3,453,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..	—	900,000	3,500,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	—	23,000	11,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	193,000	149,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..	—	—	35,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..	—	616,374	29,000
Surplus Revenue 1904-1905 applied to reduce Debt	—	1,413,907	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares, applied to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1898 ..	—	8,461	7,460
Deficiency Advances repaid ..	—	486,093	8,600,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid	—	8,000,000	23,800,000
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	1906. Mar. 10. £ 13,318,518	1905. Mar. 11. £ 10,355,407	—
Bank of Ireland	1,181,316	1,048,220	—
Total		151,529,338	174,799,556
Total		166,029,172	186,203,183

Treasury, March 13, 1906.

RHODESIAN MINING RETURNS.

The big decline in the Rhodesian output for February is not due to the shorter month, for the daily average is less than that for January—1,358 against 1,385 ozs. The total is 38,037 ozs. compared with 42,950 ozs. for the preceding month, a drop of 4,913 ozs. Compared with February, 1905, there is an improvement of 7,906 ozs. The output of other minerals was:—silver, 4,891 ozs; lead, 35 tons; and coal 9,524 tons.

Name of Company.	Oct. Tons.	Oct. Ozs.	Nov. Tons.	Nov. Ozs.	Dec. Tons.	Dec. Ozs.	Jan. Tons.	Jan. Ozs.	Feb. Tons.	Feb. Ozs.
Antenor (Matabele)	1,040	957	1,110	915	1,200	985	1,370	1,067	1,130	904
Ayrshire	9,415	2,998	9,314	2,890	10,008	3,063	10,050	3,091	8,722	2,903
Battlefields	—	—	—	—	—	—	820	1,180	682	840
East Gwanda	4,425	2,713	3,067	1,821	4,425	2,024	5,287	2,140	4,571	1,213
Gaika	1,015	502	1,068	637	1,326	620	1,389	650	1,254	606
Giant	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,335	2,207	4,051	2,111
Globe and Phoenix	6,515	4,085	6,222	4,049	6,410	4,045	6,435	4,070	5,653	3,639
Golden Valley	769	557	—	—	—	—	1,050	713	1,060	703
Killarney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hibernia	3,782	1,513	3,790	1,517	3,400	1,363	3,938	1,551	3,914	1,555
Morven	658	700	302	353	1,015	700	2,101	805	1,430	658
Penhalonga	5,100	1,163	4,650	1,014	4,850	991	4,950	991	4,600	1,000
Rhodesia Consolidated	—	—	2,105	1,622	2,169	1,316	2,497	1,445	1,970	1,290
Rhodesia Mines	645	303	585	296	575	297	722	313	640	349
Selukwe	6,126	2,143	6,000	2,072	6,530	2,334	6,322	2,274	5,844	2,026
Surprise	2,902	1,643	2,838	1,088	3,082	1,611	3,002	1,086	2,743	1,807
Theta	1,404	542	1,500	631	1,260	873	1,475	885	1,205	1,042
Wanderer	15,810	2,062	15,578	2,828	13,020	2,347	16,182	2,597	14,322	2,015
Willoughby's	—	—	—	—	—	1,402	538	1,307	717	1,376
Total	194,268	231,872	267,715	407,048	80,987					

The following table gives the total monthly return since the commencement of crushing:—

	1902. Ozs.	1903. Ozs.	1904. Ozs.	1905. Ozs.	1906. Ozs.
January ..	15,955	16,245	19,359	32,531	42,950
February ..	13,204	17,090	18,673	30,131	38,037
March ..	16,891	19,626	17,756	34,927	—
April ..	17,559	20,727	17,662	33,268	—
May ..	19,698	22,137	19,424	31,332	—
June ..	15,842	22,166	20,402	35,256	—
July ..	15,226	23,571	24,339	34,693	—
August ..	15,747	19,187	24,669	35,765	—
September ..	15,164	18,741	26,029	35,785	—
October ..	16,849	17,918	24,919	33,383	—
November ..	15,923	15,714	26,183	32,861	—
December ..	16,210	18,750	28,100	37,116	—
Total	194,268	231,872	267,715	407,048	80,987

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, MARCH 19.

African City Properties.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
 Edwards Air Pump Syndicate.—3, Crown Court, 12.30 p.m.
 Paquin.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
 San Paulo Gas.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
 Travers (J.) and Sons.—Cannon Street Hotel, 3.30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20.

Barrenea Nitrate.—Winchester House, noon.
 Direct Spanish Telegraph.—Electra House, 11.30 a.m.
 Darling and Son.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
 Great North of Scotland Railway.—Aberdeen, noon.
 Scottish Amicable Life Association.—Glasgow, noon.
 Scottish Manitoba and North-West Real Estate.—Edinburgh, noon.
 United States Debenture Corporation.—Winchester House, noon.
 White, Tomkins, and Courage.—Cannon Street Hotel, 1 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21.

Bournemouth and Poole Electricity.—Moorgate Court, 2.30 p.m.
 Bengal Iron and Steel.—Winchester House, 11.30 a.m.
 British Insulated and Helsby Cables.—Liverpool, 12.30 p.m.
 Consolidated Mining and Investment Corporation.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
 Indemnity Mutual Marine Assurance.—Winchester House, noon.
 London Guarantee and Accident.—Winchester House, noon.
 Lisbon Berlyn.—Cannon Street, Hotel, 2.30 p.m.
 Nundydroog.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
 Nile Valley.—Winchester House, 12.45 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22.

Bank of England Stock.—Bank, noon.
 Callander and Oban Railway.—Glasgow, 3 p.m.
 General and Commercial Investment Trust.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
 North British Railway.—Edinburgh, 12.30 p.m.
 Railway Investment.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.
 Spratt's Patent.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23.

France Fenwick.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
 London Road Car.—Cannon Street Hotel, 3 p.m.
 Mersey Railway.—Worcester House, noon.
 Spassky Copper Mines.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

The value of the exports from Russia from January 14 to February 25, 1906, exceeded that of the imports by 23,800,000 roubles. During the corresponding periods of 1905 and 1904 the value of exports exceeded that of the imports by 33,700,000 roubles and 4,700,000 roubles respectively.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

THE SOUTH WALES ELECTRICAL POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY.

The fourth annual general meeting of the proprietors of the South Wales Electrical Power Distribution Company was held at the Park Hotel, Cardiff, on Friday, March 9, 1906. Mr. Robert Forrest, chairman of the company, presided, and all the directors were present—namely, Lieut.-General Sir R. H. Sankey, K.C.B., R.E. (retired), deputy-chairman, Mr. W. W. Hood, Mr. W. S. B. McLaren, Mr. Henry Ruffer, Mr. Hugh Watts, and Mr. T. Hugh Weguelin, the engineer and general manager, Mr. W. A. Chamen, Mr. G. C. Downing, solicitor, and Mr. George P. Tutchter, secretary, were also present.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—It now becomes my duty to move the adoption of the report and accounts, as audited and issued to the shareholders for the twelve months ending December 31 last. These are in your hands, and if there are any points that are not clear, or upon which you desire further information, I shall be pleased to give it. At our last annual meeting I pointed out to the shareholders the many difficulties which the directors had to contend with in starting and developing the undertaking. First, there was the delay on the part of the contractors in the completion of the company's works, and then the delay in arranging with our customers—except in a few instances—to hurry on with the necessary plant required by them so as to utilise the power which our company were ready to supply; and, in fact, the actual difficulty in getting colliery and other companies to change over from steam power to electricity as quickly as we should have wished, and which they are now certain will prove greatly to their advantage; this being now generally admitted on all hands. These delays, and protracted negotiations as to the installation of the necessary plant by our customers, have been very disappointing to your directors, and I am sorry to say our troubles are not yet at an end. Your directors, I think I can state, are all good business men, and some with considerable electrical experience, but naturally none of them have special experience of electrical undertakings such as this, which is a new departure in the commercial world. We have, therefore, had to rely in a considerable measure upon our official advisers, and I am afraid rather a sanguine view had been taken of the early prospects of the company. By that I mean the rapidity with which our customers could get and couple up their colliery plant with our mains. Under advice, considerable sums of money have been expended on buildings, plant, machinery, and mains, which have not yet, and will not for some little time, become productive to the extent that we had hoped, and I am, therefore, afraid that further patience must be exercised. At Pontypridd, as you know, we have a very large station, capable of accommodating some 20,000 h.p., of which only 7,500 h.p. has up to the present been installed, and for the reasons I have explained to you only a small proportion of this plant is required to deal with the load at present existing. It would probably have been better if the company had begun in a smaller way, but these arrangements were made and contracts entered into when this company took over the undertaking from the limited company. Further, this station has been running since April, 1904, when we had to supply the customers who were then ready, but since then customers have been gradually coming on. Nevertheless, smaller engines would have done the work, and a less initial cost and loss on working at the outset would have been incurred. In connection with the outlays, we have had to put in lengths of mains which are unproductive for a time, although in every case it is apparent that custom is developing in such a way as to bring in a good revenue in the long run from all the mains which have been laid, but we have to wait until the colliery companies have got their electrical plant installed to connect up with our power. Now, gentlemen, I have put before you the rather dark side of the picture, for it is only in the last twelve months that it has become apparent, from the causes I have stated, that our expectations of a good return on our outlay are not to be realised as early as anticipated, and as we had been led to expect by our advisers. I think, however, I can safely say the other side of the picture is much brighter. I should state that some very important changes have taken place in the management and working of our undertaking. The former general manager has resigned his position, and the engineers to the company from its inception have also resigned. The directors have been very fortunate in securing the services of Mr. W. A. Chamen, until recently the engineer and manager of the electrical undertaking of the Glasgow Corporation. Mr. Chamen has taken up the position of engineer and general manager to this company, and will devote the whole of his time and energies to the affairs of the company. He has come to us with a splendid record from Glasgow, where the success of the electricity department has become almost proverbial, and has been due, to a very great extent, to Mr. Chamen. I think I am correct in saying that when Mr. Chamen took charge of the electricity department at Glasgow it was anything but a success; but by his hard work, engineering skill, and business capacity, he turned what was a comparative failure into the splendid success we know it to be to-day. We feel sure, therefore, from Mr. Chamen's past record, and the whole-hearted way in which he has thrown himself into his work during the time he has

been with us, that we have got the right man. (Applause.) Mr. Chamen has taken over the engineering as well as the management of the company, and in addition to having the benefit of his special experience and knowledge as an electricity-supply engineer, the company will be saved a considerable sum annually in engineering fees. Now, as to the future of the company, I must say that the directors are as firmly convinced as ever that the demand for electrical power in this district exists, and that we shall get the business, but we find that our customers proceed very slowly, and that the change over from steam to electricity is, up to the present at all events, a very gradual process. Then, again, as I have before stated to the shareholders, the time taken up in the installation of electrical plants at the collieries and works is very protracted. As an instance of this, I may mention a case of one of the largest collieries in the district. You will remember that I referred at the last general meeting to the contract for the supply to these collieries, the negotiations for which had taken so long. It was anticipated that the supply to these collieries would have commenced in September last. As a matter of fact, that company has only within the last fortnight or so begun to take current. The negotiations were commenced in May, 1904, and the agreement completed in February, 1905, so you will see that a year and ten months will have elapsed between the opening of negotiations and the actual commencement of supply. The same kind of thing has occurred with other collieries in the same district. The mains were laid, the sub-station built, and equipped, and the electric pressure put on in readiness for supply in October last, but up to the present time only a very small quantity of electricity has been taken, due to the backward state of the colliery company's electrical equipment. These are two typical instances of the trouble from which we are suffering. Such delays, I am afraid, colliery people are in the habit of looking upon as unavoidable, and they apparently give them no surprise whatever, but seem inexplicable to shareholders, who are anxiously waiting for the revenue which we were led to believe and fully expected would be realised ere this. I referred at the last meeting to the very gratifying feature that in practically every instance where a supply of power had been taken from us, our customers, after a short trial, had proceeded to extend their electrical plant. I am pleased to say that during the last twelve months this has been fully confirmed, and where there is room for extensions—and in the large collieries and works this is invariably the case, for as I have already said, our customers have proceeded very slowly, and only put in small installations to start with—these extensions are taking place, and in most instances we have only touched the fringe of the power our customers will, we believe, eventually require from us. I can again illustrate this by the case of the large colliery company before referred to. Here, that company, although they are only now commencing to use power from us (and they are putting down what will be the largest plant at present contemplated for taking power from our company), have already decided to go in for further extensions, and have placed orders for more plant. They have no doubt decided to do this having regard to the results obtained from electrical working by other colliery companies in the district, who are connected to our mains, and particularly the collieries at Wattstown, with which Mr. Hugh Watts, one of your directors, is connected. They were our pioneer and up to the present are our largest customer. Another colliery, also in like manner, almost before they have commenced to take their supply from us at all, and certainly before they have had sufficient time to judge of the success of our supply for their purpose from their own experience, are busy making arrangements to further considerably increase the amount of power they will take from us. These are indeed encouraging signs. In both these cases, however, we must learn by our experience not to expect to see the increase in our load and output which these extensions will bring about for some time to come. Your directors are satisfied that the inquiries for power which are coming from practically all parts of your area, will lead to a large amount of remunerative business, and others, I regret to say, we have been unable to entertain, as although we believe they would eventually prove remunerative, yet, under our present circumstances we do not feel justified in incurring the capital expenditure necessary to give the supply. We think that, as far as possible, the policy of the board with regard to the Glamorganshire undertaking should be to foster and develop the custom within reach of our existing mains, and to avoid, as far as may be without injury to the prospects of the company, all expenditure to serve custom, which, although it would probably develop and give an adequate return on our capital, could not immediately justify such expenditure. You will have seen from the report that we are promoting a Bill in Parliament for powers to raise further capital. You will remember that the shareholders approved this Bill at the meeting specially called for the purpose on February 6 last. The Bill has been read a second time in the House of Commons, and we believe it will go through without opposition. Well, gentlemen, I have endeavoured to place the case clearly before you. You will see by the report that the term for which I was elected has expired; I place myself unreservedly in your hands. If you honour me with a renewal of your confidence, I will do my utmost to promote the best interests of the company. You will have seen from the report that since the last general meeting three of your directors, viz., Sir William Thomas Lewis, Mr. E. P. Martin, and Mr. J. Weston-Stevens, have resigned their seats on the board, and Mr. T. Hugh Weguelin, who represents a very large amount of capital in the company, has been elected to the seat vacated by Sir William

Lewis. There is one other matter which I should refer to. You will see in the accounts several large sums standing to the account of administration expenses, working expenses during construction, &c. These amounts should, of course, be met out of revenue, and the Board of Trade, who audit our accounts in addition to the company's auditors, have approved the suggestion that the amounts shall be carried to a "special suspense account," to be paid off out of the revenue from time to time. The sanction of the shareholders is necessary to enable this to be done, and a formal resolution will be submitted for your approval. I now have to move:—"That the report and proceedings of the directors and the statements of account to December 31, 1905, duly audited as circulated to the shareholders be, and the same are hereby approved and adopted."

Mr. T. Hugh Weguelin seconded the motion.

The Chairman: If any gentleman wishes to make any remarks or ask any questions, now is the time.

Mr. Mark Robinson: I have no criticism to offer, but I wish to know whether your valuable address will be issued to the shareholders.

The Chairman: We have sent a report of the meeting previously.

Mr. Mark Robinson: It will be a great advantage to shareholders if the statement were sent to them.

The Chairman: The board will comply with your wishes, and send a report of the meeting to the shareholders.

The report and statement of accounts were then unanimously adopted.

Mr. Bartlett: I am glad to see that the directors are cutting down expenses. They have been very heavy, and some, I am afraid, were unnecessary. The capital is getting very heavy, and I am glad to see the directors intend to keep it down as much as possible.

Mr. H. M. Cooper: I see it is intended to transfer a large sum to a suspense account; will it be paid off before we get a dividend?

The Chairman: No; it will be paid off as the directors may determine.

Lieut.-General Sir R. H. Sankey: It devolves upon me to propose the re-election of the chairman, Mr. Robert Forrest, as a member of the board. When we lost our late chairman, Mr. Archibald Hood, we were fortunate in getting Mr. Forrest to succeed him. We wanted a man of large business knowledge and great experience, and in Mr. Forrest we have these qualities. In fact, I don't think it would be possible to find a gentleman better qualified for the position than Mr. Forrest. His general knowledge of the collieries and other industries in South Wales has been of immense value to this company, and it is with feelings of great pleasure that I propose this resolution. (Applause.)

Mr. Hugh Watts seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I am very much obliged to you. We have paid a great deal of attention to the affairs of the company since we took the management over from the limited company, and I will do all I can to hasten the time when we will receive some return for our money.

Mr. T. O. Callender moved that the remuneration of the directors be the same as last year, and that it be divided as the directors might determine. In making this proposition, Mr. Callender said: The experience we have had in South Wales as to the tardiness of our customers is not limited to this part of the country. It is the experience of all who supply electricity in any large quantity. It does seem strange that it should take so long between the time a man determines to have electrical energy and the time when that energy is being used, but all of us who are manufacturers get the same experience. I converted my own works to electrical driving and electrical plant, but it took me more than a year to negotiate with the authority and get that plant at work, and I think I may safely say there is probably no person in this country who is more anxious to have electrical driving than myself. Yet with all my good will, and the services of an expert engineer, it took me over a year to get my factory at work. When that is the case I don't think we can be surprised if other manufacturers take the time they have done. Although it is unfortunate for us as a company, I feel sure it is only deferring for a short period the time when you will get an ample return for the capital you have invested. (Applause.) I was pleased to hear from our chairman his expression of opinion as to the good results that will follow the supply of electricity in the district. The only disappointment is that the supply does not come so soon as we expected. The shareholders may take it from one who has experience of electricity at home and abroad, that that experience goes to confirm the encouraging remarks which have fallen from the chairman. (Applause.)

Mr. Bartlett seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: On behalf of myself and co-directors, I thank you for the resolution you have passed.

Mr. George Rae Fraser was re-elected an auditor of the company.

The Chairman proposed, and Mr. H. Ruffer seconded, a resolution transferring certain amounts appearing in the balance-sheet to a special suspense account, to be written off out of the profits of the undertaking by a series of annual payments spread over a series of years as the directors may determine, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Callender proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, the general manager, and staff. I feel quite sure, he said, that

we have passed through the troublesome times, and that things will be much clearer and better in the future.

Mr. Cooper seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Chairman: I thank you for the compliment you have paid me.

Mr. W. A. Chamen: I return my heartiest thanks for the kind way this resolution has been proposed, seconded, and passed. I can only assure you that I will do my utmost in your interests. (Hear, hear.)

This concluded the business of the meeting.

COUNTY OF LONDON ELECTRIC SUPPLY.

The twelfth ordinary general meeting of the County of London Electric Supply Co., Limited, was held on Monday at Winchester House, E.C., under the presidency of Mr. J. B. Braithwaite, the chairman of the company.

The Secretary (Mr. H. B. Renwick) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said he thought shareholders would consider it satisfactory that the board were able to show a considerably increased revenue and a slightly increased dividend, as he foresaw might be the case at the meeting last year. The gross revenue was £146,014 against £135,790, showing an increase of £10,224. This was earned at an increase of expenditure, so far as the generating station was concerned, of only £654, so that of the gross increase they secured £9,570 as nett. That again bore eloquent testimony to the skill and efficiency of their technical staff. (Hear, hear.) As a matter of fact, they actually secured the extra revenue with a reduction of about £23 in the cost of their coal. Rents, rates and taxes showed a tendency to increase, and that was one of the great difficulties of all companies; they were £978 more than last year. General charges were £306 up. They had written off suspense accounts an excess amount of £1,765 over and above what they did last year, and these items reduced the increase of revenue to £6,521. Then they had increased interest charges of £4,070, due to the additional amount of debenture stock issued. They proposed to pay an extra dividend of £1,900 and to put rather more to the depreciation fund. Altogether out of revenue this year they were putting £4,555 more to their various depreciation and suspense accounts than in the previous year, and after doing that they were still in a position to give the shareholders an extra ⅓ per cent. dividend, making 5 per cent. for the year, an amount at which they had been aiming for the last year or two. The total amount which had been distributed in dividend on the ordinary shares was £20,000; thus they were placing £24,550 out of revenue to depreciation, reserve and suspense accounts, so that they were not starving the suspense accounts in order to pay the larger dividend. He hoped that as sales increased the amount thus set aside would steadily increase. Shareholders might be interested to know that the company was supplying power for the new shallow tramway of the London County Council from Aldwych to Islington, and they were doing this at a price at which the London County Council could not generate it for themselves. Last year this company succeeded in putting through a Bill for giving extra power for supplying railways and tramways outside their own area, and he thought they would reap benefit from that. They also secured the powers they were seeking for the Croydon rural district, which would bring in a very large area, and the powers in reference to which they would hold for 42 years from last year, which was a longer tenure than in regard to any other portion of their districts. They also came to an arrangement with the Administrative County people, who were promoting a big power scheme for London, under which that company withdrew all competition with this company throughout their area, and undertook to supply the company in bulk on favourable terms. If, therefore, the Bill were successful this year, the company would have no cause to regret it. Shareholders ought not to be unduly alarmed at the number of power Bills which were coming forward. In their original form, no doubt, they were a serious menace to electrical companies, because it was contemplated that they would supply their customers direct, but since then he thought the equity of the company's position had been recognised, for in most cases leave was now only being sought to supply power in bulk, and it was no disadvantage whatever to the companies to have people who were prepared to supply them in bulk, because they need not take it unless it were offered on cheaper terms than they could generate it themselves. During the year this company had had an increase of over 2,000 in the number of customers, bringing the total up to practically 10,000, and he thought that on the whole the outlook was fairly encouraging. In order to provide for capital expenditure, it was proposed to make almost immediately an issue of the remaining 10,000 of their 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares. They would be offered to the public at £12 a share, at which they would represent a clear 5 per cent. to the investor, and personally he did not know of any sound home investment giving that return. (Applause.)

Mr. F. W. Reynolds seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to, and the dividends as recommended were declared.

The retiring directors and auditor were afterwards re-elected, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, engineering, and secretarial staff.

ALBERT BAKER AND CO.

The eighth ordinary annual general meeting of Albert Baker and Co. (1898), Limited, was held on Wednesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, Mr. Nathaniel de Meza (the chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. P. Freeman) read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, went in detail into an analysis and explanation of the accounts, and went on to say: We have over £5,000 more cash, but have £5,000 less stock than at the end of 1904. Taking now the debit side of the profit and loss account, the first item—rents, rates, taxes, insurance, gas and electric light, £20,377 10s. 7d.—is £1,938 more than in the previous year. This is accounted for mainly by the increased number of places that we have opened. The item salaries and wages, £20,808 1s. 9d., is £2,535 more than in the previous year. This increase is also chiefly due to the increased number of places. Audit fees and law charges, £157 15s., is £35 more than in the previous year. Directors' fees, £500, is £300 less than in the previous year, due to the fact that only one managing director had to be paid instead of two. Advertising and petty expenses, £3,207 17s. 2d., is £68 less than in the previous year. Repairs and maintenance, £1,644 0s. 8d., is £301 more than in the previous year. This is the amount expended in keeping our places in a thoroughly efficient and attractive style, and, as you see, the amount spent in that direction tends rather to increase than to decrease. The next item, balance to balance-sheet, £11,508 10s. 2d., is the net profit made during the year, and is, I am sorry to say, £3,507 less than in the previous year. The past year would have been a fairly satisfactory period were it not for the fact that our percentage of gross profit diminished as compared with that of previous years. There were numerous small matters which affected our profits in an adverse direction, some of which I am pleased to say are of a temporary character, but the chief cause of this diminution in profit, and which accounted for by far the chief portion, was the increased duties on tobacco which were in operation during the whole of the past year. In the Budget of 1904 several alterations were made in the duties on tobacco. Tobacco, which came into this country stemmed—that is, with the stem removed from the leaf tobacco—was subjected to a duty of 3s. 3d. per lb. instead of 3s. per lb. as hitherto; but tobacco, which came into this country unstemmed—that is, with the stem or stalk left intact on the tobacco—was only subject to a duty of 3s. per lb. as before. Now, the effect of this alteration was that manufacturers, who had been accustomed to use stemmed tobacco, had to pay 3d. per lb. more duty than they had paid before, but they had the alternative of using unstemmed instead of stemmed tobacco, which was previously used, and in that case would pay no more duty. But, although in the latter event they would pay no more duty than they did before, the tobacco, being unstemmed tobacco instead of stemmed tobacco, would cost them more than it did before. They would have the expense of stripping the tobacco, they would also have the loss in bulk caused by the removal of the stalk from the tobacco, and there would be a further loss caused by the fact that unstemmed tobacco contains more moisture than stemmed tobacco. So whether we, as manufacturers, used stemmed or unstemmed tobacco, it would still come to cost us more than it did before the alterations in duty were made. As a matter of fact, we found it necessary to use both stemmed and unstemmed tobacco, and we found that, on the whole, our tobacco was going to cost us 1½d. per lb. more than it cost us before the alterations were made. Then there was another alteration made in duty; the duty on imported cigars was increased from 5s. 6d. per lb. to 6s. per lb. Now, as 100 cigars weigh, on the average, about 1 lb. 5 ozs., this increased duty represented an increase of about 8d. per hundred of imported cigars, and there was an increase of about 1½d. per lb. on raw tobacco. It was a tax that was paid by the tobacco trade, and not by the tobacco consumer, and is a tax that is being paid by the tobacco trade to this very day. After dealing at greater length with this matter the chairman concluded by moving: "That the report and accounts as submitted to the shareholders be accepted and confirmed by this meeting, that the interim dividend paid in September last be confirmed, and that a dividend be declared at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, for the six months ended December 31, 1905." (Applause.)

Mr. Henry W. Price seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously after some discussion.

The Chairman next moved that Mr. Henry W. Price be re-elected a director of the company.

Dr. S. B. de Mesquita seconded, and the resolution was unanimously agreed to.

The auditors, Messrs. Tilly, Brown, and Peet were reappointed, and the remuneration of the managing director for 1906 was fixed at £300.

A vote of thanks was then accorded the chairman for his services, and the proceedings terminated.

BRITISH MOTOR AND ENGINEERING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The statutory meeting of the British Motor and Engineering Co., Limited, was held on Thursday at Reading, under the presidency of Mr. Ullathorne (the chairman of the company).

The Secretary (Mr. R. Whitaker) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: You are aware that this is the statutory meeting convened to comply with the Act of Parliament, and, therefore, the business is of a formal character. Your directors are glad, however, to avail themselves of this opportunity to make the acquaintance of their fellow shareholders, as also to give them such information as they think will be of a satisfactory character, and to answer any questions they may think fit to put, at the same time affording them an opportunity of inspecting the works and the methods of construction. This company was originated with the determination to produce new types of motor-cars which should be of excellent quality, combining simplicity, strength, power, reliability and elegance of design, and be at the same time of so moderate a price as to be within the reach of men with moderate means. Hitherto no such cars as our four-cylinder 10-12 h.p. to seat four persons—side entrance—or our two-cylinder 6½ h.p. to seat two persons have been produced at anything like the reasonable prices of 200 guineas and 100 guineas. Since our cars were first exhibited, in the fall of last year, they have obtained, I think, well-merited commendation, and the reliability of the cars is such that, coupled with the small price and their popularity, the demand at present is greater than we can supply. I need only mention the fact that orders were offered to us for these cars alone at the November Show, amounting to over £12,000. (Hear, hear.) A four-seated four-cylinder car 10-12 h.p., such as we offer, cannot be made or obtained here or on the Continent, and without being invidious in my remarks, I am not aware that any English firm can produce such cars of equal workmanship, accommodation, and h.p. at our price. (Hear, hear.) Your directors favour the manufacture of these two standard pleasure cars for the reason that unlimited orders can be obtained for them, and the more they are distributed the more popular they will become; consequently, there will be a continuous and increasing demand. True, there may be larger profits from the manufacture of more expensive cars, yet for our cars the aggregate profits would be larger because of the number made and the turnover of capital being more frequent during the year. Of course, our main object is to earn and pay big dividends, and we have come to the conclusion that this can be done better by our confining our principal attention to these popular motor cars than competing with Continental firms in the production of much more expensive vehicles, which may be described as motor cars de luxe—only within the reach of the affluent and well-to-do classes. We, however, do not intend to confine our efforts to the cars we are at present making, and shall, of course, make those of larger power and more expensive design as circumstances and opportunity occur; nor will the directors omit the other means of profitable employment of capital in the manufacture of 'buses, lorries, vans, &c. In this connection I may mention we are designing 'buses for use in even such remote parts as Chittagong, and trade vans for Smithfield, in response to inquiries. After dwelling upon the development and popularity of the motor 'bus business, the chairman said, in order to give the public a further opportunity of studying the merits of the company's cars, they will be exhibited at the Agricultural Hall between the 24th and 31st inst., and subsequently at the other important motor exhibitions in England and on the Continent. To carry out necessary contracts with the additional plant and extension of the works, the directors proposed to issue about 15,000 of the unallotted ordinary and preference shares. They also desired to take authority to modify the consideration under the contract relating to the patents, to which he was sure there would be no objection, as it resulted in a saving to the company of £8,500. The chairman then moved:—"That the directors be and they are hereby authorised to modify the purchase consideration mentioned in an agreement, dated November 30, 1905, between the company and T. J. Ridge, and to pay in lieu of the consideration therein mentioned the sum of £3,500 in cash and the allotment of 5,000 ordinary and 5,000 preference shares, the effect of which will be a saving to the company of £8,500 in cash or shares."

Mr. Meggy seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

METROPOLITAN RAILWAY OF CONSTANTINOPLE FROM GALATA TO PERA, LIMITED.

Although 3,213,419 or 11,558 more passengers were carried during 1905 the traffic receipts fell off by £6 to £13,971 and the total revenue from all sources was only a trifle of £28 up at £14,317. Expenses in Constantinople, however, were reduced by £179 to £8,551, and after meeting London office charges the net income showed an increase of £201 at £4,785. Of £2,499 from interest on investments £1,621 was put to reserve, leaving £878 to be added to revenue, giving a total of £5,663 against £5,767, of which the Sultan's percentage took £72, and after paying the customary dividend of 1½ per cent. £1,699 or £438 less is put to reserve, and £272 is carried forward. The cost of the new concession mentioned a year ago amounting to £28,820 has been charged to reserve, reducing that fund to £57,801, while £6,066 for additional land purchases has been charged to capital account making it £248,809.

CONSTANTINOPLE LAND AND BUILDING CO., LIMITED.

A trifling improvement of £36 to £5,260 in the gross receipts for 1905 was only earned at the cost of an increase of £525 to £2,355 in expenses and net profits were £489 smaller at £2,905. Thanks to the sale of lands and buildings the loan account was reduced by £5,454 and interest charges were therefore £115 less at £2,895, but even so this left no more than £10 to be deducted from the debit balance of £15,065 brought forward.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, Mar. 6.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, Mar. 6.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
SOUTH AFRICAN.							
57	Angelo	4 1/2	4 1/2	28	May Consolidated	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Anglo-French Ex.	2 1/2	2 1/2	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
4 1/2	Apex	4 1/2	4 1/2	6 1/2	Modderfontein	7 1/2	6 1/2
4 1/2	Aurora West	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Do. B.	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Banties	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	New Goch	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Block B.	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	City and Suburban, £4	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Comet (New)	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Cons. Goldfields	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Do. Pref.	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
12	Crown Reef	12	12	5 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	5 1/2	5 1/2
2 1/2	Driefontein	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	4	4	7 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4	8 1/2	8 1/2
4 1/2	East Rand	5 1/2	5 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	East Rand Extension	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Roodepoort United	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Ferreira	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Salisbury	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	French Rand	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Sheba (New)	7 1/2	7 1/2
2 1/2	Geduld	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Goldenhuis Estate	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	3 1/2	3 1/2
2 1/2	Ginsburg	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Steyn Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Glencalm	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Development	1 1/2	1 1/2
6 1/2	Harmony Proprietary	7 1/2	7 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Henderson's Transvaal	11 1/2	10 1/2	1 1/2	Treasury	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Heriot	5 1/2	5 1/2	3 1/2	Van Ryn	2 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	Johannesburg Con. In.	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	1	1
2 1/2	Jubilee	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Vogelstruis	1	1
2 1/2	Jumpers	2	2	3 1/2	Weigedacht	3 1/2	3 1/2
2 1/2	Kleinfontein	2	2	4 1/2	Wemmer	5	5
3 1/2	Knight's	3 1/2	3 1/2	2	West Rand Consols	2	2
2 1/2	Lancaster	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Wolhuter, £4	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Langlaagte Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Worcester	2 1/2	2 1/2

DEEP LEVELS.

1 1/2	Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bonanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Cinderella Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Robinson Deep (new)	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Crown Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Roodepoort Cn. Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
7	Goldenhuis Deep	7 1/2	7 1/2	1 1/2	South Rose Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Knight's Deep	2	2	3 1/2	Village Main Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2

RHODESIAS.

1 1/2	Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Rhodesia Exploration	2 1/2	2 1/2
13 1/2	Charter Trust and Agency	13 1/2	13 1/2	5 1/2	Rice Hamilton	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Selukwe	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Lomagunda Develop. ment	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Tanganyika	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	10 1/2	Vanlie Coal	10 1/2	10 1/2
1 1/2	Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Willoughby	12 1/2	11 1/2
1 1/2				1 1/2	Zimbabwe Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2

DIAMONDS.

1 1/2	De Beers Deferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Koffyfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Preferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Lace Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Eland's Drift Diamond	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Orange Free State	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Frank Smith Diamond	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Jagersfontein Deferred	4 1/2	4 1/2	10 1/2	Premier Diamond Def.	10 1/2	10 1/2
4 1/2	Do. Preferred	4 1/2	4 1/2	8 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	8 1/2	8 1/2
4 1/2	Kamfersdam	4 1/2	4 1/2				

WEST AFRICAN.

1 1/2	Abontiakoon	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2	Gold Coast Agency, new	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Ankobra	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau)	6 1/2	6 1/2
3 1/2	Ashanti Consols, 2/- paid	3 1/2	3 1/2	5 1/2	Deep	5 1/2	5 1/2
11 1/2	Do. Goldfields	11 1/2	11 1/2	4 1/2	Himan Concessions	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Sansu	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Obuassi Syndicate	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2	Prestea	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	British Gold Coast	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Seckondi and Tarkwa	1 1/2	1 1/2
29 1/2	Broomassie	29 1/2	26 1/2	2 1/2	Taqush and Abosso	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Effueta (Wassau)	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Wassau	5 1/2	5 1/2
14 1/2	Fanti Consolidated	14 1/2	14 1/2	2 1/2	W. A. Gold Trust	2 1/2	2 1/2

AUSTRALIAN.

1 1/2	Anglo-Aus. Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Ida H.	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Associated	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Ivanhoe, Gold Corp.	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2	Ivanhoe South	8 1/2	8 1/2
3 1/2	Bellevue Proprietary	3 1/2	3 1/2	8 1/2	Kalgurli	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	Boulder Deep Levels	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 1/2
7 1/2	Brownhill Extended	7 1/2	8 1/2	1 1/2	Lancefield	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Challers	1 1/2	1 1/2	11 1/2	London & W.A. Explor. ation	11 1/2	11 1/2
6 1/2	Cosmopol'n Pr'pr'ty	6 1/2	6 1/2	4	Mount Boppy	4	4
5 1/2	Golden Horseshoe, New Shares	5 1/2	5 1/2	2 1/2	North Kalgurli	2 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	Golden Links	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	2 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	Golden Pole	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Peak Hill	1 1/2	1 1/2
22 1/2	Great Boulder, 2/-	23 1/2	23 1/2	1 1/2	South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
11 1/2	Do. Perseverance	11 1/2	11 1/2	1 1/2	Sons of Gwalia	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Great Fingall	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	W'str l'ia Mt. Morgans	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Hammalt	1 1/2	1 1/2				
1 1/2	Hampton Plains	1 1/2	1 1/2				
1 1/2	Hannan's Star	1 1/2	1 1/2				

MISCELLANEOUS.

1 1/2	Anaconda, 25 dols.	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	3 1/2	3 1/2
3 1/2	Brilliant, full paid	3 1/2	3 1/2	5 1/2	Mount Lyell	5 1/2	5 1/2
10 1/2	Brilliant and St. George 10/-	10 1/2	10 1/2	3 1/2	M't. Morgan	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Broken Hill, Prop.	1 1/2	1 1/2	7	Mysore, 10s.	7	7
1 1/2	Camp Bird	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Mysore Goldfields, 15/6 4/-	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Cape Copper, £2	4 1/2	4 1/2	12 1/2	Do. West, 19/-	12 1/2	12 1/2
2 1/2	Champion Reef, 2/-	2 1/2	2 1/2	12 1/2	Do. Wynad, 19/-	12 1/2	12 1/2
1 1/2	Con. Gold N. Z.	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Namaqua, £2	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Copporo, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Nie Valley	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Cronandel 19/6 4/-	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	N'duyiroog, 10/- shares	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Exploration	4 1/2	4 1/2	16 1/2	Ooregun	16 1/2	16 1/2
1 1/2	Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	La Roa	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Do. (No. 2)	1 1/2	1 1/2	10 1/2	St. John del Rey	10 1/2	10 1/2
1 1/2	Do. (No. 3)	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Tharsus	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Do. (No. 4)	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2	Wash	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Do. (No. 5)	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Yukon	2 1/2	2 1/2

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904-5.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1904-5.	
Alcoy and Gandia	Mar. 10	Ps. 12,000	unchanged	** Ps. 174,400	+ Ps. 5,900	
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia	Jan.	\$83,867	+ \$30,059	** \$83,867	+ \$30,059	
Argentine Gt. Western	Mar. 9	13,839	+ 1,805	** 453,953	+ 74,942	
Algeiras (Gibraltar)	" 3	Ps. 28,528	- P. 11,561	** P. 119,147	- P. 80,439	
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	" 10	36,669	+ 5,279	** 1,038,572	+ 234,083	
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o and Cen. Argentine	" 3	100,547	+ 9,451	** 745,530	+ 63,919	
Buenos Ayres G. Sthn.	" 11	97,466	+ 33,123	** 2,601,639	+ 439,393	
Do. Western	" 11	34,872	+ 3,467	** 1,144,370	+ 150,523	
Do. Ensenada	" 11	532	+ 194	** 12,433	+ 632	
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	" 10	9,075	+ 3,171	** 293,814	+ 9,250	
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 10	2,353	+ 825	** 70,905	+ 9	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 10	1,735	+ 783	** 41,412	+ 5	
Do. Western Ex.	" 10	1,262	+ 421	** 42,689	+ 4,599	
Cordoba Central	" 11	2,750	+ 315	** 30,820	+ 5,299	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 11	5,590	+ 1,135	** 63,750	+ 13,530	
Do. N. W. Arg'n. Ex.	" 11	1,570	+ 620	** 15,500	+ 4,171	
Cordoba and Rosario	" 11	3,701	+ 310	** 158,195	+ 2,630	
Costa Rica	" 10	6,362	+ 1,482	** 169,747	+ 12,830	
Cuban Central	" 10	13,083	+ 2,040	** 228,024	+ 11,371	
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 10	11,737	+ 3,170	** 117,777	+ 27,994	
Entre Rios	" 10	5,639	+ 168	** 131,877	+ 14,662	
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico	" 7	\$129,600	- \$5,400	** \$4,064,000	+ \$103,671	
Leopoldina	" 10	17,401	+ 4,452	** 126,682	+ 23,385	
Mexican	Jan. 8	\$592,500	+ \$75,000	** \$592,500	+ \$75,000	
Mexican	Mar. 7	\$1,232,300	+ \$11,400	** \$1,232,300	+ \$11,400	
Do. Southern	" 14	\$26,865	+ \$2,555	** \$25,724	+ \$14,929	
Do. Central	Jan.	\$2,457,188	+ \$210,501	** \$1,995,549	+ \$123,942	
Do. Do.	" 11	\$75,662	+ \$8,941	** \$4,092,994	+ \$23,437	
Manila	" 10	\$33,524	+ \$3,758	** \$347,250	+ \$9,655	
Nitrate	Feb. 28	17,977	+ 2,016	** 94,820	+ 743	
Ottoman	Mar. 10	4,394	+ 554	** 44,010	+ 3,539	
Peruvian Corporation	Feb. 7	\$644,800	+ \$110,775	** \$5,106,875	+ \$661,075	
San Paulo	Mar. 4	15,435	+ 2,772	** 103,676	+ 2,332	
Salvador	" 10	\$31,250	+ \$2,250	** 455,955	+ 105,033	
Villa Maria	" 10	27,498	+ 11,178	** 13,093	+ 1,421	
Western of Havana	" 10	1,451	+ 1	** 150,141	+ 2,493	

* Month ended.

† Fortnight ended.

‡ Net.

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The Investors' Review.

Chinese Labour in the Commons.

On Wednesday the Kaffir Circus had a field day in the House of Commons and we hope it enjoys the result. In some respects the victims of that pandemonium have always had our deepest sympathy. By dint of ardent lying, the systematic misrepresentations of a suborned Press, and the tirades of fascinated and captive politicians, their minds have become warped, so that they cannot look at the facts with an unprejudiced eye. Let us leave them alone and turn for a moment to the economic side of this question. Look back to the condition of South Africa before those gold discoveries came into prominence, and note the free communities it held; communities who were developing their country along durable pastoral and agricultural lines, growing in prosperity, and learning the art of governing themselves. So well had the Orange Free State already learned this art that it was, before the outbreak of the war, one of the best administered small states in the world. The white races, British and Boer, were fusing as such races only can fuse by inter-marriage, and gradually the English language was superseding the Dutch. Over the internal administration of these communities we had no responsibility, nor did we assume any public obligations on their behalf. Then came the discoveries of diamonds and gold, and rapidly all this was changed. Great schemes of territorial aggrandisement were conceived by a band of obscure adventurers, and laid hold of the imagination of first of all the idle classes in this country, and afterwards of a majority perhaps of the whole British nation. The mighty empire that was to be of Rhodesia came to the front, and schemes of conquest naturally grew out of the heated visions of an excited popular imagination.

We do not mean to go over the intervening history. That has been told in these columns throughout the disastrous years which followed the Jameson Raid, with an emphasis often which seems cold now—when the harvest is a-gathering. All we at present desire to do is to contrast then with now. Following any just or wise economic line of public policy the gold and diamond discoveries in South Africa ought to have been made to redound first of all to the profit of the communities in whose territories the minerals were found. They should have been availed of to attract, as in California and Australia, swarms of white adventurers, a large proportion of whom would have drifted away from mining, settled in the country and contributed alike to its permanent wealth and to the necessary increase in the white population. At the present time the black natives outnumber white natives and settlers by at least five to one. It would have been valuable for the consolidation of British interests in South Africa if the minerals had so attracted further white immigrants as to have largely redressed the balance and removed from the territories concerned all danger of future black rebellions or of civil strife between the white races in the different self-governing communities. That was the economic need of South Africa which its mineral resources, properly developed, would have tended to satisfy. Nothing of the kind has taken place. From the first the mines have been used wholly in the interests of aliens, most of whom were Ghetto bred, Continental cosmopolites by whom the company creating industry has been worked so that the multitudes of

shareholders in this country and on the Continent have been stripped of countless millions. At the present time, therefore, the shareholders in the companies whose share capitals were inflated for self-interested purposes by the cosmopolites and their associates profit little by the extraction of the gold and diamonds, while the white and black settlers may be said to gain next to nothing at all. Furthermore, instead of attracting whites the controllers of the mines have done their best to exclude them, so that at the present time the black population is probably increasing at a greater ratio than the white, a change which opens the gloomiest possible outlook for the future of the whites all over South Africa.

This is not the worst of it, or not the immediate worst. To us as the people who sustain all the burden of Empire the whole policy of these South African millionaires has been throughout disastrous. Mr. Winston Churchill gave a questioner the other day the total amount of revenue derived by the Transvaal from the mines in the past three and a half years. Assuming that the final half of the current financial year yields as much as the first half did, the total return made to the State by these mines in a period of four years will be less than £2,750,000, and what has the policy of Cecil Rhodes, of the cosmopolites, of Lord Milner's helots of Park Lane, and others cost this country? It has cost us at least £250,000,000 in money down, besides over 20,000 valuable human lives. And the money loss continues. In the same four years covered by the figures just given we shall have spent about £45,000,000 for which this country receives no return whatever. This includes nearly £19,000,000, four years' cost of the military garrison in the annexed republics, four years' interest on the war debt, and that £9,500,000 which has just been allotted to the inhabitants of the Orange Colony and the Transvaal by way of compensation, an amount which probably provides for about one-sixth of the loss sustained. For South Africa also has suffered the loss of more than 20,000 human lives and quite £60,000,000 worth of property. And race antipathies have been revived, are being fanned still by the helot Press, by every device available, so that freedom may be stifled. From a mere business point of view, therefore, the policy followed by the cosmopolites and their willing tools in the late British Government has been ruinous to an appalling extent, and we are, therefore, in no way surprised that Mr. Chamberlain should, in the extremity of his despair, have come to think that the whole salvation of South Africa, of the British Empire, rests upon an importation of Chinese coolies under Sodomite conditions which, as Earl Percy declared, no British Indian coolie would be permitted to accept. But though natural enough, this view cannot be expected to prevail with the British public as a whole. After all, we are not in every instance shareholders in Kaffir mines, although far greater numbers are than may be good for the moral health of the nation. The majority, however, even of the mine share dementia victims do begin to recognise that this South African business has been mismanaged throughout, has been for the United Kingdom a losing speculation, and the question which naturally occupies unprejudiced minds is—how can we in some measure restore the balance, get back part of the enormous mass of capital lost, or if that be impossible, reduce the intolerable drain upon our resources which existing conditions involve?

We cannot answer this question, and it would be useless in the present temper of the City at least to attempt to answer it. More than once hints have been thrown out in these columns intended to help towards a better and more enlightened system of dealing with the great gold mining industry of the Transvaal, and they have been received either in silence or with a contumely designed to be more or less insulting. The insults are no matter, but they do serve to prevent us from further pressing suggestions which might, if mine shareholders could dispossess themselves of the notion that all their prosperity hangs by a rise in the market, help towards a lightening of their woes and our burdens. Nothing which has occurred leads us to doubt that were the

excrescences imposed upon the industry for their own profit by the cosmopolite controllers of the mines swept away, the vast sums absorbed illicitly by these controllers held for the shareholders and turned to good account, scientific mining under intelligent supervision and carried on by free workmen trained to the business and well paid substituted for the present slave labour, and the trade of the country set free, so that merchants might be at liberty to supply the wants of the mines and miners at the current prices of the day, without intermediate squeezes or commissions, not only would a larger revenue accrue to the State, but also larger dividends to shareholders. We feel, however, that it is perfectly useless in the present temper of the Kaffir Circus and its victims to dwell upon reforms of any thorough-going kind. The multitude of the fleeced appears to be satisfied with its position, and never raises a question as to the advisability of letting daylight into the methods of management, or hints at tracing out the channels through which so much of the profits accruing from gold getting finds a reservoir in the neighbourhood of Park Lane.

The evening sitting on Wednesday was devoted to Lord Milner, and on this also we do not care to say anything further than that it was well to emphasise that administrator's weakness in assenting to the flogging of Chinese coolies in defiance of the terms of the Ordinance under which they were imported. But it would not have been wise to exalt him into a position which would have made him look like a martyr in the eyes of the Jingoese. Therefore, the Government met Mr. Byles's motion with the right amendment, and we hope that the last of this unsavoury business has been heard of for a little time. Lord Milner is no longer a servant of the Crown, and in all probability will never again be its servant. Should it turn out otherwise it may then be expedient to recall his past, and to sum up the results of his efforts at Empire building in South Africa to the humble and hard-working taxpayers of the United Kingdom. Another such feat and it would be "farewell Empire" for good.

The British South Africa Company.

Really the directors of this great South Sea bubble will deserve to have a medal struck in their honour if they go on as they are doing. They have actually got together by the middle of March, 1906, a sort of balance-sheet and statement of accounts for the Chartered Libertine Company's financial year ended March 31, 1905. Such enterprise has never before been seen in Dukes or dawdlers, and we trust the staff has not been too much overworked in producing these glorious results so soon. To come to prosaics, though, why the board should have been in so great a hurry we cannot quite guess from the statements put forward. It ought not to be just yet in want of more money, for cash at bankers' and in hand stood on the date of the balance-sheet a year ago at £965,416, of which £947,910 was in London. Surely all this money cannot have been swallowed up in the interval, and yet we have our doubts for all that the story looks so plausible from some points of view. It is claimed, for instance, that the total deficit produced, realised, built up, or incurred during the year was only £257,407, and it is graciously estimated that by the end of the present month there will be a still more model reduction, a reduction bringing surpluses within range of the statistician's spy glass, the estimated deficiency for the current year being put at a mere trumpery £111,171. This is awfully wonderful, don't y'know—but we should not ask anybody offhand to believe it.

First of all the figures thus set forth do not contain all the truth. There is never anything whatever written off for losses or for depreciation, and both demands must be enormous. It is admitted in the balance-sheet that out of the shares, debentures, and debenture stock of companies held by the Chartered Company totalling £542,285, £335,690 showed a depreciation on March 31 last of £88,081, or about 26 per cent. Was the rest

worth nothing at all, and should not something have been written off for the loss ascertained? Has it been increased since the date of the balance-sheet, and is there still no provision made for it? These are interesting questions, and even more significant are those relating to the enormous amounts set forth as owing by debtors. In order that readers may get some idea of what these amount to we reprint here an excellent summary of the latest chartered balance-sheet, which appeared in last Monday's *Pall Mall Gazette*. We have collated the figures, and can vouch for their general accuracy. It will be seen from this abstract that the total expenditure of the company from its birth up to March 31 last has amounted to rather more than £11,000,000, allowing for the cash in hand, and we should judge that the greater part of this money has been absolutely, irretrievably lost. Certainly the deficiencies accumulated on "general expenditure," amounting to £4,635,000, have all vanished into space as well as the Matabele and Mashonaland war expenditure of £2,710,000. Then the amount owed by London debtors, £982,195, as also the £205,362 owing by debtors in South Africa must, we fear, in great measure be written off as bad. In other words, all the capital and all the debenture issues as well as the whole of the share premiums, with the exception of less than £1,000,000 of cash in hand, has practically disappeared. How can the finances of a company be sound in such a position? What is the use of dreaming of lessening deficits on current account when the truth is as we state? But it is true spendthrift, absentee landlord finance all through:—

A "CHARTERED" BALANCE-SHEET.

March 31, 1905.		March 31, 1905.	
Dr.	£	Cr.	£
Share capital.....	5,999,361	Cash	965,416
Share premiums	4,250,174	Shares and Debentures	542,285
Debentures	1,252,881	Assessments	11,308
Creditors, London ..	157,656	Debtors, London	982,195
Do. South Africa	41,866	Do. South Africa	205,362
Bills payable.....	3,000	London furniture, &c.	39,278
Sales of shares	291,063	Buildings, roads, &c...	293,312
		Movable assets	235,593
		Concessions, &c.....	1,317,390
		Matabele War	119,936
		Defence expenditure..	2,587,389
		Cattle accounts.....	61,915
		General expenditure	4,634,622
	£11,996,001		£11,936,001

Although the revenue and expenditure appear to be converging so that by and by the deficit may disappear, it is really very doubtful whether the total expenditure is ever set forth. It is heavy enough to be so, for administration alone now costs over £500,000, but nothing is stated in the accounts regarding the liabilities of the company upon railway guarantees, the total of which must now exceed £400,000 per annum. Where is that money coming from? We showed when dealing with the accounts of the Rhodesia Railways and the Mashonaland Railway that the revenues paraded therein were in great measure illusory, the products of capital expenditure. Have things improved since? How can they improve if there is no single industry of the slightest consequence within the vast circumference of the Chartered Company's territories yielding profit to those who carry it on? Much of the revenue shown by the company itself is really the product of capital continuously spent. The largest item in the income of Southern Rhodesia is the native tax, which amounted in the year under review to £171,624. In North-Eastern Rhodesia also the hut tax yielded £15,832 out of a total income of £28,000 odd, and in North-Western Rhodesia the "balance" of hut tax is put at £9,768, out of a total revenue of £20,000. Now, where do the natives get the money with which to pay these taxes? They get it from the wages earned in the service of European adventurers, mining companies, cultivating syndicates, and so forth; therefore, they are paid out of the capital which has been drawn into the country by the insistent and unscrupulous touting of the Chartered Company, drawn in and mostly lost. Hence we infer that the

revenue is to a large extent a delusion, an ephemeral thing good only as long as capital can be got, and it must remain a delusive resource unless white settlers can be tempted to fill the vacant land. But what inducement is there to white settlers to put themselves in the hands of a fungus company of this description with a vast apparatus of administrators, executive councils, civil commissioners, police, volunteers, and so on? They would only be bled to death. That has been the experience of settlers hitherto, and there is nothing whatever in the facts to lead one to suppose that the position will change for the better in the near future. It is much more likely to change for the worse when the full truth comes out. If their faith is so unshaken and pure, why cannot the noble aristocrats who patronise and batten on this emanation of diseased Imperialism arrange to deport their needy and idle dependents to South Africa, there to be put to work to develop the country and produce a real revenue? *Truth's* "Marmaduke" and Mr. Moreton Mandeville might be engaged to lead the pioneers and give them journalism.

One cannot help feeling that the current expenses in London are on a most extravagant scale. What have the directors done to earn the £6,646 which was their little share in the capital disbursed, the deficit created or left raw, during the year covered by the accounts? How comes it that the head office expenses in that year, exclusive of directors' fees, reached £35,000? And was it really necessary in that time to spend £2,520 in law charges, auditors' fees, and expenses of obtaining Stock Exchange quotations? It seems to us that some of these charges might be reduced, although it really does not matter much, perhaps, as long as the public can be induced to subscribe fresh millions of capital when ordered to do so. But what a bottomless sink of money this company has been during the whole course of its history, and what splendid opportunities for plunder it has afforded the privileged few! It has cost the public, by the books, £11,000,000 of money, and if we followed the ups and downs of market quotations we might discover that at least three times as much has been drawn from the pockets of the beguileable in order that a few individuals who have been connected throughout with this scandalous imposture should become millionaires. "It may be continued a few years longer," to parody Artemus Ward's remark about the tail of the lion on old Northumberland House.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY IN THE ARMY.

Mr. Haldane is going to give it to us, and the House of Commons need not bother its head any more. He says his good friends the soldiers are going to help him. That is much as if the Chancellor of the Exchequer called in the bishops to assist him in framing a scheme for extinguishing the floating debt. If there is one thing in which soldiers are more deficient than another, it is in the management of finance, of ordinary, every-day business. That is our experience of them in the City, and it is borne out in the administration of the Army. Nothing surpasses their contempt for the plodder on or by whom they live, and his "money-grubbing" avocations, unless it be their ignorance. Monday's debate in the House upon the Army estimates was consequently of the usual description, and ended in nothing substantial or valuable. What we want to know is why, in the first place, the cost of the peace establishment of our home standing army, leaving out of sight the huge contingent supplied to India, has risen since 1896 from rather less than £175 10s. per head to almost £199 per head a year ago, and why it should ever have reached the lower sum. Also we should like to know why our Army should cost nearly £200 per head, while that of France costs less than £48 per head and that of Germany less than £58 per head, including what is called

"special non-recurring" expenditure. Deducting that the cost of the German Army is not much more than £51 per head. Why is our standing Army more than four times as costly per man as the French Army, and nearly four times as costly as the German? The House of Commons cannot tell, and yet the knowledge is vital to reforms. If we add in the Militia and Volunteers to reach the sum total of our man-killing pawns on a peace footing, our expenditure still rises to about £66 per head. Parliament can discourse in fine language about the necessity of reducing the estimates and the desirability of keeping fewer men idle at the colours, but it is obliged to vote tens of millions *en bloc* in "pay," without the slightest definite knowledge of what the money means. Had Mr. Haldane got together a representative committee, drawn from all sections of the House, to assist him in dealing with these estimates, to tear them to pieces, and follow out the demands to their sources, there might have been some hope. As it is, there is little or none. He can tell us how useless and redundant stores are being piled up, but does not seem to understand why, does not know that after every war the people who have got accustomed to furnish supplies during the emergency continue to provide them on a comparatively little reduced scale, so that they may likewise continue to enjoy their profits, while the intermediaries who convey and sustain the orders pocket their accustomed bakshish. Stores are multiplied, wasted, replaced on an ever-expanding scale, all in order that the machinery of manufacturers may not be thrown out of use or the standard of living adopted by irresponsible officials curtailed. It will go on thus to the end, and the nation will continue to devour its capital, in spite of fine sentiments, resounding Parliamentary eloquence, and ardent aspirations on the part of Radicals consumed with a zeal for reform. Do not our soldier preservers assure us every day in the week that for all our spending we are without an Army? And the wailing of the blue funkists about the Navy is just as loud, so what can we do but pay more taxes? Cheer up; you shall have a 5s. a week old age pension at the Greek Kalends, provided we can borrow the needful.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

As usual the key to the prosperity of Indian finance is found in the amount of new debt to be created. For the coming year this is put at £7,785,500. Of this total, £2,785,500 will be raised here by the guaranteed railway companies and £5,000,000 by the Simla Government—viz., £3,000,000 in the form of a rupee loan and £2,000,000 as a direct sterling borrow. Altogether £10,000,000 is to be laid out in the coming fiscal year upon the railways; and over and above the loans, in order to meet this expenditure £608,000 will be drawn from savings bank deposits and about £3,920,000 from the cash balances in hand. In addition an estimated revenue surplus of £874,100 will be absorbed, so that altogether the capital expenditure in the coming year, principally upon railways, will be £13,187,400. Only £833,300 of this is to be employed in extending the irrigation system, the one vital necessity of India, and another £1,292,700 will be utilised to "discharge" debt, while £1,030,600 is described as "deposits and remittances, nett payment," but £10,000,000 new capital will be sunk, principally in railways, to keep India prosperous.

And it is prosperous, according to the Simla officials, for the final or "revised" estimates for the year ending on the 31st inst. show an expected surplus of £1,755,700, which is £851,900 more than the amount looked for in March last, when the first estimate was drawn up—what a nuisance this budgeting and re-budgeting is! Part of this increase comes from improved revenues. The railways are expected to give £401,300 more, the Excise £210,400 more, the mint £202,400 more, interest £139,700 more, and forests £197,400 more, in all instances the figures being

converted into sterling at the conventional 15 rupees to the £. As on the other hand there is an accidental decrease of £842,000 in the army expenditure—due mainly to the postponement until the coming financial year of payment for new artillery and other stores—while at the same time £237,000 less has been spent on the civil departments and £256,900 less on buildings, roads, &c., there ought to have been upwards of £2,000,000 more to the good than the year is expected actually to show. The Government, however, has to confess to a decrease of £440,000 in the land revenue and of £118,000 in the revenue from irrigation, while an additional £1,450,700 has been "credited to the funds of provincial Governments." We cannot balance the exhibit even so, but, taking the figures as they stand, they indicate that, famine or no famine, the Simla Government is all right for money in the coming year. And it is going to act accordingly. The gross revenue for 1906-7 is to be put £3,705,200 higher than that for the year now closing, its total being estimated at £86,495,100, while the expenditure is fixed provisionally at only £85,621,000, so that there is again an anticipated surplus amounting to £874,100. This fine result, moreover, is attained in spite of impending or actual famine. Gross revenue is expected to expand by £1,655,600—viz., railway receipts by £1,496,400 gross and £203,800 nett, and land revenue, after allowing for remissions and suspensions due to famine in the United Provinces and Bombay, by £735,500, "considerable improvements" in its yield being expected in Burma, the United Provinces, the Punjab, and in Bombay, the famine notwithstanding. Irrigation, too, is expected to give £297,500 more, and Excise and Customs to show respectively increases of £163,800 and £130,300. It would be magnificent but for the expected fall of £659,400 in the revenue from opium sold to the Chinese owing to a decrease in the price. Provincial rates, too, are expected to yield £513,300 less owing to remissions of cesses, but there is no word this year of any further reduction in taxation, and none is to be expected while the total military expenditure is put at £21,841,600. Against this only £539,100 is assigned for famine relief, and we shall be agreeably surprised if that proves to be sufficient. A detailed examination of the budget must be left until something more than the official summary is before us; but it makes a brave show as it stands; but what are now the numbers on relief works? We have not seen the usual telegram from the Governor-General this week, and the figures recited in the House by Mr. Morley on Wednesday afternoon do not tally with those previously published. But it need not worry us, the loans are all right and the Government of India only provides for a minimum of £17,800,000 in Council drafts to be sold in London next fiscal year.

CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The controllers of this premium-swallowing company have been having a field day in Canada. Last year's report and accounts have been issued, and the annual meeting has been held, at which Senator Cox, the company's chief ornament and master, held forth at great length upon all sorts of irrelevant topics—the "minimum system," among others, a phrase which indicates that the people who live well by this business are not without a saving grace of humour—the point of the play being: "There never was, and may never again be, such a wonderfully profitable, generous, safe, well-managed, go-ahead, enterprising, outshining, wealth-evolving and altogether tip-top affair as this same Canada Life Company." And it was nearly all true if the description be applied to the directors, managers, commission gatherers, lawyers and politicians who share the pool. It is not quite true of the policy-holders, though, as a little examination of the skeleton accounts shows. In 1905 policy-holders and annuity-buyers paid in \$3,299,973 nett, and the com-

pany received \$1,294,593 by way of interest on securities. Also \$70,380 was bagged as profit on securities sold, so that the entire income was about \$4,555,000. Death claims alone including bonuses took \$1,389,053, or a little more than the amount received as interest, but the entire payments to policy-holders figure up to \$3,272,081, or nearly 72 per cent. of the entire income as given above. Some of the payments, however, are cross entries, \$804,621 being added to the above given revenue as "dividends applied in the purchase of paid-up additions," while on the expenditure side we get items like these: "Cash dividends to policy-holders \$390,068," "cash dividends to purchase bonus additions to policies \$486,294," and "cash dividends to meet anticipated bonuses on minimum policies \$338,327." How far these cross entries are substance, how far actuarial flummery, we cannot now say, but the fact that death and endowment claims (with bonuses) paid came last year to little more than 54 per cent. of the premium income and annuity purchase money receipts taken together appears significant of a good deal that must be amiss. A company so old should have made a better display than that if it had been careful of the interests of its clients. Expenses, however, would seem to have been reduced last year, for, including \$80,000 taken by the shareholders, they came to scarcely 25 per cent. of the nett premiums and the annuity money. Thus, although Government taxes and fees over and above took \$267,271 or over 8 per cent. of the said receipts—surely a monstrous imposition if the truth, but perhaps the "fees" were medical—there was actually \$1,110,701 left at the year's end to carry forward. Handsome in a way, is it not? Yes, but how, then, is it that the total accumulations of the company, by help of compound interest and all, only amounted on December 31 last to \$28,792,406, exclusive of this curious entry: "Other assets, including premiums in transit, interest and rents accrued and market values over book values of securities, \$1,536,959"? We think we know where the leaks are, and last autumn indicated some of them with sufficient emphasis to reduce the mouthpieces of the company to mud-slinging like the following, which is extracted from a speech delivered by a Senator named Gibson at the recent annual meeting. He claimed to be a Scotsman, and men of a similar stamp are undoubtedly common articles of export from that country, the more is the pity. But is this all the company can do to put its house in order? All it dare venture to say in its defence?

Prior to my being asked to go down and see the board in London I had an involuntary interview with a gentleman who came to see me at my hotel in London. I do not know how he knew that I was in London, or how he knew that I was connected with the Canada Life. He came before me with a record, nearly as large as this (holds up list of securities), of statistics of how badly the Canada Life had treated him ever since he first became a policy-holder, whilst he lived in the City of St. Catharines. According to this gentleman's figures (and I may say by way of parenthesis that he had a mania for statistics), he wanted to demonstrate to me how badly he had been used and of how much money he had been deprived by the officials of the Canada Life.

At the same time there was a weak spot in his armour, and the spot was that all the calculations were based on a 7 per cent. basis. I said to him: "How do you expect the Canada Life to give you profits when the Government has declared that they must get down to a 3½ per cent. distribution of profits?" Suffice it to say, however, that he said to me: "Do you not think, Senator, that the Canada Life ought to have me as their friend?" I have been long enough in public life not to require a house to fall upon my head to take a hint, and said that the Canada Life ought to have everybody as their friend. So it passed off, and I never saw anything more of him. When I was in the London office Lord Aberdeen was kind enough to show me in a periodical the kind of stuff that this man was having published in an irresponsible paper in the City of London. Without the knowledge of consultation of Mr. Cheyne or Mr. Meikle, I said: "That is the work of Mr. So-and-So. That gentleman could have been silenced by—well, I will not say how. He could have been made a friend of the Canada Life, but he still is an enemy of the Canada Life." After consultation with the board it was unanimously resolved that we should send a cablegram to the head office in Toronto to the effect that neither the man nor the newspapers nor the men behind them were worth the price of the powder of the Canada Life to

bring on a lawsuit. I think that the same thing applies in the City of Toronto.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY PROGRESS.

It is not merely great, it is glowing, and we cannot avoid a certain thrill of enthusiasm on reading the statements made by Sir Thomas Shaughnessy at the general meeting held in Montreal on the 19th inst. to authorise the already notified increase in the company's share capital from \$110,000,000 to \$150,000,000, of which \$20,280,000 was to be forthwith issued. It has, indeed, already been subscribed under terms, the extreme generosity of which we cannot approve on the long view of events, but that is not the point which now interests us. Sir Thomas Shaughnessy went on to tell of the marvellous development which has taken place in the company's business, and he so far mitigated the hostility of purists in finance to the issue of this new stock at par, when the existing stock stood in the neighbourhood of 80 per cent. premium, by telling the meeting that \$5,000,000 of surplus earnings were to be set aside for capital purposes. That is something, but not enough in the marvellously prosperous condition of the undertaking. In its fiscal year 1902 the gross revenue was \$37,500,000, and in the current year there is every indication that it will approach \$60,000,000, with prospects of still further increases in the near future. The country served by the line, in short, is filling up, and the company has so far been a generous overlord. Whether it will be so when it reigns supreme in a territory well peopled remains to be seen, but by that time it is quite possible that competition will have mitigated the power of its monopoly. Meantime, the existing prosperity has not been attained without heavy additions to the capital account. Since 1901 \$18,500,000 has been spent on additional rolling stock and equipment, and \$6,445,000 on additional shops and machinery at different points on the system; the reduction of grades and improvements of the line have cost \$13,000,000, and the enlargement of terminals, increased siding yards, and station accommodation have called for over \$10,000,000, so that altogether since 1901 the capital outlay has aggregated about \$48,000,000, or £9,600,000. But the expenditure has undoubtedly paid.

CASSELL AND CO., LIMITED.

The overhaul and clear up of this company's affairs, so long advocated in these columns, is now taking place, and one of these days, should capital reduction become necessary in order to render the assets clean and straight, we may get to know something of the actual position. For how long have more or less illusory profits been displayed by keeping the item of copyrights at a fictitious valuation? We do not mean to imply that the directors have deliberately done anything which would not bear investigation, but they have failed in ordinary business prudence by allowing assets to remain on the books which should have been written off. When an item of business is taken up, carried to a conclusion, and the profit credited, whatever sum was paid for the copyright or other purposes should be deducted from the revenue earned. But has that always been done? It is safe to say, no, because not only have profits begun to shrink severely as soon as reorganisation takes place, but whatever money is earned is promptly written off the copyright valuations. Exactly what they are we do not know, but the item in which this asset is included has been ever on the increase, and on account of the past year actually shows an advance of £7,019 to £236,207. Stock of printing materials, tools, etc., has gone up £2,202 to £11,082, and a decline of £345 to £36,319 in the stock of type, engines, boilers, machinery, &c., does not point to very lavish depreciation allowance. Capital invested in other trading companies is about £1,000 less at £29,897, and both sundry creditors, £55,909, and sundry debtors, £78,310, are heavier, particularly the creditors. Cash, however, is up by over £4,000 to £8,574. Assets of the Melbourne branch appear at

£13,024, against £12,837, and of the New York branch at £9,427, an increase of £1,147. These branches have to be kept, we suppose, for copyright purposes, the law on the subject being in a very unsatisfactory state, but it would be interesting to know if they pay. The allied trading companies, it must be noted, produced a loss of £157, owing to a fire on the premises of one of them, compared with a profit of £1,753, and the reduction of £1,000 in their balance-sheet revenue was more than necessary. Leases of premises have actually increased a little to £141,601, and the reserve remains at £26,000. That is pretty certain to be wanted presently in the straightening out process, and if nothing worse happens than the disappearance of this item, the shareholders will be fortunate. They get no dividend on account of the past year, the first omission in the company's history, and it is interesting to see what the directors have to say on the subject. Mr. Arthur Spurgeon, the new general manager, entered on his duties shortly after the last annual meeting, and has been energetically occupied in reorganising the business, and in developing new schemes for its extension. Already great improvements have been effected, we are told, "and the directors have every confidence that within a reasonable time there will be a revival of the firm's old time prosperity." We should rejoice to see it, and have refrained from caustic remarks on the present occasion because we think the new man should be given his chance. The smaller profits are not his fault, but rather due, we should think, to his honesty of purpose. Nett revenue is brought out at £12,425, or £7,740 less than in 1904, and the trading companies produced a loss of £157, against a profit of £1,753. Therefore, with the rather larger balance of £567 brought in, the disposable sum is £12,835, against £20,573. Debenture interest takes £4,015, and income-tax £726, leaving £8,093, and in order to, in a sense, have their cake and eat it, the directors refrain from paying a dividend, so as to keep the money in the business, at the same time writing off £8,000 from copyrights. It is purely a question of accounts, and the sum carried forward will be just £93. We are glad to note that the auditors give their certificate "subject to any necessary further provision for depreciation of the copyrights."

ANGELO MINING SHARES.

A correspondent writes expressing some surprise that in our Kaffir yield table published last week we "seem" to say we think Angelos too dear, although we recommended a purchase of them at a higher price last year in our sample mining trust. We do not quite follow the argument of our correspondent, but it may be useful to try to elucidate matters for him and others. We published a suggestion for a mining trust nearly a year ago, and included Angelos therein, as we then explained, mainly because the mine has a longer life than most outcrops, but we strongly insisted upon the uncertain possibilities of this, as of all other mines, good and bad. With reference to this particular company we wrote:—"On the present dividend the price is very high, and largely discounts future probable dividends. These may be no more than 60 per cent.; on the other hand, they may go as high as 100 per cent., and all these risks and probabilities the buyer must, of course, take into consideration." This reservation surely was clear enough, and we made it clearer still by pointing out that the dividend of 60 per cent. upon which we calculated the yield was paid on a capital of £275,000 only, not on the whole £600,000. The rest of the capital consisted of deferred shares held by the parent company, the East Rand Proprietary Mines, which were not to rank for dividend until a certain quantity of ore had been crushed. Not until last August was this quantity reached, and as profits had then, and have since, to be distributed over the entire capital, the reason of the much smaller dividend paid in 1905 compared with 1903, viz., 43½ compared with 60 per cent., is easily grasped. This

makes all the difference in the world between the yield now and that of a year ago, even though in the meantime the price has dropped considerably. We went fully into the position and prospects of this company in our issue of February 24, and need not cover the ground again. By showing a clear gain of 4½ per cent., after providing for amortisation, it does not necessarily follow, as our correspondent says, that our inclusion of them in last week's table "seems to show that we think them too dear at the present lower price." We neither recommend nor condemn them; we simply give present facts. Indeed, many readers may regard a probable clear gain of over 4 per cent. as an attractive yield, especially with a prospect of a doubling of the profits when the additional 110 stamps are in full operation.

PREMIER DIAMOND COMPANY.

The Johannesburg correspondent of the *Financial Times* has succeeded in getting hold of an advance copy of the annual report of the Premier Diamond Company, and has forwarded an analysis of it to this side. We shall probably get a complete copy of the document in due course, but meanwhile may as well look at a few of the figures the correspondent has extracted. These necessarily cannot be exhaustive, and therefore leave us in much doubt as to the present position of things. The financial year ends on October 31, and it is since then that the heavy decline in the shares has taken place. This absolves the directors from the necessity of making any reference to the market slump, and evidently they do not allude to it, nor to its causes. There is, however, a supplementary report, written by the general manager, and dated January 1, the tenor of which is rather reassuring. We are told that the expenditure and revenue account for the year shows a profit of £622,633, which, added to the balance from the previous year, gave the directors a sum of £1,393,235, accounted for as follows:—

General expenditure equipment to date	£ 704,152
Liabilities for water scheme and new plant	254,368
Interest on working capital	1,592
Government proportion of profits	259,873
Shareholders' appropriation accounts, proportion of profits	173,248

Of the amount due to the Government £100,000 was paid during the year, £50,000 since the closing of the books, and the balance is paid in the present month. In the appropriation account there are added to the shareholders' profit of £173,248 the sum of £85,135, amount of working capital set off under the ordinance with interest, and interest on fixed deposits £8,875. These aggregate £267,259, whilst the profits declared absorb £260,000, leaving only £7,259 to carry forward. Loads hauled were 2,036,782 against 1,289,234, and these washed 1,388,071 compared with 939,265, so that the diamonds won increased from 845,652 to 749,653. There was, however, a slight fall in the average carats per load—from .609 to .798—and an increase of close on 2d. per load, to 2s. 9.68d., in the costs. The value of the diamonds was £994,687 against £866,030. Altogether the total expenditure rose from £198,292 to £372,054, and the nett profit fell from £667,738 to £622,634. The heavier costs are attributed by the general manager to the outlay incurred on development, recruiting, tailings dam, water leases, boring, &c., but the correspondent points out that recruiting cost £51 less than in 1904, whilst the others account for only £25,000 out of the total increase of £175,000, so the official explanation is incomplete, and even to some degree misleading. For instance, the diamond office expenses have advanced over 100 per cent. to £49,973, for which no explanation is given. Though the value of the diamonds was £129,000 higher, the London brokerage account has increased by nearly £10,000, two and a-half times as much as in the previous year, and at the same time London Agency commission has risen from £5,466 to £12,888, which is quite out of proportion to the

increase in production. Another amazing fact is the advance in the directors' and auditors' fees from £1,300 to £14,000, though it must be admitted that this is really less than the directors are entitled to under the articles of association. They may take 5 per cent. on the dividends paid, whereas the above sum is only about 2 per cent., huge though it be. According to the report of the manager, the fall in the yield is attributed to a bar of floating reef struck in No. 1 workings, extending almost the entire length of the working face, and to a gradual increase in the depth of the overburden. Again, a large portion of the ground treated at No. 2 gear was derived from the development cutting made to connect Nos. 1 and 2 workings, in order to form a general working face, extending nearly the entire length of the mine. There is little or nothing in the above brief statement either to depress or reassure shareholders; rather will it tend to leave them in a state of doubt as to the future. Not only is the price of the share continually weakening, but in the gleams of light that flit across the scene now and then the prospects of the current and future years look much less promising than they did a few months ago.

VILLAGE MAIN REEF AND WEMMER COMPANIES.

We have already announced that it is the intention of the directors of the Village Main Reef and Wemmer Companies to amalgamate the pair, and the meeting for considering the matter is convened for Thursday next. In their report for the 12 months to the end of December the directors of the Village Main Reef allude to this proposal very briefly, and no doubt the orators of the company will rely upon their eloquence mainly to persuade shareholders to agree to it. The advantages to be derived from amalgamation must be more or less guessed at, and, as the Wemmer is on its last legs, it is not easy to see what the Village would gain. In fact, it would gain nothing were it not a very large shareholder in the Wemmer, holding as many as 20,000 shares out of 80,000. It would not do to see such possessions become valueless, so it is proposed to cancel these shares and to create 72,000 new ones, real "Villages," to be issued to the Wemmer Company for its property and assets, and to rank for dividend from January last. In a circular issued some weeks ago it was stated that the terms are based upon valuations made of the properties and assets of both companies by the manager of the Village Main Reef, and the principal advantages of amalgamation are declared to be the facilities it would give for lowering working costs and increasing the extraction of ore. Amongst the assets to be acquired will be 34,926 shares in the Village Deep held by the Wemmer. So, after all, it may turn out a good bargain for the purchasing company, but, good or bad, it will go through, seeing the power the Village possesses as by far the largest shareholder in the Wemmer.

The results of the past year's working of the Village Main Reef may be regarded as good, for though there was a decrease of 2s 1.7d. per ton in revenue, there was a saving of 2s. 8.8d. in the working costs, giving an increased profit of 7d. per ton milled, or £34,761 in the aggregate. The total quantity of ore crushed was 290,995 tons, and the production from all sources was 114,278 ozs., of a value of £480,893, equal to £1 13s. per ton. Expenditure came to £310,137, averaging £1 1s. 4d. per ton, and, adding a little from other sources, the profit amounted to £172,250. Two dividends were paid out of this, aggregating 40 per cent., bringing the total distribution up to 48s. per share since August, 1898. The directors have purchased the freehold of about 100 of the company's claims at a net expenditure of £31,500, which, they say, will give the company valuable surface rights. It is also proposed to acquire the freehold of the Wemmer Company's claims at a further cost of £43,000. In order to provide the funds for this and to complete the erection of new plant and machinery, the directors intend to make an issue of 5 per cent. debentures,

redeemable out of profits in five years. An option will be given to exchange these debentures for Village Deep shares at a price to be determined upon, and as profits are expected to increase, it is estimated they will provide for the service of the debt without reducing the present rate of dividend. This rather looks as if future distributions will not be increased beyond the 40 per cent. now paid. Should the amalgamation be sanctioned, particulars of the debenture issue will be published. It is interesting to learn that this company has been able to get a sufficiency of native labour, and that, despite the outcry of impending ruin, they hope further to cut down working costs. The financial position is fairly strong, but the following is what the auditors say regarding depreciation:—"No amount representing depreciation of plant, machinery, buildings, &c., has been charged in the profit and loss account, but the directors have elected to charge the sum of £31,479 (being 10 per cent. on the value of these assets, as shown by the books) against reserve account." Which no one would describe as high-principled finance.

THE DEBT OF NEW YORK CITY.

Apparently there is a disposition to grumble at the expansion it has undergone in recent years. On January 1 last the nett total, less sinking funds, was put at \$472,574,000, whereas on January 1, 1901, the total was rather under \$280,000,000, so that in five years about \$193,000,000, or say nearly £40,000,000, has been added to the public burdens of the city; and this is by no means all the story, for there are various projects of public utility, such as the procuring of a fresh supply of water from the Catskills and the construction of additions to the existing subway system, which all mean heavy further additions to the load carried by the citizens. It is estimated, the *New York Commercial Chronicle* says, that the Catskills water supply alone will cost \$161,000,000. No wonder the city has had to resort to all sorts of devices in order to enlarge its borrowing capacity and enable it to issue additional bonds to carry out these undertakings. In 1903 the assessed value of property within the municipal area was raised from \$3,857,000,000 to over \$5,432,000,000, the basis of valuation having been changed from about 60 per cent. of the actual value to nearly the full figure, and there is talk, it seems, of another wholesale addition to the assessments, where such seem to still fall below the gross value of the property. The worst of it is that the tax collectors do not seem always able to get money when it is levied, for one official declares that there are about \$30,000,000 of unpaid taxes due to the city that are not worth 10 cents to the \$1, carried along year after year as an asset, perhaps to facilitate the contemplated further additions to the debt. Meantime, the credit of New York, thanks to its lavish borrowing, has shrunk, so that places like Buffalo, Boston, San Francisco, Cincinnati, and other cities are able to raise money on better terms than it can; all which shows us that there are other unwholesome aggregates of human beings who enjoy grievances besides London.

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: NEW COMET.

The New Comet is a member of the Farrar group of companies, and comes third in position to the Angelo and Driefontein Consolidated. In fact, these are the only three subsidiaries of the East Rand Proprietary Mines that pay dividends, the New Comet being the smallest distributor. As a matter of fact, it has paid but two dividends in its long career of 12½ per cent. each in 1899 and 1905, or 25 per cent. in all, so it has not been a remunerative property. Nor can one say, with absolute assurance, that it will be remunerative in the future. No less than three times has it been reconstructed. It came into existence as long ago as 1889, under the title of the Comet Main Reef Gold Mining Company, and was first reconstructed in 1892, when it took its present name. The second reconstruction was in 1895, when it purchased

57 deep level claims from the East Rand Proprietary Mines. It plodded along until it achieved its first dividend in 1899, when the war came and put a stop for some years to mining operations. In 1902 it bought a further 88 deep level claims from the parent company, in the same year as the Angelo and Driefontein bought theirs, and the capital was increased from £275,000 to £500,000. But 200,000 of the new shares are not to participate in dividends until the profit from 327,000 tons of ore has been paid to the holders of the other capital. After the war milling was restarted in May, 1902, but was suspended in the following October, the natives being taken from this company for the higher grade Angelo and Driefontein mines. Crushing recommenced in July, 1904, and, as already stated, a dividend of 12½ per cent. was paid for 1905. It is worthy of mention that the New Comet was the first mine on the Rand to employ Chinese. But it has not yet had the whole of its stamps in operation for a full year, and as the battery is now increased by 60 stamps to 160, profits should be larger than they have been in the past. It is useless to speculate what future profits and dividends will be, especially as the New Comet is a low grade mine. So we will make our calculations on the dividend paid last year. At present quotations the yield is, say, 6 per cent., and as the life of the mine is estimated at about twelve years, the return in that period on £100 invested would be only £72. That would mean a heavy loss. Even should future distributions average 25 per cent. and the price remain at its present figure, the yield would be only 3½ per cent., or a little over 5 per cent. if the investor provided his own sinking fund by setting aside annually £6 17s. at 3 per cent. compound interest. Such dividends may be paid, but will 25 per cent. be the average for twelve years? We hardly dare hope so.

UNITED COLLIERIES.

It would not be quite fair perhaps to use Mr. Balfour's classic phrase in describing how some of the original directors of this notorious enterprise stole away from their trust, but the fact remains that they quietly departed as soon as it was found that reckless capitalisation and still more reckless administration had brought the Morgan-sponsored financial atrocity to the verge of collapse. Thus, as frequently happens, we have to preface our remarks on the report and balance-sheet for the year ended December 31 with the statement that most of the men comprising the present board are in no way responsible for the ghastly exhibit. Unlike Morgan's Yankee monster, the United States Steel Trust, this unfortunate United Collieries Company cannot produce even paper profits, never to be realised in cash, our Company laws being so much more stringent than those of New Jersey, and it must therefore go on piling up debit balance instead of the handsome surpluses which its American cousin sometimes blinds us by displaying. Will not the Steel Trust give a helping hand with a little of that 44 million dollar "surplus" so skilfully concocted from the past year's trading? But to come back to our subject—the Collieries Company—we find the directors saying that for the greater part of the year 1905 the depression in the coal trade told most unfavourably against the company both in regard to output and prices realised, but, notwithstanding very adverse conditions, costs and overhead charges have been materially reduced. That is indeed a fortunate thing, because even with these economies the business could do nothing better than a gross profit on trading of £33,302, which is increased to £34,972 by directors' and transfer fees. But ordinary charges alone amounted to £45,731, including salaries of manager and head office staff £11,456, general and other expenses £10,305, rates, taxes, insurance and workmen's compensation £15,633, bad and doubtful debts, &c., £3,814, and directors' fees £2,900. We therefore start with a deficiency of £10,760, which is promptly raised to £17,948 by writing off £4,607 from the expenses of issue of debenture stock and pro-

viding £2,581 for interest on prior lien debentures and loans. Adding this loss to the debit balance brought forward £69,799, and there is a deficiency to be carried out of the nice little sum of £87,747. Shareholders, however, must not run away with the idea that this is the worst. When in 1904 the entire structure looked like foundering, the debenture-holders agreed to a postponement of interest unless profits permitted their payment. This kind of thing can go on until April, 1912, as to the first debentures, and until January of the same year with the second debentures. As regards the income debenture stock, interest is payable only out of profits whenever earned, but is cumulative. The sinking fund has been rendered temporarily inoperative in like fashion, but all rights come automatically into action on the dates mentioned. Then the whole of the arrears of interest and sinking fund must be made good "on the nail" or the debenture-holders may step in and foreclose. What the position will be like when this time arrives is something we dare not think about, but, of course, the debenture-holders will not allow any depreciation or capital wastage to be provided until they get their interest, and unless a great and wonderful improvement quickly comes about the accumulated losses, actual and nominal, promise to be appalling. Postponed interest at the present time amounts to £130,217, making with the debit to profit and loss a total of £217,964, and that sum alone, quite apart from any additions, will require a rare lot of picking up. Capital raised during the year was only £10,004, by the issue of additional income debenture stock, and the sum spent reached £15,906, principally for sinking two new shafts and for general development, from which substantial results are hoped for in the future. The question of further capital expenditure is having the anxious consideration of the directors, but outlay of this character continues to be necessary. In particular the board has arranged for the installation of a number of coal-cutting machines in certain of the thinner seams, and it is proposed to increase these appliances. Total property valuation is now £2,764,365, and at this juncture it is quite useless to inquire into the composition of this item or how far it could be justified. Interest in railway wagons is valued at £144,082, and other items on the credit side which might be mentioned are loose plant £115,451, discount on issue of debenture stock £13,820, stocks £56,768, sundry debtors £134,687 and cash £9,595. Sundry creditors amount to £87,909, and all told the debenture debt adds up to £1,451,470. Happily the public is not interested in the £1,800,572 of share capital. Prospects for the future are accorded a few words in the report, and the directors refer with pleasure to a marked increase in the output and sales since the trade improvement set in during the latter part of last year. A continuance of that improvement in any pronounced degree will, they hope, tend to a substantial reduction in the debit to profit and loss, and the hope is one in which all concerned will fervently concur.

CAMMELL, LAIRD AND CO.

We continue to find a good deal that is interesting in the annual report of this important fusion of ship-building, engineering, and iron and steel businesses. There are also sundry omissions of a rather striking character. For example, we expected to be informed of the latest developments in connection with that Spanish mining and railway enterprise, the Sierra Company, which has involved Cammells in such appalling loss. Must that loss, amounting to no less than £411,500, now be considered absolutely irretrievable, or is there a chance of recovering something? That the question is of first-class import is obvious from the fact that the whole of the company's reserve fund was required to make good the deficiency in assets caused by the break up of this big venture. It may be recalled that in the report last year it was considered "inadvisable to give full particulars of the position," because of certain negotiations then pending, but the

same reason can hardly be advanced now, and we fancy shareholders will want a plain and straightforward explanation of the whole business. We know the company's English business is sound and prosperous, and that a quite satisfactory dividend is paid, but that is no reason why the proprietors should be kept in the dark on a matter so vitally affecting their interests. In addition to the Sierra collapse, the directors a year ago referred to the unsatisfactory working of the Russian Cammell Fire Company, in Odessa, and in view of the blood-curdling events that have taken place in that stricken city, it is not astonishing to find that they have decided to cease operations there. Measures have therefore been taken to place the concern in liquidation, and a further appropriation from the profits of the past year will completely eliminate this interest from the company's books. Thus, whatever the assets realise will be so much gain, and we may congratulate the board on its judicious and business-like handling of this matter. Community of interests without unnecessarily large amalgamations seems to be the present ideal of the directors, and they have to notify some important developments in this direction during the past year. For example, it was decided that the ordnance works at Coventry, which had been equipped for the manufacture of field guns and their accessories, should be further developed, and since a large amount of capital was required the big firm of John Brown and Co. was taken into partnership. A separate company known as the Coventry Ordnance Works was formed to acquire the Coventry assets from Cammell, Laird, and half the capital sold to John Brown and Co., on what are considered equitable terms, and likely to prove beneficial to all parties. Later on this company took advantage of a favourable opportunity to acquire an interest in the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, that concern in turn participating in the Coventry Ordnance Works.

All this means an extensive interchange of interests, with what ultimate object we do not know, but it may be taken as certain that solicitude for the consumer and taxpayer is not uppermost in the directorial mind. Important improvements have been carried out at the Sheffield works, and further changes with a view to increasing the capacity of the works and bringing the plant into a condition of greater efficiency are in progress. That seems to point a little to past neglect, and we do not forget that these Sheffield works had to be completely reorganised in order to bring them up to date. The directors, however, are obviously pleased with their achievement in producing the belt armour for the new battleship *Dreadnought* within the contract time, especially as the plant was engaged in other heavy work. Contracts in progress at the Birkenhead shipbuilding yard include a 33-knot torpedo boat destroyer for the British Government, and turbine steamers of high speed for the Great Western Railway Company's Irish service and the Great Central Company's North Sea service. The new works at Tranmere are now well advanced, but the river wall for which the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board are responsible has proved more troublesome than anticipated, and has somewhat delayed the company's developments.

However, the nett profit for the year ended December 31, after providing for depreciation and debenture interest was £231,807 or £46,076 more than in the preceding twelve months, and £32,173 was brought forward making £263,980. That provides the preference dividend and 10 per cent., or 2½ per cent. more for the original ordinary shares, together with a distribution of 5s. per share on the 37,500 shares issued in connection with the arrangement with the Fairfield Company. Out of the £100,389 still left the directors write off £12,000, being the commission on issue of debenture stock, extinguish the goodwill account with £28,414, apply £20,000 against the Russian Cammell Fire business already mentioned, and carry forward the increased balance of £39,975. This must be considered a very good result, and in the

current year the directors should be in a position to recommence a reserve fund. Debenture debt now stands at £900,000 or £400,000 more, an issue having been made simultaneously with the issue of the report last year, and the share capital has increased £214,225 to £2,372,895. On the other side investments in subsidiary companies naturally show an important advance and now stand at £360,864 compared with £177,031. The sum advanced to the Tranmere Bay Development Company has been increased by £142,662 to £219,000, and the cash and bills, instead of being £31,910, now amount to £158,883. Sum due to creditors is £321,952 or £53,239 less, but debtors have increased £212,308 to £567,003, and stock and work in progress is larger by £128,129 at £991,777, pointing to further successful trading for 1906. Property account is set down at £1,496,196 against £1,689,888, reflecting the heavy writings off of a year ago, and a further £48,414 has still to be deducted on account of the allowances made in the present accounts.

THE SAVOY HOTEL.

The reports and balance-sheets of the company owning the Savoy Hotel and other palaces of splendour are no longer marked "Private—for shareholders only," the board having arrived at the conclusion that a nice little free advertisement once a year in the way of Press notices is by no means to be despised. Last year was the first occasion that we had an opportunity of handling the accounts, and it must be confessed that the position then disclosed was not at all to our liking. The stupendous load of debt struck the mind with something like terror, and although the business has upheld it tolerably well during the past year we should not care to be shareholders where the risks are so great and the chances of reward so small. All told, the debentures and mortgages amount to £1,743,678, and the directors actually think they have done something wonderful because sinking funds have been provided and £10,000 has been added to reserve. "The board are satisfied they will have the support of the shareholders in adding to the company's reserves rather than in recommending a larger dividend." That sentence is worth putting on record, especially when we remember that the reserve, loan redemption and special depreciation funds reach about £103,000 after the company has been 17 years in existence. Capital expenditure in 1905 was £43,538, raising the total to £1,855,649, apart from £248,626 invested in the Grand Hotel, Rome, £180,000 in Claridge's Hotel, £100,000 in the Berkeley Hotel and £12,500 in the Worcester Buildings Company. Stocks and debtor balances amount to £103,949 and cash is pretty substantial at £73,090, but the two together are not much above the sum owing to sundry creditors. We cannot here repeat the directorial language in describing what a wonderful business is now being done by the various hotels and restaurants owned or controlled by the company, but bodily sustenance must be obtained somewhere, and the Savoy people seem to have supplied it to the amount of £525,931 during the past year. That is an increase of almost £108,000 compared with the preceding twelve months, and in addition £35,015 came in from rents, &c., and £81 from transfer fees, making £561,026 in all against £466,506. On the other hand, provisions, wines, spirits, &c., cost £187,540 or £33,642 more, and working charges came to £218,657 or an increase of £35,721, and the nett balance is £154,828 compared with £129,672. So, after providing for sundry sinking funds, allowing £1,983 for bad and doubtful debts, writing off a loss of £7,602 on sale of old plant and boilers, setting aside £2,500 as a reserve for depreciation of machinery and adding £10,000 to reserve, £119,867 is left. From that, interest on the debentures, mortgages, &c., requires the great sum of £93,143, and the directors can only provide the preference dividend and 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares by cutting down the carry forward from £10,525 to £5,859.

Passing Events.

Last week's revenue was again a bumper one, reaching a total of £4,912,000. Should as much come in in each of the two final weeks of the fiscal year, then the estimate of Mr. Austen Chamberlain made last April will be exceeded by about £4,413,000, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer will have nearly £5,000,000 to play with, exclusive of the windfall of expired annuities, which added should bring his total prospective surplus on the existing basis of taxation up to about £8,000,000. As there is a reduction in expenditure for the coming year, measured by the estimates as published, amounting to about £363,000, there ought to be some considerable remissions of taxation, something off income-tax, something off tea and sugar, with other prospective benefits. It is well, at least, to hope, that being still left to us, in spite of £66,000,000, or, perhaps, £69,000,000, to be laid out on the Army and Navy.

We are not surprised that the superannuation fund of the Midland Railway should have been actuarially discovered to be insolvent. A deficiency has accumulated during the past 10 years amounting to £843,000; that is to say the usual railway rule-of-thumb method of granting benefits or of managing traffic has been followed, and this is the result. What will the company now do? Issue capital in order to make good the deficit, or allow the beneficiaries to suffer? We shall wait with some interest to see, and meantime it would be useful to have an actuarial overhaul of the superannuation and benevolent funds of the other railway companies, so that an idea of the aggregate loss accumulated might be attained.

That seems to be a good and reasonably-framed Shipping Bill which Mr. Lloyd-George introduced to the Commons on Tuesday afternoon. In a sense, as Mr. Wyndham said, it is of a protectionist nature, inasmuch as it puts restrictions upon the freedom or license of foreign ships entering our ports, compelling them, after due notice, to conform to our rules as to loading, &c., and also limits the use of foreigners as sailors or "hands" on British ships. These provisions, however, cannot be quarrelled with by any sensible mind, and all will welcome the effort to be made to improve the treatment of the men in the matter of food and accommodation. We suppose it was impossible for Mr. George to go further, and endeavour to interlink, to use a military phrase, our mercantile marine with the Royal Navy. How many men are at present idle on, or attached to, our ships of war we do not quite know, as our Statistical Abstract does not give any particulars regarding the Navy, but we believe the total to amount to almost 130,000 officers and men, half of whom could surely be spared to replace foreign crews. In the old days, when England was winning her great naval victories, the mercantile marine was drawn upon in a very rough fashion indeed by the press gangs, in order to fill the fighting Navy with men. We have got more civilised now, but surely it ought to be possible to utilise half the men on active service in the Navy on first-class vessels in the mercantile marine, so as to at once relieve the strain put upon the taxpayer, and obviate the necessity for such large employment of foreigners in British merchant ships. That reform has not yet been thought of, but it might come some day if hampered at, for we subsidise ocean liners plentifully now.

It was not altogether a happy story that Mr. Robert Forrest, the chairman of the South Wales Electrical Power Distribution Company had to tell the shareholders last week, and yet there was hope in it. We have no doubt whatever that in the course of a few years this company's business must prove permanently remunerative. It occupies a fine district, and is in a position to supply electric power of all descriptions at a cheap rate to a neighbourhood which should be prolific in demands for it. Its slow progress has been due in great measure to the newness of the enterprise. No industry could adopt the new methods of working

its machinery or developing its mines without large and costly preliminary changes in its plant. This has retarded the inflow of custom, and, as Mr. T. O. Callender remarked, is no new experience. He himself found it took a year to equip his works with electrical driving and other plant, and it means money, too, which some of the prospective customers of the Power Company may not always have at hand. Also the capital expenditure while waiting has been greater on the part of the Power Company than was anticipated, but with a little time and patience these preliminary drawbacks and obstacles will be overcome, and we quite expect to see a better state of affairs exhibited a year hence.

It will surprise nobody who has read Mr. Brailsford's book on Macedonia, recently issued by Messrs. Methuen, that the first budget for that unhappy portion of Turkey in Europe drawn up by the International Financial Commission, should show a deficit of over £T800,000. The wonder, indeed, is that there should be any revenue whatever obtainable from that torn and ruined country. It would soon be prosperous enough if it were given autonomy, and some measure of local self-government under adequate and disinterested European control, but neither Macedonia nor Albania can be anything else than centres of misery, revolt, bloodshed, and rapine, until they are set free, not merely from the grasp of the Turk but from the machinations of Austria, Russia, and Greece. We shall have the Near Eastern question upon us in aggravated form at no distant day unless England, as Mr. Brailsford pleads with irresistible force, once more takes the lead in an effort to undo the mischief perpetrated by Lord Beaconsfield and the Marquis of Salisbury at the Berlin Conference. They kept these regions and other portions of South-Eastern Europe under the heel of the Turk out of jealousy of Russian aggression, and their point of view, given our perpetual fear about India, was perhaps then reasonable, but the consequences have been infinitely disastrous to the peoples victimised by selfish British diplomacy.

That is a good idea which Mr. Lloyd-George has started to take a quinquennial census of our internal trade. At first there may be difficulty in getting the captains of industry, great and small, to cordially support the proposal, but given absolute secrecy—and there is no reason at all why it should not be maintained—and hostility ought before long to disappear with results valuable to the statistician, and not least to the Free Trader. There is no more reason why particulars of the output of every manufactory, coal mine, iron foundry, and so forth should not be furnished to the Board of Trade at stated intervals. A little book-keeping is necessary, and the use of an extra clerk perhaps now and then, and all that is required could be furnished with no more trouble than the farmer is now called upon to undertake when he supplies the Board of Agriculture with particulars of the yield of his harvest.

Something like 50 railway bills are before this session of Parliament, according to a Board of Trade memorandum. The total number of railway, canal, electricity, gas, water, and other companies seeking powers is represented by 151 bills, or 20 more than in the last session of last Parliament. Altogether these bills, if passed, would involve the raising of almost £58,000,000 of money, or, say, £10,500,000 more than the past year's bills did. There are 41 bills promoted by existing railway companies, and these, if accepted, would give the companies powers to raise fresh capital to the extent of £6,743,000, while there are 11 new companies, partly electrical, seeking powers to build 197 miles of road and liberty to issue capital to the amount of £25,201,000. No less than 50 gas and water bills are being promoted wherein powers are sought to raise £5,092,000.

The *Tribune's* Petersburg correspondent says that no loan has yet been concluded abroad for Russia, and that even the internal loans have had to be postponed, the banks being unable to subscribe owing to their poverty.

Moscow, the richest city in the empire, is now said to be in a critical condition owing to its inability to borrow money, and other places will doubtless be in a like or a worse plight. All the same, we are assured from Paris that the new loan is ready.

It is a curious commentary upon Protection to learn that the United States Steel Trust has decided to erect works in Canada involving a capital expenditure which will ultimately reach £15,000,000. Report says that the land has been bought, and that £2,000,000 worth of plant will forthwith be established upon it. Protection does help certain industries to poach in this way, for it is a fallacy to imagine that it is the native producer who benefits. He may partially shut out free competition, but cannot prevent invasion.

The plight of the Anglo-Austrian Bank reminds us of the failed International Bank of London, whose position Mr Carl Meyer would be better employed in expounding than in writing ingenious letters to back up Chinese labour on the Rand. But the Anglo-Austrian Bank, though caught in timber, has not stopped payment. It has merely reduced its dividend from the 6½ per cent. declared to 5 per cent., compelled to do so by the discovery that nearly £80,000 has been lost last year in the London part of the business. Of this £26,000 was discovered before the balance-sheet was issued. So special provision had to be made, including a reduction in the dividend and in directors' fees. We hope the worst is now known.

There is one satisfactory point about the Austrian and Russian disclosures illustrative of the attitude and policy of their representatives at the Algéciras Conference. They show a profound desire on the part of these powers for the maintenance of peace. If Germany also desires peace with France, which we have not the least doubt her people as a whole do, then a settlement of the dispute will not be long delayed. Germany cannot afford to go to war—no great nation that values its civilisation can.

Even peace in arms is fast becoming a burden too grievous to be borne. Witness France, whose budget for the current year shows a prospective deficit of £2,280,000, which M. Poincaré, the new Finance Minister, says will have to be covered by an issue of six year bonds. That sort of thing cannot go on for ever, and the Powers will soon be driven to call a congress together to discuss far-reaching measures for disarmament. No nation, not even our own, can at one and the same time reduce the present murderous load of taxation, gratify the aspirations of the people for ameliorations in their lot, carry out projects of social recuperation, and still continue to sustain the present scale of purely wealth-killing outlay on armies and navies. The French budget, State and local, now aggregates about £198,000,000, and the State expenditure has risen £45,120,000 since 1879.

President Roosevelt does well, perhaps, to oppose the institution of an eight hours' work-day on the Panama Canal; but what has he done, or is he doing, to remove the shocking social and sanitary disabilities as revealed by Mr. Poulteney Bigelow, under which the digging is now carried on—navvy settlements—rotten huttings—in disease-laden swamps, irregular pay of workmen, slack control, absence of care for the sick workmen with a string of disgusting shortcomings in many other directions? Mr. Bigelow's exposure of the lightheaded, or hearted, Mr. Taft did not prevent that model politician from being offered a judgeship of the Supreme Court. What are Mr. Roosevelt and his Cabinet doing to mitigate scandals fully as great as any that arose under the rule of the late M. de Lesseps, for whom the excuse may be made that he had not a powerful Government behind him?

Friday's *Tribune* contained an admirable letter from Major-General Turner on our blue funkists and their schemes of national defence. We have space but for this extract:—

To attempt to secure our perfect safety by calling to our colours annually, as lately recommended by a Royal Commission, for a

year's service, 190,000 young men of 20 years of age, at a cost estimated by War Office experts at £25,000,000, or by the compulsory training of all youths for four months, also at a gigantic cost, would be about as sensible an equivalent as supplying a constable to every house in London to prevent burglary.

General Turner goes on to quote with telling effect the *Times* of June 27, 1805, on the prowess of the *irregular* forces who won the victories of those days, and to enforce the same lesson from our experience in South Africa—448,435 troops required to crush the freedom of two small States whose white population hardly reached 100,000, and even so not quite doing it. A most telling letter!

A good working committee is that selected to go to South Africa to inquire and report upon the form of free constitutions to be granted to Orangia and the Transvaal. The names are, Sir West Ridgeway, Lord Sandhurst, Sir Francis Hopwood, and Colonel Johnson, R.E.

The board of Meux's Brewery has not sent us the report of its committee of investigation, and from what we read of it in the papers we cannot feel surprised. A loss of £805,866 is admitted, and will probably be found to be an under-statement. It is to be met by writing £795,000 off the capital, and doubtless other drastic measures will be necessary, but we shall have more to say on the subject next week.

Critical Index To New Investments.

NEW JUNCTION DEEP LEADS, LIMITED.

Originally formed in 1898 under the title of the Junction Deep Leads of Victoria, this company had a share capital of £160,000 in £1 shares, of which 130,000 were issued to the vendors, but it never reached the producing stage and the whole affair has gone into liquidation. From its ashes the present undertaking has arisen, having a capital of £80,000 in 5s. shares and £15,000 in 5 per cent. first mortgage debentures redeemable in ten years at a premium of 10 per cent., or convertible into shares at par at any time. The new venture acquires a deep lead gold mining area of 3,218 acres situated between the Charlotte Plains Consolidated and the Victoria Deep Leads, together with the plant, machinery, &c., and also takes over a quarter interest in the Deep Leads Electric Transmission Company, paying £11,000 in cash, £20,000 in shares, and £15,000 in debentures. Shareholders in the Junction Deep Leads Company have a preferential right to an allotment of one share for each share held, and in order to induce them to take up the balance of the 240,000 shares offered, the General Share and Investment Company under agreement with the West Australian Goldfields, will give them a bonus of one share for every two shares applied for. Of the present issue, 100,000 shares are guaranteed by the vendors for a commission of 15 per cent., a rate which stamps the venture at once as none too promising a speculation.

ANGLO-BELGIAN COMPANY OF EGYPT, LIMITED.

This company proposes to carry on financial, railway, tramway, electric, building, land and development, industrial and shipping business in Egypt and the Soudan, and has a nominal capital of £1,000,000 in £5 shares, half of which were offered for subscription at a premium of 5s. per share in London, Alexandria, and Cairo. By way of a beginning, about four-fifths of the capital of the Fayoum Light Railways Company has been bought for £195,637, and it is also intended to acquire lands in the Fayoum district suitable for agriculture with a view to their profitable re-sale or leasing. According to Lord Cromer's report on Egypt for 1904, the Fayoum Railway was badly mismanaged, but the directors believe that with efficient management and expenditure on betterments, the line should do well, especially as the company has valuable rights in connection with the construction of light railways in the province. Of the shares offered 70,000 were guaranteed for a commission of 3½ per cent.,

50,000 by a powerful group of Continental bankers and others, headed by the *Crédit Général Liègeois* of Belgium, and the remainder by responsible London firms. The only profit made by the promoting company is about £17,000, represented by the difference between the price paid for the shares and debentures and the price asked, while the premium on the present issue will very nearly cover the preliminary expenses and underwriting commission, so that the company starts with ample funds, and, given capable management, should do well.

BURMA MINES RAILWAY AND SMELTING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Great Eastern Mining Company, Limited, sells to this undertaking certain ancient silver lead-mines at Baudwen, in the Northern Shan States, Upper Burma, which were formerly known to the Chinese as the Great Silver Mine situated between Pekin and Mandalay, and are said to have been first worked in the fifth century. For the mines and other assets the price payable is £259,993 in £1 shares, out of a total capital of £260,000, and £50,000 in 6 per cent. first mortgage convertible debenture stock, forming part of a total issue of £150,000. The remaining £100,000 was subscribed by the Share Guarantee Trust; and Messrs. Govett, Sons, and Co., together with the London and West Australian Exploration Company, Lake View Consols, and other companies having purchased £75,000 of the stock, the whole £150,000 was offered for subscription at par through the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China. It is estimated that there are at least 110,000 tons of old slags which could be treated at a cost of not exceeding £6 per ton of lead produced, and assuming the selling price of lead to be £11 per ton a profit of £236,500 is looked for from this source alone, while with lead at £15 per ton, or £1 under its present market value, a nett profit of £425,700 is brought out. The debenture stock is redeemable on or before December 31, 1915, at a premium of 5 per cent., but holders will have the right after November 30 next to convert into fully-paid shares at par, and it is provided that until the stock is either repaid or converted all surplus profits after payment of interest are to be applied to the redemption by purchase or drawings. Both Messrs. Bewick, Moreing and Co. and Messrs. Sulman and Picard seem to think well of the venture, and while the stock is no doubt a speculative security, it appears to have fair prospects.

ELECTRICAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY OF ONTARIO, LIMITED.

Messrs. Chaplin, Milne, Grenfell and Co., on account of themselves and other holders, offer for sale at £96½ per bond, \$2,500,000 first mortgage sinking fund 5 per cent. gold bonds of this company, in bonds of \$500 or £102 14s. 10d. each, forming part of a total of \$8,000,000 issued. The company is a Canadian one, established in 1903 with a share capital of \$6,000,000 and an authorised debenture debt of \$10,000,000, and by its charter was granted the right to generate 125,000 electrical horse-power from the waters of the Upper Niagara River, of which 50 per cent. must be sold in Canada, provided there is a demand for it. A letter from the president of the company to the present vendors states that the proceeds of the bonds purchased will be sufficient to provide 100,000 horse-power, of which it is estimated that about one half will be available for sale soon after October next. The nett earnings from this source are expected to amount to considerably more than \$800,000, or enough to pay the bond interest twice over. Two contracts have been entered into for a term of 18 and 25 years respectively with the Toronto Railway Company and the Toronto Electric Light Company, which will provide sufficient revenue to pay the interest and redemption on the whole of the bonds, while the Toronto and Hamilton Railway has rented the company's private right of way from Niagara to Toronto, and will with other railways be customers for a large amount of power. The bonds are secured by a first mortgage on all the present and future real and personal properties, rights, franchises and powers, and are redeemable at par in

March, 1933, by a yearly sinking fund, commencing in 1911, of \$1 for each electrical horse-power sold and paid for during the preceding year. On the surface, therefore, the bonds would appear to be a bargain, yielding over 5½ per cent., but it is worth noting that nothing is said of the actual outlay upon the works, nor of the cost to the company of obtaining the franchise, and for all we can tell the bulk of the construction may have been paid out of the bonds, in which case the security would at best be second rate.

ALL-BRITISH CAR COMPANY, LIMITED.

The boom in the motor car business has led the promoters of this company to believe that there is plenty of room for another British undertaking, and in support of this theory they state that over £3,000,000 per annum is being spent on foreign cars owing to the inability of the home factories to cope with the demand. In addition hopes are held out that it will be possible to secure a portion of the £25,000,000 which it is estimated will be spent in the near future in London alone on public service motor vehicles. Inspired by these figures and the prospects they open up, the company comes into existence with a capital of £250,000 in £1 shares, of which 120,000 are at present issued, and acquires the business of Johnston and Co., Bridgeton, Glasgow, for which £44,500 in cash is paid, this sum including the cost of bringing the works up to a capacity of 15 chassis per week. For the goodwill and patents £15,000 each is asked, to be satisfied by the issue of 30,000 shares which for the first three years will receive no dividend until after the other 90,000 offered for subscription have been paid 10 per cent. It is calculated that on an output of 12 chassis per week, even if the cars were sold at prices from £150 to £300 less than is now paid for foreign cars of the same power, the nett profits would come to £35,568 per annum, and if results come anything near the forecast the shares should prove a remunerative holding. The directors, of whom there are six, are to receive £200 per annum each, with a sum equal to 2½ per cent. on the amount distributed to the shareholders.

BATU TIGA (SELANGOR) RUBBER CO., LIMITED.

The Selangor Plantations Syndicate seems to take the view that the ever-increasing output of rubber will not affect the price, and has capitalised this new concern on that assumption. Two estates with an area of 2,273 acres, of which only 455 acres are under cultivation, partly with coffee and pepper and partly with rubber, are transferred to the new company for £22,750 in cash and £20,000 in shares. The total capital is £60,000 in £1 shares, and the balance of 40,000 having been underwritten for a cash commission of £2,250 are offered for subscription at par. An average dividend of 5 per cent. per annum for four years is guaranteed by the vendor, and will be secured by the deposit of £12,000 with bankers, to be drawn upon as required, subject to refunding by the payment of half the surplus profits thereafter, after the shareholders have received a cumulative dividend of 10 per cent. At present there are about 76,500 trees on the estates, of which about 2,000 are ready for tapping, while a further 2,000 will be ready about the end of the year, and the directors estimate that as soon as the trees are mature the profits, before charging administration expenses, should come to £15,300 per annum, or about 25 per cent. on the capital. They may do so, of course, but what if the price should slump?

PHOENIX ASSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

Nett premiums received by this old fire insurance company in 1905 fell off by £24,584 to £1,423,987, but losses took £252,324 less at £690,721, or 48.50 per cent. against 61.50 per cent. a year ago. Commission and expenses came to £40,300 more at £489,901, and £20,572 against £10,953 was put to the reserve for unexpired risks, raising it to £600,000, but with £53,472 from interest, the balance carried to profit and loss was £230,617 larger at £276,265. Adding £167,766 brought forward, the total available was £444,031 or an increase of £177,758, and after paying the usual dividends of 35s. per share, £30,000 was put to investment reserve and £101,210 to general reserve, making these funds £45,035 and £750,000 respectively, and £273,879 was carried to the current account.

Letter to the Editors.

CHINESE LABOUR.

Sirs,—I see that in your "Stock Market Notes and Comments" this week you pooh-pooh the idea that the expressed intentions of the Government regarding Chinese labour should have any effect on the price of Kaffir shares. You there seem to admit that if this cheap labour is lost, savings will have to be made in other ways if the mines are to pay the dividends, on the strength of which you have lately been telling us that some of the shares may be worth buying. This you seem to think may be done by demanding complete accounts from "irresponsible cosmopolites" who "work and strip the mines," "intercept profits," &c. Then there will be no necessity to employ "slave labour."

On the other hand, in an article on Chinese labour you take other ground, and seem to deny that this labour is cheaper than it would be to employ white men. You instance the case of five men who were sent out specially as an experiment. Can any trustworthy conclusions really be drawn from such cases as to the willingness of white men to do this unskilled work alongside of blacks? You say, too, that they did the work twice as fast, and probably twice as well. Is the "probably" your own, and exactly what is it worth? Let us suppose that they really were worth twice a Chinaman, which is probably quite the outside limit, if not very much beyond it. You say they got £3 a week, and they could have got more at home, so that evidently, as a permanent thing, it would not be "good enough." To make it worth while, they would probably want quite twice that wage. How would white labour at that wage compare with Chinese at 2s. a day, or whatever it is, even counting in all extras? Obviously it would not be "in it." But then you fall back on machine drills. Exactly how much do you know about machine drills, and their applicability, and have you ever made any calculation on trustworthy data that they could be employed, and that with them white labour would be as cheap as Chinese without? Has any expert mining engineer ever told you so? If you can prove it, you will bring joy to the hearts of thousands, at least if they are able to feel much confidence that South Africa will long continue to be a British possession at all. Let us have done with "probabilities" and "possibilities," and get down to some hard facts—if there are any available. On other occasions you have told us there were plenty of blacks to be got, apparently on the strength of a statement by Mr. J. B. Robinson, whose opinions on doings otherwise I seem to remember your treating with scant ceremony. Here, again, do let us have some facts.

Yours, &c.,

Kirkby Stephen, March 19, 1906.

RUSTIC.

Answers to Correspondents.

R. R. W.—We did not calculate our yields by Saturday's prices, for the exigencies of time and of printing make this impossible. So we had to take earlier prices, when, too, they happened to be rising, and we tried to make allowances for the ordinary daily fluctuations. That is why we said the figures must be regarded as approximate. The differences in your figures and ours are hardly material enough to affect the intrinsic values of the shares and are due merely to the ordinary fluctuations. The dividends were excluded, not added to the price. We take note of your other capital suggestion.

D. M.—Hold your stock for a possible recovery, but do not increase.

J. B. (Glasgow).—(1) We see no reason for selling these shares, and have not heard of the rumours you speak of. (2) These, on the other hand, seem quite worthless, and you might as well get rid of them. You have failed to observe our rules as regards letters, our minimum charge for which is 10s.

OLIVE.—You need be in no hurry to sell. The company has already accumulated a reserve equal to its nominal capital, and to all appearances it will continue to do a very remunerative business for some years to come.

H. H.—Your supposition is quite correct. The stock into which you suggest changing, although good, has already had a big rise, and you would do better to keep what you have for the present.

J. W.—We would not like to say that either of the securities you name comes up to your description of a satisfactory investment. Both pay big dividends now, and seem to be in a fairly strong position, but this has been taken into account in the price, and on present prospects there is not much margin for improvement.

H. D.—It is impossible to answer all your questions, especially those relating to acreage and freehold. We presume there are some genuine buyers, but we cannot get or even imagine their number—they may be as small as half a dozen or as high as six hundred. If you have the accounts the revenue from transfer fees will give you a faint clue. Prospects are about the same as they have been for years, that is the company does not promise to increase its recent dividends of 2½ per cent. We therefore do not regard the shares as a safe investment, and we should say the market for them is a very narrow one. Financially the company is in a tolerably comfortable position, but looking to the small profits earned, the capital appears heavy. The present price of the £10 share is 2¼—3 xd.

H.W.A.—If you will kindly look at our rules you will see that we are prohibited thereby from mentioning names of securities in this column. We are, therefore, unable to answer your question, and have returned the fee sent.

B. W. (Yorks).—The only thing against the exchange you suggest is that the bonds are not officially quoted on this market. They are, however, a very good security and the transfer would probably prove advantageous.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and March 17, 1906:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.			
	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Mar. 17, 1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Mar. 18, 1905.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	—	£ 6,352,909	£ 3,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
		7,430,278	4,263,842
REVENUE.			
Customs	34,050,000	33,264,000	34,648,000
Excise	30,200,000	28,927,000	29,641,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	12,484,000	12,042,000
Stamps	8,000,000	7,782,000	7,125,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	2,470,000	2,630,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	28,492,000	28,896,000
Post Office	16,500,000	16,620,000	15,960,000
Telegraph Service	4,050,000	4,055,000	3,765,000
Crown Lands	470,000	440,000	440,000
Receipts from Suez Canal			
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,054,000	1,094,594	993,826
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	1,444,451	1,386,441
*Revenue	142,454,000	137,043,045	137,526,267
Total, including balance		144,473,323	141,799,109
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		880,000	510,000
Repayment of Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		225,000	—
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		700,000	1,120,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..		191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905		2,175,000	1,884,500
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		1,262,408	1,800,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	11,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		148,000	149,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		—	5,912,631
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905		9,854,604	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904		1,000,000	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares		8,461	7,460
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 10 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..		—	1,000,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		2,000,000	8,600,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £4,500,000 Treasury Bills in 1905-6) and £13,500,000 in 1904-5		8,000,000	21,800,000
Total		170,941,388	191,034,190
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.			
	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Mar. 17, 1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Mar. 18, 1905.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	28,000,000	26,153,190	24,734,867
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	1,475,367	1,454,187
Payments to Local Taxation			
Accounts	1,160,000	1,107,794	1,107,754
Supply Services	111,304,000	101,390,191	104,949,671
Expenditure	142,084,000	130,127,042	132,246,479
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		640,000	470,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		180,000	45,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		10,000,000	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		750,000	700,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905		3,216,000	3,453,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		900,000	3,500,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	11,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		193,000	149,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		616,374	29,000
Surplus Revenue 1904-1905 applied to reduce Debt		1,413,907	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares, applied to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1898 ..		8,461	7,460
Deficiency Advances repaid		586,093	8,600,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		8,000,000	23,800,000
		156,653,877	179,546,439
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	£ 13,283,918	£ 10,540,359	—
Bank of Ireland	1,003,593	947,392	—
		14,287,511	11,487,751
Total		170,941,388	191,034,190

Treasury, March 20, 1906.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for ten days ended March 14, \$2,852, increase \$243.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 16, \$16,950, decrease \$842; aggregate from January 1, \$119,867, decrease \$1,212.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 17, Rs. 68,430, increase Rs. 11,216; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 4,54,908, increase Rs. 36,860.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 14, \$98,300, increase \$39,600; total from July 1, \$3,532,200, increase \$844,100.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 17, Rs. 32,860, increase Rs. 2,950.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 4, £463, increase £10.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 2nd week of March, \$16,659, increase \$5,226; aggregate from January 1, \$155,510, increase \$37,362.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 17, Rs. 12,096, increase Rs. 5,072.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended March 7 amounted to \$6,000.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending March 17, £1,253, increase £4; aggregate from January 1, £13,323, increase £174.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending March 17, £700, increase £37; aggregate from January 1, £7,778, increase £596.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for November, £4,099, decrease £203.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending March 17, £439, increase £55; aggregate from January 1, £5,083, increase £324.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 16, £1,315, increase £142; aggregate from January 1, £14,695, increase £2,378.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 18, £11, decrease £1; aggregate from January 1, £76, decrease £1.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 16, £4,593, increase £166; aggregate from January 1, £51,370, increase £2,428.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending March 16, £26,564, increase £3,181; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £290,254, increase £48,324; 435½ miles, against 421.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 17, £1,041, increase £18; aggregate from January 1, £11,842, increase £1,115.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 18, £120, decrease £10; aggregate from January 1, £1,025, decrease £11.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 16, £101, decrease £8; aggregate from January 1, £952, decrease £78.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 16, £4,592, decrease £147; aggregate from January 1, £48,870, increase £1,833.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 17, £4,331, decrease £196; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £50,021, increase £1,993.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 16, £189, decrease £38; aggregate from January 1, £2,105, decrease £309.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 15, £346.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 17, £248, decrease £18; aggregate from October 1, £6,186, decrease £449.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 10, £15,087, increase £2,554; aggregate from April 1, £718,530, increase £95,052. Miles 51½ against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 17, £20,387, decrease £1,598; aggregate from January 1, £226,599, decrease £7,260.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 17, £7,221, decrease £235; aggregate from January 1, £77,501, increase £314.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 17, £184, increase £7; aggregate from January 1, £2,061, increase £125.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 18, £751, increase £147; aggregate from January 1, £7,971, increase £2,207.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 18, £15,270, increase £1,186; aggregate from January 1, £162,960, increase £16,811.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of January, 1906, £11,016, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to January 31, \$694,541, increase \$150,592. Nett earnings from July 1 to January 31, \$318,067, increase \$93,150.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending March 11, £3,492, increase £62; aggregate from January 1, £35,110, increase £3,332.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 17, £1,444, increase £408; aggregate from January 1, £9,831, increase £2,385.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of February, \$281,300.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 17, Rs. 43,240, increase Rs. 4,243; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 4,99,228, increase Rs. 48,620.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of February, £4,186, increase £947. Total from January 1, £9,264, increase £3,669.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of November, \$417,218, increase \$63,017; aggregate from January 1, \$4,320,887, increase \$390,457. Nett traffic receipts, \$226,858, increase \$35,361; aggregate from January 1, \$2,359,439, increase \$272,120.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	£ s d	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	£ s d
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Mar. 18	2,103	+ 572	11	22,939	+ 1,011	11
Cambrian	" 18	4,896	— 50	11	52,627	— 875	11
Central London ..	" 17	6,911	— 159	11	76,603	— 2,523	11
City and South London ..	" 18	2,900	+ 16	11	32,823	— 24	11
Furness	" 18	10,109	+ 1,080	11	104,134	+ 13,810	11
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 18	68,767	+ 3,145	11	759,918	+ 31,951	11
Great Eastern	" 18	94,200	+ 2,800	11	1,011,600	+ 2,900	11
Great Northern and City ..	" 17	1,835	+ 113	11	20,008	+ 623	11
Great Northern	" 17	106,000	— 231	11	1,149,300	+ 23,158	11
Great Western	" 18	214,100	+ 2,900	11	2,306,700	+ 15,800	11
Hull and Barnsley	" 18	9,784	+ 650	11	101,440	+ 1,917	11
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 18	100,415	+ 1,388	11	1,082,407	+ 28,904	11
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 17	51,434	— 69	11	574,893	+ 2,627	11
London & North Western ..	" 18	264,000	+ 9,000	11	2,832,000	+ 88,000	11
London & South Western ..	" 18	80,500	+ 300	11	856,900	+ 3,100	11
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 18	7,971	+ 402	11	86,102	+ 3,567	11
Metropolitan	" 18	16,666	— 374	11	184,748	— 2,222	11
Metropolitan District ..	" 18	8,071	+ 377	11	89,456	+ 4,721	11
Midland	" 17	214,224	+ 3,822	11	2,375,239	+ 62,441	11
North Eastern	" 17	174,790	+ 10,956	11	1,833,692	+ 87,132	11
North London	" 18	8,886	— 222	11	100,324	+ 1,636	11
North Staffordshire	" 18	17,461	+ 573	11	191,783	+ 6,266	11
Rhymney	" 18	6,107	+ 930	11	66,961	+ 2,306	11
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 17	73,189	— 699	11	823,574	+ 693	11
Taff Vale	" 18	18,770	+ 1,087	11	212,194	+ 10,297	11

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Mar. 18	78,578	— 794	7	558,041	+ 7,252	7
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 17	30,757	+ 608	7	214,225	+ 4,626	7
Great North of Scotland ..	" 17	7,840	— 120	7	55,775	— 570	7
Highland	" 18	7,655	— 296	7	54,466	— 1,460	7
North British	" 18	83,587	+ 774	7	593,494	+ 7,777	7

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Mar. 16	2,239	— 4	8	24,498	— 702	8
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 16	1,519	+ 213	8	15,296	— 27	8
Great Northern	" 16	17,206	— 116	11	174,428	+ 543	11
Midland Great Western ..	" 16	9,402	— 422	11	99,291	— 6,818	11

§ From January 1.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
Angelo	4 1/2	4 1/2	May Consolidated	2 1/2	2 1/2
Anglo-French Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
Apex	4 1/2	4 1/2	Modderfontein	6 1/2	6 1/2
Aurora West	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. B.	1 1/2	1 1/2
Bantjes	1 1/2	1 1/2	New Goch	1 1/2	1 1/2
Block B.	1 1/2	1 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2
City and Suburban, £4	2 1/2	2 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2
Comet (New)	2 1/2	2 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
Cons. Goldfields	4 1/2	4 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do.	22 1/2	22 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
Crown Reef	12	12	Rand Mines (New)	5 1/2	5 1/2
Driefontein	2 1/2	2 1/2	Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
Durban Roodepoort	4 1/2	4 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4	8	8
East Rand	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
East Rand Extension	1 1/2	1 1/2	Randfontein United	1 1/2	1 1/2
Ferreira	18 1/2	18 1/2	Salisbury	1 1/2	1 1/2
French Rand	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sheba (New)	7 1/2	7 1/2
Geduld	2 1/2	2 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1	1 1/2	1 1/2
Goldenhuis Estate	3 1/2	3 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	1 1/2	1 1/2
Ginsburg	1 1/2	1 1/2	Steyn Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
Glencarn	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Development	14 1/2	14 1/2
Harmony Proprietary	7 1/2	7 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates	1 1/2	1 1/2
Henderson's Transvaal	10 1/2	10 1/2	Treasury	1 1/2	1 1/2
Heriot	3 1/2	3 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2
Johannesburg Con. In.	3 1/2	3 1/2	Wegedstruis	1 1/2	1 1/2
Jubilee	2 1/2	2 1/2	Wegedstruis	1 1/2	1 1/2
Lumpers	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wegedstruis	1 1/2	1 1/2
Kleinfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	West Rand Consols	4 1/2	4 1/2
Knight's	3 1/2	3 1/2	Woluter, £4	2 1/2	2 1/2
Lancaster	1 1/2	1 1/2	Worcester	1 1/2	1 1/2
Langlaagte Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2			

DEEP LEVELS.

Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
Bonanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
Cinderella Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	Robinson Deep (new)	4 1/2	4 1/2
Crown Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	Roodepoort Cn. Deep	5 1/2	5 1/2
Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	South Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
Goldenhuis Deep	7 1/2	7 1/2	Village Main Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2
Knight's Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2			

RHODESIANS.

Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2
Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rhodesia Exploration	2 1/2	2 1/2
Charter Trust and Agency	13 1/2	13 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2
Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	Selukwe	4 1/2	4 1/2
Lomagunda Development	1 1/2	1 1/2	Tanganyika	4 1/2	4 1/2
Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wankie Coal	1 1/2	1 1/2
Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 1/2	Willingby	11 1/2	11 1/2
			Zimbabwe Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2

DIAMONDS.

De Beers Deferred	18 1/2	18 1/2	Koffyfontein	5 1/2	5 1/2
Do. Preferred	17 1/2	17 1/2	Lace Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2
Eland's Drift Diamond	4 1/2	4 1/2	Orange Free State	2 1/2	2 1/2
Frank Smith Diamond	4 1/2	4 1/2	Diamond	12	12
Jagersfontein Deferred	8 1/2	8 1/2	Premier Diamond Def.	13	13
Do. Preferred	4 1/2	4 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	8 1/2	8 1/2
Kamtersdam	4 1/2	4 1/2			

WEST AFRICAN.

Abbotlakoon	16 1/2	16 1/2	Gold Coast Agency, new	8 1/2	8 1/2
Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	2 1/2	2 1/2
Ankobra	1 1/2	1 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau)	5 1/2	5 1/2
Ashanti Consols, 2/- paid	3 1/2	3 1/2	Deep	5 1/2	5 1/2
Do. Goldfields	12 1/2	12 1/2	Himan Concessions	12 1/2	12 1/2
Sansu	5 1/2	5 1/2	Obbass Syndicate	1 1/2	1 1/2
Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	Prestea	6 1/2	6 1/2
British Gold Coast	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sekondi and Tarkwa	7 1/2	7 1/2
Broomassie	26 1/2	26 1/2	Takwah and Abosso	2 1/2	2 1/2
Effuenta (Wassau)	5 1/2	5 1/2	Wassau	1 1/2	1 1/2
Fanti Consolidated	14 1/2	14 1/2	W. A. Gold Trust	2 1/2	2 1/2

AUSTRALIAN.

Anglo-Aus. Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ida H.	6 1/2	6 1/2
Associated	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ivanhoe, Gold Corp.	6 1/2	6 1/2
Do. Mm. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ivanhoe South	1 1/2	1 1/2
Bellevue Proprietary	3 1/2	3 1/2	Kalgurli	8 1/2	8 1/2
Boulder Deep Levels	1 1/2	1 1/2	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 1/2
Brownhill Extended	8 1/2	8 1/2	Lancefield	1 1/2	1 1/2
Chaffers	4 1/2	4 1/2	London & W.A. Explor.	11 1/2	11 1/2
Cosmopol'n Pr'p'ty	6 1/2	6 1/2	Mount Boppy	4 1/2	4 1/2
Golden Horseshoe, New Shares	5 1/2	5 1/2	North Kalgurli	2 1/2	2 1/2
Golden Links	3 1/2	3 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	2 1/2	2 1/2
Golden Pole	1 1/2	1 1/2	Peak Hill	1 1/2	1 1/2
Great Boulder, 2/-	23 1/2	23 1/2	South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do. Perseverance	11 1/2	11 1/2	Sons of Gwalla	1 1/2	1 1/2
Great Fingall	4 1/2	4 1/2	W'str lia Mt. Morgans	2 1/2	2 1/2
Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2			
Hampson Plains	1 1/2	1 1/2			
Hannan's Star	1 1/2	1 1/2			

MISCELLANEOUS.

Anaconda, 25 dols.	13 1/2	13 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	3 1/2	3 1/2
Ballaghat, full paid	32 1/2	32 1/2	Mount Lyell	4 1/2	4 1/2
Brilliant and St. George	10 1/2	10 1/2	M't. Morgan	3 1/2	3 1/2
Broken Hill, Prop.	3 1/2	3 1/2	Mysore, 10s.	7 1/2	7 1/2
Camp Bird	18 1/2	18 1/2	Mysore Goldfields, 15/-	4 1/2	4 1/2
Cape Copper, £2	5 1/2	5 1/2	Do. West, 19/-	12 1/2	12 1/2
Champion Reef, 2/-	23 1/2	23 1/2	Do. Wynnaad, 19/-	12 1/2	12 1/2
Con. Gold N.Z.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Namaqua, £2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Copiapu, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Nile Valley	4 1/2	4 1/2
Coromandel 19/- pd.	2 1/2	2 1/2	N'ndydrong, 10/- shares	25 1/2	25 1/2
Esperanza	4 1/2	4 1/2	Oo egum	17 1/2	17 1/2
Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
Frontino and Bolivia	10 1/2	10 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	6 1/2	6 1/2
Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	St. John del Rey	10 1/2	10 1/2
Do. (No. 2)	2 1/2	2 1/2	Tharsis	5 1/2	5 1/2
Libiola, £5	2 1/2	2 1/2	Waihi	7 1/2	7 1/2
Linares, £5	2 1/2	2 1/2	Ymir	1 1/2	1 1/2

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.		Week ending	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.	
		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.
Alcoy and Gandia	Mar. 10	Ps. 18,000	+ Ps. 9,000	**	Ps. 192,400	+ Ps. 14,900
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia	Feb. 16	\$61,241	+ \$5,013	**	\$153,103	+ \$35,072
Argentine Gt. Western	Mar. 16	14,257	+ 341	**	468,220	+ 75,281
Algeiras (Gibraltar)	10	Ps. 31,024	- P. 2,552	**	Pt. 150,171	- P. 6,591
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	17	38,068	+ 4,125	**	1,076,640	+ 288,208
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o and Cen. Argentine	17	93,258	+ 12,855	**	919,174	+ 96,427
Buenos Ayres G. Schn.	18	99,480	+ 6,697	**	2,695,119	+ 416,995
Do. Western	18	49,740	+ 3,704	**	1,185,110	+ 154,527
Do. Ensenada	18	437	+ 95	**	12,870	+ 507
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	17	8,765	+ 204	**	307,579	+ 9,554
Do. Eastern Ex.	17	2,795	+ 702	**	73,010	+ 711
Do. Northern Ex.	17	1,149	+ 476	**	42,561	+ 5,980
Do. Western Ex.	17	1,399	+ 376	**	44,079	+ 4,850
Cordoba Central	18	3,070	+ 315	**	33,830	+ 5,515
Do. Northern Ex.	18	6,940	+ 1,790	**	70,099	+ 15,380
Do. N. W. Arg'n. Ex.	18	1,965	+ 885	**	17,465	+ 5,065
Cordoba and Rosario	18	3,495	+ 785	**	161,090	+ 3,385
Costa Rica	10	6,362	+ 1,482	**	169,747	+ 12,839
Cuban Central	17	14,268	+ 2,792	**	212,591	+ 14,103
Gt. West. of Brazil	17	11,224	+ 1,493	**	129,001	+ 29,408
Entre Rios	17	5,602	+ 49	**	137,479	+ 14,111
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico	14	\$127,000	+ \$2,900	**	\$4,192,590	+ \$100,710
Leopoldina	17	16,19	+ 5,265	**	142,854	+ 20,120
Mexican	Jan. 14	\$592,500	+ \$75,000	**	\$592,500	+ \$75,000
Do. Southern	21	\$131,500	+ \$5,900	**	\$1,384,300	+ \$94,000
Do. Central	21	\$24,127	+ \$801	**	\$276,851	+ \$14,128
Do. Do.	21	\$2,457,188	+ \$210,561	**	\$159,554	+ \$12,389
Manila	Mar. 17	\$735,662	+ \$8,941	**	\$4,692,994	+ \$230,477
Nitrate	17	\$41,627	+ \$1,981	**	\$379,222	+ \$7,604
Ottoman	15	23,215	+ 4,861	**	118,035	+ 4,138
Peruvian Corporation	Feb. 17	4,034	+ 697	**	48,044	+ 4,227
San Paulo	Mar. 11	\$644,800	+ \$110,775	**	\$5,106,875	+ \$661,075
Salvador	17	21,980	+ 2,642	**	186,056	+ 4,974
United of Havana	17	\$31,500	+ \$5,500	**	481,762	+ 114,972
Villa Maria & Rufino	17	25,807	+ 9,939	**	14,653	+ 1,257
Western of Havana	17	1,560	+ 26	**	153,871	+ 2,233

* Month ended. † Fortnight ended. ‡ Net § From July 1, 1905.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.		Week ending	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.	
		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.
Bengal Nagpur	Feb. 24	Rs. 65,504	+ R. 14,480	†	R. 440,586	+ R. 71,185
Bengal & N.-W.	17	Rs. 2,59,200	+ R. 15	†	Rs. 18,51,170	+ R. 1,13,639
Bombay & Baroda	Mar. 10	Rs. 3,74,000	+ R. 16,000	†	R. 39,19,000	+ R. 99,000
Do. State Lines	17	Rs. 5,15,000	+ R. 78,000	†	R. 55,60,000	+ R. 6,15,000
Burma	17	Rs. 3,76,080	+ Rs. 15,812	†	R. 94,31,043	+ R. 1,551
Delhi Umballa	17	Rs. 36,000	+ Rs. 5,578	†	R. 3,38,007	+ Rs. 5,755
East Indian	17	Rs. 16,21,000	+ R. 39,000	†	R. 1,78,17,000	+ R. 9,43,000
Gt. Indian Penin.	17	Rs. 10,81,700	+ R. 3,75,420	†	R. 1,60,23,449	+ R. 2,80,653
Indian Midland	17	Rs. 1,78,200	+ R. 748	†	Rs. 26,17,028	+ R. 3,38,378
Madras	17	Rs. 2,45,558	+ Rs. 265	†	Rs. 271,517	+ Rs. 20,242
South Indian	Feb. 17	Rs. 2,37,230	+ Rs. 3,404	†	Rs. 16,17,618	+ R. 8,173
South Behar	24	Rs. 10,901	+ Rs. 1,115	†	Rs. 83,681	+ Rs. 2,863
S'thern. Mahratta	24	Rs. 2,53,720	+ Rs. 35,251	†	Rs. 19,40,321	+ Rs. 91,335
Southern Punjab	Mar. 10	Rs. 61,200	+ Rs. 481	†	Rs. 6,11,695	+ Rs. 49,390

* Thirteen days. † From July 1, 1905. § From Jan. 1, 1906.

UNITED STATES AND CANADIAN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Period ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	
Canadian Pacific ..	Mar. 14	dols. 1,143,000	+ 226,000	dols. 42,264,000	+ 6,999,000	
Canada Atlantic ..	" 14	6,861	+ 875	" 62,956	+ 5,272	
Chicago Gt. Western ..	" 14	149,177	+ 16,818	" 6,254,893	+ 884,666	
Denver & Rio Grande ..	" 14	333,000	+ 45,600	" 13,520,200	+ 1,640,000	
Gr. Trk., Main Line ..	" 14	£115,349	+ £11,209	£1,084,771	+ £121,700	
Gr. Trk., Western ..	" 14	£21,981	+ £998	£214,385	+ £6,456	
Do. Det., G. H. & Mil.	" 14	£6,866	+ £1,366	£65,082	+ £7,985	
Louisville & Nashv'le.	" 14	866,000	+ 62,000	" 8,781,000	+ 1,268,000	
Miss., K., & Texas ..	" 14	377,984	+ 1,877	" 15,335,650	+ 949,668	
Southern ..	" 14	1,134,000	+ 125,000	" 10,750,000	+ 802,000	
Wabash ..	" 14	406,000	+ 37,000	" 17,638,000	+ 448,000	

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The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent.
on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

When the Revenue figures for the past week came out on Wednesday morning some hope was encouraged that the end of the tax-caused monetary stringency was near. Next day, however, the Bank return dashed that hope, for it showed an increase of nearly £246,000 in the public deposits or Government balances, the total of which had risen to £19,366,000, an almost unprecedented figure, and one that means a most severe strain upon the credit market, a strain which ought to be forthwith relieved by every available expedient. Unless large sums are disbursed by the Treasury next week the quarter will end with extreme monetary stringency, involving no small loss to the Money market. We fear it is impossible for the Government to disburse sufficient funds between now and the 31st to help the market much. Some credits appear to have been let free this afternoon, but next week there are the monthly Bank balance-sheet exhibits to provide for, the Stock Exchange "long" account payments to cover, and the usual end of the month and quarter demands upon the banks to satisfy. This means that many millions may have to be borrowed from the Bank of England at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

All week the market has been adding to its debt there on balance, the increase up to Wednesday night being £1,594,000, raising the total then due on or invested in other securities to £35,317,000, and by the same day next week the total might very well exceed £40,000,000. All the while the discount market has never missed a pretext for giving way, especially in the quotations for long-dated paper or for bills bought "forward," to be paid for in the new month. Spot three months' remitted bills have been quoted by some

of the larger discount houses at $3\frac{9}{16}\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but business was usually done at $3\frac{7}{8}\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the rate was not firm at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to-day, although one house still gave us $3\frac{1}{4}\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. At such rates business was not free. As for six months' bills, quotations for them fluctuated between $2\frac{1}{8}$ and $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., but there was very little to be done at the higher of these figures. For payment in April the remitted bill quotations were—three months $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., fours $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., and sixes $2\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., and even these rates hardly tempted sellers, who held back hoping to get finer quotations. All this time the market has been paying $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. to the joint-stock banks for seven day loans, and call money has fluctuated between $3\frac{1}{8}$ and $4\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., generally in the morning touching the higher rates and sometimes also in the afternoon. To-day, however, money was easy in the afternoon, as stated, and it was inferred that the Treasury had disbursed. The Bank of England certainly added little to its commitments with the market, and outside day to day loans closed easy at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

To-day's renewal of Treasury bills, amounting to £1,000,000, was again taken at fine quotations. The amount applied for was over £4,207,000, and tenders at £98 15s. received about 98 per cent. of the amount asked for. This meant that the whole £1,000,000 was allotted at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount, and it was inferred that the Japanese had again got the paper. Such a high price had, therefore, no appreciable effect on current rates for mercantile bills. Some of the credit jobbers, however, were quoting as follows for American bills to come in next month— $3\frac{1}{4}$ for threes and fours, and 3 per cent. for sixes. The Bank of England, it is said, is now lending up to Monday, April 2. All week until this morning the India Council has been calling money in, but it renewed a fair sum to-day at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Beyond what we have already indicated there is nothing to comment upon in this week's Bank return.

But the bullion position is rather interesting owing to the weakness of the Paris cheque. By bidding 77s. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. for the small supply in the market last Monday, the Bank of England succeeded in preventing most of it from going to Paris, but ever since the French have been wanting the metal, and the Paris cheque has fallen as low as 25.13, so it is not improbable that the Bank may next Monday fail to secure the £450,000 or so due in from Africa. The Bank may, indeed, give a higher price, but obviously Paris must have the metal from somewhere, and as New York cannot send it, our market is the only one open, unless the Government of the Tsar allows the stock in the Russian Treasury or that of the Imperial Bank to be depleted. A story was current this week that £5,000,000 in the metal was on its way from Petersburg to Berlin, and that we were to get £3,000,000 of this, but no confirmation of that tale has come, and it is improbable. Japan, however, retains the power to take almost as many millions of gold as she likes, and New York has been drawn upon from that quarter. With a huge Russian loan waiting to be issued the bullion position thus becomes an intricate and fascinating one to study. Will there be enough to go round at critical junctures in the international credit market?

SILVER.

An urgent demand for bars for prompt shipment sprang up on Saturday last, and prices shot up to 30 $\frac{1}{16}$ d. per oz. for cash and 29 $\frac{3}{8}$ d. per oz. for future delivery in consequence. Since then a big business has been done owing to "bears" covering their end of the month commitments, and to a rather better inquiry from the Indian bazaars. Supplies, however, have been ample enough to meet all requirements, and after another $\frac{1}{16}$ d. had been added for spot metal, quotations dropped back and close at 30d. and 29 $\frac{3}{8}$ d. per oz. respectively. Applications for the Rs.60,00,000 Council drafts on India offered this week amounted to Rs.3,23,70,000 in bills and Rs.40,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Tenders were accepted for Rs.53,56,000 in

bills and Rs.6,44,000 in transfers, applicants at 1s. 3 31-32d. and 1s. 4d. per rupee receiving about 16 per cent. Next Wednesday Rs.40,00,000 will be offered.

Bank Amalgamation.

A provisional agreement has been come to for the amalgamation of the Craven Bank, Limited, with the Bank of Liverpool, Limited, and the proposal will be submitted to the shareholders of both banks on 9th proximo.

Under the agreement the consideration for each Craven Bank share is fixed at £23 17s., being £23 10s., the market price, and 7s. by way of cash bonus, and all shareholders who prefer to take cash in exchange for their shares will receive payment at this rate. The option will, however, be given to the Craven Bank shareholders to exchange their shares for shares in the Bank of Liverpool on the basis of five Craven Bank shares for three Bank of Liverpool shares, plus a cash payment of £2 for each Craven Bank share exchanged.

Three Craven Bank directors will join the board of the Bank of Liverpool, and Mr. James Frederick Ponting, the general manager of the Craven Bank, will be retained as district general manager of the Bank of Liverpool in the Craven Bank district.

The Bank of Liverpool will issue 25,000 additional shares, increasing its subscribed capital to £10,500,000, of which there will be paid up £1,312,500, and its reserve fund will be largely augmented.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, March 21, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued ..	55,280,040	Government Debt ..	11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	36,830,040
		Silver Bullion ..	—
	£55,280,040		£55,280,040

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	16,114,822
Res ..	3,709,326	Other Securities ..	35,317,137
Public Deposits (including		Notes ..	27,188,285
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,800,303
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	19,366,344		
Other Deposits ..	42,700,332		
Seven Day and other Bills	91,545		
	£80,420,547		£80,420,547

Dated March 22, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. Mar. 22.		Mar. 14, 1906.	Mar. 21, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,700,263	Rest ..	3,703,085	3,700,326	6,241	—
17,669,106	Pub. Deposits ..	19,120,720	19,366,344	245,624	—
39,496,886	Other do. ..	725,312	42,700,332	1,688,063	—
111,105	7 Day Bills ..	84,012	91,545	7,533	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,589,185	Gov. Securities ..	16,114,822	16,114,822	—	—
28,409,058	Other do. ..	33,722,986	35,317,137	—	1,594,151
31,532,117	Total Reserve ..	28,635,278	28,988,588	—	353,310
				1,947,461	1,947,461
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
27,211,080	..	27,926,725	28,091,755	165,030	—
40,293,569	Coin and Bullion	38,112,003	38,630,343	518,340	—
53 p.c.	Proportion ..	47 1/2 p.c.	46 1/2 p.c.	—	1 1/2 p.c.
2 1/2 "	Bank Rate ..	4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £420,000 in.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.		WITHDRAWALS.	
Monday, Australia ..	£352,000	Wednesday, S. America	£130,000
Tuesday, Bars ..	87,000	Thursday, ..	65,000
Wednesday, Bars ..	111,000		
Thursday, Bars ..	79,000	Net Influx ..	534,000
" Germany ..	100,000		
Total ..	£729,000	Total ..	£729,000

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders for £1,000,000 in six months' Treasury Bills were received yesterday at the Bank of England, when the amount applied for was £4,207,000. Applications at £98 15s. received about 98 per cent. and those above in full, the average rate being £2 10s. per cent.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
1,920,000	6 months	Mar. 28	2 9 4
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
1,800,000	6 months	June 1	3 2 6
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
1,200,000	—	—	—
1,000,000	6 months	June 29	2 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 12	2 10 8
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 26	2 13 8
1,500,000	6 months	Sept. 16	2 11 5
1,000,000	6 months	Sept. 23	2 10 0
18,833,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.
LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Week.	1906.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Jan. 3	340,266,000	276,940,000	63,326,000	—
" 10	228,921,000	215,482,000	13,439,000	—
" 17	287,646,000	254,259,000	33,387,000	—
" 24	214,923,000	186,205,000	28,723,000	—
" 31	289,938,000	300,588,000	—	10,650,000
Feb. 7	231,817,000	206,614,000	25,203,000	—
" 14	271,821,000	259,450,000	—	12,371,000
" 21	213,118,000	199,865,000	13,253,000	—
" 28	290,477,000	301,252,000	—	10,775,000
Mar. 7	235,959,000	215,866,000	20,093,000	—
" 14	261,348,000	268,032,000	—	6,684,000
" 21	208,709,000	211,042,000	—	2,333,000
	3,074,948,000	2,895,595,000	179,353,000	—

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'13 1/2	25'13	Antwerp	short	25'23	25'23 1/2
Brussels	chqs.	25'22	25'22 1/2	Italy	sight	25'15 1/2	25'15
Amsterdam	sight	12'14 1/2	12'14 1/2	Constantinople ..	3 mths	110'25	110'25
Berlin	chqs.	20'47 1/2	20'48 1/2	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	16'3d.	16'3d.
Do.	3 mths	20'30	20'29	Valparaiso	90 dys	14'3d.	14'3d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20'46	20'47	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4	1/3 1/2
Frankfort	short	20'45	20'47	Bombay	T.T.	1/4 1/2	1/3 1/2
Vienna	sight	24'05 1/2	24'06	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	2'0 1/2	2'0 1/2
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	94'10	94'10	Shanghai	T.T.	2'10 1/2	2'10 1/2
New York	60 dys	4'8 1/2	4'8 1/2	Singapore	T.T.	2'4 1/2	2'4 1/2
Lisbon	sight	51 1/2	51 1/2	Yokohama	4 mths	2'0 1/2	2'0 1/2
Madrid	sight	28'90	28'90				

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended Mar. 17.)

REVENUE.	£	EXPENDITURE.	£
Customs	633,000	National Debt Services ..	525,717
Excise	585,000	Other Consolidated Fund	—
Estate, &c., Duties ..	260,000	Charges	—
Stamps	100,000	Payments to Local Taxa-	—
Land Tax and House Duty.	110,000	tion	363,827
Property and Income Tax ..	1,414,000	Supply Services	4,234,995
Post Office	1,540,000	Bullion Advances	—
Telegraphs	180,000	Treasury Bills (net amount)	—
Crown Lands	—	Advances for Interest on	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	16,639	Exchequer Bonds	—
Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	Exchequer Bonds redeemed	—
Miscellaneous	73,577	Uganda Railway	—
Bullion advances repaid ..	—	Military Works	—
Uganda Railway	—	Naval Works	—
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	—	Telegraph Acts	—
count	—	Land Registry (New Build-	—
Advances for Interest on Ex-	—	ings)	—
chequer Bonds	—	Public Buildings Expenses	—
Telegraph Acts	—	Act	—
Naval Works Acts	—	Public Offices Site (Dublin)	—
Military Works Acts	—	Act	—
Land Registry Acts	—	Suez Canal drawn Shares	—
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	—	in reduction of debt ..	—
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	—	Conard Agreement	—
Issue of Exchequer Bonds	—	Surplus Revenue, 1904-5 ..	—
under Conard Agreement Act	—	Deficiency Advances rep-	—
Ways and Means	—	aid	—
Temporary Advances Defi-	—	Ways and Means Advances	—
ciency	—	repaid	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—	Increase in Exchequer	—
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	—	balances	—
Transvaal and Orange River	—		
Colony. Repayment of	—		
Temporary Advance	—		
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	—		
tion payments	—		
Decrease in Exchequer	—		
balances	212,323		
	£5,124,539		£5,124,539

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Mar. 15, 1906.	Mar. 8, 1906.	Mar. 1, 1906.	Mar. 16, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Coin and bullion	5,150,000	5,122,200	5,022,760	4,877,400
Other securities	22,895,000	23,598,720	24,475,720	22,132,700
Note circulation	26,854,240	26,620,920	27,398,920	25,818,720
Deposits	3,637,520	4,650,250	4,587,440	3,080,080

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.	
			Last Week.	Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	2½	3
Berlin	4	December 11, 1905	4½	4½
Hamburg	5	December 11, 1905	4½	4½
Frankfort	5	December 11, 1905	4½	4½
Amsterdam	3	November, 1905	2½	2½
Brussels	4	October 30, 1905	3½	3½
Vienna	4½	October, 1905	4½	4½
Rome	5	September, 1904	4	4
St. Petersburg	8	January, 1906	8	8
Madrid	4½	August 21, 1901	4	4
Lisbon	5½	January 11, 1899	5	5
Stockholm	5	January, 1906.	4½	4½
Copenhagen	5	October, 1905	4½	4½
Calcutta	7	March 22, 1906	—	—
Bombay	7	March 22, 1906	—	—
New York call money	4½	—	—	—

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Mar. 22, 1906.	Mar. 15, 1906.	Mar. 6, 1906.	Mar. 23, 1905.
Gold in hand ..	£116,059,000	£115,810,320	£115,687,520	£110,723,400
Silver in hand ..	42,031,130	41,903,280	42,109,280	44,038,960
Bills discounted ..	30,988,080	32,712,120	32,795,560	20,507,440
Advances ..	19,721,000	19,673,880	19,936,040	19,036,960
Note circulation ..	186,454,440	189,098,280	189,413,120	171,885,960
Public deposits ..	7,484,240	6,502,480	5,730,680	9,135,080
Private deposits ..	21,407,480	20,203,600	20,503,520	19,984,120

Proportion between bullion and circulation 82½ per cent. against 83½ per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Mar. 17, 1906	Mar. 10, 1906.	Mar. 3, 1906.	Mar. 18, 1905.
Gold	£15,076,741	£15,073,121	£15,068,910	£14,951,783
Silver	23,691,818	23,524,601	23,482,987	20,761,841
Foreign Bills ..	3,624,983	3,526,199	3,163,723	1,612,917
Discount and Short Bills ..	22,618,984	22,686,806	47,095,559	50,211,079
Treasury Account ..	37,385,658	37,378,525	20,425,332	21,255,479
Notes in circulation ..	61,286,371	61,566,365	61,629,565	63,495,808
Current Account deposits ..	23,39,251	23,606,684	23,402,366	25,380,540
Dividends Interests ..	1,129,346	1,221,412	1,258,291	2,652,713
Government Securities ..	7,847,578	7,241,030	7,882,890	4,437,348

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Mar. 1/14, 1906.	Feb. 23/Mar. 8, 1906.	Feb. 16/29, 1906.	Mar. 1/14, 1905.
Gold	£75,182,803	£74,722,534	£72,342,398	£89,194,835
Silver and subsidiary coin ..	4,762,362	4,613,376	4,317,880	6,832,068
Advances and bills discounted ..	55,471,714	56,470,906	58,881,657	38,320,339
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	7,826,279	7,930,740	7,566,030	5,054,962
Notes in circulation ..	114,907,730	115,074,453	113,973,595	89,883,019
Deposits and current account ..	44,801,349	45,129,676	43,787,363	47,992,463
Treasury account ..	5,688,719	6,706,636	10,068,122	11,344,076

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Mar. 15, 1906.	Mar. 7, 1906.	Feb. 28, 1906.	Mar. 15, 1905.
Cash in hand ..	£50,251,750	£48,363,150	£48,476,850	£56,142,450
Bills discounted ..	41,106,950	40,968,750	40,530,700	35,365,350
Advances on stocks ..	3,461,450	3,397,250	5,532,300	2,878,250
Note circulation ..	61,480,950	61,817,050	62,513,000	59,446,050
Public deposits ..	32,059,500	28,761,850	29,276,350	34,273,250

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Mar. 15, 1906.	Mar. 7, 1906	Feb. 28, 1906.	Mar. 15, 1905.
Gold Reserve ..	£45,986,958	£45,847,291	£45,833,166	£48,220,250
Silver reserve ..	12,782,541	12,691,250	12,695,791	12,926,655
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	1,563,750	1,645,291	1,714,166	1,844,500
Note circulation ..	67,242,416	68,105,666	69,606,875	63,174,583
Bills discounted ..	15,694,125	16,802,125	17,724,291	11,125,491

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Mar. 13.	Mar. 15.	Mar. 20.	Mar. 22.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam ..	short	12'3	12'3	12'2½	12'3
Do. do. ..	3 months	12'5	12'5½	12'5	12'5
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'47½	25'47½	25'47½	25'46½
Hamburg ..	3 months	20'71	20'72	20'72	20'72
Berlin & German B. Places ..	3 months	20'72	20'72	20'72	20'72
Paris ..	cheques	25'15	25'13½	25'13½	25'13½
Do. ..	3 months	25'36½	25'35	25'35	25'35
Marseilles ..	3 months	25'36½	25'36½	25'36½	25'36½
Switzerland ..	3 months	25'47½	25'47½	25'47½	25'47½
Austria ..	3 months	24'37	24'36	24'36½	24'36½
St. Petersburg ..	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow ..	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'47½	25'48½	25'47½	25'47½
New York ..	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P. ..	3 months	40½	40½	40½	40½
Lisbon ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen ..	3 months	18'44	18'44	18'43	18'44
Christiania ..	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'44	18'45
Stockholm ..	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'44	18'45

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Mar. 17 1906.	Mar. 10, 1906	Mar. 3, 1906.	Mar. 18, 1905
Specie	£36,000,000	£35,734,000	£36,534,000	£53,072,000
Legal tenders	15,526,200	15,655,800	15,944,400	16,740,800
Loans and discounts	205,080,000	203,900,000	208,160,000	235,540,000
Circulation	10,184,200	10,287,800	10,181,400	8,560,800
Net deposits	201,780,000	200,380,000	205,900,000	234,850,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of nett deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £1,171,200 against an excess last week of £1,294,800.

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills ..	3½
Three months ..	3½-3¾
Four months ..	3½-3¾
Six months ..	3½-3¾
Three months fine inland bills ..	3½-4
Four months ..	3½-4
Six months ..	3½-4

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	4½
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	4½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	3
Current rates for 7 and 14 days' notice ..	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	3½
Current rates for call loans ..	3½-4

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Will the account now in process of settlement mark the end of the depression which has afflicted stock markets all this year? It is quite probable, for after this month there will probably be a period of comparative ease in the Money market, and the dividend money will put the public in funds. Moreover, the Stock Exchange never tolerates inertia for a long period. It must have activity in some direction in order to live, and if no reasonable ground for stirring dormant quotations exists, a purely speculative one will be found. For these reasons alone we consequently anticipate a revival of business next month, and it may even begin next week in anticipation of the approaching dispersal of the British and Indian Governments' dividend money. Whether all sections of the Exchange will be affected by the revival of dealing is more than we can say, but probably enough prices will show an upward tendency in the better classes of Home Railway investment securities, and even in sections of the mining markets. The revival may not last long, any more than cheaper money, for there are enormous demands on the part of new enterprises, Colonial Governments and Home municipalities waiting to be put upon the market, and above all there is that impending Russian loan to finance, not to speak of the prodigious capital requirements of American Railroad and industrial undertakings. But it may last long enough to lift prices considerably for all sorts of things now much discredited. As long, indeed, as the credit web which envelops the world remains untorn, many surprising things can happen.

Oddly enough, this is just the moment when a considerable and, from a purse point of view, influential section of the Stock Exchange is dead against Home securities from trustee stocks downwards. The preference and ordinary stocks of Home Railways are especially under a ban. This is not because the market knows anything about the true position of railway finance, but simply an aftermath of the General Election. While the bitter mood of the badly beaten and worse scared lasts it is a settled conviction in the volatile mind, fully persuaded that the whole future prosperity of the empire rests on Chinese cheap labour in the Transvaal, and that the withdrawal of this labour will involve national disaster. Also they are full of terror over the presence of a working man in the Cabinet in the person of John Burns, and see harrowing visions of the impending confiscation of property—nationalisation of industries, the land, the railways, and dreadful events of that kind. And these people are giving practical effect to their unreasoning prepossessions by advising their clients to sell Home securities and put the money into American. This will turn out to be fine business for the market if the public

follows such foolish advice. To sell Home Railway debenture, preference, and even ordinary stocks at the depressed quotations now ruling and buy into North or South American Railroad stocks at the top of the wave of inflation would be a splendid policy for enriching the market man and financier.

Therefore, we hope the public will disregard this outburst of pique, and take the present opportunity to buy good Home stocks when the insiders are selling or counselling sales. For a considerable time back many Home Railway preference stocks have been losing ground, just because of this prepossession, and the efforts of certain people whose minds are warped by undisciplined prejudice to force the market down. An opportunity is thus created for prudent people who look for safe interest much more than for speculative rises in prices to make judicious investments. Whenever you see a good Home Railway guaranteed or debenture stock knocked down in price, make a note and put some of your money in it. The rebound is certain to come, and meantime the soured market is enabling you to buy to advantage.

The Week's Stock Markets.

The Stock Exchange is glad that this dreary 19-day account has now practically run its course, but members are by no means hopeful that it will be followed by any revival in business. What is really creating the present abnormal idleness and apathy it would perhaps be a little difficult to say, but we begin to suspect that the public is a lot wiser and more discriminating than it used to be. The chances of profit and loss are now carefully weighed, losses being so much greater than profits during recent years, and the more the subject is pondered over the less inclination is shown to indulge in the reckless plunging that used to be so popular.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS (Last year's dividends are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
90½	89	Consols (2½ p.c. Money)	90½	90½
91	89½	Do. Account (April 4)	90½	90½
89½	88	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	89½	89½
100½	99½	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907 ..	100	100
92½	90½	Irish Land (2½) ..	92½	92½
100½	99	Local Loans (3) ..	99½	99½
99½	98	National War Loan (2½ p.c.)	98½	98½
99½	98½	Do. Account (Apr. 14)	98½	98½
100½	98½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	100½	100½
300½	293	Bk. of England Stck. (9 p.c.)	299½	299½
106½	104½	India 3½ p.c. Stck. red. 1931 ..	105½	105½
97½	96	Do. 3 p.c. Stck. red. 1948 ..	97	97
80	79½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stck. red. 1926 ..	81½	81½
66½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66½	66½

The outside public rarely, if ever, "goes a bear," with the result that if the speculator does not think prices are going to run up he does nothing at all. To the most unintelligent it must be obvious that at present levels the vast majority of Stock Exchange speculative securities give no scope for a rise. The fall in Kaffirs is not done with yet, and Wall Street continues to suffer from those spasms of weakness certain to follow a long course of inflation like that recently indulged in. More substantial things like Home and Foreign Railways are apparently out of fashion for the moment, and it is almost impossible to find a corner of the Stock Exchange that would really repay attention. We still have dear money and the Algeciras Conference to serve as excuses for the apathy, and some people say that the public is frightened off by the fear of Socialistic legislation by the Government, but these reasons cannot be seriously advanced now. The cause of the inactivity lies deeper. Consols kept fairly steady, and, after showing early dullness, other British Funds, such as Irish Land stock, War Loan, Local Loans, Transvaal 3 per cent., and India sterling issues, steadied up and occasionally improved a fraction. Home County and Corporation and Colonial Inscribed stocks were neglected and did not show important change.

The Foreign bond market was exceedingly quiet, but the tendency was fairly good until near the end, when prices were disposed to shade off. A fairly cheerful mood still prevails on the Continent, and this was re-

flected on the principal Paris favourites, including Russian, Spanish, Turkish, and Portuguese. Brazilians were still well supported in the South American group, but Argentines and Chilians, although generally steady, were somewhat neglected. Peruvians were inclined to be dull, and will hardly revive until complete details of the new loan are available. The market is rather disappointed at the delay. The only striking incident in the Central American division was a sharp rise in Guatemalans, the close being under the best. Buenos Ayres Cédulas hardened a fraction or so, but did not finish at the top, although optimistic talk regarding the prospects of a settlement is still being indulged in. Chinese and Japanese moved within very narrow limits, and Japanese were dull at the close, notwithstanding the success of the latest internal loan. The amount offered was 200,000,000 yen at 95 per cent., the bonds to bear 5 per cent. interest, and the applications reached 370,000,000 yen. Almost the entire sum represented local subscriptions, a moderate proportion being above the minimum price. The shares of the lately introduced Industrial Bank of Japan rose to 6½-7 on reports of good business. It is said that the Bank has secured the contract for the new Korean loan.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
103½	101½	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886 ..	103	102½
101½	100	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly.	101	101
103½	100½	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	102	102
93½	89½	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	93½	93
93	89½	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	92½	92½
92½	90	Do. 4 p.c. 1890 ..	92½	92½
104½	101½	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	104	104
91½	86½	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	91½	91½
102½	97½	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	100	99½
105½	103½	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	105	105½
91½	86½	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	91½	90½
102½	99½	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	101	101
96½	95	Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885 ..	95	95
97½	94	Do. 4½ p.c. 1886 ..	95½	95
96	93½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1895 ..	95½	95½
101½	98½	Do. 5 p.c. 1895 ..	100	100
99	96	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver	98	98½
105½	103½	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	104½	104½
105½	102½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	104½	104½
101½	96½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	97½	97½
105½	100½	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	101	101
52½	51	Costa Rica A ..	52	52
108½	105½	Do. B ..	42½	42½
106½	104½	Colombian External ..	44	44½
102½	101½	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	105½	105½
102½	101½	Egypt United 4 p.c. ..	106	106
105½	103½	Do. 3½ p.c. pref. ..	102½	102½
88½	87	Do. 4½ p.c. State Domain ..	105	105
53½	50	German 3 p.c. ..	88	88
53½	50½	Greek, 1884 ..	53	53½
43	39½	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	53½	53½
52½	49½	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	42½	42½
93½	94½	Do. Funding ..	52½	52½
104½	103½	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	94½	94
103½	100½	Italian 5 p.c. ..	104½	104½
104	100½	Japan 5 p.c. ..	102	102
91½	88½	Do. 1901-2 ..	100½	100½
104½	102	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	90½	90½
105	103½	Do. 6 p.c. ..	104½	104
70½	68½	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	104½	104½
87	81½	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	70½	70½
83	79½	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	85	85½
96	90½	Servian 4 p.c. ..	81	85
103	101½	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	94½	94½
105	103½	Turks 3½ p.c. Tribute ..	102½	102½
94½	90½	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	105	105
73½	70½	Do. 4 p.c. United ..	92½xd	92½xd
98½	94½	Uruguay 3½ p.c. ..	71½	72½
54½	50½	Do. 5 p.c. ..	97½	97½
		Venezuelan, Dip. (3) ..	51½	51½

The story of the week with regard to Home Railway stocks may be summed up in very few words, as lack of interest continues to be the chief characteristic of the market, and in the absence of support dealers have grown tired of endeavouring to make things good. For this reason the traffic returns, although the majority were favourable, failed to make any impression, and prices have dwindled. Except in the case of Metropolitan and District, which were sold pretty persistently throughout the week, the declines were small, but the depression extended to prior charge stocks, owing, it was said, to brokers discouraging investment buying. Here and there a little improvement can be noted, North-Western, North-Eastern and Great Western being amongst the few to show small gains, while Welsh stocks came into favour on a belief that

the French strikes may bring a good deal of business to the coalfields in their districts. Great Central and Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast stocks recovered their losses of last week, on the announcement that the Bill for the amalgamation of these two companies was to be reconsidered by the House of Lords Committee.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
141½	133	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	137	137
157½	153	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	154	154
130½	129½	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	123	122
120½	113	Caledonian Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	114	114
80	77	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	77½	77½
42½	37½	Do. Def. (1 p.c.) ..	37½	37½
66½	91	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	92	92
89	81½	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	82½	83½
16½	14½	Chatham Ordinary ..	15½	15½
44½	40½	City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	42	42
69	63½	Furness (1½ p.c.) ..	64½	64½
40½	37½	Great Central Pref. ..	40½	40
19½	18	Do. Def. ..	18½	18½
91½	82½	Great Eastern (3½ p.c.) ..	84	84½
105	100½	Gr. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	102½	102
47½	43½	Do. Def. (1½) ..	45½	45½
144	135½	Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	136½	136½
52	47½	Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	51½	50½
47½	42½	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	43	43
109½	104½	Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.) ..	106	106
89½	76	Metropolitan (2½ p.c.) ..	79	76
37½	27	Metropolitan District ..	30	27
70½	66½	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	67	66½
74½	67½	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	68½	68½
78½	77	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	77½	77½
47½	43½	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	44½	44½
147½	140½	North-Eastern (5½ p.c.) ..	142½	142½
163½	156	North-Western (6½ p.c.) ..	157½	158
90½	87	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	89	89
33½	126	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	127	127
55½	50½	Do. Def. ..	52½	52½
164	154½	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	157½	156½
108½	104	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	105	105
57½	51½	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	52½	53

With indications that a good part of the account in Yankee Rails recently transferred to other markets is now being brought back owing to the inability or disinclination of Wall Street and Paris to carry it longer, business here has been as near as possible at a standstill. In Wall Street, too, there was little doing in the beginning of the week, as communications were interrupted by heavy snowstorms, and for a time the

the stockholders on April 18, and by a renewal of the fears that a coal strike was inevitable. The announcement that \$1,250,000 gold had been engaged in Berlin was ignored as being a manoeuvre to influence the market.

New York put Canadian Pacific shares up sharply on the advance in the stocks of a company in which this line is largely interested, and a little more was added to the price on the increase in the capital being sanctioned by the shareholders. The rise, however, was followed by profit-taking, and the nett gain amounted to less than \$1. Grand Trunk stocks were lifted by a much better traffic return than had been expected, but there was not a great deal doing in any of them, and they finished rather below the best.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
229½	211½	Antofagasta (10) ..	220½	218½
335	313	Do. Def. (15) ..	330	330
130½	126	Argentine Gr. West. (6) ..	127	127
132	128½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	130	130
88	84½	Bahia Blanca Prefd. ..	86½	86½
144½	140	B. Ay. Gr. Southern Ord. (7) ..	142	142
129½	127	Do. Pref. (5) ..	128	128
136½	132	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	135	135
120½	115½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	115	118
110	107½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109½	110
120	115	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	119½	120
118½	109½	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	117	119
170	165½	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	167	167
109	105½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	106	106
138½	135½	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	137	137
92½	88	Central Uruguay (4½) ..	88	88
109½	106½	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	108	108
96	92½	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	95	95
75½	69½	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	70	70½
59½	55½	Costa Rica ..	57	57
7	6½	Cuban Central ..	6½	6½
11½	11½	Do. Pref. (5½) ..	11½	11½
106	102½	Do. Deb. (4½) ..	103½	103½
93½	90	East Argentine (4½) ..	90	90
91½	88	Inter-oceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	88	88
86½	78½	Leopoldina (3) ..	81	80
98½	95½	Do. Deb. (4) ..	96	96
108	107½	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	108	108
105½	103½	Do. "B" (6) ..	106	106
28½	25	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	27½	27½
130½	118½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½) ..	128½	128½
59½	49½	Do. and Pref. ..	57½	57½
68½	54½	Mexican Southern (2½) ..	67	67
16½	14½	Nitrate Ord. (5½) ..	15½	15½
21½	19½	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	21½	21½
212½	203	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	210	211
193	173	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	175	173

In the Foreign Railway market dealings continue fairly numerous in Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary stock, but other Argentine things have dropped very much into the background, and movements are unimportant. One reason for the neglect may be found in the weekly traffic returns, which, although still very good, are not so captivating to the imagination of the speculator, as the figures compare with the large increases of a year ago. Of Brazilian issues, San Paulo, hardened on very moderate support, but Leopoldina suffered a set-back owing to rumours that the district served has again been visited with floods. United Railways of the Havana stock fluctuated from day to day, now up and now down £1, finishing lower on the week, and Paraguay Central followed much the same course. Nitrate Railways ordinary and preference shares lost a fraction or two on balance, but Mexican Railway issues and Uruguay stocks were fairly steady because left alone. A little business sprang up in Zafra and Huelva bonds towards the end of the week, and a moderate gain was recorded in them.

Rather more activity was displayed in the Miscellaneous markets, and the week was not entirely without interest. Hudson's Bays were moderately traded in, but did not sustain an early rise, and Pekin Syndicates ended sensibly weaker. Other Chinese Land and Exploration issues were also dull, and the tendency for Argentine Land shares was not quite so good. United Lankat Plantations rose to 4 on good buying, and New Darvel Bays sympathised. Nitrates were all better on hopes that the output agreement will be renewed, although the shortage of labour is said to be quite sufficient to keep the production within moderate bounds. Catering shares were steady, and the improvement in Mazawattee issues continues. Textiles were somewhat neglected, but the Iron and Steel

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
99½	91½	Atchison Shares (4) ..	96½	95½
109½	105	Do. Pref. (5) ..	106	106
120	112½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (5) ..	113½	114
101½	96	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99	99
63½	56½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	58½	59
195½	179	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	181½	179½
52½	38½	Denver Shares ..	46½	45½
93½	89½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	90½	90
52½	42½	Erie Shares ..	44	43½
85½	79½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	80	79½
77	68½	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	70½	68½
185	171	Illinois Central (7) ..	175½	174½
160½	148½	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	153½	154½
41½	34½	Missouri and Texas ..	36½	36½
159½	147	New York Central (5) ..	151½	147
95½	87½	Norfolk and Western (4) ..	90	89½
96½	92	Do. Pref. (4) ..	93	93
57½	49½	Ontario Shares (3) ..	51½	51
75½	70½	Pennsylvania (6) ..	70½	70½
65½	63½	Reading Shares (1½) ..	65½	66
47½	46½	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	47	47
51½	48½	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	50	50
74½	66½	Southern Pacific ..	68½	68½
43½	36½	Southern ..	41½	41½
104½	101½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	103½	104
163½	151½	Union Pacific (5½) ..	157½	156½
101½	98½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99	99
20½	20½	Wabash ..	24	23½
53½	42½	Do. Pref. ..	52½	52
85½	74½	Do. Income Debs. ..	84	85
182½	173½	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	175½	176
106½	104½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	104½	104½
109½	109	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109½	109½
29½	25½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	28½	28½
105½	102½	Do. Guar. (4) ..	104	104
119½	114½	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	118½	119
110½	105½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109½	110
70½	60½	Do. 3rd Pref. (2) ..	68½	69
169½	167½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	168½	168½

"bears" had things all their own way. Reports of the illness of various magnates helped to increase the depression for a time, but these were denied, and as the prospects of a settlement of the difficulties with the miners caused a good deal of covering, a sharp rally followed. A renewed break was brought about by reports that an increase of \$100,000,000 in the common stock of the New York Central would be considered by

group was firm on the good results continually being displayed. Spiers and Pond "B" debentures fell 6½, but other Hotel securities showed no important alteration. Tramway and Omnibus issues were dull, and London Generals fell another 1, while Daimlers were steadily bought, rising to 3½. Anglo "A" was not quite so buoyant, falling well below 20, but other Telegraph and Telephone issues kept generally steady.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
21	16	17	Allsopp Ordinary	17	17
51	44	—	City of London Ord.	49½	49½
55½	540	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	550	550
19½	16½	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	18	18
51½	41½	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	2½	2½
61½	47½	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	28	28
56	49½	50½	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	50½	50½
99½	95	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	55	55
7½	5½	5½	Aerated Bread (32½)	6½	6½
6½	6½	6½	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	7	7
27½	21½	14½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½)	68	68
45½	40½	—	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	13½	13½
7½	5½	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	28	28
13½	11	—	Brunner Mond (35)	58	58
13½	11½	13½	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½) ..	11½	11
58	57½	105½	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½) ..	18	18
500	485	495	Coats Ordinary (20)	57½	57
26½	19½	25½	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	490	490
25½	22½	24½	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nll)	1½	1½
6½	6½	6½	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	12	12
13½	12½	—	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	6½	6½
89½	81½	48	Henley's Telegraph (15)	13½d	13½d
27½	26½	26½	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20)	48½d	48½d
108½	107	—	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½)	16½	16½
24½	21½	22½	Do. Debenture (1½)	107	108
6½	5½	5½	Lipton Ordinary (7)	18	18
34½	27½	29½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	56	56
15½	11½	—	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	14½	14½
7½	6½	—	Russian Petroleum	16	16
18½	13½	—	Savoy Hotel (5)	7	7
16½	15½	—	Sweetmeat Automatic	7	7
12½	10½	11½	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	15½	15
18½	17½	18½	Welsbach Ordinary Stock	18	18
103½	102½	103	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	8½	8½
90½	80½	88	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	103	103
54½	42½	52½	Hudson's Bay Co. (58½)	88	89½
110½	107½	109½	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½)	53	52½
92	90	—	Do. Debentures (6)	110½	110½
13½	11½	—	National Discount (10)	9½	9½
6½	5	—	Union Discount (11)	12	12
11½	11	11	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	5½	5½
104½	98	—	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	111	111½
133½	128½	—	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4½)	99	99
66½	61½	3½	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	129	129
85½	75½	47½	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	3½	3½
28½	26½	35½	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	4½	4
31½	30½	—	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10)	18	18
14	12½	13	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½)	18	18
47½	40½	41½	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	13	12½
117	107½	108½	United States Steel Ordinary ..	41½	40½
57½	52½	2½	Do. Preference (7)	108½	108½
14½	13½	—	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	24½	24½
24½	23½	—	Cunard Steam	13½	14½
54	52	—	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13)	237½	237½
9	7½	—	Royal Mail	54½	52
114½	109½	113½	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5)	8	8½
20½	16½	18½	Anglo-American Telegraph—	114	113½
350½	145½	149	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½)	208	198
15½	14½	15	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	148½	148½
113½	108½	111½	Eastern Extension (7)	152	152
14½	14½	14½	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	113½d	113½d
8½	8½	8½	Western Telegraph (7)	14½	14½
91½	89	88	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	7½	7½
117	92½	—	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)	9	98
9½	8½	—	London General Omnibus (7)	94½	93½
			London United Trams Pref. (5)	9½	9½

Breweries were still heavy, but Meux issues kept steady, notwithstanding the disastrous nature of the report. Short's preferred and deferred shares lost ½. The Nelson dividend was announced at 10 per cent., with an increase of £16,000 to £42,000 in the sum carried forward, but realisations by "stale bulls" caused the shares to close somewhat lower. On Federal Cold Storage shares the dividend is 1 per cent. better at 6 per cent., and a slight improvement occurred in prices.

The most interesting point about the Stock Exchange to-day was the account in the Kaffir market. Contangos were sent out at 6 to 8 per cent. on the "average," but as a matter of fact in all the more active shares, especially those dealt in between London and Paris, it has become easier to carry on accounts open for the rise in the Kaffir market than "bull" speculations in almost any other section of the Stock Exchange. Outside, or Rhodesian, counters may have been difficult to borrow upon to-day under 7 or 8 per cent., but on many other mine or Kaffir finance shares

like Gold Fields or Rand Mines the rate was 4 to 5 per cent. The inference is that a considerable "bear" account now exists, and that is probably true, although at the same time the fact that the shares sold by Paris and lying there are not being delivered—the sales being carried here as "bears"—makes the "bear" account to an unmeasured extent unreal. At the same time there is much less paper to be carried here by the "bulls," and Paris might any day begin to buy back. Any good news, therefore, anything encouraging, the merest lie, might start a brisk recovery running all down the list and quite irrespective of merits. The Rio Tinto dividend disappointed Paris but satisfied London, and a good report is looked for. Other sections of the market were thoroughly idle pending the arrangement of the account.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

** Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

The long and dreary nineteen-day account has drawn to its close, and has not ended in the disastrous slump some predicted as the inevitable effect of the Government pronouncement on Chinese labour. It would not suit the books of the bosses to let the bottom fall out for such a cause. They know it would be like cutting off their noses to spite their faces, for it would be foolish further to discourage the public, whose gold they want. They have been guilty of the folly of so disfiguring themselves before, and have had no compensating reward. Instead of exciting compassion for their woes and agonies, they have deservedly called forth derision and contempt, and such bitter experience has taught them a lesson. It is chagrin to them to see prices fall, for it is a sign that holders continue to sell, from impatience or disgust, and that there is no prospect of successfully floating those ventures that were ripe for promotion long ago. Prospectuses are now being issued daily, and this must excite their envy, for they see visions of money flowing past them. Notwithstanding dismal vaticinations, prices have actually improved a little during the account. True, the betterment is nothing to speak of, but it has belied gloomy predictions, for even the losses are not heavy in degree. The following dividends have been declared for the past half-year:—

	Div.	%	Issued Capital.	Amounts.	Yield at Present Prices of Shares.
Ferreira Deep	17½	....	910,000	....	159,250
Crown Reef	110	....	120,000	....	132,000
					7
					17½

Within the past day or two De Beers have been prominent, the insiders pushing them upwards for some reason not disclosed, for the renewal of the contract with the diamond syndicate is neither new nor is sufficient justification for the sudden rise. It is said that the Cape is buying, but that may mean anything or nothing, for it does not follow that it means investors are buying.

The fantastical report issued by the Chartered directors has actually deepened the gloom in the Rhodesian market, not lightened the depression there. Chartered shares themselves have weakened, and others have drooped in sympathy. It is generally recognised that the mining industry is in a very poor way, in spite of the efforts of the Chartered directors to obscure this fact.

West Australians, West Africans, and Egyptians have been very quiet and flat, the changes in the three groups being quite insignificant either way.

In the miscellaneous list, Camp Birds have fallen heavily, on the news of the partial destruction of the mill and other machinery by snow slides, followed later by the total destruction of the battery by fire. The directors try to calm shareholders by saying the cash resources of the company amount to £120,000, sufficient to rebuild the mill and repair some of the other damage. There is little consolation in this, for not only will it involve the loss of this big sum, but there is now no possibility of profits being earned for many months to come. The fire in the Broken Hill Mine is subsiding, and the men are returning to work, so the shares have recovered a little. Coppers are irregular and undecided, though latterly Anacondas have had a big drop.

The Rio Tinto dividend was announced on Friday afternoon, and though it was not quite up to Paris estimates and hopes it realised general expectations on this side, though one or two sanguine spirits looked for half-a-crown more. It was at the rate of 40s. per share and as the interim dividend was a similar amount it makes 80s., or 80 per cent. for the year, and compares with 70 per cent. for 1904. It is even better than it looks, as the company has now to provide the dividend on all the additional shares issued to pay off the debentures, whilst the past year's revenue has not been relieved from the charges of these debentures. Another year it will be so.

ROODEPOORT GOLD MINING COMPANY.—Although this member of the Barnato group of companies was formed in 1892, it has not yet paid a dividend. The original company, of which the present is a reconstruction, came into existence in 1887, and yet, after all these years, the property is still being developed, and no one can foresee when it will give its shareholders a farthing. No wonder the directors have not prepared a profit and loss account. In their report for the eighteen months to October 31 they merely say that development is being continued, and although the upper levels to the east of the shaft are in disturbed ground, there is every indication that this will not be the case in the lower levels. The exploiting and opening up of the mine at greater depth is to be actively continued to enable the board to decide upon the future policy and working of the property. They have not yet decided upon their future policy, and may not be able to decide for some years to come, but it is exceedingly doubtful if this mine will ever earn dividends. The expenditure in the balance-sheet from June 5, 1902, to October 31, last is put at £48,988, against £13,669 received, chiefly from interest on deposits, so the deficiency is already £35,319, and will continue to grow. Yet even these shares have been at a premium on the market, the directors at one time selling 115,000 £1 shares at £2, giving them £115,000 in premiums in addition to the capital of half a million. Who will say the shares are inflated at ¾?

TURF MINES.—Again no work was done on this company's property in the 12 months ending September 30. This misfortune is attributed both to the scarcity of labour and to the consideration of the problem how to economise expenditure when operations are commenced. At one time an amalgamation with the Village Deep and the Booyens Company was under consideration, but it was found impossible to reconcile all the interests involved. It has now been decided to increase the area of the Turf Mines by about 65 claims, a portion of the claims known as Booyens. These are offered for 287,500 Turf Mines shares, and it is said that such a purchase will enable the company to start a shaft which, it is expected, will intersect the reef series at a depth of about 3,700 ft., or 900 ft. nearer the surface, thus reducing the expense of sinking. Available funds amount to about £780,000, and it is estimated that the shaft and equipment will cost £260,000, in addition to which about £150,000 to £180,000 must be spent on development prior to commencing crushing operations. This would, if not exceeded, leave something over towards the cost of the reduction plant, so it looks as if nearly another one million sterling will have to be spent before a penny of profit can be earned.

AFRICAN CITY PROPERTIES TRUST.—The report for 1905 tells us that the general depression in Johannesburg and the increase in rates and taxes considerably affected the company's profits, and we are sorry to hear it. Rents, dividends, interest, and commission are lumped together at £61,689, after making provision for undisclosed bad debts and depreciation, and £62 was received from transfer fees, making a total credit of £61,751. After deducting expenditure in London and South Africa, and £10,000 for interest on the debenture debt, the nett profit is £25,430, increased to an available total of £37,132, with the sums brought in. After meeting the preference dividend, the ordinary shares get a final payment of 7½ per cent. per annum, making, with the interim distributions, 7½ per cent. for the year, and after putting £2,015 to reserve £10,192 is carried forward. In January of last year some ordinary shares were issued at a premium of 10s. per share, and the nett amount of premiums received (£10,084) has also been transferred to reserve. As this fund has likewise been increased by £12,000 voted from previous profits, it now stands at £65,000, a portion of which is invested in Colonial Government and other securities. Cash is as much as £36,866, and considerably exceeds the current liabilities.

GLOBE AND PHOENIX GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This Rhodesian company met with a little better fortune last year than in 1904, for 76,527 tons were crushed, against 68,181 tons, yielding 41,920 ozs. of bullion, compared with 36,459 ozs. In addition, 45,875 tons of tailings were cyanided for a yield of 7,303 ozs., the value of the bullion sold being £192,377, against £153,415. At the same time, working costs were reduced by 1s. 1d. to £1 10s. 4d. per ton, so the net profit for the year amounted to £50,264, in comparison with £20,826, a considerable advance. The directors supplement the interim dividend of 1s. 6d. per share with a final distribution of 2s. 6d. per share, making 4s. per share, against 3s., and the large credit of £55,790 is carried forward.

ELMINA CONCESSIONS.—It may be explained to those who are not familiar with the name of this company that it operates, or has operated, in the Jungle. The income in the year ending September 30 was derived from profits on the sales of shares £1,463, interest on loans £252, and transfer fees £2, in all £1,717. As the expenditure consisted only of the payment of law costs and office expenses here, no directors' fees being charged, the profit was £1,236. The company's principal asset is now the holding of 120,000 Consolidated Deep Lead shares, but no fresh work was done on the company's properties in West Africa. As, however, the directors think the concessions cannot be worked at a profit, these properties should not stand in the balance-sheet at £108,205. So it has been decided to advise the voluntary liquidation of the company, and the assets available for distribution include the Consolidated Deep Lead shares, and cash assets of about £6,800. This is what several other West African companies ought to do.

WEST AFRICAN GOLD TRUST.—A circular announces that the directors of this Jungle company propose to reconstruct. The

162,600 present £1 shares will be reduced to 5s. each, credited with 3s. paid. A call of 2s. per share will, therefore, provide £16,260. It is also proposed that £54,200 of 5 per cent. debenture stock be issued at 95 per cent., redeemable at 102 in four years.

FANTI MINES.—The directors of this company also issue a scheme of reconstruction. Shareholders are to receive one fully-paid 5s. share for each £1 share, the additional funds to be raised by the issue of 100,000 new shares at par. These shares have been guaranteed, the guarantors receiving an option to subscribe for an additional 200,000 shares at par until the end of March, 1908. The present deferred shares are to be extinguished. These number about 73,000 of 1s. each, issued out of 100,000. As it will be some years before the company can hope to crush ore and get revenue from gold, this new money may soon be exhausted, and another reconstruction may become necessary.

GREAT BOULDER MAIN REEF.—The directors of this West Australian company recently appointed a new mine manager, who took over his duties on February 28. Already the news he sends to this side does not confirm that sent by his predecessor. For instance, he writes that the ore in the north drive on the main lode in the fifteenth level is very bunchy, and that investigation does not confirm the value reported, which he thinks will not exceed 10 dwts. per ton, comparing with values of 2 to 3 ozs. reported by the late manager. The directors say they can give no further information than that contained in Mr. Wauchope's cable, but have instructed the company's legal agents in the colony to investigate the matter at once, and report by cable.

BAYLEY'S MINES.—After the reconstruction of this West Australian company in July, 1903, the programme of further exploration in the mines recommended by the experts whose advice was obtained was accomplished in due course, but did not result in the discovery of fresh bodies of payable ore. As the capital raised for this purpose nearly became exhausted, the directors instructed the manager to stop operations, and to let the property in sections on tribute, so reducing expenditure. Several parties at once took up tributes, and now the directors announce that in two cases discoveries have been made "which afford hope of the future development of profitable bodies of ore." After this outburst the directors moderate hopes by declaring that the results of further work by the tributors must be awaited before the actual importance of these discoveries can be ascertained, but consider the indications so far encouraging. The tributary arrangements on one of the principal leases were made for the period of one year, and the first will expire on November 1 next. By that time it is hoped that sufficient information will be obtained to enable the board to decide if the company can profitably resume work on its own account. So there is really no justification for enthusiasm.

CRAIGGEMORE PROPRIETARY.—During the twelve months ending December 31 last 20,525 tons were crushed by this company and 12,652 tons cyanided, the gold won realising £18,184. Other receipts brought the total income to £19,579, which earned a gross profit of £3,113, and a nett profit of £1,449, after providing for depreciation, London expenses, &c. As the whole of the development and equipment have to be provided for out of revenue, the directors are unable to pay a dividend, though there is an accumulated credit of £3,530, and the issued capital is only £23,400. The management has effected appreciable reductions in working costs, which are now actually less than fifteen shillings per ton, an exceptionally low figure even for Western Australia, where Chinese are not employed.

DHARWAR REEFS COMPANY.—The report and accounts issued by the directors cover the period from the incorporation of this Indian company, October, 1904, to the end of December last. Having been so short a time in existence, one cannot form a very definite opinion of the company's prospects, but the officials seem to be fairly sanguine. According to the superintendent, no less than six shoots of ore have been opened up in various parts of the mine, showing good results, and he thinks when stoping is commenced that these will produce milling ore far in excess of the quantity estimated in his report. Meantime the directors have had to consider the question of supplying a reduction plant, and, with a view to deciding as to the best method of treatment of the quartz, a trial crushing of 100 tons was made in December last, yielding 93 ozs., whilst the tailings gave a further 60 ozs., making the total output 153 ozs., of the high average value of over 1½ oz. to the ton. Pleased with these results, the directors are expediting the supply of a battery and cyanide plant. No profit and loss account is yet drawn up. In the balance-sheet the expenditure in India and England amounted to £21,600, against £188 received from transfer fees, rents, &c.

SAN SALVADOR SPANISH IRON ORE COMPANY.—In 1905 the production of iron, the directors say, was on a satisfactory scale, and it was disposed of at good prices. This increased output was facilitated in the first half of the year by exceptionally fine weather, and in the latter half by the improved washing machinery the company erected. Ore sales, less the stock in hand at the end of 1904, realised, nett, £47,991, out of a total revenue of £48,331, and the gross trading profit was £13,624, reduced to a nett balance of £7,517, after providing for debenture interest, depreciation, the reserve for the redemption of debentures, and placing £1,000 to the depreciation fund, but inclusive of £749 brought forward. Full dividends are paid on the 8 per cent. "Pier" shares and the 9 per cent. preference shares, leaving £607 to be carried forward.

SOMERA GOLD MINING COMPANY.—The report of the directors to be submitted to the statutory meeting states that the total number of shares allotted is 216,000, upon all of which 5s. has been called up. The total amount of cash received by the company in respect of these shares is £53,322. No payments have yet been made. Preliminary expenses are estimated to amount to £1,600.

QUEENSLAND GOLD OUTPUT.—The Queensland gold returns for February were:—Charters Towers, 18,600 tons, yield 14,000 ozs.; Croydon, 2,100 tons, 800 ozs.; Gympie, 18,000 tons, 8,600 ozs.; Mount Morgan, 17,960 tons, 8,200 ozs.; Ravenswood, 2,300 tons, 3,300 ozs.; other fields, 4,400 tons, 2,700 ozs.; alluvial, 300 ozs.; total, 37,900 ozs.

NEW ZEALAND GOLD OUTPUT.—The gold output of New Zealand for the past month amounted to 32,708 ozs., of a value of £130,693, compared with 31,816 ozs., with £128,628 for the corresponding month of 1905.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOLD YIELD.—In February the gold yield of New South Wales was 38,703 ozs. of a value of £129,437 compared with 19,101 ozs., valued at £69,193 in the corresponding month of last year.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

HIGHLAND RAILWAY COMPANY.

Gross revenue for the six months ended January 31 £271,140, increase £3,050, working expenses £147,000, increase £1,663, ratio between expenditure and income 56.12 per cent., or exactly the same as for the corresponding period. In the passenger traffic the increase in receipts was only £195, and parcels, horses, carriages, etc., advanced £123, but goods and minerals gave the moderate improvement of £2,805. Mails and live stock each showed small decreases. On the expenditure side the movements were all very small and not worth detailed reference. Increases were shown under locomotive power, carriage and wagon repairs, mileage of carriages and wagons, general charges and, as usual, rates and taxes, which were up by £1,302, the largest advance. Rather less was spent on maintenance of way and works and decreases appeared in traffic expenses and compensation. Balance of nett revenue was £124,140 compared with £122,753, but the sum brought from the last account was down fully £2,000 to £2,019, so that the amount actually for disposal is somewhat smaller at £126,150. Fixed charges were not quite so heavy and after placing £1,000 to the bridge renewal fund the directors provide the preference dividend and again distribute 2 per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, carrying forward about the same at £8,804. Only £3,897 was spent on capital account during the half-year, and the amount contemplated for the current six months is no more than £16,041, so that the existing debit to capital account of £117,890 will not be much increased. Dividends payable April 11.

THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY.

This great company's financial year is continuous with the calendar year, and the report of its directors has now made its appearance covering 1905. The record is one of remarkable progress and of more than royal expenditure. Gross earnings of all the lines directly operated by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company itself amounted last year to \$133,921,992. Working expenses took \$93,390,410 of this, or almost 70 per cent., leaving \$40,531,582 as the nett earnings from the mere working of the lines. That is to say, the nett income of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company from working its traffic alone was more than £8,000,000 sterling in the past year. From this, however, rentals amounting to \$7,662,810 had to be deducted, but, on the other hand, \$12,036,918 of interest and rentals received fall to be added, so that the final clear income of the company was \$44,905,689, or, say, £9,000,000. Fixed charges, rentals, interest on bonded debt and mortgages, &c., took \$14,803,173 of this, leaving \$30,102,517, out of which a dividend of 6 per cent. was paid upon the company's stock, the total of which has now risen to \$302,547,350, with \$18,000,000 more to be immediately added. This dividend took \$18,113,978, and as \$11,988,539 were absorbed in sinking and trust fund payments and in extraordinary expenditure, it follows that the surplus profit carried forward was not increased by a dollar. In other words, every cent except the sum paid in dividends on the company's share capital was either devoted to the capital redemption of trust funds of various kinds or to extraordinary outgoings usually charged to capital in the United Kingdom. The amount of this latter expenditure was \$8,424,881, and this notwithstanding that capital was charged during the year with outlays to the amount of \$38,740,958 or about £7,800,000. But these summary figures of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company tell only part of the story, for the subsidiary Pennsylvania Company works all the owned lines west of Pittsburgh, and a separate balance-sheet is presented on its behalf. Not only so, but there is the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis Railroad Company, which is controlled or owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and whose figures are also given separately. Those of the Pennsylvania Company show a gross

income of \$40,596,440, with working expenses of \$29,038,788. The nett earnings after adjustments of the same type as those mentioned above came to \$6,054,431, no less than \$10,289,028 having been absorbed in the payments of fixed rentals, interest on funded debt, car trusts, &c. The company paid 5 per cent. upon its capital stock, and also various other charges, after which \$2,398,268 was left over. Of this \$2,000,000 was immediately transferred to the extraordinary expenditure account, so that the final result was a balance carried forward of only \$389,268. Adding this to the balance at the end of the previous year the total of this kind of surplus is brought up to \$6,879,794 as against \$24,725,484, the total of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Much weight cannot be paid to figures of this kind, especially when the capital expenditure goes on steadily under one guise or another. The Pittsburgh C.C. and St. Louis Company also had gross earnings of \$31,417,095, with working expenses of \$23,519,386, and after the various adjustments of the nett revenue there was enough left to give the preferred stock its full 4 per cent. and to pay 3 per cent. on the common stock, with \$1,277,203 left over, of which \$1,000,000 was immediately appropriated for what in this country would be regarded as capital expenditure. Even so, however, the company's aggregate balance on profit and loss account was brought up to \$3,781,661 at the end of the year. The Vandalia Railroad Company's report is likewise presented in separate form, but the figures are not important enough for us to set forth in detail. It was able to pay 4 per cent. on its capital stock, and to devote \$325,000 to an extraordinary expenditure fund, with \$96,184 left to be added to the profit and loss credit, raising it to \$1,207,731. The gross earnings were only \$7,845,222 and the nett income from working the lines was \$1,695,169. Large further expenditures of capital are foreshadowed in the report of the directors, and one would like to see a complete exhibit not only of the capital involved in this railroad system and its dependencies, but the total amount of its guarantees covering the securities of subsidiary roads. During the past year, for instance, it guaranteed an issue of \$5,691,000 4 per cent. refunding bonds of the Long Island Railroad and also an additional \$2,000,000 of 4 per cent. collateral bonds issued by the Washington and Richmond road. The mere balance-sheet of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company gives but an imperfect exhibit of the enormous amount of capital involved in the entire system. Even as it stands, however, that capital looks fairly formidable. The aggregate of the railroad company's balance-sheet foots up to \$577,070,825, of which the capital stock is as above and the funded debt \$191,852,447. The current assets are put at \$94,616,482, including \$26,734,301 of cash, and current liabilities amount to only \$43,930,292, of which \$20,037,748 represents pay rolls, vouchers, and nett traffic balances. The company owes \$33,100,000 on its various car trusts, but a liability of this kind is continually disappearing, and were it not for the equally continuous increase in the demands of the system for additional wagons and appliances of all descriptions this figure would soon disappear altogether. Securities created by subsidiary or dependent corporations the company owned on December 31 last aggregated \$236,604,457, from which it received a revenue of \$10,018,026 or nearly 4½ per cent. on the cost price. It may, however, be difficult to assess the real value of some of these securities, because their earning power depends upon the allowance made to them by the parent company for their share of the work done as carriers; in fact, it is the intricacy of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company's finance which strikes the far-away observer most forcibly. No one here can unravel the threads, the interlinking meshes of the web of finance, by which this fine railroad system—the most powerful, far-reaching, and altogether most enterprising in the world—is sustained. Satisfactory progress, the directors state, is being made with the tunnel that will bring the railway into the heart of New York, and which will cost, with its underground lines inside the city, its terminal and secondary stations there, probably some £20,000,000 sterling.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

In the half-year ended December 31 this company made a nett profit of \$3,161,667. Adding in \$1,702,729 brought forward we get a total free balance of \$4,864,396, which was just about \$119,000 less than the free balance on the corresponding half-year, notwithstanding the fact that about \$210,000 more were brought forward. So small, however, is the decrease that the directors are not only able to add another \$1,000,000 to the credit of the silver reserve fund, raising it to \$9,500,000, but to pay an additional 5s. per share by way of dividend. That is to say, the dividend will be £1 15s., as against £1 10s., and at the same time the bonus of £1 per share will also be distributed. These are paid at an exchange of 4s. 6d. per \$1, and to do this will require \$1,171,840 to make good the difference between the exchange value of the \$1 and this conventional value. That exchange value, however, has been rather better in the past half-year, and amounted to 2s. 0½d. on the day when the dividend and bonus were declared. After making all these provisions \$1,699,777 will be left to carry forward. This is very little less than the amount brought in, and altogether the position is wonderfully strong. Nothing has been set aside to bank premises account for the half-year compared with \$200,000 a year ago, but bank premises now stand at only \$1,107,110 altogether, so that really there is no call for immediate further reductions in that direction. Changes in the balance-sheet are not important, but cash, it may be noted, has risen by nearly \$10,000,000 to \$47,297,668. There is also an increase of \$1,500,000 in the coin lodged with the Hongkong Government against note circulation, the total being now \$10,000,000, and that note circulation

has reached \$19,054,000, or an increase of about \$2,600,000 on a year ago. Fixed deposits are also up by \$2,764,000 to \$106,655,291, and current account deposits are \$5,239,000 larger at \$115,299,848. Bills discounted, loans, and credits have increased by \$5,543,000 to \$91,144,181, but bills receivable are down nearly \$1,300,000 at \$113,710,591. The sterling reserve of \$10,000,000 or £1,000,000 is all invested in first-class securities written down, the £570,000 in Consols to 85, and the £255,000 of Khaki stock to 90. It is stated in the report that Mr. Haupt has been elected chairman for 1906 and the Hon. C. W. Dickson deputy-chairman.

THE BANK OF AFRICA, LIMITED.

Last half-year to December 31 this bank only earned £53,098 of nett profit, making with the £20,062 brought forward £73,160 altogether. The dividend therefore has been brought down to 6s. 3d. per share or at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum against 13 per cent. a year back, but £3,000 has again been placed to the credit of pension fund and the balance left to carry forward is £20,160. In the circumstances this seems a very satisfactory return and the business shows signs of recovery from the depression which set in some two years or more ago. Notes in circulation for instance at £338,313 are up about £30,000, and bills payable at £469,496 have risen by about £55,000, while the liability on deposit and current accounts is up £491,000 to £7,113,615. These increases in liabilities imply larger assets and we accordingly find cash of all sorts including money at call and short notice up £206,000 to £1,953,908. Bills receivable, however, are down £105,000 to £1,360,000, but loans on security, etc., are greater by about £333,000 at £3,291,726 against which we have, however, to note a decrease of about £96,000 in bills discounted which amount to £1,094,617, the aggregate of the balance-sheet being £10,431,195.

BANK OF AUSTRALASIA.

The profits of this bank for the half-year ended October 16 were £293,705, or £2,247 more than in the corresponding period, but there was another sharp increase of £4,861 to £156,254 in the management charges and rates and taxes, so that the nett balance is only £137,451 or a drop of £2,614. Sum brought in was a little larger at £17,104, making £154,555 compared with £156,951, and while another £30,000 is transferred to the reserve fund, the sum applied in reduction of premises is £4,000 less at £11,000. A dividend is then proposed at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, and £17,555 is carried forward. The balance-sheet does not give us very much to say. Circulation is a little smaller at £450,854, but deposits have increased £1,143,171 to £16,329,565, and bills payable and other liabilities show an advance of £308,307 to £2,319,698. Liquid holdings have been increased in proportion, and we find an increase of £666,564 to £3,981,667 in the specie, bullion, and cash balances. The high rates ruling in London have led to an increase of £889,000 to £2,359,000 in the loans at call and short notice, but bills receivable, advances, &c., are less by £73,757 at £14,294,304. British Government securities still stand at £967,140, while Indian and Colonial Government securities are moderately larger at £175,980. Bank premises show a reduction of about £21,000 to £285,580 and the balance-sheet totals £22,063,673 against £20,572,520. Since the date of the last report the bank has opened new branches at Ballina and Nowra, in New South Wales, and at Hamilton and Whangarei, in New Zealand, and has closed its branches at Winton, in Queensland, and Queens-town, in Tasmania.

BRITISH BANK OF SOUTH AMERICA, LIMITED.

The directors of this bank report a continuance of generally satisfactory conditions in South America, low prices ruling for coffee in Brazil and the sudden and violent fluctuations in exchange being the only adverse influences. Gross profits for the twelve months to December 31 were £203,223 or £45,783 more than in 1904, to which must be added £19,433 brought in, making £222,656. General charges, income and Government taxes were all moderately larger, but after paying an interim dividend of 6s. per share, increasing the reserve allocation by £20,000 to £35,000, adding £5,000 to the pension fund, and providing a bonus of £4,000 for the staff, the balance still left is £58,220. So the directors add a 2s. bonus to the final dividend of 10s. per share, making the total return 9 per cent., or 1 per cent. more, and carry forward the largely increased balance of £28,220. Reserve fund now reaches £375,000, and no deduction is necessary for capital depreciation in South America. Amount due on deposit and current accounts is over £1,000,000 larger at £3,995,601, bills payable, including acceptances of bankers, amount to £2,674,751, or £549,335 more, and other liabilities and credit balances come to £763,834 against £604,224. These big increases are accompanied by a rise of £215,827 to £1,199,980 in the cash at bankers, in hand, and in transit, but the principal movements are in bills receivable, up £672,862 to £3,333,076, and other assets and debit balances, larger by £951,080 at £3,725,271.

DELHI AND LONDON BANK, LIMITED.

The usual auditorial reservation is made in connection with the accounts of this small bank, sundry irregular items being included in the assets as yet unprovided for. As before, the board estimates that not more than £17,000 will be required to make these good, but what we cannot understand is that the sum stated is always £17,000, although the directors steadily make provision against the deficits. Gross profits for the second half of 1905 were £21,738, or £1,255 more than in the

corresponding period, but management expenses were about as much higher at £13,861, so that, including £4,385 brought in the disposable credit is no more than £12,262 against £11,889. A dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum takes £6,752, and after adding £1,000 to the doubtful accounts, a sum of £4,509 remains to be carried forward. Current, deposit, and other accounts have grown a little to £1,362,816, and loans on security have been raised to £110,000, an increase of £95,000, but bills payable have further shrunk to the small sum of £5,292. Loans, advances, and bills discounted figure at £1,463,030, or £131,612 more, but while Government securities have further declined £8,540 to £71,623, other securities, including bills purchased, show an increase of £53,528 to £106,650. Cash is down from £190,439 to £162,668, and bank premises still stand at £32,564. The total of the balance-sheet is £1,841,665 against £1,695,038.

ROBERT STEPHENSON AND CO., LIMITED.

This unfortunate undertaking has still a long way to go before its operations can be considered even tolerably successful, but after a long series of disappointing years it seems to have got fairly well round the corner at last. During the 12 months ended December 31 all the branches of the company's business, including locomotive and shipbuilding, the new graving dock and the foundry at Newcastle, have been well employed and the re-organisation of the works has been so far successfully carried through. All that is good, but we are quickly told that the results obtained were necessarily affected by orders at low prices taken during the recent depression in the shipbuilding and engineering trades. New orders have since been received at improving prices and the directors anticipate that the current year will be more prosperous than any the company has yet had. Nobody will be more pleased than we shall if this proves to be the case, because shareholders have already suffered acutely and will have to sacrifice a large slice of capital in order that the position may be straightened out. Not only is there a debit to profit and loss account of £101,920 to be got rid of but the long neglect of depreciation allowance must be set right. The entire question will be dealt with during the current year. Including nett additions of £24,659 in 1905 the capital expenditure amounts to £684,705 and some further outlay must be contemplated because we gather that the company has decided to abandon the foundry at Newcastle owing to its being unsuitable and to build a new and larger foundry on the land at Hebburn. It has already been commenced and should be completed this autumn. Not only that but additional new machinery has been ordered for the marine boiler shop at Hebburn and for the Darlington works, so that the capital account will be a good deal increased before it is reduced. The holders of the "A" debenture stock have given the company a helping hand by agreeing to a reduction in interest from 6 per cent. to 5 and an increase in the amount of stock by £100,000 to £200,000. Since the end of the year the amount issued has been raised by £50,000 to £150,000 and we are glad to note that a sinking fund has been commenced. Profits earned are not very startling yet, but the sum earned on works completed was £21,363 against £2,768 in the previous year. With sundry other items the revenue is built to £24,192, which provides debenture and other interest, depreciation on investments, remuneration of directors, &c., and leaves a balance of £1,982. This is deducted from the previous debit of £103,902, reducing it to £101,920. Now that some more money has come in on debentures the financial position is no doubt better, but at the date of the balance-sheet it was decidedly poor. Including £47,967 raised on loan the total floating liabilities were £125,879 against debtors £15,614, investments £8,479 and cash and bills £22,946. Work in progress less amount received is at the good total of £98,099 and stores, materials and stock engines are valued at £28,568.

FAIRBARN, LAWSON, COMBE, BARBOUR, LIMITED.

We can congratulate the directors of this well-known machinery business on the manner in which it has retrieved its position. It may be remembered that a year or so after the present company was formed profits began to shrink in a most alarming fashion, and for 1903 the dividend on the ordinary shares was down to the trifle of 1 per cent. Even that should not have been paid, because reserve funds had to be entirely neglected, but there was a magnificent recovery during the year 1904, and for 1905 the results are more brilliant still, the best figures displayed in the prospectus being easily eclipsed. After allowing £13,702 for depreciation the trading profit comes to £134,997 or £34,615 more than in 1904, and a good £100,000 above low water mark reached in 1902. Interest and transfer fees gave a further sum of £2,831, and after providing for debenture interest, management, directors' fees and general charges, the sum remaining is £117,341. It is increased to £125,335 by the sum of £7,994 brought forward and the directors meet the preference dividend with £15,000 pay 7½ per cent. dividend and 1 per cent. bonus on the ordinary shares, add the splendid amount of £50,000 to reserve and carry forward fully £10,000 more at £17,835. Reserve fund will now be £100,000 and none can cavil at the distribution of profits. Additions to property account for the year were £10,414, and after deducting the depreciation allowance the total stands at £814,014. Reserve fund is kept in separate high-class securities, and against creditors of £62,203 debtors reach £173,511, stocks on hand and work in progress are valued at £121,410, and cash and bills stand at £163,802. All round, then, the position is excellent and the achievements of the past year provide another valuable illustration of the wonderful vitality of our "dying" industries.

P. AND W. MACLELLAN, LIMITED.

This Glasgow engineering business found the year ended December 31 an excellent one and succeeded in earning a nett profit of £54,186, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, directors' fees, and percentage of surplus profits due to managing directors and certain officials. Compared with the preceding twelve months this is an increase of about £27,000, or in the neighbourhood of 100 per cent. Add £1,047 brought in and the sum for disposal is £55,233, and the directors provide £6,750 for debenture interest, raise the depreciation allowance by £5,000 to £7,500 and add £11,000 more at £12,500 to reserve. Fixed preference dividend next requires £9,000, and the directors pay 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, besides giving both classes a special dividend or bonus of 2 per cent. The carry forward is then increased to the substantial figure of £4,483. The dividends will be payable in two equal instalments on March 31 and September 29 next. Depreciation reserve will now be £8,500 and the ordinary reserve £52,500, very fair accumulations against works, land and buildings £220,936, fixed plant, machinery, etc., £63,981, and loose tools, etc., £36,561. Total floating liabilities are little less than £200,000, but debtors come to £228,121 and stock in trade is worth £93,644, work in progress represents a further sum of £46,464, stocks and shares are entered at £18,934 and cash amounts to £29,364. Good!

BRUCE, PEEBLES AND CO., LIMITED.

Excellent progress was made by this Edinburgh firm of engineers in 1905 and in spite of a considerable outlay out of revenue on development work in connection with new types of machines the nett profits after meeting administration charges and debenture interest amounted to £36,431 or an increase of £7,638. Including £3,854 brought in the total available was £11,138 larger at £40,285 and commendable caution has been displayed in dealing with these additional resources. Although the capital was increased during the twelve months by the issue of 10,000 preference and 1,049 ordinary shares of £5 each and £25,000 in debentures, the directors feel justified in raising the dividend on the ordinary shares from 6 per cent. to 6½ per cent., the increase under the terms of the prospectus giving the preference shares an extra ½ per cent. Then £3,643 or £764 more is placed to the preference shareholders' special reserve fund, another £7,000 goes to general reserve and after wiping out the balance of preliminary expenses and half the expenses of the new issues at a cost of £8,091 compared with £4,000 written off a year ago, the sum carried forward is nearly doubled at £7,271. Liabilities to sundry creditors have risen by £86,271 to £206,094, but on the other hand sundry debtors come to £85,990 more at £238,152 and stock, stores, work in progress and finished work is valued at £98,093 or an increase of £34,974. Cash is £4,888 up at £23,543, and in addition the company held on December 31 shares in power and traction companies received in part payment of contracts valued at £64,145, a figure which the directors say is considerably under par.

BELL BROS., LIMITED.

This undertaking shared in a moderate way in the iron and steel trades prosperity during the past year and reports a profit of £87,469, or about £19,000 more than in 1904. With £6,016 brought in the sum for disposal is £93,486, and the directors provide debenture interest, preference dividend and distributions aggregating 7s. 6d., or 2s. 6d. more on the ordinary shares. Then balance of Clarence Works suspense account £4,590 is written off, £12,000 is placed to reserve, income-tax takes £1,071, and the carry forward is reduced to £3,324. Cost of the works, mines, collieries, etc., at January 1, 1899, was £752,160, and there has been expended since a sum of £632,871. On the other hand £172,034 has been written off out of profits or reserve fund, so that the capital expenditure at the end of 1904 appeared at £1,212,996. During the past year the nett additions were £12,170, raising the total to £1,225,167, and on the other side we have aggregate reserve funds of £182,939. Including £49,500 invested in Horden Collieries, Limited, the total investments amount to £182,708, but the general finances are not altogether as they should be, because in various ways the floating liabilities add up to £169,408 against debtors £29,345 and cash £269. Movable stocks consisting of stock in trade, stores, loose tools, and rolling stock are valued at £215,182.

STEWARTS AND LLOYDS.

The improvement of about £5,000 in the profits of this big business for the year ended December 31 was not very startling, but the total of £226,218 is quite a good one. With sundry other items the income is built to £232,858, from which general charges take £23,182, income-tax £5,980, directors' and auditors' fees £4,490, and debenture interest £12,250. Then £40,000 is again allowed for depreciation, and £146,946 is left. Adding £53,099 brought forward, and the sum for disposal is £200,046, so that the directors can provide the preference dividend and again pay 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares. Another £25,000 is then placed to reserve, and £57,046 is carried forward. Expenditure on capital account during the year was commendably moderate at £18,428, and after deducting the aggregate depreciation to date of £300,000, the property account stands at £1,030,664. In addition the reserve now reaches £270,000, and the position looks rather good. About one-half the reserve is invested in high-class securities, and debtors exceed creditors by no less than £259,097 at £491,679. Shares and debentures in other companies, no details given, are fortunately small at £27,608, cash stands at

£63,007, and bills receivable reach £29,910. Stocks of goods, work in progress, stores and loose tools £624,850 seem to indicate that the company is now well supplied with orders, and with careful and efficient management it ought to go on and prosper.

BENGAL IRON AND STEEL CO., LIMITED.

The directors of this undertaking have a very unsatisfactory report to lay before their shareholders. During the year to September 30 last the production of pig-iron and iron castings was the largest recorded since the commencement of operations, the increase compared with the preceding twelve months being fully 12,000 tons. Against this favourable circumstance, however, must be placed the heavy losses in the steel department, and for the present, at any rate, the steel plant must be written down a failure. First the disappointing results were attributed to the inefficiency of some of the European employees sent out, and on the substitution of these men by others the working of the furnaces improved. But subsequently the plant completely failed, and the position of affairs became decidedly critical. One of the directors went to the East to investigate matters on the spot, and when he reported the directors reluctantly came to the conclusion that further operations at the steel works would have to be abandoned, at any rate, for the time being. So the furnaces were patched up in order to dispose of the existing stock of raw material, and it is expected that the works will be entirely closed within the next two months. This means a good £100,000 of capital gone out of use, if not in large part lost, but the directors hope that the iron works alone will provide enough profit to give the ordinary shareholders a fair return. Loss on the steel works was about £16,000, a very distressing sum, and after deducting this the balance of profit is returned at £31,922. Add miscellaneous income of £146 and the total for disposal is £32,068, from which charges in India, including £9,994 for depreciation, take £13,710, loan, etc., interest £1,239, and debenture interest and London charges £8,109, leaving £9,009. But the directors have already paid interim dividends at 6 per cent. per annum on the preference and 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, absorbing £7,880, and are rather fortunate to be able to meet the final preference dividend at all. It can only be done by reducing the carry forward from £4,080 to £1,418 and using the sum of £1,258 returned on account of overpaid income-tax. There is, of course, no final dividend for the ordinary shareholders, and nothing can be placed to reserve or renewal funds. These, however, amount to about £85,000 against the aggregate capital outlay of £438,296. Debenture debt now outstanding is £126,639, loan against security, since partly repaid, amounted to £17,667, and £38,983 is owing to sundry creditors. Sundry debtors are small by comparison at £24,557, and cash is not impressive at £7,470, but stocks and general stores are entered at £90,991, and are, we hope, good value.

EDWARDS' AIR PUMP SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

This company's invention seems to be growing steadily in favour with engineers, and during the twelve months ended December 31 691 pumps were booked for land installations and 522 for marine engines. The income from royalties rose by £1,100 to £10,589, and with miscellaneous receipts the total revenue came to £11,207, of which expenses took £4,083, leaving a profit of £7,124. Including £445 brought in and £183 from profit on realisation of investments the amount available was £7,752, and after putting £500 to dividend equalisation account, £2,500 to capital redemption fund, and £183 to investment reserve, the dividend is increased by 5 per cent. to 20 per cent., and £262 is carried forward. The company's financial position is excellent, as the directors have recognised that with so large a proportion as £15,743 out of a total paid-up capital of £21,359 spent on patents it is imperative that adequate provision should be made for capital redemption, and have accumulated £10,000 for this purpose, of which £8,348 is invested outside the business. In addition, there are an investment reserve account of £433 and a dividend equalisation fund of £1,000. Trading balances are very largely in favour of the company, only £1,572 being due to sundry creditors against £9,764 to come in, and cash is ample at £3,752.

UNITED ALKALI CO., LIMITED.

A further improvement of £75,680 to £487,264 in the gross profits for the year ended December 31 may be satisfactory in so far as it shows that a little progress is being made, but it cannot afford any appreciable delight to the unfortunate ordinary shareholders owing to the heavy burden of prior charges and the urgent need for bringing down the book value of the properties to something like their real worth. Administration expenses took rather less than a year ago, so that the nett profits were £77,387 up at £426,440; but debenture interest required £5,584 more at £135,618 and only £43,763 was brought in against £80,047 a year ago, and after putting the usual £15,000 to debenture redemption the amount available showed an increase of no more than £35,518 at £319,584. Of this £187,878 was absorbed by the payment of the preference dividend, and in addition to placing another £50,000 to the depreciation fund £40,000 was transferred to reserve, reducing the balance forward to £41,706. During the year £360,903 was spent on the purchase of the Sotiel mine, of which £67,606 was satisfied by an issue of 5 per cent. mortgage bonds; but £28,602 was deducted for sales of property and plant, including amortisation of mines capital account, so that after allowing for depreciation the capital account showed a total outlay of £7,676,720. Four firms of chartered accountants are required to audit the accounts, but not one of them seems to have thought it worth while to inquire how far this figure is in excess of the actual

value of the assets represented. We know, however, from the history of the company that the real and the book values are so wide apart that it will take many years at the present rate of writing down to bring them anywhere near each other, and until that is accomplished the ordinary shareholders must continue to look in vain for any return on their money. General investments stand in the books at £122,677, and holdings in subsidiary and other companies at £345,888, the total showing only a trifling reduction, although there is still no indication that any of them are revenue-producing, and this is another matter to which the auditors might turn their attention. The amount owing to sundry creditors has gone up by £21,085 to £343,890, while sundry debtors have remained practically stationary at £293,874. Stocks are £22,312 lower at £712,770, and outstanding consignments come to £28,100. Bills receivable have dropped by £3,415 to £3,929, but against these cash is £64,126 larger at £305,095.

MARCONI'S WIRELESS TELEGRAPH CO., LIMITED.

We are glad to find this much advertised company making a certain amount of progress, because within its somewhat limited sphere it ought to prove a very useful enterprise. For short distance telegraphy, ship signalling, and as a general adjunct to the great cable businesses of the world, we have never denied the possibilities of the invention, but we did object to the puffing and lauding and the talk of publishing a schedule of message rates years before the company was in any way established, and which led to some unfortunate individuals giving up to £4 apiece for their shares. The present price is about 25s., and in order to keep the business on the move the directors have been compelled to attempt an issue of another 128,063 £1 shares, which are offered to shareholders at par. Up to the present there has been anything but a rush for these shares, but on one day this week a premium of 2s. 6d. was skilfully established, and the directors may now succeed in getting them placed. According to the report the company is making satisfactory progress all over the world, and the organisation for carrying on by means of the Marconi system the business of a telegraph company is being extended wherever profitable traffic seems likely to result, and concessions can be secured. A good many technical improvements seem to have been effected, and we are assured that satisfactory communication between England and Canada has been at length established. The Admiralty and the Board of Trade are by no means uninterested in the company's progress, but we are sorry to find that it has been involved in litigation even though it came through successfully. There was an action brought by Lloyd's against the company and the International Mercantile Marine Communication Company and another brought by the American Marconi Company against the De Forest Company, in the United States. China, Chili, and the Dutch East Indies are among the countries contemplating the use of wireless telegraphy, or already have it in operation, and we note that a Bill to extend the Wireless Telegraphy Act of 1904 for six years has passed the second reading of the House of Commons. The International organisation of ships and shore stations for sea telegraphy has again been greatly extended, and the number of steamers now equipped with the Marconi system is just 80. All this is very satisfactory, but we should like to see the profits advance in some relation to the steadily expanding business. Gross profit is returned at £28,651, royalties and sundry receipts amounted to £8,114, transfer fees were £293, and interest and discount £455, and by bringing in a profit of £1,806 made on sale of shares in the Canadian Company, the entire revenue is built to £39,319, or an improvement of rather more than £6,000. But directors' fees, managing directors' remuneration, and salaries require £6,229, law charges, &c., are £3,405, travelling expenses, rents, rates, taxes, and sundries come to £11,282, and £1,652 is allowed for repairs, renewals and depreciation. Balance of net profit, therefore, stands at £16,750, an advance of about £4,000, and making with the credit of £12,681 brought in a total of £29,431. Dividend payments, however, cannot commence just yet, as the directors prefer to keep the balance in hand in view of the large expenses for development. In this they are wise, because the financial position is not such that the company can safely reduce the existing liquid resources. The cash balance is very poor, and while the heavy sum of £60,663 is owing to sundry creditors, the really free assets do not exceed £30,800. Stock is valued at £13,853, and £50,503 is due from the Associated Company, but neither item could really be made available. Plant, machinery, and buildings are entered at a further amount of £41,222, patents are valued at £82,653, and the year's development expenditure was £13,244. Shares at their par value in associated companies have a nominal worth of £1,439,285, but they are entered in the balance-sheet at £62,287 only, and the directors say that when the Transatlantic stations are opened for commercial work, such of these holdings as the company is prepared to sell will be marketable at prices which will represent a substantial profit. Shares purchased are in at their cost price of £41.157, and freehold property and works stand at £30,142. The works at Chelmsford will shortly be closed, and all the operations carried on at Dalston, where freehold works have been acquired on highly satisfactory terms, the directors say.

DIRECT SPANISH TELEGRAPH CO., LIMITED.

Business in the twelve months ended December 31 cannot be said to have improved appreciably, as the total revenue showed a recovery of no more than £133 at £26,210, while working expenses rose by £115 to £12,536. Staff endowment assurance and other outgoings, however, were reduced by £140 to £486, so that the net income was actually £158 larger at

£13,188, but debenture interest and redemption charges required £3,773 or £944 more, and after transferring the usual £5,000 to reserve a balance of £4,415 was left compared with £5,201. In order, therefore, to maintain the dividends at the rate of 10 per cent. on the preference and 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares it has been necessary to appropriate the remainder of the contingencies fund amounting to £795, and to take £376 from reserve. The Bilbao cable seems to be in a very bad state, as there were two serious interruptions in April and October, and a third fault was discovered in the end of December. Repairs of the first two were carried out by the Eastern Telegraph Company at a cost of £4,722, which has been charged to the reserve, while the expenses of removing the third fault will appear in the current year's accounts. The debits against this fund consequently exceeded the transfer from revenue, but with £1,956 from interest the fund now stands at £49,280 or an increase of £1,858 on balance. In addition, a debenture redemption fund of £15,075 has been accumulated, and these two items are represented by investments valued at £64,588. Traffic accounts just about balance each other, £8,555 being owing by the company against £8,528 to come in, and cash stands at £4,030.

BRITISH INSULATED AND HELSBY CABLES, LIMITED.

In their report for the year ended December 31 the directors of this company report that the volume of trade was considerably less than in the previous twelve months. The business, therefore, did well to produce an increased profit of £4,086 at £133,903, and with £7,114 brought in the sum for disposal is £141,017 compared with £135,982. From this administration and other charges absorb £2,577, a sum of £22,000 or £1,000 more is allowed for depreciation on buildings, plant, machinery, &c., £8,500 goes to special reserve, and £5,000 is again added to the debenture stock redemption account. A further amount of £30,000 is wanted for the preference dividend, and after again providing 8 per cent. for the ordinary shares the balance carried forward is substantially increased to £10,439. Capital outlay during the year was kept down to £14,476, only such additions being made as will facilitate the business and enable its operations to be extended where possible. Property account is thus raised to £484,686, against which the depreciation allowance is £22,000, reducing the balance-sheet figure to £462,686. Patents and goodwill stand for a further sum of £246,134 against which there is the reserve account of £250,000 apart from the debenture redemption fund £20,000, so that the position is pretty strong. Investments at cost, including shares and debentures in various electrical undertakings established or controlled by this company, and cash advances and goods supplied £557,551, may be a little doubtful, but up to the present the directors have accumulated a special reserve of £94,403 against these interests, so that there is probably no cause for worry. Total floating liabilities amount to £55,704, and on the other side the company has stock and work in progress £296,358, sundry debtors £250,684, cash £84,129, and loans against securities £75,000.

WM. FRANCE, FENWICK AND COMPANY.

Business was slightly better again for this shipowning and shipbuilding business during the year to December 31 last. Net profits are returned at £42,777, or £1,221 more than in the preceding twelve months, and after providing £17,750 for debenture interest and sinking fund £25,027 remains. It is reduced to £20,327 by managing directors' remuneration £4,000, directors' fees £500 and trustees' fees £150, and this sum provides the preference dividend and 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares with £6,000 to reserve and £284 carried forward compared with £207 brought in. Two steamers were sold during the year and three new vessels of larger capacity specially adapted for the company's trade have been contracted for. The first of the new boats has already been delivered. Valuation of the property is again moderately lower at £347,040, and the financial position appears sound enough because there are the debenture sinking fund investments of £44,000 and the reserve £24,999. Other investments amount to £3,355, loans against security reach £32,873 and against total creditors of £65,236, debtors and bills receivable, &c., amount to £102,083. Cash is fairly substantial at £21,855.

D. H. EVANS AND CO., LIMITED.

During the year ended February 19 this West End drapery business easily recovered the small set-back in profits experienced during the preceding twelve months. Gross trading revenue is returned at £154,999, or an increase of about £9,500, to which is added £73 for transfer fees, making £155,073. Against this salaries and all other working expenses amounted to £85,188, while repairs and depreciation and interest on debentures dispose of a further sum of £9,553, leaving the nett balance at £60,331. With £17,102 brought in, the total for disposal is £77,434, and after paying the preference dividend, the ordinary shares receive 2½ per cent., the founders' shares £9 10s. per share, and £4,233 is placed to reserve, leaving £17,601 to be carried forward. Property, leases and goodwill have been slightly increased during the year, raising their total to £334,611, and no depreciation seems to be allowed. There is, however, the reserve fund of £35,422, and the debenture redemption account of £8,350. After making allowance for wastage, the fixtures and furniture stand at £34,801 and £1,880 respectively, and while creditors are slightly heavier than debtors the stocks on hand are valued at £94,278. The cash balance of £22,311 is not nearly sufficient to provide the final dividends. The founders' shares are held by a concern called the D. H.

Evans Founders' Shares Company, which pays a dividend of 3s. 1d. per £1 share.

NICHOLSONS, LIMITED.

Including £10, or £1 more from transfer fees, trading profits for the year ended February 12, after providing a trifle of £706 for depreciation, amounted to £1,818 more at £13,472. Of this directors' fees took £1,550, and with £238 from the previous account the balance available for distribution was £1,671 up at £12,160. The first use the directors make of these larger resources is to raise the dividend on the ordinary shares by 1 per cent. to 7½ per cent., an increase which allows them to pocket £1,057 against £451 for additional remuneration, and after transferring another £1,750 to reserve, £603 is carried forward. Such a disposition of profits seems most unwise, to say the least, seeing that premises and goodwill, after deducting the small provision of £1,268 made for redemption of leases, stand in the balance-sheet at £131,951, or 94.25 per cent. of the total capital, and that the reserve only amounts to £4,750 as the result of eight years' accumulations. The current position shows a little improvement, as the loan from the bankers has been reduced by £3,013 to £2,011, at the same time that cash has gone up by £1,355 to £5,751. Liabilities to sundry creditors, however, have risen by £751 to £8,484, while sundry debtors are only £144 up at £2,088, and stocks show a small decrease at £13,112.

BOURNEMOUTH AND POOLE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CO., LIMITED.

During the twelve months ended December 31 £45,193 was spent on capital account in respect of the various Orders owned, and this outlay no doubt largely accounted for the increases of 21,527 to 143,116 8-c.p. lamps in the number connected and of 301,696 to 2,005,025 units in the sales of current. Receipts from this source rose by £4,155 to £37,607 and miscellaneous receipts were also better, so that the total income came to £46,386 against £40,414. Expenses were only £1,138 heavier at £17,763, and as a balance of £1,043 was brought forward instead of a debit the nett revenue showed an improvement of £6,328 at £29,666. Interest on debentures and temporary loans took £6,929 or £626 more, and in addition to transferring £1,223 to leasehold and special redemption funds £3,000 is put to depreciation account, after which the ordinary shares again receive 7 per cent. for the year, leaving £1,706 to be carried to the new account. In addition to the outlay on capital account £12,500 has been invested in, or advanced to, the Richmond (Surrey) Electric Light and Power Company, raising the investment to £131,186, and in spite of the new capital received during the 12 months, temporary loans have risen by £11,140 to £14,550. Sundry creditors are £2,584 up at £23,078, against which sundry debtors owe £1,524 more at £25,113, and cash is a mere trifle of £164 higher at £2,062. A sum of £4,917 was written off machinery out of the depreciation fund, and in order to balance this the remainder of the reserve accumulated out of premiums amounting to £3,935 has been transferred to the fund, leaving it at £16,387. With the special redemption accounts of £5,480, the reserves, all told, stand at £21,868, or 6 per cent. of the capital outlay—not a very great proportion for a company which has been in existence since 1897.

HOVE ELECTRIC LIGHTING CO., LIMITED.

A further addition of 138 to the houses taking current from this company in 1905 gave an increase of 9.26 to 92.194 8-c.p. lamps, and sales rose by 80.603 units to 901.384 units. The average price realised, although reduced by 0.25d., was still good at 5.33d. per unit, producing £967 more at £20,047, and with a larger income from other sources the gain in gross revenue was £1,045 at £21,041. Generating expenses took £4,530 or £82 more, and £1,029 was spent on repairs and maintenance against the £600 stipulated for in the agreement with the Hove Commissioners; but rates and taxes, management expenses, and special charges were all slightly reduced, so that the total expenditure was only £363 heavier at £8,551, and the nett revenue showed an improvement of £682 at £12,490. To this was added £325 brought forward, and after providing for interest on debenture stock and temporary loans £3,250 is put to reserve and £250 to maintenance and renewals reserve against £3,000 and £500 respectively, and the dividend is raised by ½ per cent. to 9 per cent., leaving £965 to be carried to the new account, subject apparently to directors' additional remuneration. Capital expenditure for the year was £3,360, making the overdraft on this account £21,330, but with the present transfers from revenue the reserve comes to £38,326 and the maintenance reserve to £925. Sundry creditors, including accrued interest, &c., amount to £4,276, while the dividend just declared will take £3,387, against which the company has £7,891 to come in from sundry debtors and £437 in cash.

LONDON STREET TRAMWAYS COMPANY.

Shareholders of this undertaking are reminded in the annual report just issued that the London County Council and the North Metropolitan Tramways Company have come to an arrangement whereby the lease granted by the Council to the company is to be cancelled as from April 1 next. The L.C.C. then resume possession of the lines, but the change will not affect the position of this company as regards the security for the unexpired term of the annuity. It is pointed out, however, that no further bonus can be paid until June 24, 1910, when the company will cease to exist. In the twelve months to December 31 it received £7,451 from the North Metropolitan Company, £810 for interest, and £6 for transfer fees, or a total of £8,267. Sundry charges reduce this to £7,209, and after adding on £898 stand-

ing to the credit of contingency fund, the directors propose a dividend of 2s. 6d., and a bonus of 1s. per share. Amount remaining is £672, which will be written off the cost of Metropolitan stock. Altogether the investments and cash reach £21,527 and sundry property is valued at £8,535, or a total of £21,527. Against that the share capital is £124,000, and the revenue credit £6,097, leaving a deficiency of £108,570, subject to the annuity payable by the North Metropolitan Company.

PERTH ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS, LIMITED (WESTERN AUSTRALIA).

This company made some progress during the year ended December 31 and reports gross receipts of £74,485 or an improvement of about £5,000 compared with the preceding year. After providing expenses of operation and London administration charges the balance over is £34,704 which is a gain of £2,682. Municipal and other taxes absorb £2,663 and service of the first and second debentures disposes of £16,829 leaving £15,212. It is increased to £18,675 by the sum of £3,463 brought forward and the directors provide preference dividend and give a first return of 2½ per cent. to the ordinary shareholders. A further amount of £5,000 is placed to reserve, £2,500 goes to the "cash" reserve and the balance of £2,675 is carried forward. Reserve, which will now amount to £16,000, is invested in the business and the cash reserve is the first contribution. The amounts are still slender in face of a capital outlay of £443,950 and we are glad the directors are content with a small beginning in the way of ordinary dividend. Particularly is this so in view of the heavy debenture debt, although the amount is being steadily reduced. During the year the construction of the 17½ miles of track authorised under the original concession was completed and the suburban concessions of Subiaco and Leederville, 4¼ miles in all, were also finished and are now in full operation. The North Perth Concession of 1 mile 13 chains remains to be constructed and this is now being proceeded with. It is further announced by the directors that the Victoria Park Extension has been completed and is being operated under a lease with an option to this company of acquiring the line at any time within seven years on payment of the sum advanced, about £5,000, by the Victoria Park Council towards its construction. The favourable traffics indicate a likelihood of the option being exercised. An attempt was made to inaugurate a service of motor buses to compete with the tramways, but the venture seems to have been a complete failure.

UNITED STATES DEBENTURE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

We dealt the other day with the directors' proposals for "strengthening" the financial position of this company, and need not revert to the subject except to say that the scheme seems useless and unnecessary. In the twelve months ended January 31 the gross revenue from dividends, interest, transfer and other fees amounted to £84,382, or some £2,400 more than in the previous year, commissions amounted to £1,534, and nett profit on sales of securities gave £19,818, bringing the total revenue to £105,733. From that administration charges reached £7,372 and debenture interest £45,000, so that after providing sundry other small expenses, the balance remaining is £52,297. Preference dividend having been provided with £9,520, the directors pay 10 per cent. dividend and 5 per cent. bonus on the ordinary shares, adding £20,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £277. The founders' shares, it will be remembered, were extinguished last year on delightfully generous terms to those who participated. The cost of cancelling these founders' shares, including the legal and other expenses, was £40,978, reducing the reserve funds to £152,021, but the total is again increased by the £20,000 added from last year's profits and now stands at £172,022. Total investments, a list of which is not published, are valued in the balance-sheet at £1,509,236, and £10,387 has been lent on loan. Sundry creditors are not important at £5,344, but debtors owe only £1,705, and the cash balance of £25,430 is insufficient for final dividend and interest payments.

COLONIAL SECURITIES TRUST CO., LIMITED.

During the 12 months ended January 31 this company received dividends and interest on investments of £25,360, or nearly £2,000 more than in the previous year, and a further £267 from commissions and transfer fees, making £25,629 in all. On the other hand, administration charges rose £440 to £2,381, leaving a nett balance of £23,246, an improvement of £1,755. Add £1,848 brought in, and the sum for disposal is £25,094, from which the directors pay the preferred dividend and 4¼ per cent., or ½ per cent. more, on the deferred stock, transferring £3,000 to contingency fund, and carrying £1,892 to next account. A year ago the contingency fund stood at £33,000, and against a profit on realisation of investments of £3,231 the directors have written off £5,600, so that with the £3,000 now credited from revenue the fund stands at £33,631. Investments are now valued at £536,189, and the directors say that a considerable improvement has occurred in the capital of the company during the year, meaning that these securities have improved in market worth. Loans against security have been reduced from £15,771 to £8,303, to do which it has been necessary to raise a bankers' loan of £6,500. The directors adopt the sensible plan of showing two years' figures in the balance-sheet.

GENERAL AND COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED.

Total revenue for the year ended February 28 was £49,214 or £1,263 less than in the preceding twelve months, and after providing £5,750 for management expenses, £11,400 for debent-

ture interest and £110 for sundry other charges, the balance over is £31,954. Interim dividends at 5 and 4 per cent. per annum on the preferred and deferred stocks have been already paid, and the directors now propose to complete the preference dividend and make a final distribution at 7 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock, making $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., or $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., for the year. Balance carried forward is £13,294 against £12,004 brought in. During the year the company realised a profit of £26,839 on sale of investments, and the trustees again handed back £1,500 from their remuneration, so that the reserve is increased to £86,223. On the other hand a sum of £5,405 has been written off in respect of certain securities held, and the fund now stands at £80,818. Investments are held up at cost, less the various sums written off, and stand in the balance-sheet at £991,989. In addition there is a loan against security of £20,000, and cash at bankers reaches £10,097.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN MORTGAGE CO., LIMITED

This well-managed undertaking reports a very satisfactory year's work. Business was active in the company's field of operations, and the manner in which interest and collections were met is described as excellent. Loans on first mortgages have been increased by £69,935, and now stand at £1,121,714, but real estate sold under contract is less by £6,076 at £21,402, and the foreclosures account has been reduced by sales by £14,780 to £25,285. Including £15,000 added from the past year's profits, the reserve fund now amounts to £160,000, kept in tip-top securities, temporary loans to the amount of £61,856 have been granted, and cash reaches £37,096. A loss of £817 on a sale of West Ham stock has been charged to the contingency fund, leaving it at £817. The company was probably wise to realise this investment. Total revenue for the twelve months was £91,640, or an increase of about £2,000 on the year, and after providing debenture interest and all other charges the nett balance is £37,840. Sum brought in was £1,429 making £39,270, from which the directors provide the preference dividend, and dividend and bonus aggregating 9 per cent. or $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more on the ordinary shares. Then £15,000 as mentioned is placed to reserve, and £1,170 is carried forward. Debenture stock to the amount of £1,700 was issued during the year, increasing the amount outstanding to £500,000, and the terminable debentures now stand at £398,138, an advance of £6,090.

NEW EXPLOSIVES CO., LIMITED.

Unhappy is the investor who chooses explosive companies in which to place his savings. Unless some horrible conflict between nations is in progress it is almost impossible for these businesses to make decent profits on the capital involved, and shareholders accordingly suffer. It would be pure affectation if we expressed sorrow for this condition of affairs, because the smaller the profits of companies providing man-slaying instruments the more are we pleased. The directors of this enterprise complain of the violent competition and the small Government orders for cordite, and the effect is seen in a drop in the gross profits of £19,000 to £11,307. Interest on deposits and sundries gave £172, but trade and other expenses took £8,417 and £2,569 was spent on repairs and renewals, leaving £494. Debenture interest, however, alone absorbs £1,650, and balance of income-tax £190, so that there is a deficiency of £1,346, against a profit of about £11,200. Deducting this loss from the credit brought forward of £4,828, and there is still a balance on the right side of £3,482. The reserve, though, must be debited with £2,000, in order to write down property purchase account, which was increased during the year by £2,416 to £111,466. Reserve will now be reduced to £6,000. Against sundry creditors of £4,037 debtors owe only £2,391, but stocks come to £16,697, cash to £4,083, and investment in the company's own debenture bonds to £1,263. In an effort to improve the position the directors intend to widen the scope of the business, and have arranged, among other products, to take up the manufacture of sporting powder. This means an increase in capital, to take the form of an issue of preference shares or debentures, as provision must be made for holding heavier stocks and an increase in book debts. The sporting powder trade is one in which long credit has to be given, we are told. Is our shooting aristocracy so hard up as all that?

ROBURITE EXPLOSIVES CO., LIMITED.

Although this company's profits for the past year were smaller than in the previous 12 months, the directors are at last in a position to give the patient ordinary shareholders a small dividend. This is because the arrears of preference dividend were caught up in 1904. Profit on sales is returned at £18,354, or £1,389 less, and after providing rather more at £2,190 for carriage and carting, but the smaller sum of £2,731 for commission and discount, the balance of revenue is £13,433. It is raised to £13,658 by interest, dividends and transfer fees, but the nett income is only £7,150, because administration and sundry other charges require £5,183, repairs, renewals, depreciation, and redemption account for £1,326, and £200 is reserved for bad and doubtful debts. With £1,343 brought in, the sum for disposal is £8,493, and the directors commence by crediting 10 per cent. of the profits, or £715, to reserve. Preference dividend of 10 per cent. is next provided, $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., compared with nothing is paid on the ordinary shares, and £1,380 is carried forward. Shareholders will be wise, however, not to contemplate a repetition of even this tiny dividend for the current year, because the directors refer to the unprecedented fall in prices during the past 12 months owing to the severity of

competition and say that the outlook for 1906 is even less favourable. Reserves unfortunately are small at £5,897, although we suppose credit can also be taken for the £2,068 received on forfeited shares. Patents and goodwill are still heavy at £63,109, and depreciation seems very slender, but the company has a favourable trade balance, stocks of £7,525, good-class investments standing at £8,202 and worth £7,554, and cash £5,965.

JOSEPH TRAVERS AND SONS, LIMITED.

The enormous rise in sugar, from which this company derived so much benefit in 1904, was followed by a serious relapse which knocked the price of sugar in bond down by nearly one-half, and the trading profits for the twelve months ended January 31 fell off by no less than £29,280 to £28,405. Other receipts brought the total income up to £28,991 compared with £58,249, but interest on debentures and deposits took £10,174 or £562 more, £454 was written off the lease and £1,701 off premises and plant, leaving an available balance of £16,662 only against £45,776. The directors, however, foresaw that some such reduction was inevitable, and with commendable prudence made provision against it by bringing forward no less than £22,081. With this help they had £38,743 available for distribution, and after paying preference dividend and placing £1,000 to special reserves they are able to repeat last year's dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares and still carry forward the substantial balance of £11,493—a highly satisfactory display, all things considered. Debts, deposits, bankers' loans, &c., have been reduced by £33,192 to £236,730, and bills payable are £193 down at £27,043; but, on the other hand, sundry debtors come to £43,242 less at £295,658, and stocks have risen by £2,543 to £361,840. Cash, too, is £5,369 down at £21,401, while of the £40,573 representing reserves of various kinds £12,205 is invested outside the business, and another £5,906 is held in securities against the leasehold redemption fund.

SPRATT'S PATENT, LIMITED.

Nett profits on trading account for the year ended December 31 show a moderate increase of £625 only at £35,756, but interest receipts and other revenue brought the total income up by £1,523 to £42,547, while £12,141 or £1,854 more was brought in. Directors' fees, debenture interest, and preference dividend having been met, £3,000 is reserved for bad debts against £2,000 a year ago, and after writing off £403 for expenses of the new issue of shares the balance available was £1,973 larger at £44,114. A year ago the dividends paid on the ordinary shares aggregated 16 per cent., but since then 15,000 new shares have been issued by way of bonus out of the special reserve, and this step, as the directors foreshadowed a year ago, has caused a corresponding reduction in the rate per cent. of the present distribution. The dividend now declared makes 11 per cent. for the twelve months, but to pay this requires £750 more, and as the directors have deemed it prudent to write £12,000 off property and goodwill account compared with £6,000, the balance forward is £4,777 down at £7,364. Expenditure on property amounted to £3,752, making a total of £312,674 after allowing for the sum now written off, but, on the other hand, the general reserve stands at £96,402, and the special reserve at £55,000, or together about 48½ per cent., and as investments, including shares in various allied undertakings, are valued at £85,942, the position looks sound. Sundry creditors have gone up by £12,174 to £44,612, against which sundry debtors have risen by £8,975 to £83,494, and stocks are £8,730 higher at £86,883, while cash is £8,967 down at £8,255.

MONTÉ VIDEO WATER WORKS CO., LIMITED.

This well-managed undertaking continues to make steady progress and during the twelve months ended December 31 received a revenue from water and meter rents of £92,510, or £4,522 more than in 1904, the income from all sources being £5,786 larger at £97,101. On the other hand the expenditure was £300 less at £30,596, so that the nett revenue is up £6,087 to £66,506. With £32,302 brought in and transfer fees of £18 the total credit is £98,826, from which debenture interest requires £17,500, income-tax £1,954 and sundry other expenses £444. The directors then provide a dividend of 6 per cent., absorbing £30,000, add £15,000 to special reserve and carry forward £33,928. As the directors observe a larger return could have been made to the shareholders, but they have in mind important extensions of existing works which must shortly take place, they may not for some time to come be productive. It is therefore better to strengthen the financial position, so that in case of need the special reserve fund may be drawn on for equalisation of dividends. Last May the municipality made overtures for the purchase of the company's undertaking and negotiations extending over several months were carried on between the board and a duly accredited agent of the municipality in London, but no agreement could be arrived at.

PROPERTY AND ESTATES CO., LIMITED.

This is a small affair as yet, but under certain arrangements already made the directors anticipate that the issued capital will be substantially increased during the current year. More over it is hoped that the company will before long be in a position to make its first public issue of shares under conditions which will be satisfactory, not only to the present shareholder but to future applicants. The authorised capital is also to be increased, the directors say, and proposals to this end and also for making the shares more readily marketable will be communicated to the proprietors in the form of a special circular. In the twelve months to December 31 the receipts reached £7,800.

and the outgo came to £5,091, leaving the nett profit at £2,761. Add £111 brought in and the sum for disposal is £2,872, from which two dividends aggregating 5 per cent. are paid, £81 being written off establishment charges and £57 for leasehold depreciation. The balance carried forward is £304. Capital at present outstanding is £49,884, including £250 in founders' shares and £48,310 has been raised on mortgages and permanent loans. Temporary and bank loans run up to a further £14,700 and deposits and interest to £5,363, while the various properties in the shape of freeholds, leaseholds, reversions, etc., are valued at £116,688. Loans on mortgage represent a further sum of £7,246 and the directors say that the reversion assets have been very stringently valued.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—The week has not shown much greater activity, but markets have been steadier and prices as a rule firmer. English wheat has been more sparingly offered in most cases, and both it and foreign have frequently ruled 6d. dearer. In the cargo market little is doing; holders maintain their quotations, but have difficulty in finding buyers. Farmers' deliveries still continue larger, and the average price lower than last year, being 62,420 qrs., averaging 28s. 5d., last week, against 31,867 qrs., averaging 30s. 10d., a year ago. Shipments continue heavy also, Dornbusch estimating the quantities of wheat and flour in passage to the United Kingdom this week at 4,170,000 qrs., against 4,100,000 last, and our imports for the week amounted to only 364,000 qrs., against 507,313 last year. American markets opened firm on a good cash demand, but weakened on favourable crop accounts and bear selling of forward months. The decrease in Bradstreet's estimates of the quantities in sight East of the Rockies—69,764,000 bushels, against 70,626,000 last week—induced some covering, but markets became bearish again on good crop news and reports of small flour sales, &c. The final tone was, however, steady.

WOOL.—Prices at the London sales have gone higher still, and at the close of this week stood at from 5 to 10 per cent. above January rates for merinos, and from 10 to 15 per cent. for cross-breeds. Naturally the position of the markets is difficult, but there is a good deal of activity in spite of the strain, and a fair amount of wool has changed hands, even at top rates, or the absence of speculation. Consumers are practically devoid of stocks, and must cover their present requirements at any cost. Spinners are very busy on contract work, which will render some of them independent of current prices for some months, and have withdrawn all quotations for the present.

LINEN.—The difficulties of getting yarn deliveries, says the *Belfast Linen Market*, have become more accentuated, and it is impossible to see where much relief can come from. Continental supplies are needed as much abroad as here, and though up to date this year we have imported more than during the same period of last, our exports have been heavier, and the nett gain in yarns consequently small. Business is active everywhere, ordinary line weft yarns in particular are much wanted, and cannot be had under 4s. 10½d. Brown linens, cloths for dyeing, hollandes, drills, union goods, &c., are all selling at stiffening rates, and the improvement in the housekeeping end is still maintained. Orders for bleached and finished linens are coming in satisfactorily from home and abroad, North and South America doing a steady trade. The tone of Barnsley home market is also much better and shows a larger inquiry for fine and medium-grade goods.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—During the week under review our market has continued firm, and prices in some quarters have shown a tendency to harden. Producers of both cloth and yarn have held firmly to quotations, and concessions have seldom been made to buyers. With most people having long engagements, the tone of the market has been distinctly healthy. The raw material in Liverpool has advanced throughout the week. The publication on Wednesday of the final ginners' report has not had much effect on our market. Statistics from the United States are generally discredited, but the tendency seems to have been for a rise in prices. In cloth for India a fair business has been done from day to day, but quite a number of offers have not been of a practical character. Fine goods suitable for our dependency are deeply sold, and the question of delivery restricts business which otherwise might be put through. The demand for China continues of small extent. A fair amount of speculative purchasing has been done in order that merchants may get the required delivery later on: The Levant and Egypt have dealt to a moderate extent in goods of a miscellaneous character. Buyers for the outlets of South America have bought printing cloths to a fair extent. Home trade goods have moved off well from day to day. T-cloths and Mexicans are deeply sold, but not much new business has come round. Burnley and Cheshire printing cloths remain firm at late quotations. All kinds of goods are not easily got hold of for early delivery. The position of manufacturers has been well maintained. Home trade American yarns have moved fairly well from day to day, but the demand still continues for the better kinds of cop twist and ring beams. Pressure for quick delivery, however, has not been so marked during the last few days. Coarse weft does not move off very well. Spinners all round, however, have done a fair business, and the margin of profit is generally satisfactory. Shipping yarns have been in some demand for China in doubled 32's. India and Japan buyers have not been at all active. Producers, however, are deeply engaged, and no pressure has shown itself

for further orders. Cops for the Continent have been quiet. Egyptian yarns have not been in great demand, but spinners hold firmly to quotations. Producers have plenty of work to go on with.

In New York the market has been more than usually active, and at times excited. In the opening days it was dull and heavy, a bearish construction being put upon the Census Bureau's figures of the amount of cotton ginned, but subsequently it was regarded in a favourable and bullish light by the trade in general, and strong support came from several quarters. Prices advanced at one time nearly 40 points. Closing prices are:—March-April, 5.86d.; April-May, 5.87d.; May-June, 5.88d.; June-July, 5.89d.; July-August, 5.90d.; August-September, 5.87d.; September-October, 5.69d.; November to January, 5.63d.; January-February, 5.64d.

COAL.—Trade continues active, particularly in gas and railway coals, and companies wishing to renew their contracts find that they cannot do so at last year's rates. As we mentioned last week, North of England coalowners have stood out for 1s. per ton more for gas and can maintain their firm attitude in view of the increase in foreign orders. South Yorkshire has received a larger share of these than usual, and owing to the French strike heavy shipments are being sent from Yorkshire, Northumberland, and Durham to the French ports. But steamers at Cardiff have reached 15s. per ton, with possibilities of even a higher point, for business is of a steady character, in spite of the weather disturbances, which hamper dock dispatches. Best seconds are as in great demand as bests, and are quoted at 14s. to 14s. 6d. Swansea prices are also firmer and higher, though still below those of Cardiff, bests being quoted at 13s. 6d. to 14s. 6d., seconds from 11s.

COPPER.—It is said that some fairly heavy bear commitments in this metal have still to be covered for April, and as the steadily diminishing stocks are very strongly controlled, operators are quite prepared for a sharp squeeze. With continued strong advices from America the market opened firm, and steadily improved under the influence of important buying orders. This caused brisk inquiries to cover near contracts, and as a speculative inquiry was also in evidence the tendency was exceedingly strong. A slight reaction followed on profit-taking and a slackening of the speculative demand, but business became active again near the end, and prices closed at £82 7s. 6d. for spot and £79 10s. three months.

TIN.—Leading operators are again taking an interest in this metal, and the market opened active and strong under the influence of extensive covering operations. Forward positions were particularly hard, and statements that shipments from the Straits would be small served to help prices upward. America was a pretty good buyer, and as the quantities offering were very small, quotations steadily advanced, closing at £167 10s. for cash and £165 15s. for three months.

IRON AND STEEL.—The position of the iron and steel trades is still good, and the feeling continues hopeful. This has naturally led to more active buying, as it is felt that little will be gained by waiting. Satisfactory developments are the steady decrease in the stock of Cleveland pig-iron in the public warrant stores, and the heavy shipments. Since the beginning of the month about 15,000 tons have been taken out of Connal's stores, and the production of Cleveland pig-iron is now equal to the consumption. As regards hematite pig-iron the demand is so vigorous that the production hardly keeps pace with the consumption. Neither is there any lack of work in the finished iron and steel departments, and the orders booked ensure full operations at most places for the greater part of the year. A similar condition of things prevails in Scotland. There may not be so much fresh business coming forward as could be desired, but inquiry is fairly brisk, and some good contracts are being arranged in various departments.

SUGAR.—Under the influence of Cuban weather reports and crop estimates the sugar market has shown further strength during the week. According to some estimates, Mr. Czarnikow says, the deficiency in the estimates may lead to beet shipments during the summer months from Europe to America. Whether Europe has to carry over into next season 1,100,000 instead of 1,250,000 tons (against 600,000 tons last year) will make less difference than the sowing and the weather in beet-producing countries, but with such stocks it seems difficult to understand how August should be only 1½d. below October-November. Yet some speculators hope to see next crop at a discount below August until the moment when the sugar has to be disposed of. In the American market there has been an improved demand for preferential sugars at an advance of ¼ cent. Landings in the three ports for the week were 41,000 tons, and meltings 39,000 tons, leaving stocks at 228,000 tons.

TEA.—Supplies, according to Messrs. Gow, Wilson, and Stanton, Limited, are being unnecessarily pressed forward, and to an extent that may mean danger to the market. Auctions this week are heavy, and over 70,000 packages are to be offered next. This week markets, in spite of these excessive supplies, have not suffered, and demand was fairly strong for Indian of good, useful liquoring kinds. Common teas also were steady, but the slight advance noticed for a week or two back has been checked. 42,701 packages were offered and 35,808 sold at an average of 7.43d. against 7.25d. last week and 6.79d. a year ago. Ceylon auctions were helped by a slight improvement in quantity, and the average price is now ¾d. per lb. higher than it was a month ago. Export demand also has had an effect upon prices of whole leaf from 6d. to 8d. per lb., and the average

for this week upon 19,822 packages offered was 7.07d. against 7.10d. last week and 6.66 last year. Java sales amounted to 3,348 packages, which went chiefly at last week's prices.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Buenos Ayres and Rosario.—For the six months ended Dec. 31 on the consolidated ordinary stock of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., being at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, 6 per cent. for the year, and on the deferred stock a dividend of 6 per cent. for the whole of 1905.

Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway.—Interim dividend on the ordinary stock for the half-year at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £188,183.

Buenos Ayres Western Railway.—3 per cent. on the ordinary stock for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Swansea and Mumbles Railway.—At the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on the preference and at the rate of $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the reduced ordinary shares for the six months ended Dec. 31, making $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the original ordinary capital for 1905.

Western of Havana.—Interim of 6s. per share, payable April 12.

TRAMWAYS.

Anglo-Argentine Tramways.—Final on the ordinary shares of 5s. per share, making, with interim, 8s. per share, or 8 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £10,214.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano Electric Tramways.—3s. per share on the ordinary shares, being at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £5,375.

MINES.

Chinese Engineering and Mining.—Output of coal 19,500 tons, sales 16,000 tons, consumption 1,400 tons.

Crown Reef Gold.—110 per cent. for the half-year ending March 31.

Esperanza.—Interim of 6d. per share, and an additional interim of 5s. per share for the quarter ending March 31, payable April 20.

Kelly's Queen Block Gold.—6d. per share, payable April 9.

Ooregum Gold.—Balance for the year ended Dec. 31 of 6d. per share, payable April 11, making 1s. 3d. per share on the ordinary shares and 2s. 3d. per share on the preference shares for 1905.

Rio Tinto.—40s. per share for the past half-year, making 80 per cent. for the year, £26,000 carried forward, after writing off £89,000 for depreciation.

Stratton's Independence.—Interim of 6d. per share.

MISCELLANEOUS.

American Investment Trust.—For the half-year ended March 15 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock, and at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 1 per cent. for the year, on the deferred stock, carrying forward £24,944.

Anglo-Sicilian Sulphur.—Interim on the preference shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Jan. 31, payable March 31.

Birmingham Small Arms.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares and at the rate of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Jan. 31.

British South African Explosives Company.—Dividend of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year ending October 31.

Burnley Paper Works.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the past half-year.

Brush Electrical Engineering.—Full 6 per cent. on the preference shares, and at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £7,550 to reserve, £6,893 for depreciation, and carrying forward £3,114.

Charles Kinloch and Co.—At the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31.

Curtis's and Harvey.— $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the share capital, placing £2,000 to reserve, and £10,004 forward.

Direct United States Cable.—Interim of 4s. per share, being at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for the quarter ending March 31, payable April 26.

Eastern Telegraph.—Interim of $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on the ordinary stock in respect of profits for the quarter ended Dec. 31.

Equitable Reversionary Interest.—5 per cent. for the year 1905, payable in equal sums on April 5 and Oct. 5.

Fleming and Ferguson.—Interim on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Feb. 15, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

Foreign American and General Investments Trust.—For the half-year ended March 15 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock, and at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year, on the deferred stock, carrying forward £16,303.

Great Northern Telegraph of Copenhagen.—24 per cent. for 1905, placing £55,555 to the reserve, and £55,555 to dividend equalisation fund.

H. Holdron.—Transferring £1,500 to the general reserve account and £1,000 to special reserve, final of 4 per cent., making 7 per cent. for the year ended Feb. 28, placing £1,500 to general reserve, £1,000 to special reserve, and £1,899 forward.

Hardy's Crown Brewery.—Quarterly on the ordinary shares at the rate of 20 per cent.

James L. Denman and Co.—Further of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 7 per cent. for the year ended Jan. 31, carrying forward £2,016.

James Nelson and Sons.—7 per cent. on the first and second preference shares and 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares for 1905, placing £25,000 to special reserve, and carrying forward £42,000.

John Barker and Co.—Dividend of 1s. 10d. per share on the ordinary shares, making $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year ending February 19.

King Line.—Further of $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., making 5 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £452.

M. C. Thomson and Co.—At the rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £500 to general reserve, £2,000 to special reserve, and carrying forward £2,498.

Okonite Company.—Further of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., together with an extra dividend of 2 per cent., making 8 per cent. for 1905.

Owen Owen.—Final of 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making, with the interim dividend paid, 12 per cent. for the year ended February 20.

Peter Walker and Son Property.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £2,500 to reserve, and carrying forward £519.

Sao Paulo Tramway, Light, and Power.—Quarterly of 2 per cent., payable March 20.

Schill, Seeborn, and Co.—5 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the past year.

Sheffield and South Yorkshire Navigation.—At the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the preference shares for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £182.

Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

Sir William Arrol and Co.—Transferring £1,979 to reserve, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £1,979 to reserve, and carrying forward £6,787.

State Fire Insurance.—Further dividend of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., making $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for 1905, transferring £30,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £6,931.

Union Assurance.—Ten shillings per share on the capital stock, payable May 15.

Virginia-Carolina Chemical.—Quarterly (No. 42) of \$2 per share on the preference stock, payable April 16.

Weardale Lead.—Second of 3d. per share on account of the current year, payable April 3.

White, Tomkins, and Courage.—At the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Jan. 31, carrying forward £1,685.

MINING RETURNS.

Brilliant Block.—Crushed 680 tons, 330 ozs.; residues (tailings and concentrates), value £540.

Brilliant Central Gold.—2,010 tons, 1,090 ozs.; residues (tailings and concentrates), value £1,165.

Broken Hill Proprietary.—Refinery products: Fine silver 284,094 ozs., soft lead 3,412 tons, antimonial lead 25 tons.

Cobar Gold.—780 tons, 69 ozs.; tailings 570 tons, 210 ozs.; slimes 800 tons, 613 ozs.; total 892 ozs.

Eaglehawk.—960 tons crushed, 353 ozs.; 156 ozs. from cyanide.

Esperanza.—Crushed 13,087 tons of dry ore; shipped to smelter 5,594 tons of dry ore; value of bullion \$138,761; value of concentrates \$36,203; value of ore shipped to smelter \$457,876; total \$632,840.

Kelly's Queen Block.—Crushed 1,077 tons, value £10,200.

Mitchell's Creek.—618 tons crushed, 279 ozs.; concentrates 24 tons, value £300.

Mount Roudny Gold.—Ore crushed 3,025 tons, 394 ozs. Concentrates: 84 tons, 177 ozs. Tailings (cyanide) 1,804 tons, 38 ozs.; total 609 ozs.

Mungana (Chillagoe).—1,716 tons of ore, containing 74 tons copper, 16,706 ozs. silver, and $48\frac{3}{4}$ tons lead.

Myalls and Peak Hill.—3,825 tons crushed, 300 ozs.

New Queen.—698 tons crushed, 401 ozs.; concentrates £420.

New Ravenswood.—Crushed 1,861 tons, value £5,670; 219 tons concentrates, value £1,272; from the tailings plant, 144 tons concentrates produced, value £1,129.

North Broken Hill.—1,220 tons treated, producing 230 tons concentrates, containing 160 tons $15\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. lead and 2,277 ozs. silver.

Pahang.—2,450 tons stone crushed, producing 27 tons black tin.

Peña Copper.—12,587 tons, shipments of ore 12,558 tons, and 71 tons fine copper in precipitate.

Ravenswood Deep.—Crushed 25 tons ore, 15 ozs.; two tons concentrates assaying 64 dwts. gold per ton.

Rhodesia Matabeleland Development Co.—Crushed 283 tons, 140 ozs.

St. John Del Rey.—Gold produce £6,580, yield per ton .53 of an oz. troy.

Spassky Copper.—Production, 6,000 pounds copper—96.77 tons. Tyne Valley.—Output 8,067 tons.

Victoria Proprietary.—130 ozs. from 690 tons crushed.

Weardale Lead.—Ore raised 310 tons; pig lead smelted $210\frac{1}{4}$ tons; average price obtained for lead sold, £15 13s. 8d. per ton nett.

Arrangements seem to have been definitely concluded for the new Chilean loan. The amount is £3,000,000, and Messrs. Speyer Brothers are said to have taken it firm at 90.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

CALEDONIAN RAILWAY.

The one hundred and twenty-second half-yearly general meeting of shareholders of the Caledonian Railway was held on Tuesday, March 20, in the Merchants' Hall, Glasgow. Sir James King, Bart., the deputy-chairman, presided, and there was a large attendance of shareholders.

The Chairman said:—Ladies and gentlemen,—the half-yearly report has been circulated among you. Is it your pleasure to hold it as read? (Applause.) Then I shall proceed to move its adoption; but, before doing so, I am sure you will all join me in regretting the absence from illness of our chairman, Sir James Thompson, and in hoping that he may soon be restored to his usual health. (Applause.) Since last half-yearly meeting Lord Newlands, the oldest member of the board both in respect of years and of length of office, has passed peacefully away. His interest in the affairs of the company, his zeal for its prosperity, his jealousy of its good name never diminished, nor did his firm belief in the future of the undertaking. By his death the directors have lost an able colleague and a valued friend, but they are confident that in appointing his son, the present Lord Newlands, to the vacant seat at the board they have secured the co-operation of a worthy successor. (Applause.)

CAPITAL POWERS.

Taking the accounts in detail, there have been added to Table No. 1 during the half-year the capital powers authorised by the Caledonian Railway Act, 1905—namely £315,750 share capital and £55,250 borrowing powers. Table No. 2 shows that the ordinary stock has been increased by £5,128 by the conversion of that amount of convertible preference 1904 stock. No debenture stock has been issued during the half-year, so that table No. 3 merely shows a small increase in the amount of debenture stock set apart, in accordance with the statute, as security for the feu-duties payable by the company, and which has now very nearly reached half a million. Table No. 4 (receipts and expenditure on capital account) shows no change on the credit side so far as receipts are concerned, but the debit balance against capital has become somewhat unwieldy, and the company has been obliged in consequence to borrow large sums, and as money has been for some time, and still continues to be, dear, the directors considered that the most prudent course to adopt was to issue new stock, in order to reduce the large amount at the debit of capital account. We thought that the most acceptable form which the issue could take would be that of a 4 per cent. convertible preference stock, issued to the shareholders at a fair premium, and, as you know, this course has been adopted. The time allowed for taking up the allotments does not expire until next Monday, and it is premature to say anything as to the success of the issue, but the stock is selling in the market at a considerable premium, and I think we are entitled to expect a satisfactory result.

CENTRAL STATION EXTENSION.

Table No. 5 shows that the expenditure on capital account during the half-year was £279,799, and has exceeded the estimate by £14,623; the principal items are £84,572, which has been spent on the Glasgow Central Station extension, and £84,139 for which the new dock at Grangemouth is responsible, while £38,451 has been expended on new working stock. The estimate of further expenditure on capital account for the current half-year is £338,000, of which the largest items, being allocated in almost the same proportion, are £98,000 for Grangemouth Dock, £92,000 for Glasgow Central Station extension, and £30,000 for working stock. You will have observed from the report that it is anticipated that the new entrance lock at Grangemouth will be completed and ready for use early in the autumn of the present year, so the directors have been assured, and it is satisfactory that, after so long a delay, we may now look forward to getting full use of the new dock in a few months, although there will still remain a certain amount of work to be done in the way of equipment before an adequate return on the outlay can be looked for. It is hoped that the Glasgow Central Station, which is already largely in use, will be so far finished by June 1 that all the thirteen platforms will then be fully in operation.

TRAMWAY COMPETITION.

Taking the receipts side of table No. 9, revenue account, we find increases of £17,152 in passenger receipts, £1,235 in parcels, £47,788 in merchandise, £157 in live stock, and £1,369 in minerals; special and miscellaneous receipts show increases of £46 in rents from depôts and stores, £1,816 in rents from property, and £13 in transfer fees, while mileage and demurrage are down £1,462; Forth and Clyde navigation receipts show a gain of £238, and the total increase in revenue comes out at £68,342. The number of passengers carried during the half-year was 18,886,991, or an increase of 289,331; the increase in the number of third-class passengers carried is 296,713, but the first-class passengers have fallen off by 7,382. Owing to the lavish service of electric tramways in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, our short-distance passenger traffic has, during the last few years, been seriously diminished; in 1901 in the half-year corresponding to that now under review we carried upwards of three million more passengers than in the past half-year. During the last three years, however, the numbers have kept pretty steady, and I am in hopes that we may perhaps have seen the worst, so far as tramway competition is concerned, for some time to come at

any rate. As to tonnage, we have carried 240,975 more tons of goods and 282,118 more tons of minerals than we did a year ago.

INCREASED EXPENDITURE.

As was to be anticipated, an increase of revenue has been accompanied by an increase in expenditure; maintenance of way, including works and stations, is up £6,260, due in large measure to new mileage having been added to the system since this time last year, and also to a certain amount of abnormal work which had to be done. Locomotive power shows an increase of £15,292, coal and coke accounting for £8,559 of it; there were more engines in steam daily, and more engine miles were run, the consumption, therefore, was larger, while fuel was also dearer; repairs and renewals of locomotives show an increase of £2,900; and the only other considerable item of increase is £2,378 in wages connected with the working of locomotives, due to the increased number of engines in steam and the additional engine mileage run; £5,114 more has been spent on carriage and wagon repairs, both wages and material being up, and although only nine carriages were renewed, against ten last year, they were of a much larger and more expensive type, and 265 wagons were renewed, against 210, at an additional cost of £3,418. Traffic expenses are up £12,232, the principal items being £3,657 for wages, due to shorter hours, and £3,676 in printing, stationery, &c., owing to new trains having to be advertised, and also to our share of the joint account with the London and North-Western Railway for advertising the West Coast route being considerably up. General charges show an increase of £2,467, whilst premiums to servants remain stationary; law and arbitration charges are down £76, and compensation £870, whilst £4,571 more remuneration has been received for working other lines; Parliamentary expenses are down £103, but rates and taxes having risen about 3d. in the £, are up £2,088, Government duty £133, and Forth and Clyde Navigation expenses £179. The total increase in expenditure comes out at £38,145, with the result that there is a sum of £1,060,285 to carry down to nett revenue account, or £30,197 more than there was a year ago.

BALANCE FOR DIVIDENDS.

The debtor side of Table No. 10—nett revenue account—shows an increase of £585 in feu duties, owing to the acquisition of new feus by the company, and of £6,760 in interest on temporary loans, due to causes which I have already alluded to, namely, the large amount of borrowed money and the high rate of interest ruling during the half-year. On the credit side of the account the balance brought from last half-year's account exceeds the same item a year ago by £8,757, and the dividends on shares held for the company are £32,046, as against £27,653, an increase of £4,393. The balance available for dividend comes out at £750,277, of which £337,630 is absorbed by the preference stocks, leaving £412,647, which is sufficient to pay a dividend at the rate of 4¼ per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, carrying forward £20,262, against a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, and £14,936 carried forward at this time last year, and taking into account the large amount of recent capital expenditure, which has not yet begun to yield any return, I trust you will regard the report on the whole as satisfactory. (Applause.)

Mr. Hugh Brown seconded the motion for the adoption of the report and the declaration of the dividends.

INFORMATION WANTED.

Mr. Hugh Mayberry criticised the expenditure incurred on several new undertakings. He said there was much room for retrenchment. Alluding to the Central Station, he remarked that the oncost charges were of such a nature that the company did not know to what extent their expenditure was going. He hoped that the shareholders at next meeting would have a statement of the actual cost as compared with the estimates for that work, and also a similar statement with regard to Grangemouth Dock. He also called attention to the Lanarkshire and Ayrshire and the Dumbarton and Lanarkshire lines, which were really owned by the Caledonian Company, but maintained additional boards, staff, &c., whereas they might be included in the Caledonian Company and worked at less cost than at present.

Sir Andrew Mure, Edinburgh, urged the importance of the directors dealing with the subject of taxes and Government duty. In the report under consideration the rates and taxes paid were stated to be £60,893, and the Government duty was £4,605.

Mr. John Campbell, Auchterarder, called attention to the accommodation at the head office, and said it should receive attention, as increased accommodation was greatly wanted. (Applause.)

Mr. William Jacks, LL.D., asked if there were any intention of doubling the line from Doune to Callander.

Another shareholder said it would be an immense convenience if an entrance to the Central Station were made from the Broomielaw.

REPLIES BY CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman said he understood that Mr. Mayberry's speech was intended rather as a notice of motion to be brought forward at next half-yearly meeting, and it would be certainly more convenient to discuss at that time any increased expenditure beyond the engineers' estimate. As to rates and taxes, that was a very difficult question. They had always contended that sufficient liberality was not given to them in the way of deductions. The directors would be only too happy to consider any suggestion likely to lead to a more fair principle of valuation. As to the Doune and Callander Railway, he understood that at several

points they had made passing places, which ought to facilitate the traffic and prevent detention. The matter, however, would have the directors' further consideration. Regarding the suggestion about an additional entrance to the Central Station, he said that, however convenient it might be for some persons, it would have the effect of making the station a thoroughfare.

The Shareholder suggested that the system adopted in England—viz., that no person be allowed on the platform without a ticket—might be tried to prevent people using the station as a thoroughfare.

The Chairman said he was afraid that such a step would make them very unpopular. (Applause.) As long as the other companies gave facilities of access to the station they would lose more than they would gain by the proposed change. Continuing, he said they would be glad to have more commodious and better arranged offices, but their board was a self-denying board. (Laughter.) The last thing they had touched was to give themselves very handsome and commodious accommodation. They had been waiting for better times, when they might have a little money to spare in order to house their clerks and other employees, and have a little more comfort for themselves. But they had been spending so much money unavoidably lately that he was afraid they must wait a little longer.

The report was adopted, and the retiring auditor having been re-elected, the meeting ended.

BEYER PEACOCK AND CO.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of Beyer Peacock and Co., Limited, was held on Monday at the Westminster Palace Hotel, Victoria Street, S.W., Sir Frederick Lacy Robinson, K.C.B., in the chair.

Mr. Alan S. King (London secretary) read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, expressed his regret for the unavoidable absence of the chairman. He then dealt with the accounts, and proceeded to say:—Dealing with the accounts more generally, it is so far gratifying to note that those for the year ended December 31, 1905, are distinctly more favourable than those for the year to December 31, 1904. But, although in 1905 the conditions of trade in the locomotive industry were better than in 1904, yet the demand was spasmodic and prices did not rise in proportion. As a Glasgow paper of December 30 last observed in a most carefully written article, "the somewhat increased prices (obtained in 1905) do not carry with them the extra profit to the locomotive builders, who are content with the knowledge that their shops, as a general rule, are full, even if the prices realised are only moderate." In our case the gross profit on trading account for last year was £44,250 odd, against £17,979 as shown in the accounts to December 31, 1904. And, whereas for the year ended December 31, 1904, the nett loss, as shown in the accounts for that year, was £3,867—for the year with which we are dealing the net profit carried to the balance-sheet is £20,944—with this result, that whilst for the year to December, 1904, there was, after paying the dividend on the preference shares, a deficit of £587 odd, we are able, as regards last year, after payment of all the fixed charges and preference dividends, to propose that the balance of £3,857 odd be carried forward. The directors sincerely regret the non-declaration of a dividend on the ordinary shares; but, on careful consideration, they deem it better in the interests of the shareholders to carry forward the balance in question in its entirety rather than to declare a small dividend at 1 or 1½ per cent. As regards the year now entered upon, the general prospects of the trade, in the view of the writer of the article in the Glasgow paper—to which article reference has been made—are "fair, but not roseate." Your directors, however, look forward with some confidence to more favourable results than those of the year past. There is now some good work in the shops in course of construction at fairly remunerative prices. The shops are in good working order and the rearrangement of them, carried out by our excellent general manager, Mr. Hoy, has undoubtedly tended both to economy and expedition in the completion and delivery of engines. Thus it may be said that the outlook for this year is fairly encouraging. At the same time it cannot be denied that, as regards the future, there are adverse conditions, which should not be ignored, and which must occasion some feelings of anxiety to those interested in the steam locomotive trade. On the home market by the introduction of electricity a considerable number of a certain class of engine in a more or less state of fitness has been thrown on the market. Again, as regards the overseas trade, with which engineering firms like ours are so much concerned, the state of affairs in the colonies and distant non-protective countries is always a matter of much concern. It is earnestly to be hoped that nothing will occur to check the rather slow revival of trade and enterprise in South Africa. Again, the long war in the Far East has left Japan, which in the past has been a good customer to England, as well as to America, in a somewhat serious financial plight. And beyond all this, all English firms have in distant markets to reckon with the competition of German manufacturers, who, being favoured with an export bounty by their Government, have a margin to their credit of some £600 to £800 per engine, against which, if cheapness is to be the only test for selection, it is not possible for British firms to contend with success. However, as regards the year now current, your directors look forward, as stated in the report, with some confidence. In connection with work in progress, you will notice, on comparison with the year to December 31, 1904, that whilst at December 31 last our cash at bank was less by £53,800 odd, and that there

was due by us to creditors a sum in excess of previous year by £13,300 odd, making a total of £67,100, there is per contra—work in progress more by £24,200 odd, stores and materials more by £6,800 odd, and debts due to us more by £47,700 odd, making a total of £78,700. Thus, the comparison is distinctly favourable. I do not think I need detain the meeting longer, and I beg to thank you for so courteously listening for so long. I beg now to move: "That the report and accounts be adopted." But if any gentleman would like to ask any question or make any remarks before I formally put the resolution to the meeting it is, of course, open to him to do so, and we shall be very pleased to afford every information in our power.

Mr. Thomas Craven, D.L., seconded the resolution, which was subsequently carried.

The retiring directors and auditors were then re-elected.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.

UNITED STATES DEBENTURE CORPORATION.

An ordinary general meeting of the United States Debenture Corporation, Limited, was held on Tuesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Colonel K. R. Berkeley Wodehouse presiding.

Mr. Charles Lock (managing director) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, dealt first of all with the balance-sheet. As the amount standing to the credit of the reserve fund is over £172,000, more than equivalent to a further £1 per ordinary share, the shares were represented in the company's books by actual assets worth over £3 per share. Therefore the directors felt they could safely apply £150,000 of the reserve fund in paying up £1 per share in respect of the liability. They could not have ventured to do this unless they were not only reasonably, but perfectly satisfied that the existing margin of reserve in the shape of appreciation was amply sufficient to safeguard the paid-up capital of £2 per share. It should also be borne in mind that the annual revenue was of a solid and substantial character. Dealing with the profit and loss account, he said:—You will see that the gross revenue, consisting of dividends and interest on investments, etc., is £84,382, while in addition we have earned £1,533 in underwriting commissions. This compares with £85,560 last year. Therefore, notwithstanding that the corporation parted with the considerable sum of £40,000 to the founders during the year, an increase of income has actually been obtained. On looking back during the past twelve years, I find that the gross revenue has increased by no less than £18,000, or by an average rate of £1,500 a year, which as it happened, is exactly equivalent to 1 per cent. on the ordinary paid-up share capital, which I trust the shareholders will consider a satisfactory result. (Applause.) We now come to the question of the disposal of this revenue, and as to that, after paying debenture interest and all administration expenses, and placing to reserve the sum of £20,000, there remains a sum of £32,297 available for dividends. Out of this amount we have already paid the interim and final dividend on the preference shares at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum. Formerly we used to pay the interim preference dividend on August 1, and the final dividend after the general meeting in the month of March. For the future, however, it will be paid on February 1 and August 1. On the ordinary shares we have as yet only paid the usual interim dividend of 2½ per cent. for the half-year ended July 31 last. We now propose to supplement this by a final dividend of 7½ per cent. for the half-year ended January 31 last, which, with the interim payment, will make a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. This is the rate which has been paid now ever since the year ended January, 1899. Having regard to the fact that we have been able to place the considerable sum of £20,000 to reserve fund, we are again able to repeat what we have done for the past two years, viz., to recommend the distribution of a bonus. The amount we recommend for distribution in this way is the sum of £7,500, which is equivalent to another 5 per cent. for the year, so that if the meeting sanctions the dividend and bonus proposed the return on the ordinary shares for the current year will be at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, which, I think, you will allow is a highly satisfactory return. (Applause.) If resolutions to this effect are passed dividend warrants for the final dividend and the bonus, equivalent to 12½ per cent., or 2s. 6d. per share, will be posted this evening, and if the necessary resolutions are passed a further bonus equivalent to 100 per cent. will be paid hereafter by writing off £1 of the uncalled capital. Of course, it must not be expected that when the shares are £2 paid we shall be in a position to pay 15 per cent. per annum on the £2, but it may reasonably be expected that the earnings should reach 7½ per cent. on the £2, which will be equivalent to the 15 per cent. distributed for the past year. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts and the payment of the dividend and bonus.

Mr. Nathaniel Spens seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

NUNDYDROOG COMPANY.

The thirteenth ordinary general meeting of the Nundydroog Company, Limited, was held on Wednesday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., under the presidency of Captain W. B. McTaggart, the chairman of the company.

The Secretary (Mr. W. L. Bayley) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: It now becomes my duty to move the adoption of the report and accounts. There are a good many points to which I should like to call your special attention. During the period under review 79,070 tons of quartz were crushed at the mill, from which 63,553 ozs. of gold were obtained; 74,653 tons of tailings were treated by the cyanide process, and 7,008 ozs. of gold extracted. The total production for the year was, therefore, 70,561 ozs. of bar gold, which realised £265,251. The figures for the preceding year were as follow:—75,840 tons of quartz milled, yielding 62,106 ozs. of gold; 60,409 tons of tailings subjected to the cyanide process, giving 6,467 ozs. of gold, the total being 68,573 ozs. of gold, and the value £258,155. It will thus be seen that the sum of £7,095 was obtained in 1905 in excess of the amount realised by gold sales in the previous 12 months. This constitutes a record in the history of the company. Chiefly owing to a considerable increase in the underground development work, the revenue costs were £10,096 greater than in 1904. I may say that the increase in the development work was no less than 3,189 ft., but, notwithstanding this, a profit of £115,579 was made, which compares with £116,636 for the previous financial year—that is to say, although you spent more than £10,000 additional in development work, the profit is only £1,000 less than the year before. The profit and loss account shows that, including the amount brought forward, there was a total available profit of £119,785. Out of this sum two interim dividends were paid, each at the rate of 1s. 2d. per fully-paid share, with proportionate sums on the partly-paid shares. These dividends together amounted to £62,886, and after allowing for income-tax of £5,452, depreciation £4,931, and other expenses, a balance remained at December 31 of £42,546. A further dividend at the rate of 1s. 4d. per fully-paid share was declared on February 21, 1906, payable on March 22, 1906, and this will absorb £37,693, leaving £4,852 to be carried forward to the current account. The dividends for the year 1905 aggregated £100,579, or 3s. 8d. per 10s. share, equal to 36½ per cent. on the capital of the company, as against 4s. 3d., or 42½ per cent., in the previous year. By special resolutions passed and confirmed respectively on February 1 and 17, 1905, 82,000 additional shares of 10s. each were created and issued subsequent to the date of the last annual report; 12,000 of these shares were allotted fully paid to the liquidator of the Oriental Gold Mining Company of India, Limited, as part consideration for the purchase of that company's property, and the remaining 70,000 shares were subscribed for by the shareholders at a premium of 10s. each. This additional capital was raised to permit of the further development of the Oriental property, where, in the superintendent's opinion, there is every probability of the rich shoots in the northern section of the Nundydroog Mine continuing—to defray the cost of additional electrical machinery in connection with the Cauvery scheme, and sinking of Richards' and Taylor's shafts, and carrying our lateral explorations therefrom at greater depths. Notwithstanding an increased quantity of ore having been treated at the mills—3,230 tons—the ore reserves at December 31 last Mr. Thomas Richards estimates at 49,100 tons, as compared with 58,600 tons on hand on the corresponding day of the previous year. After dealing at greater length with the favourable developments at the mine, the Chairman formally moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. John Taylor seconded the motion.

Mr. Edgar Taylor then addressed the meeting, and spoke very hopefully of the prospects.

The resolution was subsequently carried unanimously.

The retiring directors and auditors were then re-elected, and the meeting closed with votes of thanks to the company's staff, chairman, and directors.

WILLIAM FRANCE, FENWICK & Co.

The fifth ordinary general meeting was held yesterday at Cannon Street Hotel, Cannon Street, E.C., Mr. C. F. H. Leslie presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. S. G. Higgins) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, after a reference to the retirement from the board of Mr. Vivian H. Smith, said: The trading profit for the year 1905 amounts to £42,777 9s. 7d.; this amount added to the carry forward from 1904 makes a total of £42,984 8s. 3d. to be dealt with. The profit for the year 1905 is therefore £1,221 1s. more than for the year 1904. After providing for managing director's remuneration, directors' fees, and fees to trustees for the debenture-holders, there remains the sum of £38,284 8s. 3d. to be dealt with. Debenture interest costs us £6,750, and as provided for by the articles of association, £11,000 has to be transferred to the debenture sinking fund by way of depreciation; £6,000 has to be appropriated to the reserve fund, leaving £14,534 8s. 3d. available for preference and ordinary dividend. The directors have paid the full preference dividend at the rate of 5½ per cent. for the year amounting to £8,250, and we now propose to pay a dividend of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares of the company, absorbing £6,000, and to carry forward the balance. To turn to the balance-sheet, we have in cash at our bankers and in loans against security, which can be realised at short notice, the sum of over £54,000, about £13,000 more than at the end of 1904. The first two items on the credit side—viz., £347,039 17s. 7d. and £44,000—are taken together practically the same as last year, the assets having been written down by £11,000 and the

investments in respect of the sinking fund having been increased by the same amount. Other investments at cost are about £44,500 less than last year, principally owing to the sale of a steamer, which since the date of the balance-sheet has been replaced by new tonnage. The only other figures which appear to call for comment are the sundry creditors and sundry debtors, both of which are less than last year, owing to the fact that certain ordinary transactions in connection with our produce consignment and agency business had matured at an earlier date than in the previous year. I trust that, considering all the circumstances connected with our business, you will agree with your directors in thinking that the above results are not unsatisfactory. During the period under review there has been a continual depression in the shipping trade, in which most of our capital is invested, but the diminished profit arising from this condition of affairs has been rather more than made up by satisfactory developments in other directions, nearly all the other departments showing increased profits. As you will have seen from the report, we have already received one of the new steamers contracted for, and we expect delivery of the remaining two steamers in August and September next. Your directors have, on the suggestion of some of the debenture stock holders, for some time been considering the expediency of asking the proprietors to assent to a more reasonable method of providing for the repayment of their debentures than by annual drawings at 10s, as provided for by the trust deed. The suggestion is that the company be permitted to purchase debenture stock to the extent of the annual amount to be redeemed—viz., £11,000—in the open market at any price under 10s, and in this way fulfil the company's obligation. The proposed arrangements in no way affect the security of the debentures, which you will see from the balance-sheet is very considerable, nor the amount to be redeemed annually, which is £11,000, and the company will benefit to the extent that it may be able to redeem debentures at less than 10s should any of the holders be willing to sell at under that price. The directors hope that the proposals will shortly receive the sanction of the debenture-holders. I beg to move that the report of the directors now produced, together with the annexed statement of the company's account up to December 31, 1905, duly audited, be received, approved, and adopted.

Mr. H. C. Pelly seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors and auditors having been re-elected, a vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

A meeting of the debenture-holders was then held, at which the scheme referred to by the chairman was carried unanimously.

PAQUIN, LIMITED.

The ninth annual general meeting of the shareholders of Paquin, Limited, was held on Monday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. John Barker, M.P., chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Thomas Nevell) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I will commence by reading a letter which I have just received from M. Paquin. He says: "Dear Mr. Barker,—I am extremely sorry that the state of my health has not allowed me to attend the general meeting this year. I regret this all the more as, after a full year's assiduous and often very trying work, it is very gratifying for me to hear such praise as the shareholders have given unceasingly these last nine years to Madame Paquin and myself. This year has commenced exceedingly well, and all my efforts will be employed to obtain for 1906 results equal to those of 1905. Trusting my endeavours will not be in vain, I remain, yours very truly, Paquin. P.S.—Before closing I should like to place before your notice the fact that the receipts of the present year up to March 15 show an increase of something like 15½ per cent." That is in the two and a-half months. It has been my privilege on many occasions to express the pleasure of the board in meeting the shareholders year after year, but I can say with truth that never has that pleasure been more real than it is to-day. You will all have received a copy of the report, and I think we have given you therein a very full account of the working of the business for the year. With the approval of the meeting, I shall take the report and accounts as read, in accordance with our custom. (Hear, hear.) It will be seen that the profit for the year ended December 31, 1905, is no less than £102,000, as against £81,000 for 1904. This profit is arrived at after providing liberally for depreciation of furniture and fixtures, for repairs, and for bad and doubtful debts. In connection with the last item, when I say "liberally" I mean that the sum written off the debts due to the company is such as our experience—extending over nine years—shows us to be ample. As a proof of the satisfactory character of this provision for bad and doubtful debts, I may mention that the sums set apart to meet these contingencies during the early years (now finally closed) of the company's trading have proved more than sufficient, and leave a substantial balance. (Applause.) The year's trading again shows a very large increase, both in Paris and London, over the previous twelve months. Our Paris house has secured adjoining premises in the Rue de la Paix, and has added a department for the sale of the highest class furs, which harmonise so well with the business of Paquin; and although this branch is as yet only in its infancy, there are indications that it is likely to prove a most valuable adjunct. It will be observed that the book debts show an increase, which

I have always pointed out must necessarily follow the expansion of the business, and, considering its magnitude, they cannot be said to be unduly large. I may here say that since the balance-sheet was drawn up something like one-third of these debts have been paid. The consistent upward tendency of this business of Paquin, Limited, is noteworthy, for it will be remembered that your board were able to declare a dividend of 10 per cent. for seven years, while 13 per cent. was paid in 1904, and no less than 15 per cent. will have been paid for the year ended December 31, 1905. (Applause.) In dealing with the results of the year under review, your directors have decided to gradually liquidate instead of further increase the undivided profits. This is explained in the directors' report now in your hands. And rather than carry an unnecessarily large sum forward to next account, your directors, acting on the advice of counsel, consider it sounder finance to write off goodwill the sum of £50,000—(applause)—which will be available for the requirements of this ever-increasing business. The unanimous opinion of those fully competent to judge pronounces the new Paquin models to be more attractive than ever. The company's clientele are extending all over the world, and include all the Courts of Europe, where Paquin creations have long been recognised as the finest examples of artistic taste. (Applause.) It is often said that it is unwise to prophesy unless you know. Well, your board take credit to themselves that year after year all their prophecies have come true; and they take special pleasure in congratulating the shareholders this year on the magnificent business that has been transacted. I do not know that there is anything else that I need say, except that the directors feel very great pleasure in meeting you to-day, and I hope that what they have done will meet with your entire approval. As far as we are concerned, we are unanimous in what we have done, and the board work together with the greatest harmony for your benefit. With these few remarks I have much pleasure in moving: "That the ninth annual report and statement of accounts be and are hereby adopted, and the final dividend of 11 per cent. on the ordinary shares be forthwith paid, making, with the interim dividend, 15 per cent. for the year."

Mr. H. K. Newton seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors were then unanimously re-elected, and likewise the auditors.

Mr. Louffe proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman and directors for the splendid balance-sheet submitted, and particularly to M. and Mme. Paquin, through whose active interest, creative genius and great energy the company had achieved such excellent results. He desired to include in this vote cordial thanks to the staff. He happened to know a good many of those engaged in the Paris house, as well as in the London house, and he felt sure that with the continuance of the labour they bestowed ungrudgingly upon the business the results in future would be even better than those already shown. This was carried with acclamation.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, MARCH 26.

British South Africa Co.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
General Ceylon Tea Estates.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Johnson and Phillips.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
United Collieries.—Glasgow, noon.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27.

Law Reversionary Interest.—231, Strand, 2.30 p.m.
Mazawattee Tea.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.
Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin.—Winchester House, noon.
Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Association.—Edinburgh, 2 p.m.
San Patricia Nitrate.—Winchester House, noon.
Westralia Mount Morgan's Gold Mines.—Winchester House, noon.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28.

Bruce Peebles.—Edinburgh, 3.30 p.m.
Canada Co.—1, East India Avenue, 2 p.m.
Dharwar Reefs.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.
English and Scottish Law Life Association.—12, Waterloo Place, 3 p.m.
Fanti Mines.—Cannon Street Hotel, 3 p.m.
Highland Railway.—Inverness, 1 p.m.
London Assurance.—Royal Exchange, noon.
London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow Association.—26, Farringdon Street, noon.
Monte Video Water Works.—52, Moorgate Street, noon.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29.

Bank of Australasia.—4, Threadneedle Street, 1 p.m.
British American Land.—Salisbury House, 2.30 p.m.
Bristol Electric Transformer.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Bell (R.).—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
British Bank of South America.—2A, Moorgate Street, 12.30 p.m.
Cincinnati Breweries.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
East Fingall Gold Mines.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Fairbairn, Lawson, Combe, Barbour.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.
Tarquah Syndicate.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
Roberts (T. R.).—Winchester House, noon.
United Alkali.—Liverpool, 2.30 p.m.
Village Main Reef.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
West African Gold Trust.—Winchester House, noon.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30.

American Investment Trust.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Antwerp Waterworks.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Anglo-Sicilian Sulphur.—Winchester House, 2.15 p.m.
Brandon's Putney Brewery.—Putney, noon.
Cabins (1901).—Cannon Street Hotel, 3 p.m.
Dominion Atlantic Railway.—Threadneedle House, noon.
Foreign-American Investment Trust.—Cannon Street Hotel, 1 p.m.
Holdron (H.).—Peckham, 11 a.m.
Metropolitan Life Assurance Society.—Cannon Street Hotel, 1.30 p.m.
Millar and Lang.—Glasgow, 3 p.m.
Rio de Janeiro City Improvements.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.

BRITISH AMERICAN LAND COMPANY.

A further shrinkage of 1,091½ acres to 2,848½ acres was reported in the sales of uncultivated land during the year ended December 31, but the average price of £1 7s. 9d. per acre was the highest in the history of the company and 5s. 1½d. above that of 1904, so that the receipts from this source showed a decrease of £504 only at £3,953. A few acres had to be taken back on account of failure to meet the instalments, resulting in a loss of £12 and allowing for this the nett profits on this account came to £3,135 compared with £3,276. On the Sherbrooke City Estate 21¾ acres were sold against 4¾ acres, but many of the lots were remote from the centre of the city and the average price therefore dropped from £478 6s. 3d. to £180 13s. per acre, giving a profit of £3,362, to which was added £1,331 from rents. Collections on account of land sales including interest amounted to £13,101 or a decrease of £2,469, and the receipts from all sources in Canada and London were £15,004, making with £10,817 brought in a total of £25,821. After paying management and other charges, together with the dividends on the "A" shares for the second half of 1904 and first half of 1905 and appropriating £4,492 to the purchase of 262 "B" shares there was a surplus of £7,379, of which £3,498 is applied to meeting the remaining half of the dividend for 1905 on the "A" shares and £1,000 to the redemption of "B" shares, leaving £2,881 available for current expenses in Canada and London. Nett profits in Canada were £377 larger at £6,880, the balance of which was added to the surplus fund, making it £41,393 or about 85 per cent. of the present capital.

The Compañía Sansinena de Carnes Congeladas

GIVE NOTICE THAT

The Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held in Buenos Ayres on the 31st inst., for the purpose of receiving the report of the Directors and statement of accounts, the election of two Directors, the appointment of Auditors, and the transaction of the ordinary business of the Company. Shareholders desirous of being represented at the Meeting must, in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Association, lodge their share certificates, or a Banker's receipt for same, together with their proxies, at the London offices of the Company, 15, Long Lane, West Smithfield, E.C. A receipt will be given for the share certificates at the time of lodgment, such receipt to be exchanged for the certificates when returned to holders, on and after the day following the Meeting. The Chairman and Directors of the Company are not eligible to act as proxies, but the holders of proxies need not necessarily be members of the Company.

London, 20th March, 1906.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY.

ISSUE OF NEW ORDINARY CAPITAL STOCK.

NOTICE is hereby given that, pursuant to Resolutions passed at the Special General Meeting of Shareholders on 19th March instant, a new issue of the Ordinary Capital Stock of the Company to the amount of \$20,280,000, in 202,800 shares of \$100 each, will be offered at par to the ordinary shareholders of record at the closing of the books for the purpose, on the basis of 20 per cent., or one share in five, of their then respective holdings.

The Books of the Company will be closed for this purpose in London, New York and Montreal at 3 p.m. on Friday, April 20th, and reopened on Monday, May 7th, 1906.

The right to subscribe will expire at 3 p.m. on May 25th, 1906.

Payments will be received at the Bank of Montreal, London, New York or Montreal, as follows:—

20 per cent. or \$20 per share on subscription on or before May 25th, 1906.

20 per cent. or \$20 per share on or before July 26th, 1906.

20 per cent. or \$20 per share on or before September 26th, 1906.

20 per cent. or \$20 per share on or before November 26th, 1906.

20 per cent. or \$20 per share on or before January 25th, 1907.

The new stock upon which all payments have been duly made as called for will rank for dividend for the half-year ending December 31st, 1906.

A circular containing the terms of subscription, and enclosing warrants of subscription, will be mailed to the Shareholders after the closing of the books as above stated.

Dated at Montreal this 20th day of March, 1906.

By order of the Board,

CHARLES DRINKWATER,
Secretary.

The Investors' Review

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICES.

The Investors' Review is a Subscription Journal, and will be delivered to subscribers in London by the first post, or sent to the country and abroad by the first mail, on Saturday Mornings on the following terms:—

One Year - £1 1s. Six Months - 11s. Three Months - 5s. 9d.

Short of Three months the Price is 6d. per Copy *Inland*, and 6½d. *Abroad*, Post Free.

Subscribers can change their address as often as they please, but notice of change must reach the Publishing Office not later than the First Post on Friday Morning.

For a fortnight before a subscription expires the **Investors' Review** will be forwarded in a different coloured wrapper.

Cloth cases for binding the Half-Yearly Volumes price 2s. 6d., postage 4d. extra. Bound Volumes 16s. 6d., or 17s. 3d. post free.

Cheques and P. O. Drafts should be made Payable to

CLEMENT WILSON,

"Investors' Review" Office,

Norfolk House, Norfolk Street,
London, W.C.

Investment Queries.

Questions about Public Securities will be answered each week in the **Investors' Review** on the following terms:—

For each question thus answered the charge will be **One Shilling**. Where more than One Question is put they should be numbered, and a copy kept. No Security is ever named in the Answers Printed.

Private Letters giving fuller answers can be had if desired. The minimum charge for such letters is **Ten Shillings** each; but for that Three Questions will be answered. For all additions beyond three the charge will be **Half-a-Crown** per query.

Lists of Investments furnished by correspondents will be annotated, or new lists of suggested investments will be supplied on the same terms, viz.:—**10s.** for the First Three, and **2s. 6d.** for each Additional one. But no group of securities forming a trust calculated to yield a given income will be supplied for less than **One Pound**.

The charge for Wires about New Issues appearing on days that prevent timely criticism in the **Investors' Review** will also be **2s. 6d.**, plus a prepaid telegram form.

The Editors cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

Letters from correspondents must, in every case, be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

The Investors' Review.

The Law-Making Difficulties of the New Government.

They are many and must excite the sympathy of every impartial observer. On all sides pressure is being applied to hurry forward measures of social reform long delayed and clamoured for. This week the Government has begun to table its measures, and some of them have already excited unreasoning fears in the volatile minds of Stock Exchange men and other City people who do not think but only vegetate on the mental pap supplied by their traditionally favourite daily newspaper. The extension of the Employers' Liability Bill, for instance, excites alarm, and people talk as if confiscation of profits, a sort of slavery of masters to men, were in contemplation. It is useless to remind such people of the significance of facts like those disclosed in the recent list of millionaire wills—six people dying possessed of property worth some £10,000,000—and to hint that such fortunes and others less dazzling surely indicated a margin which might be trenched upon without reducing the accumulators to poverty. Employers of labour everywhere may not take this narrow Stock Exchange view, but there is unquestionably a feeling abroad that labour is asking too much. We think this a mistake, and believe that the interests of all owners of property would be consolidated instead of injured by a further extension of the principles governing the amendments to the Employers' Liability Act sketched by Mr. Herbert Gladstone. Indeed, we do not see how proposals of the kind he outlined can stop short of a compulsory pension system or universal accident insurance, funds for which shall be provided in carefully regulated proportions by employers and employed. Certainly the limit which exempts the employers who only have five workmen under them from the operation of the Act will have to be abandoned.

Difficulties of a minor kind are also threatening in connection with the Shipping Bill, and we note that Mr. Havelock Wilson, as spokesman for the sailors, already complains that it is a measure framed entirely in the interests of shipowners, and to the neglect of the men. While deprecating any hostility towards crews composed of foreigners, Mr. Wilson insisted that shipowners should be forbidden to pay these foreigners lower wages or to give them different food from that paid or supplied to British crews. This seems to us to be an unreasonable attitude. What is the use of empire to us if we cannot facilitate the working of our world-wide ocean carrying business by making use of British subjects of all nationalities and races on terms dictated by the local conditions of the various labour markets? There might be some reason for objecting to foreigners in any capacity if we had a number of sailors at home continually out of work; but as there is no such body, and as the demands of our mercantile marine tend continually to grow, there is no reason for objecting to the employment of foreign sailors on our ships under well-established rules. The provisions laid down in the Bill brought in by Mr. Lloyd George with reference to the capacity of these foreign crews to speak English and in regard to the treatment of sailors of all races on our vessels seem to us to go as far, or about as far, as British seamen can reasonably expect until we can release the men now absorbed by the navy for useful and remunerative employment.

We are, on the whole, glad that the Government resisted the pressure of the London County Council to pass at once that important representative body's Bill for giving it supreme control of the electric supply all over the metropolitan area. That the County Council will have to be endowed ultimately with powers of the kind seems to us inevitable, but it is just as well that the claim to enjoy these powers at once should have been laid before a hybrid committee. If the originators of monopolist schemes instituted by rivals do not care to put their proposals before such a committee well and good. They can be left out of account without the necessity for a prolonged Parliamentary fight and much expenditure of money. Existing electric power concessions, however, will have in this hybrid committee an impartial tribunal before which they can lay their claims for consideration, for restrictions upon the powers of the Council, and other points. After all, the County Council, we judge, is not so much anxious to secure immediate liberty to rush into heavy outlay in providing London with great central sources of electric power as to be endowed with the right to provide those when necessity arises to be supreme over all other powers. It wishes to be master of the destinies of the metropolis in this important matter, and in that respect its claims are worthy of all support. It would be intolerable were fresh monopolies placed in the hands of company promoters intent upon piling up their millions, which monopolies the inhabitants of London would afterwards have to buy out. There can be no design on the part of the Council to interfere with existing rights, to circumscribe the energies of companies already possessed of monopolies within well-defined areas, and certainly there is nothing in the position of the County Council's finances to warrant any active effort on its part to set up a general competition which might for a time ruin both existing electric companies and borough installations and the County Council as well. Moreover, the City at least is not without reason in its apprehension about the great expansion of the County Council's debt obligations. It owes about £70,000,000 at the present time, and the prospective expenditure on capital account involved by the conversion of its tramways into electric lines and their extension into the suburbs, as well as enormous work in connection with the Strand and Holborn improvements, and other demands, point to a rapid increase in this debt, no small part of which must remain unremunerative in a direct sense for many years to come, if not for ever. To see the commitments of the Council added to by an extension of capital expenditure of unknown amount in order to provide for the supply of electric power in bulk over large areas at present in good part occupied is a prospect that no investor or mere rate-payer can contemplate with equanimity. The Government therefore did well to restrain the ardour of the Council's friends and allow the whole dispute to be threshed out before a carefully constituted public body.

One would have thought that the Government has done enough for one week in tabling two measures and "side tracking" a third, but it is spurred on by a zeal to legislate communicated to it by the constituencies, and on Wednesday afternoon the Attorney-General, Sir J. Lawson Walton, brought in his Trades Disputes Bill. It was a case of the more haste the less speed, for the measure as sketched appears to please nobody much except lawyers. It looks indeed a lawyers' measure, well calculated to produce fees in abundance, to give opportunity for endless disputes in the law courts, but not as far as we can judge a real solution of the workmen's grievances. The measure is far too complicated, and tries to hedge round concessions by limitations, some of which seem to us impracticable, and after all, as Mr. Frederick Harrison well says, in the April number of the *Positivists Review*, trades unions are not corporations, "they are not organised trading societies at all, they are loose and casual benevolent clubs, worked, not by business experts for profit, but by untutored day

labourers for mutual protection." Mr. Harrison accordingly endorses the Bill of the Labour Party, and it seems to us that the best solution of the difficulty would have been to endeavour to discover some simple method by which the trade unions and their funds could have been put back to the position they occupied before the Taff Vale decision was given. For, as Mr. Harrison also says, it is the bent of the average capitalist mind to regard a strike as a form of rebellion instead of a loosely combined effort to apply the higgling of the market against a combination of capitalists on the other side. We fear, therefore, that the measure sketched out by the Attorney-General on Wednesday afternoon will have to be withdrawn and redrafted. This is a pity, because it weakens the position of the Government in the House of Lords, and increases the difficulty inherent in any effort to give the working man fair play in his dealings with the capitalist employer. Always in such struggles, unless the men are protected by all reasonable safeguards from exaction, they are liable to be beaten. In a prolonged struggle their resources are never sufficient.

United States Steel Corporation.

In fairness, we must begin by congratulating the board of this monster combination upon its report for the year ended December 31 last. It is much fuller than any previous statement of the kind issued by the masters of the combine, and provides a mass of interesting and sometimes useful information, which should enable speculators and investors on this side to form an idea not only of the magnitude of the business, but of the way in which it is financed. They will not learn much, but at least all is no longer mystery. On another point also there is an improvement, since much larger sums have been assigned, in one guise or another, on account of depreciation than in any previous year since the businesses were amalgamated. The directors, in fact, claim that nearly \$59,000,000 were last year appropriated out of revenue for the purpose of meeting sinking fund charges and what would otherwise be capital expenditure upon the property. Even this \$59,000,000, however, or, to be exact, \$58,827,364, is only about 4.1 per cent. upon the entire capitalisation of the trust. Therefore we must still regard the assignment as insufficient, and in all probability neglect in this direction for the past and previous years means large additional capital emissions the moment a favourable opportunity arises. Last year, however, the business seems to have done well in the matter of manufacture and sales, for the net earnings amounted to \$119,787,658, as compared with \$73,176,521 in the preceding year. After meeting the sinking fund demands, depreciation, and debenture interest charges, besides paying a dividend of 7 per cent. upon the preference shares' capital, there was \$17,065,815 left as nominal surplus for the year, as against \$5,047,852 in 1904, in which year, moreover, nothing at all appears to have been set aside for special expenditures upon the property, or contemplated expenditures in the future, as against \$26,300,000 in the year just closed. The aggregate surplus for the whole period of five years is in this way brought up to \$84,738,451. It may be useful to round off this part of the subject by again stating the aggregate capital of the combination. It consists of \$508,302,500 in common stock, \$360,281,100 in 7 per cent. preferred stock, and \$570,472,265 nett in bonded mortgage and debenture debt outstanding, the decrease in this last item having been \$4,673,882 in the past year. This makes an aggregate capital of over \$1,439,000,000, or £288,000,000.

To keep such capital alive a phenomenally large business has necessarily to be done, and some particulars are given of a remarkable character. Last year, for instance, 18,486,556 tons of ore were mined, 12,242,909 tons of coke manufactured, 2,204,950 tons of coal mined, and 1,967,355 tons of limestone quarried. The product in pig iron was 9,940,799 tons, or.

adding in spiegel and ferro-manganese and silicon iron, a total of 10,172,148 tons. Also 7,379,188 tons of Bessemer ingots were produced, together with 4,616,051 tons of open-hearth ingots. Of finished products the aggregate weight was 9,226,386 tons, and amongst the items composing it were 1,727,055 tons of steel rails, 1,253,682 tons of blooms, billets, &c., 780,717 tons of plates, 924,430 tons of black, galvanised, and tin-plate sheets, and 1,283,943 tons of wire and products of wire. The stocks on hand at the end of the year were valued at \$113,387,997, against \$94,812,546 a year ago.

The capital expenditures in the past year or expenditures properly chargeable to capital account were put at \$24,395,408, or well on to £5,000,000, but of this only \$4,425,999 was provided by the sale of securities. Altogether since 1901 the fresh capital expended has amounted to \$106,938,891, or upwards of £20,000,000, of which only \$36,588,787 have been provided by new issues of securities. Of the balance of nearly \$128,000,000, \$20,027,000 has been furnished by "bonds paid from bond sinking funds set aside from nett earnings and the interest accretions thereon." The total annual salaries and pay rolls of the employees of the companies embraced in the corporation amounted last year to \$128,052,955, an increase of about \$28,000,000 on the preceding year. It is stated in the report that the export trade was satisfactory last year, no less than 953,858 tons of the trust's manufactured products having been sent out of the country at prices materially in excess of those received in previous years, and "closely approaching"—that phrase is suggestive—the prices obtained from customers at home. "It is the policy of manufacturers," the directors add, "to keep all furnaces, mills, and transportation companies in operation to their full capacity whenever practicable." Just so, and, therefore, dumping is necessary directly the production exceeds the power of the home trade to consume. The subsidiary companies, it seems, spent \$37,890,549 on additional property last year, and there is a prospective outlay of \$61,500,000 mentioned, of which, it is added, perhaps 20 per cent. will not be required until after the end of the present year. The organisations within the trust produced in 1901 43.2 per cent. of the pig iron manufactured in the United States, and last year 44.2 per cent. In 1901 the trust companies produced 66.2 per cent. of the Bessemer and other steel, and in 1905 only 60.2 per cent., so that the monopoly is not assured or permanent. It remains an imposing structure none the less, only we should like to know whether it is prudent finance to utilise sinking fund money "in the business." That is the way of Australasian Governments, we know, but ought a great combine to fall back upon such a way of keeping up appearances? Doubtless by help of that sort the trust is able to buy up and hold debt issues made by its subsidiaries—it so held \$2,839,000 thus issued last year—and a show of doing without more new money may likewise be made for a time, but—ah well, before the debt comes up to be refunded we shall probably all be dead, so why bother? On other grounds worry is to be deprecated. The trust has \$35,913,000 of available marketable assets on hand, including \$30,000,000 of its 10-60 5 per cent. bonds, and has it not in the brief course of its history paid off liabilities aggregating \$38,658,309 in proof of richness?

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

MR. ASQUITH'S SURPLUSES, REALISED AND PROSPECTIVE.

How much will Mr. Asquith's surplus amount to at the year's end? At a guess we should say to between £3,500,000 and £4,000,000 on the Imperial accounts alone for the year now closed. Up to the end of last week £140,984,000 had been received as against a

budget estimate for the entire year of £142,454,000. Accordingly only £1,470,000 was left to come in during the current week. Last week's receipts, however, showed a falling off of £971,000, compared with the previous week, and it may be argued that if the final week does no better, the surplus will not much exceed £2,500,000, if it reaches as much. Last week's decrease, however, was of the accidental kind produced by the irregular payments made by the Post Office and telegraph services. In the preceding week, for example, these services paid into the Exchequer £1,720,000, while last week they only accounted for £235,000. Every other branch of revenue, with the exception perhaps of the income-tax, which, however, gave £1,500,000, did as well as before, and it is not unreasonable to look for something like £1,000,000 in the final week of the year from the Post Office and revenue services. Assume it to be only £500,000, and on the basis of the budget estimate of expenditure, which, by the way, has not been so far quite reached, there would be a surplus of some £3,000,000. If the Post Office and telegraph services give £1,000,000, then the budget surplus will be about £3,500,000, and the savings on expenditure may cause it to exceed £4,000,000. All such surplus, whatever it may be, it should never be forgotten, will have to be employed in reducing public debt, and we are therefore not surprised to find the Consol market exhibiting signs of elasticity. Dealers therein are making ready for the Chancellor of the Exchequer's sinking fund orders. Even should these orders not come because the Chancellor of the Exchequer, as we hope he will, thinks it more to the purpose to pay off part of the floating debt in Treasury bills, the market prescience will none the less be justified, because whatever form of debt is reduced is so much to the good. Assuming that the surplus for the expired year is somewhere about £4,000,000 all told, what does this indicate for the coming year's budget? It indicates that the small savings effected in the estimates, and taking into account the expired terminable annuities, should give the Chancellor of the Exchequer a prospective surplus on the basis of the present taxation of something in the neighbourhood of £8,000,000. We shall not now speculate upon what Mr. Asquith may do with such a fine position. From some points of view, indeed, we should have been glad if he had been compelled to encounter a deficit, for then the argument making for economy would have been irresistible.

HORATIO'S DILEMMA.

Can it be that Mr. Horatio Bottomley, our champion financial delusionist, has made a mistake? The thought is quite haunting, for something ominous for his peace and pocket seems to lurk in that circular sent out by Mr. Frederick S. Salaman to shareholders in the pious Horatio's Joint Stock Trust and Finance Corporation most limited. Mr. Salaman occupies the onerous and arduous position of Receiver appointed by the Court to the Selected Gold Mines, Limited, one of Mr. Horatio Bottomley's conjuring tools. In this capacity he makes through his circular sundry unpleasant charges or insinuations against Mr. Bottomley's business habits, hints that there may have been more than 2,000,000 5s. shares issued by the Joint Stock Trust, and begs genuine shareholders, if any, in that mystical or mythical corporation not to give Mr. Bottomley their proxies. He also tells the public that no accounts whatever have been rendered by the Joint Stock Trust since it was registered, two years ago, and that consequently nothing is known about how the £150,000 of cash presumably subscribed by the holders of its shares has been utilised. Also he urges that voluntary liquidation of the Trust is improper, and should be resisted as unnecessary until Mr. Horatio's as yet legendary and romantic "purchasers" of the Trust and its "assets" have been disclosed and their quality tested. Mr. Salaman hopes, therefore, that the independent shareholders will not allow themselves to be misled by vague pro-

mises. Unfortunately they have never done anything else, for Mr. Horatio Bottomley is a past master of the vague, and has charmed his long procession of dupes by fancy outlines of benefits, dim perspectives of great profits to come, to be evolved out of some mystic juggle on an unknown market, with unknown assets; some fresh shuffling of the cards and changing of the position of the pea under the thimble. It has all been very amusing, except perhaps to those who bet on the pea; but what is Mr. Horatio Bottomley going to do to meet this new danger? One cannot think without horror of this great expert being compelled to come down to hard facts and disclose the nature of his "special" stock operations and other expedients for extracting gold without ores.

THE CHARTERED MEETING.

It all points, we fear, to an early appeal for fresh capital. Mr. Rochfort Maguire's statement from the chair was too glowing to bear any other interpretation. "Liquid assets" and cash increased from £930,000 in November last to about £1,025,000 now, in spite of revenue deficits or the absence of a surplus; good, though not liquid, securities, put at £694,000, have been reduced to £594,000, apparently by moneys received from the railway companies which, we fear, are not really earning much more than cost of axle grease, if that; glowing accounts about the wonderful discoveries of diamonds in the company's territory, about the value of Rhodesia as an agricultural country, and much more of the same kind all indicate that in some direction appeals will be made for more money to bring the enterprise to "triumphant fruition." But where, oh, where is the "Banket" discovery? Gone where the bad niggers go. Perhaps, though, the directors are now relying upon Sir John Willoughby, who has received a concession—justly and futilely protested against by the white inhabitants and resident victims of this octopus company—allowing him to shut all rivals out, and to pocket all the diamonds found in his territory, "without counting them," up to December 31, 1909. That should surely be an incentive to the speculatively minded to dash forward and plank down their money, in order to fill empty coffers. Unfortunately, Sir John Willoughby's name is not now one to conjure by. He is played out as a money-raiser, thanks to the unfortunate history of other companies bearing his name and his own want of "luck," poor raider. There remains the gold, though. Ah, there is nothing like gold as a "draw." "At present rate of production," said Mr. Maguire, in his tautological way, "Rhodesia is producing gold to the value of about £2,000,000 a year. We have, therefore, passed New South Wales in the race of gold production, and are treading close on the heels of New Zealand." That is awfully jolly and wonderful, don't you think, but what Rhodesian gold mining company is paying a dividend to its shareholders, and does the Chartered Company get much out of this output, approaching £2,000,000? How is Sir William Milton going to make ends meet for the year now closing, and who will benefit by that skilful feat of finance? We do not know, but Mr. Maguire confessed that so lately as the financial year ended March 31, 1904, the deficit on the Southern Rhodesian Budget was £300,000—and what were last year's exports worth, exclusive of precious metals? Is the "shortfall" really any less now if provision is to be made for past losses, if capital spendings were deducted? We should not like to say, but it will afford us the usual amusement to watch the devices by which this extraordinarily Imperial organisation contrives to persuade the public that another £1,000,000 or so would do it good. And the shareholders, or the *claqueurs* in the meeting, were all so demmed optimistic that they would hear neither Mr. Lindley nor any other critic or questioner. Have they made their money on the "bear" tack, and do they now hope to make it as "bulls"? Ask "the dear Dook" or the still peerless Alfred Beit, who were not there. Eh? All min-

ing, all ploughing, all diamond hauling, all locomotion to be done by the Victoria Falls." Oh, of course, and all sheep-shearing too.

THE TRADE OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

The monthly accounts relating to the trade and commerce of certain foreign countries and British possessions recently issued by the Statistical Department of the Board of Trade brings before us the figures for the whole twelve months, and it is pleasing to see that every country embraced in the return, with the single exception of British India, shows expansion in its exports, and all of them display larger imports. We have not space to go through all the countries or to quote many figures, but may say that Germany imported last year about 5.7 per cent. more in value than in 1904, and exported nearly 7 per cent. more. The imports of Belgium were up nearly 8 per cent., and the exports about 5.4 per cent. France, too, bought 3.8 per cent. more in the past year than in the preceding one, and exported nearly 7 per cent. more. The United States, however, did best of all, showing an increase in imports of nearly 14 per cent., and in exports of more than 12 per cent., while in the United Kingdom the increased value of the imports was only 1.4 per cent., against an increase of 9.6 per cent. in the exports. The aggregate value, it may be added, of the exports from the United States last year exceeded that of the United Kingdom by nearly £3,200,000, the respective totals being—for the United States £333,213,000, and for the United Kingdom £330,023,000. The United States, it is well to remember, has a population of about double that of the United Kingdom, but is it not odd, from the tariffite point of view, that their imports should have risen so fast? Germany also treads close upon our heels, and last year exported goods to the value of £279,272,000. No country of them all, however, approaches us in the value of imports, and if this contrast is continued year after year, the fair inference is that no country does such a profitable trade as the United Kingdom. The United States, for example, imported only £245,653,000 from abroad last year, and Germany £336,500,000 worth, the imports of the United States falling short of her exports by about £86,000,000, and those of Germany exceeding the value of the exports by only about £58,000,000, whereas our imports exceeded in value our exports by about £157,000,000. We fear the higher tariff now established in Germany will still further restrict the power of her people to import, and, as a consequence, lessen the capacity of her producers to compete in foreign markets.

MEUX'S BREWERY.

We write at a disadvantage, because the shareholders' meeting is held too late in the week for us to be able to adequately deal with it. It seems better, therefore, to postpone anything like final criticism of the extraordinary report issued secretly by the directors last week until the account of the proceedings at the meeting is before us. One or two points, however, may be emphasised now, and first of all we must protest emphatically against the decision of the board to keep the report from the Press. The equitable rule upon this point is simple enough. If a joint-stock company is entirely private, and the capital all held by the partners, that is to say, if there is no market dealing in any of its securities, then the proprietors are perfectly within their rights in concealing from the public the accounts and all that relates to their business. When, however, a joint-stock company has appealed to the public and placed its shares or debentures upon the market, then it is the duty of those who manage that company to give the public all the information they are producing for their shareholders at the earliest possible moment. To mark a report of the grave significance of that issued by the Meux's Brewery board last week "private and confidential" is not only a breach of courtesy towards the Press, but unfair toward the public at large. It is not merely

existing holders of the securities of such companies who are concerned in its affairs, but the market itself, the buyers and sellers there, especially the buyers, and in order to put all on an equal footing, the reports of every joint-stock company whose securities are in any degree a market property ought to be at once communicated to the Press, so that everybody may start fair. We feel considerable resentment against this board for the course it has taken, not on any private ground, but in the public interest, and they must see that their action was entirely futile, since the *Financial News* published the document in full the morning after it was issued, while several other papers got hold of it through one channel or another. In future we trust this mistake will not be repeated.

One other point we wish to insist upon is the illusory, or partly illusory, writing down of the capital. It looks drastic enough so far as the ordinary shares are concerned. They are at present of £100 each, and £99 per share is to be written off, reducing the nominal total of £500,000 to one of £5,000, with an undisturbed reversionary interest in profits. The preference shares, however, receive different treatment. There are 50,000 of them, of the value of £10 each, and they are dealt in on the Stock Exchange. Nominally, £300,000 is to be written off this half-million of preference capital, reducing its nominal amount to £200,000, and in this way the £795,000 is claimed to be "written off," against an estimated deficit of about £806,000. But this writing off is wholly illusory, so far as the preference shares are concerned, since they are to retain all their present rights as to dividend, including the cumulative right to dividends in arrear, as well as all their lien on the assets in the event of liquidation. A writing down of this kind is mere mockery, and causes us to suspect that the business is still badly managed, still in a 'dangerous' position through the confusion of the accounts and the absence of any proper supervision. We may add that a lamentable story is told of the decrease in the sales of the brewery, which retrogressed steadily from 1901 to the end of September, 1905. We cannot be sure from Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths, and Co.'s certificate whether the percentages of decrease shown are progressive, or whether the latest figure of 29½ per cent. relates to the year preceding 1901, but presume that it is so and that this last awful flop is not a decrease of that amount upon the sales for 1904. Indeed, were the decrease progressive the business would have disappeared altogether by that date. It is claimed by the board that, owing to the change of management and in the method of selling, each month since September last has shown increases, which amounted in the month ended March 17 last to nearly 40 per cent., presumably upon the figure for the preceding September. This is quite satisfactory as far as it goes, but we shall want to know a great deal more about the company's affairs before coming to the conclusion that all is now going to be well. A word may be added about the balance-sheet, which is meagre and not satisfactory. It shows a share capital of £1,000,000, half in ordinary and half in preference, as above described, and a debt of £1,000,000 upon debenture stocks, but there are prior mortgages of £135,430, and we fear the real value of the property is not much more than the amount of the debts. However, that is a matter upon which we shall doubtless have more to say soon, as well as upon the claims of Lady Meux to have the books examined before assenting to a reduction of capital which is good comedy, perhaps, but bad finance.

THAT NEW PERUVIAN LOAN.

When we first heard of it we wondered whether it would be possible for the Government of Peru, even under the best sponsorship, to get a fresh loan in this country. The generation which lost its money by the old Peruvian debt is doubtless passing away, but we have never discovered that the character of Peruvian politicians had so altered in the interval since that debt was defaulted upon as to make the governments set

up by them more worthy of trust now than they were then. However, the loan is said to be "off," postponed until August some allege, others averring that it was rejected altogether by the legislature, charitably adding that this doubtless happened because there was "not enough in it" for that august body. We have no wish to slander Peru's law-makers, for doubtless there is both honesty and public spirit in the Republic which it might perhaps be worth while to encourage. Be this as it may, a correspondent has obligingly sent us a summary of the terms under which this loan was to be issued, and as they possess a certain historic interest we print it here:—

Contract signed February 7, 1906, between the Peruvian Government and the Deutsche Bank, Berlin (interested to the extent of 50 per cent.), Speyer Brothers, London (interested to the extent of 25 per cent.), and La Banque Française pour le Commerce, Paris (interested to the extent of 25 per cent.), (direction and administration in hands of the Deutsche Bank), for loan £3,000,000 in three series £1,000,000 each. Rate of interest, 6 per cent. per annum and 1 per cent. amortisation. The bank will apparently receive a further 1 per cent. to cover expense of issue, payment of coupons, &c. Security: the general revenues of Peru not otherwise assigned, hypothecation of the railways to be constructed, and the nett proceeds of the tobacco tax. Proceeds of the loan to be employed in construction or completion of the railways:—Oroya to Janja and Huancayo, Sicuani to Cuzco, Oroya to a navigable point on the River Uca-yali, Ilo to Moquegua, Yonan to the River Magdalena. Issue:—The bank to issue the first series (£1,000,000 of bonds) as soon as by it considered opportune. The Government to be credited for same at 92 per cent. nett. The second series (£1,000,000) to be credited at 90 per cent., but issue not made before July 1, 1907, unless the bank deems it opportune to issue (not earlier than July 1, 1906) the first and second series together—in this case the Government is to be credited at 92½ per cent. nett. The third series (£1,000,000) to be issued after July 1, 1908, provided that: the proceeds of the two first issues is exhausted and that the bonds already issued are worth 95 per cent. on average of past six months; that the free product of the tobacco tax in the year preceding has amounted to £225,000. Price of this third issue not fixed. The bank guarantees not less than 93 per cent. Interest on account current: the bank to charge the Government at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on money anticipated, and allow 4 per cent. on money left in their hands. Construction: The bank has the option of carrying out any railway work the plans of which are ready. Interest coupons and drawn bonds will be received at par in the Custom Houses of the Republic.

MR. DONALD CAMERON HALDEMAN AND HIS MUTUAL LIFE.

In resigning his position as the British manager of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York this gentleman has taken the opportunity and done his very best to give it a first-class advertisement. What the ground of Mr. Haldeman's action is we do not know, he himself only lifting a corner of the veil by an inch or two, but he intimates in the very interesting communication which we find in Tuesday's *Daily Chronicle* that the new management of the Mutual does not take the same view of the "moral responsibility" of the company towards its British policyholders which Mr. Haldeman does. This is fascinatingly suggestive, for we have never been able to discover that Mr. Haldeman was keenly solicitous about making the best of things for those who put their trust in him to provide for their old age, or their descendants with something to keep them from taking refuge under the lee side of a hedge. So it is, however, and Mr. Haldeman being a man of "the highest commercial integrity and honour," naturally recognised that it was impossible for him to continue longer as figurehead when he could not have his way, when the interests of the policyholders were left in a state of uncertainty, and he has gone. Peace go with him! We are partly sorry; he had good qualities, and was by no means the most objectionable of the insurance missionaries sent to us by the United States in order to make inroads upon our savings. To his *confrères* he was as the vendor of Mother Siegel's syrup to a merchant of cures for rupture. He was, moreover, the most successful of all these missionaries of the insurance premium business, and the particulars he gives of the work done by the Mutual of New York under his management in the 19 years he has dwelt among us are full of instruction.

Mr. Haldeman started the British branch, he said, 19 years ago, with a capital of £1,000, and has made it one of the largest insurance undertakings in this country—without, we presume, drawing any more capital away from the States, but doubtless sending much out thither—result, the Mutual of New York has now 26,000 policyholders in the United Kingdom, and did "new business" in 1904 to the tune of £1,176,462; would have done better still in 1905, but for the New York "scandals." Despite the setback, the total value of the policies of the Mutual of New York in force in this country now exceeds £15,000,000, Mr. Haldeman says, and some of these policies run up to £70,000 apiece. It has several policies of over £100,000, and one or two exceed £200,000. Moreover, its annual premium income drawn from British insureds was in 1904 no less than £628,967—all remitted to New York less Mr. Haldeman's £20,000 per annum, and the necessary expenses of the staff of under-missionaries by whom the British citizen has been converted to faith in the gentlemen on Wall Street who play with his contributions. Few British offices, Mr. Haldeman boasts, possess such a revenue, "not even some of those that have been in existence for 200 years," and he proceeds to give comparative figures, omitting the Prudential and the Scottish Widows' Fund, all our greater home offices in fact. But he does tell us that the average expenditure of the British branch of the Mutual of New York is only 14.51 per cent., and that makes us marvel. Does this include the commission on European business paid to agents in the States? How is this low percentage worked out? If a true proportion, all we can say is, what a tremendous outlay must have gone on in the United States themselves, since the Mutual of New York contrived to run its average gross annual expenditure out of premium income up to from 26 per cent. to 30 per cent. thereof. The money made out of the Britisher must have often come in very handy. Altogether a most interesting communication is this "valedictory," and perhaps a valuable advertisement for the "Mutual" company which Mr. Haldeman is now leaving. Will he start a business of his own, and keep it on lines true to his holy ideal?

OOREGUM GOLD MINING COMPANY.

For some weeks past shareholders in the Ooregum Gold Mining Company have reasonably been concerned at the persistent weakness in the price of the shares, for which there was apparently no serious cause. Now, however, the report of the directors for 1905 throws some light on the position of affairs, and it must be admitted straightway that what it reveals might be more reassuring than it actually is. That is to say, not only have profits fallen off and the dividends been reduced, but the prospects are less hopeful than one would like them to be. It may be that past experience is repeating itself, that a short period of adversity may again be succeeded by a lengthy period of prosperity. Ten or twelve years ago there was serious talk of the mine being exhausted, or that it was fast nearing the end of its existence, but the engineers persisted in their belief that new discoveries would give the mine a new lease of life, and events justified their faith. It may be so again, and it may not, and the chances that better fortune may come must be accepted as speculative risks. Dealing first with the results of 1905, we find that 121,779 tons of quartz were milled for a yield of 53,980 ozs., whilst from 122,491 tons of tailings and slimes treated by the cyanide process 12,256 ozs. were extracted, making a total production of 66,236 ozs. This compares with 73,621 ozs. from 127,449 tons in 1904, the gold realising £248,505 compared with £276,716, and is the lowest figure for the past six years. The nett profit, including sundry receipts, was £72,756, and compares with £94,462 and £122,051 in the two preceding years. From the disposable balance the directors pay final dividends of 6d. upon each class of share, making the full payments for the twelve months of

1s. 3d., or 12½ per cent. on the ordinary, and 2s. 3d., or 22½ per cent. on the preference shares, and we have to go back to 1897 to find equally small distributions. For 1904 the payments were 17½ and 27½ per cent. respectively, and for 1903 27½ and 37½ per cent. In the past six years the capital of the company has been gradually raised from £145,000 to £221,500, but it is not to this the reduction in dividends is to be attributed. On the contrary, in 1900, 1901, and 1902 these were as high as 40 and 50 per cent., 42½ and 52½ per cent., and 35 and 45 per cent. For ten years past the quality of the ore has been gradually diminishing, which, is, of course, a serious matter.

Still, the mine is far from being exhausted, and there are hopes, therefore, that the yield may, at some time or other improve. A new vertical shaft has been sunk to develop the mine in depth, and it has reached 2,010 ft. At the end of 1905 the reserves of ore were computed at 131,226 tons, and in reference to this the superintendent writes:—"It is satisfactory to note that, although no less than 121,779 tons were crushed, the reserves estimated as being in sight at the end of December last are only 5,104 tons less than the total reported at the end of 1904, in spite of the fact that the main reef in Taylor's section to the north of the dyke has not opened up as well as anticipated." He likewise remarks that though many of the development points on the several reefs have opened out good stopping ground, the prospects are not as yet such as will allow of any increase being made either in the return of gold or the output of quartz, but he hopes to maintain the latter at 10,000 tons a month in the current year. From these statements it is obvious that higher profits are not to be expected unless something quite unforeseen happens. At the lower quotations the ordinary shares yield well over 7 per cent. and the preference about 10 per cent., showing that the shares, despite the shrinking profits, are well held. In fact, even at the lower quotations the ordinary shares look over-priced, and though, perhaps, they may be a little too speculative to buy at that figure, it might be imprudent for holders to sell. On the other hand, the preference shares have fair speculative merits.

BRUSH ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING COMPANY.

This well-known undertaking undoubtedly improved its position during the twelve months to December 31 last, and the directors have seen fit to put the ordinary shares back on to the dividend list with a 2½ per cent. distribution, after an absence of four years. Yet would it have been better to wait a little longer, great though the sufferings of shareholders have been, because the business has passed through a long period of adversity, and the general finances call even louder for assistance than the shareholders. We are glad to note that the arrangements for the formation of a separate company to acquire the Electric Supply and Tramways undertaking at Bombay have been concluded, and the company's interests disposed of on satisfactory terms, because nursing infants is a somewhat hazardous business. The Brush Company is now proceeding with important contracts in the way of power-house plant and electric tramway rolling stock for the Bombay undertaking, but we are still interested in learning whether payment will take the form of cash or securities. We asked the question a year ago, and repeat it now because the item of shares and debentures in the balance-sheet held at or below cost price has increased by £28,652 to £170,535. In fact, we should like to know all about this item, as the auditors cannot put any value on part of the holdings, since they have no published prices, and tell us that the rest are held above their market value. To what extent, for example, is the company interested in the British Automobile Development Company? This undertaking will devote particular attention to the production of road motor vehicles for passenger and goods traffic, and has works adjoining the Brush company's main factories at Loughborough. Is the interest in this

company included in the shares and debentures, and is the increase on the year to be traced to such concern? Patents and goodwill still stand at the old figure of £181,397, and is another entry which should be fully explained to the shareholders. No reduction has been made since 1897, and we know that a vast number of patents have expired since then. What is their value, and are not the directors running grave risks of bringing capital reorganisation in sight by paying ordinary dividends, while leaving this great item at a wholly fictitious valuation? Additions to property during the year were £6,492, raising the total to £329,322, against which there is a depreciation reserve of £52,000. Stock-in-trade has been further reduced by £25,140 to £161,511, and the £67,791 previously standing on account of the Bombay company naturally disappears. Debtors and sundry other accounts are likewise down by £21,088 at £147,791, and in this way the directors have been able to effect various changes to the good on the liabilities side of the balance-sheet. No money was repaid to the B.E.T., which is still a creditor for £30,740, and could do with the cash, but loans and overdrafts from bankers have been reduced by £43,919 and sundry creditors are less by £55,489 at £62,762. Business seems to have been pretty good during the twelve months, the output from the works being the largest in the company's history. The general turnover of the contracting and other departments was also satisfactory, and the directors can point to a gratifying increase in the demand for the company's steam turbines and reciprocating engines, directly coupled to electric generators for lighting, power, and traction purposes. Important contracts have also been secured for railway rolling stock, and a large extension of the business in this direction is anticipated. The effect on revenue is an increase in trading profits of £10,702 to £73,930, profit realised from sale of and interest on securities gave £8,001, transfer fees £40, and the credit from previous account £3,000. General charges unfortunately showed a sharp increase of £3,647 to £23,045, an extra £3,091 at £9,143 was allowed for maintenance of buildings, plant, and patents, and £393 more at £6,893 is added to the depreciation fund. Debenture interest then takes £11,250, leaving £34,720, which provides preference dividend, a distribution of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, £768 for interest on the B.E.T. loan, and £7,550 for the general reserve, raising it to £24,000. A balance of £3,114 is then carried forward.

ALIEN LIFE INSURANCE.

At last we seem to be going to behold some steps taken to protect the public against the devouring ardour of the agencies of foreign and colonial life offices established in the United Kingdom. For more than fourteen years this REVIEW has been pounding away at the ungrateful task of endeavouring to enlighten the classes here who invest in insurance policies about the character of these alien institutions. It was indeed an ungrateful task, for nobody thanked it, not even the bulk of the home offices, whom it was indirectly endeavouring to help, and had it not been for the apparently accidental quarrel between Messrs. Alexander and Hyde last year, it seems probable that the INVESTORS' REVIEW would have been still beating the air. That quarrel, however, helped to bring to light such a mass of scandals, malversation, and reckless handling of the trust moneys confided to the irresponsible managers of American life offices that public attention here at last became somewhat aroused, and as one result we see that the Government have now promised a select committee to investigate the whole subject. We trust it will be a strong committee, and that it will be pressed to recommend such changes as may do something to protect innocent people in this country from future depredation. The whole history of this alien premium-gathering has been one long record of more or less heartless plundering. Money

has been raked up here by the million year after year, and not 2 per cent. of the total has been invested in British securities. It was all sent abroad to be used in the gambling hells of the United States, or to feed the extravagance of colonial Governments. This ought never to have been permitted. Trust money, such as life and other insurance premiums unquestionably are, and should be considered, ought not to be allowed to leave the country. Premiums gathered here should all be invested here in securities marketable upon the London Stock Exchange, or in other forms accessible to the home policy-holder. Instead of this the money contributed by British policy-holders has been remitted to the United States, there to be squandered without check and without conscience by the men who organise and finance raids or "combines," and profit thereby.

Occasionally mention has been made in these columns of the revelations before the investigating committee of the New York State legislature, and in these notes the name of "Judge" Andrew Hamilton has more than once figured. This gentleman took a vacation to Europe for a time, but he seems to have made a dramatic re-entry on the scene of his former labours, and early in this month appeared before a committee of the State Legislature at Albany to deliver a philippic of taunt and accusation against those who had "betrayed" and deserted him. He boldly avowed that he had done nothing except obey orders, that he had given vouchers for all the money he spent, and that it was the mean cowards of officials brought to book who were the real culprits. Look at the following extract from his harangue, and try to conceive what this means to British policy-holders. They have had from 25 per cent. to 35 per cent. of the premium moneys paid by them systematically squandered by these New York officials, some of it distributed to bribe legislators to prevent raids from being made upon a business which these legislators probably knew to be corrupt, and therefore a fair object for attack. In the case of that notorious Mutual Reserve concern which has come to utter ruin, and whose controllers in New York appear to be undergoing some sort of prosecution, the whole of the premium money has been lost. But these alien offices were all tarred with one brush, and some of the colonial offices doing business here are just as bad as those of the United States, therefore we shall be deeply disappointed if the committee to be appointed by the Government to inquire into this organisation of parasitic exploiters of British thrift does not recommend the refusal of a licence to do business within the United Kingdom to any alien agency which does not consent to retain within reach of the insured the funds gathered here. We should even go further, and forbid business to be begun by any foreign concern whose working expenditure for the previous ten years has averaged 20 per cent. of the nett premium income, cost of new business included. Even that percentage is 5 per cent. too high, but we must make allowance for the needs of insurance tout benevolence. Now read "Judge Andy" on his valiant performances, and behold, good, trusting policy-holder, the man who bribed away some of your lost millions on the way to be a popular hero:—

"Why, if there was trouble and an agent would write from a far-off country any day, 'If this Bill passes it is going to kill our business out here,' they would rush in to the President and say, 'Well, now, here is this agent's letter. For heaven's sake, we will lose all our business out there! Send for the Judge.'"

"All right." The Judge would come out and ask, "Well, what is the trouble?"

"Heavens! If this Bill passes we might as well get out of that State."

"All right. We will have to see what the objections are to it, and will have to agitate. We will have the Press do something, we will have to have the politicians do something, we will have to have the agents do something, we will have to have the policy-holders do something, we will get men of influence to go ahead and see if we cannot beat it, and we would beat it. Then the word would come in, 'It is beaten.' And they would come in and pat us on the back. The man that would not know me now would come in and pat me on the back and say, 'You did it.'"

Laughter and loud cheers interrupted this sally by the speaker, who was holding his audience spellbound.

THE NATAL SCANDAL.

Surely the country is not going to allow itself to be misled by the yapping and snarling of the yellow Press about this business. What are the facts? Natal, with the piece torn from the Transvaal added, does not contain a white population so large as that of Brighton. This population, however, is endowed with full self-governing attributes, including Governor, Premier, and Cabinet; and this apparatus, exclusively representative of the whites, rules with unchallenged despotism over a population of blacks and browns whose total considerably exceeds 1,000,000. The Government is so extravagant that it has plunged the country into a debt more than twice as heavy per head of the ruling race as that of any other British possession in existence. Thanks to this extravagance, the taxation is heavy and is levied on the blacks in a manner unrelievedly autocratic. Among the taxes the blacks have long paid is a hut tax, which is so onerous as to involve insanitary overcrowding in their kraals, and the browns—the Hindoos—are treated in an equally overbearing fashion. Recently necessities drove the rulers of the colony to impose a poll tax, and out of the efforts to levy this oppressive impost the whole trouble has arisen. The warlike and capable Zulus are among the people put under the heels of the Pietermaritzburg oligarchy. Neither they nor the other tribes were consulted; they were just ordered to pay. Gobizemba's tribe resisted in the only way open to it—by openly striking against the tax. A sort of war followed. The Militia were called out, "martial law" was proclaimed, and in the course of the brief campaign the "Natal Field Artillery made excellent practice." Kraals were burned, cattle and sheep looted, and crops destroyed, and blacks were indiscriminately slain and captured. Among the captives were twelve blacks accused of killing two whites. Five Militia officers were constituted a court martial. These judges were not lawyers; they were merely representatives of brute force, and they duly condemned the twelve men to death—twelve human lives for two. No proof of their guilt has so far been furnished; they were merely handy objects of white vengeance useful to kill for the crime of "disobedience" as an "example." It was therefore an illegal and indefensible judgment, and Lord Elgin would have been guilty of a dereliction of duty had he refrained from interference. The Home Government is the sole ultimate protector of the black natives of South Africa against the oppression of the whites, whether British or Boer, and as such it is compelled to interfere on occasions like the present in the interests of white and black alike. There are people who accuse the Natal whites of participation in a deliberate plot to bring on a general rebellion of the blacks in South Africa in the supposed interests of the mine magnates to insure these helots "cheap" native labour for the mines when the Chinese have gone. We have no direct evidence that this is the case, although the mean decision of the Pretoria bureaucracy to cut down the allowance of £12,000 per annum, which we compelled the Boer Government of the Transvaal to pay to the Swazi queen, to £1,500 per annum is of a piece with the deeds of the Natal Cabinet, and one not calculated to reconcile that portion of South Africa with white domination any more than this high-handed brutality of the Natal Militia and court martial. Probably, however, the governing motive for the treatment of the blacks is to be found in mere race insolence run riot—indulgence in a spirit on all fours with that exhibited in the Belgian Congo, a spirit which at one and the same time denies all rights of citizenship to the coloured natives, and lays burdens upon them too heavy to be borne. Unless bridled and kept down by a higher authority, this spirit will bring about a general black rebellion in South Africa that may come near ruining the white settlements there for ever. With their usual wall-eyedness the mine bosses might, perhaps, think their advantage lay in that direction—they might hope to get by it not only cheap native

labour, but Basutoland—but to England it would mean indelible disgrace, to white South Africa unimaginable misery and loss. Therefore we trust Lord Elgin and the Cabinet behind him will stand firm and pay no regard to the hullabaloo now raised.

THE MAZAWATTEE MEETING.

Nothing could exceed the frankness with which Mr. John Lane Densham told at the shareholders' meeting on Tuesday the story of recent events in the history of this great tea company. We have always been puzzled to account for the astounding change of policy which was inaugurated after this gentleman retired from the active management of affairs. It seemed such an extraordinary thing that a business built up through long years of arduous and unremitting labour by Mr. Densham, on the principle that the trade the company did should be carried on in cordial co-operation with retail grocers throughout the country, should suddenly be converted into an organisation for active and determined competition with these grocers. This was what actually took place and led to results so disastrous. Mr. Densham made it perfectly clear that he had nothing to do with this right-about-face policy. With reluctance he gave consent to the policy of opening small shops, and in his idea these shops were not to interfere with the business of grocers anywhere, rather were they to be of the nature of cafés, where people could taste the teas sold by the company, and buy packets thereof, but nothing else. In other words, the set-back placed upon the business by the excessive increases in the tea duty was to be combated by a form of advertising calculated to bring the commodities sold by the Mazawattee Company more insistently before the eyes and under the palates of the people. It was something like an extension of that beautiful and popular Mazawattee tea kiosk in the Paris Exhibition of 1889, which did so much at that to render the business of the company familiar to all. Even so, the device was not very promising of good results, but at least it implied no betrayal of old friends by Mr. Densham.

Instead, however, of carrying out any such simple idea, the managing directors left in control of the business when Mr. Densham went abroad, set to work to open competitive shops, fitted up in the most extravagant manner, and to sell goods in these shops against the grocers—butter, for instance, being sold at an absolute loss, and cheap tea at no profit whatever. A profit, indeed, was impossible when the tea was sold at 1s. per lb., with the duty at 8d. per lb. The result was, as might have been expected, an immediate loss of the grocers' trade in those districts where the new shops were established, so that in two ways the Mazawattee Tea Company at once began to suffer cruelly, first in the ruinous character of the business done in the regrettably decorated and highly-rented shops, and, secondly, in the loss of the wholesale trade with retail tea dealers in the localities invaded. No wonder then that Mr. Densham and his associates took prompt measures to stop this devastation the moment they grasped the meaning of the new departure. From this point of view the summary closing of all the shops was not only wise, but imperatively necessary if the business was not to be completely ruined. There is no doubt at all but that it would have been ruined by this time had Mr. Densham refrained from intervening, and now that this point has been cleared up, and that Mr. Densham is exonerated from all participation in the ruinous policy plunged into by the late managing directors, it is to be hoped that the business of the company will rapidly regain its previous eminence and solidity. That it is a splendid business still is amply proved by the fact that in spite of the waste of money, the extraordinary *carte blanche* given to the Frederick Sage firm in fitting up shops and the insane competition set up against the company's customers, it is still able to show a substantial amount of profit. There may have to be prolonged curtailment of dividends, however, in order to wipe out the losses due to the rash policy of the late managing directors, and to restore and build up reserves against

future contingencies. Also we should expect that the new board—and Mr. John Lane Densham was again unanimously elected chairman by the meeting as preliminary to the proceedings—will take steps to clear up what seems to us an inexplicable mystery. Why did the managing directors adopt the course they followed? What were their motives and objects? They must have seen that the business of the company was being rapidly destroyed. Where did they look for compensation? Systematic and thorough elucidation of this obscure side of the story will have to be one of the first duties of the new and saner board.

Passing Events.

The Opposition is not gaining much by its attacks upon the Government over directorships held by members thereof. There ought to be some little sense of decency left even among its free lances—enough to cause them to remember that the record of the previous Government was nothing like so clean as that of the present one. Turning back, for instance, we find that a year after the Government of Lord Salisbury took office in 1896, 23 members of his administration held amongst them 38 directorships. Some of these directorships were honorary; none of them could be described as in any degree unworthy positions for leading politicians to hold in the intervals of wageless opposition—although we fancy we do remember that Mr. Hayes Fisher got into some trouble in connection with an affair called the Westminster Trust—but Ministers should not have held them. A commendable principle was violated by the Government of Lord Salisbury in the retention of these directorships. If men receive salaries from the State to do the business of the State they ought not to continue to hold remunerative posts of another kind which involve the absorption of a certain amount of their working day. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman is, therefore, to be congratulated upon the firmness with which he has insisted upon the relinquishment of all such posts by the members of his Government. There can be no hint of a scandal in connection with any member thereof, and it is idle on the part of the Opposition to seek to bait the Prime Minister on such a question. Have they forgotten the outcry that was raised on one occasion because Lord Selborne continued to be a director of the P. and O. Steam Navigation Company while holding an important post in Lord Salisbury's Ministry?

In congratulating Mr. Felix Schuster upon his appointment as financial member of the India Council here, a post for which his talents and business experience alike emphatically qualify him, may we be allowed to express the hope that he will turn his attention to the hunger of the Indian people? It is the question of questions in India. No country can prosper or permanently advance in civilisation the great mass of whose people have one year with another not enough to live upon. At the present time hunger is gnawing at the vitals of the people over all Central India, and the latest telegram of the Governor-General, dated March 25, and bringing the facts down to the 17th inst., tells us that 418,000 starvelings were at that date on the relief works. Of this aggregate 169,000 were in the United Provinces, 99,000 in Ajmer and Rajputana, and 93,000 in Central India. Bombay, from which an increased land revenue is expected in the coming financial year, had 30,000 on the works, and the weather report remains ominous of widespread famine. Slight rain, the Viceroy says, has fallen in a few districts, but none in the affected districts. Prices are falling steadily outside, but not in the distressed areas, whether in the United Provinces, Agra and Oudh, in Rajputana, or elsewhere. No rain in Rajputana, no rain in Central India, no rain in Bombay or Hyderabad. It is a ghastly prospect, and unless drastic remedies are applied—remedies calculated to give the

people the means to combat such visitations—our dominion in India must lead to disaster.

A cable announces that at the extraordinary general meeting of the New Heriot Gold Mining Company, held this week at Pietermaritzburg, the directors have withdrawn the proposals for acquiring claims from the Nourse Deep, the opposition to the scheme being so strong. This is a sensible decision. We have ourselves adversely criticised it, and it is pleasing to see that for once in a way the shareholders even in far South Africa can be powerful enough to force the hands of directors. At the same time it must be admitted that these particular directors have all along acted very fairly in the matter, and have given shareholders ample time to weigh the pros and cons. of their proposal. There has been no attempt on their part at coercion. They have not stooped to threaten penalties, after the manner of the Barnatos, if the shareholders refused to support their designs. Credit must be given to them when they deserve it. But this success does not preclude the advisability of South African companies holding their annual meetings in London. If the bosses are anxious to regain any of the confidence lost in them such a step would greatly assist them. But they no more desire to face criticism from their shareholders than they are anxious to employ on their mines free and intelligent men.

An important resolution is that forwarded by the Trades Council of Johannesburg to Lord Elgin, requesting the Imperial Government seriously to consider the threat of some mine-owners to close down the mines and suspend construction work, thereby accentuating the distress. The members of this Council, being on the spot, are able to judge of the exact position better than we can on this side, and their opinion is of vital concern to shareholders and others, who will suffer from this pretty plot. For, as the resolution expressly alleges, such action is entirely unwarranted, and is attributed "to a desire to coerce the people to support the mining magnates in introducing an unlimited number of Chinese, and of attempting to force the hands of the Imperial Government." This supports what we have said many a time—that the condition of things in South Africa is the creation of deliberate and unscrupulous scheming. The bosses are quite capable of stooping to this, and the only effective way to stop any nefarious action of the kind is for the Government to make arrangements to take over the working of the mines in the event of their being closed down. It is the duty of the Government to protect the community from the ruin-spreading machinations of these men.

The last mail brings a report of the speech delivered by the chairman of the Premier Diamond Mining Company at the recent meeting, and it is somewhat surprising to see that the gentleman was exceedingly optimistic. The meeting was held on February 27, since when the price of the shares has recovered a little, but it does not follow that we see cause and effect at work here, for the general body of shareholders have not had the opportunity of studying the speech in its entirety. "As soon as we are in full working order," said he, "we will be able to gratify all reasonable demands of shareholders in the shape of dividends." Why couldn't the directors have said as much many months ago, soon after the slump commenced? Anxious shareholders looked to them for some definite statement, but looked in vain. Meetings of the directors had to be held to determine whether they should tell the shareholders anything or nothing, until, at last, they decided to make a statement. But this was so vague and ludicrous as to be worse than nothing, and it only accelerated the slump. "I quite see," he added, "that shareholders at a distance who have not the opportunity of being able to visit the mine should feel alarmed at the recent fall of the yield, but I am fully satisfied that when they read the explanations of the general manager they will appreciate our difficulties and get rid of any feeling of alarm they may have."

We gave the explanations of the manager, referring to a "floating reef" and overburden, last week, but we do not think these will conjure away the feelings of alarm. Floating reefs and overburden are not the sole causes of the slump; they do not throw light on any secret schemes hatching not exclusively for the benefit of shareholders.

The arrest of Mr. G. W. Perkins, of Messrs. J. P. Morgan and Co., and late a vice-president of the New York Life Insurance Company, seems to smell of the red herring. All corporations possessed of means, with privileges to uphold, monopolies to protect, malpractices to screen, have been compelled to bribe the party in power at Washington by contributing to election funds and otherwise. Mr. Perkins, who has been released on parole, is, however, to be tried for "grand larceny," for having sanctioned a dole of nearly £10,000 made out of policy-holders' money to help Mr. Roosevelt to win the Presidency. No particular good that we can see can come of that either to policy-holders or public morals. Nor do we see much good in the Bill now before the New York State Legislature to amend the methods by which the insurance premium-gathering business is carried on. It attempts too much. Why not pass a law limiting the range of investments open to insurance companies, forbidding open market lending, or participation in syndicates, and an expenditure of more than 20 per cent. of the premium income in working charges of all sorts, with penalties prompt and sure for breach of the law?

The Santa Fé Land Co. requires an estancia with more accommodation for fattening cattle than is afforded at Santa Catalina, and an opportunity has arisen of securing such an estancia of about four square leagues in the south of the Province of Santa Fé. For this £122,500 is asked, but further amounts will be required to be expended during the next five years in order to make the camp perfectly suitable, and it is therefore proposed to increase the capital to £812,500 by the creation of 200,000 new shares of £1 each. If the increase is sanctioned by the shareholders 154,000 shares will be immediately offered to the shareholders at the price of 30s. per share, as near as possible in proportion to their holdings. This means, say, one share for every four, and as the present quotation is about £2 10s. the issue will give a fair bonus.

Many and varied are the doses of "soothing syrup" served out to the British policyholders in Yankee life offices, but the favourite patent medicine kept in stock and dispensed this week again by Mr. Peabody is the "certificate" of English accountants that all is well with the assets. Just so, but what relation do these assets bear to the liabilities under policy contracts, or to the promises made by the touts on commission? Those questions can only be answered by actuaries, and therefore we again ask: Will the present controllers of the discredited American offices doing what they call life insurance business now open their books to a committee of, say, three eminent British actuaries and abide by its verdict? If not, we shall continue to warn the public to have no dealings with these alien offices.

Critical Index To New Investments.

TRANSVAAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

According to the prospectus the principal business of this Johannesburg corporation will be to assist in placing share and debenture capital of new undertakings, and to advance money on remunerative terms for the purpose of proving diamond, gold, copper, and other properties. It will, however, also acquire shares in established mining and other companies, and, as a matter of fact, appears to have been created with the object of helping in the effort to lift the market. Such a task requires a good deal of money, so the capital has been fixed at £1,000,000 in £1 shares, of which

15,000 are deferred shares, and a first issue of 500,000 ordinary shares was offered for subscription at par. In consideration of its paying the preliminary expenses the E.T. Syndicate takes all the deferred shares, which are entitled to half the profits after 10 per cent. has been paid on the ordinary shares, and the existence of such shares should be sufficient to warn outsiders off, even if their previous experience of companies with their headquarters in Johannesburg does not do so.

BRADFORD DYERS' ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

Out of a total capital of £5,000,000, divided equally into 5 per cent. cumulative preference and ordinary shares of £1 each, 1,500,000 preference and 1,356,477 ordinary shares have been issued, together with £1,453,750 4 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, and the company now offers 500,000 preference shares at par. Established as far back as 1898, the business has been gradually expanded by the absorption of other undertakings until there are now 37 branches in Yorkshire and Lancashire, and the directors state that during the company's existence £817,957, or an average of £112,822 per annum, has been spent on repairs and renewals. Nett profits, however, have not risen in any very astonishing fashion, in spite of this gathering in of new branches, the increase since 1900 being only £23,250 at £274,166, while the appropriations to reserve have been on a dwindling scale. All told, the reserve only amounts to £265,372, less than half of which is invested outside the business, and this sum, as we pointed out in our issue of February 24, represents a mere 2 per cent. on the capital sunk. The security for the preference shares, therefore, cannot be considered first class, and as the existing issue is quoted at 1 1-32—1 3-32 there is not much inducement to subscribe for the "turn."

MID-OXFORDSHIRE GAS, LIGHT, AND COKE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Some seven local gas undertakings are amalgamated under this title, and puny concerns they must have been as the total capital is only £50,000 in 5½ per cent. preference and ordinary shares of £10 each, with £25,000 in 5 per cent. debenture stock. Just what the company pays for these concerns would take more trouble than it is worth to find out, but it may be mentioned that the various agreements include the issue of a special debenture stock equal to two-thirds of the purchase price, which ranks in front of the above-mentioned £25,000. Subscriptions are invited for 2,000 each of the preference and ordinary shares and £15,000 of the debenture stock to provide funds for the completion of the purchase, and for improvements and enlargements. It is also proposed to introduce slot meters, cookers and gas stoves, and in order to show the extent of the field before the company in this direction reference is made to conditions in London, where it is said that over 80 per cent. of the consumers supplied by the metropolitan companies are using gas stoves for cooking, and that about 1,000 new cookers per week are being fixed. What bearing these figures have on the prospect of a bantling of this kind we doubt if even the promoters know, and their inclusion is not likely to attract investors.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Speculative positions, under the influence of easy American cables, have moved downwards as a rule during the week, but supplies of English wheat are still sparingly offered, and prices have kept very firm with here and there an advance of 6d., while foreign varieties ruled steady. Farmers' deliveries continue heavy in comparison with the same period of last year, last week amounting to 54,537 qrs. averaging 28s. 4d. against 32,371 qrs. averaging 30s. 9d. in 1905. The quantities on passage still increase, the total of wheat and flour now coming to the United Kingdom being 4,185,000 qrs. against 4,170,000 last week, but imports from abroad are only 312,667 qrs. against 364,479 last week and 586,623 a year ago. American markets have been weak and depressed by unfavourable crop news, which cause heavy liquidation and bear trading, the "Prices Current" re-

port also favouring easier prices. Bradstreet's estimate giving the supplies in sight East of the Rockies as 68,743,000 bushels against 69,764,000 last week caused a temporary relief, and towards the end of the week the market rallied on an improved spot trade.

WOOL.—The close of the London sales found prices for all descriptions of wool at their highest, and according to Messrs. Charles Balme and Co.'s report, "in view of the increased consumption in progress and the limited quantities to be placed on the markets during the next few months, there seems every prospect of a maintenance of present quotations." Holders of the wool are very firm, Bradford top makers insisting that prices at this centre are still below the London basis, but spinners and manufacturers alike consider that basis too high to indulge in more than a retail business and are not disposed to speculate. The wintry weather has checked business in piece goods, and orders are not being placed as freely as could be wished, especially for the finer woollen goods.

LINEN.—Irish yarns continue their upward course, and spinners in some instances have raised their prices to a prohibitive figure, as they are unwilling to deal at all. At any rate, as regards weft lines; but warps have been dealt in freely and a good business done this week even at these record prices. The slow and small deliveries of foreign yarns still cause great inconvenience. Manufacturers' sales keep well above the average, a steady trade being done in all departments without an appreciable change in any, but prices must go higher if they are to give an adequate margin in the cost of yarns. Outside markets also send their orders in steadily increasing quantities to both Belfast and Barnsley, but the latter market again complains of a dull home trade and a neglect of the finer linens.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—Our market during the week has been very firm in tone, and quotations in some directions have shown a tendency to harden. A healthy feeling has prevailed, and most sellers of cloth and yarn are in a strong position. Buyers find the market a difficult one to operate in, and there seems to be a struggle between buyers and sellers. Manufacturers, however, of cloth are seldom known to give way in price. Some are quite indifferent as to further booking orders. Quite a feature of the week has been heavy buying of cloth on the part of shippers to China. During the last few days some pretty large orders have been placed for delivery several months ahead. The transactions have been of a speculative character, and makers of goods suitable for China are now deeply engaged. Business of fair dimensions has also been put through for India, and the turnover has been increasing throughout the week. The minor markets have been open for goods of a miscellaneous character, where reasonable delivery can be undertaken. The Levant and Egypt have bought here and there to an encouraging extent. The outlets of South America have also been open for a variety of cloths. Makers all round are not easy to deal with. T-cloths and Mexicans are well held at late rates. Printing cloths of both Burnley and Cheshire makes have moved off fairly well from day to day. Fine goods, such as dhooties, mulls and jaconettes have been rather quiet, but quotations have been well maintained. Sateens and coloured woven goods have been well held. Not much business has come round from the home trade houses, but the outlook is promising. American yarns for home trade houses have been in improved demand towards the end of the week. The better kinds are still most in favour, and the margin of profit for good twists and ring beams is very satisfactory. Coarse weft rather lags behind, and common cop twist does not move off very well. The position of spinners is healthy, and most sellers are able to refuse business if prices cannot be obtained. Shipping yarns have moved off fairly well for China, and a moderate business has been done for the Continent in cops. Gassed yarns are strong, and extra hard descriptions are well held. Egyptian yarns as spun in the Bolton district close dearer without much new business coming round.

In New York the cotton market has again developed weakness. At first it opened with an improving tendency, from 7 to 13 points higher, and vigorous bull support maintained the advance. Subsequently, however, prices were forced downwards on bear pressure, largely from New Orleans. Now and then the market rallied on bear covering, but weakness prevailed to the end. Closing prices are:—March-April, 5.81d.; April-May, 5.82d.; May-June, 5.84d.; June-July, 5.85d.; July-August, 5.86d.; Aug.-Sept., 5.83d.; Sept.-Oct., 5.67d.; Oct.-Nov. 5.61d.; Nov.-Dec., 5.60d.; Dec.-Jan., 5.60d.; Jan.-Feb., 5.61d.

COAL.—The struggle over prices for contracts still continues, but it is not likely that coalowners will give way, for they consider the state of trade sufficiently good to justify their firmness. Collieries are mostly working full time, and market requirements do not allow any accumulations at pits. Steams are perhaps at their busiest season, and with foreign orders and inquiries coming in so satisfactorily prices have naturally hardened again. In the North of England best steams are up to 11s. f.o.b., and in Wales exporters who have not covered themselves for larger contracts c.i.f. find both freights and coals much above the figures of their calculations. Trade in these parts is brisk and promising, though the big rush of orders expected from the French strike did not come off; Swansea, in fact, only exported 20,725 tons to that country last week, by no means a record quantity. Quotations show no change.

COPPER.—This market maintains a wonderfully strong position, and it would not be at all surprising if the new records so freely predicted were realised. There is undoubtedly a great shortage of supplies, whether manipulated or not it is very hard to say, and the demand from consumers is increasingly keen. More-

over, there are some very important short positions to be covered. Business at the start was quiet, simply because no warrants were on offer, but the pressure to cover soon became very acute, and prices shot up £1. Supplies are in very strong hands, so that quotations steadily advanced, and although a few realisations were occasionally effected, the market closed strong at a big advance, final figures being £84 2s. 6d. for spot and £80 12s. 6d. for three months.

TIN.—Eastern cable advices were strong at the outset, and there was also some bear covering, so that the market opened fairly firm. It further advanced on good speculative buying, and a steady demand from consumers, and as the Banka sales brought good prices the market displayed considerable strength. The shipments for the month are expected to be small, and the close was firm at £169 5s. for cash and £166 5s. three months.

IRON AND STEEL.—There are signs of slackening trade and weakening prices in some branches of the iron and steel industries. The demand for hematite iron has been less active, and there are symptoms of further depression in warrant iron. On the other hand, the producers of Cleveland pig-iron are well supplied with orders, and are making very heavy deliveries, the largest, in fact, for some years past, iron having to be drawn in appreciable quantities out of the public warrant stores to satisfy requirements. In Scotland the condition of trade generally has been favourable. The past week has brought no fresh developments of importance, but the volume of trade is large, with every likelihood of continuing so for some time to come. In the Midlands the market has not been very active, mainly owing to the fact that the quarterly meeting will be held in the coming week, and business is being held back until then.

TEA.—The heavy auctions proved too much for markets this week, and but for good export orders they would have suffered still more. 39,973 packages of Indian were brought forward, and though a few good invoices kept well up to late quotations all ordinary and common quantities showed irregularity and a fractional decline. 33,058 packages were sold averaging 7.16d. against 7.43d. last week and 6.70d. a year ago. Ceylon offerings amounted to 27,968 packages, and the average obtained was 7.14d. against 7.10d. last week and 6.76d. last year. 3,820 packages of Java were brought forward and were of rather poor quality, with a consequent falling off in price. For the first three months of the year 38,582 packages of this tea sold on garden account, averaging 5.62d. against 33,045 packages averaging 5.48d. in the same period of 1905.

SUGAR.—Business in the sugar market has been quieter, and resales of purchases made for the rise could be effected only at a decline of 2d. per cwt., especially as Cuban receipts do not show the expected falling off, and India is rather reselling. From Cuba there is no fresh news regarding the weather, but mail advices report a serious falling off in quality as against last year, confirmation of which, says Mr. Czarnikow, can only be looked for in the ultimate crop figures. There is sufficient beet in Europe for all requirements, and the final regulator of prices will be the coming European crops. The American market has sympathised with the weakness on this side. Refiners purchased to a fair extent at gradually easing prices, especially for sugars on the spot and near at hand. For more distant shipments holders so far are not inclined to give way, as there are indications that trade requirements during the summer will be considerable. Landings in the three ports for the week were 22,000 tons, meltings 39,000 tons, reducing stocks to 211,000 tons.

MINING RETURNS.

British Broken Hill Proprietary.—5,015 tons of crude ore, producing 740 tons concentrates, containing 451 tons lead and 21,460 ozs. silver.

Burbank's Birthday Gold.—Crushed 1,100 tons, 466 ozs.

Carrington's Lion.—Crushed 300 tons for £900; tailings assay, 8 dwts. gold, 4 per cent. copper; sludges assay, 15 dwts. gold, 8 per cent. copper.

Central Chili Copper.—Production of regulus containing 155 tons fine copper, and gold and silver valued £540.

Chinese Engineering and Mining.—Output of coal, 19,500 tons; sales, 21,000 tons; consumption, 1,400 tons.

Mills' Day Dawn United.—Crushed 1,413 tons, value £4,500.

No. 1 South Great Eastern.—Crushed 5,200 tons for 2,330 ozs.

North Broken Hill.—Treated 1,250 tons, producing 235 tons of concentrates, containing 164 tons 1 cwt. lead and 2,397 ozs. silver.

Raub Australian Gold.—690 ozs. from 4,480 tons crushed.

Victorian Cornish.—Crushed 1,350 tons, 1,005 ozs.

Westralia Mount Morgans.—1,540 ozs. from 4,200 tons crushed.

Mr. Harris, the chairman, announced at the meeting of Meux's Brewery shareholders held to-day that peace had been re-established between the board and Lady Meux on the understanding that a committee of shareholders is to be appointed to investigate the deficiency announced in the directorial report. No member of this committee is to be directly nominated by Lady Meux.

NATIONAL TELEPHONE COMPANY, LIMITED.—At a meeting on Thursday the board of the National Telephone Company unanimously elected the vice-president, Mr. George Franklin, as president of the company in the place of Sir Henry Fowler, M.P., who had resigned, and also elected Mr. Samuel Herrick Sands as vice-president.

Letter to the Editors.

THE CHARTERED MEETING.

Sirs,—Allow me to protest against the indecency of the chairman of this company inviting remarks, and then permitting the shareholders who responded, to be brow-beaten and insulted. Several gentlemen essayed to criticise the accounts and the board, but were assailed with most unmannerly interruption—yells, hootings, cat-cries, stamping of feet, derisive laughter, and mimicry. More than this, the howling wolves—I will not dignify them with the name of men—threatened the speakers with physical violence. “Chuck him out—throw him out,” was shouted again and again, without a word of rebuke from the chair. Thrice did a gentleman indignantly call upon Mr. Rochfort Maguire to protect the speakers, but without result, which was the more shameful, seeing that his own long and tiresome speech was listened to with the most courteous attention.

Speaking generally, company meetings, as now conducted, are a monstrous scandal, because the bullies—often hired for the purpose—terrorised the more respectable of the proprietary. You, sir, often taunt shareholders with their meekness in submitting to be fleeced. Probably you do not attend meetings, or you would know that it requires extraordinary moral courage to pit yourself against the obedient tools of incapable and unscrupulous directorates.

However, the meeting on Monday found for once its match in a speaker whose name I failed to catch, but whom I cheered to the echo by way of encouragement: This venerable old gentleman—more power to his elbow!—met shout with shout, and made himself heard above the din of a hundred rowdy ruffians. His speech deserves to be perpetuated, and I give it in its native Doric—to edit it would be to spoil it:—“Mr. Chairman,—Why don’t you answer the questions? What are you there for? You are a poor lot—you are that. You are a mutual admiration society—yes, you are. You scratch my back and I’ll scratch yours—that’s your motto. Bah! You have nothing for us but reports. I tell you to your head we are sick of your reports. You stuff us with them. Reports, reports, reports—it’s nothing but reports. We don’t want reports—we want dividends—yes, we do. You are a poor lot—I say it again. Ugh!” The speech culminated in a wild war-whoop or screech in which were nicely blended contempt, wrath, defiance, and execration. The gallant old gentleman’s appearance heightened the effect of his very telling home-thrusts, for he wore a loud check suit never seen out of the farces of Paul Bedford and J. L. Toole, and a “comforter” round his neck in place of a collar. The board, not used to plain speech, looked as startled as though iconoclastic hands had been laid upon the Ark. Had the shareholders, as a body, any sense of humour, the speech would have brought down the house. Some were tickled by it, and the writer laughed himself to sleep that night, and is laughing as he scribbles this letter. My lamented, gifted friend, L. F. Austin, would have revelled in a scene which his genius would have lifted into the regions of pure comedy. And the word comedy suggests the wisdom of fighting directors with their own weapons, and paying them back in their own coin. If it is their good pleasure that meetings be turned into bear gardens, so be it. If, by the collusion of silence, they encourage bullies to intimidate us by outcries resembling those of ferocious beasts, let us treat them in exactly the same fashion, not only directly they appear upon the platform, but continuously throughout the proceedings. They will soon tire of tactics at which both sides can play.

At many meetings I have marked the attendance of an individual who, directly things get warm for the board, gets up with the cowardly proposal that “Mr. Smith be no longer heard.” He was in evidence on Monday, and played his usual rôle. But instead of requesting him to withdraw his proposal, the chairman meekly put it to the meeting, whence, as intelligent men, we may infer that it was not displeasing to him.

In the future, let us treat the company and all that concerns it—the board especially—with ridicule and raillery. As I heard a shareholder exclaim: “If we cannot get dividends, let us have some fun for our money.” It is better to die of laughter than to choke with bile and fury. And as the French say: “Ridicule kills.”

RIDE SI SAPIS.

March 27, 1906.

Answers to Correspondents.

P. V. D.—A moderate purchase might turn out well as the company has been carefully managed, and is now in a very strong position. The price, of course, may go back a little if the agreement is not renewed, but the company is one of the best of its class, and well able to hold its own against competition.

M. W.—Better hold for the present. The improvement in the trade should help this company, and you will probably get a better price by waiting a little.

G. C. H.—As far as we can find out the company is doing no business and has very little chance of doing any. We should, therefore, be inclined to sell and cut the loss.

J. NEWTON SHARP.—(1.) This is the safer security and as the interest seems tolerably secure there may be a little improvement in price should business revive. (2.) But if you are prepared to wait and take a little more risk this one seems to offer a better chance, being lower in price. Now that the line is in stronger hands, and the work of construction is being pressed forward it ought to make a useful property one day. The bonds are cumulative only after the interest has been paid for three years out of actual earnings, and that is not taking place yet. At the interest is provided from certain funds in hand.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and March 24, 1906:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.			
	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Mar. 24, 1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Mar. 25, 1905.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£ —	6,352,909	5,462,116
Bank of Ireland	—	1,077,369	801,726
REVENUE.		7,430,278	4,263,842
Customs	34,050,000	33,896,000	35,288,000
Excise	30,200,000	29,826,000	30,481,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,000,000	12,684,000	12,184,000
Stamps	8,000,000	8,027,000	7,581,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,700,000	2,560,000	2,750,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,000,000	29,994,000	30,321,000
Post Office	16,500,000	16,780,000	16,100,000
Telegraph Service	4,950,000	4,130,000	3,830,000
Crown Lands	470,000	480,000	470,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,054,000	1,094,594	1,009,435
Miscellaneous	1,450,000	1,512,187	1,410,460
*Revenue	142,454,000	140,983,781	141,424,895
Total, including balance		148,414,059	145,688,737
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion		880,000	510,000
Repayment of Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		225,000	—
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		700,000	1,120,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..		191,592	—
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905 ..		2,175,000	1,884,500
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		1,262,408	1,800,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900		23,000	11,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		148,000	149,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		—	6,413,990
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		—	5,912,631
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905		9,854,604	—
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904		1,000,000	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares		8,461	7,460
Unclaimed Dividends Account—Receipt under Section 70 of the Finance Act, 1904 ..		—	1,000,000
Temporary Advances, Deficiency		2,000,000	8,600,000
Temporary Advances, Ways and Means (including £4,500,000 Treasury Bills in 1905-6) and £13,500,000 in 1904-5		8,000,000	21,800,000
Total		174,882,124	194,932,818
*Revenue as above	142,454,000	140,983,781	141,424,895
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	176,000	169,650	177,716
Excise	5,291,000	5,342,851	5,315,673
Estate, &c., Duties	4,289,000	4,189,407	4,123,280
Total	9,756,000	9,701,908	9,616,699
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,210,000	150,685,689	151,041,594
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.			
	Estimate for the year 1905-1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Mar. 24, 1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Mar. 25, 1905.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	28,000,000	27,653,190	26,334,867
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,620,000	1,529,617	1,507,937
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	1,156,768	1,156,867
Supply Services	111,425,000	102,880,829	106,953,936
Expenditure	142,205,000	133,220,404	135,853,607
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		640,000	470,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		180,000	45,000
For Exchequer Bonds issued under the Supplemental War Loan Act, 1900		10,000,000	6,500,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		750,000	700,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905 ..		3,216,000	3,458,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		900,000	3,500,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		23,000	11,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		193,000	149,500
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		—	35,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		710,015	29,000
Surplus Revenue 1904-1905 applied to reduce Debt		1,413,907	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares, applied to reduce Debt under the Finance Act, 1898 ..		8,461	7,460
Deficiency Advances repaid		586,093	8,600,000
Ways and Means Advances repaid		8,000,000	23,800,000
Total		159,840,880	183,153,507
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	13,907,289	10,765,09	—
Bank of Ireland	1,073,955	1,014,154	—
Total		15,941,244	11,779,251
Total		174,882,124	194,932,818

Treasury, March 27, 1906.

SOUTH AFRICAN MINE RETURNS.

Despite the shortage of black labour on the Rand the output of gold is actually increasing. True, the return for February looks much lower than that for January, but had the months been of equal length the output would have been higher, for there was an advance in the daily average. From the Rand itself the production amounted to 389,283 ozs., whilst the outside mines contributed 18,385 ozs., making a total of 407,668 ozs. of a value of £1,731,664 against 428,638 ozs., worth £1,820,739 in January. This is a falling off of 20,970 ozs. in weight, and of £89,075 in value, but there was an actual increase of 733 ozs. per diem, or over 20,000 ozs. for the 28 days. More natives left the mines than came to

MINE.	December.			January.			February.		
	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.
Angelo	13,625	7,965	16,059	15,153	8,264	15,046	14,908	7,967	14,52
Barrett	2,132	433	600	2,550	415	—	—	425	550
Bonanza	8,600	4,475	10,000	8,450	4,660	10,000	7,420	4,558	10,430
Buffelsdoorn Estate	—	538	1,330	—	542	1,181	—	527	1,093
City and Suburban	24,700	9,549	10,301	25,300	9,729	17,297	23,400	8,904	16,750
Comet, New	15,360	6,305	8,276	15,473	5,630	4,966	14,397	5,244	3,910
Cons. Langlaagte	15,950	5,634	6,217	16,265	5,938	4,886	15,639	5,287	4,423
Cons. Main Reef	17,755	6,273	8,561	17,724	6,442	8,048	16,300	5,753	7,068
Crown Deep	30,022	11,460	21,600	29,108	11,243	20,900	26,648	10,721	20,000
Crown Reef	21,155	11,482	25,053	20,168	11,399	25,005	18,007	10,996	25,119
Driefontein	22,429	8,819	12,303	22,653	7,601	6,477	19,016	6,491	3,702
Durban Roodepoort	10,625	4,426	8,300	10,995	4,562	7,300	9,705	4,630	6,500
Do. Deep	10,050	4,097	3,000	10,130	3,798	1,850	9,410	3,397	1,100
Ferreira	20,950	12,343	28,574	20,245	12,686	29,298	19,150	12,200	29,100
Do Deep	19,104	11,781	30,000	19,400	12,090	31,100	17,308	11,638	29,500
French Rand	17,300	5,899	3,515	17,000	5,620	3,223	16,400	5,063	3,208
Goldenhuis Deep	17,150	7,300	15,990	22,200	9,621	14,150	20,660	9,142	13,750
Goldenhuis Estate	23,440	9,973	14,550	17,265	7,758	16,604	15,675	6,647	14,533
Ginsberg	1,708	3,145	2,642	8,181	2,861	2,131	7,161	2,875	3,245
Glencairn	13,222	3,966	5,006	14,386	4,090	5,017	12,144	3,877	4,857
Glen Deep	15,720	5,836	7,100	14,370	5,609	7,150	14,710	5,498	6,650
Glynn's Lydenberg	2,100	1,351	—	2,050	1,291	—	1,980	1,264	—
Goch New	15,430	4,966	4,273	17,280	5,088	3,575	14,052	4,892	4,977
Henry Nourse	11,120	5,185	6,860	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heriot	9,060	3,670	3,555	9,300	3,819	4,411	8,410	3,519	3,644
Jubilee	5,461	2,063	—	5,620	1,901	—	5,032	1,766	—
Jumpers	11,756	4,121	5,089	12,000	4,809	5,594	11,000	4,320	5,105
Jumpers Deep	15,723	5,376	2,950	15,991	6,068	2,850	14,700	5,335	2,000
Knight's	28,750	9,497	10,038	29,040	9,162	8,408	27,450	8,962	9,185
Knight's Deep	22,373	7,702	9,814	22,402	7,576	7,956	20,888	7,413	9,174
Lancaster	13,700	4,545	585	13,883	4,404	448	13,493	7,775	134*
Lancaster West	6,507	2,310	3,479	6,595	2,490	2,791	5,985	2,244	2,427
Langlaagte Deep	19,155	6,766	6,450	20,103	6,962	6,550	17,648	6,418	6,400
Do. Estate	27,288	7,702	7,330	26,750	7,748	8,200	25,140	8,002	10,400
May Consolidated	14,010	5,061	12,221	14,200	5,938	12,461	13,010	5,735	12,033
Meyer and Charlton	11,011	4,806	8,164	11,200	4,657	7,508	10,190	4,397	7,591
Modderfontein	9,770	3,337	3,223	9,753	3,619	3,293	9,060	3,593	2,832
New Kleinfontein	26,810	8,639	5,612	28,524	9,502	7,610	27,752	9,429	9,015
New Unified	8,875	2,870	1,222	8,787	2,560	867	7,662	2,072	—
Niekerk	6,260	3,456	5,559	6,850	3,712	5,616	6,900	3,659	6,158
Nigel	3,000	1,941	1,748	3,188	1,827	982	2,983	1,899	1,960
Nigel Deep	15,109	6,271	8,200	14,458	6,230	7,900	13,169	5,763	7,400
North Randfontein	14,610	6,566	8,000	26,500	11,471	15,600	23,235	10,667	14,050
Nourse Deep	13,729	6,065	9,600	14,145	6,229	8,600	12,571	6,038	10,000
Porges Randfontein	15,631	7,279	13,950	15,902	7,090	13,508	13,925	6,585	13,508
Primrose	5,551	2,638	884	5,810	2,702	1,884	5,526	2,674	1,475
Princess Estate	8,872	4,526	9,574	9,021	4,904	9,030	8,060	4,440	7,541
Rietfontein New	28,500	18,069	49,065	29,500	19,601	48,932	26,675	18,549	49,932
Robinson	14,780	9,201	25,158	15,114	9,419	26,860	14,538	9,413	27,153
Robinson Cent. Deep	29,545	14,877	32,400	29,325	15,387	33,862	26,638	14,197	31,249
Robinson's R'ndfontein	15,109	5,694	5,800	15,110	5,346	37,200	13,421	15,116	3,700
Roodepoort Central	7,730	3,070	2,978	7,872	3,019	2,570	7,323	2,936	2,667
Do Deep	9,040	4,199	4,969	9,140	4,002	4,500	8,700	3,907	4,005
Rose Deep	25,600	8,809	11,600	24,500	8,829	11,650	22,300	7,970	9,050
Salisbury	5,350	1,980	2,925	5,500	1,705	2,000	5,300	1,530	1,620
Sheba	—	2,316	—	—	2,940	—	—	3,930	—
Simmer East	16,578	5,498	4,384	16,335	5,544	4,429	15,352	5,633	5,769
Simmer and Jack	53,000	20,104	31,991	52,950	19,605	29,687	48,000	18,044	26,605
South Randfontein	14,707	5,826	5,500	14,200	5,922	5,100	12,715	5,654	6,000
Transvaal Gold	8,992	3,804	—	9,061	4,041	—	7,923	3,587	—
Treasury	7,330	2,354	1,019	6,400	2,580	1,497	6,425	2,305	1,021
Van Ryn	22,040	8,057	10,870	21,800	8,091	11,099	20,240	7,936	11,001
Village Deep	18,363	6,345	4,763	18,991	6,406	5,540	17,555	6,396	5,165
Village Main Reef	25,525	9,554	14,550	25,400	9,538	14,424	23,000	9,064	14,495
Vogelstruis Estates	5,410	1,922	—	6,300	2,376	—	—	2,372	—
Weimer	8,800	3,883	—	8,640	3,870	7,690	7,690	3,993	—
W. Rand Central	2,575	1,102	1,325	2,550	1,091	2,775	2,425	1,045	1,000
Windsor	4,950	1,458	433	4,750	1,311	458*	4,390	1,119	968*
Wt. Deep	26,010	10,422	15,588	25,290	10,265	15,163	24,330	9,845	15,008
Worcester	—	498	—	2,460	742	—	—	591	—

* Loss.

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
January	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
February	—	70,340	199,279	288,824	369,258	428,638
March	—	81,405	196,513	289,502	363,811	407,668
April	—	104,127	217,465	308,242	399,823	—
May	—	119,588	227,871	305,946	399,166	—
June	7,488	138,602	234,125	314,480	416,395	—
July	19,779	142,780	238,320	308,219	412,317	—
August	25,960	149,179	271,643	307,840	419,505	—
September	28,474	162,750	271,918	312,277	428,581	—
October	31,936	170,802	276,197	312,286	416,487	—
November	33,393	181,439	284,544	325,625	415,527	—
December	39,075	187,375	279,813	330,167	424,757	—
Worcester	52,897	196,023	286,061	362,264	431,594	—
Total	238,992	1,704,410	2,963,749	3,779,621*	4,897,221	836,306

Includes 7,949 ozs. not previously declared

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
January	£	£	£	£	£	£
February	—	293,786	846,489	1,226,846	1,568,508	1,820,739
March	—	345,782	834,739	1,229,726	1,545,371	1,731,664
April	—	442,303	923,739	1,309,329	1,698,340	—
May	—	507,980	967,936	1,299,576	1,695,550	—
June	31,271	588,746	994,505	1,335,826	1,768,734	—
July	84,014	606,493	1,012,322	1,309,231	1,751,412	—
August	110,269	663,674	1,068,917	1,307,621	1,781,944	—
September	120,953	691,322	1,155,039	1,326,468	1,820,496	—
October	135,654	725,522	1,173,211	1,326,506	1,769,124	—
November	141,848	770,706	1,208,669	1,383,167	1,765,047	—
December	165,986	795,922	1,188,571	1,427,947	1,804,253	—
Total	224,692	832,652	1,215,110	1,538,800	1,833,295	—
Total	1,014,687	7,259,888	12,589,247	16,054,809*	20,802,074	3,552,403

* Includes £33,766 not declared previously.

them, the loss during the month being 1,697, reducing the total employed to 78,895. But it must be recollected that Chinese are continually coming forward to supply their places. The reduced profits of the Jumpers Deep, Rose Deep and Durban Roodepoort Deep are attributed partly to a decline in the grade of the ore, which is serious news. Tube mills are now said to be working at the Ferreira Deep, Glen Deep and Durban Roodepoort Deep.

WEST AUSTRALIAN CRUSHINGS.

During the month of February 49,456 ozs. of gold were entered for export and 92,971 ozs. were received at the Perth branch of the Royal Mint for coinage, giving a total of 142,427 fine ozs., in comparison with 154,033 fine ozs. for the corresponding month of last year.

Name of Company.	December.		January.		February.	
	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.
	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.
Associated G. M. of W. A.	7,590	19,920	8,135	19,932	8,065	18,502
Associated Northern Blocks	3,365	16,033	3,360	16,020	3,091	14,175
Bellevue Proprietary	3,400	1,604	3,346	1,656	3,477	1,744
Burbank's Birthday	2,218	498	555	246 ^a	—	—
Cosmopolitan Proprietary	8,599	9,553	8,248	19,151	7,753	18,653
Golden Horseshoe	20,106	13,564 ^a	19,839	12,937 ^a	18,409	12,040 ^a
Golden Pole	1,320	1,685	1,170	1,196	1,000	1,026
Great Boulder Perseverance	13,504	8,512 ^a	13,999	8,362 ^a	11,997	7,332 ^a
Great Boulder Proprietary	12,186	14,135	12,253	13,067	11,635	12,840
Great Fingall	19,521	11,790 ^a	20,021	11,781 ^a	18,042	10,609 ^a
Hainault	4,511	1,724	4,649	1,643 ^a	—	—
Hannan's Reward	394	354	660	288	705	369
Hannan's Star	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ida H.	1,300	1,027	1,400	1,011	1,250	944
Ivanhoe	16,601	10,756 ^a	17,010	10,433 ^a	15,560	10,019 ^a
Kalgurli	9,171	6,642 ^a	9,408	6,888 ^a	8,609	6,286 ^a
Lake View Consols	10,098	3,732 ^a	10,489	3,776 ^a	9,716	3,465 ^a
Menzies Consolidated	1,553	1,324 ^a	1,405	1,215	1,215	1,368
Merton's Reward	2,362	972	2,590	845	3,017	702
North Kalgurli	—	—	—	—	425	208
North White Feather	1,580	873	1,785	656 ^a	900	502 ^a
Oroya-Brownhill	10,534	12,804	10,620	12,719 ^a	9,845	12,647 ^a
Peak Hill Goldfield	—	—	—	—	—	—
Queensland Menzies	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red Hill	953	548	1,804	687	1,735	724
Sons of Gwalia	10,579	5,307	10,161	5,206 ^a	9,754	5,190 ^a
South Kalgurli	7,380	3,350	7,050	3,327 ^a	7,150	3,312 ^a
Vivien	1,381	346	1,346	537	—	—
Westralia and East Extension	2,448	1,066	2,900	1,341	3,093	1,62
Westralia Mount Morgans	—	501	—	—	—	—
White Feather Main Refs	822	244	581	474	—	—

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for ten days ended March 14, \$2,852, increase \$243.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 16, \$16,950, decrease \$842; aggregate from January 1, \$119,867, decrease \$1,212.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 24, Rs. 79,601, increase Rs. 12,095; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 5,34,707, increase Rs. 49,253.

British Columbia Electric.—Net earnings for February \$27,376, increase \$2,328.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 21, \$101,600, increase \$38,900; total from July 1, \$3,633,800, increase \$883,000.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 24, Rs. 42,310, increase Rs. 2,378.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 11, £455, increase £120.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 3rd week of March, \$17,347, increase \$295; aggregate from January 1, \$172,857, increase \$37,657.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended February 24, Rs. 14,662, increase Rs. 3,972.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended March 14 amounted to \$9,850.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts or week ending March 24, £1,250, increase £10; aggregate from January 1, £14,573, increase £184.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending March 24, £691, increase £10; aggregate from January 1, £8,469, increase £606.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for November, £4,099, decrease £203.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending March 24, £424, increase £62; aggregate from January 1, £5,507, increase £386.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 23, £1,458, increase £212; aggregate from January 1, £16,153, increase £2,590.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 25, £6, decrease £1; aggregate from January 1, £82, decrease £2.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 23, £4,657, decrease £126; aggregate from January 1, £56,027, increase £2,302.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending March 23, £27,796, increase £2,604; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £318,051, increase £50,929; 435½ miles, against 418½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 24, £1,057, increase £5; aggregate from January 1, £12,899, increase £1,120.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 25, £103, increase £8; aggregate from January 1, £1,127, decrease £3.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 23, £106, increase £3; aggregate from January 1, £1,058, decrease £74.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 23, £4,598, increase £65; aggregate from January 1, £53,468, increase £1,616.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 24, £4,555, increase £1; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £54,576, increase £1,994.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 23, £207, decrease £57; aggregate from January 1, £2,312, decrease £365.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 22, £354.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 24, £222, decrease £119; aggregate from October 1, £6,408, decrease £568.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 17, £14,339, increase £1,526; aggregate from April 1, £732,880, increase £96,579. Miles 51 against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 24, £19,410, decrease £5,273; aggregate from January 1, £246,009, decrease £12,533.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 24, £6,833, decrease £1,563; aggregate from January 1, £84,334, decrease £1,322.

Rosendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 24, £187, increase £2; aggregate from January 1, £2,248, increase £127.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 25, £636, decrease £90; aggregate from January 1, £8,628, increase £2,117.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 25, £15,309, increase £1,725; aggregate from January 1, £178,269, increase £18,536.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903 Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of January, 1906, £11,016, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to February 28, \$781,825, increase \$164,838. Nett earnings from July 1 to February 28, \$353,410, increase \$100,695.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending March 11, £3,492, increase £62; aggregate from January 1, £35,110, increase £3,332.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending February 24, £1,413, increase £293; aggregate from January 1, £11,244, increase £2,678.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of February, \$281,300.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 24, Rs. 42,388, increase Rs. 4,330; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 5,41,616, increase Rs. 52,950.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of February, £4,186, increase £947. Total from January 1, £9,264, increase £3,669.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of November, \$417,218, increase \$63,017; aggregate from January 1, \$4,320,887, increase \$390,457. Nett traffic receipts, \$226,858, increase \$35,361; aggregate from January 1, \$2,359,439, increase \$272,120.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	
Baker St. and Waterloo	Mar. 24	1,618	—	2	3,381	—	
Brecon and Merthyr	" 25	2,107	+ 426	12	25,046	+ 1,437	
Cambrian	" 25	5,417	— 90	12	58,044	— 965	
Central London	" 24	7,038	+ 13	12	83,641	— 2,512	
City and South London	" 25	3,057	+ 224	12	35,880	+ 300	
Furness	" 25	9,867	+ 1,022	12	114,001	+ 14,832	
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.)	" 25	70,889	+ 1,493	12	830,807	+ 33,444	
Great Eastern	" 25	92,800	+ 300	13	1,104,400	+ 3,200	
Great Northern and City	" 24	1,851	+ 108	12	21,859	+ 731	
Great Northern	" 24	107,100	+ 1,080	12	1,256,400	+ 24,238	
Great Western	" 25	213,800	— 600	12	2,520,500	+ 15,200	
Hull and Barnsley	" 25	9,898	+ 455	12	111,338	+ 2,372	
Lancashire and Yorkshire	" 25	102,330	+ 195	12	1,184,737	+ 29,099	
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast	" 24	51,122	+ 2,725	12	626,015	+ 98	
London & North Western	" 25	268,000	+ 8,000	12	3,100,000	+ 96,000	
London & South Western	" 25	78,200	— 800	12	935,100	+ 2,300	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend	" 25	8,263	+ 254	12	94,505	+ 3,821	
Metropolitan	" 25	16,746	— 472	12	201,494	— 2,694	
Metropolitan District	" 25	8,005	+ 619	12	97,461	+ 5,341	
Midland	" 24	215,389	+ 5,682	12	2,590,628	+ 68,123	
North Eastern	" 24	174,318	+ 5,567	12	2,003,010	+ 92,699	
North London	" 25	8,386	— 684	12	108,710	— 2,320	
North Staffordshire	" 25	17,795	+ 387	12	209,578	+ 6,953	
Rhymney	" 25	6,361	+ 702	12	73,322	+ 3,007	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover	" 24	74,488	— 2,249	12	898,062	— 4,556	
Taff Vale	" 25	20,245	+ 713	12	232,439	+ 11,010	

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Mar. 25	81,718	+ 1,875	8	639,759	+ 9,127
Glasgow & South-Western	" 24	31,686	+ 973	8	245,911	+ 5,599
Great North of Scotland	" 24	8,350	— 150	8	64,125	— 720
Highland	" 25	8,011	+ 178	8	62,477	— 1,282
North British	" 25	87,054	+ 3,421	8	680,548	+ 11,198

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down	Mar. 23	2,273	+ 64	§	26,771	— 638
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast	" 23	1,664	+ 50	§	16,060	+ 23
Great Northern	" 23	16,935	+ 609	12	191,363	+ 1,157
Midland Great Western	" 23	10,381	— 588	§	109,672	— 7,106

§ From January 1.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, Mar. 23.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, Mar. 23.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
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SOUTH AFRICAN.

4 1/2	Angelo	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	May Consolidated	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Anglo-French Ex.	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
4 1/2	Apex	4 1/2	4 1/2	7 1/2	Modderfontein	7 1/2	7 1/2
4 1/2	Aurora West	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Do. B.	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Bantjes	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	New Goch	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Block B.	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	City and Suburban, £4	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Comet (New)	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Cons. Goldfields	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Do. Pref.	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Crown Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2	6 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	6 1/2	6 1/2
4 1/2	Driefontein	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	4 1/2	4 1/2	8 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4	8 1/2	8 1/2
4 1/2	East Rand	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	East Rand Extension	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Rodepoort United	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Ferreira	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Salisbury	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	French Rand	4 1/2	4 1/2	7 1/2	Sheba (New)	7 1/2	7 1/2
4 1/2	Geduld	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Geldenhuis Estate	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	3 1/2	3 1/2
4 1/2	Ginsburg	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Steyn Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Glencairn	4 1/2	4 1/2	14 1/2	Transvaal Development	14 1/2	14 1/2
4 1/2	Harmony Proprietary	4 1/2	4 1/2	7 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates	7 1/2	7 1/2
4 1/2	Henderson's Transvaal	4 1/2	4 1/2	11 1/2	Treasury	11 1/2	11 1/2
4 1/2	Heriot	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	Van Ryn	3 1/2	3 1/2
4 1/2	Johannesburg Con. In.	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Vereniging Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Jubilee	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	Vogelstruis	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Klumpers	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Weigedacht	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Kleinfontein	4 1/2	4 1/2	5 1/2	Wemmer	5 1/2	5 1/2
4 1/2	Knight's	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	West Rand Consols	3 1/2	3 1/2
4 1/2	Lancaster	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	Woluter, £4	3 1/2	3 1/2
4 1/2	Langlaagte Estate	4 1/2	4 1/2	8 1/2	Worcester	8 1/2	8 1/2

DEEP LEVELS.

1 1/2	Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bonanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Cinderella Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Robinson Deep (new)	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Crown Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rodepoort Cn. Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	South Rose Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Geldenhuis Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Village Main Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Knight's Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2			

RHODESIANS.

1 1/2	Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Rhodesia Exploration	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Charter Trust and Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Rice Hamilton	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Selukwe	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Lomagunda Develop.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Tanganyika	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wankie Coal	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Willoughby	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2		1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2

DIAMONDS.

1 1/2	De Beers Deferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Koffyfontein	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Preferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Lace Diamond	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Eland's Drift Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Orange Free State	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Frank Smith Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2	13 1/2	Diamond	13 1/2	13 1/2
1 1/2	Jagersfontein Deferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2	Premier Diamond Def.	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Preferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	Kamfersdam	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2			

WEST AFRICAN.

1 1/2	Abbotiakoona	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2	Gold Coast Agency, new	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Ankobra	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau)	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Ashanti Consols, 2/- paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Goldfields	1 1/2	1 1/2	12 1/2	Himan Concessions	12 1/2	12 1/2
1 1/2	Sansu	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Obbassil Syndicate	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Prestea	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	British Gold Coast	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Skondi and Tarkwa	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bromassiess	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Takwah and Abosso	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Ehuenta (Wassau)	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Wassau	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Fanti Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2	14 1/2	W.A. Gold Trust	14 1/2	14 1/2

AUSTRALIAN.

1 1/2	Anglo-Aus. Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Ida H.	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Associated	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Ivanhoe Gold Corp.	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Nm. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2	Ivanhoe South	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	Bellevue Proprietary	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Kalgurli	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Boulder Deep Levels	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Brownhill Extended	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2	Lancefield	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	Chaffers	1 1/2	1 1/2	11 1/2	London & W.A. Explor.	11 1/2	11 1/2
1 1/2	Cosmopol'n Pr'p'ty	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Mount Boppy	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Horseshoe, New Shares	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	North Kalgurli	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Links	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Great Boulder	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Peak Hill	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Great Boulder, 2/-	1 1/2	1 1/2	22 1/2	South Kalgurli	22 1/2	22 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Perseverance	1 1/2	1 1/2	11 1/2	Sons of Gwalia	11 1/2	11 1/2
1 1/2	Great Fingall	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	W'str lia Mt. Morgans	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			
1 1/2	Hampton Plains	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			
1 1/2	Hannan's Star	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			

MISCELLANEOUS.

1 1/2	Anaconda, 25 dols.	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Belaghat, full paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	46 1/2	Mount Lyell	46 1/2	46 1/2
1 1/2	Brilliant and St. George	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	M't. Morgan	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Broken Hill, Prop.	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Mysore, 10/-	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Camp Bird	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Mysore Goldfields, 15/-	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Cape Copper, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	10 1/2	Do. West, 10/-	10 1/2	10 1/2
1 1/2	Champion Reef, 2/-	1 1/2	1 1/2	23 1/2	Do. Wynad, 10/-	23 1/2	23 1/2
1 1/2	Con. Gold N.Z.	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Namaqua, £2	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Copapo, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Nile Valley	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Cosmopoland 1906 pd.	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	N'ndydrong, 10/- shares	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Esperanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	17 1/2	Oreogum	17 1/2	17 1/2
1 1/2	Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Frontino and Bolivia	1 1/2	1 1/2	66 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	66 1/2	66 1/2
1 1/2	Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	10 1/2	St. John del Rey	10 1/2	10 1/2
1 1/2	Do. (No. 2)	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Tharsis	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Libiola, £5	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2	Waihi	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Linares, £3	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Ymir	4 1/2	4 1/2

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.				GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.			
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.		
Alcoy and Gandia	Mar. 24	Ps. 14,000	+ Ps. 3,000	**	Ps. 205,400	+ Ps. 11,900		
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia	Feb. 24	\$64,241	+ \$5,013	**	\$153,108	+ \$35,072		
Argentine Gt. Western	Mar. 23	17,752	+ 2,902	**	485,972	+ 78,183		
Algeiras (Gibraltar)	" 24	Ps. 25,316	- P. 3,733	**	Pt. 201,621	- P. 102,709		
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	" 24	38,013	+ 2,698	\$	1,114,653	+ 290,906		
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o and Cen. Argentine	" 24	91,347	+ 14,735	**	1,030,521	+ 111,162		
Buenos Ayres G. Sthn.	" 25	87,812	+ 2,768	\$	2,782,931	+ 448,863		
Do. Western	" 25	40,047	+ 2,307	\$	1,225,157	+ 156,834		
Do. Ensenada	" 25	363	- 114	\$	13,233	+ 393		
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	" 24	8,827	+ 220	\$	316,405	+ 9,774		
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 24	2,547	+ 15	\$	76,157	+ 726		
Do. Northern Ex.	" 24	1,430	- 57	\$	43,991	- 6,037		
Do. Western Ex.	" 24	1,296	+ 128	\$	45,375	+ 5,194		
Cordoba Central	" 25	2,970	+ 315	**	30,800	+ 5,830		
Do. Northern Ex.	" 25	6,680	+ 1,790	**	77,370	+ 17,170		
Do. N. W. Argtn. Ex.	" 25	1,875	+ 875	**	19,310	+ 5,940		
Cordoba and Rosario	" 25	3,353	- 125	\$	105,135	- 3,510		
Costa Rica	" 10	6,362	- 1,482	\$	109,747	+ 12,839		
Cuban Central	" 24	13,182	+ 1,734	\$	255,474	+ 15,897		
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 24	11,210	+ 2,308	\$	140,211	+ 31,716		
Entre Rios	" 24	5,185	- 990	\$	142,664	+ 13,121		
Int. Oceanic of Mexico	" 21	\$132,600	- \$9,190	**	\$4,325,190	- \$91,520		
Leopoldina	" 24	8,936	- 1,619	**	151,790	- 21,739		
Mexican	Feb. 24	\$546,000	+ \$20,700	**	\$1,138,500	+ \$95,700		
Do. Southern	Mar. 21	\$135,000	+ \$1,000	**	\$1,519,300	+ \$95,000		
Do. Central	" 21	\$24,127	- \$801	**	\$270,851	- \$14,128		
Do. Do.	Jan. 21	\$2,457,188	+ \$210,561	7*	\$1,595,435	+ \$12,894		
Manila	Mar. 24	\$735,662	- \$8,941	5*	\$4,692,994	+ \$230,407		
Nitrato	" 15	\$41,300	+ \$2,976	**	\$420,522	+ \$4,898		
Ottoman	" 24	23,215	+ 4,861	**	118,035	+ 4,138		
Peruvian Corporation	" 24	4,435	- 525	**	52,479	- 4,752		
San Paulo	Feb. 24	\$644,800	+ \$110,775	8*	\$5,106,875	+ \$661,075		
Salvador	Mar. 18	18,719	+ 3,292	**	205,375	+ 1,682		
United of Havana	" 24	\$30,000	- \$5,750	\$	509,526	+ 126,663		
Villa Maria & Rufino	" 24	27,664	+ 11,661	**	16,183	+ 1,281		
Western of Havana	" 24	1,530	+ 34	\$	157,809	+ 2,566		
	" 24	3,938	+ 333	\$				

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The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3 per cent.
on September 28.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

There has been plenty of use for all available bankers balances this week, but the scarcity has never been so great, as many lenders, the Bank of England included, had anticipated. As a rule, seven-day money commanded 4 per cent. in the open market, and day-to-day loans sometimes rose in the early hours of business to 4½ per cent., but even on Stock Exchange pay-day there was nothing like extreme scarcity, and the Bank return shows a net increase of only £1,437,000 in the other securities up to Wednesday night. Since then very little has been borrowed or renewed at the Bank, and to-day the market gave plenty of indications of coming ease. Why it has not been so pinched as expected is variously accounted for. The influx of gold has done something, as out of the £1,000,000 odd by which the coin and paper money circulation of the Bank was distended within its week, £504,000 was supplied by gold in from abroad. The reduction in the banking reserve was accordingly only £586,000. Then the Japanese Government agents have undoubtedly been lending. The Treasury paid off £920,000 in expired Treasury bills in the middle of the week, and although it is doubtful what proportion of these bills the Japanese held and what the Bank of England, there is no doubt that most of the money came out somehow, thus helping the market, for if the Bank held the bills in pawn from the market their payment reduced by the amount the market's debt. Unless, therefore, some great pressure arises to-morrow, which is improbable, as Stock Exchange payments were got over on Wednesday, and as very little had to be borrowed to-day, the market should be able to enjoy a short period of abundance after the new month comes in.

On the strength of this expectation discount rates have been pressed down all the week until the market began to wear quite a speculative aspect. It was vain for the

more conservative bill discounters to resist. They struggled manfully to keep the rate on three months remitted bills first at 3½ per cent. and then at 3¾ per cent., but were always beaten, and to-day the rate would not have been firm at 3½ per cent. but for the fact that the French cheque remains at 25f. 12½c. The lever applied to work the market down has been transactions in bills to arrive in the new month which have been taken day after day at what looked at times like dangerously fine rates. Yesterday and to-day, for instance, three months remitted paper to be paid for in the beginning of the month have been taken at 3½ to 3¾ per cent., fours at 3 per cent., and sixes at 2½¾—¾ per cent. Even short-dated paper could be disposed of at 3½ per cent., and we are inclined to think the short bill the best speculation at the figure. Everybody is counting on an immediate reduction in the Bank rate. Some looked for it within this week, others are confident that it must come next week, and those who think themselves cautious look for it in a fortnight. We should not definitely back any of these views for several reasons, one being that the Bank reserve and stock of bullion are neither of them at figures which constitute a broad basis on which the market can rest, and serenely face all contingencies throughout the spring and summer. Another reason for doubts is the condition of markets abroad. Paris so busy preparing to finance Russia by help of a large loan as to be driven at one and the same time to withdraw credits from American financiers and from the London market. The cheque exchange has consequently been low all the week, and the competition of Paris for the gold in the open market has driven the price of bars up to 77s. 10d. an ounce. This means that the Bank of England is only obtaining a portion of the supply, and it really wants all that comes to hand for another month at least, even the £1,200,000 or so due in on Monday, about £800,000 of it in bars, but if the Bank rate came down, with Paris collecting its resources for a great financial enterprise, and with New York so driven by the enormous mass of its speculative commitments as to have been obliged to create credit in the shape of finance bills to an amount estimated by our shrewd French banker friend at £100,000,000, the opportunity would be at once given to exporters to take away not only the gold in the open market, but some of the small, painfully collected stock in the Bank of England. Then we should have a sharp rebound in rates and considerable trouble in adjusting the position.

It may all end otherwise, and we do not wish to dogmatise, only the prospect is not so definite of ease on any money market as to warrant credit jobbers here in resting their policy definitely upon cheap banking credit throughout the next six months. It will be cheap enough after the Treasury lets loose its flood which was still on Wednesday dammed up to a height of £19,258,000 the total of the public deposits, a figure only £108,000 below that of the previous week. Assume that £12,000,000 of this will come back to the market within a few weeks and that £3,000,000 or £4,000,000 of this remains there after the market has liquidated its debt to the Bank of England, there should undoubtedly be ease of a sort for the time, but it may be only a short time, because not only are foreign markets resting upon our market to a larger extent than usual, but domestic requirements of every description are waiting their opportunity. There is not merely the £10,000,000 of Irish Land stock to be issued, in part at least, during the next few months, but £6,000,000 or so for the London County Council looming ahead, and an indefinite assortment of other Municipal loans, Colonial loans, joint-stock capital requirements, all to be financed, together with the enormous mass of American Railroad bond and other emissions, a mass already amounting to upwards of £120,000,000 created or put out since December, and for which markets are being sought all over the world.

SILVER.

Repurchases by the "bears" to cover their end of the month commitments sent quotations for bars up to 30½d. per oz. for cash, and 29½d. per oz. for future

delivery in the beginning of the week. Immediately these requirements were satisfied, the market relapsed to 30d. and 29½d. per oz. respectively, and at these figures there was a resumption of buying by the Indian Government and others, which brought about a recovery of ½d., but the improvement did not last, and the market closes with a weak tendency at 30d. and 29½d. per oz. Applications for the Rs.40,00,000 of Council drafts on India offered this week amounted to Rs.2,57,75,589 in bills, and Rs.1,21,00,000 in telegraphic transfers, when Rs.28,99,000 were accepted in bills and Rs.11,01,000 in transfers, tenders at rs. 3½d. and rs. 3 31-32d. per rupee receiving about 7 per cent. Next Wednesday the amount to be offered is further reduced to Rs.30,00,000.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, March 28, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued ..	£ 55,079,770	Government Debt ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	36,629,770
		Silver Bullion ..	—

£55,079,770
BANKING DEPARTMENT. £55,079,770

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 16,114,822
Reserve ..	3,780,296	Other Securities ..	36,754,333
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	19,258,219	Notes ..	26,581,675
Other Deposits ..	43,619,409	Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,820,448
Seven Day and other Bills ..	60,354		

Dated March 29, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. Mar. 29.		Mar. 21, 1906.	Mar. 28, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£ 3,740,240	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
18,274,061	Rest	3,709,326	3,780,296	70,970	—
42,559,362	Pub. Deposits ..	19,366,344	19,258,219	—	108,125
89,056	Other do. ..	42,700,332	43,619,409	919,077	—
	7 Day Bills ..	91,545	60,354	—	31,191
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,589,185	Gov. Securities	16,114,822	16,114,822	—	—
33,413,020	Other do. ..	35,317,137	36,754,333	1,437,196	—
30,213,454	Total Reserve ..	28,988,588	28,402,123	586,465	—
				1,576,512	1,576,512
				Increase.	Decrease.
£ 27,990,460	Note Circulation	£ 28,091,755	£ 28,498,095	406,340	£
39,753,914	Coin and Bullion	38,630,343	38,450,218	—	180,125
498 p.c.	Proportion ..	468 p.c.	458 p.c.	—	1½ p.c.
2½ "	Bank Rate ..	4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £504,000 in.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.		WITHDRAWALS.	
Saturday, Bars ..	£5,000	Tuesday, S. America ..	£130,000
Monday, Australia ..	80,000	Thursday, Gibraltar ..	16,000
" Germany ..	305,000		
Tuesday, Bars ..	53,000	Net Influx ..	379,000
Wednesday, Bars ..	77,000		
Thursday, Bars ..	5,000		
Total ..	£525,000	Total ..	£525,000

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
2,000,000	6 months	April 5	2 16 1
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
1,800,000	6 months	June 1	3 2 6
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
1,200,000	—	—	—
1,000,000	6 months	June 29	2 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 12	2 10 8
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 26	2 13 8
1,500,000	6 months	Sept. 16	2 11 5
1,000,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 10 0
16,913,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Week.	1906.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Jan. 3	340,266,000	276,940,000	63,326,000	—
" 10	228,921,000	215,432,000	13,489,000	—
" 17	287,646,000	254,259,000	33,387,000	—
" 24	214,928,000	186,205,000	28,723,000	—
" 31	289,938,000	300,583,000	—	10,650,000
Feb. 7	231,817,000	206,614,000	25,203,000	—
" 14	271,821,000	259,450,000	—	—
" 21	213,118,000	199,365,000	13,753,000	—
" 28	290,477,000	301,252,000	—	10,775,000
Mar. 7	235,959,000	215,866,000	20,093,000	—
" 14	261,348,000	268,032,000	—	6,684,000
" 21	208,709,000	211,042,000	—	2,333,000
" 28	250,066,000	205,714,000	44,352,000	—
	3,325,014,000	3,101,309,000	223,705,000	—

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chs.	25'13	25'12½	Antwerp	short	25'23½	25'21½
Brussels	chs.	25'22½	25'20½	Italy	8 mths	25'15	25'14
Amsterdam	sight	12'14½	12'11½	Constantinople ..	3 mths	110'25	110'20
Berlin	chs.	20'46½	20'48½	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	167½d.	167½d.
Do.	3 mths	20'29	20'30½	Valparaiso	90 dys	141½d.	141½d.
Hamburg	chs.	20'47	20'47	Calcutta	T.T.	1/3½	1/3½
Frankfort	short	20'47	20'47	Bombay	T.T.	1/3½	1/3½
Vienna	sight	24'06	24'05½	Hong Kong	T.T.	2/10½	2/10½
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	94'10	94'10	Shanghai	T.T.	2/10½	2/10½
New York	60 dys	4'82½	4'82½	Singapore	T.T.	2/4½	2/4½
Lisbon	sight	51½	51½	Yokohama	4 mths	2/0½	2/0½
Madrid	sight	28'90	28'93				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris ..	3	May 25, 1900.	3 3
Berlin ..	5	December 11, 1905	4½ 4½
Hamburg ..	5	December 11, 1905	4½ 4
Frankfort ..	5	December 11, 1905	4½ 4½
Amsterdam ..	5	November, 1905	2½ 2½
Brussels ..	4	October 30, 1905	3½ 3½
Vienna ..	4½	October, 1905	4½ 4½
Rome ..	5	September, 1904	4 4
St. Petersburg ..	8	January, 1906	8 8
Madrid ..	4½	August 21, 1901	4 4
Lisbon ..	5½	January 11, 1899	5 5
Stockholm ..	5	January, 1906	4½ 4½
Copenhagen ..	5	October, 1905	4½ 4½
Calcutta ..	7	March 22, 1906	— —
Bombay ..	6	March 29, 1906	— —
New York call money ..	6½	—	— —

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.
(For week ended Mar. 24.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs	National Debt Services ..
Excise	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties	Charges ..
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion ..
Property and Income Tax ..	Supply Services
Post Office	Bullion Advances
Telegraphs	Treasury Bills (nett amount)
Crown Lands	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds redeemed
Miscellaneous	Uganda Railway
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works
Uganda Railway	Naval Works
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts
count	Land Registry (New Build-
Advances for Interest on Ex-	ings) ..
chequer Bonds	Public Buildings Expenses
Telegraph Acts	Act
Naval Works Acts	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Military Works Acts	Act
Land Registry Acts	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	in reduction of debt ..
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Cunard Agreement
Issue of Exchequer Bonds	Surplus Revenue, 1904-5 ..
under Cunard Agreement Act	Deficiency Advances re-
ways and Means	paid
Temporary Advances Defi-	ways and Means Advances
ciency	repaid
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	Increase in Exchequer
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	balances
Transvaal and Orange River	
Colony. Repayment of	
Temporary Advance	
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	
tion payments	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	
£3,940,736	£3,940,736

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	Mar. 29, 1906.	Mar. 22, 1906.	Mar. 15, 1906.	Mar. 30, 1905.
Gold in hand ..	£ 116,905,680	£ 116,059,000	£ 115,810,320	£ 110,611,680
Silver in hand ..	42,034,840	42,031,150	41,993,280	44,022,640
Bills discounted ..	34,567,200	30,983,030	32,712,120	21,401,080
Advances ..	19,269,880	19,721,000	19,673,880	18,835,080
Note circulation ..	188,142,280	186,454,440	189,098,280	174,971,160
Public deposits ..	7,877,640	7,494,240	6,502,480	9,180,360
Private deposits ..	24,012,280	21,407,180	20,201,600	22,192,120

Proportion between bullion and circulation 84½ per cent. against 82½ per cent. a week ago

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Mar. 22, 1906.	Mar. 15, 1906.	Mar. 8, 1906	Mar. 23, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Coin and bullion	5,133,400	5,150,000	5,122,200	4,881,280
Other securities	22,604,520	22,895,000	23,598,720	22,482,040
Note circulation	20,575,840	26,854,240	20,620,920	25,749,600
Deposits	3,525,840	3,637,520	4,050,250	3,429,240

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Mar. 24, 1906.	Mar. 17, 1906	Mar. 10, 1906.	Mar. 25, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	5,078,190	15,076,741	15,073,121	14,915,644
Silver	23,849,006	23,691,818	23,524,601	20,895,794
Foreign Bills	3,508,922	3,624,983	3,526,199	1,644,402
Discount and Short Bills	22,576,400	22,618,984	22,686,866	50,171,154
Treasury Account	37,386,755	37,385,658	37,378,525	21,312,173
Notes in circulation	61,102,523	61,286,371	61,566,365	63,317,961
Current Account deposits	23,411,862	23,391,251	23,606,684	25,434,218
Dividends Interests	1,140,095	1,129,346	1,221,412	1,903,551
Government Securities	8,024,045	7,847,578	7,241,030	4,533,450

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Mar. 8/21, 1906.	Mar. 1/14, 1906.	Feb. 23/Mar. 8, 1906.	Mar. 8/21, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Gold	73,425,877	75,162,803	74,722,534	83,947,557
Silver and subsidiary coin	4,803,211	4,762,362	4,613,376	6,733,846
Advances and bills discounted	53,617,521	55,471,714	56,470,906	37,990,537
Securities belonging to the Bank	7,665,239	7,826,279	7,930,740	5,192,764
Notes in circulation	113,268,944	114,907,730	115,074,453	89,402,230
Deposits and current account	46,110,931	44,801,349	45,129,676	48,106,868
Treasury account	3,317,801	5,688,719	6,706,636	9,639,129

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Mar. 22, 1906.	Mar. 15, 1906.	Mar. 7, 1906.	Mar. 23, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Cash in hand	51,722,400	50,251,750	48,362,150	57,266,500
Bills discounted	41,141,700	41,106,950	40,968,750	38,281,950
Advances on stocks	2,880,400	3,461,450	3,397,250	2,676,500
Note circulation	63,058,000	61,480,950	61,817,950	60,546,600
Public deposits	31,866,000	32,059,500	28,761,850	35,471,950

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Mar. 22, 1906.	Mar. 15, 1906.	Mar. 7, 1906	Mar. 23, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Gold Reserve	46,088,750	45,986,958	45,847,291	48,180,106
Silver reserve	12,859,458	12,782,541	12,691,250	13,007,583
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	1,528,750	1,503,750	1,645,291	1,792,458
Note circulation	66,860,000	67,242,416	68,195,666	62,790,000
Bills discounted	14,948,500	15,694,125	16,802,125	10,568,083

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.).

	Mar. 24, 1906.	Mar. 17, 1906.	Mar. 10, 1906	Mar. 25, 1905
	£	£	£	£
Specie	36,484,000	36,090,00	35,734,000	42,070,000
Legal tenders	15,441,400	15,526,200	15,655,800	16,759,000
Loans and discounts	205,860,000	205,080,000	203,900,000	221,940,000
Circulation	10,272,000	10,184,200	10,287,800	8,612,000
Net deposits	202,620,000	201,780,000	200,380,000	230,140,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of nett deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £1,270,400 against an excess last week of £1,171,200.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Mar. 20.	Mar. 22.	Mar. 27.	Mar. 29.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'2½	12'3	12'3	12'3
Do. do.	3 months	12'5	12'5	12'5	12'5
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'47½	25'46½	25'47½	25'46½
Hamburg	3 months	20'72	20'72	20'72	20'71
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'72	20'72	20'72	20'72
Paris	cheques	25'13½	25'13½	25'14	25'13½
Do. do.	3 months	25'35	25'35	25'36½	25'36½
Marseilles	3 months	25'30½	25'30½	25'36½	25'36½
Switzerland	3 months	25'47½	25'47½	25'47½	25'47½
Austria	3 months	24'10½	24'10	24'13	25'37
St. Petersburg	3 months	24'6	24'6	24'6	24'6
Moscow	3 months	24'6	24'6	24'6	24'6
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'47½	25'47½	25'45	25'46½
New York	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	40½	40½	40½	40½
Lisbon	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Opato	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen	3 months	18'43	18'44	18'44	18'44
Christiania	3 months	18'44	18'45	18'45	18'45
Stockholm	3 months	18'44	18'45	18'45	18'45

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3½-3½
Three months	3½-3½
Four months	3½-3½
Six months	2½-3
Three months fine inland bills	3½-3½
Four months	3½-3½
Six months	3½-4

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent
Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
short loan rates	4½
Bankers' rate on deposits	2½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	5
7 and 14 days' notice	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans	5½-4
for call loans	3½-4

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

As a favourable conclusion to the long-drawn-out negotiations at Algieras comes nearer, the calculation that this would help to revive speculation on the Stock Exchange receives less attention. People's minds are now turning to the question of money rates, and begin to say that unless the Bank rate comes down immediately there will be small chance of a revival of speculative activity in the June quarter. For reasons given elsewhere we do not look for an immediate reduction in the Bank rate, and therefore the stock markets may be left to themselves by the outside player for some time to come. There is plenty of investment business going on, and will be more as soon as the dividends are disbursed, but what inducement is there in any section of the market for the public to come in and buy? The public never sells speculatively; it is always a "bull," and where is the market that offers a reasonable prospect of a rise to tempt people in? We know of none. Isolated sections there may be capable of a little manipulation, or rather isolated securities, but there are no groups or classes of stocks at a range of prices calculated to tempt people to gamble for the rise on margins. Prices in bulk are already too high, in short, and unless something happens to let them well down good-class speculative buying, buying which has a certain amount of solid capital behind it, cannot be at hand on any extensive scale. Why should it be?

As we write the news comes that the big coal strike in the United States has been declared. It will affect both the bituminous and the anthracite coal regions, and may last for some time. What its effect is to be upon Wall Street it is early yet to conjecture, but the "bull" speculation there has undoubtedly been carried to most dangerous altitudes. It is significant, too, of the strained condition of the market thus induced that an enormous portion of the American "bull" account is again being financed in London. Borrowers on Yankee railroad shares were this week eager to fix loans thereon at substantial rates over the next two accounts, and the amount of finance paper, much of it of the "pig upon pork" type, drawn by New York on London is probably at the present time unprecedented. If our French banker friend is right—and he has good means of knowing, is shrewd moreover at making guesses—£100,000,000 of such paper is now afloat in London. A strike, therefore, might tip the whole fairy structure over in the mud. Altogether the prospect of active stock markets in the near future is not particularly bright, and were it not that players often start a brilliant game when there seems no basis for the move, when sentiment and facts are both against it, we should confidently anticipate prolonged dullness at least until that Russian loan is floated and out of the way. Stock markets, however, are never more prone to be illogical than when the whole of the market is bewailing lack of business. Sheer desperation impels the professional to start play, and the public after a time always enacts the part of the moth to the candle. Only the gambling public is at present either too impoverished, too disgusted, or too deeply involved in the mire of past gambles to be safely counted on to aid the market in any fresh outburst of what looks like calculated insanity. You keep out of it anyway, good reader.

The Week's Stock Markets.

Stock Exchange business during the past week showed only very slight signs of revival, but the tendency seemed rather better on the whole. The good progress made by the Algieras Conference towards a satisfactory settlement was a cheering in-

fluence, and the gilt-edged market was helped by the encouraging revenue returns, which point to a very good surplus when the account is finally balanced to-morrow (Saturday) night. Moreover, the nineteen-day account, which began in characteristically discouraging fashion, was settled up comfortably enough, and except for the fact that the Easter holidays are now so near, dealers would be disposed to anticipate some improvement in business. Bankers charged $4\frac{1}{2}$ for fortnightly loans or about the same as on the last occasion. After displaying slight weakness at the start the gilt-edged market picked up, and in the middle of the week Consols rallied sharply. They became dull again before the close on the statement that £10,000,000 of Irish Land stock will be issued during the current year. It does not follow, however, that any large part of this will be offered publicly, because it is understood that the Post Office and other public departments will take up the stock. Other British Funds kept steady, and Home County and Corporation and Colonial Inscribed stocks were firm. A large number of Colonial and Foreign Corporation stocks rose $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS. (Last year's dividends are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	89	Consols (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Money) ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
91	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Account (April 4) ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	88	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907 ..	100	100
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	Irish Land (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99	Local Loans (3) ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	98	National War Loan (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Account (April 4) ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	101
97 $\frac{1}{2}$	293	Bk. of England Stock. (9 p.c.) ..	299 $\frac{1}{2}$	295 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
82	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	India 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock. red. 1931 ..	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
82	96	Do. 3 p.c. Stock. red. 1948 ..	97	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
66 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock. red. 1926 ..	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$
	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$

Peruvian Corporation issues provided the chief excitement in the Foreign bond market. On the news that Congress had risen without sanctioning the loan which has been so freely talked about for weeks past, prices slumped badly. They fell still further when the first statement was exaggerated into a definite rejection of the loan, the preference dropping to 49 $\frac{1}{2}$ and the ordinary to 15. Stale bulls realised with considerable freedom, but after the first shock quotations steadied somewhat on hopes that some way out of the difficulty will be found. It was suggested, for example, that the matter has been left in the hands of the Minister of Finance, but as yet nothing of a definite character is known regarding the intentions of the Government, and the market is waiting anxiously for further news. After a long spell of dullness, Japanese issues again came into request, and the discount on the new 4 per cent. loan fell to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$. Industrial Bank of Japan shares rose to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. Chinese bonds were steady, and the good news from Algieras had a stimulating influence on Continental issues, which closed firm, with small rises in Russians, Portuguese, Turkish, and Greeks. Spanish were a little dull. In the South American division Chilians were hard in anticipation of the new loan of £3,700,000, which will be issued at 94 $\frac{1}{2}$, having been taken at 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ by the financial group carrying through the operation. Argentines and Brazilians also hardened up in a few instances, but Central American things were rather easier, especially Costa Rica "A," Honduras, and Guatemala. Colombians exceptionally showed small improvement. There was very little change in contango rates in this section. South and Central American stocks, several Japanese and Peruvian debentures were all carried over at 4-6 per cent., Peruvian preference and ordinary at 5-7 per cent., Japanese 1902 and sterling at 2-4 and 5-8 in series previous to the 9 and 9 and 10 and 10 cent. On Continental stock rates, as usual, were light, Turkish being continued "even," Spanish at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and Russian at 2-4 per cent. Making up prices showed a nearly all-round rise, the only important exceptions being a decline of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in Turkish Unified, owing to the dividend deduction, and 1 in Hungarian 4 per cent. Argentines were up $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$,

Brazilians $\frac{3}{8}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, Chilians $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$, Chinese $\frac{5}{8}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, Egyptians $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$, French Rentes $\frac{1}{2}$, several Greeks $\frac{1}{2}$, Guatemala 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, Japanese $\frac{1}{8}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{8}$, Portuguese 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, Russians 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2, Spanish $\frac{7}{8}$, Uruguay 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, and Venezuela 1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886 ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	101	101
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	102	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	93	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
93	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	93
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	90	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	93
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres ..	104	104
		5 p.c. Debs. ..	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Western of Minas Rail ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
		5 p.c. ..	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	91
		1902 ..	101	101
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	95	96
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	Chilian 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1885 ..	95	96
97 $\frac{1}{2}$	94	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1886 ..	95	96
96	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1895 ..	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	100	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
99	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	98
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	101	102
52 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	Costa Rica A ..	52	51
43 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B ..	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$
40 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Colombian External ..	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	106
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Egypt Unified 4 p.c. ..	106	106
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. pref. ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. State Domain ..	105	105
88 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	German 3 p.c. ..	88	88 $\frac{1}{2}$
53 $\frac{1}{2}$	50	Greek, 1884 ..	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$
53 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	54
43	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	43
52 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Funding ..	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	94	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Italian 5 p.c. ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	102	Japan 5 p.c. ..	102	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
104	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1901-2 ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	101
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	91
105	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. ..	104	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$
87	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	85
83	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	Servian 4 p.c. ..	83	83
90	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
103	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Turks 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Tribute ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	105	105
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
73 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	Uruguay 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. ..	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	73
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. ..	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Venezuelan, Dip. (3) ..	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$

Dealings have not been brisk in the Home Railway market, but with a steady stream of small investment orders coming in from day to day prices gradually hardened, and the majority of movements at the close were favourable. The changes did not as a rule consist of more than a few fractions, but Metropolitan was lifted sharply owing to jobbers being short of the stock, and District went up in sympathy. North Western, too, scored a fair improvement, but Brighton issues on the other hand were depressed. Waterloo and City stock came into favour and advanced several pounds on the announcement that holders would be given the option of taking £67 South-Western ordinary, £105 of the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. preference, or £110 of the 3 per cent. debenture stock in exchange for their holdings, these turns representing a price of about 104 $\frac{1}{2}$. Scotch stocks were bought to a moderate extent from the North, and there was also a fair demand for Welsh issues. Considering the lack of anything like activity throughout the long account which came to a close on Monday last, making-up prices disclosed a wonderfully good array of improvements. Brighton ordinary led the way with a gain of 2, the preferred and deferred rising 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$, and Great Northern preferred and deferred put on 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$. North-Western, Great Central preferred and the deferred stocks of the South-Western and South-Eastern lines were all 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ higher. North-Eastern advanced 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, Great Eastern, Lancashire and Yorkshire, South-Western ordinary, and South-Eastern ordinary 1 each, and Great Western, Midland deferred, and Caledonian ordinary $\frac{1}{2}$. North British deferred was also $\frac{1}{2}$ up, but the preferred fell $\frac{3}{4}$ and Midland preferred dropped $\frac{1}{2}$. Amongst Undergrounds Metropolitan lost 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, District 3, Central London preferred 1, and City and South London and Charing Cross, Euston and Hampstead debenture stock both receded $\frac{1}{2}$. Contangos

were much about the same at 5 to 5½ or 6 per cent. and even more on North-Western, Brighton "A" and Caledonian deferred.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week
147½	133	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	137	136
157½	146½	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	154	153
156½	140½	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	122	121½
152½	113	Caledonian Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	114	112½xd
80	77	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	77½	76½xd
42½	37½	Do. Def. (1 p.c.) ..	37½	37xd
96½	91	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	92	92
89	81½	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	83½	83½
16½	14½	Chatham Ordinary ..	15½	15½
44½	40½	City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	42	42
69	63½	Furness (1½ p.c.) ..	64½	64½
40½	37	Great Central Pref. ..	40	40½
19½	18	Do. Def. ..	18½	18½
91½	82½	Great Eastern (3½ p.c.) ..	84½	84½
105	100½	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	102½	102½
47½	43	Do. Def. (1½) ..	45½	46
114	135½	Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	136½	136½
52	47½	Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	50½	50½
47½	42½	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	43	43
109½	104½	Lanc. and Yorks. (5½ p.c.) ..	106	106
89½	75½	Metropolitan (2½ p.c.) ..	76	78
37½	26½	Metropolitan District ..	27	28
70½	66½	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	66½	67
24½	67½	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	68½	69
78½	77	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	77½	76½xd
47½	43½	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	44½	44½xd
147½	140½	North-Eastern (5½ p.c.) ..	142½	142½
163½	156	North-Western (5½ p.c.) ..	158	159
90½	87	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	89	89
132	126	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	127	127
55½	50½	Do. Def. ..	52½	53
164	154½	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	156½	156½
108½	104	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	105	105
57½	51½	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	53	53½

Yankee Railroad shares have been under the shadow of the dispute in the bituminous coal trade, and business in consequence has been rather spasmodic. One day reports that efforts were being made to avert a strike and that the matters in dispute would be submitted to arbitration would send "bears" in to cover only to find the next day that the pessimistic view was again in the ascendency. The earlier advances in quotations were never quite wiped out, and as a rumour was started towards the end of the week that the miners had agreed to accept a 5 per cent. increase in wages, the mood of the market at the end was more cheerful. Changes on the week, therefore, were all to the good, and in many cases the gains amounted to several dollars. Reading and Erie issues were particularly strong, but fair improvements were also shown by Union Pacific, Southern Pacific, Milwaukee, Ontario, New York Central, Illinois Central and Chesapeake. The demand for money at the settlement indicated pretty clearly that the account carried here had been very largely increased, and 6 per cent. was easily obtained for advances over the new account. Making-up prices were mostly higher, but the changes in the principal favourites rarely exceeded a couple of dollars. Atchison ordinary put on 3½ and Chesapeake 2½, but Norfolk common, Southern Pacific, and Union Pacific were only 1½ up, and Southern ordinary and preferred gained ¾ and 1, while Milwaukee lost 3½, New York Central fell 2, Denver ordinary and preferred ¾, and Pennsylvania ½. Louisville, however, advanced 5, Illinois Central 4½, and Great Northern preferred and Northern Pacific put on 4 each.

Grand Trunk stocks were inclined to harden at first on forecasts of a good statement for February, and prices had improved a fraction or two before the report came out. This, however, was not at all liked as the market had expected that with the closing of the bridge renewal fund more of the nett revenue would be available for distribution, and it consequently was far from pleased with the announcement that the directors intended to devote the money set free to locomotive renewals. A good deal of selling therefore followed the publication of the report, and the ordinary and third preference in particular suffered severely. Canadian Pacific shares, on the other hand, were lifted with Americans. Carrying over charges on Grand Trunk stocks were comparatively light at about 5½ per cent., but the rate on Canadian Pacific rose to 6 and 6½ per cent. owing to the trouble involved by the "rights" to the new issue. Canadian Pacific shares were 1½ up on the account and Grand

Trunk first and second preference stocks rose ½ each, but the ordinary, guaranteed and third preference lost from ⅛ to ¼.

The past week has seen a decided revival of interest in United Railways of the Havana stock, partly because the traffic was satisfactory and partly because of the announcement of a distribution to the holders out of the assets reserved on the amalgamation with the Cardenas line. Other Foreign Railway issues have been neglected, and dealings in Argentine Railways especially have shrunk to very small proportions with the result

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
99½	91½	Atchison Shares (4) ..	95½	97½
109½	105	Do. Pref. (5) ..	106	107
120	112½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (5) ..	114	115½
101½	96	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99	99
63½	56½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	59	61½
195½	178½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	179xd	182
52½	38½	Denver Shares ..	45½	46½
93½	89½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	90	90½
52½	42½	Erie Shares ..	43½	46½
85½	79½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	79½	81½
77	68½	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	68½xd	72½
185	171	Illinois Central (7) ..	174½	177½
160½	148½	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	154½	156
41½	34½	Missouri and Texas ..	36½	36½
159½	147	New York Central (5) ..	147	150
95½	87½	Norfolk and Western (4) ..	89½	90½
96½	92	Do. Pref. (4) ..	93	93
57½	49½	Ontario Shares (3) ..	51	53
75½	70½	Pennsylvania (6) ..	70½	71½
85½	64½	Reading Shares (1½) ..	66	69½
47½	40½	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	47	47
51½	48½	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	50	50
74½	66½	Southern Pacific ..	68½	70½
43½	36½	Southern ..	41½	42½
105	101½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	104	104½
163½	151½	Union Pacific (5½) ..	156½	159½
101½	98½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99	99
26½	20½	Wabash ..	23½	23½
53½	49½	Do. Pref. ..	52	52
87	78½	Do. Income Debs. ..	85	85
182½	173½	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	176	177½
106½	104½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	104½xd	104½
109½	108	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109½	109½
29½	25½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	28½	28½
105½	102½	Do. Guar. (4) ..	104	104
119½	114½	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	119	119½
110½	105½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	110	110
70½	60½	Do. 3rd Pref. (2) ..	69	67½
109½	107½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	108½xd	108½

that prices have tended to give way. Brazilian issues, too, were weak and lower, but Uruguay things continued fairly steady. The stocks of the old Mexican company hardened a little, but InterOceanic "B" debentures and Mexican Southern ordinary both fell back, and Nitrate Railways again gave way a fraction

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
229½	211½	Antofagasta (10) ..	218½	217½
335	313	Do. Def. (15) ..	330	330
130½	126	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	127	129
132	128½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	130	130
88	84½	Bahia Blanca Pref. ..	86½	85xd
144½	140	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	141	141½
129½	127	Do. Pref. (5) ..	128	128
136½	132	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	135	134
120½	115½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	118	118
110	107½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	110	109½
120½	115	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	120	119½
119	109½	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	110	109½
170	165½	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	167	167
109	105½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	106	106
138½	135½	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	137	137
92½	80½	Central Uruguay (4½) ..	88	87
109½	106½	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	108	108
90	92½	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	95	94
75½	69½	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	70½	71
59½	55½	Costa Rica ..	58	58
7	6½	Cuban Central ..	6½	6½
111½	111	Do. Pref. (5½) ..	111½	112
106	102½	Do. Deb. (4½) ..	103½	103½
93½	90	East Argentine (4½) ..	90	90
97½	0	InterOceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	88	88
86½	78½	Leopoldina (3) ..	80	79½
98½	95½	Do. Deb. (4) ..	90	91½
108	107½	Manila Bonus "A" (6) ..	108	108
105½	103½	Do. "B" (6) ..	106	106
28½	25	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	27½	28½
130½	118½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½) ..	128½	129½
59½	49½	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	57½	57½
68½	54½	Mexican Southern (2½) ..	60	60
16½	14½	Nitrate Ord. (5½) ..	15½	15½
21½	19½	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	21½	21½
212½	203	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	211	211
193	170½	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	173	173

or two, although business in them all was unimportant. On the account Argentine Railway stocks were decidedly better owing to the forecasts of an excellent maize crop. It is estimated that the yield in the district served by the Buenos Ayres and Rosario line will

be 20 per cent. above that of the previous year, and the deferred stock of that company rose 3, while the ordinary put on 1. Buenos Ayres and Pacific ordinary gained $2\frac{1}{2}$, Cordoba and Rosario first preference 2, Entre Rios ordinary and first preference $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Cordova Central first preference 1. Buenos Ayres Western ordinary was exceptionally $1\frac{1}{2}$ lower. San Paulo ordinary improved 3, Colombian National first mortgage debenture $2\frac{1}{2}$, Leopoldina ordinary 1, and Paraguay Central $1\frac{1}{2}$. Uruguay Northern preference was 1 up, but the debenture stock fell $1\frac{1}{2}$ and Central Uruguay 2. United Railways of the Havana lost 6, Antofagasta ordinary 5, Mexican Railway preferences were $1\frac{3}{4}$ and 1 and Inter-oceanic "B" debentures 1 down, but Mexican Southern ordinary gained $2\frac{1}{2}$. Money on South American things cost 5 and occasionally 6 per cent., but in Mexican Railway stocks the charge was about 5 or $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price (last week).	Price this week.
21	16	17	Allsopp Ordinary	17
51	44	—	City of London Ord.	49 $\frac{1}{2}$
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	55 $\frac{1}{2}$
10 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	18
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
61 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
56	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	50 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	55
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Aerated Bread (32 $\frac{1}{2}$)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Apollinaris Ord. (3)	7
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Asch. Portland Cement Pf. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$)	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
27 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
45 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	R. Irish Westinghouse Pref. ..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Brunner Mond (35)	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	11
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Calico Printers Ordinary (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
500	485	492 $\frac{1}{2}$	Coats Ordinary (20)	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
20 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	49 $\frac{1}{2}$
25 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
13 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
80 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Henley's Telegraph (15)	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
27 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	Harrods Stores Ord. (20)	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	107	—	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5 $\frac{1}{2}$)	108
24 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Debenture (42)	108
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lipton Ordinary (7)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
34 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
15 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nelson James Ordinary (20) ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Russian Petroleum	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
18 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	Savoy Hotel (5)	7
16 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Sweetmeat Automatic	8
12 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	15
19 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	Welsbach Ordinary Stock	15
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	103
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	90	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hudson's Bay Co. (58 $\frac{1}{2}$)	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
110 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	110	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$)	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	—	Do. Debentures (6)	110 $\frac{1}{2}$
13 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	National Discount (10)	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	5	Union Discount (11)	12
11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
133 $\frac{1}{2}$	128	—	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$)	99
66 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	129
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
28 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	4
31 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
14	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7 $\frac{1}{2}$)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	41	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3)	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
117	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	United States Steel Ordinary ..	40 $\frac{1}{2}$
57 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Preference (7)	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Vickers Ordinary (12 $\frac{1}{2}$)	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
24 $\frac{1}{2}$	20	—	Cunard Steam	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
54	52	—	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13)	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
9	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Royal Mail	52
114 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union-Castle Mail Steamship	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
20 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ordinary (5)	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
150 $\frac{1}{2}$	145 $\frac{1}{2}$	147 $\frac{1}{2}$	Anglo-American Telegraph—	113 $\frac{1}{2}$
15 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	15	Do. Pref. Ord. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$)	113 $\frac{1}{2}$
113 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	112 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. Ord.	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	148 $\frac{1}{2}$
8 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Eastern Extension (7)	15
9 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	113 $\frac{1}{2}$
117	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Western Telegraph (7)	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
9 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
—	—	—	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
—	—	—	London General Omnibus (7)	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
—	—	—	London United Trams Pref. (5)	9 $\frac{1}{2}$

Public interest in the Miscellaneous markets shows no sign of improvement, and it is to be noted that small lines of the more discredited things are continually being offered for sale. Spiers and Pond debenture again had a very serious decline, and holders are becoming seriously alarmed at the position of the company's business. How it is all to end no one can say, but it seems to us that reorganisation is being very rapidly approached. London General Omnibus stock gave way another 2 to 90 $\frac{1}{2}$, but Road Cars kept steady round about 5, although the market was somewhat upset by last Friday's meeting when the preference

issue of £200,000 was suddenly sprung upon it. London Motor 'Bus shares likewise went down, and the fight between the rival companies is evidently to be of the keenest. Anglo-American Telegraph issues fell away after the recent steady rise, and are now a good pound below the top price reached. National Telephone deferred was also heavy, but other issues in this section kept pretty steady. Nitrates were somewhat irregular pending the result of the further meetings of the producers, but it is still hoped that a satisfactory settlement will be arrived at. Iron and steel issues were inactive but steady, while Gas, Trust, and Insurance securities were distinctly buoyant. The high prices ruling for tobacco in the Amsterdam market caused some excitement in tobacco shares, and a large business was put through in United Lankats. Without doubt this company will make an excellent display for the current year, but some of the estimates of probable dividends are absurdly exaggerated, and the Press is doing no good by according them publicity. Schweppes issues were strong on the dividend of 4 per cent. on the deferred, which is an increase of 2 per cent., and Apollinaris preference sympathised. Catering issues were steady, and Meat shares rather dull, the reports of James Nelson and the Federal Cold Storage Company being without influence. Textiles were quiet, but Hope Bros. ordinary and preference rose 10s. Salt Union debentures went flat on small offerings. Mazawattee issues still kept up, despite the disclosures made at the meeting, but a long time will be required to pull the business round. Hudson Bays touched the highest price ever reached, 93 $\frac{1}{2}$, but were quickly knocked back to 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ on profit-taking. Argentine Land shares also displayed strength, and Canada North-West Land common rose 4. Cunard issues were put up on the dividend of 4 per cent., with £50,000 to reserve, as this goes against a complete absence of dividend for the previous year owing to the rate war. Rates at the settlement were about as usual, while making-up prices, although displaying a good deal of irregularity, were mostly downward. Anglo-Malay Rubber rose $\frac{3}{8}$, B.E.T. $\frac{3}{8}$, Brush ordinary $\frac{1}{8}$, Daimler Motor $\frac{1}{8}$ and the preference $\frac{1}{8}$, several Nitrates $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$, Mond Nickel $\frac{3}{8}$, and Nobel Dynamite $\frac{1}{8}$. Then Allsopps 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. debenture was up 1, Bieckerts preference 2, Argentine Southern Land $\frac{1}{8}$, Hudson's Bay 4, Pekin Syndicate deferred 5, Santa Fé Land $\frac{1}{8}$, Anglo-American Telegraph deferred $\frac{3}{8}$, Great Northern Telegraph $\frac{1}{2}$, and Standard Bank of South Africa 1. On the other hand, Aerated Breads were down $\frac{3}{8}$, Coats preferred 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, Eastmans $\frac{5}{8}$, Harrods Stores ordinary and preferred $\frac{1}{8}$, and the founders' shares $\frac{1}{8}$, Pease and Partners $\frac{1}{8}$, St. James Electric $\frac{3}{8}$, Spratt's Patent $\frac{1}{8}$, and Westminster Electric $\frac{1}{8}$. Allsopps 4 per cent. debenture stock dropped 4, together with Milwaukee and Chicago stock; Watney, Combe preference and debenture fell 1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$, Eastern Telegraph ordinary $1\frac{1}{2}$, and London Road Car $\frac{3}{8}$.

So completely does the Stock Exchange remain under the sway of its yellow Press that it found additional pretext for doing no business in the screeches raised by that Press about the Government's interference in Natal. It is useless to remind members of this institution that the Imperial Government is responsible for the treatment of the blacks in South Africa, if on no other ground, because it will have to pay the whole of the bill and furnish most of the men required to put the blacks down should they be goaded into rebellion by malignant, vengeful, and oppressive treatment. However, there was no business to be done to-day—it is too near the end of the quarter, and prices just lay around much where they have rested all week. Paris bought a few Kaffir shares when our players put prices down this morning on political sentiment, and there was a little buying on Yankee account in Copper shares, otherwise scarcely anything went on. Sundry brokers were strenuously engaged in the rather difficult operation of getting the capital of the Anglo-Japanese Bank underwritten, and

other enterprises are being offered in all directions, so we may have a revival of business next month.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

*. Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

Insiders have made a gallant struggle this week to put prices higher, but have met with only partial success. They have made the most of the stories published in some newspapers that the Moroccan dispute has been virtually settled, but this has not tempted the public to buy, even though in some cases prices are down to an attractive-looking level. And this is the source of the trouble—the disinclination of outsiders to purchase anything. They discard the attractive and unattractive shares alike, and will not discriminate between their qualities. If they would only come forward and take the stuff off the market into their permanent keeping, the bosses would be happy, and their woes would correspondingly diminish, but there is little likelihood of this. Despite this lack of outside support, prices, on the whole, keep steady, with little or no change each day. And that is practically the entire story we have to tell. The directors of the South Rose Deep announce that, owing principally to lack of funds, they are compelled to restrict operations on the property until an opportunity comes that may enable them to raise further working capital, an opportunity that seems remote. Cinderella Deeps have been strong, on the news of the striking of the reef in the shaft at the great depth of 4,003 ft., the average assay value of the check sampling being as high as 44.9 dwts. on a width of nearly 71 inches. Though this good news has favourably affected this particular share, it has not influenced the market generally, not even the other members of the Albu group. It is contended that the results of the strike show that the banket reef at a great depth "is as compact as at the outcrop, and that the gold values are far higher in the section of the property so far proved than in any but the most exceptional portions of the outcrop properties." At one time this might have aroused speculative activity, but it cannot do so now.

In the diamond section Premiers have been very erratic; in fact, the changes have been too great and violent to give evidence of other than a spirited contest between the "bears" and the "bulls," which is not waged in the interests of shareholders. Outsiders would be wise to keep at a distance from the gamble. Jagersfontein have strengthened, on the announcement of the final dividend for the fiscal year 1905-6 at the rate of 6s. per share on the ordinary shares. This makes 12s., or 60 per cent. for the year, whilst the preference get their 25 per cent.

The following dividends have been declared:—

	Dividend.	Issued Capital.	Amount.	Yield on present price.
Witwatersrand Deep	20 p.c.	£500,000	£100,000	6 p.c.
Apex	22½ p.c.	£150,000	£33,750	5 p.c.

The above is the first dividend declared by the Witwatersrand Deep.

Despite the optimistic speech of Mr. Rochfort Maguire at the Chartered meeting, the shares of this company, as well as those of all other Rhodesian concerns, have been weak, most of them declining fractionally.

The West African, Egyptian, and West Australian sections have been consistently dull, with scarce a symptom of life visible in any. There has been no development of interest or importance to chronicle here.

Amongst Indians, Ooregums have been weak, on the report with which we deal elsewhere. Some weakness in Mysore is explained by the receipt of a cable announcing that owing to a scarcity of water in the Cauvery River, the supply of electric power for driving the companies' batteries is temporarily suspended. By reverting to steam power, 150 heads of stamps are being run as compared with 180 recently in operation, which, of course, will make a big difference to profits. In the copper group Anacondas and Rio Tintos have, as usual, moved as the manipulators have willed.

NEW RIETFOONTEIN ESTATE GOLD MINES.—This is another member of the Barnato group, one of the dividend-payers. It formed a couple of subsidiaries, yclept Rietfontein "A" and "B," but these have been re-absorbed by the parent company, and since March, 1905, have been worked as one undertaking. The accounts issued by the directors are in two sections, the first covering the thirteen months ending March 31, 1905, this being the period between the date of the previous accounts and the date of the amalgamation, whilst the second section comprises the accounts of the joint concern, and is brought up to August 31, 1905. In the earlier period the revenue amounted to £34,361, the greater part of it being the dividend received from the Rietfontein "A." Interest, exchange, and general expenses absorbed £13,704, and as £69,030 was brought in, a credit of £89,688 was left. In the second period the company entered on gold production—that is, shared in the gold winning—the quantity of gold produced being 20,091 ozs., realising £85,133, giving a nett profit of £34,701. Adding this to the above £89,688 and £2,339 from rents, interest, exchange, and licences, the total surplus was £126,727, reduced to £111,464, after allowing for depreciation, profits tax, &c., and this was carried forward.

At the end of March, 1905, the company's liabilities were very heavy, for no less than £107,514 was owing to the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company, and £207,676 represented a liability of 38s. per share on guaranteed working capital of the Rietfontein "B." But these were wiped out by the amalgamation, which is not alone a Barnato method of getting rid of debts. The capital was increased from £270,000 to £625,000 by the creation of 355,000 new shares of £1 each, 14,916 of these being kept in reserve. Of the whole, 203,361 shares were offered to shareholders at 45s. each, under guarantee, so not only have shareholders thus discharged the indebtedness of the company out of their own pockets, but in the place of the liabilities there appears a share premium account of £204,456, and the sum owing is only £12,063, whilst on the other side cash is swollen from £1,779 to £287,130. This is the way for some people to manufacture wealth, and for others to shed it. A small dividend of 10 per cent. was declared last December. The payable ore reserves in the mine on August 31, 1905, were estimated at 293,587 tons.

TURF MINES AND VILLAGE DEEP.—A special meeting of the Turf Mines, Limited, is convened for May 25 at Johannesburg, to consider an agreement provisionally entered into with the South Deeps for the acquisition of 64.9 claims in exchange for 287,500 fully-paid shares of £1 each to be created. This is subject to the ratification by the Village Deep of a provisional agreement for the purchase by that company of a mynpacht equal to 33.7 claims from the Booysen's Estate for 49,121 fully-paid shares. The Village Deep also propose to acquire 1.3 claims from the South Deeps for 1,924 fully-paid shares and one other claim for 1,455 fully-paid shares. Thus the company will increase the capital to £524,427 by the creation of 52,500 new shares of £1 each. Both companies want cash, and these are the schemes planned for raising it.

ORANGE FREE STATE AND TRANSVAAL DIAMOND MINES.—During the year 1905 the directors continued the work of underground development, but owing to the difficulty of getting a fair supply of native labour to work continuously for any length of time there were many stoppages and delays. The manager recommends that washing operations should be commenced with the small gear, and as the directors are anxious to ascertain the value of the mine at the lower levels, they have instructed him to proceed with the test washing. Revenue is still insignificant, and amounted only to £63 in the twelve months, and as the expenditure was £3,829, a further loss of £3,766 has to be added to the old debit of £53,921, making it £57,687. Cash at the end of the year was only £13, with debtors owing £106, against creditors for £28,291, but there were diamonds on hand worth £60,568.

GREAT BOULDER PERSEVERANCE GOLD MINING COMPANY.—During 1905 165,465 tons of ore and 95,634 tons of tailings and slimes were treated for a yield of 104,697 ozs. of fine gold, and 20,858 ozs. of fine silver, of the value of £449,163. In addition 545 tons of purchased tailings were dealt with, giving 568 ozs., worth £2,328, the profit on which, after deducting administration charges in Australia and London, depreciation, &c., amounted to £142,152. Adding £43,705 brought forward, the available balance was £185,857. Two interim dividends of 6d. each were paid, and the directors now supplement these with a final payment of 1s. per share, making a total of 2s. per share, which allows the substantial balance of £42,385 to be carried forward. There is little or no criticism to offer on the financial position of the company, but it is interesting to note that one of the assets is still the loan, with interest, of £44,438 owed by the late chairman of the company, Mr. Frank Gardner. No allusion to this is made in the report as to whether or not it is likely to be a bad debt. Compared with 1904, the results show an appreciable falling off, the profit comparing with £234,837 and the dividend with 3s. per share, although the working costs were reduced from 27s. 4d. per ton to 23. 4d., the ore treated being a little poorer, particularly the tailings. During the current year the costs are expected to be reduced to 20s. per ton, and the profits are estimated at a probable average of £13,100 per month, or £157,200 per annum.

MOUNT BOPPY GOLD MINING COMPANY.—Having increased the capacity of the mill last year, the Mount Boppy crushed a greater quantity of ore, 51,878 tons against 35,378 tons, but the yield of the ore fell from 51s. 9d. per ton to 44s. 11d. per ton, whilst the costs were reduced by 2s. 3d. per ton to 19s. 6d. From all sources the production was 27,884 fine ozs., or, inclusive of the gold from the concentrates, 37,885 ozs. of bullion, the proceeds of the sale amounting to £116,434. Transfer fees, interest, &c., raised the income to £116,870. Expenditure took £51,668, leaving a nett profit of £65,172, an increase of £13,937. The three dividends paid total 9s. 6d. per share, or 47½ per cent., against 8s. per share for 1904, although the capital has been increased from £110,000 to £121,000. Despite the larger tonnage treated there was an increase of 12,000 tons in the ore reserves at a total of 182,000 tons. As only £520 is carried forward, the directors are dividing profits very closely—too closely, probably, to be consistent with prudence. It is not easy to pass a definite opinion upon prospects from the statements in the report, and the best it is possible to say is they seem fairly hopeful.

AUSTRALIAN SMELTING CORPORATION.—In forwarding notice of a call of 2s. 6d. per share, the directors intimate that, as regards the New Caledonia copper properties, the option over which has lapsed, circumstances arose which led them to conclude that time was necessary to enable them to make a further examination of these. The vendor was approached to grant this extension of time, but this has not yet been obtained on terms

which the directors deem it advisable to accept. Arrangements for the transfer to the Corporation of the smelters at Dapto have now been practically concluded, and the smelters should be acquired, and in the possession of the company in the course of next month. The members of the local board, in company with Mr. C. A. Moreing, are at present engaged in the personal inspection of various sites on the seaboard, with the object of selecting as early as possible a new site for the smelter. In addition to the contracts for the supply of silver-lead concentrates previously secured, the directors have entered into a large contract for the whole output of similar concentrates from the Broken Hill South Blocks for a period of six years from January next. The directors consider that this contract gives additional strength to the company's smelting position in Australia.

BRILLIANT BLOCK GOLD MINING COMPANY.—During the half-year ending January 15 4,214 tons were milled for a yield of 2,052 ozs., worth £8,893, an increase of 800 tons and 131 ozs. respectively. In addition, 6,977 tons were crushed for the public. At the cyanide works 13,090 tons of sands and slimes were treated for an output of 6,416 ozs., realising £8,208. The mill showed a profit of £1,377, the cyanide works a profit of £1,345, and the mine a profit of £430; total £3,152. Two dividends of 6d. each were paid amounting, with tax, to £5,250, and the credit balance has been reduced from £2,042 to £459.

COLONIAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCE CORPORATION.—Income in 1905 totalled £17,952, and this came from such sources as profit on land sales and rents, whilst a part—£5,197—is as insubstantial as a surplus on valuation of securities, though a portion has been realised since the date of the accounts. Expenditure was not heavy, and the nett profit for the year amounted to £13,849. The debit balance from the previous year, £7,902, with income-tax, absorbed £8,121 and leaves a credit of £5,728. Anxious to distribute some of this, the directors pay a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, leaving a small balance to be carried forward. The balance-sheet reveals a strong financial position.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY CO. OF CANADA.

In the December half-year this company earned £3,288,993 gross at a cost of £2,345,716 in working expenses, being 71.32 per cent. as against 70.45 per cent. a year ago. Receipts that is increased about £99,000 and working expenses nearly £141,000. Excluding taxes, the percentage of expenses to receipts was 69.75 per cent. as compared with 68.83 per cent. After adjusting the accounts by taking credit for various receipts, the nett revenue was at £1,043,599 just £12,146 larger than in the corresponding half of 1904 and when the interest charges, rents, and a deficit of £18,037 upon the Canada Atlantic Railway, a deficit which it is hoped will be much reduced in the future, were deducted, the amount left for distribution upon the company's guaranteed and preference stocks was only £428,778 or about £3,000 less than in the December half of 1904. This is inclusive of a credit of £7,423 brought forward from the June half-year. Out of this revenue the directors pay the full dividend on the guaranteed and first and second preference stocks together with 2 per cent. on the third preference stock, which done £4,517 will be left to carry forward. In the course of the half-year £199,614 was spent on capital account, including £66,135 for new works, £78,821 for doubling the line and £34,114 for land purchased. It is stated in the report that the reconstruction of bridges for which special appropriations have been made ever since 1898 is now about completed and that the same principle is now to be applied to the renewal of locomotives which has become a matter of urgency. This is a significant statement as indicating the manner in which rolling stock has been allowed to run down and nett revenue up. Subsidiary companies such as the old Chicago and Grand Trunk, now known as the Grand Trunk Western, and the Detroit, Grand Haven and Milwaukee show rather improved returns, the nett profit on the Western line being £18,244 after meeting all the revenue charges. This compares with a debit balance of £4,637 in the second half of 1904 and it is carried forward. Had the second debenture stock of this line been fairly treated when it was bought up by the parent company this money should have been available for distribution to its holders. The Detroit line also had a surplus of £17,382 as against £14,576 a year back, and that is taken into the general profit and loss account. Contracts covering a thousand miles of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway have been let to Canadian firms of contractors and the work is already in progress on certain sections. How much does the protectionist system in force within the Dominion add to the cost of construction? The capital account appears to be in credit to the amount of £1,940,369, but the company has advanced £1,027,397 to the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, and the outstanding accounts due to it amount to the formidable sum of £1,339,192 exclusive of £343,027 due on outstanding traffic accounts. We are glad to see that expenditure on maintenance of way and on equipment went up during the half-year, the increase being an indication that efforts are being made to bring the line up to standard condition out of revenue.

BUENOS AYRES WESTERN RAILWAY, LIMITED.

Holders of Argentine Railway securities will do well to pay very careful attention to the report of this undertaking for the half-year ended December 31 last. There are distinct signs that all that can be reasonably expected has now been got out of the system, and while it is not necessary to suppose that the long period of prosperity will be followed by a wave of depression the rate of progress must probably be very considerably curtailed. Gross revenue for the half-year was excellent enough at £804,611, showing an increase compared with the corresponding period of £141,465, but the working expenditure was up by no less than £131,953 to £450,483, the ratio between outlay and income being 55.99 per cent. against 48.03 per cent. This is so important that we propose to indicate the causes of the heavy growth before referring to the item of revenue. Upon more than one occasion during the last year or so, when local officials of the Argentine railways have been wont to indulge in rather unrestrained language regarding the attitude of so-called labour agitators and Socialists, we have felt impelled to point out that when industries flourish and business is prosperous those whose labour helps to make it so are entitled to share the benefits. Capital cannot expect to reap all the reward, although we fear it sometimes does. Thus the big increase in expenses on the present occasion does not surprise us. The demand for labour in the Argentine is very great, and those who want to retain their men have to pay additional wages ranging from 15 to 40 per cent. more than in the previous year. For the period under review the increase in wages alone for this company was £47,220 or 26 per cent., and it will cause no surprise if the advance for the entire financial year reaches £100,000. In addition to this, heavy outlay has been entailed in relaying of part of the main line with heavier rails, ballasting other portions with stone and generally strengthening the track. Increased contributions to the various renewal funds have also been considered desirable, because the public demands better facilities than formerly and these naturally entail heavier costs. Not all the extra outlay was abnormal, because the increased business handled must also be taken into account, but that the ratio will henceforth be a good deal higher must be considered a certainty. Nor will so much be extracted from the capital outlay as formerly, and in illustration the directors point out that whereas the cost of the extension from Trinque Languer to Toay, built in 1896-7, was about £2,150 per mile, the extension now under construction west of Rancul will cost more than £4,250 per mile. Even this, however, is supposed to have its compensating advantages, as the directors imply that while construction is so expensive there is little fear of competition from new lines. The steadily increasing traffic has required a constant outlay for new and additional rolling stock, and since June 30 last orders have been placed for 57 locomotives, 90 saloons and 960 wagons of various types. A considerable number of these have been shipped, and some are already in service. Towards the improvement in gross revenue passengers contributed £32,896, parcels £17,216, live stock £13,301 and goods £83,991. Principal increases in goods were under general merchandise, wheat and wool, while the only striking decrease was a drop of £6,683 in maize. Nett revenue balance is £354,128 or an increase of £9,512, to which must be added credit brought forward £50,987 and sundry other items, so that the sum for disposal is £412,028 against £434,416. Fixed and other charges really take £140,495, but the company gets rentals and annuities to the amount of £74,093, reducing the outgo under this head to £66,402. Amount still left is £345,626 a decline of £16,165, and after providing an interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock the balance carried forward is £34,728 less at £141,438.

COSTA RICA RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

This undertaking is now controlled and worked by the Northern Railway Company of Costa Rica, in terms of an agreement entered into in the early part of last year, and ratified on June 15. The line was taken over from July 1, and as the directors think it will be more convenient if the company's financial year corresponds with the rental year, viz., from July to June, they have drawn up accounts for the first half of 1905 and now present them to the shareholders. This statement terminates the company's independent career. Gross receipts for the six months are returned at £139,393, against which the working expenses were £84,132 so that the nett balance is £55,261. With £3,059 brought in and £428 for interest the sum for disposal is £58,747, from which the fixed charges take £52,274 leaving £6,474 only. Shareholders will doubtless have noticed that the ratio of working expenses to income was abnormally high at 60.35 per cent., but for this there are several exceptional circumstances. When the stores were being valued for the purpose of transference to the Northern Company, their worth was brought out at £55,145, or £12,925 less than the book value, and this difference had to be made good by a charge against revenue. Who was responsible for the previous valuation, and is there no explanation to be given of such a serious discrepancy? In addition to this the balances standing to the debit of relaying account, £3,124, and alterations to Matini Bridge suspense account, £5,318 had likewise to be written off the revenue, while payment of compensation for loss of office and adjustments of outstandings to clear the accounts were also provided. All told then, the company probably had to find, say, £25,000, and perhaps more, with the result that the unhappy shareholders receive no dividend, because the directors add the free balance to reserve. That fund also receives the benefit of

the fire insurance fund, amounting to £16,782, as the Northern company is under the obligation to keep all the company's property insured against fire. Its total amount will now be £38,255 and the directors are no doubt wise to keep this credit in hand.

OTTOMAN RAILWAY FROM SMYRNA TO AIDIN.

There was a slight check to this company's progress during the half-year ended December 31. Gross receipts declined by £9,680 to £209,170 compared with the corresponding period, against which the working expenses were only £1,720 less at £61,301. In the coaching receipts there was a falling off of £4,955, due to the exceptional number of soldiers carried in 1904, and the slip back of £5,124 in goods was occasioned by a very small grain harvest, the decrease in the tonnage of barley being no less than 34 per cent. Fortunately the quantity of figs carried was largely in excess of any previous year, and there is every indication that the average future production will continue to expand. Balance of nett profit is £147,879 or £7,957 less, but there was an increase of over £13,000 to £28,662 in the sum brought in and a larger income from rents and transfer fees, so that the available credit is £179,216 compared with £172,003. On this occasion there is a charge of £4,892 for preference dividend, and the directors provide special reserve for preference shares £3,000, new engine account £5,000, and wagon reconstruction account £3,250, besides sundry other items and the ordinary debenture charges. Sum still left is £93,554, and the directors raise the dividend from 2 per cent. to 3, making 5 per cent. for the year and carrying forward the splendid balance of £66,796. Since the capital re-organisation some years ago the directors have proceeded very cautiously, steadily strengthening the financial position instead of striving after big dividends, and shareholders now have the satisfaction of knowing that their increased return is quite justified. Reserve fund amounts to £105,558, invested in first-class securities, there are cash and bills of £269,203, and all round the company is in a nice comfortable condition.

ZAFRA AND HUELVA RAILWAY COMPANY.

As the result of several new mines and other industries having been started along this company's line during 1905 the carriage of iron and copper pyrites was considerably larger and gross receipts from merchandise, minerals, &c., rose by no less than £20,393 to £90,265. Revenue for all sources was £21,732 up at £109,211 and at the same time expenses, including £11,445 or £2,847 more for loss on exchange, only increased by £5,169 to £71,717, leaving a surplus of £37,494 for the bondholders. Of this £29,681 is applied in paying interest at the rate of 5s. 6d. per bond compared with 3s. per bond for the previous and £7,813 or £3,258 more is available for redemption of bonds. During the year 1,208 first mortgage bonds were redeemed at a cost of £4,555 and their nominal value of £24,160 was credited to the Zafra and Huelva Railway. In order to deal effectively with the increasing traffic considerable additions to the rolling stock are required and steps are being taken under the powers given to the Council of Administration in 1899 to raise the necessary funds.

CALLANDER AND OBAN RAILWAY COMPANY.

Gross receipts for the six months ended January 31 were £44,971 or an increase of £1,869, of which £930 came from passenger traffic, while working expenses rose by £1,416 to £25,203, mainly owing to the larger amount spent on maintenance of way as locomotive power and coach traffic charges only cost £215 and £227 more respectively. Nett revenue therefore was £453 up at £19,768 and with £58 brought forward gave £19,826 to be dealt with, of which interest on debenture stocks and temporary loans took £8,173 and preference dividends required £11,563 leaving £90 to be carried forward. Capital expenditure was well under the estimate at £6,158, but the debit balance is now £213,169, of which £191,832 has been raised by temporary loans. Amounts due to other companies come to £19,548 against £10,981 to come in from sundry debtors, while £7,731 is due to banks, and it looks as if the Caledonian company would have to continue to provide further large sums.

DEUTSCHE BANK.

One has only to turn to a remarkable table on the back of the report and balance-sheet issued by this great German bank for the year 1905 to get some idea of the magnificent progress German commerce and industrial enterprise must have made in the last thirty-five years. At the end of 1870, for example, the current and deposit accounts of the bank amounted to less than £118,000, and at the end of last year the total was £53,217,000. Everything else has gone up in proportion. In 1870 the paid-up capital was only £750,000. It is now £10,000,000, and the reserve which at the earliest date was less than £2,000, is now with the additions made out of the profits and share premiums of the past year £4,855,000. Bills payable have risen from £123,000 to £9,892,000 in the 35 years, and the turnover from £11,967,000 to upwards of £3,860,000,000. It was to be expected that progress of this kind would pay well, and accordingly in the very darkest year of the bank's history, viz., 1875, it was still able to pay 3 per cent., and with the exception of 4 per cent. paid in 1873, dividends throughout the whole period have never fallen below 5 per cent, seldom as low as that. Of late years, since 1894 in fact, the dividends have never been less than 10 per cent., and for the last two years 12 per cent. has been paid. That is to say, the profits of the year 1905 amounted to £1,112,853, taking the mark at roughly 20 to the £, after meeting expenses, £817,275, and writing off £131,026 from pre-

mises account. This amounted to 15.14 per cent. on the paid-up capital of £9,000,000, the extra £1,000,000 having only been recently added, and the directors are therefore easily able to pay 12 per cent. to the shareholders, which took only £1,080,000, to add £86,785 to reserves, give £44,032 to directors, and to add £100,000 to the superannuation fund and as gratuities to the staff. This done, £52,036 will be left to carry forward against £52,428 brought in. The figures of the balance-sheet foot up to £77,854,000, taking the paid-up capital at only £9,000,000, and the reserve fund at £3,833,142, but as just intimated the capital has been increased by another £1,000,000 to £10,000,000, and in addition £935,000 representing the premiums paid on the new shares has been added to the reserve, raising the total to the figure above mentioned. The liabilities of the bank on current and deposit accounts amount to £53,217,000, and against its liabilities of all kinds it held on December 31 last £3,735,548 in cash, £23,029,000 in bills receivable and Treasury bills, £11,938,000 in Stock Exchange loans, and had advanced £17,836,000 on collateral securities. Its investment in syndicates was only £1,768,395, and its loans on goods came to no more than £2,574,134, but this bank, like all Continental banks, takes large interests in other institutions. It is connected, for example, with the Electric Elevated and Underground Railway Company of Berlin, and has interests in the Oriental Railways, the Macedonia and Anatolian Railways, and holds shares in quite a number of other banks, all of which appear to pay dividends. The current value of the shares held in these banks exceeds by £3,095,000 the amount at which they are entered in its books. During the past year profits amounting to £439,263 were made by the realisation of considerable portions of the securities held, and the business has evidently been remarkably prosperous in spite of the fact that rates of interest appear to have been somewhat adverse. The average Reichs bank rate for the past year was only 3.81 per cent., or 0.41 per cent. less than in 1904, while the average private discount rate in Berlin was but 2.85 per cent., or 0.28 per cent. less. The rate of interest on loans to the Stock Exchange, moreover, came on an average to only 4.03 per cent., as against 4.21 per cent. in 1904. German trade, it is contended, was stimulated last year by the approaching imposition of a more drastic Customs tariff, and the directors prudently draw attention to the fact that the increased measure of the country's present economic prosperity thus created can scarcely be expected to continue under the new conditions established by this tariff which came into force on the 1st inst.

DRESDNER BANK.

An interesting report is as usual issued by this powerful German bank for the past year. It gives many details about the business of a very suggestive description. As is well-known, banks in Germany participate directly in many undertakings which our banks often attempt to touch only with the long spoon, if at all. Thus in the past year, in conjunction with two other banks, the Dresdner helped to found the Deutsche Orientbank and the Deutsch-Südamerikanische Bank, both of which institutions have already commenced business. It has also entered into close relations with the banking firm of Messrs. J. P. Morgan and Co., principally with a view to mutual participation in business transactions into which either party may enter. Monetary conditions have not been altogether satisfactory in Germany during the past year, and for a time the rates of interest were very high, the rise being caused in great measure by the stimulus given to both the export and import trades, in view of the approaching imposition of new tariffs. Still, the Dresdner Bank made a gross profit of £1,456,427 and realised a net profit of £1,049,057, out of which £50,000 was written off bank premises, £67,500 credited to reserve fund "B," £44,770 paid to the directors, £136,025 to the managers and branch managers, £56,500 as gratuities to the staff and £10,689 to the pension fund, with enough left still to pay a dividend of 8½ per cent. to the shareholders on the paid-up capital of £8,000,000. This leaves £3,573 to be carried forward against £3,934 brought in, and the total reserves of the bank now amount to £2,142,500. Its liabilities on current and deposit accounts aggregate £26,753,152, and of this it has £19,002,449 lent on current account, £6,972,603 out on what might be called permanent loan, £2,282,449 invested in syndicates, and £3,331,946 invested in Government securities, railway and other bonds and shares. The cash at the date of the balance-sheet amounted to £2,245,664.

ANGLO-AUSTRIAN BANK.

The report of this bank, whose meeting has just been held in Vienna, is chiefly interesting because of the rather severe loss recently disclosed. According to the details cabled the amount involved was £75,000, necessitating a reduction in the dividend from 6½ per cent. to 5. The latter rate is recommended in the report, and a sum of £52,083 is put to special reserve, in connection, no doubt, with the deficiency mentioned. Including £12,836 brought forward the total revenue for the year 1905 was £260,623, from which general expenses absorbed £71,131, Government duty and taxes £25,662, and statutory contribution to reserve £3,829. Another £5,672 was written off bad and doubtful debts, depreciation of furniture took £843, and £153,487 was left as net profit. Dividend of 5 per cent. amounted to £100,000, the contribution mentioned was made to special reserve, and the carry forward goes down £11,433 to £1,403. Not very encouraging. The bank has a paid-up capital of £2,000,000, and the reserve comes to £400,140. Principal public liabilities are deposit notes in circulation £230,679, bills payable

£2,474,594, and sundry creditors being, we suppose, depositors, £5,431,692. On the other side cash looks remarkably slender at £149,252, investments in stocks and shares are only £435,387, and bills receivable stand at £1,817,357. Sundry debtors are by far the largest item, £8,008,691, and we begin to wonder what they consist of, because advances against securities have a separate entry. The amount, however, is only £195,246, and we suppose the big figure mentioned is made up of loans, overdrafts, and similar accounts.

STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

It is quite in accordance with our anticipations to find the profits of the South African banks still inclining downwards. We have often animadverted on the reasons which led to the abnormal growth of a year or so back, and why we looked for pronounced reaction, so that the subject need not be further laboured, except to point out that a steady dividend would have been much better than a sudden rise and equally sudden fall. We are not referring specially to the Standard Bank, because all acted in the same manner, but we hope the experience will not be lost. Including £36,647 brought forward, the gross profit for the half-year ended December 31 was £461,468 compared with £474,713 in the corresponding period, when £58,933 was brought in, so that the decline this time is unimportant. Moreover, the total charges were reduced by £6,560 to £233,820, but rebate on bills not due required fully £4,000 more at £52,957, and the balance available for division is £174,691 against £185,450. So the dividend must be reduced from 18 per cent. per annum to 16, with £13,000 to the officers' pension fund and an increase of £4,726 to £37,809 in the sum carried forward. Reserve remains at £1,997,050, and the paid-up capital is £1,548,525. Notes in circulation have not altered much, but are less at £1,025,172, while the liabilities on deposit, current, and other accounts are nearly £1,000,000 higher at £20,413,041. Drafts outstanding and acceptances under credits show the important advance of £631,959 to £1,271,639 and bills receivable, which have a per contra entry, are somewhat less at £2,766,591. Cash in hand, with bankers, and at branches shows a decline of £469,052 to £4,367,413, but still stands in good proportion to the liabilities, and we must note that the bank's investments stand at the excellent figure of £4,176,184. Remittances in transit are a good £100,000 larger at £584,463, while loans on securities at short notice have been reduced £642,893 to £786,539. Bills of exchange, however, are up by £949,452 to £5,179,882, and bills discounted and advances to customers show the important increase of £1,502,572 to £10,986,416. Bank property in South Africa has been rather heavily increased to £295,040, and the balance-sheet totals £29,249,666, against £27,930,084.

LONDON BANK OF MEXICO AND SOUTH AMERICA, LIMITED.

The directors of this institution have been carrying through some transactions of a kind not usually associated with banking businesses. According to the report, a portion of the bank's capital invested abroad has been disposed of at prices leaving a satisfactory surplus, and this has enabled the directors to transfer to the reserve fund a sum of £80,000 raising it to £320,000, besides crediting £80,000 to a special bonus suspense account. Such a profit, £160,000, is quite remarkable, because the only asset on which it could have arisen is the item called "invested in banks in Mexico, Argentina, Peru and Chili £291,244." Compared with the preceding year this shows a decline of £28,756 only, and it would appear that in this asset the bank has some quite wonderful hidden reserves. The bonus suspense account is really to be given to the shareholders, but it will be used in paying up an additional £1 per £10 share, making the shares £6 paid. Capital paid up will then be £480,000 and the reserve £320,000. In Chili, the bank has taken an interest in the Banco Mobiliario, and the two concerns will act on similar lines to those already established in Mexico, Peru and Argentina. Negotiations have also been entered into by which the bank with which the London Bank of Mexico, &c., is connected in Argentina will raise its capital from \$6,000,000 to \$10,000,000 and then be merged into a new bank under a fresh name with a capital of \$20,000,000. We do not profess to be able to follow or to understand all this business, but one thing is certain, that it proves very profitable to the British-owned institution. From the balance-sheet we gather that the current accounts and other liabilities have increased by the big sum of £196,437 to £257,040, while bills payable show a drop of £61,519 to £346,313. Cash at bankers and at short notice is no less than £184,757 up to £223,570, investments have been increased £36,125 to £264,537 and bills receivable are £124,167 higher at £347,984. Loans and advances, however, have been slightly lowered to £317,496. Gross revenue in the twelve months to December 31 was £62,203 or an increase of £4,568, but the working charges were up £3,892 to £17,740. With £16,140 brought in the sum for disposal is £60,603, and after adding £1,000 to the benevolent fund and £2,126 to reserve, the directors provide dividends aggregating 10 per cent. and carry forward £17,477.

COLONIAL BANK.

The report of this West Indian bank for the half-year ended December 31 came at a very apposite time, when the House of Commons was debating the Sugar Convention, and serves to drive home the point that the working example of protection has injured the consumer without achieving the desired object of helping the producer. It is a melancholy tale the directors have to tell of irregular seasons and moderate crops, and of the price of sugar so far below the average cost of production that many

estates will not pay expenses, and trade in consequence dull and restricted. The planting of Sea Island cotton, too, which was to do so much to restore the fortunes of the West Indies, is making but slow progress and altogether the position seems far from happy. As far as the bank itself is concerned, gross profits rose by £701 to £56,571, but it cost £467 more at £32,731, to earn this extra amount, and as £163 less at £20,000 was brought in, the disposable balance was a mere £70 larger at £43,839. The directors, however, evidently consider their reserves ample, so the dividend is maintained at the 3½ per cent. for the six months to which it was raised a year ago, and £70 is added to the balance carried forward, making it £22,839. Notes in circulation have gone up by £29,575 to £509,236, but deposits and current accounts show a sharp fall of £72,890 to £1,852,395, and bills payable and other liabilities are £14,617 down at £523,302. On the other hand increases of £12,842 to £475,333 in specie and £18,722 to £226,579 in advances on current accounts are accompanied by declines of £10,017 to £76,460 in cash at London bankers', at call and short notice, £14,753 to £990,272 in bills receivable, £54,845 to £873,426 in bills discounted in the Colonies and in transit, advances on security, &c., and £9,839 to £986,672 in investments.

MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA.

Although no mention of the fact is made in the annual report, it is understood that this bank will be amalgamated with the Bank of Calcutta. In the 12 months to December 31 the gross profit was £125,448 or £4,820 more than in 1904, and there was also a small increase to £15,102 in the balance brought forward, so that altogether the revenue is £140,550 against £135,180. Expenses of management, however, were larger by over £6,000 to £65,987, leaving the nett profit slightly down at £74,562. As before, the dividend for the year on the "A" and "B" shares will be 5 per cent., and £2,000 goes to the officers' pension fund, but £5,000 less at £25,000 is placed to reserve and the sum carried forward is increased to £19,437. Reserve will now be £135,000 against the paid-up capital of £562,500. An increase of £416,889 to £2,655,616 has occurred in the current and deposit accounts, but bills payable are down by £189,182 to £205,080, and loans raised against security figure at £475,000 compared with £680,589. Sundry accounts, including provision for rebates and bad and doubtful debts, are also lower at £241,240. Chief among the assets are bills receivable, which show a decrease of £249,234 to £1,549,982, and loans and advances up by £89,307 to £1,351,170. Cash in hand and at bankers has been raised by £218,526 to £642,355, money at call is commendably small at £6,050, and bullion is a trifle less at £119,264. Investments of £510,805 are larger by £80,266, freehold banking premises are very small at £13,928, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is about £100,000 larger at £4486,098.

ROYAL BANK OF QUEENSLAND, LIMITED.

During the second half of 1905 this small bank earned a gross profit of £31,920 or £2,342 more than in the corresponding period, and £992 was brought in making £32,912 in all. From that general expenditure absorbed £9,921 and interest, rebate and exchange £12,103 leaving £10,888 as the nett balance, an improvement of £679 only. As before, a dividend of 3½ per cent. on the share capital is provided, with £448 allowed for income-tax, £1,000 to reserve and £1,420 carried forward. Liabilities on deposits and current accounts amount to £928,256 or £86,599 more, notes in reserve still stand at £33,500 and bills payable are rather larger at £8,184. "Cash assets," on the other hand, show a small drop to £360,876, so that the bills discounted, advances, &c., have been increased by £91,888 to £1,080,215.

RIO TINTO CO., LIMITED.

We are again so overwhelmed with matter this week, and the Rio Tinto report reached us so late, that we must necessarily deal with it concisely, recording merely the prosaic facts of the year's working. Thanks to the high price ruling for "Standard" copper throughout the whole of 1905, there was a considerable advance in the revenue and profits, and the dividend was raised from 70 per cent. to 80 per cent. Yet even with this many were hardly satisfied, but expected at least half-a-crown more. The results, however, must be considered good. The average price of "Standard" was as high as £69 12s. per ton compared with £57 13s. 2d. in 1904, but owing to the drought the copper produced was only 19,530 tons against 21,218 tons. There was a slight increase in the quantity of fine copper in pyrites shipped at 12,750 tons, total 33,478 tons compared with 32,280 tons. Sales were 3,365 tons less at 32,614 tons, of which 19,713 tons were refined copper, 1,077 tons copper in sulphate and 11,824 tons copper in pyrites. The development of the property appears to have been carried out on the usual vigorous scale, for from all the open casts 1,809,969 cubic metres of overburden were removed against 1,595,794 cubic metres in 1904. The cost of the operation was borne by the produce sold, and the balance of the account has been reduced by £9,679 to £60,816. Of pyrites the quantity extracted was:—For shipment 627,336 tons, for local treatment 1,202,768 tons, total 1,830,104 tons comparing with 1,948,819 tons in the previous year, but the average copper contents improved slightly from 2.340 per cent. to 2.363 per cent. The quantity of cupreous ore invoiced to consumers was 660,723 tons against 663,744 tons, and of the year's deliveries Germany took 304,006 tons, the United Kingdom 206,266 tons, and the United States 150,451

tons. Deliveries of sulphide ore increased from 157,810 tons to 308,184 tons. Profit on sales of produce advanced from £1,667,530 to £1,845,291, the whole revenue totalling £1,928,020 against £1,734,697, including the larger balance of £27,480 brought in. A fall of £2,700 in interest from investments was more than compensated by an increase of £6,800 in the railway traffic receipts. Debenture interest took £120,353, whilst income-tax, French dues on bonds and shares and Spanish taxes absorbed the huge sum of £130,075, and after allowing for other outgoings the nett profit was £1,504,141 compared with £1,242,252 a year ago. As already stated, the dividends on the ordinary shares totalled 80 per cent., and the smaller balance of £26,953 is carried forward. Dividends had to be paid on the 50,000 additional £5 ordinary shares issued during the year, which yielded premiums of £2,900,000, so a considerable portion of the entire proceeds is included in the cash in hand at the end of the year, aggregating £3,459,503. Since the date of the accounts, however, nearly £3,000,000 of this has been utilised to redeem the 4 per cent. first mortgage bonds, whose interest for the past year had to be paid as well as the dividend on the new shares. The company will feel the benefit of this during the current year, for the debt is now wiped off the books, and the revenues will no longer be charged with debenture interest or sinking fund. The accounts show the company to be, as usual, in a wealthy condition.

CANADA COMPANY.

The amount of income credited to the revenue account for the year 1905 was £12,581 or £870 more than in the preceding 12 months, and was nearly up to the £12,711 reached in 1903. Principal increases appear under rent and prospecting fees, and the fact that the collection of rents slightly exceeds the nominal annual rental, as stated in last year's report, is due to the renewed vigilance exercised by the commissioners in securing the payment of arrears. The area of vacant land on the company's hands is now rather less, being a little over 70,000 acres compared with 78,000 a year ago. Yield from timber was only £734 compared with £860 and £1,177 respectively in the two preceding years but the land realisation account showed a much more serious decline. Owing to the smaller acreage of leases maturing in 1905 the proceeds of land realisation was no more than £16,303 against £23,690 in 1904 and £20,506 in 1903, while the outgoings were actually a little higher at £3,514 than in the previous 12 months. There was a little more activity in minerals and prospecting fees yielded £781, or about twice the amount for 1904, but the oilfields continue to be the chief attraction to prospectors, and up to the present the benefit to the company in royalties paid on actual mining results remains quite small. After providing all expenses which reached £5,460, the nett balance in the revenue account amounts to £7,121, while the land realisation account yielded a profit of £12,789, and £2,741 was brought forward, making £22,651 in all. Compared with 1904 that is a decline of £6,651, and the two dividends paid to the shareholders aggregate 46s. only against 64s. paid for the previous 12 months. According to the report the land leasing business was adversely affected by the wet seasons in 1903 and 1904, which left the farmers in some districts with heavy arrears to make up. This statement set against the extravagant boom-talk indulged in by so many reads rather strangely. Prospects for the company, however, appear fairly encouraging, and the directors observe that the year was marked by considerable activity in railway development, which, as we know, is still in progress, giving ground for the hope that the company's lands in certain localities not heretofore supplied with railway facilities will be brought into the market. These localities include the district of North Lanark, where, in the townships of Darling and Pakenham, there is iron ore on lots belonging to the company.

THE CANADA NORTH-WEST LAND COMPANY.

A very profitable year was 1905 for this company, so profitable that the board has decided to pay off the whole of the preference shares. It has been steadily reducing the amount paid up on these shares for years back and during 1905 paid off no less than \$559,100, bringing the total amount of capital returned to the shareholders by December 31 last to \$4,192,635, so that there is only \$1,678,090 to disburse in order to completely wipe out the 4½ per cent. preferred stock. This stock will get its final dividend on the 2nd prox. and at the same date the whole of the balance of capital due thereon will also be paid away. How can this be done seeing that the total amount at the credit of the share redemption reserve fund is only \$826,381 in addition to which there is a balance of \$100,000 at the credit of profit and loss, making \$926,381 altogether available for the payment of \$1,678,090? Probably enough, however, a good many of the shares will be handed in at par in payment for land bought and anyway the board can easily finance the balance. It did well in land sales last year, farm lands to the aggregate of 144,859 acres having been disposed of against 49,566 acres in 1905, and the average price was not only maintained but slightly increased, being \$6.67 per acre as against \$6.64. Town site sales, however, show a large decrease from the preceding year and produced only \$27,505 against \$45,456.

MELBOURNE REAL ESTATE CO., LIMITED.

This company enjoyed a little more prosperity in 1905 than in 1904, for gross rents amounted to £8,179 compared with £7,911, an increase of £268. After payment of all expenses in Melbourne and London, &c., the nett profit is £1,427, and this is

carried to the credit of income debenture stock redemption account, raising the balance to £1,431. With a view to accelerating the redemption of this stock, the directors propose to employ a portion of the funds invested, in addition to the above-mentioned sum, in acquiring debenture stock for cancellation. Accordingly, they invite offers for the bonds at the price of 70 per cent., or less, ex interest, payable on May 15. Investments in Metropolitan Water stock, Cape of Good Hope Treasury Bills and in Irish Land stock are valued at £7,539, and cash is £2,046 against moderate current liabilities. The outstanding income debenture stock amounts to £117,685, which at the present rate will take a long time to cancel.

DIMBULA VALLEY (CEYLON) TEA CO., LIMITED.

The past season appears to have been exceptionally favourable for tea growers, as this company also reports that the crop gathered was the largest it ever had, amounting to 1,215,304 lbs. compared with 1,074,446 lbs. in 1904. This increase brought the cost of production down from 27.45 cents to 26.09 cents, and at the same time the average price realised rose by 0.35d. to 8.94d. per lb., with the result that the nett profits came to £4,062 more at £16,782. To this was added £1,109 from the previous account, making £17,891 against £13,722, but as nothing was put to reserve a year ago the directors have thought it prudent to place £3,000 of the extra profits to that fund, and after paying the same dividend of 8 per cent., they raise the carry forward to £2,278. During the year the company bought the Eladuwa estate for the purpose of rubber cultivation at a cost of £4,745, and the property account, after deducting the £500 written off machinery out of revenue, now stands at £179,698, against which the reserve amounts to no more than £9,000, and of this only £1,539 is separately invested. Sundry creditors have risen by £497 to £2,509, and bills payable are up £3,663 at £7,235, movements which are just about balanced by increases of £1,066 to £8,891 in stocks, £25 to £2,339 in sundry debtors, and £3,099 to £4,995 in cash. Coast advances come to £2,025, but a large proportion seems to be doubtful and it has been thought necessary to form a reserve of £632 or nearly one-third.

GENERAL CEYLON TEA ESTATES, LIMITED.

Rubber cultivation has not yet done much for this company, although it now has 553 acres planted with rubber alone as well as over 1,930 acres interplanted amongst the tea and last year gathered 4,194 lbs. against an estimate of 2,200 lbs., part of which was sold at an average of 5s. 10½d. per lb. The crop of tea amounted to 2,846,700 lbs. or 24,700 lbs. more than the estimate and 297,463 lbs. above the output for 1904, but market conditions were unfavourable and the price fell off by 0.32d. to 5.76d. per lb., the decline being only partly met by a reduction of 0.28d. to 5.06d. per lb. in the cost of production. Only 15 acres are now under coffee, as the cultivation of this is gradually being given up, and the output dropped from 2,657 to 1,109 bushels, while the cocoa yield was 17 cwts. larger at 367 cwts. In spite of the help afforded by the rubber sales, therefore, nett profits were £549 smaller at £8,743, and after providing for debenture interest and other charges, including £587 for coast advances written off as lost, a trifling balance of £232 was left. To this was added £3,340 brought forward, making a total of £3,572, but £1,757 was spent on developing rubber cultivation, so that not only has the consolidated preference stock again to go without a dividend, but nothing can be done towards redeeming the debentures or paying off the funding share certificates and the balance carried to the new account is reduced to £1,815. Properties, of course, remain at last year's valuation of £259,036 against which there is a reserve of £5,000, while the current position is not very encouraging. A reduction of £730 to £15,474 in liabilities on bills payable to sundry creditors is accompanied by decreases of £2,169 to £5,590 in sundry debtors and £1,586 to £2,957 in cash, which was only partially offset by an increase of £2,071 to £16,823 in stocks on hand. Although £587 was written off coast advances out of revenue this item is only £157 lower at £6,094 and it has been considered advisable to increase the reserve on these from £680 to £1,094, which does not seem a good sign.

SOUTH WANARAJAH TEA ESTATES, LIMITED.

Including 87,549 lbs. of bought tea, the output for the year ended December 31 was 14,782 lbs. larger at 714,143 lbs., on which an average price of 5.27d. per lb. was obtained. This was 0.16d. less than in 1904, but a saving was effected in expenses, so that after writing off the regular £150 for depreciation, the nett profits with £21 brought in were no less than £824 up at £3,232. Of this £900 or £200 more, was put to reserve, but the directors then proceed to declare a dividend of 7½ per cent., compared with 4½ per cent., and carry forward £80. Property account now stands at £59,588, on which there are mortgages of £22,900, after deducting the £700 paid off the Poyston Estate loan out of reserve as usual, and as the reserve of £4,200 seems not only inadequate but is all in the estate, the directors have not shown much prudence in making such a large addition to the distribution on the ordinary shares. Liabilities to sundry creditors are very heavy at £4,465 against £254 to come in from sundry debtors, and although stocks show an increase of £574 to £4,229, this is neutralised by a reduction of £513 to £1,552 in the cash.

GHOIR ALLIE TEA CO., LIMITED.

This company has 458 acres under cultivation, and during the year ended December 31 gathered a crop of 167,463 lbs., which was 8,537 lbs. less than the estimate and practically the

same as for the previous year. The quality, however, was better and with more satisfactory market conditions the average price rose from 7.55d. to 8.92d. per lb., yielding £6,335, while £244 came in from sales of tea seed, making a total revenue of £6,479. Expenditure absorbed £5,257 and manager's commission £136, and after making adjustments on account of the 1904 crop, the balance available was £1,112, out of which £100 is put to reserve, and dividends making 25 per cent. for the year are paid leaving £11 to be carried forward. The company cannot be said to be overcapitalised, seeing that the total outlay, including the purchase of 36 ordinary shares of Rs.100 each in the Tezpoore Balipara Tramways was only £4,000, and as sundry debtors come to £1,172 against liabilities of £392, the payment of so large a dividend would seem to be justified.

POTTERIES ELECTRIC TRACTION CO., LIMITED.

With another mile added to its system, this company carried 1,021,316 more passengers at 17,424,667 during the year ended December 31, but the average receipts per passenger were slightly lower at 1.24d., and the gross traffic receipts showed an increase of only £1,167 at £90,269. Miscellaneous receipts, including interest and dividends on the holdings in the North Staffordshire Tramways Company, yielded £18 more at £14,210, bringing the revenue up to £104,479. Power and running expenses took much about the same at £35,187, but cost of repairs and maintenance rose by £1,356 to £10,199, so that in spite of a saving of £500 at £8,525 in administration charges, the nett balance, after paying the usual £12,050 to the North Staffordshire Company, and including £472 or £294 less brought in, was only £303 larger at £27,774. The directors appear to have at last recognised the imperative necessity for a proper allowance for depreciation, and have made a beginning by transferring £5,000 to that fund against £2,500 a year ago, although, in order to do so, they have to reduce the dividend on the ordinary shares by 1 per cent. to 4 per cent., carrying forward £724. Even now, however, the depreciation reserve amounts to no more than £14,000, and as £9,263 was spent on the property during the year, bringing the total outlay up to £508,613, while investments in the North Staffordshire Company are valued at £222,963, it is evident that a very considerable amount of writing down will have to be done before the position can be regarded as in any way healthy. Sundry creditors are £1,168 down at £8,354, against which cash has been reduced by £7,907 to £8,236, and while the amount due by the North Staffordshire Company has risen by £1,078 to £18,734, other debtors owe less, and this item is only £385 up at £21,070.

BUENOS AYRES AND BELGRANO ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS CO., LIMITED.

The number of passengers carried by this line during the year ended December 31 showed an increase of 1,173,610 at 16,667,575 and gross receipts rose by £10,935 to £182,301, but expenditure was heavier in all branches, with the result that outgoings took £13,051 more at £106,503, and the nett balance was £75,798 compared with £77,914. Adding £2,086 brought forward the total available was £77,884, of which £9,000 was put to renewals fund, £2,500 to sinking fund for redemption of debentures, and £557 was absorbed by interest on sinking fund and premium on £4,500 debenture stock purchased. Then the dividends on the "A" and "B" preference shares required £20,250, and the ordinary shares now receive a dividend of 3 per cent., leaving £5,375 to be carried to the new account. During the year £7,819 was spent on rolling stock, £2,092 on permanent way and overhead line construction on Nufiez extension, &c., and £1,903 on underground cables and miscellaneous items, but £3,958 was received from other companies for half cost of electrification of sections held in joint ownership. Expenditure on capital account to date, after deducting £6,800 for debentures cancelled, amounts to £1,367,839, leaving a debit balance of £27,139, which has been met out of the renewals fund of £39,000. Creditors come to £7,847 against £3,190 due from sundry debtors, and although cash stands at £31,819, the final instalments of debenture and preference interest and the dividend on the ordinary shares have still to be provided, so that the company is none too well off.

NATIONAL ELECTRIC CONSTRUCTION CO., LIMITED.

Originally established for the purpose of carrying out the fitting and wiring of premises for electric lighting, this company has since gone much further afield in seeking outlets for its energies, and during the year ended December 31 secured contracts for the construction and equipment of tramways between Rotherham and Mexborough, and at Torquay. It has taken a financial interest in both these undertakings, and in addition holds debentures, preference and ordinary shares in the Musselburgh and District Electric Lighting and Traction Company, as well as securities in the Bo'nness and Carnarvon electric light undertakings. These investments yielded, after deducting interest paid, £1,089, profit on contracts completed and in progress, partly estimated, came to £27,883, and the revenue from free wired installations amounted to £2,847, the total income being brought up by miscellaneous receipts to £32,357. Management expenses having been met, £346 was written off for expenditure on contracts not secured, and £733 for bad debts, leaving a balance of £23,585, of which £6,500 was put to reserve and £1,000 to doubtful debts reserve, £4,805 was written off for depreciation on free wired installations, £1,000 on stock, and £300 on furniture, &c., and after paying a dividend of 7 per

cent. on the ordinary shares £1,272 is carried forward. A dividend of 6 per cent. having now been earned on the subscribed shares for two consecutive years, the £18,851 vendors' shares now rank pari passu with the ordinary, making the total on which the dividend was paid £123,291. Another 19,300 shares were issued last year, of which 15,000 only rank for dividend from January 1, and a further issue of 31,729 is now to be offered to the ordinary shareholders at par in proportion to their holdings. Purchase of business stands at £27,064, and free wired installations, after deducting depreciation, are valued at £36,000, while investments at cost, representing, we suppose, the securities taken in payment for work done, come to £63,067, and against all these items the reserve amounts to no more than £7,000. Floating liabilities are heavy at £57,201 compared with £22,083 due from sundry debtors, and cash, for a construction company with large contracts in hand, is none too plentiful at £11,295.

BRITISH ELECTRIC TRANSFORMER CO., LIMITED.

Apparently the directors regard a shrinkage of £1,552 to £14,832 in the gross profits for the year ended December 31 as a matter of trifling importance, seeing that they "are pleased to state that the result of the year's working is satisfactory." General charges rose by £365 to £3,854, also without a word of explanation being forthcoming, but as there were no bad debts to be provided for on this occasion against £115 written off a year ago, the nett profits, after paying directors' fees, were £1,802 smaller at £10,228. Out of this last year's allocations of £1,500 to depreciation fund and £2,000 to reserve are repeated, while £1,500 is again written off preliminary expenses, but after meeting preference dividend, the ordinary shares can only receive the increased dividend of 7½ per cent. paid for 1904 by a heavy draft on the balance forward which is reduced from £2,495 to £794. Patent rights owned have been increased by £897 to £28,324, goodwill remains at £9,562, and freehold land, buildings, &c., are valued at £22,023 or £3,118 more, but the company is young yet and nothing can be said on the score of provision for reserves, which now amount to £9,500. An increase of £3,107 to £12,121 in sundry creditors is met by advances of £2,313 to £27,472 in sundry debtors, and £4,341 to £5,307 in cash, and although stocks are £1,873 lower at £19,268, investments have been increased by £4,400 to £12,908, so that the position of the company appears to show a decided improvement.

BRANDON'S PUTNEY BREWERY, LIMITED.

The inhabitants of Putney and its environs still seem a rather thirsty lot, as this company further increased its brewing profit during the past year by £633 to £40,497. Transfer fees gave another £5, and after providing £6,809 or £321 less for repairs, depreciation and bad and doubtful debts and £1,584 for directors', trustees' and managers' remuneration the sum still left is £32,110. With £5,658 brought forward the disposable credit is £37,769, and the directors allow £2,143 for lease depreciation, £754 for levy under the Compensation Act, £1,383 for income-tax and £7,600 for debenture interest. Preference dividend is then met with £7,125, and by keeping the ordinary dividend to 5 per cent. the directors are able to add £1,000 more at £5,000 to reserve and substantially increase the carry forward to £6,638. General reserve will now be £15,000, and there is a loan reserve of £65,512, being premiums paid by tenants for sub-leases, the company having, perhaps, first lent them part of the money. Two small properties belonging to the company have been dealt with under the Licensing Act during the year, but the freehold and leasehold property and goodwill are, nevertheless, increased by £4,757 to £522,244. Book debts, rents and loans, all given together, amount to £98,093 and cash comes to £10,679, but £44,488 is owing on loans and deposits and £13,423 to trade creditors, &c., so that the position is none too brilliant. Still, by keeping the dividend down, it may improve.

CINCINNATI BREWERIES, LIMITED.

An improvement of 2,589 to 82,348 barrels in the sales of beer for the year ended December 31 resulted in an increase of £6,539 to £34,042 in the trading profits, to which was added £20 or £18 more from interest, transfer fees, &c., making a total of £34,062. Of this £5,207 went in management expenses, &c., in America and London, £4,635 was spent on repairs, and after writing off £7,989 or £800 more for depreciation the nett balance was £5,267 up at £16,241. So far then there was some sign of improvement, but the company has a very heavy debit balance to contend against, and after paying £600 for interest on prior lien bonds and charging £9,300 for interest on the 6 per cent. debentures, met by the issue of deferred interest warrants, this debit is reduced by £6,342 to £31,863. These deferred interest warrants now amount to £60,450, and the time when the income-debenture stock will rank for interest is gradually approaching through the repayment of the prior lien bonds, of which £3,000 were redeemed during the year. Nothing further seems to have been done in the matter of the Crescent Brewery which was closed down some years ago, and this establishment still figures in the balance-sheet as worth £59,051, while the loss in suspense remains at £17,881. The value of the Jung Brewery, the only one now in operation, has gone up a little to £143,503, in spite of the depreciation allowance, and as goodwill is valued at £157,680 it would seem that a drastic reorganisation is required to pull the company out of the slough into which it has fallen. Were this done thoroughly and the dead assets cleared away the company might have a chance as sundry creditors are

moderate at £5,426, and the directors seem to have been able after all to get in a good many of their doubtful accounts. Sundry debtors have been reduced by £13,613 to £23,743, and on this a reserve of no more than £9,175 is considered necessary against the £20,000 of a year ago, while as the result of these collections cash has risen from £9,073 to £28,897.

J. G. MOONEY AND CO., LIMITED.

This Dublin distillery earned a nett profit for 1905 of £5,991, of which income-tax took £431, debenture interest £1,411 and preference dividend £855, leaving a balance of £3,294. A dividend of 9 per cent. per annum, or the same as for the two previous years is paid on the ordinary shares, although this requires £3,847, and as directors' and trustees' fees amount to £321, the balance brought forward has to be drawn upon to the extent of £874, reducing it to £872. No mention is made of any allowance for depreciation nor has anything been added to reserve, while the item of premises, plant, goodwill, etc., was increased by £6,519 to £112,553. The reserve of £35,000 is all in this property, as the share and debenture capital all told is only £93,000, and with stocks valued at £35,971 the company has to lean rather more heavily on credit than seems advisable, liabilities to sundry creditors being £24,361 against £1,509 to come in. Cash amounts to £3,111, of which £2,886 will be required for the dividend and fees now payable.

SCHWEPPES, LIMITED.

Reasonably capitalised this business would have made a good strong company, but Hooley swamped it with a share capital of £950,000, in addition to which there is now a debenture debt of £396,500. That makes in all £1,346,500, and as purchase of business, trade marks, plant, machinery, &c., are entered at £1,257,284 it is obvious that the position cannot be made solid if shareholders are to have a reasonable proportion of the profits. With £10,000 added from the past year's profits the reserve is raised to £56,000, and we should judge that the intangible matter in the balance-sheet was well over seven figures. Sundry creditors are fairly light at £28,630, especially as debtors reach £108,098, and stocks are valued at £101,369, but the premises at Liverpool have been mortgaged for £8,000 and cash is only £8,179. Gross profits, including £162 for transfer fees, came to £99,743 in the year to December 31 or over £5,000 more than in 1904, against which general expenses were £1,079 less at £16,994. Various other charges, including debenture interest, further reduced the available credit to £61,629, and this sum provides the preference dividend, the fixed 7 per cent. on the ordinary shares and 4 per cent. or 2 per cent. more on the deferred. Then £10,000 is placed to reserve, and the carry forward is increased from £7,611 to £10,841.

JAMES NELSON AND SONS.

After shattering the nerves of nearly everyone connected with it, the share-selling directors apart, this meat importing and retailing business seems to have sobered down considerably, and for the last year or two has conducted itself quite respectably. During the twelve months which ended on December 30 last the trading profit was £107,635 or not quite £6,000 more than in 1904. That year's revenue account, however, had the benefit of £16,000 previously reserved against losses on stock and not required, so that, including transfer fees, the total credit is £107,890 against £118,229. Various charges bring this down to £85,287, the principal items being administration £9,184, debenture interest £6,146 and debenture redemption and depreciation £5,000. Adding £26,171 brought forward and the amount for disposal is £111,457; which provides the preference dividends, 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, £25,000 to reserve and £42,458 to the next account. Why such a large carry forward? Have the directors fears for the current year? They speak of severe competition during the period under review, and may have something worse in mind. Reserve now reaches £325,000 against a nett capital outlay of £831,390, and the position otherwise seems pretty strong. Total creditors look rather heavy at £159,099, especially against the small sum of £39,748 owing by sundry debtors, but cash amounts to £105,534 and stocks are valued at £207,097.

EVERED AND CO., LIMITED.

Notwithstanding intense competition and high prices of raw materials, the nett profits earned during the year ended December 31 showed a recovery of £2,025 to £8,632, but even this figure was very far below those of 1902 and 1903, and as the balance brought forward was £2,699 less at £1,444, the amount available was £674 smaller at £10,076. Resort has, therefore, been had once more to the reserve for equalisation of dividends, and the remaining £3,500 is taken to bring the income up to £13,576. Of this £1,500 is written off plant and buildings against nothing a year ago, but, warned by previous experience, the directors are content to declare a dividend of only 5 per cent. compared with 7½ and 8 per cent. in the two preceding years, and carry forward £3,539. Before deducting the allowance for depreciation just made, buildings showed a reduction of £569 at £34,139, but plant was £1,476 higher at £33,410, and freehold land at Smethwick and Birmingham was £606 up at £1,270, while reserves, owing to the disappearance of the dividend fund, are down £3,015 at £35,529. Sundry creditors come to £520 more at £19,767, but debtors have risen by £4,436 to £73,454 and cash and bills by £800 to £12,939, giving the company plenty of free resources. Stocks, however, although £4,505 smaller, seem unduly heavy for the business done at £115,002,

and we should like to know what is the market value of the investments standing in the books at £19,995.

RIO DE JANEIRO CITY IMPROVEMENTS CO., LIMITED.

The extensive rebuilding and reconstruction of streets in Rio had an adverse effect on this company's business during the 12 months ended December 31, as although 628 additional houses were drained, 851 were lost by demolition, leaving the total at 50,594 or 223 less. Drainage rents and receipts for work done in consequence fell off by £12,571 to £288,742, and as interest on investments showed a drop of £938 at £2,518, the income for the year was £13,509 smaller at £291,260. At the same time the cost of maintenance rose by £2,592 to £122,351, drainage alterations and improvements, owing to the company having been obliged to reconstruct its system in all the areas affected, took £12,753 more at £31,940, and after providing for other charges, including debenture interest and redemption, the nett balance came to £68,634 compared with £97,461. The dividend, therefore, had to be reduced by 2 per cent. to 5 per cent., and the directors are only able to put £10,000 to reserve against £15,000 a year ago by knocking £1,004 at £3,510 off the balance carried forward. Capital expenditure on original districts and new extensions during the year amounted to £13,196, making a total, after allowing for the sums written off by redemption of debentures, of £1,797,608, and in addition offices, works, &c., at Rio are valued at £39,289 against which a reserve of £120,000 has been accumulated. Liabilities to sundry creditors have increased by £30,727 to £73,254, but the indebtedness of the Brazilian Government and others, although only £15,718 up, comes to £146,343. Cash, however, is very poor at £1,780, and as the directors have cancelled the £51,530 of debentures purchased out of the provision for redemption owing to the decision of the Courts that a company cannot hold and re-sell its own debentures, the company is hard up. The Rio managers state that new houses are being rapidly built to replace those pulled down, so that the company should soon recover its lost ground, and as further extensions seem to be contemplated, the directors seek authority for the creation of £150,000 debentures to be issued as occasion requires, which would soon put the company in funds again.

THE SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

This premier British mutual office did a fine business last year and its figures are interesting from many points of view. The nett amount of new assurance effected, after deducting £111,500 reinsured, was £1,434,630. This yielded £64,839 in new premiums, including £6,364 in single premiums. Claims took £1,123,855 of this, or roughly 62 per cent., not of the premium but of the entire income of the society which amounted to £1,815,457. Contrast a result of this kind with such figures as those we gave about the Canada Life Assurance Co. last week, and even this does not tell all the story for the bonuses accruing on the policies which became claims had in many cases been surrendered during life, either for cash or in reduction of premiums, and it is added in the report that the average disbursement under participating policies which became claims by death was £156 for each £100 originally insured. In 86 cases the sums payable, including bonuses, were more than double and in two cases more than treble the amount originally insured. A small annuity business is done by the society into which we need not enter. Its working expenses were about 9.81 per cent. of the premium income, or 6.66 per cent. of the entire income, and it is because of this economy, which always tells in a course of years, that the yield to members of the society is so good and that it was able last year to add £449,627 to the accumulated funds, raising their total to £17,769,347. Of this fine aggregate £3,808,494 was invested in mortgages within the United Kingdom, and £1,492,348 in mortgages on property outside the Kingdom. Another £2,518,594 was invested in United States gold mortgage bonds and obligations and £1,806,470 was lent on the society's own policies.

LONDON, EDINBURGH, AND GLASGOW ASSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

Perhaps the most important fact in the report of this industrial insurance company for the year 1905 is the payment of a dividend at the rate of 2½ per cent. upon the ordinary shares. This we believe is the first time these shares have enjoyed any such distribution. The company, however, appears to be prosperous and we cannot say that the dividend has not been earned. There would appear indeed to be no limit to the prosperity which a company doing burial money business with the poorer classes may make. In what is called the non-participating or industrial branch last year the profits from "loading" carried to the account of the shareholders were £17,267, and yet the expenses of working the business were only 44.5 per cent. of the premium income, while policies of all kinds which became claims received rather less than 41 per cent. of the year's premium income, which amounted to £427,142. The cost of working the participating branch of the business was about 20 per cent. of the premium income, such premium income being £66,520, and the payments on policies of all kinds including surrenders and bonus being less than £27,000. There is an accident and health insurance department, in which a small business was done, and where more than half the amount received in premiums during the year was paid out as claims or bonuses. Including the above-mentioned transfer of loading from the industrial branch, the entire profits of the year were put at £19,095, exclusive of £52 of transfer fees, and the nett profit after meeting preference interest and debenture stock interest was £11,107, of which half was written off the industrial branch establishment account and the other half partly devoted

to the payment of the first ordinary dividend. A quinquennial valuation report has been made by Mr. George King, from which we gather that there is a surplus of £18,039 on the ordinary and industrial branches of the business, of £244 on the health branch, and of £1,710 on the accident branch, all which is in its way satisfactory enough as things go. If the working classes will have luxuries they must pay for them.

NEW ZEALAND INSURANCE COMPANY.

This company does business in fire and marine insurance, and its 67th report and balance-sheet for the year ended November 30 last indicates that the long continued prosperity has been maintained. The net profit for the year came to £67,992, to which £26,519, the balance brought forward, has to be added. Dividends aggregating £30,000, or 15 per cent. upon the paid-up capital of £200,000, were paid, £25,000 added to the reserve fund, and £10,000 to the re-insurance fund, leaving £29,512 to be carried forward. The invested funds of the company amount to no less than £642,895, and the money appears to be very widely distributed, the only item of which any explanation seems to be required being company's freehold office premises and other properties put down at £228,619. In no other instance does an item in the investment list reach £100,000, the highest being £68,257 set down against "mortgages and shares." Last year's fire and marine premiums came to £425,991 and losses to £273,698. Commissions and salaries took £100,006, or nearly 23½ per cent. of the premium income.

CONSOLIDATED WATER WORKS CO. OF ROSARIO, LIMITED.

A further addition of 881 to 11,255 in the number of services supplied by this company gave an increase of \$51,731 to \$607,825 in the gross revenue. Converted into sterling the income from all sources was £54,754, of which working expenses took £11,694 and management charges in Rosario and London £11,051, leaving the net revenue £3,093 up at £32,009, to which is added £24 from transfer fees. Debenture interest and preference dividend having been met, £3,042 or £117 more is transferred to reserve after which the dividend on the ordinary shares is increased by 1 per cent. to 6 per cent. and the ordinary share dividend account is raised by £5,290 to £11,638. Another £1,000 debenture stock was purchased and cancelled and as £5,989 was spent on capital account the overdraft is now £35,597 and further funds are urgently needed, especially as the increase in the business calls for a considerable outlay. A lawsuit raised by the Municipality of Rosario to declare the company's supplementary concession void, however, stands in the way of the issue of more capital to advantage and the directors therefore propose to obtain the money required by temporary loans. A beginning has been made by borrowing £5,500 and in addition the amount due to sundry creditors and on bills payable has gone up by £614 to £5,952, while sundry debtors, including £6,462 for outstanding water and meter accounts, come to £7,200. Cash, in spite of the loan, is only £351 up at £6,096 and is far from being sufficient to meet the dividends now declared.

PETER JONES, LIMITED.

A further serious shrinkage of £2,339 to £6,554 occurred in the trading profits of this company for the year ended February 22 and although a few pounds more at £19 came in from transfer fees the balance of £234 brought in was smaller and the total income showed a reduction of £2,362 at £6,808. Last year the directors were good enough to forego £500 of their fees, but there is no such consideration for the shareholders on this occasion, and after providing for these and for the premium on the leasehold redemption policy the nett balance was only £4,969 compared with £7,570. Of this £4,400 is required to pay the preference dividend, so that the ordinary shareholders can get nothing against 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. paid for the two previous years and £569 is carried forward. Capital expenditure stands at £116,614 against which the reserve, apart from the above-mentioned leasehold redemption policy, comes to £188. Liabilities to sundry creditors are moderate at £4,313 or an increase of £303 only, but sundry debtors have been reduced by £3,755 to £8,424, while cash is £1,745 up at £11,829. Stocks are valued at £30,564, a figure which seems out of all proportion to the business done.

BEN EVANS AND CO., LIMITED.

Trading profits for the twelve months ended February 28 showed a modest recovery of £382 at £14,275 and after meeting debenture interest, preference dividend and directors' and trustees' fees and writing off £1,311 or £173 less for depreciation, the amount available came to £7,060 out of which the regular dividend of 7 per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares and the balance carried forward to their credit is increased from £1,056 to £1,083. The surplus left is still insufficient to permit of a distribution on the founders' shares, so the dividend fund is raised by £27 to £125 leaving a trifling £6 to be carried to reserve. This brings the accumulations out of revenue up to £361, making the total reserve, including premiums on the debenture issue, £4,111 to put against a capital outlay of £136,314 and of this £1,565 is represented by investments in leasehold property. Changes in the current position are small, the increase in floating liabilities being only £129 at £6,627, while sundry debtors have risen by £666 to £24,715, cash is £219 up at £10,017 and stocks are £127 larger at £41,320.

OWEN OWEN, LIMITED.

Steady progress is made by this company and during the year ended February 20 a further substantial addition of £2,378 at

£30,802 was made to the nett profits, of which the directors received an extra £66 at £1,426 and £208 or £37 more was put to leases renewal fund, leaving the surplus £2,255 larger at £29,168. Advantage was taken of this improvement to write £9,507 off freehold and leasehold premises and £1,909 off goodwill against £9,161 written off goodwill a year ago, so that after meeting the dividends on the two classes of preference shares, the balance remaining is just sufficient to pay the regular dividend of 12 per cent. on the ordinary shares and to give another £52 to magistrates' poor boxes at Liverpool, Bootle and Birkenhead police courts. Thanks to the policy adopted goodwill has been brought down from £92,859 to £60,000 and the capital outlay now stands in the books at £215,472, while in addition to this provision for depreciation there are a reserve fund of £30,000 and a leases renewal fund of £1,022. Sundry creditors having gone up by £1,129 to £10,276 are now slightly in excess of book debts, which amount to £467 more at £9,888, but stocks have risen by £3,253 to £50,170 and the position seems very sound. Cash it is true is £11,333 smaller at £9,671, but it is evident that this reduction is due to purchases of leasehold property, debenture bonds, stocks, &c., which have increased the item of investments from £7,960 to £25,795.

CHARLES BAKER AND CO., LIMITED.

Business during the twelve months ended January 31, according to the directors, was more satisfactory, but the bulk of the improvement in revenue would appear to be due to the saving of about £3,000 in expenses mentioned a year ago as trading profits and income from investments were only £3,849 up at £26,451. To this was added £682 from profit on sale of 1,200 I. Walton and Co.'s shares, and redemption of debentures, and with £707 or £447 more brought forward, the total income was £23,155 up at £27,840. Interest charges and directors' fees having been met, £1,043 is allowed for outlay and depreciation on furniture and fixtures, £1,748 is put to leasehold redemption fund and £389 to premium on redemption of debentures fund, £953 is written off for bad debts, and after paying preference dividends, the ordinary shares receive 5 per cent. against 2½ per cent., leaving £1,005 to be carried forward. The total amount provided out of revenue for depreciation, redemption, &c., is, therefore, £4,133, which the directors consider ample, although freehold and leasehold premises stand at £128,429, goodwill is valued at £57,406, and furniture and fixtures at £24,788, and the total accumulations come to no more than £18,910, or about 9 per cent. It is claimed that the holding of 27,425 shares in I. Walton and Co. should be valued at par instead of the £11,655 at which they are taken into the accounts, and that the difference constitutes a reserve fund, but if that is the case, the profit obtained on the gradual realisation of these shares ought not to be taken into revenue. Sundry creditors are down £3,078 to £35,294, and fixed deposits, &c., are £2,316 lower at £37,896, but even so the liabilities are heavy compared with the sums of £18,669 due from sundry debtors and £5,547 held in cash. Stocks have been reduced by £1,280, but still seem unduly large at £172,617.

LONDON AND THAMES HAVEN OIL WHARVES, LIMITED.

The depression in the oil trade appears to have been very pronounced last year, especially during the second half, and profits of this company consequently dwindled to £11,853 or a shrinkage of no less than £8,259. Balance brought in was £355 larger at £3,957, but even so the amount available came to £7,904 less at £15,810, and although the allowances for depreciation were cut down by about 50 per cent. at £879, while reserve was ignored, the ordinary shares can only receive a dividend of 5 per cent. compared with 10 per cent. for 1904 by reducing the balance forward to £854. During the twelve months £973 was spent on properties and £2,984 on machinery, and after deducting depreciation the capital account stands at £129,925 against which reserves amount to £6,500, a far from adequate figure, and one we hope to see increased as rapidly as possible should the directors' hopes of improved business be realised. Trading balances are well in favour of the company, only £8,069 being due to sundry creditors, against £12,012 to come in, while cash amounts to £4,350.

BRITISH MOSS LITTER CO., LIMITED.

Gross receipts for the year ended December 31, including £500 for managing director's fees from the Peat Moss Litter Supply Company and £1,709 from reserve for income-tax no longer required, came to £26,770, of which £25,114 was saved as nett revenue. To this was added £300, fees received by two directors from the Peat Moss Litter Company, making a total of £25,414, and after providing for debenture interest and administration charges, £108 was written off for loss on sale of Consols, £3,500 was set aside for depreciation, and £801 transferred to reserve for minimum rents. Including £3,027 brought forward, the total available was £20,482, and the preference dividend having been paid, the ordinary shares receive 10 per cent., £2,500 is added to reserve, and directors' extra remuneration takes £1,500 leaving £2,082 or £945 less to be carried to the new account. During the year the business of the Risley Peat and Moss Litter Company was acquired at a cost of £6,049, and with £4,147 spent on new works at Macclesfield, the total outlay on capital account was brought up to £212,731. Against this reserves of £44,700 have been accumulated, of which £13,289 is invested in Consols, taken at about 94½, and £5,000 has been put into Peat Moss Litter Company's shares. That company owes £5,088, and as other debtors only amount to £1,013 and cash stands at £2,406 against £4,523 due to sundry

creditors, a loan of £4,000 has had to be obtained from the bankers.

UNITED HORSE SHOE AND NAIL CO., LIMITED.

It is an exceedingly brief report the directors issue for 1905, and they enter into no particulars whatever, merely stating that gross profits amounted to £3,831, and that a dividend of 4 per cent. per annum is paid on the preference shares. This cannot be described as an informing document. To the above interest added £51 and transfer fees £3, and after allowing for ordinary expenses, debenture interest, depreciation, patent expenses, and providing for bad and doubtful debts, the nett profit is £848, inclusive of £400 compensation for delay. This reduces the debit balance to £1,402. The preference dividend appears to be paid out of a balance of £4,320 of undistributed profits at the end of June, 1903, at which date there was also a similar credit amounting to £3,036 on ordinary shares account, which is brought forward in the balance-sheet. Patents, trade marks, and goodwill are lumped together at £79,766, plant, machinery, tools, &c., are valued at £34,054, and stocks at £13,203. Debtors, £12,298, appreciably exceed creditors, £3,737, and the company has £6,237 in cash.

"V.V." (VIS VITÆ) BREAD CO., LIMITED.

For the year ended February 28 the gross profits, including interest and transfer fees received, were £9,665 or £1,375 more, and with the considerably larger balance of £4,780 brought forward, the nett amount available was £3,219 up at £14,445. In spite, however, of the further improvement, the directors do not raise the dividend above the 6 per cent. level of a year ago, preferring to increase the carry forward to £7,981, and in this they were prudent, as the surplus forms the only substitute for a reserve fund. Something is supposed to have been written off leases during the year, but the item of "purchase of business, goodwill, trade marks, leases, new buildings, &c.," is only £144 down at £95,684, so that one of two things must be the case. Either the leases form a very small portion of this total or the allowance for depreciation is inadequate, and it would be better if the item were divided to show the intangible assets by themselves. Sundry creditors have been reduced by £2,027 to £3,040, but they are still heavily in excess of sundry debtors, which come to no more than £442, while an increase of £2,163 to £3,078 in cash seems to have been rendered possible only by disposing of £3,000 Cape 4 per cent. Treasury bills.

MILLAR AND LANG, LIMITED.

The report of this Glasgow business of art publishers for the fourteen months ended February 28 was the first issued by the company in its present form, and as the results shown were quite up to prospectus promises, it has not been necessary to fall back on the guarantee fund provided by Mr. Millar. Profits, including interest and transfer fees, came to £19,023, and after providing for directors' fees and income-tax, £162 is written off preliminary expenses, and £1,148 provided for depreciation, leaving £15,744, of which £1,200, being the estimated proportion of profits for the two months to February 28, 1905, is reserved for additional working capital. Preference dividend having been paid, a general reserve fund is commenced with £2,000, the managing director takes £1,000, and the ordinary shares receive a dividend of 15 per cent., leaving £1,373 to be carried forward. Trade creditors and sundries outstanding are very moderate at £1,219, and against these sundry debtors and bills receivable come to £11,301, while cash amounts to £14,494, and stores and stock-in-trade are valued at £27,602—a very comfortable position.

SAN PATRICIO NITRATE CO., LIMITED.

During the year ended October 31 last this company made a profit on sale of nitrate and iodine of £29,863 and £430 came in from other sources, making £30,293. Charges of a varied character having been provided, including debenture interest £2,009, London expenses £1,519, and £1,319 contributed to the reserve, the balance over is £23,868. Out of this two dividends of 18. 6d. each, making 15 per cent. in all, are declared, £5,250 is provided for debenture redemption, and £3,618 is carried forward. This is the company's first year's working, and the result must be accounted eminently satisfactory. Cost of the nitrate works and properties was £134,771, and sundry other capital assets are put in at £5,328, against which the accumulations already amount to £6,569. Cash is in good supply at £12,893, and the position all round looks good enough.

COUNTRY LIFE, LIMITED.

This is the name of one of the Newnes' publications handed over to a company with sundry other journals just about a year ago. Out of a total capital of £200,000, the purchase consideration absorbed £195,000, and it is just as well that the public is interested only in the preference shares. The balance-sheet valuation of the copyrights and goodwill, £168,689, emphasises this, and as the first year's profits have dropped a little below the best prospectus figures, it is an additional source of gratification that the preference dividend is guaranteed for a period of ten years. We had two years' profits mentioned in the prospectus, £18,371 for 1903 and £20,212 for 1904, but in the 9½ months to December, 1905, the trading revenue was £15,406, or £14,923, if we deduct management expenses, directors' fees, etc. With £10 for transfer fees, the total for disposal is £14,933, and after providing the preference dividend the directors add £1,125 to reserve, in accordance with the articles, pay a dividend at 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, and carry forward

£2,090. That is a very fair start, and we hope by the time the preference guarantee expires the company will have accumulated a substantial reserve. Leasehold buildings, etc., are valued at £21,863, trading accounts are favourable, cash balances reach £10,447, and stock on hand comes to £8,423.

ALLIANCE AND DUBLIN CONSUMERS' GAS CO.

Although the sales of gas to private consumers in the six months ended December 31 rose by 8,544,200 cubic feet to 719,397,000 the receipts from this source were £1,113 smaller at £102,853. Public lighting yielded £589 more at £7,721 and coin meter rents increased by £1,833 to £19,930, but the market for coke and other residuals was very depressed and sales dropped by £5,940 with the result that the total revenue showed a decrease of £4,166 at £149,942. A substantial reduction of £1,835 to £71,511 in cost of manufacture and small savings in other directions brought the outgoings down by £1,980 to £111,047 leaving the nett income at £38,895 compared with £41,082, but with only £74 brought forward the amount available came to £7,152 less at £38,970. Of this debenture interest requires £655 more at £6,684, and in order to pay the usual dividends at the rate of 10½ and 7½ per cent. on the respective shares, the reserve fund has to be drawn upon to the extent of £2,840. Another £10,057 spent on capital account makes the debit balance £82,786, but against this there are reserves of various kinds amounting to £75,859, of which £43,076 is invested. The loan from the bankers, however, has gone up from £18,172 to £64,195, and £64,868 is owing to sundry creditors, and on bills payable, and although rents due amount to £68,649, sundry debtors owe £16,104 and advances on account of contracts stand at £15,357 the company has not a penny piece in cash.

FREDERICK GORRINGE, LIMITED.

During the twelve months ended February 20 this company's profit was £26,228 and £3,208 was brought forward, making £29,436. Out of that the directors' fees, including managing director's remuneration, absorbed £3,400, a sum of £625 is required for leasehold sinking fund and £875 will be added to the furniture and fittings suspense account. Preference dividend takes another £10,000, and after providing 7 per cent. for ordinary shares the reserve is credited with £2,000 and £3,202 is carried forward. Reserve is not increasing very rapidly, being only £5,000 against a goodwill of £100,854, and 7 per cent. dividend does not appear quite justified. There is, however, no fixed debt and the floating liabilities are quite trifling at £5,489. On the other hand, the company has stock £69,947, sundry debtors £40,772 and cash £38,082, meaning an excellent supply of liquid resources. Leasehold properties are valued at £89,261 and furniture, fixtures and plant at £19,894.

H. HOLDREN, LIMITED.

Nett profits of this Peckham drapery business for the year ended February 28, including interest and transfer fees, were £7,608, and after providing for debenture interest, directors' fees, &c., the balance available was £6,247. To this was added £1,652 brought forward, making a total of £7,899, out of which £1,000 is put to the special reserve for alterations and improvements and £1,500 to revenue reserve, and the ordinary shares receive 7 per cent. for the year, leaving £1,899 to be carried to the current year. Outlay on extensions and alterations amounted to £6,269, making the cost of leasehold premises and goodwill £51,550, while the expenditure on fixtures, furniture, &c., exceeded the allowance for depreciation by £1,391, bringing this item up to £6,043. Liabilities on account of this work amount to £2,216, and trading balances are decidedly adverse. £1,631 being due to sundry creditors against £480 to come in, while stocks are small at £9,781 and cash is poor at £628. The company, however, holds investments valued at £9,874, which apparently represent the reserve funds of £11,061.

WILLIAM OWEN, LIMITED.

A total revenue of £19,529 was earned by this company during the twelve months to February 20, from which the outgo was £10,424 leaving £9,105. Chief amongst the charges were repairs and renewals £2,803, depreciation £1,861, lease redemption £620 and debenture interest £4,250. The profit enables the directors to provide the preference dividend of 5½ per cent. and pay 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares leaving £784 to be carried forward against £179 brought in. This is a vast improvement on the previous year's trading, the increase in nett income being no less than £8,691, largely the result of the realisation of economies referred to in the last report. Let us hope that the progress will continue, because the directors have not yet been able to start a reserve fund and capital expenditure is pretty heavy at £200,477. Stock-in-trade is worth a further sum of £52,618, debtors amount to £13,014 and cash is £12,051, while creditors stand for £10,225.

EVANS AND OWEN, LIMITED.

This company's profits and other revenue improved about £460 to £8,280 during the year to February 20, and after providing directors' and auditors' fees and secretary's salary £420, allowing £375 for depreciation and £89 for interest the nett profit appears at £7,396. A sum of £2,000 meets the preference dividend, and the directors have decided to raise the dividend and bonus on the ordinary shares by 1¼ to 10 per cent. per annum. This entitles them to a further sum of £508 in the way of fees, the balance still remaining of £597 being added to reserve. The fund now reaches £16,318 against an aggregate capital outlay of £51,297 and goodwill £20,000. Other reserves amount to £1,100, and while creditors are light at £3,045, stocks and debtors stand at £36,267 and cash amounts to £6,522.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

MARCONI'S WIRELESS TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

The ninth ordinary general meeting of Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Limited, was held on Monday at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, E.C., Colonel Sir Charles Euan-Smith, K.C.B., C.S.I. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Henry W. Allen, F.C.S.I.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said:—It will be seen from the profit and loss account that the nett profit for the year under review again shows a substantial increase upon recent years. It is £4,000 in excess of the profit for the year which ended September, 1904, and that, as you know, was again in excess of the preceding years. This satisfactory result proves that the company is making steady progress, though from the nature of the undertaking, it is inevitable that until the organisation has been fully developed this progress must be slow and sure; and it must always be borne in mind that we are not as yet deriving any revenue from that part of the company's undertaking from which the largest profits are anticipated, viz., the use of the Marconi system for carrying on over long distances the service that has been commonly performed by telegraphic cables. This being the case, the directors cannot but consider that the result hitherto obtained is of a very satisfactory character. Up to the present, the shareholders of the company have possibly been more or less accustomed to regard the Marconi enterprise as greatly differing in character from ordinary industrial undertakings, and as possessing the chance of much larger profits than are usually to be anticipated from enterprises of an ordinary industrial character. It affords, therefore, good ground for satisfaction to reflect that although we have not yet been able to complete the installations from which we anticipate our principal profits, we are still deriving from other branches of our business, a revenue sufficient to pay a satisfactory dividend. The retention of the sum that could be made available to pay such a dividend has been determined on by the directors because they wish to strengthen their financial position as much as possible before entering, as they hope to do, upon the harvest of the large receipts which are anticipated by them on the completion of the necessary installations for trans-Atlantic traffic. After dealing with some points in the balance-sheet, he went on to say:—It will be within your recollection that in the speech which I addressed to you last year, I referred to the proposal of Germany to regulate for the whole of the world by an International Convention, wireless telegraph communication between coast stations and ships at sea. It is a matter of history that a conference of this nature actually took place in Berlin in the year 1903; that this conference was preliminary in character, having been assembled with the view of drawing up recommendations to be made by the delegates to the Powers which they represented; and that the Convention was to be postponed until a further conference had satisfactorily settled the regulations for carrying these recommendations into effect, in order that an International agreement might finally be drawn up for acceptance by the signatory Powers. Well, gentlemen, this further conference has not yet been called together, although three years have elapsed since the previous conference, and you may have noted that in a recent discussion in the French Chamber of Deputies the Convention was stated to have been postponed *sine die*. Whether this is really the case or not, I am not in a position to state, but I think you will agree with me that International Conventions of this nature are not at the present time held in very high favour, from whatever quarter the proposition for their assembling may proceed. But whether the Convention ever actually takes place or not (and as to this I think some doubt may reasonably be entertained), or whether it is in reality postponed *sine die*, is not, I think, in view of the present situation of the Marconi Company, a matter which need seriously disturb or give anxiety to our shareholders. It is evident that the real object of the International Convention was to affect injuriously the commanding position which your company has successfully established in connection with wireless telegraphy. Other wireless companies undoubtedly gave it their support, but we do not think we are unjust in assuming that this support was not wholly unconnected with the prospect of securing advantages to themselves from the use of the extensive organisation which has solely been established by the Marconi Company. In any case, the fact was made, and is now perfectly clear that your company is in this matter in a position which is not even approached by foreign companies endeavouring to sell wireless telegraphic apparatus. It cannot be repeated too often that the main policy of the Marconi Company is defined in the third paragraph in the report to which I have already drawn attention, viz., the policy of utilising its inventions for carrying on a public telegraph service. The report circulated among you will show you how our company is extending its operations in all parts of the world, and the interest which is being taken in our system on every side. I do not think it is necessary to enlarge upon what has been stated therein. Last year, as you will have seen, we were compelled to enter into litigation with the De Forest Company in America, and with Lloyd's Corporation in England. In the first we were the plaintiffs and won our case, in the manner indicated in the report, to which I would call your attention. The strength of our position is not now by any means wholly dependent upon the validity of our

patents; nevertheless, you will note with gratification what the American judge had to say upon the matter. The chairman concluded by formally moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

This was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

The retiring directors and auditors were then re-elected, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

LONDON, EDINBURGH, AND GLASGOW ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The ordinary general meeting of the London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow Assurance Company, Limited, was held on Wednesday at the registered offices, Insurance Buildings, 26 and 27, Faringdon Street, E.C., Mr. S. Barclay Heward (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. T. V. Cowling) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in presenting the report and accounts, said the total revenue for the year amounted to £542,855, and showed an increase of £24,057 over the corresponding figures of 1904. In the participating branch the premium income amounted to £66,520, an increase of £2,791. In this branch the directors paid during the year, including endowment assurances matured, 278 claims, amounting to £25,675, and increased the participating fund by £31,290, bringing that fund up to £295,812. In the non-participating branch there was a nett increase in the premium income of £16,141, making the non-participating premium income for the year £427,142. In this branch the company paid 21,232 claims, amounting to £175,147, including endowments and endowment assurances matured. During the year four annuities were terminated by death, relieving the company of the annual payment of £104. The non-participating fund was increased by £60,726, bringing the fund up to £433,466. In the accident branch 1,135 claims were paid, amounting to £12,030. After dealing with various other matters, and dilating at length upon the yearly improvement in the company's business, the Chairman said: We are proud of the position in which the London, Edinburgh, and Glasgow stands to-day—proud of the men who have helped to build up the company. (Applause.) And, above all, we are proud of the fact that we have within the ranks of the company to-day trained men, full of enthusiasm, which is the best and truest guarantee for the future greatness of the company. There never was a time in the history of the company when the future looked more hopeful than it does to-day—hopeful because we have working side by side with our best leaders many young men who want to do work for the company that will give a distinctive place for them in the company's roll of honour. (Hear, hear.) I need not trouble you to go into figures; all that has been sufficiently done in the directors' report and Mr. King's report and summary of the valuation. The substantial increase in the premium income and in the income from interest, dividends, and rents is very satisfactory. The addition to the funds of £91,977 is equally satisfactory, and in the balance-sheet you will find the investments have been increased accordingly. I might mention that the principal increases during the year have been an increase of some £46,000 under the head of loans on municipal and other rates; freehold ground rents have been increased by about £17,000, and other like gilt-edged securities by about £31,000. Let me say we are, in our opinion, in that position to-day when the measure of our future success depends only upon the amount of enthusiasm those interested in the company put into the work. If our shareholders interest themselves in the work of the company by insuring with the company their own lives and those of their families, and talk of the company to their friends in the way we feel the company should be spoken of, we will, when we meet you next year, have still further cause for rejoicing. If we have done well by the company and you feel grateful, do not think you have done enough by expressing your gratitude or by anything you may endorse or say to-day approving of our work. Talk of the work done by the company amongst your friends, make the opportunity it offers to young men as workers for insurance known, make its tables and the protection which it offers to families known, and you will add enormously to the favours which you have already conferred upon us as directors of the company. (Applause.)

Mr. George King, F.I.A., F.F.A. (consulting actuary), said that he shared the enthusiasm which had been so fully expressed as to the prosperity of the company, and would do what little he could to make that prosperity great and permanent. (Hear, hear.)

The motion was put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

THE OCEAN ACCIDENT AND GUARANTEE.

The thirty-fifth annual general meeting of the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Limited, was held on Tuesday, at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moorgate Place, E.C., Sir Thomas Hewitt, K.C., J.P. (chairman of the corporation), presiding.

The general manager and secretary (Mr. Richard J. Paull) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: I think, having regard generally to the report and accounts, you will come to the opinion, which is shared by myself and by my brother directors, and, I am happy to say from a number of letters I have received, by a considerable number of shareholders, that this is one of the most satisfactory reports and accounts we have ever presented. (Applause.) First of all, you will observe that the income,

which in 1904 amounted to £1,090,527, has been increased in the year 1905 to £1,113,675. The premium income, you will see, has increased from £1,060,896 to £1,081,181. The income from investments has also been increased from £29,599, the figure at which it stood in the year 1904, to £32,451. I think that is all I need say with regard to the debtor side of the revenue account. On the credit side we come to the first item—compensation paid and incidental expenses. That, you will see, amounts to £605,826, against the former figure of £603,162. The value of the investments and the other assets has increased to £1,452,924, against £1,337,989. The expenses of management and commission have gone down from £424,412 14s. 7d. to £412,359 14s. 5d. In the expenses of management the figures for 1904 were 15.72 per cent.; this has gone down to 15.40 per cent. The commissions have gone down from 17.89 per cent. to 16.46 per cent., and the depreciation of furniture, of course, remains the same, but the general effect of the saving in the total claims and expenses is that 96.86 per cent. has gone down to 94.17 per cent. The balance-sheet shows that the sundry accounts pending, which for the year 1904 were £40,159, have been reduced to £34,074. The provisions for claims outstanding this year we have put at £400,000 against £356,000; the investment reserve and general contingency account is £101,000 against £51,708; the provision for liability on unexpired risks, which, you will remember, is based on the principle of a third of the gross premium, is £350,500 against £345,000, and the reserve fund remains as last year at £300,000 making a total fund of £1,151,500. The amounts which have been set aside, of course, cannot be anything more than an estimate; but still, as an estimate, I think I may assure you, on behalf of the board, that we have set aside everything that we conceived ought fairly to be set aside for the purpose of providing for every risk and liability of the company. The accumulated fund, notwithstanding the small amount of paid-up capital, approaches to £1,500,000, and the trading profit, as no doubt will be worked out by a good many of you, will show nearly 6 per cent. on the premium income. There is a credit balance of £446,288, against £420,379. From that we have to take away the sum to be set aside as provision for liability on unexpired risks. That has been worked out at £350,500, against £345,000 last year, and leaves the very satisfactory revenue balance of £95,788 against £75,379 last year. You have already received an interim dividend of £12,276, which is 7½ per cent. on the paid-up capital. The directors now propose to declare a further dividend of 7½ per cent., amounting to £12,276 (making together 15 per cent.), payable on the 31st of this month, and, recognising the self-denial which you put upon yourselves in previous years, they propose to pay a bonus of 5 per cent. in addition to the dividend, amounting to £8,184, making a total distribution for the year of 20 per cent. (Applause.) The Chairman then dealt at length with other matters, and formally moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

This was duly seconded, and carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved the following special resolution: "That the name of the corporation be changed to 'the Ocean Assurance Corporation, Limited.'"

Mr. McArthur seconded the resolution, which was unanimously agreed to.

LONDON AND THAMES HAVEN OIL WHARVES.

The eighth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in the London and Thames Haven Oil Wharves, Limited, was held on Wednesday at the Baltic, St Mary Axe, E.C., the managing director, Mr. Alfred C. Adams (in the absence of the chairman of the company, Mr. Owen Philipps, M.P.), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Thos. C. J. Burgess) read the notice convening the meeting and also the auditors' report.

The Chairman (having apologised for the absence of Mr. Philipps) said: Gentlemen,—In coming before you with the accounts for the past year, there are a few remarks that I should wish to make relating to the falling off in the results for the year and the causes which have conduced to those results. The year 1905, as you are probably well aware, was, from a general business point of view, unsatisfactory and disappointing in the extreme. A general stagnation of trade was observable, and the condition of the petroleum trade was no exception to the general rule. This company has had a good run of prosperity during the past five or six years, but it is perfectly clear that a trading concern such as this is, whose business is derived from trade, and is dependent to a very large extent upon trade being good, cannot hope to have immunity from the set-backs and troubles which overtake and attack all trades at some time or another, and from which, both within and without, the petroleum trade, which we serve, and on which we are mainly dependent, has for the last few years now been suffering. I suppose all of you know something of the lamentable state of things which has existed in the oil trade, how the Russian oil export, which contributes a good deal of business to this company, was during the latter half of last year reduced by revolution to a complete and absolute standstill, and for a long time the destruction of the oil wells themselves was feared, whilst even now, when business has in some measure been resumed, the precise damage sustained by the industry is not known. But there has been also the depression at home, to which reference was made in the directors' report last year, and which has now lasted for upwards of two years, though the strife which has produced that depression has not attained the same degree of publicity

as the state of affairs in Russia. You may not, therefore, have heard so much about it. This home trouble did not attain such proportions in 1904, or, rather, its effects had not been so far-reaching, as to more than slightly affect this company's business during that year, and as the state of warfare, to which I allude, and which has many times been alluded to in condemnatory terms by the chairmen of various oil companies, who are much more directly involved in the fight than we are, had at that time been in force for some time, it was generally expected that better conditions would prevail during 1905. The year 1905 started with very good prospects, and business continued satisfactory until the latter half of the year, but the fight among the oil companies was still raging as fiercely as ever, and this company, owing to depleted stocks, was eventually involved in the general stagnation and depression, from which the whole trade was suffering, and a general falling off in the large volume of stuff passing through our tanks was unavoidable. This change in the trade has undoubtedly had its effects upon this company during the past year; but we want to make it clear to the shareholders that we do not expect this change in the conditions of business is going to adversely affect the company in more than a temporary manner. What we have to do in view of this change is to adapt ourselves to the altered conditions, and equip ourselves accordingly. For the last year we have not spent anything on fresh tankage. There is a small amount in the balance-sheet under that heading, but this was uncompleted from the year before; it was really undertaken in 1904, but not completed in time to include in last year's balance-sheet. During last year, in response to repeated applications from shareholders and others, the board decided to issue some of the ordinary shares in hand, with a view to adjusting the capital and clear off the balance-sheet the item of short loans. The Chairman concluded by formally moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. F. H. Simmonds seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The dividend of 5 per cent. per annum was approved of.

DHARWAR REEFS COMPANY.

The first ordinary general meeting of the Dharwar Reefs Co., Limited, was held on Wednesday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Captain William B. McTaggart, D.L., J.P. (the Chairman), presiding.

The secretary (Mr. John Ponsford) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, explained various items in the accounts, and said he did not propose to enter into any of the mining particulars because Mr. Henry Taylor would deal with them. He went on to say:—It will be seen from the superintendent's report that no less than six distinct ore chutes have been opened up in various parts of the mine which have shown good values, and he is of opinion that when stoping is commenced, these will produce milling ore far in excess of the quantity estimated in his report. The next question that has arisen before your board, that of supplying the mine with a reduction plant, has received the consideration of the board, and, with a view to deciding as to the best method of treatment of the quartz, a trial crushing of 100 tons was made in December last at one of the mills on the Kolar gold-field. This resulted in 93 ozs. of gold being obtained, by amalgamation. The tailings, which were subsequently treated by the cyanide process, gave a further 60 ozs., the total production from 100 tons thus being 153 ozs., or an average of 1 oz. 10 dwts. 14 grs. of gold per ton. Such a return is, of course, most satisfactory, and, the experiment having thoroughly demonstrated that milling and cyanidation are the proper methods to be adopted for the treatment of the quartz, specifications are now being prepared for a stamp battery and cyanide plant. It is proposed at once, as soon as we can get it constructed, to send out a complete battery of 15 heads, with power to increase it in the future as may be found desirable; and also a complete cyanide plant will be erected at the same time. The latest advices from the mine are to the effect that there will be a supply of quartz to keep the reduction plant occupied as soon as it can be got to work, and every effort will be made to expedite the manufacture, transport and erection of the machinery, so that regular returns of gold may be secured. With regard to the future resources, in addition to the very large area of land you hold, it may be well to bear in mind that an option of purchase from the Dharwar Gold Mines, Limited, has been secured of the block of land lying immediately to the east of and adjoining No. 2 or Kabligatti Block. This was brought to your attention at the last meeting, but it is of such importance to your future that we think it well to mention it again. The property is one mile long and a quarter of a mile wide, and is on the dip of the reefs which have been proved in the Kabligatti Block. The option is for three years from January 4, 1905, and the purchase consideration in the event of its being exercised will be £25,000, in 25,000 fully-paid shares of £1 each in this company. This price, I think you agreed at the last meeting, was a very satisfactory one for both parties concerned. (Hear, hear.) The greater the value of your property the greater will be the value of your shares, and the greater amount will the Dharwar Gold Company therefore receive for the property they sell you. The less the value of your property, the less will be the value of your shares, and therefore the less will be the value to them. Their future in this respect is bound up with yours, and I think it is a very hopeful future too. In conclusion, I have to tell you a little about this field. It is, of course, of very great magnitude, but how it is going to compare with the celebrated Kolar

field we have yet to find out. It is very much larger in extent. There are far more numerous old workings, and I believe that many of them are even far larger. Whether they will in depth produce quartz of the same value that we are getting at the Mysore and the same stability and vitality, no one can tell at the present moment. I can only say, from all the indications we have, that the future is exceedingly promising.

Mr. John Taylor seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

DIMBULA VALLEY (CEYLON) TEA COMPANY.

The tenth ordinary general meeting of the Dimbula Valley (Ceylon) Tea Company, Limited, was held on Thursday at the offices of the company, 4, Lloyd's Avenue, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C., Mr. T. C. Owen, chairman and managing director, presiding.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, alluded in feeling terms to the death of the late managing director and chairman, Mr. James Sinclair. He went on to say: The year has been a record one in the prosperity of the company. We have never before had such a fine crop, while the cost this year is lower than it has been any year for the past six years, and the price is better than it has been for any time in the past five years. These are results on which I think the shareholders may be well congratulated, and I think they reflect the greatest credit on all those connected with the undertaking. It is necessary to say a few words with regard to the rubber undertaking upon which we entered last year. The time at which rubber may be expected to come into bearing is about five years from the date of planting. By that time the dimensions of the tree should be from 20 to 24 inches in girth, 3 ft. from the ground, and at that size they become tappable. The yield may be expected to be about 75 lbs. of dry rubber the first year, 150 lbs. the second year, and 200 lbs. the third, and thereafter increasing up to about 300 lbs. per acre. I believe myself that much more than this will be obtained in certain cases, but it then becomes a question of labour, and I doubt if the labour is plentiful enough to enable full justice to be done to rubber plantations in the way of getting yield from them. The cost of production may be taken at 1s. per lb. when the rubber is in full bearing. The price is in our case a question not so much of the market price to-day as of what it will be five years hence, and this is a very difficult matter, and one upon which it is dangerous to prophesy, but should the present price of about 6s. fall to half that amount, we should be making a very handsome profit indeed, whilst it is probable that much of the rubber which comes from South America would scarcely pay to harvest and send forward, and the commoner kinds of rubber which come from Africa could hardly be produced at a profit. The one important advantage which Ceylon has is in the matter of labour. We have an excellent labour supply, a better labour supply than most other tropical countries, and in this respect I think we have a very great advantage. In some of the more recent flotations in connection with rubber I do not think this question has received the attention it requires, and I think it is very likely that in the future it will be found that profits will be largely discounted by the difficulty of getting labour. Now, with regard to Eladuwa, this is not the property which the late chairman alluded to in his speech last year. Shortly afterwards we were informed that this place could be purchased; we wired out an offer of Rs. 70,000 and it was accepted. There were 158 acres of tea, which were immediately planted throughout with rubber, and various portions of the forest land, of which the bulk of the property consists, was planted also with rubber as opportunity offered. The balance of 127 acres is now being cleared in preparation for planting, and we hope it will be finished by the end of June, giving us close on 400 acres of rubber. Adjoining this place is some very fine forest land. One block of 208 acres is to be put up for sale on April 8, and we hope to purchase it, and the other block adjoining will be put up later on, and we shall probably buy that also, and so probably make up 800 acres of rubber. As regards the tea at Eladuwa, we do not profess to take any account of this. It has been planted with rubber, which will soon kill out the tea, and any returns from it will be treated separately and not mixed with the returns from the properties in the Dimbula district. Now, with regard to the accounts, we have made a fine profit this year, which would have enabled us, if we cared to do so, to distribute a 12 per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares. We thought, however, that it was much better, and more in the interests of the shareholders, to strengthen the financial position of the company, and we therefore propose only to pay 8 per cent., and, setting apart £3,000 to the reserve fund, carry forward a balance of substantially over £2,000. He concluded by formally moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. W. F. Laurie seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, after which the formal resolutions were also adopted unanimously.

BRANDON'S PUTNEY BREWERY, LIMITED.

The eleventh ordinary general meeting of Brandon's Putney Brewery, Limited, was held yesterday at the Brewery, Putney, S.W., Mr. A. J. Brandon (chairman of the company) presiding.

The notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors having been read by the secretary,

The Chairman said: I now rise to move the adoption of the report and accounts. I propose to take the report and accounts as read, a copy of same having been sent to every shareholder; but I shall be pleased to give any further information thereon if desired. You will remember that in proposing the adoption of the report and accounts last year I was able to point out that, although the brewery trade was not in a flourishing condition, we had not only held our own but that our trade and profits had increased. It is, therefore, especially gratifying to me to tell you on this occasion that, although the conditions of the brewing trade in general have never in my experience been more difficult than they have during the past year, our trade has again shown an increase, and our profits are greater than they were for 1904. It is a curious and gratifying fact that, while there has been a general outcry in the brewery world as to the badness of trade, the Putney Brewery has shown a larger increase than for some years past. I am sure that you will agree with me that this is most satisfactory. The profits for the last six years have been as follow:—£22,389 for 1900, £22,873 for 1901, £24,377 for 1902, £26,051 for 1903, £27,701 for 1904, £27,829 for 1905. The profits for 1905 of £27,829 are after writing off the whole of the compensation levy made upon the company during the year, amounting to £753 11s. 10d. Turning to the balance-sheet, we have dealt in the same liberal manner as in past years with the repairs, the allowances for depreciation and for bad and doubtful debts, and we have charged against the profits the sum of £2,143 as depreciation for the diminished value of leases. I may mention in connection with this leasehold depreciation that it is arrived at by dividing the value of the leases by the respective terms of years, and in this calculation every lease belonging to the company, of whatever term, is dealt with. We have added to the freehold and leasehold property for permanent improvements to several of the company's properties, and for additional purchases about £4,700, after allowing for sales and depreciation of leases. Our book debts and loans are reduced, while the consumable stock and cash in hand are increased, the latter amounting to £10,679 2s. 3d. The loans and deposits owing by us are reduced, and also the trade liabilities, while our general reserve fund is increased from £6,000 to £10,000 by the addition of £4,000 added out of last year's profits, and our loan reserve is slightly increased, and now amounts to £65,511 17s. 9d. We propose out of the available balance of profits to pay the same dividend on the ordinary share capital as heretofore, namely, 5 per cent., to carry to the general reserve fund £5,000, making this reserve fund £15,000, and to carry forward £6,638 4s. 10d. I think the foregoing figures speak for themselves, but before formally moving the adoption of the report and accounts of what has proved to be the best year the company has had since its incorporation, I shall be pleased to answer any questions. I now have pleasure in moving that the report and accounts for the year ended December 31, as audited and presented to the shareholders, be hereby approved and adopted, and I will ask Mr. Foulsham to second same.

Mr. Chester Foulsham seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved that a dividend be declared at the rate of 5 per cent. on the ordinary share capital of the company for the year ended December 31, 1905, less income-tax, and payable forthwith.

Mr. Alfred H. Palmer seconded the resolution, which was unanimously carried.

The retiring director, Mr. A. J. Brandon, was re-elected.

The auditors were re-elected, and a vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

METROPOLITAN LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Metropolitan Life Assurance Society was held yesterday, at the Cannon Street Hotel, under the presidency of Major W. Bridges Webb.

The meeting was held for the purpose of submitting for confirmation the resolution passed at the special meeting held on the 15th inst., providing for certain alterations being made in the regulations of the society.

The Secretary (Mr. Bernard Woods) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman formally moved the confirmation of the resolutions.

This was duly seconded and unanimously adopted.

It may be recalled that at the previous meeting the Chairman explained that with regard to the main object in view, that, under the original constitution of the society in 1835, recognised in the special Act of Parliament which was obtained in 1867, and in the regulations adopted in 1885, when the society was incorporated under the Companies Acts, membership of the society was limited to those persons who effected assurances on their own lives for the whole continuance thereof, with participation in abatement of premiums. Members' policies had hitherto only been issued to persons assuring their own lives for the whole continuance thereof, with participation in abatement after five years. Any other policies issued, though participating as regards abatement of premiums on the like basis as members' policies, had always been insured as non-members' policies. The holders were not entitled to take part in general meetings; they had no vote, and they were not eligible for the directorate. Some years ago the society adopted a system of discounted abatement assurances, which had proved to be very attractive, and they had issued a large number of policies. The premiums had been so calculated that on the average the same amount would be paid by the assured, whether the policy was taken out under

the discounted abatement system, or as an ordinary participating assurance. The board felt that it was only fair that the holders of these discounted abatement policies should have the privileges of membership, and thus be able to take an active part in the affairs and welfare of the society. The remaining alterations proposed were, generally speaking, of a verbal nature, and did not involve any material change in the constitution of the society.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Argentine Great Western.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred and ordinary stock for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Central Uruguay of Monte Video.—Interim dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £25,512.

Central Uruguay Eastern Extension.—Interim of 3s. 6d. per share (at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum), carrying forward £1,583.

Central Uruguay Northern Extension.—Interim of 4s. per share (at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum), carrying forward £2,257.

United of the Havana and Regla Warehouses.—12 per cent. as a first instalment on account of the property excepted by the company upon the fusion with the Cardenas and Jucaro Railway.

Wellington and Manawatu.—4 per cent., making 7 per cent. for the year.

MINES.

Apex.—2½ per cent.

Mason and Barry.—7s. per share for 12 months ended Dec. 31 carrying forward £16,502.

Mount Morgan Gold.—3d. a share for March, payable April 2.

New Jagersfontein Mining and Exploration.—2s. 6d. per share, equal to 25 per cent. per annum on the preference shares and 6s. per share, equal to 60 per cent. per annum on the deferred shares, for half-year ending March 31.

Progress of New Zealand.—1s. per share payable April 30.

Sons of Gwalia.—Quarterly interim (No. 11) of 1s. 6d. per share, payable April 26.

No. 2 South Great Eastern Gold.—(No. 92) of 6d. per share, payable April 4.

Tharsis Sulphur and Copper.—17½ per cent., £28,874 written off, and £29,227 forward.

Witwatersrand Deep.—(No. 1) of 20 per cent. for the period ending March 31.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alliance Assurance.—Further of 4s. per share, with a bonus of 2s. per share, making 8s., and a bonus of 2s. per share for 1905, payable July 5.

Barry, Ostlere, and Shepherd.—At the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Jan. 31, carrying forward £4,663.

Ben Evans and Co.—Final of 3½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 7 per cent. for the year ended Feb. 28.

Californian Oilfields.—3s. per share for six months ended Dec. 31, placing £10,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £11,303.

Carlton Hotel.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for six months ended Feb. 28.

Chamberlain, King, and Jones.—Final of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 7½ per cent. for the year ended Jan. 31, carrying forward £2,284.

Charles Baker and Co.—Final of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 5 per cent. for the year ended Jan. 31, carrying forward £1,005.

Chiswick Electricity Supply.—At the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31.

Crown Cork.—4 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31.

Cunard Steamship.—4 per cent. for 1905, placing £50,000 to reserve.

Egyptian Estates.—2s. per share on the ordinary shares and 10s. 9d. on the deferred shares, placing £102,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £8,200.

Henry Bucknall and Sons.—Interim for the half-year ended Feb. 28 at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, payable April 12.

High Gosforth Park.—Further of 3 per cent., making 6 per cent. for 1905.

Higland Distilleries.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Feb. 28.

Imperial Continental Gas.—5 per cent. for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

John Croall and Sons.—6 per cent. for 1905, placing £1,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £1,882.

John Mantle and Sons.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on both preference and ordinary shares for the half-year ended Jan. 31.

Nestle and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk.—Further of 50 francs per share, transferring 181,755 francs to reserve, carrying forward 21,856 francs.

New Dimbula.—Interim of 5 per cent. for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

New Inverted Incandescent Gas Lamp.—5 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £12,854.

New Zealand Shipping.—Interim for the half-year ended Dec. 31 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

R. Wylie Hill and Co.—At the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Jan. 31, carrying forward £1,565.

River Plate Gas.—Final for the year ended Dec. 31 of 8s. per share, making 7 per cent. for 1905, placing £23,480 to reserve, £1,000 to an old-age and pension fund, and carrying forward £21,222.

Schweppes.—4 per cent. for 1905 on the deferred shares, placing £10,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £10,000.

Schill, Seeborn, and Co.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £2,835.

Swansea Gas.—Maximum at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31, placing £5,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £7,131.

Swansea United Breweries.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, carrying forward £420.

Thomas Barr.—5 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ending Dec. 31, placing £1,000 to special reserve, and £1,000 to ordinary reserve, and carrying forward £1,159.

United National Collieries.—Final of 15s. per share, making 10 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £5,086.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, APRIL 2.

Baker (Charles).—Inns of Court Hotel, 3 p.m.

Costa Rica Railway.—Winchester House, noon.

Mount Boppy Gold Mining.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.

Mysore Gold.—6, Queen Street Place, 11.45 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3.

Bank of England Stock.—Bank, 11 a.m.

Brush Electrical Engineering.—Salisbury House, 12.30 p.m.

United Kingdom Provident Institution.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.

United States Debenture Corporation.—Winchester House, noon.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4.

Bank of Africa.—Cannon Street Hotel, 1 p.m.

Colonial Bank.—13, Bishopsgate Street.

Delhi and London Bank.—123, Bishopsgate Street, noon.

National Electric Construction.—Winchester House, noon.

Phoenix Assurance.—19, Lombard Street, 1 p.m.

Rhodesia, Limited.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.

South African Territories.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Val de Travers Asphalt Paving.—River Plate House, noon.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano Electric Tramways.—Winchester House, noon.

Grand Trunk Railway.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Globe and Phoenix Gold Mining.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.

London Bank of Mexico and South America.—River Plate House, noon.

Paringa Mines.—Winchester House, 11.30 a.m.

Schweppes.—Hotel Metropole, noon.

Waterloo and City Railway.—Waterloo Station, 12.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6.

Ben Evans.—Swansea, 11 a.m.

British Moss Litter.—61, Gracechurch Street, noon.

Bergvik.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.

Bank of British South America.—5, Gracechurch Street.

Consolidated Water Works of Rosario.—52, Moorgate Street, 2 p.m.

Demerara Railway.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Langston Monotype Corporation.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Melbourne Real Estate.—Winchester House, noon.

Peter Jones.—31, Symons Street, S.W., noon.

Rio Tinto.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

ANTWERP WATER WORKS CO., LIMITED.

If the drought in 1904 was exceptionally favourable, the conditions during the 12 months ended December 31 were decidedly the reverse, but in spite of a decrease of town and shipping supply and a diminution of meter for the third quarter noted by the manager, the income in Antwerp rose by £1,018 to £61,169. Receipts in London fell off a little, but working charges were £353 less at £19,123, the extra cost of maintenance and pumping being offset by a reduction in supply service charges, and with a small reduction in London office outgoings the nett balance was £1,526 up at £40,806. Adding £4,581 brought forward and £655 from interest, the available total was £46,043 against £43,931, and after providing for debenture interest and sinking fund and £1,093 for directors' extra remuneration, £1,794 is put to reserve and £6,250 to sinking fund for amortisation of share capital, and the dividend is increased by ½ per cent. to 8 per cent., leaving £6,072 to be carried forward. Capital expenditure during the year amounted to £18,391, making the debit balance £15,298, and as the company's borrowing powers are exhausted, the directors seek authority from the shareholders to raise further loans. In the meantime this deficiency has been met out of reserves, which amount to £65,644 or an increase of £8,876, of which £28,062 or £6,249 more is represented by premiums paid under the sinking fund policy. Investments, including those specially earmarked for redemption of debentures, are £5,180 down at £27,054, and cash has been reduced from £13,071 to £5,034. Trading balances are against the company, sundry creditors having risen by £969 to £7,546 against a trifling increase of £18 to £6,112 in sundry debtors.

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Questions about Public Securities will be answered each week in the **Investors' Review** on the following terms:—

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The charge for Wires about New Issues appearing on days that prevent timely criticism in the **Investors' Review** will also be **2s. 6d.**, plus a prepaid telegram form.

The Editors cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

Letters from correspondents must, in every case, be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

The Investors' Review.

The Year's Revenue and Budget Prospects.

Last twelve months ended on the 31st ult. the Imperial revenue came to £143,997,576, and the aggregate amount collected by the Imperial authorities to £153,878,948, this including £9,901,408 paid over to local accounts. Taking the Imperial revenue alone we find it to be £1,524,000 more than the estimate made by Mr. Austen Chamberlain in April last, and yet some branches of the revenue have not done so very well. Customs for the year show a decrease of £1,255,000 and Excise a decrease of £520,000, but the decline in Customs is less than the amount estimated to be lost by the reduction in the tea duty from 8d. per lb. to 6d. Land tax and house duty have also yielded together £80,000 less than the income of the previous year, but estate duty, stamps, income-tax, post and telegraph service, Crown lands, and Suez Canal and miscellaneous receipts have all yielded more, so that the result is as we have stated; in fact the Imperial revenue is £607,172 more than that of the year before, and if we compare the results with the Budget estimates we find that Excise has given £425,000 more, Customs £30,000 more, stamps £180,000 more, income-tax £350,000 more, the Post Office and telegraph service £500,000 more, and there is an increase of £10,000 in the receipts from Crown lands. In short only land tax and the death duties have each given £30,000 less than the estimated amount.

What the overplus actually is for the twelve months we cannot quite tell, and one of the reforms we should like to see introduced by the present Chancellor of the Exchequer is an intelligible running account of the expenditure, so that at the year's end the student of national finance might be able to tell exactly how we stand. There is no virtue in mystery of any kind, and the method now pursued in the quarterly expenditure statements of detaching each from the other, so that the receipts and expenditure of the three months embraced in the return are alone given, is not conducive to lucidity. Why should not the nation know at the end of the fiscal year exactly what the product is, and so be put in a position to form some intelligible estimate of the approaching Budget? Apparently, at the end of March the Exchequer had a surplus of £4,879,290, after meeting all charges, including the sum necessary to pay the interest upon the debt distributed this week. That is to say, the Exchequer balances on March 31 came to £10,451,487, after supply services, the deficiency on the previous quarter, and the total of the debt services had been accounted for, and the amount remaining to be paid for debt services on the 5th inst. was £5,572,197, leaving, therefore, the apparent free balance named above. A year ago the like balance was only £1,864,839, so that the present one is £3,015,451 to the good. Should this be the real and final surplus of income over outgo for the past year, £4,879,000, that is, to say, then the Chancellor of the Exchequer will be in a considerably stronger position than we anticipated, and for one thing he ought to be at once able to cease renewing Treasury bills up to the amount of nearly £5,000,000. That is the best way in which to assist the market and to reduce the public debt. Mr. Asquith is also in a strong position with reference to the current year's requirements, for, on the basis of the revenue paid in

the Exchequer in the twelve months just ended, he would have a free surplus of about £2,257,000, and this is exclusive of the annuities falling in this year, the amount of which is £3,188,538, viz., a Chancery fund annuity of £2,324,516, and a "converted" annuity of £864,022. With this added, he should have quite £5,446,000 to play with in spite of the fact that the devouring requirements of the public services have allowed of a nett reduction of only £311,126 in the estimated current year's expenditure compared with that of a year back. This small reduction is all that Mr. Asquith is able to show in spite of £1,520,000 knocked off the navy budget, £17,000 off the army budget, and about £51,000 off the packet services. Every other branch of public expenditure demands more money, the Civil Service £702,408 more, Customs and Inland Revenue services £51,600 more, the Post Office £372,198 more, and the telegraph service £150,364 more. Something will have to be done to curtail this ever-increasing encroachment upon the earning capacity of the people, but as it stands the Chancellor of the Exchequer has a good deal to come and go upon, and he will be fairly justified in estimating, still on the basis of existing taxation, for a further growth of revenue in the current year. Assume that he puts this growth at £1,000,000, and he will have roughly £6,500,000 to play Father Bountiful with. Probably enough the whole of the amount falling in through the expiry of annuities will be again devoted to the redemption of debt, and we only hope that the system of huge terminable annuities will not be reverted to, for that is the most costly form of debt redemption it is possible to devise. Doubtless, it would have a most excellent influence upon the price of Consols in the market, and in lifting that price would tend also to force up the prices of all classes of trustee securities to the great benefit of borrowing corporations and colonies, but to the ultimate great loss of the investor. In all other respects the system is unworthy of support. It would be better, in other words, to use the whole of the money to reduce the current burdens of the people, and to defer dealing with debt reduction until the whole amount of it can be handled in an economical and thorough manner, rather than to re-start the patch-work, price forcing, and suspensible terminable annuity system.

Putting that aside, what chance is there of a reduction in taxation this year? Clearly not very much, and we are glad that it should not be much, because this House of Commons ought to be able, by the time another year's estimates come round, to so revise and cut down expenditure as to open the way for a material and permanent relief to the taxpayer. We wish to see the sugar duties swept away, but that cannot yet be done, so there is no hurry. We are tied by the Brussels Convention for at least another eighteen months, if not longer. But we should also like to see the income-tax brought back to 6d., and there is not the slightest hope of any such change. The tea duty should also be reduced to 4d. per lb. or less, but unless the Chancellor of the Exchequer takes in hand a thorough revision of the laws governing the taxation of drink, and especially the taxation from drink licences, or unless he scientifically graduates and extends the incidence of the income-tax, he cannot this year find the means with which to make much change in taxation. If he knocked 1d. off income-tax, however—which would mean a reduction in revenue from that source of about £2,500,000—he would have comparatively little left to lessen other imposts by. Perhaps, however, he may be able to take this little step and also to knock off the export duty on coal. These changes seem to be about all that is open to him, unless he initiates some far-reaching reform in taxation, of which we do not think there is any probability. He has not had time to master a very intricate subject. Something, however, may be counted on in the way of natural increment of revenue, and the more taxation can be reduced along fertilising lines, the greater will be the elasticity of the taxes that remain.

Causes of the Brewery Collapse.

They are so numerous that it is almost impossible to deal adequately with them all in the space of a single article, but we may indicate as briefly as possible some of the principal reasons that have led to the steady and persistent slump which has taken place in brewery securities of all kinds during the last few years. What the extent of the capital loss really is would be difficult of conjecture, but taking into account the extreme inflation to which some companies' stocks and shares have been subjected we should think £50,000,000 was well within the mark. Although some parts of the country may have suffered more severely than others, the breakdown has been so far-reaching and universal that scarcely a single district has escaped, and we doubt if the fingers of both hands would be required to indicate the concerns whose earning capacity and market position have not suffered deterioration. The rise and fall of the companying business in beer brewing and selling may be said to date from what is colloquially known as the "pub boom" of eight or ten years ago. In the inauguration of this the great London breweries were undoubtedly the worst offenders. They also carried the fashion to the excess which has now resulted in such appalling devastation, and although few concerns have yet had the courage to boldly tell their shareholders of the hundreds of thousands of pounds which have been irretrievably lost, the hand of Fate lies just as heavily on those who are still endeavouring to burke the truth and one day the complete story must be unfolded. Then may it well be found that our estimate of £50,000,000 is not exaggerated. In putting the chief blame on the London companies we are not in any sense endeavouring to shield those provincial companies which by following the example set have done so much to render a bad position worse. In London we have such horrible cases as Watney, Combe, Reid, Meux's, Thomas Salt, Ind Coope, Huggins and Co., Hoare and Co., and the City of London; but the provinces are not so far behind with their Allsopp's, Manchester Brewery and Showell's. Some companies like Watney, Combe and Allsopp's were rotten from inception, and with their gross and practically dishonest over-capitalisation could never have flourished had the conditions been never so favourable. Another like Showell's was ruined by fraud, while the action of some of the men formerly controlling the Manchester Brewery would not bear too close investigation. Over all hung the shadow of incompetent administration and management, an absence of ordinary common business prudence without which not the finest business in the world could hope to prosper, let alone one whose foundations have always been insecure from the very nature of things.

What, it may be asked, induced the brewery companies to indulge in the extravagant competition for public-houses which led to such ruinous inflation of prices? The question is decidedly difficult to answer, and those most closely interested would probably find it hardest to produce an adequate reply. But so far, at any rate, as the London companies are concerned, there is no doubt that the brewing business was being seriously hurt by the development of suburban London. During recent years the great mass of the workers in the metropolis have not found it necessary to live, or have not been allowed by a beneficent County Council to live huddled up in filthy and pestilential slums. Cheap suburban cottages and improved transit facilities enabled them to reside outside the London radius or on the outer borders of the City, and with this important movement of population beer drinking in London proper began to become a diminishing quantity. Alarmed at the changed order of things all the companies seemed to simultaneously seek a remedy in unrestrained "pub" buying and tying. Licensed houses in the districts to whence the population had migrated were bought up at most extravagant figures and huge loans granted to tenants in order to tie and secure trade. In London and outside broken-down

looking "pubs" were transformed as though by magic into veritable palaces and everywhere almost money was squandered in a fashion that could only have one end. What has been the result? The houses purchased have not done 50 per cent. of the trade necessary to justify the prices paid, and the unfortunate tenants of others who had loans forced upon them, often against their better judgment, found themselves either unable to pay the interest or to make any headway in the redemption of the money advanced. So it is that at the present time practically every brewery company which has indulged in this tied house business has enormously depreciated freehold and leasehold properties on its books besides vast sums out on loan which could no more be collected at their face value than the earth is likely to rub shoulders with the moon.

But this is not all. The trade has also been struck blows which, in its weakened condition, it was unable to stand up against. We believe in any case that the country is becoming less drunken—that much seems to be proved by the steadily shrinking revenue from excise—but there are other reasons which have tended to reduce the consumption of beer and at the same time increase the cost of production. Outstanding is the South African war, which not only drew an army of beer-drinkers out of the country, but led to the war tax of 1s. per barrel—which stands to this day, and we are happy to say is not likely to be repealed—and, moreover, created such a prolonged period of industrial depression that the wealthiest of us were forced to become more abstemious whether our inclinations lay that way or not. Then we had that excellent piece of legislation which, although not carried nearly far enough, led to the less frequent association of the nation's childhood with the drinking houses with which the country abounds. We refer to the Act whereby it was made an offence against the law to serve children with beer for drinking off the premises and which practically killed the "beer jug" trade. In addition to all this working conditions have been admittedly bad for several seasons, abnormal rains, high price of hops, and finally the ruinous Brussels convention which had such a great effect upon that indispensable commodity—sugar. Magistrates, too, were exercising a wiser discrimination, especially in the provinces and where a street contained a dozen or more public-houses, as all too many do, began to think that some might be done without.

In fact, so bad had things become that the late Government, ever the friends of the publican, were obliged to introduce the "bung" endowment Bill in an effort to prop up the drink business, now weakened to its very foundations. This measure did not fulfil all the desires of our brewing friends who would have liked compensation from public funds but it had the effect of taking the control out of the hands of the local magistrates, who were fully acquainted with local conditions, and allowing the decision as to licences to rest with the magistrates at Quarter Sessions, who knew nothing about them. The Act also created every public-house practically a freehold, as although the licences were subject to annual renewal, no house could be closed without compensation. True, this came from a fund created by the brewers themselves, but in the case of tied houses we doubt not that the owning company will "scoop the lot" and leave the unfortunate tenant who has helped to create whatever value the house possessed to go hang. Already there is a decided disposition to grumble at the inroads which the compensation charges make on profits, and we think opponents of the measure have the satisfaction of knowing that this bad-principled Bill has done little or nothing towards the object desired, the salvation of the shrinking, debt-laden, and mismanaged industry. We say debt-laden because probably no other trade in the country conducts operations with such a dangerously large proportion of debt, fixed and floating. Not only does the debenture debt often bear an outrageously heavy ratio to the share capital, but it is frequently, if not invariably, supplemented by loans,

mortgages, and deposits, until the whole structure is so top-heavy that its ultimate overturn is inevitable. We know almost for a certainty that the collapse of concerns like Ind, Coope, and Hoare and Co. was quickened by the huge liabilities on deposits. As soon as it was known that the business was in a bad way depositors naturally hastened to withdraw their money, which they were probably enabled to do at very short notice, and the difficulty of providing the necessary funds created a position whose seriousness can hardly be exaggerated. Be it not forgotten that the greater part of this debt is represented by assets which are enormously depreciated in value, and it would not be difficult to put the finger on a good many companies whose properties, if realised now, would not produce sufficient to liquidate the fixed and floating liabilities. Is it any wonder, then, that the colossal depreciation in market value shown by our table, given below, has taken place?

	1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.	
	Hi	Lowest.	Hi	Lowest.	Hi	Lowest.	Hi	Lowest.	Hi	Lowest.	Hi	Lowest.
Allsopp, preferred	65½	37½	47½	29	53	37½	43½	21½	27	15	21	16
Do. deferred	34	15½	23½	13½								
Do. preference	113	74	89	67	95½	73½	43	47½	23	30½	25½	
Bass, 5% preference	133½	125	130½	124	29	122½	128	119	124	112	118	104½
Benskin's Watford, pref.	4½	3	4	3	38	24	45½	38	32	24	28	2
Do. 4% 1st debentures	80½	82½	87½	82	75½	69	86	76	85	77	80½	65
Bristol, Georges, ordinary	36	33½	38	34½	37	34½	38½	34	34½	28½	26½	24½
Cannon, preference	10	9½	10½	9½	10½	9½	9½	9½	9½	84	88	73
Do. 4% debentures	105	101	105	100	105½	99	102	95	99	94	97	97
City of London, ordinary	160	150	149½	120	124	72	95	57	71	40	51	44
Do. preference	117½	121½	110½	115½	102	103	88	95	83½	81	77	77
Do. 3½% debentures	97	94½	93	93	93½	84	85	79	82½	77	80½	77
Courage and Co., pref.	25½	121	123	118½	120	112½	114½	107	112½	94	98	91
Hancock, preferred	11	11	11½	10½	11½	10½	11	10	9½	9	9	9
Do. 4% debentures	99	99	101	100½	99	100	100	100	99	91	91	91
Hoare, preference	111½	91	111	10	102	8	84½	64	81	64	71½	51½
Do. "A" preference	101½	81	91	8	81	5½	53	34	41	24½	34	26
Do. 4% debentures	105	101	105½	100½	103½	99	99	85	90	84	88	82
Huggins, ordinary	8½	8	8½	7½	6	4½	3	4	2	3½	3½	3½
Do. preference	9	7½	9	8½	8½	7½	71	53	74	57½	58	58
Do. debentures	90	85	88½	83½	86½	79½	82½	70½	79	70	77½	73
Lion, ordinary	34	24½	26½	19½	19	15	18½	15	16½	15	13½	12½
Do. preference	25½	25	26½	25½	23½	21½	25	22	22½	10½	19½	17½
Do. debentures	90	89	92½	85	88½	88	93	89	91	84	85	77
Manchester, 7% pref	14½	11½	10½	10½	12½	10½	11½	6	7½	5½	7½	6½
Do. 4% debentures	90½	85½	100½	97	78½	78½	78	74	78	70½	78	78
Meux's, preference	124	118	124	11	118	84	91½	74	98	88	58	42
Do. 4% debentures	106	102½	105	103	104	101½	102	99	99½	85½	84	82
Nalder & Collyers, ord.	31½	28	34	32	33	31	33	32½	32½	30½	30½	27½
Do. debentures	109½	108½	111	107½	111½	109½	107	107	108½	107½	107½	107½
Newcastle, ordinary	214	19	198	133	162	162	182	142	158	138	112	112
Do. 4% debentures	100	90	98	95	99½	92	93	87	88½	86½	85½	84½
Northampton, ordinary	164	142	152½	140	108	145	158	148	142	14	108	108
Do. 5% per. debentures	122½	119½	123½	120	118	114	114	108½	111½	100½	108½	108½
Parker's Burslem, ordinary	21	18½	18½	16½	16½	14½	17½	14½	15½	13½	112	108
Royal Brentford, ordinary	21	20½	21½	20	23½	19½	23½	23	24½	23½	20	18½
Do. 4½% debentures	103½	102½	105½	102	105	101½	104½	100	103	100	100	100
Salt, 4½% 1st mort. deb.	103	97	104	98	102	98	99½	84½	90½	83½	83½	83½
Do. 4½% "B" deb.	96	93	94	90	86½	85	83½	50	71	63	45½	44
Showells, ordinary	22½	16½	17	14½	11½	54½	02	2½	3	24	12½	11½
Do. preference	154	142	144	114	129	128	114	7	72	64	64	64
Do. guaranteed	68	68	68	54½	55	54½	48	22	24	21½	14½	14½
Do. 4½% debentures	113	108	110	106	108½	96	95	88	93	88½	88½	87½
Smith, Garrett, ordinary	22½	20	23	21	23½	22	23½	21½	17½	16½	15½	14½
Watney, Combe, pref.	77½	58	75½	55	74½	57½	71½	55	68½	48	56	49½
Do. deferred	64	40	54½	33	43	28½	42	24½	35	15	16	14
Do. preference	119	101	113	99	109	97	104	102	100	82	91	82
Do. debentures	95½	87½	96	88	90½	82	89	81	88½	75½	81½	73½
Whitbread, preferred	99	94	100	94	93½	91	94	89	93	88	89½	84½
Do. 4% debentures	108½	104	110	104½	107	101	042	99½	105½	99	100½	99½
Worthington, 5½% pref.	112	12	13½	12½	12½	12½	12½	12½	12½	12½	12½	12½

In order to be fair we have included one or two which seem to have emerged scathless from the upheaval, but they are like wanderers in the wilderness, and did space permit us to produce the entire list of companies, not 5 per cent.—nay, probably not 2 per cent.—would stand in the position they did eight or ten years ago. How many of them have built up adequate reserves to buttress their positions in case of need, and is there a single company whose accumulations are entirely invested away from the business? The frequent analyses of individual companies in our columns supply the answer. We leave out the magnificent business of Guinness which stands on a pinnacle by itself. On the whole it is a terribly painful story, and one may well wonder what are the prospects for the future. Nothing to the good of the brewers, so far as we can see. Materials may be costing less, but the wave of sobriety which seems to have swept the country is still, we hope and believe, in evidence, and must continue so as civilisation advances and urgently demanded social reform makes the lot of the worker brighter and happier. The average working man does not want to spend his days and nights in the public-

house, but hitherto he has been forced there by the conditions under which he has been obliged to live. But we think we can see the dawn of happier times, and when the present Parliament gives evidence that its work will be for the good of the people as a whole, the labour will be rewarded by the elevation and higher ideals of the masses. And the greater the development in this direction, then assuredly the more must drunkenness and other evils diminish. In a despairing way a deputation from "the trade" waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer the other day and whined for consideration, but Mr. Asquith has a short way with those who openly and secretly do their best to hinder the party to which he belongs and then crawl round for help. If there is any licensing legislation in the immediate future the trade may be quite sure it will not be in the direction of relief. We know the Chancellor has his eye on the licensing duties, and has a mind to rectify the glaring inequity of the present scale, whereby the maximum due is fixed at £60. Even that is not the worst aspect of the duties, but it suffices to show how thoroughly inequitable the whole business is.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE NATAL TROUBLE.

It is impossible to avoid the feeling that Lord Elgin has not shown himself a resolute man in dealing with Natal. His impulses have been excellent, and we thoroughly sympathise with his attitude in intervening to stay the execution of twelve additional victims for the death of two men in what seems to have been an impromptu local riot, arising out of a protest against a vexatious tax. But having taken that attitude he ought to have stuck to it, and to have refused to listen to any appeals or remonstrances, or to be intimidated by abuse until the whole of the documents had been sent home, and submitted to his scrutiny. No danger whatever appears to have existed that further trouble would arise amongst the blacks in Natal in consequence of the postponement of these executions, but it is by no means improbable that trouble will presently arise because they have taken place. As a representative of the natives told the *Tribune*, the blacks all over South Africa will now be stirred up by the fate meted out to these unfortunate men, who prayed and sang hymns the night before they were shot, an indication that these condemned wretches were in some sort of the Christian faith, and, therefore, presumably not abandoned desperadoes. To stir up the blacks throughout South Africa means that we shall, as usual, by-and-bye, be appealed to to send troops to protect the whites. That appeal was indeed made by the Natalians in their first alarm over the poll-tax levy, and we have still troops in that colony. Now the people who call themselves Imperialists out there and their supporters here cannot expect to get it both ways.

In the early days when the late Cecil Rhodes was climbing into power, and wooing the Dutch, he told these Dutch in Cape Colony that the one paramount reform necessary was what he described as "the elimination of the imperial factor." When the Dutch refused to be wooed and to do his bidding at all points a war ensued, then the "imperial factor" was everything, was in the greatest peril, we were told, and we fought and bled and paid to uphold it. But now when peace has come again, and the Home Government seeks, even in the faintest way, to assert its right to perform its duty towards the subject peoples over whom it is the ultimate overlord, a clamour arises of the most unpleasant kind, and terms of opprobrium used towards it, such as should cure us of the desire to use wild words for good.

And this language was used against the present Government by those very people who were loudest in appealing to the Imperial factor when they wanted fighting done. Obviously, this sort of see-saw cannot

go on, and we are inclined to think that Mr. Outhwaite hit the nail on the head when he suggested in the *Daily News* last week that the true policy is to withdraw the Imperial troops altogether from South Africa. We used to be continually pestered, as he reminds us, in New Zealand, as long as we had troops there. The white settlers in these islands were continually quarrelling with the Maoris, and the British troops we kept there were every now and again set to killing these natives, but there has never been any war between Briton and Maori since the British troops were withdrawn. The Maoris have even got constitutional rights, and send representatives to the New Zealand Parliament. That may not benefit them much, but at least it brings them within the ordinary laws of the land, and nobody has been injured by the change. If the Natalians and other whites in South Africa will not allow the Home Government to check their brutality whenever fear takes possession of their minds as a consequence, probably, of their own ruthless treatment of the native blacks, then that Government must withdraw altogether from the country. The Randlord newspapers and news agencies triumphantly informed us that the Dutch in Northern Natal were at one with the British in demanding the withdrawal of Lord Elgin's appeal for delay, for it was that, not a "veto," as the Opposition here said. This, if true, is indeed welcome news, for it would imply that Dutch and British are coming into line and accord, and if that be so, there cannot be the slightest necessity for the maintenance of a large British garrison anywhere in South Africa. The whites are, in ordinary circumstances, always able to defend themselves against the blacks, and there is now not the slightest danger of any internal white rebellion. Therefore, the Government here can at once proceed to lighten the Imperial Budget by several millions a year by clearing out the British garrisons from South Africa. This done, the colonists would be in a position ever after to say, if our Colonial Office dared to hint at any kind of interference, "Mind your own business, we can look after ourselves."

AN ENSLAVED PRESS.

"I admit it causes no little anxiety that the Press in the colonies is largely under the influence of one particular section of opinion, and that not the predominant section of opinion in the country." Thus spoke Mr. Winston Churchill in answer to a question put to him by Mr. Belloc on Wednesday afternoon. We are glad to see that the Government is alive to this great danger, and wish the people at home throughout the country were equally so. That the distorted news transmitted both from South Africa to England and from England to South Africa is discounted to some extent by the people may be true. We here certainly, if we may judge by the result of the General Election, are beginning to see through the distortions and falsehoods supplied to us from South Africa by way of news and summaries of opinion, but the persistence with which falsehood is transmitted both ways for all that remains one of the greatest dangers of the hour, and it has been a danger to the Empire ever since a band of nondescripts, some of them members of the illicit diamond-buying cohort in South Africa, first got control of the African Press. From that step they proceeded to acquire a dominating influence over no inconsiderable portion of the British Press, and at the present time they either own or hold in the hollow of their hands, by subsidies, large advertising orders, or otherwise, some of the most important-looking newspapers in this country. Nor is this all. For a long time these men have dominated Reuter's Agency, so that, as we have been learning recently, only the most garbled and disjointed epitomes of speeches made by Ministers and others in the United Kingdom find their way to the African Press. Long ago, in the early days when the late Cecil Rhodes and his associates were working up public opinion in this country, with the view to the coercion of the Boers, Reuter had an hone-

man at the head of its African service, and the mine masters procured his dismissal. He came home, and there was no work for him at home either. He was squeezed out by the De Beers boycott. The latest we heard of him was that he, a man of culture and ability, but honest and possessed of soul and conscience, is working as a farm hand out in the Canadian North-West. Only this week we were told by an eminent publicist, who knows South Africa well, that letters sent by him from this country to a friend in South Africa, and dealing with public affairs from a point of view not agreeable to the masters of these settlements, had never reached their destination, so that not merely the Press but the Post Office would seem to be in the grasp of these monopolists, and the consequences may be deadly for colonies and Empire alike. How the Government is going to remedy such a state of affairs we do not know, unless, as the *Daily News* suggests, the French system of placarding authentic reports of public speeches throughout South Africa be adopted. It would not cost much, and it might do good, but even then it is probable that the police would tear down the placards.

In this country the Press is, as we hint above, handled in various ways. Some papers of importance in the public eye are actually owned by the South African magnates, others are controlled by advances and subsidies, or through a plentiful supply of advertisements, paid for on a high scale. Still others are threatened with boycott in the matter of both advertisements and information if they do not succumb. The newspaper-reading public can have no conception of the power these capitalists hold over public opinion even in this country, but just let them look around and note how many newspapers we have which dare to tell the truth about South Africa, which can afford to tell it, or are self-sacrificing enough to ignore the bribes offered for keeping silence. Silence, indeed, is as valuable to these men as speech when a trusted organ of opinion is concerned, and when the few independent newspapers do endeavour to get at the truth and to tell it to their readers, we fear they often have the utmost difficulty in retaining the services of honest correspondents. The truth must be told in secret by such if they live in South Africa, for if a writer there is found out his life is rendered a burden to him, and ere long he probably has to quit the country starved out. The *Times* newspaper notably continues to be served in South Africa by men patently the servants of the dominant money lords of the country, and that surely is a lamentable position for a newspaper once proud of its independence to occupy. Some years ago we read through a number of letters upon South African affairs contributed to the *Times* during the previous war with the Boers, the Majuba War, and were struck with their remarkable fairness, independence, and honesty. One looks in vain for any spirit of that kind in the *Times* newspaper to-day, and it is because it seems to be so completely the servant of the cosmopolites in this and other matters that it has lost its hold on public opinion. Other and weaker journals are also beginning to find that gold and diamonds are not everything in life.

FAREWELL, ALGECIRAS.

So the Morocco dispute has at length been settled, and, from the terms ultimately agreed upon, we are driven to marvel that the haggling should have continued so long. In one sense Germany is out of it, and we should think her statesmen will be only too glad when they come to think it over that they are to have nothing to do with the internal affairs of Morocco. The other Powers are not supposed to have much say in these affairs either, but inasmuch as the ports of Tetuan and Larache will be controlled by Spanish officers, Rabat, Mazagan, Saffi, and Mogador by French officers, and Tangier and Casablanca jointly by French and Spanish officers, it is obvious that there will be continuous interference on the part of these Powers with the liberty of the Sultan and his advisers,

and perhaps frequent clashings as well. They have a most difficult task before them, not only to keep from quarrelling amongst themselves, but to prevent such outbreaks of disorder within Morocco as may compel armed intervention, and we are not surprised to read that Holland has requested to be relieved of the honour of providing an Inspector-General of Dutch nationality, for the ports. It does not seem to be yet settled who will step into this unenviable, though most honourable post, but there is talk of the ever-handly Swiss. Germany has likewise been put a little in the background in the matter of the new Bank of Morocco which is to be established, since, including two shares taken by the Bank of France, France will have three parts of the capital, as against one each for Germany and Spain. The new bank is to have four censors, designated by the Bank of England, the Bank of France, the Reichsbank, and the Bank of Spain, while the rights of France in regard to her Moorish loan are to be carefully safeguarded. And the compact is for five years, and, perhaps, in that time the civilisation or westernisation of Morocco will have made progress enough to render a new compact easier. Perhaps also—

WILLANS AND ROBINSON.

In the past half year ended December 31 last this unfortunate company again did a little better. Its loss at Rugby was only £1,202, and at Queen's Ferry £11,873, or £13,075 in all, compared with £22,903 in the preceding half-year, and £42,772 in the second half of 1904. Compared with a year ago, therefore, the company is nearly £30,000 to the good, and the directors again claim that this is only a book loss since they wrote £15,874 off in all for depreciation. But that is not a good argument, for, after all, the depreciation allowed for is less than 3 per cent. upon the capital value of the properties, and cannot therefore be adequate to meet wastage of all kinds. It is something, however, to find that the loss of revenue as brought out is diminishing, and by-and-bye, perhaps, the company will again be able to show a nett profit. It cannot, however, look to regaining its former prosperity without some reduction in the capital, which aggregates £912,000. In fact the loss on the business in past years, and the neglect to write down with sufficient thoroughness in days of prosperity, days when the board yielded to the clamour of shareholders and paid dividends beyond prudence, has brought the shareholders face to face with the necessity to rearrange the capital account. How this is to be done it is not for us to suggest, but it would be a relief to the company were the dead weight of lost, overvalued, or worn out assets to be removed. Meantime, although, as the directors say, trade is still highly unfavourable as regards prices, the management is developing the business in various directions, so that we may soon, it is to be hoped, look for a balance on the right side. Much success has been achieved in the manufacture of steam turbines, and the directors confidently hope that so far as Rugby is concerned the era of unprofitable working is nearly at an end. We cordially endorse this hope. It is pointed out, indeed, that the position is really better than it seems in another respect, since the loss at Queen's Ferry has been reduced to £11,873, in spite of the fact that no royalties upon boilers made by sub-licensees were received in the past half-year against £2,025 on that account in the preceding half-year.

There is a reduction of £8,630 in the stock in hand compared with twelve months back, the total being now £85,626, and that also we may accept as a good sign, while the company continues to have fairly substantial sums invested on account of its reserve fund and fire insurance fund, the aggregate of the two being about £57,000. In their certificate the auditors, Messrs. Cooper Bros., say that they have not been able to ascertain the value of the shares and debenture stock in other companies, or to verify the accuracy of all apportionments between Rugby and Queen's

Ferry. Also they note that the items "debtors" and "work in progress" include amounts received in shares of companies in accordance with contracts which have been entered into. This is unfortunately a habit with too many modern manufacturing companies, and often leads to losses, but we presume the competition in business is so bitter that there is no escape from risks of this description. However, sundry debtors altogether amount to only £131,396. It is a large sum, about £40,000 larger than in the corresponding half of 1904, but if proper provision is made against loss, it need not be a source of serious trouble, and sundry creditors amount to only £36,890, while the company has not only the reserve fund, or at least the invested portion of it, to fall back upon, but nearly £46,000 in cash. Obviously a great deal remains to be done, but there are welcome symptoms of recovery. Much appears to be expected from Mr. G. W. Anderson, who joined the board in 1904, and as he devotes a deal of time to Queen's Ferry, it is suggested that his salary be raised to £500 per annum, which is surely a reasonable proposal. No large continental company would get the services of a working director for that.

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND MORTGAGE CO., LIMITED.

This old derelict has just issued its report and accounts for the year 1905, and shareholders will be startled to find that the loss on the 12 months, after providing debenture interest, is only £7,384. It appears that interest on loans yielded £3,610, interest on investments and transfer fees £724, and nett income from properties on hand £15,396 making a total of £19,730. Against that interest on debentures and shares paid up in full required £22,323, expenses in London amounted to £2,315, and in the Colonies to £2,477, so that the year wound up with the deficiency mentioned. And Australia is supposed to have quite recovered from her drought now. Loss to date is £71,854, and every month that passes makes it increasingly difficult for the company to go on. There are some assets of a sort, such as consignments of produce £22,993, investments £23,596, and loans on mortgage in the Colonies £54,096, but as each loss is made these must steadily diminish, because no one will allow the company to build up a large amount of floating debt. Already £4,000 is owing to bankers, and £3,720 to sundry creditors, but fortunately the cash held is just about sufficient to meet the accrued interest on debenture stock and fully-paid shares. Properties on hand, presumably foreclosures, constitute the largest item, £426,471, and from the profit and loss account we gather that these yield about 4 per cent. That is a great deal better than might have been expected, but what is the use of it when 4½ per cent. interest has to be paid upon debentures? In short, the company's status has gone, and if there was a reasonable chance that the assets would pay off the debenture debt nothing would be better than a wind-up, because the company seems to be travelling fast towards a call on the shares. They are of £10 each, with £1 paid, a position which holds out a really appalling prospect. No doubt holders would be glad to give the shares away to be free of further liability, but nobody would be willing to take them.

DR. JAMESON AND DE BEERS.

Dr. Leander Starr Jameson, Prime Minister of Cape Colony and director of the De Beers Consolidated Mine monopoly and the Chartered British South Africa Company, has been good enough to inform a listening Empire that it would be a mistake to tax diamonds in the State over whose destinies he presides. This is an admirable view for a director of the De Beers to hold, but hardly one that can commend itself to statesmen anywhere, least of all in debt-bound Cape Colony. The diamonds ought to have belonged to the people throughout, and the larger part of the profit accruing from their sale should have gone to benefit the country in which they were found. Instead of that, they have

been secured as a rigorous monopoly possession of a corporation mostly composed of obscure alien adventurers. It is impossible to conceive a parallel in this country to the state of affairs now existing in South Africa, where several members of the board of this all-powerful and wealthy monopoly are members of the Government. If we were to imagine the whole of the iron trade of the United Kingdom in the hands of a group dominated by the great steel manufacturers, whose principal sources of profit lie in supplying material for the creation of our monster Navy, and that the Cabinet was partly filled and altogether dominated by members of the controlling board of this great monopoly, we should have something approaching a parallel to what exists in South Africa, but it would not cover the whole ground, for De Beers monopolises much more than diamonds and gold; it is in control of the meat supply, of dynamite—of the life, one may say, of the colonists in all directions. Should its masters, for instance, determine to divert traffic from the Cape Railways to Delagoa Bay, it can starve Cape Colony out, and yet there are people in this country who fall foul of this journal whenever it ventures to protest against a system of this description, a system of enslavement, which must end in the ruin of these unfortunate settlements, if not in our own. But Dr. Jameson is an excellent Prime Minister for De Beers.

METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS.

In its way this enterprise is quite as interesting as the B.E.T. They are really companion companies, having similar aims and ambitions, the same bad old methods of finance, and, needless to say, the same geniuses to control their destinies. We do not wish to be too hard on the thing, because it is doing a real service to the inhabitants of the outer borders of London, providing good and rapid means of transit along routes where hitherto there has been absolutely no alternative to walking. What a pity, therefore, to endanger permanent success and future stability and usefulness by overreaching itself in its early days. The company's obligations and commitments are growing at a staggering pace, and notwithstanding that a year ago a further 141,396 ordinary shares were allotted to the shareholders at par, we find from the latest balance-sheet that temporary loans to the amount of £96,000 are in existence, besides the deposit of £20,000 to the County Council lent by the B.E.T. Seeing that the issued share capital is over £1,200,000, that the debenture debt reaches £350,000, and that the company guarantees principal and interest on £131,200, formerly £150,000, 3½ per cent. debentures of the North Metropolitan Tramways, this means a total sum of over £1,700,000 involved on capital account. Actual capital expenditure, indeed, is £1,725,797, tramway undertakings accounting for £1,206,123, light railways, &c., for £198,051, and the electric power supply enterprise for £321,623. Do the directors build up adequate reserves against this huge outlay to offset the deadweight in the shape of old horse tramways taken over and converted, to provide against the heavy depreciation which we know occurs with electrical equipment, and to make the company strong against the time when leases expire and concessions fall in? Apparently they never dream of such things, but rush to pay an ordinary dividend the moment the so-called balance of working supplies a pretext. Can the balance, whatever it is, be considered legitimate when all the things we have mentioned are ignored? The allocations for the year to December consist of £6,600 placed to a reconstruction and renewal fund, and it is so easy to ignore the preliminary expenses standing for the nice trifle of £62,895. The amazing part is that this kind of thing is perpetuated by Mr. Garcke and his associates in face of their bitter B.E.T. experiences. We have seen the dividend on the ordinary shares of that enterprise fall from 9 per cent. to whatever the current year brings forth, which may be the market's estimate of 3 per cent. or may be nothing—you will remember that no interim payment was made

—while the market value of the shares has gone steadily down from 22 to 6½. But all that teaches nothing, and we should not be doing our duty if we did not utter a warning that there is only one end to methods of the kind. We mentioned an electric lighting company just now in which the Metropolitan Company is involved to the tune of £321,623. This concern is known as the North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Company, which in turn holds all the ordinary shares of the North Metropolitan Electrical Power Distribution Company—you know the kind of thing—and, so far as we can gather, there is still a terrible lot of capital to be spent before all the obligations which have been undertaken can be carried out. We gather that this company did not produce much revenue during 1905, and it must always be remembered that whatever profits it may make will be, in a sense, at the expense of the light railways which it will supply, and which are controlled or belong to the tramways company. In fact, it is a nice little family party, entirely on the B.E.T. lines, and, so far as the lighting company is concerned, really substantial revenue seems to us a long way off.

Reverting for a moment to the tramways question, we find the company has, by purchase of debentures, somewhat reduced its obligations in connection with the North Metropolitan Company, but definite arrangements have been come to for the purchase of the Harrow Road and Paddington system for £44,840, plus sundry costs. The conversion of these lines for electric traction has already commenced, in anticipation of the completion of the purchase, so that a considerable portion of that £44,000 odd must be put down as merely goodwill. However, the company has now finished all its tramways and opened further light railways, the total mileage being just 22½. Another section of line has been opened since the end of the year, and considerable progress is reported with new works. What they are to cost probably no one knows, but we hope the public will not supply the money till we see. Traffic receipts in the 12 months to December 31 were £140,040, or £58,197 more, interest amounted to £6,569, rents and sundries to £1,362, and dividends on shares in North Metropolitan and Harrow Road Tramways to £23,825, making a total of £171,797. Against this, power and running expenses amounted to £67,623, repairs and maintenance cost £9,573, administration £15,133, and rents, &c., £1,022. The company then has to pay £10,000 in rent to the Middlesex County Council, £4,875 interest on North Metropolitan debentures, £15,750 for interest on its own debenture stock, and £4,271 for general interest. Cost of underwriting ordinary shares then absorbed £1,500—a little plum for the Electric and General Investment?—and £42,050 is left. Add to that £3,855 brought forward, and the credit for disposal is £45,905, so the directors pay the preference dividend with £25,000, and make a distribution at 3 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, placing £6,600 to a renewal and reconstruction fund, and carry forward the larger balance of £4,702.

GOLDEN HORSE SHOE ESTATES COMPANY.

The environment amid which this company now exists is less stormy than it was a short time ago, when considerable ill-feeling and strife was the outcome of a contest for the management of the mine. But, despite its ups and downs and struggles, there is still clinging to it something of its old prestige. Others have come more prominently to the front, and have pushed the Golden Horse Shoe more and more into the rear, but the shares are still active market counters. It may seem a stretch of imagination to say they are "active" when times are exceedingly dull, especially in the West Australian market, but we are speaking in a relative sense—active compared with the prominent shares in the same group. Since the publication of the directorial report for 1905 the price has been stronger than usual, as the report has given general satisfaction,

though some disappointment has been felt that there is no increase in the ore reserves. A greater quantity of ore was treated in the 12 months—223,035 tons, against 181,191 tons—but the quality of it was much poorer, the yield being 160,152 fine ozs., compared with 185,862 ozs., the value declining from £4 4s. 2d. per ton to £2 19s. 9d. per ton. The results of this depreciation of the ore would have been very serious had it not been for a considerable saving in the working costs, which were reduced from £2 5s. 9d. per ton to £1 12s. 5d. per ton, so the profit averaged £1 7s. 4d. per ton, compared with £1 18s. 5d., and in the aggregate was only £2,386 lower at £305,604. This enabled the directors to pay the same dividend as in the preceding year, viz., 18s. per £5 share. The large balance of £137,186 was brought in from 1904, and out of the whole the directors appropriate £113,909 in writing off the balance of machinery and plant account, so this no longer appears as an asset. Since 1899 they have also written off the total cost of mine development, £220,753, whereof £25,503 was debited to profits this past year. These are commendable achievements, and give a strong appearance to the balance-sheet. Property, however, has not been written down, and still stands at £1,509,304, against the company's huge capital of £1,500,000. As for the future, the general manager is not satisfied with his economies, but hopes, or, rather, definitely promises, that the costs will be further substantially reduced in the current year. The present condition of the mine, both underground and on the surface, he considers to be very satisfactory, and prospects are encouraging. The ore reserves he estimates at 931,307 tons, against 954,631 tons a year ago, the ore contents of which are 700,353 ozs., compared with 860,543 ozs., the average value declining from .90 ozs. per ton to .75 ozs. In reference to this, the manager explains that these figures have been compiled on a more conservative basis than formerly, and that the grade has been reduced in consequence of his having made special provision for the stopes being worked to their full width and for eight inches of the walls being broken with the ore. This has considerably increased the tonnage for practically no corresponding increase in values, and, therefore, has reduced the grade of the whole. Shareholders evidently need have no apprehensions of the results of the immediate future. For some reason or other, Lord Ribblesdale has resigned his seat on the board, and no explanation of this is given. This is a pity, for the absence of such is likely to make an unpleasant impression.

BECHUANALAND EXPLORATION COMPANY.

The directors of this company have not gone out of their way to make their report for the financial year ending September 30 very informing. They leave shareholders to flounder through it as best they can, and the inexperienced are likely to be mystified by it. Nothing is said about the operations carried out during the year, no effort is made to elucidate the complicated finances, and no lucid facts are given to guide shareholders to an opinion of the prospects. Income totalled £19,801; received from the realisation of land, stocks, shares, and other interests, £6,645; from dividends, £6,150; from fees earned, rents, interest, &c., in South Africa, £4,575; and £2,431 from interest and transfer fees on this side. Ordinary expenditure and income-tax amounted to £12,074, so the nett profit was £7,727. As, however, the directors apply £16,743 to the writing off of expenditure upon properties in Rhodesia and the Transvaal—evidently unproductive outlay—and utilise £312 for depreciation of plant and buildings, they show a loss of £9,327 on the year's working. In the previous balance-sheet there was a credit of £39,609, which is thereby reduced to £30,282, the whole of which is applied in writing down shares held in other companies. All the directors say in reference to this action is that it has been deemed prudent to devote the credit for this purpose, "in view of the depressed state of the share market." Have

they written off enough? We cannot say, but fear the loss by depreciation has been greater than this. Nor do the auditors enlighten us, merely remarking that "the investments, standing at £295,239, have not been valued by us." And this is the principal asset. The company still has plenty of cash, no less than £56,576, and the sum owing by debtors, £20,213, is £9,000 more than that owing to creditors and on bills payable. The company possesses 37 farms in the district of Selukwe, Bulawayo, Shangani, In-siza, Gwanda, Gwelo, and Tokwe, and it is making experiments in the cultivation of tobacco and other agricultural produce. The following are the mining claims and areas in which it is interested:—280 gold claims in Gwelo, Selukwe, Gwanda, Mazoe, and Enterprise districts, 60 claims on banket formation in the Lomagunda and Selukwe districts, 270 claims pegged on chrome ore, three precious stone areas in the Salisbury district, 180 claims pegged on copper in Bechuanaland, and 147 claims in the Transvaal. We cannot feel very hopeful of its future.

BAMBAATA.

The note on Natal troubles went to the printer before the news of this deposed Zulu chief's raid reached England, to give a somewhat gruesome commentary on the policy of the Natal Cabinet. As far as it has been allowed to come through—a "strict censorship" is in force—this is the sequence of events:—In its joy over the military execution of 12 Zulus, making 14 lives in all for two, the *Natal Mercury* gave expression to the opinion that "the passion for self-government is strong in Briton and Boer alike, and they are jointly determined not to brook any interference" with the coercive Natalese. It was "Empire be hanged" on Monday, in short. On Tuesday Reuter's agent wired from Durban, among other curious things, the news that the killing proceedings had "made a profound impression on the natives." All unwittingly on the same day the Johannesburg correspondent of the *Times* supplied the information that Bambaata, a small deposed Zulu chief, who had fled with part of his tribe, had proceeded to illustrate the profundity of this impression by raiding his old kraal. He was alleged to have burnt the huts and killed the loyal "regent" appointed in his place by the Government. The opportunity was not lost by this correspondent to "Mrs. Caudle" that Government on its optimism. Durban news of the same event said the regent had not been killed, but merely carried off. Next day, the 4th, there was further information pointing to a rather ugly rising, but the assurance was given that a hundred Zulu police, "men of splendid physique," were assisting as trackers in the pursuit of Bambaata's 200 by mounted white police and volunteers with Maxim guns. By Thursday Reuter's agency had to report that "the rebels are in strong numbers and flushed with their success." They had apparently ambuscaded the police and killed three of them, wounding others. Next day Durban sent through Reuter the news that the women and children had been rescued, in spite of the ambuscade, and the unfortunate loss of life. The column, in short, fought its way through to Botha's Farm, after having killed many of the natives in the running fight. Bambaata's men looted an hotel at Impanza, and got drunk, allowing the whites there to escape, and the whole incident does not seem to have been either very formidable, in the way of warfare, or important. It does not appear, either, to have any direct connection with the panicky military executions on Monday, but it does serve to remind us that the Zulus are a brave race, desperate fighters when roused, and of an intellectual capacity not to be despised. Therefore, it seems bad policy to goad such men into rebellion, and if further acts of blind vengeance follow this outbreak, we may be sure the trouble will spread until the "Imperial factor" will again have to be appealed to in order to save the colony. A great black uprising is the natural fruit of such deeds as that of last Monday. This the sane whites in Natal clearly

see, but when one of them, Mr. Gibson, a magistrate, protested against martial law vengeance, he was hounded down and out of office as a traitor.

Passing Events.

Another meeting of shareholders in the Baku Russian Petroleum Company has been called at the instance of Mr. Dvorkovitz and his party, that is to say, the board has summoned it in order to submit to the shareholders certain curious resolutions drafted by that party. We have read these resolutions and the accompanying circulars, and are again impelled to say that, in our opinion, a mistake would be made if Mr. Dvorkovitz succeeded in turning out the present board. With great skill and adroitness, as a long letter in our columns amply proved, this Russian gentleman has seized upon the weak points in the early history of the company and made the most of them, but he has never fully disclosed the motives impelling him to take this course. We have any number of companies whose capital has been swollen out unduly at the start, and shareholders have suffered in consequence, but it does not logically follow that, because of promoting esurience if you like, a business is to be upset and its control changed without other cogent reasons being advanced, and we cannot honestly say that Mr. Dvorkovitz has produced any such of a kind that would satisfy impartial observers. Moreover, in the letter we printed he went out of his way to glorify the Standard Oil Trust of the United States, a capitalist oligarchy, the whole of whose history has been, to our thinking, a disgrace to civilisation. Therefore, we trust that the shareholders will again respond to the appeal made to them by the board in the short and dignified circular accompanying the requisition.

We should not care to buy Hudson's Bays at over 91, but there is no doubt that the company is doing a magnificent business. During the year ended March 31 the amount realised from sales of farm lands and town lots was £699,000, compared with £406,000 in the preceding 12 months, £401,000 being payable over a term of years and £298,000 in cash. We are not yet favoured with details of acreage prices, but with a Canadian land boom in full swing throughout the year we have no doubt that the company has been realising to excellent advantage.

The final break up of McCracken's City Brewery seems very near at hand now. The company's history is one long record of disaster, for which the depression in Australian trade is only partly responsible. The committee of debenture holders formed last year, when an abortive reconstruction scheme was put forward, intimates that the interest due on March 31 has been defaulted on, and the trustees have instructed their solicitors in Victoria to take the necessary steps to protect their rights. If this means foreclosure we think the best step will have been taken, because it seems quite useless to attempt further bolstering up. During the last six or seven years over £40,000 of working capital has been used in meeting debenture interest, and a profit of £500 earned in 1904 last year gave way to a loss of £8,000, after providing debenture interest, the deficiency to date being £25,000. A scheme of some kind is promised at an early date, but we doubt if the thing is worth saving. How is it that the co-operative brewery company in Melbourne can make splendid profits while this McCracken's business is on the verge of collapse.

We still hear a good deal about the amalgamation of tottering brewery companies, and doubtless some negotiations are afoot. The latest scheme is said to affect Allsopps, Salts, the Burton Brewery, and Cooper and Co. All these are not hopelessly waterlogged, but single-handed they seem unable to battle against adversity, and seek salvation in the usual way. Last week the unsecured creditors of Thomas Salt and Co. were definitely told that an amalgamation scheme was nearly completed, and there was a significant rise in several Allsopp stocks a few days ago, so we may pre-

sently look for something interesting. But we should not buy for the rise on the prospect.

The upheaval which took place in the internal arrangements of Hope Brothers at the close of the last financial year seems to have been just what was wanted. It may be recalled that it became necessary to withdraw £1,000 from reserve in order to keep the preference dividend up to date, and circumstances pointed to a rather serious position. Happily, it seems to have been not so bad as expected, as the directors have just announced the payment of the interim dividend on the preference shares and a distribution at 3 per cent. per annum on the ordinary capital. This will prove a very agreeable surprise to the shareholders, and if the financial stability of the concern is not being sacrificed in order to provide this dividend the new men who took over the management are to be congratulated. At the same time we should have preferred waiting until the close of the company's year before taking the ordinary dividend into consideration because reserves are poor and goodwill and trade marks more than excessive. Has the £1,000 withdrawn been yet restored?

Really the Russian bureaucrats ought to stop arresting editors and otherwise displaying their anxiety to govern Russia according to their own ideas, Duma or no Duma, until after the new loan has been launched. These bureaucrats have apparently been beaten in St. Petersburg, where the constitutional democratic candidates have triumphed, after a wonderfully full poll. In other parts of the country, where the same party has come out on top, the elections have sometimes been cancelled, and fresh ones ordered, so that evidently the existing Government is in a state of extreme nervousness over this feeble beginning of popular representation. We hope, however, it will not manifest its feelings too keenly, lest the loan should fail of acceptance amongst Western investors. In Germany there is great searching of heart as to whether subscriptions for it ought to be invited within that Empire on any terms, some pleading that the money will be wanted for domestic consumption, since, what with the Empire and the kingdom of Prussia, about £30,000,000 of new money will be absorbed at home this year. However, in all probability the loan will be offered not only on German markets, but all over Europe, including London. And New York? Well, New York has not disposed of all its Japanese stock yet.

It was rumoured on Thursday afternoon in the City that the Russian Loan had been postponed at the instance of the French and German Governments, on the ground that they wanted their own loans placed before investors first. And sure enough Friday morning brought the news from Berlin that two loans aggregating £28,000,000 were to be forthwith launched on the German money market—one of £15,000,000 for the Kingdom of Prussia and one of £13,000,000 for the Empire. Both loans will carry interest at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and will be issued to the subscribing banks at 99.40 per cent. They will be offered to the public on the 11th inst. at 100 for stock tied until October 15 and for untied stock at 100.10. These lumps of fresh mortgages on the German people will take some time to digest, and rather interfere with Russian ambitions in the same direction. What is France going to do?

Mr. Emile Garcke's articles in the *Times* "Engineering Supplement" on the British electrical industry are really very interesting, and, as far as we can estimate—there have only been two as yet issued—wonderfully impartial. Some of his statistics are worth repeating here. In 1895 38 electrical companies were at work, with a capital of about £6,000,000 and 33 municipalities, with aggregate electric lighting loans of nearly £2,000,000. Ten years later there were 187 electricity supply companies in operation, with a total investment of close on £32,000,000, and 277 municipalities, with loans amounting to almost £36,000,000. The aggregate capital expended on electricity supply undertakings by the municipalities in

1895 was only £7,800,000, and in 1905 it had risen to £67,567,000, and all the time the cost of producing the current has been going down, until the prophecy of Colonel Crompton, made in 1894, has been almost completely fulfilled. He declared that the day would come when, with an output of 5,000,000 units and best coal at 20s. per ton, the rate of production and distribution, including rent, rates, and management, would work out at 1.32d. per unit sold, and Mr. Garcke shows that the actual cost has been brought down to 1.33d. In 1895 it was 4.07d. Here opens up a great vista of prosperous development in this branch of industry.

A correspondent, whose letter is printed on another page, emphatically endorses our suggestion that the gold mines of the Transvaal should be nationalised. We do not quite see how this is to be done, although it would be for the benefit and peace of mind of all concerned, as well as for the ultimate profit of genuine mine shareholders, if an arrangement of that kind can be made whereby the assistance of the cosmopolites could be dispensed with and the population set at liberty. Still, in a law which passed the first Volksraad of the Transvaal in 1898 provision was made for the reversion of mining properties to the State under certain eventualities. It was, for instance, enacted that "when the cessation of work on a mining concern may not, in the opinion of the Government, after proper investigation, for preponderating reasons of public interest, continue any longer, the holder or worker of the mynpacht, claim or concession is bound to renew development within a defined time on receiving an order to do so. On refusal or non-compliance the mynpacht-Brief claim licences or concessions may be withdrawn by the Government without prejudice to the rights of bondholders." The second Volksraad apparently had never an opportunity to consider or pass this measure, but there it stands, capable of revival at any moment should anything approaching a strike be threatened by the mine bosses in retaliation for the withdrawal of Chinese surf labour.

The combination amongst Chilian nitrate producers has been renewed, 99½ per cent. of the producers having joined the new league. We do not know that this particular combination has ever done much harm. It cannot put up the price of nitrate too far, else the consumption immediately falls off, and so long as it prevents ruinous competition we may as well leave it alone.

Naturally, when a new loan is about to make its appearance, the Russian Government finds it advisable to put forth a pleasant account of the state of the revenue. Last year and during the first months of the current year Reuter's agent in Petersburg is enabled to report the revenue has been of a very satisfactory nature. Current receipts in 1905, the message goes on, exceed those of the previous year by £600,000, and were £4,700,000 beyond the estimates. For January this year the increase was £800,000 on the same month of last year. The February figures have not come in from more than 14 governments, but these show an expansion of £200,000. The increase for the first two months of 1906, this same official points out, is all the more remarkable as certain sources of revenue have suffered from riots and strikes, and as the railway receipts for the two months show a falling off of £1,900,000. Since the end of February, however, these receipts have been going up again, so what more can loan subscribers want?

What is this the *Book Monthly* is telling us? That the official history of South Africa has stuck? We thought something like £12,000 had already been spent upon that monumental work, and now this authority declares a rumour to be current to the effect that the late Government did not approve of the introduction dealing with the causes of the war as originally written. So it has all to be done over again. Surely the compilers of this history were not so indiscreet as to aim at merely telling the truth. That would never do. Perhaps some member of the House of Com-

mons of an inquiring mind will put a few questions about this business, with a view to discover whether the present Government is going to throw good money after bad, or whether the condemned introduction as originally written is to be restored. Let us have the facts out. Why was an official history undertaken at all if the truth alone was required?

From official sources we learn that the revenue of the State of Victoria, Australia, for the nine months of the current fiscal year show an increase of £215,000 at a total of £5,739,000. Of this increase, £103,000 has come from excise and £140,000 from railways. Railways, indeed, are showing marvellous results, both the gross and nett revenue for January being the highest ever earned, and the only thing that we doubt about these figures is the small percentage of working expenses. For the seven months ended January 31 last these amounted to only 50.28 per cent. of the gross revenue, which was 1.85 per cent. below the figure for the previous year. Is it not the case that the railways of this State were in a lamentable condition through shortness of rolling stock and dilapidation of road-bed and would it not be wiser to devote a larger proportion of the revenue to restorations in these directions than to exhibit a nett growth such as we mention?

Mr. Percy Lindley is a determined and energetic man, but we fear that his energy in one particular direction will bear little fruit. We have already commended him for his action in opposing the directors of Rhodesia, Limited, but he has been fighting alone against forces too formidable for one man to conquer. He has even gone to the expense of circularising his fellow-shareholders, and we fear his money will be spent in vain, just as his vigorous protests and criticisms have thus far been without avail. Some day mankind in mines may be sane, but not yet. The statutory meeting of Rhodesia, Limited, was held last Wednesday, prior to which Mr. Lindley, in a circular, reminded shareholders that no statement of accounts was submitted by the directors as required by the Companies Act, 1900. In fact, not one of the requirements of Section 12 of the Act had been complied with in the notice sent out. Mr. Lindley does not forget the fact, however, that the new company is registered in Rhodesia, so it is for our laws to be evaded with impunity. Still, in view of the disastrous record of the old company, he thinks this question of registration becomes a grave one. So it is, but the shareholders have consented to it. Let them alone.

Mr. Brakhan, the chairman, may have said what the cables declare he did say at the annual meeting of the Tudor Gold Mining Company, but, perhaps, it would be just to him to await a full report of his address before passing judgment. If he did speak as reported he has made himself ridiculous, not an uncommon thing for mine bosses to do. This is the passage we refer to as it has come to us:—"In view of the fact that the working capital had been reduced to £15,000, and that the market conditions were not favourable for raising fresh funds, in consequence of the question of labour supply being unsettled, operations would shortly have to be temporarily suspended." According to this observer the public will not subscribe fresh money even to old South African companies, because the question of labour supply is unsettled. This is a pure assumption. The public have refused to subscribe new capital since the close of the war, and certainly from the moment the late Government allowed the bosses to kick out the whites, reduce the Kaffir wage, and employ Chinese. So Mr. Brakhan's far-fetched hypothesis must be accepted for what it is worth, and that is nothing. And as regards this particular company, the public may be more in pocket in the end if they never subscribe more capital to it to enable it to continue its sinking operations. For it is a very speculative venture. If the bosses thought there was anything to get out of it they would subscribe the money themselves, or guarantee it.

We have received an obliging, not to say most friendly letter, signed by the president, Mr. John R. Hageman, of one other great American premium

gathering company, the Metropolitan of New York. In this he informs us that "our representative in your vicinity will be glad to give you any information desired regarding the company and plans, or if you mention the Metropolitan to your friends, or take the trouble to send to our representative the address of such as in your opinion might need the protection we furnish, your courtesy will be highly appreciated." This, as sequel to the question, "Do you need any additional insurance?" is really quite nice.

Thanks, much, Mr. Hageman, but so far as we are concerned we do not require more insurance, but in any case would hardly go to an American office in quest of it. Can it be that the missionaries and Mr. Hageman regard all the hubbub which has arisen around "the scandals" as a good advertisement, and that this big Metropolitan company, which so far as we know has never hitherto attempted to do business in the United Kingdom, is now contemplating an entry upon the field with a view to exploit British credulity? We should not be surprised, for American ideas of the nature and uses of advertisement are peculiar. It may, therefore, be just as well to point out that the Metropolitan of New York office works its business at a cost of fully 30 per cent. of the premium income.

We hear that the management of the "Bakerloo" Tube is not quite satisfied with the results. Traffic receipts are good, but not up to expectations. We are not surprised, because it seems to us a mistake has been made in adopting a uniform 2d. fare. There ought to be penny fares over sections of the route, such as that from Baker Street to Charing Cross, for example. A motor omnibus will take passengers between these two points for a penny, and the great bulk of travellers will decline to pay 2d. to go down into the bowels of the earth, no matter how beautiful the accommodation underground may be when that is the case; 2d. all the way may be well enough, but there should be sectional fares at a 1d. We are quite sure they would pay.

Critical Index To New Investments.

LONDON COUNTY BILLS.

The London County Council announces that tenders will be received at the Bank of England on the 10th inst. for £2,500,000 in six months' bills, which are to be paid for in full by the 18th. Of the issue £1,764,000 is required to replace bills falling due on the 20th inst., which were issued partly for the purpose of a loan of £1,415,000 to the St. Marylebone Borough Council for their electric lighting undertaking, and the balance of £736,000 is new money for capital expenditure during the current financial year.

LANCASHIRE UNITED TRAMWAYS, LIMITED.

The South Lancashire Electric Traction and Power Co., Limited, started in 1900 with a very ambitious programme, but after acquiring the share capital of two undertakings found itself without the means to carry out the construction of the additional 85 miles of track projected, and eventually went into liquidation in 1904 on the failure to meet the debenture interest. During the first year of the receivership the profits earned, after paying the receiver's remuneration of £1,000 but excluding interest on loans, amounted to £8,500, which does not seem particularly brilliant, seeing that, in addition to the tramway services, the company was also supplying current in bulk to the Union District Council of Atherton and other users. The smallness of the amount, however, is ascribed to the system being incomplete, and a fresh beginning is to be made. Contracts have been entered into for the purchase of the undertaking under which £296,500 second debenture stock and 148,247 £1 ordinary shares are issued to holders of debenture stock of the old company, 19,044 shares are allotted to creditors, being 50 per cent. of the sums due to them, and 25,580 ordinary shares to the preference shareholders who had

paid cash for their shares. In addition certain sums amounting to £55,098 had to be paid in cash, together with sundry expenses. The issued capital of the new concern is, therefore, £192,871 in ordinary shares, £296,500 in second mortgage debenture stock, and an issue of £250,000 prior lien 5 per cent. debenture stock was offered for subscription at par, on which £83,330 in deferred debenture stock and 10 per cent. in cash was paid as underwriting commission. A portion of the proceeds will be used to pay off interim charges of about £58,500, and with the balance it is proposed to construct about 12½ miles of new track, making a total of 44 miles, or 34 route miles, which it is estimated will cost, with the increase from 2,500 to 4,000 horsepower at the power station, £165,000. Mr. Stephen Sellon calculates that the South Lancashire Tramways should earn nett profits of £21,575, without taking into account the receipts from the Lancashire Light Railways, the St. Helen's lines, or the supply of energy to outside consumers, which, according to Mr. Salter, should bring the total profits up to £24,875, or nearly double the amount required to meet the interest on the present issue. If there was any reasonable ground for supposing that these figures would be realised there should have been no need for paying such a heavy underwriting commission as that above noted, and we fear the outlook is by no means so bright as the forecasts would make it appear.

STRAKER AND MACCONNELL (1906), LIMITED.

The business of motor engineers and contractors taken over has hitherto been carried on as a private company, but certain concessions and contracts having been secured, further capital is required, and this company has been formed with a capital of £250,000, divided into 249,900 ordinary shares of £1 each and 2,000 deferred shares of 1s. each. Amongst other things the company will be the sole agents in the United Kingdom and the Colonies for several Continental manufacturers, and the directors state that they are of opinion that large profits will be obtained from this branch alone. They, however, do not go into details, giving the time-worn and unsatisfactory excuse that they do not consider it advisable for trade reasons to state the profits which should be derived from these contracts. Including £16,800 for goodwill, the purchase price is fixed at £25,600, payable £15,100 in 15,000 ordinary and 2,000 deferred shares, £5,500 in cash, and £5,000 in cash or shares, and in addition the stock is to be taken over at the actual nett cost not exceeding £3,000, and paid for in cash. The present issue consists of 150,000 ordinary shares entitled to a cumulative preferential dividend of 10 per cent., and one-half of all further profits available for dividend, and 135,000 were offered for subscription. In the absence of any statement of profits investors subscribing would be taking a leap in the dark, and the company tried a risky experiment when it decided to do without the underwriter.

HALL AND CO., CROYDON, LIMITED.

Founded in 1898 to carry on an old-established business of coal merchants, builders' merchants, lime burners, &c., this company had a capital of £150,000 in 5½ per cent. cumulative preference and ordinary shares of £1 each, and £35,000 4½ per cent. mortgage debenture stock, and for the five years ended March 31, 1905, has paid a steady dividend of 7½ per cent. per annum. During the last two years the company has been engaged in building a modern Portland cement factory at Beddington, near Croydon, which was opened in September last, and in order to pay for this the capital has been increased by the creation of 25,000 new ordinary shares. The new shares are offered for subscription at the price of 21s. per share, and 8,756 shares have been taken by existing shareholders, while workmen of the company will be given an opportunity to apply for shares upon special terms as to the mode of payment, and will receive preferential allotment. Large

wholesale orders have been received for the cement extending over a long period, and among them is one for about 2,000 tons for the new reservoir of the Metropolitan Water Board at Brockley, so that the company would appear to have got hold of a good article, and one which should form a remunerative branch of an already successful undertaking.

LONDON STANDARD MOTOR OMNIBUS CO., LIMITED.

This company proposes to establish services of motor omnibuses along such routes as, in the opinion of the directors, will be the most remunerative, and on the strength of this and of a contract with the Motor Contract and Trading Corporation, Limited, for the supply of 200 vehicles, offers 200,000 £1 shares out of a total of 250,000 authorised. It is estimated that with 40 of the vehicles always in reserve, the profit at 2d. per mile on a daily run of 109 miles per omnibus per day would be £53,047, but judging by the list of routes submitted as being considered suitable, the company will find competition so keen that even with the promised co-operation of an existing motor omnibus company, it will have difficulty in securing enough traffic to produce this expected profit. No underwriting commission has been paid on this issue, but the Motor Contract and Trading Corporation, in addition to its profits on the sale of the vehicles to the company, receives £6,500 in cash and £6,000 in shares in return for paying the preliminary expenses, which are estimated at £6,500.

SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS 3½ PER CENT. BONDS.

The Swiss Bankverein is authorised to receive subscriptions at 99 per cent., or £39 12s. per bond of 1,000f. for 55,000,000f. of the above bonds, of which 34,000,000f. are in the first instance reserved for conversion of existing railway bonds called for redemption on March 31, 1907, and the balance will be used for the purpose of new construction and for the purchase of rolling stock. These new bonds, which cannot be paid off before December 31, 1911, and are redeemable not later than 1962, have been created in accordance with the resolutions for the nationalisation of the Swiss Railways, and being a direct issue of the Federal Government should be a sound security. The nett revenues of the Federal Railways will be applied in the first place to the service of interest and amortisation of the railway debt, and of the surplus 20 per cent. will be placed to a special reserve until that fund reaches 50,000,000f., and the balance must be used for the improvement and extension of the service. In 1905 the gross receipts were 120,677,369f., and operating expenses 80,156,945f., or 66.42 per cent. against 67.68 per cent. for 1904, leaving 40,520,424f. as nett revenue, and after providing for fixed charges, placing 5,210,941f. to amortisation account and 1,763,790f. to betterment fund in excess of expenditure, the final nett profits were 651,743f. Altogether a good investment for those who look to safety more than profit or high interest.

RHONDDA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL 3½ PER CENT. REDEEMABLE DEBENTURE STOCK.

The National Provincial Bank of England was authorised to receive subscriptions for £290,000 of the above stock for the purpose of repaying money borrowed for gas and water undertakings, and for the purchase of land and the construction of additional waterworks. On the repayment of the two sums, amounting to £189,200, the stock will rank equally as a first charge with £84,767 now owing on the undertakings, subject to £7,402 owing to the Public Works Loan Commissioners, and is secured upon these undertakings, which at present yield a profit of £14,600 per annum, and upon the district fund and general rate. The stock which is redeemable at par in 1943, unless previously cancelled by purchase, was offered at 99½, payable in instalments of 5 per cent. on application, 24½ per cent. on April 18, 35 per cent. on May 22, and 30 per cent.

on June 19, but a full six months' interest will be paid on October 1.

ARIEL MOTORS (1906), LIMITED.

Apparently the object of this company is to relieve Components, Limited, of a branch of its business which has grown to a size which makes it difficult to handle as a branch. Certain freehold works at Selly Oak, Birmingham, and the plant, machinery, &c., are all acquired for £31,124, of which £20,000 is to be in cash and the balance in cash or shares, according to the measure of support forthcoming from the public. Of the total capital of £125,000 in £1 shares 100,000 are offered for subscription, and it is stipulated that if less than 61,124 shares are applied for the vendors take the cash for all shares subscribed over 50,000, and the remainder of their price in shares. In addition the goodwill and assets other than stocks and book debts of the Ariel Motor Company, Long Acre, are bought for £5,200, of which £4,000 is for goodwill, payable in cash if 50,000 shares are taken up, or if the number falls short of that figure the cash received over £45,000 will be accepted, and the price made up with shares. The Ariel Motor Company is said to have realised substantial profits, but no details are given, and subscribers are expected to be content with estimates of what will be earned when the extensions to the works are made. At present these can turn out 100 standard 25-30 h.p. chassis per annum, but with a minimum working capital of £20,000 the output can be increased to 175 chassis, or if the whole of the shares offered are taken up this could be raised to 300 chassis, and it is estimated that profits would amount to £13,125 and £22,500 respectively. The managing director is to receive £300 per annum, in addition to his fees of £200 as director, and a commission of 5 per cent. on the nett profits available for distribution.

NORTH CERRO MURIANO COPPER MINES, LIMITED.

This company acquires 105 claims from the Cerro Muriano Mines and 50 from the Iron and Steel Finance, Limited, with an area of approximately 387 acres, on which there is not only considerable evidence of ancient native workings, but six distinct lodes have been traced. The price payable to the Cerro Muriano Mines is £24,500 in cash and £116,000 in shares, and to Iron and Steel Finance £5,000 in cash and £14,000 in shares. Of the latter amount £1,500 in cash and £2,500 in shares go to the original vendor, so that Iron and Steel Finance makes a very handsome profit by acting as intermediary. The total capital is £250,000 in £1 shares and the remaining 120,000 were offered for subscription at par to provide the £75,000 considered necessary for working capital with the cash portion of the purchase price, commissions and preliminary expenses. Of the shares offered 45,000 were taken firm, but the whole amount was guaranteed for an underwriting commission of 7½ per cent., and an overwriting commission of 2½ per cent.

COMPANHIA LLOYD BRASILEIRO 5 PER CENT. STERLING BONDS.

The Government of the United States of Brazil has granted an annual subvention to Messrs. M. Buarque and Co., trading as the Companhia Lloyd Brasileiro, of Rio de Janeiro, and in the event of a loan being found necessary, pays the subvention direct to the bankers by whom the loan is issued. Under these conditions an issue of £1,100,000 of the above bonds was offered for subscription through Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons, and the proceeds, except for a sum of £450,000 which is to be paid to the Banco da Republica for shares of the New Lloyd Brasileiro belonging to it, will be retained in this country to pay for ships about to be ordered in Great Britain. The bonds, which are redeemable by 19 drawings within the ten years ending April 1, 1916, were offered at the price of

96, and although the final instalment of 16 per cent. is not due until November 5, a full six months' interest will be paid on October 1, so that the issue seems decidedly cheap. So cheap that the loan was subscribed many times over within half an hour of the list being opened.

MANX ELECTRIC RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co., on behalf of themselves, Messrs. Greenwell and Co., and other purchasers, offer for sale at par £200,000 4½ per cent. irredeemable first mortgage debenture stock, and 22,900 5½ per cent. cumulative preference shares of £5 each in the above undertaking. The original company had not long opened its lines for traffic when it went into the hands of a receiver owing to the failure of Dumbell's Bank, and the present company was formed in 1902 to take over the double track railway, 22½ miles long, running from Douglas to Laxey and Ramsay, and from Laxey to Snaefell. Since the acquisition of the line £61,883 has been spent on new works, including a generating plant, and another £11,833 on maintenance and renewals expenditure, of which the line is now beginning to reap the full benefit. For 1905 the nett receipts were £17,289, or sufficient to meet the debenture interest and preference dividend, with a margin of about £1,400, and it is expected that this result will be substantially improved upon. The securities offered consequently appear to be fair investments, and as subscriptions will also be received in Manchester, Liverpool, and the Isle of Man by branches of Parr's Bank, they will no doubt be readily placed.

BRITISH INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, LIMITED.

A peculiarly impudent prospectus is being circulated privately by this concern which, for all its high-sounding title is a puny affair with a capital of £30,000 divided into 5,000 "priority" shares of £5 each, and 5,000 deferred shares of £1 each. The company owns the leasehold of certain flint pits at Oure, near Faversham, Kent, with a mile of railway, four sailing barges, 12 iron tip wagons, and sundry other accessories, one-half the share capital of a brick property at Whittlesey, near Peterboro', which is not yet at work, and two-sevenths of the capital of a slate quarry at Bettws-y-Coed, now in course of development. A portion of the flint pits is subject to a mortgage for £1,500 which the corporation is to pay off as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made, but the vendors, having apparently paid £1,500 to the original owner, took £9,500 in cash for the miscellaneous collection as well as all the deferred shares in payment of goodwill, and as only 2,555 priority shares have been subscribed, the surplus available for that purpose cannot be large. Not content with the above assortment, a substantial interest has been acquired in "an important established motor undertaking," and the corporation is offered the opportunity of participating in another motor business which is to place a small car on the market at a price considerably below those now ruling. Such a chance to revolutionise the motor industry must be going very cheap, as the company only needs to raise the balance of its capital represented by the unissued 2,445 priority shares. This it apparently expects to do not only free of expense, but at a profit although the shares are offered at par, as the nett proceeds of the issue are put down at £12,275.

NEW LEADER CARS, LIMITED.

This is a small company with a capital of £75,000 in £1 shares, of which 15,000 are issued in part payment of the purchase price and another 15,000 are held in reserve, leaving 45,000 to be offered for subscription. A business carried on by New Leader Motors, Limited, at Aspley, Nottingham, which has an issued capital of only £3,835 in shares and £9,500 in debentures, is acquired for £31,092, payable as to £15,000 in shares and as to the balance in cash or

shares, £7,000 being put down for the freehold factory, £14,918 for the plant, machinery, drawings, &c., and £9,174 for materials, stocks, and general stores. The capacity of the factory at present is six to eight cars per week, and it is proposed to extend the works for the production of motor omnibuses, of which 50 chassis per annum are reckoned upon. It is estimated that with a minimum output of 250 cars per annum the nett profits, after providing for all management charges, should be at least £12,000 per annum, but as this number is below the capacity of the existing works it would have been more to the purpose if the directors had disclosed the actual earnings of the vendor company on that basis, and it will rather militate against the issue that they have not done so.

CORPORATION OF LONDON 3 PER CENT. DEBENTURE STOCK.

The Governor and company of the Bank of England are authorised to receive applications for £1,250,000 of the above stock, forming part of an authorised total of £4,000,000, of which £1,642,900 has been issued as a 2½ per cent. stock. Nominally the price is fixed at 93, but as this is payable by instalments of 5 per cent. on application, 28 per cent. on April 24, 30 per cent. on May 22 and 30 per cent. on June 25, while a full six months' interest will be paid on September 1, the actual cost works out below this figure. None of the amount now offered is new debt, as the proceeds are to be applied to the repayment of existing temporary advances and bonds falling due. The stock, which is a trustee investment, is secured upon the rents and income derived from the freehold and leasehold estates, and upon all the tolls, dues, stallages, rents, &c., of the Corporation, and is redeemable at par on July 1, 1957, but may be repaid after July 1, 1927, on six months' notice given. That being so it needs no praise from us.

LONDON CENTRAL MOTOR OMNIBUS CO., LIMITED.

The craze for motor-omnibuses seems to be the only excuse for this attempt to expand the New London and Suburban Omnibus Company, a struggling little concern with a share capital of £11,821 and a debenture debt of £11,000, into an undertaking with a capital of £260,000 in £1 shares, of which 230,000 form the present issue. In addition to possessing eight of these desirable vehicles, the original company owns sundry small freehold and leasehold stables, said to be worth £8,700, and horses, horse omnibuses, machinery, &c., with £4,946 for goodwill, bring the total assets up to £31,000. For this miscellaneous assortment the new company pays £8,000 in cash and £12,000 in cash or shares, and takes over the liability for the debentures, but there is apparently a further liability to be met when any shares over 100,000 are issued, although whether this is £10,000, £16,000 or £26,000 is not made clear. Contracts have been entered into for the supply of 166 chassis, to be delivered at the rate of five per week from June 1, and for 36 motor-omnibuses at the rate of two per week from August 1, and with these it is intended to start on routes selected by the directors. The usual estimates are paraded of a nett profit of 2d. per mile, to be earned by 150 'buses running 100 miles per day, but it is easier to make fancy estimates of this kind than it will be to realise them when all the new undertakings are working to their full capacity. We may only hope the best.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS (BERTAM) RUBBER CO., LIMITED.

Messrs. William Dunman and Co., of Singapore, having secured an option to purchase an estate of 12,961 acres in the Province of Wellesley, Straits Settlements, for \$650,000 or £74,317, transferred that option with a promise to plant 500 acres with 75,000 trees to the United Investment Corporation for £21,000 in cash and £7,000 in shares of this company. That corporation and the British Rubber Syndicate then sell the benefit of the option and Messrs. Dunman's agreement for an additional £10,933 in cash and £18,000 in shares, making the total cost of

the estate to this undertaking £131,250. In addition, £7,500 in cash is to be paid for the preliminary expenses and £500 for registration fees, while the company also has to find an underwriting commission of 5 per cent. and an overriding commission of 2½ per cent. on the shares now offered for subscription, so that altogether the introduction of so many intermediaries makes it a costly business. The total capital is £175,000, and of the 150,000 shares forming the public issue only 25,000 are to provide the working capital, out of which the value of the movable property on the estate is to be paid, and the balance left does not seem an over generous provision for the elaborate programme planned. At present there are 46,287 Para rubber trees on the estate, but the directors propose to plant 100,000 trees per annum in 1906, 1907 and 1908, and on this basis it is calculated that by 1915 the production of rubber should reach 885,000 lbs. In calculating the returns the imagination appears to have run riot, as rubber is taken at 5s. per lb., and with the revenue to be derived from paddy, coconuts, &c., a fine-looking income of £224,750 is brought out.

CHILIAN GOVERNMENT 4½ PER CENT. GOLD. LOAN OF 1906.

An issue of £3,700,000 or 75,850,000 marks or 93,055,000 francs is offered by Messrs. Speyer Bros. and the Deutsche Bank in London, and by a number of bankers on the Continent, for subscription at the price of 94½ per cent. Of the proceeds £2,200,000 is to be devoted to the construction of a railroad from Arica to Alto de la Paz, and the balance to providing waterworks and sanitary works in various towns in Chili. The bonds are to be redeemed by means of a cumulative sinking fund of 2 per cent., to be applied to the purchase or drawings commencing on October 1 next, but the sinking fund may be increased, or the whole loan may be redeemed after April 1, 1911, on three months' notice. At the price offered the yield is about 4½ per cent., without allowing for any possible bonus on redemption, and as the existing loans are quoted round about 96 the issue looks cheap.

THE KEPITIGALLA RUBBER ESTATES, LIMITED.

Ceylon planters are more and more going into rubber and this is another company formed to take over estates in that island to be developed mainly as rubber-yielding land. The share capital is £225,000 in £1 shares, of which 25,000 go as part payment of the purchase price of £190,000, leaving 200,000 shares open for subscription at par. After paying the cash portion of the purchase price and meeting underwriting, brokerage and other expenses connected with the registration of the company and transfer of the estates, £20,000 will be left for working capital. Estates belonging to Captain A. J. and Mr. Ronald Farquharson and to Mr. F. J. Holloway are to be taken over, and it is said that the nett revenue for the current year should suffice to pay a dividend at the rate of over 7 per cent. per annum, while the yield is expected steadily to increase up to 1910. The valuation put upon the estates by Mr. J. R. Martin, the chairman of the Ceylon Planters' Association, is £161,933, and the London Rubber Investment Company buys the Farquharson properties for £158,500 and the Nargolla Estate belonging to Mr. Holloway for £3,000. The promoters' profit, less many charges, seems to be £31,500.

A member of the Stock Exchange said to us the other day, rather enviously, perhaps, *à propos* of the *Financial Review of Reviews*:—"The fellow who can produce a thing like that ought to get on. It's capital." And really the thing is very well done, not least the digest of the month's reports, and in its tables of stocks and their yields.

THE CORPORATION OF WESTERN EGYPT, LIMITED.—Railhead on the line under construction is now at kilometre 19½. Ten of the new wagons have been wheeled, and the new locomotives are being delivered at the base. The buildings at the base are nearing completion. In the Oases, in consequence of the increased supply of water obtained by deepening No. 6 bore, additional land has been prepared in the vicinity and partly sown. 677 date palms are now planted at this bore. Some of the qereol crops are ripening and will soon be ready for harvest.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for ten days ended March 31, \$3,581, decrease \$148.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 2, \$14,381, decrease \$1,336; aggregate from January 1, \$153,004, decrease \$1,754.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 3, Rs. 78,380, increase Rs. 1,585; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 6,14,611, increase Rs. 52,262.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 31, \$162,300, increase \$62,500; total from July 1, \$3,796,100, increase \$945,500.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 3, Rs. 29,874, increase Rs. 2,682.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 11, £455, increase £120.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 4th week of March, \$26,169, increase \$928; aggregate from January 1, \$199,026, increase \$38,585.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 3, Rs. 14,806, increase Rs. 6,871.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended March 31 amounted to \$14,825.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending March 31, £1,271, increase £14; aggregate from January 1, £15,844, increase £198.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending March 31, £726, increase £47; aggregate from January 1, £9,195, increase £653.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for January, £4,263, decrease £267.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending March 31, £452, increase £84; aggregate from January 1, £5,959, increase £470.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 30, £1,346, increase £144; aggregate from January 1, £17,499, increase £2,733.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 1, £5; aggregate from January 1, £87, decrease £2.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 30, £4,474, decrease £50; aggregate from January 1, £60,501, increase £2,252.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending March 30, £26,190, increase £1,840; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £344,242, increase £52,769; 435½ miles, against 418½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 31, £1,032, decrease £67; aggregate from January 1, £13,931, increase £1,053.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 1, £89, decrease £12; aggregate from January 1, £1,217, decrease £15.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 30, £92, decrease £9; aggregate from January 1, £1,150, decrease £83.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 30, £4,120, decrease £257; aggregate from January 1, £57,588, increase £1,343.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 31, £4,478, increase £53; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £59,055, increase £2,047.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 23, £207, decrease £57; aggregate from January 1, £2,312, decrease £365.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 29, £343.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 31, £237, decrease £79; aggregate from October 1, £6,645, decrease £647.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 24, £13,745, decrease £167; aggregate from April 1, £746,625, increase £96,412. Miles 51 against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 31, £19,825, decrease £4,136; aggregate from January 1, £265,834, decrease £16,669.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 31, £7,243, decrease £883; aggregate from January 1, £91,578, decrease £2,065.

Rosendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 31, £177, decrease £20; aggregate from January 1, £2,425, increase £107.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 1, £762, increase £171; aggregate from January 1, £9,390, increase £2,288.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 1, £15,311, increase £1,599; aggregate from January 1, £193,580, increase £20,135.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903 Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of January, 1906, £11,016, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to February 28, \$781,825, increase \$164,838. Nett earnings from July 1 to February 28, \$353,410, increase \$100,695.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending April 1, £3,597, increase £328; aggregate from January 1, £45,953, increase £4,004.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 3, £1,544, increase £425; aggregate from January 1, £12,788, increase £3,103.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of February, \$281,300.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 31, Rs. 42,170, increase Rs. 3,376; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 5,83,786, increase Rs. 56,326.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of March, £4,997, increase £2,050. Total from January 1, £14,261, increase £5,719.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of November, \$417,218, increase \$63,017; aggregate from January 1, \$4,320,887, increase \$390,457. Nett traffic receipts, \$226,858, increase \$35,361; aggregate from January 1, \$2,359,439, increase \$272,120.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.		Gross Traffic for year to date.	In. or dec. on 1905.
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.
Baker St. and Waterloo ..	Mar. 31	£ 1,518	—	£ 4,899	—
Brecon and Merthyr ..	Apr. 1	1,950	+	26,997	+
Cambrian	"	5,692	+	63,736	—
Central London	Mar. 31	6,905	—	90,546	—
City and South London ..	Apr. 1	3,059	+	38,939	+
Furness	"	10,179	+	124,180	+
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	"	72,009	+	902,816	+
Great Eastern	"	94,600	+	1,199,000	+
Great Northern and City ..	Mar. 31	1,831	+	23,690	+
Great Northern	"	112,600	+	1,369,000	+
Great Western	Apr. 1	215,400	+	2,735,900	+
Hull and Barnsley	"	9,916	+	121,254	+
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	"	105,303	+	1,290,040	+
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	Mar. 31	58,481	—	684,496	—
London & North Western ..	Apr. 1	294,000	+	3,394,000	+
London & South Western ..	"	85,900	+	1,021,000	+
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	"	8,467	+	102,832	+
Metropolitan	"	16,756	—	218,250	—
Metropolitan District ..	"	7,889	+	105,350	+
Midland	Mar. 31	223,511	+	2,814,139	+
North Eastern	"	183,362	+	2,191,372	+
North London	Apr. 1	8,680	—	117,900	—
North Staffordshire	"	18,206	+	227,784	+
Rhymney	"	6,022	—	79,343	—
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	Mar. 31	75,336	—	973,398	—
Taff Vale	Apr. 1	21,212	+	253,651	+

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Apr. 1	88,632	+	3,523	9	728,391	+	12,650
Glasgow & South-Western ..	Mar. 31	32,278	+	557	9	278,189	+	6,156
Great North of Scotland ..	"	8,920	+	84	9	73,045	—	630
Highland	Apr. 1	8,631	+	306	11	71,108	—	976
North British	"	89,226	+	3,944	9	769,774	+	15,142

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Mar. 30	2,492	—	87	11	29,063	—	725
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	"	1,563	+	54	11	18,523	+	77
Great Northern	"	16,901	—	154	13	208,264	+	1,003
Midland Great Western ..	"	11,792	—	857	8	121,464	—	8,268

‡ From January 1.

THE REVENUE RETURNS.

I.—AN ACCOUNT OF THE TOTAL REVENUE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, in the undermentioned periods of the Year ending March 31, 1906, as compared with the corresponding Periods of the preceding Year.

Quarter ending March 31, 1905.			Quarter ending March 31, 1906.			Year ending March 31, 1905.			Year ending March 31, 1906.		
Paid into the Exchequer.	Paid to the Local Taxation Accounts.	Total Revenue.	Paid into the Exchequer.	Paid to the Local Taxation Accounts.	Total Revenue.	Paid into the Exchequer.	Paid to the Local Taxation Accounts.	Total Revenue.	Paid into the Exchequer.	Paid to the Local Taxation Accounts.	Total Revenue.
£ 8,370,000	£ 51,704	£ 8,421,704	£ 8,430,000	£ 48,803	£ 8,478,803	£ 35,730,000	£ 177,746	£ 35,907,746	£ 34,475,000	£ 169,650	£ 34,644,650
7,230,000	1,539,000	8,769,000	7,240,000	1,570,000	8,810,000	30,750,000	5,315,673	36,065,673	30,230,000	5,372,851	35,602,851
3,310,000	1,285,717	4,595,717	3,270,000	1,272,068	4,542,068	12,350,000	4,318,959	16,668,959	12,970,000	4,358,907	17,328,907
2,270,000	—	2,270,000	2,150,000	—	2,150,000	7,700,000	—	7,700,000	8,180,000	—	8,180,000
670,000	—	670,000	670,000	—	670,000	750,000	—	750,000	720,000	—	720,000
1,450,000	—	1,450,000	1,490,000	—	1,490,000	2,000,000	—	2,000,000	1,950,000	—	1,950,000
23,540,000	—	23,540,000	23,860,000	—	23,860,000	31,250,000	—	31,250,000	31,350,000	—	31,350,000
5,300,000	—	5,300,000	5,580,000	—	5,580,000	16,100,000	—	16,100,000	16,880,000	—	16,880,000
910,000	—	910,000	980,000	—	980,000	3,830,000	—	3,830,000	4,100,000	—	4,130,000
100,000	—	100,000	110,000	—	110,000	470,000	—	470,000	480,000	—	480,000
404,651	—	404,651	419,390	—	419,390	1,014,303	—	1,014,303	1,098,595	—	1,098,595
402,046	—	402,046	441,111	—	441,111	1,426,101	—	1,426,101	1,513,981	—	1,513,981
53,956,697	2,976,421	56,933,118	54,640,501	2,890,871	57,531,372	143,370,404	9,812,378	153,182,782	143,977,408	9,901,408	153,878,981

II.—INCREASE OR DECREASE IN THE REVENUE PAID INTO THE EXCHEQUER in the undermentioned periods of the Year ending March 31, 1906, as compared with the corresponding Periods of the preceding Year.

Quarter ending June 30, 1905, as compared with the corresponding Quarter of the preceding Year.		Quarter ending September 30, 1905, as compared with the corresponding Quarter of the preceding Year.		Quarter ending December 31, 1905, as compared with the corresponding Quarter of the preceding Year.		Quarter ending March 31, 1906, as compared with the corresponding Quarter of the preceding Year.		Year ending March 31, 1906, as compared with the preceding Year.	
Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.	Increase.	Decrease.
£ —	£ 1,297,000	£ 221,000	£ —	£ 239,000	£ 60,000	£ —	£ —	£ —	£ 1,255,000
844,000	235,000	6,000	85,000	210,000	10,000	—	—	620,000	520,000
211,000	—	269,000	—	120,000	—	40,000	120,000	480,000	—
—	25,000	—	—	5,000	—	—	—	—	30,000
—	95,000	—	—	40,000	—	—	—	—	50,000
60,000	453,000	193,000	—	200,000	—	—	—	100,000	—
40,000	—	90,000	—	100,000	—	—	—	780,000	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	10,000	—	300,000	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	14,739	—	10,000	—
4,281	—	65,096	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6,309	—	34,329	—	76,835	—	39,065	—	84,292	—
1,166,090	2,105,000	1,084,096	119,329	541,835	644,324	843,804	160,000	87,880	—
£938,910 Net Decrease.		£964,767 Net Increase.		£102,489 Net Decrease.		£683,804 Net Increase.		£607,172 Net Increase.	

III.—AN ACCOUNT showing the RECEIPTS into the Exchequer in the Quarter ending March 31, 1906, the ISSUES out of the same the CHARGES on the Consolidated Fund at that date, and the SURPLUS or DEFICIENCY of the Balance in the Exchequer on March 31, 1906, in respect of such Charges.

REVENUE PAID INTO THE EXCHEQUER, as shown in Account I.		NET DEFICIENCY OF THE BALANCE IN THE EXCHEQUER to meet the charge on December 31, 1905, as per last Account ..	
400,000	400,000	29,400,691	29,400,691
225,000	225,000		
MONEY RAISED BY CREATION OF DEBT—		Issued before the end of the Quarter.	
For Supply	12,800,000	£ 4,109,580	£ 5,279,586
Under the Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	150,000	126,377	282,611
Under the Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905	513,000		
Under the Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901	317,000	412,802	10,000
Under the Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903	84,000		
13,864,000			
CASUAL RECEIPTS—		Remaining to be issued after the end of the Quarter.	
Suez Canal Shares drawn and paid off	8,461	£ 19,269,318	£ 5,572,197
Balances in the Exchequer at the Banks of England and Ireland on the 31st March, 1906	10,451,487		
After deducting the portion of the Consolidated Fund Charges remaining to be issued after the 31st March, 1906, as shown on the other side of the Account	5,572,197		
There remains a surplus Balance in the Exchequer of	4,879,290		
60,137,962			24,841,515
			7,250,000
			4,879,290
			60,137,962

MINING RETURNS.

African Gold Dredging and Mining Concessions.—501 ozs., value £2,004.

Anterior.—Crushed 1,230 tons, 746 ozs.; cyanide 736 tons, 106 ozs.

Associated.—Crushed 8,912 tons, treated 4,242 tons of slimes for £20,933.

Associated Northern.—Milled 3,370 tons ore, treated 468 tons slimes; £15,303 sterling.

Balagbat.—4,400 tons, 3,525 ozs.; 2,750 tons tailings (cyanide), 249 ozs.; total, 3,774 ozs.

Barrett.—435 ozs., value £1,650.

Bonanza.—Crushed 6,800 tons, 2,656 ozs.; cyanide and slimes 7,740 tons, 1,592 ozs.; total, 4,248 ozs.

Brilliant Central.—Crushed 940 tons, 415 ozs.; cyanide, £104; concentrates, £482.

Broken Hill Proprietary Block 10.—11,898 tons crude ore, producing 1,637 tons concentrates, containing 1,014 tons 19 cwt. lead and 52,384 ozs. silver.

Broken Hill Proprietary Block 14.—5,252 tons ore, producing 761 tons concentrates, containing 486 tons lead and 21,745 ozs. silver.

Burbank's Main Lode (1904).—Crushed 740 tons, 350 ozs. cyanide, 730 tons, 85 ozs.

Champion Reef.—16,100 tons, 12,269 ozs.; tailings (cyanide), 14,934 tons, 2,191 ozs.; total, 14,460 ozs.

Chinese Engineering and Mining.—Output 20,520 tons; sales, 16,500 tons; consumption, 1,425 tons.

Cosmopolitan Proprietary.—Crushed 8,590 tons, 1,586 ozs.; cyanide, 8,460 tons, 600 ozs.; concentrates, 130 tons, 323 ozs.

Duff Development.—Recovered 286 ozs.

Durham Prospect Gold.—Crushed 2,300 tons, 342 ozs.

Ferreira Deep.—Crushed 19,744 tons, 9,079 ozs.; sands and concentrates 12,400 tons, 2,585 ozs.; slimes 6,620 tons, 611 ozs.; total, 12,275 ozs.

Gaika Gold.—Crushed 1,619 tons, 691 ozs.

Geldenhuis Deep.—Crushed 23,860 tons, 5,688 ozs.; sands and concentrates 16,380 tons, 3,572 ozs.; slimes 7,512 tons, 653 ozs.; total, 9,913 ozs.

Glen Deep.—Crushed 15,940 tons, 4,033 ozs.; sands and concentrates, 9,980 tons, 1,622 ozs.; slimes, 5,417 tons, 435 ozs.; total, 6,090 ozs.

Glynn's Lydenburg.—Crushed 2,220 tons, 572 ozs.; cyanide, 1,528 tons, 610 ozs.; slimes, 692 tons, 229 ozs.; total, 1,411 ozs.

Golden Pole Gold.—Crushed 1,120 tons, 733 ozs.; sands, 1,306 tons, 319 ozs.; slimes, 912 tons, 129 ozs.; concentrates, 6 tons, 20 ozs.; total, 1,201 ozs.

Hutti (Nizam's) Gold.—Crushed 2,100 tons, 830 ozs.; tailings, 2,000 tons, 275 ozs.

Kalgurli Gold.—Treated, 9,764 tons, 7,109 ozs.

Kelantan Gold Dredging (No. 1).—Dredge, 345 ozs.

Killarney Hibernia.—Crushed 4,196 tons, 1,561 ozs.

Koffyfontein.—2,600 carats diamonds recovered.

Komata Reef.—Crushed 1,500 tons; bullion, £2,925.

Lace Diamond.—Loads blue ground floored 55,769; total loads blue ground on floors 875,805.

Lachlan.—Crushed 720 tons; result £1,310.

Langlaagte Deep.—Crushed 19,632 tons, 4,826 ozs.; sands and concentrates, 14,454 tons, 2,030 ozs.; slimes, 5,015 tons, 242 ozs.; total, 7,098 ozs.

Le Roi No. 2.—Shipped 2,040 tons; net receipts \$39,897, being payment for 2,112 tons shipped, and \$665, being payment for 33 tons concentrates shipped.

"Lloyd" Copper.—Treated 5,250 tons stone for 72 tons copper.

Mitchell's Creek Gold.—Crushed 595 tons, 310 ozs.

Mount Boppy Gold.—6,000 tons, 1,256 ozs.; tailings (cyanide) 3,130 tons, 1,245 ozs.; slimes (cyanide) 1,686 tons, 840 ozs.; concentrates 29 tons, 200 ozs.; total 3,541 ozs.

Mount Lyell.—Treated 32,544 tons. In addition 1,963 tons purchased ore and metal-bearing fluxes treated. Converters produced 721 tons blister copper, containing:—Copper, 713 tons; silver, 62,230 ozs.; gold, 1,753 ozs.

Mysore.—15,700 tons, 15,004 ozs.; 13,500 tons tailings (cyanide), 1,747 ozs.; from plates, 620 ozs.; total, 17,371 ozs.

Mysore West and Mysore-Wynaad.—Crushed 1,493 tons, 585 ozs.; cyanided 2,496 tons, 166 ozs.

New Hillgrove.—Crushed 250 tons, 745 ozs.; 3½ tons of concentrates, 16 ozs.; tailings, 3 dwts. 19 grs. per ton.

New Vaal River Diamond.—Diamonds registered, £5,350.

North Broken Hill.—Treated 1,210 tons crude ore, producing 225 tons concentrates, containing 157 tons 19 cwt. lead and 2,385 ozs. silver.

Nourse.—Crushed 26,440 tons, 6,584 ozs.; sands and concentrates 17,445 tons, 4,528 ozs.; slimes 9,033 tons, 765 ozs.; total, 11,877 ozs.

Nundydroog.—6,800 tons, 5,314 ozs.; 6,904 tons tailings, 639 ozs.; total, 5,953 ozs.

Ooregum.—10,267 tons, 4,486 ozs.; 10,098 tons tailings (cyanide) 1,140 ozs.; total, 5,626 ozs.

Oroya Brownhill.—Crushed 10,460 tons, 12,572 ozs.

Premier (Transvaal) Diamond.—214,041 loads treated, yielding 71,084 carats; percentage, .33.

Queensland Copper.—Ore treated, 1,230 tons; production, 228 tons matte, containing 130 tons fine copper; shipment, 172 tons matte.

Rose Deep.—Crushed 25,100 tons, 6,177 ozs.; sands and concentrates 16,825 tons, 2,176 ozs.; slimes 8,783 tons, 590 ozs.; total, 8,943 ozs.

Sheba Gold.—3,250 ozs.

South Kalgurli.—Crushed 7,710 tons, 3,322 ozs.

Star of the East.—Crushed 196 tons, 128 ozs.

Selukwe.—Crushed 6,781 tons, 1,553 ozs.; cyanide 4,698 tons, 524 ozs.

Sulphide.—16,064 tons milled, producing 2,995 tons lead concentrates, also 2,942 tons middlings, and 6,875 tons tailings treated, producing respectively 980 and 2,413 tons zinc concentrates; 2,411 tons lead concentrates, 350 tons residues, and 2,126 tons purchased ores smelted, yielding 1,689 tons lead, containing 116,541 ozs. silver, and 7,178 ozs. gold.

Tasmanian Copper.—Shipments of ore 1,167 tons.

Tasmania Gold.—Crushed 7,567 tons, 4,179 ozs.; 774 tons concentrates, 983 ozs.; 2,636 tons cyanide, 394 ozs.; total fine gold, 556 ozs.

Tasmanian Smelting.—Silver-lead bullion shipped contained 850 tons lead, 141,000 ozs. silver.

Tolima.—55 tons, £3,500.

Tomboy.—Crushed 9,200 tons, value \$48,500; concentrates shipped, 555 tons, value \$41,000.

Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Investment.—Output of coal, 31,000 tons.

Transvaal Gold Estates.—Crushed 8,899 tons, 1,953 ozs.; central cyanide 3,830 tons, 800 ozs.; central slimes 2,620 tons, 410 ozs.; Kameel's cyanide 1,650 tons, 327 ozs.; Kameel's slimes 720 tons, 137 ozs.; old slimes 860 tons, 240 ozs.; total, 3,867 ozs.

Victoria Proprietary.—183 ozs. from 690 tons crushed.

Waihi.—24,698 tons for £61,890.

Willoughby's Consolidated.—Queen's Mine—Crushed 1,574 tons, 874 ozs.

Answers to Correspondents.

C. G.—Better not increase your holding. The company is embarking on what is practically a new industry, as to the profitable nature of which it is impossible to judge from existing data.

TIMOTHY.—While we certainly think the company will now pull itself together, the process of recovery will be a slow one. If you are prepared to wait the preference shares seem to offer a fair chance.

J. N.—Under present conditions we think you had better take your profit.

NEMO.—We do not suppose that the company will manage to earn a dividend, but you may be sure it will make every effort to pay one, and we should therefore be inclined to hold on for a time on the chance of a recovery.

B. W. T.—We are dealing with the company this week, and you might read what we say in our "Mining Notes." We cannot advise you to increase your holding, and as we are not sure you would even get a market turn on it, you will probably be more in pocket by not taking up the shares.

F. T.—(1.) Your loss would be rather severe if the shares were sold now, and we think you should wait a little. But the company is essentially a weak one, and you might get clear on any recovery. (2.) If you can sell without loss do so; otherwise in a better market there may be a small improvement in the price, which will give you that opportunity. Prospects seem a little too uncertain for a long holding. (3.) You need not be in a hurry to sell, but if ever you see a profit take it. (4.) We think you will do better in the long run to hold these shares rather than sell them in the present weak market.

Oliver.—Your broker is quite right, the shares are fully paid. We apologise for the mistake, and as the blunder was ours have pleasure in holding the fee now sent to your credit.

H. W. A.—The company seems to be prospering exceedingly, and the shares should be a good enough purchase. They are not yet fully paid, but even including the call still due you should be able to obtain them well below the figure you name.

MANITOBA MORTGAGE AND INVESTMENT CO., LIMITED.

This company's holdings of land are being gradually reduced, and its opportunities for disposing of large quantities in any one year are consequently restricted. Last year the directors say the demand for land was quiet, and in Dakota, where most of the company's real estate now lies, the market was very dull, but there would appear to be some improvement compared with 1904, as sales yielded £8,241 or £3,697 more. There are signs, however, of an increased demand at the higher prices now asked, and the directors hope to dispose of the balance of the lands. In 1905 £12,700 debentures were paid off, and another £14,400 have been redeemed during the current year leaving £15,992 outstanding, while the liability on suspense account, including £1,111 added from profit on sales comes to £17,236. On the other hand, real estate held is valued at £23,206, loans on mortgages and other securities come to £56,711, investments in Consols at 85 to £12,211, and cash is £27,521. The position, therefore, seems sound enough, and with the repayment of the debentures the prospects for the shareholders are improving. Revenue for the 12 months was £5,886, and after meeting debenture interest and administration charges, the balance available, including £930 brought in, was £3,099, out of which a dividend of 1s. per share is paid against 9d. per share a year ago, absorbing £1,769.

MID-OXFORDSHIRE GAS, LIGHT, AND COKE CO., LIMITED.—The subscription list will close on Monday, April 9.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
SOUTH AFRICAN.					
Angelo	4 1/2	4 1/2	May Consolidated	2 1/2	2 1/2
Anglo-French Ex.	2 1/2	2 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
Apex	4 1/2	4 1/2	Modderfontein	7 1/2	7 1/2
Aurora West	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. B.	1 1/2	1 1/2
Bantjes	2 1/2	2 1/2	New Goch	1 1/2	1 1/2
Block B.	1 1/2	1 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2
City and Suburban, £4	4 1/2	4 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2
Comet (New)	2 1/2	2 1/2	Nord Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
Cons. Goldfields	4 1/2	4 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do. Pref.	22 1/2	21 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
Crown Reef	12 1/2	12 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	6 1/2	6 1/2
Driefontein	2 1/2	2 1/2	Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
Durban Roodepoort	3 1/2	3 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4	8 1/2	8 1/2
East Rand	5 1/2	5 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
East Rand Extension	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rodepoort United	1 1/2	1 1/2
Ferreira	18 1/2	18 1/2	Salisbury	1 1/2	1 1/2
French Rand	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sheba (New)	7 1/2	7 1/2
Geduld	3 1/2	3 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1	1 1/2	1 1/2
Geldenhuis Estate	3 1/2	3 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	3 1/2	3 1/2
Ginsburg	1 1/2	1 1/2	Steyn Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
Glencairn	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Development	14 1/2	14 1/2
Harmony Proprietary	7 1/2	7 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates	1 1/2	1 1/2
Henderson's Transvaal	11 1/2	11 1/2	Treasury	1 1/2	1 1/2
Heriot	3 1/2	3 1/2	Van Ryn	2 1/2	2 1/2
Johannesburg Con. In.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
Jubilee	2 1/2	2 1/2	Vogelstruis	3 1/2	3 1/2
Kempers	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wegedacht	3 1/2	3 1/2
Kleinfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wemmer	5 1/2	5 1/2
Knight's	3 1/2	3 1/2	West Rand Consols	1 1/2	1 1/2
Lancaster	2 1/2	2 1/2	Wolhuter, £4	3 1/2	3 1/2
Langlaagte Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2	Worcester	3 1/2	3 1/2

DEEP LEVELS.					
Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
Bonanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
Cinderella Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2	Robinson Deep (new)	4 1/2	4 1/2
Crown Deep	12 1/2	12 1/2	Rodepoort Cn. Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	South Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
Geldenhuis Deep	6 1/2	6 1/2	Village Main Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2
Knight's Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2			

RHODESIANS.					
Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2
Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rhodesia Exploration	2 1/2	2 1/2
Charter Trust and Agency	13 1/2	13 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2
Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	Selukwe	5 1/2	5 1/2
Lomagunda Develop-ment	1 1/2	1 1/2	Tanganyika	4 1/2	4 1/2
Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wankie Coal	1 1/2	1 1/2
Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 1/2	Willoughby	11 1/2	11 1/2
			Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2

DIAMONDS.					
De Beers Deferred	18 1/2	18 1/2	Koffyfontein	2 1/2	2 1/2
Do. Preferred	17 1/2	17 1/2	Lace Diamond	2 1/2	2 1/2
Eland's Drift Diamond	4 1/2	4 1/2	Orange Free State	1 1/2	1 1/2
Frank Smith Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2	Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2
Jagersfontein Deferred	8 1/2	8 1/2	Premier Diamond Def.	14 1/2	14 1/2
Do. Preferred	4 1/2	4 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	8 1/2	8 1/2
Kamlersdam	1 1/2	1 1/2			

WEST AFRICAN.					
Abontiakoon	16 1/2	17 1/2	Gold Coast Agency, new	8 1/2	8 1/2
Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	Gold Amalgamated	2 1/2	2 1/2
Ankobra	1 1/2	1 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau)	5 1/2	5 1/2
Ashanti Consols, 2/- paid	3 1/2	3 1/2	Deep	5 1/2	5 1/2
Do. Goldfields	12 1/2	12 1/2	Himan Concessions	14 1/2	13 1/2
Sansu	5 1/2	6 1/2	Obuassi Syndicate	1 1/2	1 1/2
Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	Prestea	6 1/2	7 1/2
British Gold Coast	1 1/2	1 1/2	1/- Sekondi and Tarkwa	1 1/2	1 1/2
Bromassie	27 1/2	27 1/2	1/- Laquah and Abosso	2 1/2	2 1/2
Efuenta (Wassau)	5 1/2	5 1/2	Wassau	1 1/2	1 1/2
Fanti Consolidated	14 1/2	14 1/2	W. A. Gold Trust	1 1/2	1 1/2

AUSTRALIAN.					
Anglo-Aus. Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Associated	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Bellevue Proprietary	2 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Boulder Deep Levels	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Brownhill Extended	8 1/2	8 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Chaffers	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Cosmo-pol'n Pr'p'ty	6 1/2	6 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
Golden Horseshoe, New Shares	5 1/2	5 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
Golden Links	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Golden Pole	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Great Boulder, 2/-	22 1/2	23 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do. Perseverance	11 1/2	10 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Great Fingall	5 1/2	5 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2			
Hampton Plains	1 1/2	1 1/2			
Hannan's Star	1 1/2	1 1/2			

MISCELLANEOUS.					
Anaconda, 25 dols.	14 1/2	14 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Balaghat, full paid	32 1/2	32 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Brilliant and St. George	9 1/2	9 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Broken Hill, Prop.	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Camp Bird	24 1/2	24 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Cape Copper, £2	5 1/2	5 1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2
Champion Reef, 2/-	23 1/2	23 1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2
Con. Gold N.Z.	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Copapo, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Coromandel 19/6 pd.	2 1/2	2 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2
Esperanza	4 1/2	4 1/2	15 1/2	15 1/2	15 1/2
Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Frontino and Bolivia	9 1/2	9 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2
Do. (No. 2)	2 1/2	2 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2
Libiola, £5	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2
Linares, £3	4 1/2	4 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.
Alcoy and Gandia	Mar. 31	Ps. 15,000	+ Ps. 2,000	Ps. 221,400	+ Ps. 13,900
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia	Feb. *	\$64,241	+ \$5,013	\$153,108	+ \$35,072
Argentine Gt. Western	Mar. 30	16,670	+ 1,768	502,642	+ 79,951
Algebras (Gibraltar)	" 31	Ps. 25,588	- P. 4,578	Pr. 227,212	- Pr. 107,287
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	" 31	40,276	+ 4,114	1,154,929	+ 295,020
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o and Cen. Argentine	" 31	101,478	+ 24,735	1,131,999	+ 135,897
Buenos Ayres G. Stn.	April 1	91,972	+ 6,216	2,874,903	+ 445,079
Do. Western	" 1	41,110	+ 5,031	1,266,267	+ 161,865
Do. Ensenada	" 1	338	- 34	13,571	+ 359
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	Mar. 31	9,507	+ 961	325,913	+ 10,735
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 31	2,533	- 5	78,690	+ 721
Do. Northern Ex.	" 31	1,417	+ 190	45,408	+ 5,847
Do. Western Ex.	" 31	1,528	+ 510	46,903	+ 5,704
Cordoba Central	" 25	2,970	+ 315	36,800	+ 5,830
Do. Northern Ex.	" 25	6,680	+ 1,790	77,370	+ 17,170
Do. N. W. Arg'n. Ex.	" 25	1,875	+ 875	19,340	+ 5,940
Cordoba and Rosario	" 25	3,535	- 125	165,135	+ 3,510
Costa Rica	" 10	6,362	+ 1,482	169,747	+ 12,839
Cuban Central	" 31	14,912	+ 3,373	270,386	+ 19,270
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 31	9,656	+ 602	149,867	+ 32,318
Entre Rios	" 31	4,814	+ 1,172	147,478	+ 11,949
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico	" 31	\$162,600	+ \$37,380	\$4,487,790	+ \$54,140
Leopoldina	" 31	12,219	+ 19	164,009	+ 21,758
Mexican	Feb. *	\$54,600	+ \$20,700	\$1,138,500	+ \$95,700
Do. Southern	Mar. 31	\$192,500	+ \$3,200	\$1,730,800	+ \$122,800
Do. Central	" 31	\$37,880	+ \$142	\$314,701	+ \$14,270
Do. Do.	Jan. *	\$2,457,188	+ \$210,561	\$1,595,595	+ \$123,894
Manila	Mar. 31	\$735,662	+ \$8,941	\$4,692,994	+ \$230,407
Nitrate	" 31	\$40,854	+ \$26	\$461,376	+ \$4,924
Ottoman	" 31	24,977	+ 2,598	143,012	+ 8,736
Peruvian Corporation	" 31	3,899	+ 1,225	56,378	+ 5,977
San Paulo	" 25	\$739,475	+ \$270,775	\$5,846,350	+ \$931,450
Salvador	" 31	\$38,253	+ \$4,462	225,918	+ 4,142
United of Havana	April 1	29,717	+ 14,934	539,443	+ 141,597
Villa Maria & Rufino	Mar. 31	1,535	+ 10	17,718	+ 1,291
Western of Havana	" 31	4,097	+ 902	161,906	+ 3,440

* Month ended. † Fortnight ended. ‡ Nett § From July 1, 1905.

** From January 1, 1906.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.
Bengal Nagpur	Mar. 3	Rs. 5,86,022	+ R. 71,472	R. 50,76,608	+ R. 7,86,657
Bengal & N.-W.	" 24	Rs. 2,82,940	+ R. 3,823	Rs. 24,33,093	+ R. 1,35,190
Bombay & Baroda	" 24	Rs. 3,86,000	+ R. 41,000	R. 46,98,000	+ R. 1,13,000
Do. State Lines	" 24	Rs. 4,37,000	+ R. 85,000	R. 67,34,000	+ R. 16,10,000
Burma	" 3	Rs. 3,98,073	+ Rs. 2,299	R. 1,02,47,732	+ R. 8,121
Delhi Umballa	" 31	Rs. 45,300	+ Rs. 4,325	Rs. 4,57,757	+ Rs. 13,291
East Indian	" 31	Rs. 16,95,000	+ R. 95,000	R. 2,11,87,000	+ 10,65,000
Gt. Indian Penin.	" 31	Rs. 12,95,400	+ R. 39,186	R. 1,86,24,631	+ R. 3,51,224
Indian Midland	" 31	Rs. 1,86,200	+ R. 21,767	Rs. 30,32,209	+ R. 3,37,337
Madras	" 31	£26,492	+ £1,676	£323,217	+ £22,447
South Indian	" 3	Rs. 2,42,292	+ Rs. 7,268	Rs. 20,97,511	+ R. 9,437
South Behar	" 10	Rs. 9,904	+ Rs. 80	Rs. 108,400	+ Rs. 5,937
S'hrn. Mahratra	" 10	Rs. 2,42,752	+ Rs. 10,912	Rs. 24,52,223	+ Rs. 4,59,662
Southern Punjab	" 24	Rs. 60,775	+ Rs. 4,482	Rs. 7,32,820	+ Rs. 51,054

* Thirteen days. † From July 1, 1905. § From Jan. 1, 1906.

UNITED STATES AND CANADIAN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Period ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	
		dols.	dols.	dols.	dols.	
Canadian Pacific ..	Mar. *31	1,046,000 +	312,000	\$ 45,080,000 +	7,486,000	
Canada Atlantic ..	" 31	10,648 +	813	\$ 80,901 +	7,284	
Chicago Gt. Western ..	" 31	267,402 +	34,381	\$ 6,705,366 +	925,472	
Denver & Rio Grande ..	" 31	487,100 +	62,100	\$ 14,318,200 +	1,829,800	
Gr. Trk., Main Line ..	" 31	£176,872 +	£17,686	£1,371,434 +	£144,367	
Gr. Trk., Western ..	" 31	£10,648 +	£813	£267,123 +	£12,116	
Do. Det., G.H. & Mil.	" 31	£9,405 —	£312	£81,926 +	£9,257	
Louisville & Nashv'le ..	" 21	796,000 +	12,000	\$ 9,577,000 +	1,280,000	
Miss., K., & Texas ..	" 31	592,235 —	13,534	\$ 16,311,285 +	907,555	
Southern ..	" 31	1,554,000 +	62,000	\$ 13,362,000 +	889,000	
Wabash ..	" 31	687,000 +	89,000	\$ 18,775,000 —	330,000	

NEW ISSUE.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will be CLOSED on or before
TUESDAY, 10th APRIL, 1906.

CHILIAN GOVERNMENT 4½ PER CENT. GOLD LOAN OF 1906

ISSUE of £3,700,000, = Marks 75,850,000, =
Francs 93,055,000.

(Authorised by the Laws of 14th and 21st February, 1906, and by the Decree
of 27th March, 1906.)

In Bonds to Bearer, in denominations of £500, £200, £100, and
£20, or their equivalent in Marks or Francs at the exchanges
of M. 20.50 and Fra. 25.15 per £ sterling respectively.

Interest at 4½ per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly on the
1st April and 1st October.

Principal redeemable by a Cumulative Sinking Fund of 2 per cent. per
annum, to be applied to the purchase of Bonds in the market if the price be
below par, otherwise in drawing Bonds at par in January and July in each
year for payment on the following 1st April and 1st October respectively. The
first redemption of Bonds is to take place on 1st October, 1906. The Chilean
Government reserves to itself the right to increase the Sinking Fund, or to
redeem the Loan, on or after 1st April, 1911, on giving three months' previous
notice.

Interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum will accrue from the dates of
the instalments, and a Coupon payable on 1st October, 1906, for £1 14s. 10d.
per Bond of £100, being the amount of such interest, will be attached to the
Provisional Scrip Certificates.

Messrs. Speyer Brothers and the Deutsche Bank (Berlin), London Agency,
will receive Subscriptions for the above Bonds at the price of 94½ per cent.,
payable as follows:—

£5 0 0	per cent. on Application,
£25 0 0	" " Allotment,
£30 0 0	" " 8th May, 1906,
£34 10 0	" " 8th June, 1906.
£94 10 0	

Payment in full may be made on Allotment, or on 8th May, 1906, under dis-
count at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

Applications for these Bonds will also be simultaneously received—

In Berlin, by the Deutsche Bank.

In Frankfurt-on-Main, by the Agency of the Deutsche Bank, and by Mr.

Lazard Speyer-Ellissen.

In Amsterdam, by Messrs. Teixeira de Mattos Brothers, and the

Banque de Paris et de Pays Bas, Succursale d'Amsterdam.

And also in various other cities in Germany.

The President of the Republic of Chili has been empowered by the Laws of
14th and 21st February, 1906, to contract this Loan. It is provided that the
proceeds to the amount of £2,200,000 shall be devoted by the Government to
the construction of a railroad from Arica to Alto de la Paz, and the balance to
providing water-works and sanitary works in various towns in Chili.

The payment of the Coupons and the redemption of the Bonds will take
place free of all present or future Chilean taxes or imposts, at the option of the
holders, either in London in Sterling, or in Germany in Marks at the exchange
of M. 20.50 per £ sterling.

Provisional Scrip Certificates to Bearer will be issued against Allotment
Letters, and these Certificates will be exchanged for definitive Bonds, bearing
interest from 1st October, 1906, as soon as the latter are ready.

Applications for a quotation for the Bonds on the Stock Exchanges of London
Berlin, Frankfurt o/M., and Amsterdam will be made in due course.

The failure to pay any instalment when due will render all previous payments
liable to forfeiture. Where no allotment is made the deposit on application
will be returned.

A translation of the above-mentioned Decree may be inspected at the Offices
of Messrs. Bircham & Co., 50, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.

Prospectuses and forms of application may be obtained from Messrs. Speyer
Brothers, 7, Lothbury, London, E.C., or from the Deutsche Bank (Berlin),
London Agency, 4, George Yard, Lombard Street, London, E.C. Application
may also be made on the annexed form.

London 5th April, 1906.

No.....

CHILIAN GOVERNMENT 4½ PER CENT. GOLD LOAN OF 1906.

Issue of £3,700,000, = Marks 75,850,000, = Francs 93,055,000.

(Authorised by the laws of 14th and 21st February, 1906, and by the Decree of
27th March, 1906.)

To Messrs. SPEYER BROTHERS, 7, Lothbury, London, E.C.,

And the DEUTSCHE BANK (BERLIN), London Agency, George Yard,
London, E.C.

I/We request you to allot me/us £..... of the above Loan
upon the terms of the Prospectus issued by you, dated 5th April, 1906.

I/We enclose £..... being a deposit of 5 per cent., and
I/We engage to accept the above or any less amount you may allot to me/us,
and to make the further payments thereon in accordance with the said
Prospectus.

Signature.....

PLEASE

Name in full
(Add whether Mr., Mrs., or Miss, and Title, if any)

WRITE

Address

DISTINCTLY.

Date

Cheques to be made payable to "Bearer."

CORPORATION OF LONDON £3 PER CENT. DEBENTURE STOCK, 1927-1957.

Interest payable half-yearly, on the 1st March and the 1st September, at
the Bank of England.

ISSUE OF £1,250,000 STOCK.

Being a further sum issued on the Security of the Trust Deed, dated the
24th June, 1897, constituting and securing Debenture Stock to a total
amount of £4,000,000, together with Interest thereon at the rate of
Two and a-half per cent. per annum, supplemented by a further Trust
Deed, dated the 1st June, 1905, securing the balance of Interest on
the present Issue.

PRICE OF ISSUE FIXED BY THE CORPORATION AT £93 PER CENT.
The first Dividend, being a full Six Months' Interest, will be payable
1st September, 1906.

By a rule of the Supreme Court, this Stock has been included in the list
of Securities in which cash under the control or subject to the Order
of the Court may be invested, and Trustees are therefore authorised
by the Trustee Act, 1893, to invest therein unless expressly forbidden,
by the instrument creating the Trust.

TRUSTEES FOR DEBENTURE STOCKHOLDERS.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD MAYOR, } For the
THE GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND, } time
THE CHAMBERLAIN OF LONDON, } being.

The GOVERNOR and COMPANY of the BANK of ENGLAND give
notice that, by arrangements made with the Corporation of London, they
are authorised to receive applications for £1,250,000 of Corporation of
London £3 per Cent. Debenture Stock, 1927-1957.

The Stock is secured by, and is to be held subject to the conditions of,
a Trust Deed dated the 24th June, 1897 (a copy of which can be inspected
at the Office of the City Solicitor, Guildhall, London), charging all the
rents and income derived from the freehold and leasehold estates, and
all the tolls, dues, stallages, rents, and revenues of or to which the
Corporation now are or at any time thereafter shall become entitled
otherwise than as Trustees or Mortgagees. For further securing and
providing for the redemption of the Stock, the Corporation have cove-
nanted to set aside £15,000 per annum out of their annual income, after
providing for the annual interest on the Stock, and to invest and
accumulate such annual sums and the income thereof.

The Stock now issued is in addition to the £1,642,900 Two and a-half
per Cent. Debenture Stock already issued on the security of the above-
mentioned Trust Deed. A supplemental Trust Deed, dated the 1st June,
1905 (a copy of which can be inspected at the office of the City Solicitor;
Guildhall, London), has been executed constituting a subsequent charge
upon the several properties, revenues, etc., specified above for the pur-
pose of securing the extra one-half per cent. interest which is to be paid
upon the Stock now issued. In all other respects as regards the Security
for both capital and interest the two issues will rank *pari passu*.

The Stock, if not previously redeemed, will be redeemed at par on the
1st July, 1957, but the Corporation reserve to themselves the right to
redeem the Stock at par on the 1st July, 1927, provided that not less
than six calendar months' notice of their intention shall have been previ-
ously given.

The proceeds of this Issue will be applied to the repayment of existing
temporary advances and Bonds falling due.

The Books of the Corporation of London £3 per Cent. Debenture Stock,
1927-1957, will be kept at the Bank of England, where all assignments
and Transfers will be made Stock Certificates to bearer of the de-
nominations of £1,000, £500, and £100, with Coupons for half-yearly
dividends attached, will be obtainable in due course in exchange for
inscribed Stock, at the same rate of charge as in the case of Government
Stock; and holders will be able at any time to re-inscribe such Certificates
on payment of the usual fee.

Transfers and Stock Certificates will be free of Stamp Duty.

Dividends will be paid half-yearly at the Bank of England on the 1st
March and the 1st September, Interest Warrants being transmitted by;
otherwise desired.

A full six months' dividend on the total nominal amount of the Stock
will be payable on the 1st September, 1906.

Applications, which must be accompanied by a deposit of £5 per cent.,
will be received at the Chief Cashier's Office, Bank of England, Thread-
needle Street, London, E.C. In case of partial allotment the balance of
the amount paid as deposit will be applied towards the payment of the
first instalment. Should there be a surplus after making that payment,
such surplus will be refunded by cheque.

Applications, which may be for the whole or part of the issue, must be
for multiples of £100, and no allotment will be made of a less amount
than £100 Stock; but the Stock once inscribed will be transferable in any
sums which are multiples of a penny, as in Consols.

The dates at which the further payments on account of the Stock will
be required are as follows:—

On Tuesday, the 24th April, 1906, £28 per cent.;

On Tuesday, the 22nd May, 1906, £30 per cent.;

On Monday, the 25th June, 1906, £30 per cent.;

but the instalments may be paid in full, on and after the 24th April,
under discount at the rate of £3 per cent. per annum. In case of
default in the payment of any instalment at its proper date, the deposit
and instalments previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.

Scrip Certificates to Bearer will be issued in exchange for the pro-
visional receipts.

As soon as these Scrip Certificates to bearer have been paid in full, they
can be inscribed (i.e., converted into Stock); or they can be exchanged
for Stock Certificates to bearer, as soon as these can be prepared, without
payment of any fee, provided such exchange be effected not later than
the 1st August, 1906.

Applications must be on printed forms, which can be obtained at the
Chief Cashier's Office, Bank of England; at any of the Branches of the
Bank of England; of Messrs. Mullens, Marshall and Co., 13, George Street,
Mansion House, E.C.; or of the Chamberlain, Guildhall, E.C.

The List of Applications will be closed on, or before, Tuesday, the
10th April, 1906.

Bank of England, London,

5th April, 1906.

NOTICE.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE.—NOTICE.

NO MEMBER OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE IS ALLOWED TO
ADVERTISE for business purposes, or to issue circulars to persons other
than his own principals.

Persons who advertise as Brokers or Share Dealers are not Members of
The Stock Exchange or under the Control of the Committee.

A list of Members of The Stock Exchange who are Stock and Share
Brokers may be seen at the Bartholomew Lane entrance of the Bank of
England or obtained on application to EDWARD SATTERTHWAIT.

Secretary to the Committee of the Stock Exchange.
Committee Room, The Stock Exchange, London, E.C.

Established 1824.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Assets over 4 MILLIONS Sterling.

The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

THE SURPLUS DIVIDED WAS **£597,415.**

Chief Office:

15, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,
LONDON, S.W.W. J. H. WHITTALL,
Actuary.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

TOTAL FUNDS NEARLY **£6,000,000**FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE
MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Please apply for particulars to

Edinburgh: 33, St. Andrew Square.

London: 3, King William Street, E.C.

The Central Insurance Company, Ltd.

CHAIRMAN: WALTER CHAMBERLAIN, J.P.

Total Security to Policy-Holders over **£1,000,000.**

FIRE. ACCIDENT. BURGLARY.

NON-CONTENTIOUS POLICY CONDITIONS.

Head Office: 12-13, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.

HUGH LEWIS, General Manager.

NOTICE.—Owing to Good Friday the INVESTORS' REVIEW will next week be published on Thursday morning, and the office will be closed from Thursday evening until the following Tuesday morning.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE $3\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT. (Reduced from 4 per cent. on April 5.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

It has waited long, but at last some little relief has come to the Money market. The Bank rate was reduced yesterday from 4 per cent. to $3\frac{1}{2}$, and all credit jobbers felt relieved. Why the Bank came down this week instead of waiting longer is obvious enough. Plenty of credit has come into the open market through the payment of the Government dividends and of expired Treasury bills, and money has accordingly become cheap whether on call or seven-day notice. At the beginning of the week bankers were getting 3 to $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. for both day and seven-day money, and the rate is now $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., with plenty of balances available and the ease increasing. The India Council has been renewing for a month to-day at $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. It was, therefore, useless for the Bank of England to keep its rate at 4 per cent., not only because this would have been far above the market, but because it has now no means of screwing outside rates up to near its own figure except at great expense to itself. For a short time the open market will possess too much banking credit to make it easy to pinch it by the roundabout and clumsy operation of pawning some of the Bank's securities.

Where all the balances came from which enabled the open market to pay off all its short loans at the

Bank without the help of the dividends nobody seems quite to know, but the probability is that Japanese money helped, and whether or not, it is plain that the market must now be comparatively well off, since it has only to meet its rediscounted bills as they fall due at the Bank and not large amounts borrowed on short loan against dividend day. It may seem strange that with this ease in short credits discount rates should be firm, but that sometimes happens, and especially when the discount market has boldly anticipated events. It worked down the rate on three months' bank bills almost to 3 per cent. before Thursday, and long-dated paper was done at even finer quotations, so that in reality the expected reduction in the Bank rate was fully provided for. Then the market is anything but free yet from anxieties, which were readily seized by the bill brokers to help them in getting good rates upon the large volume of paper coming forward for discount. They are thus beginning to reap a harvest they have waited for all during the first quarter of the year, and will need the good margin between money and discount rates to recoup them for the narrow or non-existent margin on which they have done business since the new year.

Amongst the causes of anxiety are the keen demand of Paris for gold and the wild rates for short loans on Wall Street, which, together with the weak New York exchange, point to American competition for metal. The supply of raw gold coming in next week is only about £300,000, so that the eager buyers may have to go to the Bank for coin in order to satisfy their wants. We were told to-day that the Yankees mean to secure Monday's supply, but Paris was supreme this morning, and bid the price up $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 77s. 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz. We were going to get £1,500,000 of Russian gold, it was alleged, during the week, but this is now said to have been intercepted by the States, and as sovereigns continue to leave the Bank for South America it does not need much consideration to comprehend that there are many reasons why the discount rate should not come down. We have been getting Australian sovereigns through the purchases of the Indian Government, but now that source of supply also is declared to be over, and the further shipments of sovereigns from that quarter will probably go to Japan.

Furthermore, the market is not particularly rich just yet, although richer to-day probably than it appears in the Bank return, whose figures show other deposits to have been only £42,750,000 on Wednesday afternoon. Their total, in fact, was down £867,000 on the week, in spite of £3,672,000 disbursed by the Treasury and £625,000 for Bank of England stock dividend, or a total of £4,297,000. The market paid off £3,200,000 on other securities, and had to meet an outflow of currency to the extent of £2,137,000 allowing for £234,000 nett in imported gold. The position may mend further in the course of next week, but at the best there is neither the large reserve nor the big margin of bank balances that would ensure immunity from scares were our stock of gold to be threatened or to any marked extent drawn upon through the credit necessities of other money markets. The more credit is distended the more imperative does it become that a fountain of credit like the Bank of England should be strong in cash. Because the Bank is not yet strong we cannot regard the future of the home credit market as one of ease that can be counted on to grow more assured as the months pass. It might give way to restlessness and stiffening rates at any moment.

SILVER.

Buyers have held off the market all the week, and although the quantities of the metal coming forward were small, quotations dwindled day by day, until they were down to 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ per oz. for cash and 29 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per oz. for delivery two months forward. A little bazaar support, however, was forthcoming at these figures, bringing about a recovery of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and $\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. respectively. Tenders for Rs.30,00,000 India Council drafts on Wednesday reached Rs.2,63,01,178

for bills and Rs.78,00,000 for telegraphic transfers, or a total of Rs.3,41,01,178. Applications were accepted for Rs.22,40,000 in bills and Rs.7,60,000 in transfers, tenders at Rs. 3 31-32d. and Rs. 4d. per rupee receiving about 34 per cent. Next week another Rs.30,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, April 4, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued ..	£ 53,857,300	Government Debt ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	£ 7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	£ 35,407,300
		Silver Bullion ..	£ 497,000

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 16,112,580
Reserve ..	£ 3,155,321	Other Securities ..	£ 33,553,741
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	£ 15,586,446	Notes ..	£ 24,678,665
Other Deposits ..	£ 42,750,451	Gold and Silver Coin ..	£ 1,768,509
Seven Day and other Bills ..	£ 68,277		

Dated April 5, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year :-

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. April, 5.		Mar. 28, 1906.	April 4, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,163,832	Rest ..	3,780,296	3,155,321	—	624,975
12,797,002	Pub. Deposits ..	19,258,219	15,586,446	—	3,671,773
41,830,513	Other do. ..	43,619,409	42,750,451	—	868,958
105,895	7 Day Bills ..	60,354	68,277	7,923	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,443,673	Gov. Securities ..	16,114,822	16,112,580	2,242	—
28,571,965	Other do. ..	36,754,333	33,553,741	3,200,592	—
28,434,604	Total Reserve ..	28,402,123	26,447,174	1,954,949	—
				5,165,706	5,165,706
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
28,760,065	Coin and Bullion ..	28,498,095	29,178,635	680,540	—
38,744,669	Proportion ..	458 p.c.	37,175,809	—	1,274,409
52 p.c.	Bank Rate ..	4 "	32 "	—	2 p.c.

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £234,000 in.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Saturday Australia ..	Tuesday, S. America ..
Monday, Germany ..	Wednesday, " ..
India ..	Thursday, " ..
Tuesday, Bars ..	Friday, " ..
Wednesday, Bars ..	
Thursday, Bars ..	Net Influx ..
Friday, Bars ..	
Total ..	Total ..

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
1,800,000	6 months	June 1	3 2 6
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
11,200,000			
1,000,000	6 months	June 29	2 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 12	2 10 8
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 26	2 13 8
1,500,000	6 months	Sept. 16	2 11 5
1,000,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 10 0
14,913,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Mar. 31, 1906.	Mar. 24, 1906.	Mar. 17, 1906.	April 1, 1905.
Gold ..	£ 15,084,420	£ 5,078,190	£ 15,076,741	£ 14,862,951
Silver ..	23,090,725	23,119,000	24,091,818	21,016,341
Foreign Bills ..	3,975,382	3,508,922	3,624,983	1,711,394
Discount and Short Bills ..	22,801,276	24,576,400	22,618,984	50,688,673
Treasury Account ..	37,394,154	37,389,755	37,373,658	21,351,343
Notes in circulation ..	61,054,417	61,102,521	61,286,371	61,456,376
Current Account deposits ..	23,417,205	23,411,602	23,391,251	25,628,272
Dividends Interest ..	4,616,990	1,140,095	1,129,346	2,149,422
Government Securities ..	7,606,546	8,024,045	7,847,578	3,667,301

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Week.	1906.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Jan. 3	340,266,000	276,940,000	63,326,000	—
" 10	228,921,000	215,482,000	13,439,000	—
" 17	287,646,000	254,259,000	33,387,000	—
" 24	214,928,000	186,205,000	28,723,000	—
" 31	289,938,000	300,588,000	—	10,650,000
Feb. 7	231,817,000	206,614,000	25,203,000	—
" 14	271,821,000	259,450,000	12,371,000	—
" 21	213,118,000	199,865,000	13,253,000	—
" 28	290,477,000	301,252,000	—	10,775,000
Mar. 7	235,959,000	215,866,000	20,093,000	—
" 14	261,348,000	268,032,000	—	6,684,000
" 21	208,709,000	211,042,000	—	2,333,000
" 28	250,066,000	205,714,000	44,352,000	—
April 4	284,635,000	345,370,000	—	60,735,000
	3,609,649,000	3,446,679,000	162,970,000	—

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'12½	25'11½	Antwerp	short	25'21½	25'21½
Brussels	chqs.	25'20½	25'21	Italy	sight	25'21½	25'13
Amsterdam	sight	12'14½	12'14½	Constantinople ..	3 mths	25'14	110'20
Berlin	chqs.	20'48½	20'47½	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	110'20	153½d.
Do.	3 mths	20'30½	20'31	Valparaiso	90 dys	16½d.	14½d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20'47	20'46	Calcutta	T.T.	14½d.	13½d.
Frankfort	short	20'47	20'46	Bombay	T.T.	1/3½	1/3½
Vienna	sight	24'05½	24'04	Hong Kong	T.T.	1/3½	2/0½
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	94'10	94'10	Shanghai	T.T.	2/0½	2/10½
New York	60 dys	4'82½	4'82½	Singapore	T.T.	2/10½	2/4½
Lisbon	sight	51½	51½	Yokohama	4 mths	2/4½	2/0½
Madrid	sight	28'93	28'96			2/0½	

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris ..	3	May 25, 1900.	3 2½ 3
Berlin ..	5	December 11, 1905	4½ 3½
Hamburg ..	5	December 11, 1905	4½ 3½
Frankfort ..	5	December 11, 1905	4½ 3½
Amsterdam ..	3	November, 1905	2½ 2½
Brussels ..	4	October 30, 1905	3½ 3½
Vienna ..	4½	October, 1905	4½ 4½
Rome ..	5	September, 1904	4 4
St. Petersburg ..	8	January, 1906	8 8
Madrid ..	4½	August 21, 1901	4 4
Lisbon ..	5½	January 11, 1899	5 5
Stockholm ..	5	January, 1906	4½ 4½
Copenhagen ..	5	October, 1905	4½ 4½
Calcutta ..	6	April 5, 1906	—
Bombay ..	6	March 29, 1906	—
New York call money ..	22	—	—

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Mar. 29, 1906	Mar. 22, 1906.	Mar. 15, 1906.	Mar. 30, 1905.
Coin and bullion ..	£ 4,988,680	£ 5,133,400	£ 5,150,000	£ 4,790,520
Other securities ..	22,444,000	22,604,520	22,895,000	23,012,240
Note circulation ..	27,021,800	26,575,840	26,834,240	26,959,560
Deposits ..	2,976,920	3,525,840	3,637,520	2,850,560

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Mar. 16/29 1906.	Mar. 8/21, 1906.	Mar. 1/14, 1906.	Mar. 16/29, 1905.
Gold ..	£ 72,825,912	£ 73,425,877	£ 75,182,803	£ 90,162,616
Silver and subsidiary coin ..	4,944,063	4,803,211	4,762,362	6,852,146
Advances and bills discounted ..	51,150,721	53,617,521	55,471,714	37,739,549
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	8,255,551	7,665,259	7,826,279	5,252,554
Notes in circulation ..	111,802,378	113,268,944	114,907,730	88,465,177
Deposits and current account ..	46,117,226	46,110,931	44,801,349	49,832,388
Treasury account ..	3,090,642	3,317,801	5,688,719	10,280,156

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Mar. 31, 1906.	Mar. 22, 1906.	Mar. 15, 1906.	Mar. 31, 1905.
Cash in hand ..	£ 44,410,000	£ 51,722,400	£ 50,267,750	£ 50,794,200
Bills discounted ..	54,966,800	41,141,700	41,106,930	49,459,900
Advances on stocks ..	9,203,200	2,889,400	3,491,450	5,708,100
Note circulation ..	81,454,900	63,058,000	61,480,950	77,175,250
Public deposits ..	29,119,800	31,866,000	32,059,500	29,555,050

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s).

	Mar. 31, 1906	Mar. 24, 1906.	Mar. 17, 1906.	April 1, 1905.
Specie ..	£ 35,580,000	£ 36,484,000	£ 36,000,000	£ 41,800,000
Legal tenders ..	15,081,800	15,441,400	15,526,200	16,769,800
Loans and discounts ..	205,100,000	205,800,000	205,000,000	210,000,000
Circulation ..	10,169,000	10,272,000	10,184,200	8,711,800
Net deposits ..	200,860,000	202,620,200	201,780,000	227,740,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £1,026,800 against an excess last week of £1,870,400.

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	Mar. 31, 1906.	Mar. 22, 1906.	Mar. 15, 1906.	Mar. 31, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Gold Reserve ..	45,923,831	46,088,750	45,986,958	47,722,750
Silver reserve ..	12,833,833	12,859,458	12,782,541	13,043,208
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	1,660,333	1,548,750	1,563,750	1,851,813
Note circulation ..	71,194,208	66,860,000	67,242,416	66,339,166
Bills discounted ..	18,943,083	14,948,500	15,694,125	13,012,583

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	April 5, 1906.	Mar. 29, 1906.	Mar. 22, 1906.	April 6, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Gold in hand ..	116,992,280	116,905,680	116,059,000	110,720,360
Silver in hand ..	42,037,680	42,034,840	42,031,150	44,030,000
Bills discounted ..	35,782,280	34,567,200	30,988,080	23,202,000
Advances ..	20,276,400	19,269,880	19,721,000	19,692,040
Note circulation ..	192,982,520	188,142,380	186,454,440	176,544,200
Public deposits ..	5,416,720	7,877,640	7,484,240	6,585,000
Private deposits ..	22,485,640	24,012,280	21,407,480	20,493,840

Proportion between bullion and circulation $82\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. against $84\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. a week ago

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Mar. 27.	Mar. 29.	April 3.	April 5.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'3	12'3	12'3	12'3
Do. do.	3 months	12'5	12'5	12'5	12'5
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'47	25'46	25'45	25'46
Hamburg ..	3 months	20'72	20'71	20'70	20'70
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'72	20'72	20'70	20'70
Paris ..	cheques	25'14	25'13	25'12	25'12
Do. ..	3 months	25'36	25'36	25'35	25'35
Marseilles ..	3 months	25'36	25'36	25'36	25'35
Switzerland ..	3 months	25'43	25'47	25'46	25'46
Austria ..	3 months	24'38	25'37	24'35	24'35
St. Petersburg ..	3 months	24'7	24'7	24'8	24'8
Moscow ..	3 months	24'7	24'7	24'8	24'8
Italian Bank Places	3 months	25'45	25'46	25'46	24'43
New York ..	60 days	48'1	48'1	48'1	48'1
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	40'8	40'8	40'8	40'8
Lisbon ..	3 months	50'1	50'1	50'1	50'1
Oporto ..	3 months	50'1	50'1	50'1	50'1
Copenhagen ..	3 months	18'44	18'44	18'44	18'44
Christiania ..	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'45	18'45
Stockholm ..	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'45	18'45

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ —2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Three months	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ —3
Four months	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ —2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Six months	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ —2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Three months fine inland bills	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ —3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Four months	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ —3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Six months	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ —3 $\frac{1}{2}$

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent
Bank of England minimum discount rate	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
" " short loan rates	—
Bankers' rate on deposits	2
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
" 7 and 14 days' notice	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Current rates for 7 day loans	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ —2 $\frac{1}{2}$
" for call loans	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ —2 $\frac{1}{2}$

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Will the reduction in the Bank rate have much effect upon stock markets? Not unless money shows signs of getting considerably cheaper. Banks are now allowing only 2 per cent. upon deposits, and when the rate gets down to that point there is an increased tendency to put deposit money into fixed securities. To that extent, therefore, the better class of home stocks ought to benefit, and doubtless will do so when the present fit of spleen amongst members of the Stock Exchange has given place to reason and commonsense. In all probability, therefore, Home Railway guaranteed preference and even debenture stocks are now worth buying when safe investments alone are looked for. Speculative business, however, does not seem likely to be much helped by the mere reduction of the Bank rate to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Were there not such enormous amounts of new securities waiting to be placed upon the market or pouring out every day in the week there might be a little more energy displayed in buying stocks for the rise, but as it is prospects are rather against great activity in this direction. The banking credit commanded by the market will have enough to do for some time in financing new issues. Including the Russian loan, those German loans, French borrowings, the rapidly multiplying capital necessities of the United States, and all manner of demands arising within our own Empire, the world of finance will have quite enough to do this year to keep itself out of difficulties that might at certain junctures easily become serious. Oddly

enough, although it is a great proof of our financial strength, product of Free Trade, ours is the only great country in the world that is at the present time in the enjoyment of a surplus upon its Imperial Budget. That fact alone should be good in the way of restoring confidence to both money and stock markets. Helpful also it should be in feeding the securities market with released capital. Altogether the outlook is thus in many ways not discouraging, and provided no serious credit or political trouble breaks out in the United States or anywhere on the Continent, much more active markets may be seen during coming months.

There has been great buying of Insurance shares going on for some time back, and prices have risen with unusual speed. Have they now reached the top? They have gone high enough in many cases, and although we should not like to say that the market as a whole has reached the limits of the advance, there certainly does seem an opportunity now for those who have large profits upon some of the less stable securities in this group to make sure of them. The shares of the greater offices, fire and life, are not likely to recoil much, as everything now favours British offices. Their supremacy in the life business has been established beyond dispute by what has taken place in the United States, and in fire business they are not only supreme the world over, but in a better position than ever to command the cream of the business. Last year, for instance, is said to have been a magnificent one for British fire offices in the United States, and as cities there become more and more aggregates of steel frame-work structures instead of wood the risks of devastating fires, such as that of Baltimore, to mention the latest amongst them, rapidly diminish. Hence the outlook in this direction seems good for the investor. Most insurance company shares, it is true, carry a liability and therefore a risk, but there does not seem much probability of any danger that this liability will become active, at any rate, in the case of the rich offices. Accordingly we must not convey the impression that the insurance share market has become, as a whole, inflated. Prices are high, in some cases perhaps too high, but take it altogether the market looks quite sound still.

We wonder whether that "crisis" is coming along in the United States, product of an altogether unbridled indulgence in financial combinations, new capital emissions, rivalries in railroad building, and general speculative "berserking." It looks near enough to induce us to again warn the British public away from the Yankee railroad share market. Probably though it may be possible to pick up fair bargains in bonds should money continue dear, even only spasmodically dear, on Wall Street, and we should not object to the purchase of selected bond issues by the better class of roads provided they are bought on a declining instead of a rising market. One day doubtless there will be the solution of continuity in banking credit, and then the turn of those who wait to pick up speculative shares at a reasonable price may also come; but we have not the least idea when this event is going to take place, and can only be sure of one point, that the long prevailing high rates of interest for money will bring trouble to the surface.

The Week's Stock Markets.

Dealers in the Stock Exchange keep up their spirits wonderfully well in face of the almost complete absence of business, and for the first few days this week prices were described as steady, with an inclination towards firmness. The Revenue statement for the past year disclosing a very satisfactory surplus was a cheering influence, and the possibility of a Bank rate reduction was also discussed. Slight assistance was likewise derived from the firmness of the Continental bourses, thanks to the satisfactory conclusion of the Algeciras Conference, but although the Bank rate was duly put down on Thursday the reduction did nothing to stimulate business. Markets, indeed, closed rather in the dumps, the outbreak in Natal assuming rather ugly proportions, and, as expected, a flood of new issues

has already made its appearance. This was contango day in the mining markets for the settlement to be concluded on Wednesday, and as the Easter holidays will immediately follow, there is no possibility of an early revival of activity. The continuation rate for the monthly Consol settlement, which commenced on Monday, opened about $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but a good deal of Japanese money was said to have been lent in the market, and the rate eased off to $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., the bulk of the business, however, taking place at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS (Last year's dividends are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	89	Consols (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Money)	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
91	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Account (May 4)	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	91
89 $\frac{1}{2}$	88	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock red. 1905	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907	100	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	Irish Land (2 $\frac{1}{2}$)	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99	Local Loans (3)	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	98	National War Loan (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	99
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Account (May 4)	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	99
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.)	101	99 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
300 $\frac{1}{2}$	293	Bk. of England Stk. (9 p.c.)	295 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	295 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	India 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stk. red. 1931	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
97 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	Do. 3 p.c. Stk. red. 1948	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	97
82	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stk. red. 1926	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$
66 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Rupee Paper	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$

The making-up price was 90 $\frac{1}{2}$, or an improvement of $\frac{1}{2}$ on the month, but as the quarterly dividend of $\frac{1}{8}$ had been deducted in the meantime, the advance was really about 1. Prices opened decidedly firm and a substantial fraction was soon added to the quotation, but final figures were slightly under the best. Other British Funds, however, held their ground to the end, while Home County and Corporation and Colonial Inscribed stocks were neglected and generally unaltered.

The Foreign Bond market displayed a little more activity, and some of the movements during the week were rather interesting. A sudden outburst in Central

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly.	101	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c.	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
93	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1897	93	90 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	90	Do. 4 p.c. 1899	93	90 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres	104	101 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Western of Minas Rail	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Funding	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902	91	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892	101	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	Chilian 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1885	96	96
97 $\frac{1}{2}$	94	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1886	96	96
95	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1895	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. 1896	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	101
99	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	99
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	105
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1898, Gold	98	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail.	102	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	Costa Rica A	51	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
43 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	43
40 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Colombian External	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904	106	106
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Egypt Unified 4 p.c.	106	106
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. pref.	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. State Domain	105	105
88 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	German 3 p.c.	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
50 $\frac{1}{2}$	50	Greek, 1884	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	54
53 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Monopoly Loan	54	54
43	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes	43	42 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
5 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Funding	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
94	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	95
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Italian 5 p.c.	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Japan 5 p.c.	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
104	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1901-2	101	101
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. sterling	91	92
105	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c.	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
105	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	Portuguese 3 p.c. New	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$
87	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	Russian 4 p.c. 1889	85	83 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
83	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	Servian 4 p.c.	83	83
96	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed)	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
101	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Turks 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Tribute	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Defence	105	105
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Unified	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
73 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	Uruguay 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	73	73 $\frac{1}{2}$
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c.	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Venezuelan, Dip. (3)	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	53

American securities was a noteworthy incident, Guatemalan, Colombian, Honduras, and Venezuelan all participating in a decidedly pronounced rise. Cédulas were also inclined to pick up, and although the close was not always at the best, the final prices show sub-

stantial gains. There was less excitement in Peruvian Corporation issues, but they kept firm until just before the close. In the South American division Argentines were sold a little, with a view to reinvestment in the new Brazilian loan, which was so tempting that the subscriptions covered the amount 30 times over. The lists were only open for half an hour, and a premium of 3 was quickly established. Existing Brazilian loans were steady, and Chilians were not affected by the fresh emission of £3,700,000. Nothing further has transpired about the postponed Peruvian loan. Uruguays displayed distinct firmness, and amongst Far Eastern stocks Japanese were so vigorously driven forward that dealers came to the conclusion that the way was being prepared for the issue of the remaining half of the £50,000,000 4 per cent. loan. Industrial Bank of Japan shares were steady at 71 $\frac{3}{8}$, and Chinese things were in the ascendant throughout the week. Until Paris began to sell a little in anticipation of the new Russian loan, to be a 5 per cent. issue at 90 it is said, Continental stocks were rather better, although the older Russian issues naturally showed dullness. It was subsequently rumoured that the issue of the loan had been postponed until the end of the month in favour of a new German issue.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
141 $\frac{1}{2}$	133	Brighton Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	136	136
157 $\frac{1}{2}$	149 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.)	153	153
130 $\frac{1}{2}$	120 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	121 $\frac{1}{2}$	122 $\frac{1}{2}$
120 $\frac{1}{2}$	112 $\frac{1}{2}$	Caledonian Ord. (4 p.c.)	112 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	112 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
80	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.)	76 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	76 $\frac{1}{2}$
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1 p.c.)	37 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	91	Central London (4 p.c.)	92	92
89	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (4 p.c.)	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$
16 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chatam Ordinary	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
44 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	City and South London (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	42	42
69	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	Furness (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$
40 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Central Pref.	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$
19 $\frac{1}{2}$	18	Do. Def.	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Eastern (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.)	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$)	46	46
144	135 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Western (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	136 $\frac{1}{2}$	136
52	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	Highland (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hull and Barnsley (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	43	44
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lanc. and Yorks. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	106	106
89 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	78	78
37 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan District	28	29
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	Midland Pref. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	67	67
74 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	69	69
78 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	North British Pref. (3 p.c.)	76 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	76
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	44 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
147 $\frac{1}{2}$	140 $\frac{1}{2}$	North-Eastern (6 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	142 $\frac{1}{2}$	141 $\frac{1}{2}$
163 $\frac{1}{2}$	156	North-Western (6 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	159	158 $\frac{1}{2}$
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	87	South-Eastern Ord. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	89	89
132	126	Do. Pref. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.)	127	127
55 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def.	53	53
164	154 $\frac{1}{2}$	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.)	156 $\frac{1}{2}$	156 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.)	105	105
57 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (2 p.c.)	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$

The activity which developed in gilt-edged stocks on cheaper money and the prospects of a large surplus being available for sinking fund purchases did not extend to Home Railway stocks. These are at present neglected by the public, partly, we fear, because of the action of brokers, who are displaying their wrath at the present Government by predicting all manner of evil in store for this country and advising their clients to invest anywhere but in Home Railways. Stagnation, consequently, continues, and even the satisfactory traffic returns of most of the companies for the past week failed to put any life into the market. Prices, consequently, show very few changes, and, in fact, the only movements of any importance were a sharp fall in North-Eastern, caused by fears of labour troubles, and a relapse in Furness.

Although the strike of miners in America actually commenced last Monday Wall Street professed to believe that it would not last long, and chose rather to talk of a better outlook for money and of the completion of the sale of its ore lands by the Great Northern Railway to the United States Steel Corporation. On the strength of these a grand raid on "bears" was inaugurated, and substantial advances in Atchison, Erie, and Union Pacific, followed a little later by improvements in Baltimore, Denver ordinary, Missouri, Norfolk ordinary, Ontario, and Southern common.

Even the hardening of loan rates to 10 per cent. failed to check the upward movement appreciably, and further progress was made on a report that the strike had been practically settled. This, however, was promptly contradicted, and as it was stated that President Roosevelt had decided not to interfere, a reaction set in. The Atchison dividend at the same rate as a year ago was another disappointment to the market,

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
99½	91½	Atchison Shafes (4) ..	97½	96½
109½	105	Do. Pref. (5) ..	107	107
120	112½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (5) ..	115½	117½
101½	96	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99	99
63½	56½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	61½	61½
195½	178½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	182	183
52½	38½	Denver Shares ..	46½	48
93½	89½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	90½	92½
52½	42½	Erie Shares ..	46½	46½
85½	79½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	81½	81½
77	68½	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	72½	72½
185	171	Illinois Central (7) ..	177½	178½
160½	148½	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	156	156½
47½	34½	Missouri and Texas ..	36½	36½
159½	147	New York Central (5) ..	150	151
95½	87½	Norfolk and Western (4) ..	90½	92½
96½	92	Do. Pref. (4) ..	93	93
57½	49½	Ontario Shares (3) ..	53	54½
75½	70½	Pennsylvania (6) ..	71½	72½
85½	64½	Reading Shares (1½) ..	69½	71½
47½	46½	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	47	47
51½	48½	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	50	50
74½	66½	Southern Pacific ..	70½	71½
43½	36½	Southern ..	42½	42½
105	101½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	104½	105
163½	151½	Union Pacific (5½) ..	159½	163½
101½	98½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99	99
20½	20½	Wabash ..	23½	23½
5½	42½	Do. Pref. ..	52	51½
87	78½	Do. Income Debs. ..	85	84
182½	173½	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	177½	178½
106½	104½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	104½	104½
109½	109	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109½	111
29½	25½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	28½	27½
105½	102½	Do. Guar. (4) ..	104	104
119½	114½	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	119½	119½
116½	105½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	110	110½
70½	60½	Do. 3rd Pref. (2) ..	67½	66½
109½	107½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	108½	109

which had looked for an increase of 1 per cent. per annum, and to add to their troubles money suddenly hardened to 18 per cent. owing to the movement of currency towards the South and the Pacific Coast. Negotiations for supplies of gold in Europe met with no success, and although it was said that a portion of next week's arrival in London would be secured, the information was ineffectual, and quotations gave way all round. An attempt to bring about a fresh rally was nipped in the bud by the stringency of money, and

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
229½	211½	Antofagasta (10) ..	217½	219½
335	313	Do. Def. (15) ..	330	335
130½	125	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	126	125
232	128½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	130	129
84½	84½	Bahia Blanca Pref. ..	85xd	85xd
144½	140	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	141½	141½
129½	127	Do. Pref. (5) ..	128	128
136½	132	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	134	134½
120½	115½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	119	119
110	107½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109½	110
120½	115	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	118½	120
119	109½	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	116½	118
170	165½	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	167	168
109	105½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	106	106
138½	135½	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	132½xd	133xd
92½	86½	Central Uruguay (4½) ..	87	88
109½	106½	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	108	108
96	92½	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	94	94
75½	69½	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	71	70½
59½	55½	Costa Rica ..	2½	2½
117½	111½	Cuban Central ..	6½	6½
106	102½	Do. Pref. (5½) ..	112½	112½
93½	90	Do. Deb. (4½) ..	103½	103½
86½	80	East Argentine (1½) ..	91	91
98½	95½	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	88	84
108	107½	Leopoldina (3) ..	79½	80½
105½	103½	Do. Deb. (4) ..	95½	95½
28½	25	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	108	108
130½	118½	Do. "B" (6) ..	106	106
59½	49½	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	27½	27½
68½	54½	Do. 1st Pref. (5½) ..	129½	129½
16½	14½	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	57½	57½
21½	19½	Mexican Southern (2½) ..	66	66
214	203	Nitrate Ord. (5½) ..	158	16
193	170½	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	212½	212½
		San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	211	214
		United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	175	177

the market again became flat, but the nett movements, nevertheless, left prices mostly better on the week.

Canadian Pacific shares, as usual, followed Yankee Rails, and like them contrived to hold part of the advance scored in the beginning of the week to the last. The firmness in the American market also had an influence on Grand Trunk stocks, at first causing a little buying back, and prices further improved on the traffic increase of £13,800, which was considerably more than the market had looked for. Bear pressure, however, was again very much in evidence almost immediately after, and the chairman's speech at the meeting on Thursday helped to make the market flat, so that the ordinary and third preference ended substantially lower.

A further improvement in United Railways of the Havana and a sharp recovery in Brazilian issues, and

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
21	16	Allsopp Ordinary ..	17	19
51	44	City of London Ord. ..	49½	47½
551	536	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	540	540
19½	16½	Ohlsson's Cape (40) ..	17½	17½
51½	41½	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22) ..	2½	2½
61½	45½	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	2½	2½
49½	50½	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4) ..	50½	50½
55	95	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4) ..	55	54
5½	5½	Aerated Bread (32½) ..	6xd	6
7½	6½	Apollinaris Ord. (5) ..	7	7
6½	17½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½) ..	6½xd	6½
27½	21½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7) ..	17½	17½
45½	40½	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2½	2½
7½	5½	Brunner Mond (35) ..	5½	5½
11½	11	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½) ..	11	11
14½	11½	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½) ..	11	11
58	58	Coats Ordinary (20) ..	52	52
500	485	Do. Pref. Ord. (20) ..	490	490
26½	19½	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (mill) ..	19½	19½
25½	22½	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4) ..	12	12
64	64	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	64	64
132	12½	Henley's Telegraph (15) ..	13	13
89½	81½	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	47½	47½
27½	26½	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½) ..	108	108
108½	107	Do. Debenture (4½) ..	108	108
24½	21½	Lipton Ordinary (7) ..	18	18
6½	5½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30) ..	5½	5½
34½	27½	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	18½	18½
15½	10½	Russian Petroleum ..	7½	7½
7½	6½	Savoy Hotel (5) ..	7½	7½
18½	13½	Sweetmeat Automatic ..	8	8
16½	14½	Short's Deterred Ordinary (10) ..	15	15
12½	10½	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	10½	10½
19½	17½	Do. Pref. Stock (6) ..	10½	10½
103½	102½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4) ..	103½	103½
91½	80½	Hudson's Bay Co. (58½) ..	91½	89½
54½	42½	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½) ..	50½	51½
110½	107½	Do. Debentures (6) ..	110	106½xd
9½	9	National Discount (10) ..	9½	9½
13½	11½	Union Discount (11) ..	12	12
6½	5	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8) ..	5½	4½
11½	11	City of London Elect. Ord. (6) ..	10½xd	11
104½	98	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4½) ..	98½	98
133½	128	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	128	128
66½	61½	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	31½xd	31½
85½	75½	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	4	4
28½	26½	Brown, J. & Co. Ordinary (10) ..	17½	17½
31½	30½	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½) ..	17½	17½
14	12½	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	12½	12½
47½	40½	United States Steel Ordinary ..	42½	44½
117	107½	Do. Preference (7) ..	110	111½
57½	52½	Vickers Ordinary (12½) ..	53½	53½
14½	13½	Cunard Steam ..	14½	15½
241	236	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13) ..	237½	237½
54	52	Royal Mail ..	52	52
9	7½	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5) ..	8½	8½
114½	109½	Anglo-American Telegraph—		
		Do. Pref. Ord. (2½) ..	113	113
		Do. Def. Ord. ..	19½	20
		East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7) ..	147½	147½
		Eastern Extension (7) ..	15	15
		National Telephone Def. (5) ..	113	112
		Western Telegraph (7) ..	14½xd	14½
		British Elect. Traction Ord. (6) ..	78	64
		Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8) ..	98	98
		London General Omnibus (7) ..	90½	89½
		London United Trams Pref. (5) ..	92	92

more particularly in San Paulo ordinary on the report, were the most noticeable incidents in the Foreign Railway market, where business generally has been quiet. Argentine Railways, however, were all firm and higher on the splendid traffic returns, Central Uruguay ordinary and Paraguay Central debenture stock hardened with other South American things, and Nitrate Railways ordinary shares showed a fractional improvement on the renewal of the combine, but the deferred were sold moderately after the dividend announcement. Mexican Railway ordinary and second preferences were inclined to be weak, but the first preference gained a trifle, and Mexican Southern ordinary advanced on a purchase or two.

Rather more attention was paid to a few of the favourite Miscellaneous securities, and the tendency on the whole was rather firmer. Amalgamation rumours favourably influenced sundry Brewery stocks, and a sharp rise took place in nearly all the Allsopp issues. That some movement is afoot was admitted at a creditors' meeting of Thos. Salt and Co. on Wednesday, but up to the present nothing definite has transpired. Other Brewery issues were neglected, but Bieckert's ordinary stock was again on the up grade. Catering issues were steady, with some firmness in Aerated Breads, and Textiles occasionally showed small improvement. An all-round rise took place in the Nitrate division on the renewal of the restriction agreement, several advances being quite important. Eastman Kodak common shares jumped 23 on the increase in the dividend. Iron and Steels were firm, and there was a good demand for Van den Berghs shares on the report. Nelsons were easier in tendency, but other Meat shares about maintained previous prices. Anglo "A" moved irregularly, ending firm, but horse omnibus shares continue very weak, London Generals touching 87½ and Road Cars 48. The shares of the Metropolitan Electric Tramways were also easier. Hudson's Bays went flat in sympathy with Grand Trunks, but other Land shares were again good. Mazawattee Tea shares were inquired for in a small way. Telegraph Constructions improved to 34. Bell's Asbestos shares were vigorously bought, and rose rapidly on various rumours, one of which was to the effect that the company had sold a portion of its property for a sum equalling the paid-up capital. Russian Oils seemed a shade harder, and Spiers and Pond debentures somewhat recovered. London Docks deferred ended better, but nothing interesting happened in the shipping division.

Nothing has yet been done to help the stock markets by the lower Bank rate, and the Stock Exchange to-day was, in a sense, a "howling wilderness" away from investment corners. That is to say, the bulk of the dealers had nothing to do, and let you know it. Few prices moved. Underwriters are grumbling at the little profit given them on some of the new issues, the Rothschilds in this respect behaving with more generosity than other loan issuers of the week. Having nothing to do, people gossiped about the Grand Trunk and that curious tumble of its lower stocks which began some days ago. The cause is the news set forth by Sir Rivers Wilson at the half-yearly meeting yesterday. Michigan passed a law increasing the taxation on railroads within the State in 1901, and after fighting this law up to the Supreme Court of the United States, a decision has been given against the roads. The old basis of taxation was the gross earnings per mile; the new is the valuation of the properties. There are 28 railroads in Michigan, and the Grand Trunk is responsible for seven of them, so it will have to pay the extra taxation and all arrears since the Act passed. Sir Rivers Wilson could not say how much, but the market thinks the total amount will be nearly £100,000, and that it means an addition in future of some £19,000 to £20,000 per annum to the company's charges. No wonder the third preference and ordinary stocks fell, but what the gossips want to know is—did the officials and others in the secret wire over orders to sell before anybody here knew what had happened? The stocks began to go down quite two days before the half-yearly meeting. To-night the Brazilian loan is quoted at 2½ premium and the Chilean and City Corporation loans each at about ½ premium. Hungarian stock rallied to-day on Continental prices.

Ohlsson's Cape Breweries.—Mr. Herbert Jervis White Jervis has joined the board.

The principal shipping companies have notified that their offices will be closed from Thursday evening next until the following Tuesday morning.

American Business Notes.

It was stated in a recent issue of the *Railway Age* that there are at present over 13,000 miles of new railroad under contract or actually under construction in the United States, with 8,433 miles of what it calls live projects standing behind. A year ago there were only 7,500 miles under contract, two-thirds of which were completed and ready for operation in 1905. No wonder that the United States Steel Trust and other steel manufacturing agencies within the Union are flourishing, or that the output of new securities by the railroads is unprecedented. It is reported that the rail-makers have now nearly 3,000,000 tons of unfilled orders, and the profits of the United States Steel Trust for the quarter just ended are estimated to approximate \$36,000,000, "the best in the company's history."

So active is business that during the month of March \$96,000,000 more new securities were put out upon the market in stocks and bonds. In February, however, \$227,000,000 of new securities were taken up, at least, by the underwriters, who are at present quite "bunged up," to use a vulgar phrase, with unsaleable paper. It is consequently getting difficult for the railways to place more of their securities, and there is talk of raising the wind by means of short term notes in lieu of stocks and bonds. Already, in fact, some of these notes have made their appearance, and this week Messrs. Speyer Brothers bought \$6,000,000 of Rock Island 4½ per cent. two-year Treasury notes. Meantime strenuous efforts are being made to draw the French into the net as investors.

An issue of \$1,000,000 in five-year notes is announced by the Chicago Great Western Railway, in order to provide additional equipment. The vice-president of the road, Mr. Oppenheim, says that the company would have had from \$100,000 to \$200,000 more revenue in the past half-year if it had had another thousand freight cars, hence this issue of notes. Money will also be required to double the line, work which has made steady progress and exhausted all the available capital. It is estimated that another \$3,500,000 will be required to double the 183 miles of the Eastern division, still a single line, and \$500,000 of this is to be spent during the current year.

Shareholders of the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad have authorised an issue of \$5,000,000 of 5 per cent. notes, these having been already bought by American firms.

The stock of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad is to be increased by \$100,000,000 to a total of \$250,000,000, as readers have already been informed. This is done in order to provide additional capital for such corporate purposes as the board of directors may determine. The first issue of the new stock will not be made, it is believed, within six months or longer, and is not likely to exceed \$25,000,000, or at most \$50,000,000. The money is to be expended for betterments and improvements, particularly in what is known as the company's electric zone, in the widening of tracks, and the putting down of third lines of rail.

The Old Colony Railroad leased to the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Company has asked the Massachusetts Railroad Commissioners to allow it to issue \$500,000 additional stock, to be sold at auction, in order to meet the cost of the elimination of level crossings.

It is stated that Mr. J. J. Hill, president of the Great Northern Railway, is about to begin the construction of 500 miles of new line, part of a total length of 1,800 miles, running from Winnipeg to Vancouver, and that he expects to finish this road a year before the Grand Trunk Pacific line reaches the Pacific coast. Already he has 3,500 men at work upon it, and Laffan's telegram goes on to say that enormous numbers of American farmers are preparing to cross the border and take advantage of rich, cheap lands before prices "boom." How astonishing it is, if the United States people are

so happy, that farmers from the Western States should be so ready to stampe in this manner.

Money rose to 19 per cent. on Wednesday in New York, and we really do not see how the rulers of Wall Street are going to maintain prices for the securities they put upon the market at current figures when the surplus bank reserve is at such an attenuated figure, and when Europe is requiring every farthing of its spare means or banking credit for loan subscriptions and other finance operations at home. It will be well therefore to watch the market, and to be careful of commitments therein. It is said that gold is to be imported into New York, and the exchange has gone down in a way which makes a demand for the metal probable on European markets.

All the Gould, Kuhn Loeb, and Speyer interests are apparently retiring from the board of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Does this mean that the standard oligarchic interests are to be supreme there, and that schemes leading to further amalgamation are about to be produced? Or is it the Beef Trust that holds the south?

The municipality of Chicago has decided to acquire for the people the ownership of the street railways there, and has authorised an issue of \$75,000,000 (£15,000,000), of certificates, in order to buy out private owners. We are glad to find the inhabitants of such a great city beginning to assert themselves against the company promoter and individual monopolists.

Five insurance bills were passed on Wednesday by the assembly of the New York State, for the purpose of bringing insurance business within some measure of control. They prohibit lobbying in the Andrew Hamilton style or any other, make it perjury to issue false statements, and limit the holding of real estate by life insurance companies to their own office buildings. Also it is made a misdemeanour to give or receive rebate on a policy or to make any false entry in an insurance company's books. If along with all this stringent regulations are laid down for the publication of full accounts, and for a properly organised actuarial audit, there may be a better future before these American life offices, giant and other.

On Thursday afternoon call money on Wall Street rose to 30 per cent., and the last loan was done at 22 per cent., many borrowers finding it impossible to get accommodation on any terms. All day the ruling rate was fully 12 per cent., and it is expected that this week's return of the New York Associated Banks will show increased poverty. This is ominous so early in the quarter, just after the interest and stock dividend moneys have been disbursed, and it will be difficult for the banks to draw much gold in from abroad because the credit of the Union is already utilised to its utmost on European markets. However, about £600,000 of the metal is said to have been secured on this side, and those involved in the gamble must hope the best. A crisis has long been due in New York, but we can never be sure of its outburst until it actually happens.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

*. Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

Notwithstanding the settlement of the Moroccan dispute, which favourable decision was expected to do wonders for the Kaffir Circus, we still gaze on a somnambulant sort of crowd there. Not the most sanguine gambler expected such a glorious time as a "boom," but there was the likelihood that freedom from the Morocco-begotten suspense would rouse the market from its pitiable lethargy. There was the hope that the French, relieved of this mental burden, would rush in and buy a few Kaffirs, but it is apparent that quite another tonic than this is needed to brace up the courage of the public to the buying point. Their "sickness" seems incurable, and the cause of it deeper and more widespread than the bosses imagine. Accordingly we have to say once more that it has been a week of deadly dulness. Prices here and there have moved a thirty-second or one-sixteenth, with a sporadic eighth or so in some favoured speculative counter,

but no genuine business whatever is done. The "bears" are still triumphant, and the despairing "bulls" helpless. Gedulds at one time were pushed up on the publication of some assays, but profit-snatchers immediately seized their opportunity, and the gain was speedily lost. Premier Diamonds have continued to exhibit a fair degree of strength, but this has not been consistently sustained throughout the week. A cable announces that the lower tailings dam broke away on Tuesday, but this will not interfere with work.

The following dividend has been declared:—

Dividend.	Issued Capital.	Amount.	Yield at Present Price.
%	£	£	%
Jubilee 25	50,000	12,500	9½
The monthly return for February of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines gives the following figures of the Chinese employed:—			
Number at work at December 31	...	...	47,217
Distributed during January and February	...	...	3,503
			50,720
Less deaths ... ..	...	...	177
Discharged for repatriation	...	...	588
			765
Number employed at end of February	...	...	49,955

The other sections of the market have been as flat as the Kaffir and Rhodesian. In no one of them is there really an important change. Amongst West Australians Golden Horseshoes have been helped much by the report issued this week, but other shares just manage to keep steady. Nor is there anything doing in Coppers, Rio Tintos being practically the only share to improve.

WITWATERSRAND DEEP.—Immediately upon the announcement of a dividend the directors of this Wernher, Beit company publish the report and accounts for the year 1905. In the month of January 100 stamps were working, and these were gradually increased up to October when 190 were employed, so the company did not suffer very seriously from the dearth of labour. The quantity dealt with advanced from 13,673 tons in January to 26,070 tons in December, whilst the value improved from 30s. 10.8d. per ton to 33s. 8.12d., and the working costs were reduced from 25s. 2.78d. to 21s. 8.28d. per ton. There is little in these results to grumble at, and if the company can maintain this record it will do very well, though the immediate likelihood is that profits will increase. The total quantity of ore milled was 243,017 tons for a total yield from all sources of 98,894 fine ozs., which realised £415,020. Mine expenses totalled £285,040 and administration charges came to £6,536, so the profit was £123,444, raised to £188,571 with the addition of £65,004 from 1904, and £122 freight rebate on gold shipped. The appropriation account is charged with £55,533 spent on capital account, £34,740 applied to the redemption of debentures, and other sums aggregating £103,452, so the nett profit was £85,119. The company had plenty of cash at the end of the year, and the financial position left little to be desired. As already stated, the directors declared their first dividend last week at the rate of 20 per cent., and the outlook appears hopeful.

KNIGHT CENTRAL.—There is little or nothing that is agreeable to the shareholders in the directorial report for 1905. Mining operations were concentrated on the sinking of the East shaft, which at the end of the year had reached a depth of 2,053 ft. Progress, however, was slow owing to a large inflow of water. The consulting engineer reports that the borehole, which was started from a depth of 1,766 ft., did not give any definite information. A scattered reef series was encountered at 435¾ ft., the assay values of which were low, the highest being only 5 dwts. over 12 ins. This series of reefs was not considered to be the Main Reef series, and it is said to be very difficult to correlate reefs in this district, even within small distances, especially from borehole results, therefore it is impossible to form a definite opinion until the reefs are cut in the shaft. It is conjectured that the reefs will be intersected in the shaft at a depth of 2,270 ft. No profit and loss account has yet been drawn up, and expenditure is still treated as an asset. It amounted to £8,824 in the twelve months, and as there was no revenue beyond £9,658 from interest, rents, and water, the directors manage to show a tiny balance of £834 on the right side. But the aggregate expenditure is £73,726 against a total income of £42,370 since the inception of the company, so the deficiency is £31,356. The company has no less than £156,775 to spend still on sinking to find those reefs.

PREMIER DIAMOND MINING COMPANY.—In the last two numbers of this REVIEW we have dealt so fully with the position of the Premier Diamond Mining Company that there is little fresh to say upon the official report that has now come to hand. The facts we have already published practically exhaust all that it is necessary to give in order to get to some approximate idea of the present state of things and the possibilities. The expenditure and revenue account discloses a profit of £622,634, the diamonds sold producing £994,687. As £770,601 was brought forward, the directors have a disposable balance of £1,393,235, yet were unable to pay a dividend on the deferred shares for the second half of the year. This huge sum is swallowed up as follows:—General equipment expenditure to date, £704,152; provision for liabilities in connection with the construction of the Wilge River Waterworks and other expenditure, £254,368;

interest on working capital provided by shareholders, £1,592; and Transvaal Government's proportion of profits, £259,873—leaving only £173,249. In the appropriation account credit is taken for the working capital originally supplied, with interest, amounting to £85,135; also for interest earned, £8,875, not falling within the terms of the Ordinance, making a total of £267,259. Dividends on the 250 per cent. preference shares and the 400 per cent. paid on the 2s. 6d. deferred shares absorbed £260,000—so only the small credit of £7,259 is carried forward. Thus the inability to pay a final dividend on the deferred is explained. But none the less it has justified the slump in the price, which was built up on assured dividends of about 800 per cent., the capital being only £80,000. If nearly one million sterling had to be spent in equipment, the directors should have foreseen it, and have warned shareholders. As it is, these have suffered unnecessarily and very severely, and the recovery in the price this past week is but a grim consolation, seeing that last year the quotation went as high as 18½ and never fell below 11¼. As for the future, there are only the vague and optimistic opinions of the directors to base hopes upon, and their substantiality is not to be measured with precision. Meanwhile, the "bulls" and "bears" are having a merry game behind the inscrutable scenes.

BANTJES CONSOLIDATED MINES.—This company's property still remains in the charge of a caretaker, and no work was done upon it during the year 1905. General expenditure amounted to £12,023, absorbed by claim licences, interest on the loan, and the survey fees of the Florida Township. Against this outlay the company received £5,174 on account of estate owner's share of claim licences, stand licences, proceeds of stands sold, rents and water revenue. During the year the loan was increased by £3,889 to £38,296, of which sum £2,690 represents interest. In addition, creditors are owed £7,930, whilst there is a deficit of £58,982. Both this and the loans must grow to huge amounts before the company can hope to earn profits from gold winning.

MONTROSE DIAMOND MINING COMPANY.—The report of the directors covers the 22 months to the end of December, 1905. On the appointment of Mr. Leopold Kessler as managing director in March, 1905, systematic prospecting operations commenced with the object of ascertaining the extent of the two pipes already located, and of carefully selecting the unexplored and untested portions of the farm, with the result that in the following May pipe No. 3 was discovered. This confirmed the opinion held by the directors that one or more true pipes existed, "and the operations so far conducted," say they, "have established the existence of three mines on the property, and these have been proved to be true diamond bearing pipes." Wonderful! However, there is still a considerable amount of development to be done before the farm can be said to be thoroughly prospected, and shareholders need not imagine yet awhile that fortunes are awaiting them. According to the balance-sheet, the general expenditure in the 22 months amounted to £23,637, against receipts from the sale of diamonds, stands, &c., amounting to £18,433, showing a further loss of £5,204, increasing the deficit to £22,285. Cash is £2,156 against creditors for £2,570.

SOUTH AFRICAN TERRITORIES.—This company operates in German South-West Africa, and it has inevitably suffered from the rebellion of the natives there. That is, it has not been able to resume the survey of farms and prospecting operations. Nevertheless, the directors have been alive to the opportunities of supplying the civil population and military forces with food-stuffs and other requirements, and practically all the working capital is now locked up in the trading business. The report takes us back to the end of June. No profit and loss account is issued, and, according to the balance-sheet, an income of £35,438 was derived from farm rents and trading, with £193 from interest and £20 from transfer fees—total, £35,651, against an expenditure of £35,491 in London and Berlin, showing a trifling profit. In the accounts the deficiency is now £15,681. Debtors, £18,887, exceed creditors, £15,777, and the exchequer shows as much cash as £8,535. The directors anticipate earning a larger profit from trading in the current year.

LACE DIAMOND MINING COMPANY.—It is no unexpected news to learn that this company is hard up for cash. In order to get some, a meeting of shareholders is convened in Johannesburg for May 8, to consider two resolutions. One is to confirm an agreement entered into with the General Mining and Finance Corporation, by which the latter Albu concern agrees to advance up to £75,000, at 6 per cent. per annum, for two years and three months, in consideration for which it shall receive an option for two years to take up 50,000 new shares of the Lace Diamond Company at 30s. per share, and shall have the right to appoint two members on the board. The other resolution is to give the directors power to issue the 50,000 shares. It is better the magnates should find the money than the general public.

GREAT EASTERN COLLIERIES.—The output of coal from this company's collieries in the year 1905 was very small, for it appears that competition in South Africa is very keen, and the directors have to modify their policy accordingly. The production totalled 178,460 tons, and the revenue from coal winning was £13,112. Other income came from rents, water, royalties, electric light, &c., bringing up the gross receipts to £14,007, but the net profit was only £3,649, after allowing for all expenditure, including depreciation. As a sum of £19,041 was brought in from 1904, the directors found themselves with a balance of £22,690, which they are carrying forward. Prices were lowered by competition, but the directors promise that

every effort shall be made to increase the sale of coal. They will find it hard, however, to fight against economic laws.

RIETKUIL GOLD MINES.—No work was done upon this company's property during 1905, in which period the expenditure amounted to £2,848, the major portion of which sum was made up of claim licences and interest on loan. The largest shareholders have continued to advance the funds necessary to meet current outgoings, the company's debt under this head, including interest, totalling £28,664 at the end of the year. In addition a sum of £2,600 is owed to sundry creditors. To meet these liabilities the company had less than £40 in cash at the end of the year, with 30,000 reserve shares for anyone to buy who cares to. The deficiency of expenditure now amounts to £32,822.

BALAGHAT GOLD MINING COMPANY.—The achievements of this company during the past twelve months will be highly pleasing to the shareholders, for they not only show a substantial advance upon those for 1904, but foreshadow the likelihood of still better things in store, if all goes as promised. In the year ending December 31, 48,820 tons of quartz and 33,000 tons of tailings were treated, yielding 42,470 ozs. of bar gold, the sale of which realised £164,204. Compared with the preceding year, these show increases of 12,820 tons of quartz, 4,400 tons of tailings, and 10,764 ozs., whilst the value of the whole was £41,537 more. On the other hand, the average yield of the ore was just equal, viz., 18 dwts. 1 grain per ton. Payments on revenue account amounted to £83,049, whilst the receipts aggregated £157,901, leaving a profit of £74,912 compared with £45,743. Depreciation of plant and machinery took £5,111, £6,000 was written off outlay on mines and general expenditure account, and a similar sum was put to reserve, raising the fund to £21,000. The final dividends were 1s. 6d. per share on both the preference and ordinary shares, making totals of 5s. per share and 3s. per share respectively on each class, against payments of 3s. 6d. and 1s. 6d. each in 1904, which allows £2,469 to be carried forward. According to the report of the superintendent, there is a further marked improvement in the general condition of the mine. Mr. Richards writes: "Taking into consideration the present favourable position of the company, it may reasonably be anticipated that the past year's excellent record will be fully maintained during the current year, and the very promising appearance of the lode in the 2,000 ft. levels north and south from Ogle's shaft justifies the expectation that continued success will attend the further development of the mine in depth." Although 48,820 tons of quartz were extracted, the reserves in the mine at the close of the year were estimated at 59,490 tons, an increase of 17,600 tons over 1904. This improvement is attributed to the larger extent of the ore bodies and the increased width of the quartz recently laid open in the lower workings. The cyanide plant is being augmented by three percolating vats capable of dealing with 3,000 tons of tailings per month, and these will shortly be ready for use. Cash is as much as £18,948, there is a stock of gold of the value of £25,419, whilst part of the reserve fund is invested in the War Loan.

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY COMPANY.—The results of the half-year's working to the end of November last have already been cabled over, and there is little to add to these in the report of the directors which has now reached us. It was a very favourable period for the company, the profit per ton of gross ore treated being 12s. 10d.—the highest obtained for eight years, the effect of the higher price for lead. Gross profit for the six months amounted to £227,300, and, after deducting £30,340 for depreciation upon the various plants, the nett profit was £196,959. Two dividends of 1s. 6d. per share each were paid, absorbing £144,000. The most important occurrence at the mine was the development disclosed by prospecting work carried on at the 1,100 ft. level. At this point the lode has been proved to be 65 ft. wide, assays giving the metallic contents as about the same as at the higher level—viz., 17 per cent. zinc, 19 per cent. lead, and 13 ozs. of silver, which is slightly in advance of the general average of the mine. Since the publication of the report the serious fire has broken out, which, of course, will have its effect upon the results of the current year. The financial position is very strong.

PARINGA MINES.—The report of the directors covers the twelve months to the end of June, but it is of slight importance, for the company has been a lamentable failure. There was at one time a hope that its fortunes might be rehabilitated by the finding of a telluride vein, but unfortunately this did not continue, neither did operations in the South shaft disclose anything of value. Last summer the chairman paid a visit to the property, and as the result of inspection and of consultation with the engineers on the spot it was decided that it was inadvisable to spend the company's funds in further prospecting work. So tributes were let out and developments were awaited. Up to the present moment the directors are still waiting to see what turns up. The balance-sheet shows that of £3,095 due on account of 30,950 shares issued, only £1,543 has been received, leaving £1,551, with interest thereon, still due, and these 30,950 shares have been forfeited. Nearly all were held by the New Century Trust, which went into liquidation, transferring its assets to the Share Guarantee Trust. It is interesting to note that the managing director of these companies, Mr. R. T. Smith, is also a director of the Paringa Mines, so the fact that the calls are not paid gives a clear view of this gentleman's opinion of the Paringa's prospects. As Mr. Smith is one of the directors who retires, his colleagues advise the shareholders not to fill up his position at present, but to reduce the number of directors to two, leaving the others to increase the number

when necessary. In a circular accompanying the report the directors say they have been offered an alluvial deposit of tin-bearing gravel in Southern Victoria, on condition that a company shall be promoted with a capital of £80,000, of which £20,000 shall be working capital, the vendors to receive £2,000 in cash and 38,000 fully-paid shares. The Paringa is to provide the £2,000 in cash, also the working capital, and to receive 42,000 shares in the new company.

MOUNT LYLE BLOCKS MINING CO.—This company treated in the six months ending December 31 33,445 tons of ore, which was slightly less than the quantity dealt with in the preceding six months, but the average grade was about the same—1.925 per cent. copper. The percentage of extraction, on the other hand, considerably improved to 68.52 per cent., which, coupled with the higher price for copper and a reduction in working costs, swelled out the profits. The production of fine copper was 441 tons, the gross profit on which was £11,719, and the nett profit £10,796, which changes the previous debit balance of £5,377 into a credit of £5,419 carried forward. Certain bucket-shops are trying their hardest to rig these shares, and this is not the best recommendation for the company.

BROKEN HILL WATER SUPPLY.—The quantity of water consumed in the half-year ending December 31 was 97,423,090 gallons, an increase of 1,727,020 gallons upon the consumption of the previous half-year, and an excess of 25,217,430 gallons over the quantity disposed of in the corresponding period of 1904. The revenue from water sales, meter rents, and sundry receipts was £20,141, interest gave £812, and transfer fees £20, the nett profit being £16,197, to which has to be added £21,580 brought forward, making a total of £37,777. Two dividends of 6d. per share each absorbed £10,000, £3,000 is transferred to the contingency reserve fund, and £24,777 is taken to the credit of the current half-year.

LODDON VALLEY GOLDFIELDS.—This company is again in need of cash, so the directors have decided to create and issue 80,000 new £1 shares, to be offered to shareholders in the ratio of one to two. Whether it would be advisable to take them up or not we cannot say. The company's past experience does not promise much, neither does the experience of other Australian deep lead undertakings foreshadow certain prosperity. The present is a reconstruction of a company formed in 1900, and has been in existence since 1903. Two large shareholders in the Loddon Valley are the Australian Commonwealth Trust and the Consolidated Deep Leads, and each has agreed to apply for and take up at par one-half of such shares as may not be taken by shareholders, subject to the condition that they shall have during two years the call at par of the remaining shares. The offer of the directors is one that needs a great deal of thinking over.

LACHLAN GOLDFIELDS, LIMITED.—During the year ending October 31 9,655 tons of ore were crushed, yielding gold to the value of £18,997, against 10,193 tons and £24,771 in the previous year. Out of the profits the directors have paid a dividend of 6d. per share. The mine manager's report states that a largely increased amount of development work has been done in the three lower levels, in addition to 510ft. of diamond drilling, and he estimates that in October he had 10,650 tons of ore opened up and ready for stoping, which he considers to be of better value than the ore crushed during the past year. For the current year prospects look a little more hopeful than usual, and the fair dividends paid in recent years promise to be maintained.

CHARLOTTE PLAINS CONSOLIDATED GOLD MINES.—This concern came into existence in 1902, as a reconstruction and amalgamation of the Charlotte Plains Proprietary Gold Mines and the New Havillah Gold Mining Company, and it looks as if it will meet with no more success than the original companies. They are still developing the properties to see if they can discover any gold worth getting, and as the finances are getting weak the directors consider that a further call of 6d. on the "B" shares is necessary.

VICTORIA AND QUEEN GOLD MINING COMPANY.—During the half-year ending January 15 the stone raised and crushed by this company totalled 491 tons, for a yield of 894 ozs., realising, with residues, £3,314, equal to £6 14s. 11d. per ton. Tributors raised 93 tons for a return of £388, the company receiving as its percentage, £83. Nett profit on the half-year's working was only £146, leaving the present available balance £7,059. The directors say they propose carrying on the work now on hand, as well as any other work which surrounding developments may show to be advisable. There is the hope that the sinking of the Victoria and Caledonian Block shaft will help to prove the western end of the company's lease.

LINARES LEAD MINING COMPANY.—Better results were obtained by this company in 1905 than in 1904; in fact they were better than those of any year since 1900. In the six months ending December 31 the value of the lead and carbonates sold and on hand, after deducting the value of stock at the beginning of the period, was £43,152, and sundry small receipts brought up the gross income to £43,159. As expenditure took £33,954, there was a nett profit of £9,204, or £9,051, after deducting income-tax. As the profit for the first half of the year was £5,974, the total for 1905 was £15,026. A dividend of 5s. per share was paid on September 23, and with a balance dividend of 8s., the total distribution is 13s. per share, against 10s. in 1904. After writing off £2,000 for depreciation of plant and reducing the balance-sheet value of the smelting works by £1,000, the total replacement of capital expenditure out of profits amounted to £4,750 in the year. There remains the small sum of £526 to carry forward.

Reserves of ore in sight and on the stulls show a decrease in quantity both at Pozo Ancho and Quinientos mines compared with the estimates of a year ago, but at Santo Tomas section there is an increase in the quantity in sight and it is not unreasonable, say the directors, to expect that in this section of the mines the ore reserves may be further augmented before the next measurement takes place.

SANSU MINE.—In sending out a circular giving some details of development work done, the directors preface it with the tragical news that "Mr. A. Cairn Hodge, the late manager, arrived in England on December 26, 1905, and left for America on January 20, 1906, on his own business, promising to return quickly, as he was due back at the mine on March 11; but no information whatever has been received from him since February 19 last." Perhaps Mr. Hodge has tumbled on a much more lucrative job! Anyway, the directors say they have made other arrangements for carrying on work at the mine, where "operations are progressing very satisfactorily." To a dividend?

Letters to the Editors.

INTERNATIONAL BANK OF LONDON.

Dear Sirs,—The few remarks criticising Mr. Carl Meyer's letter to the *Times* of March 17 in your valuable paper of March 24, *re* the losses caused by the late manager of the London agency of the Anglo-Austrian Bank—"When will the Public Prosecutor teach bank managers and directors to look after the shareholders' interest besides their own?"—encourage me to send you the following, for publication, which was originally sent to the *Tribune* in a slightly different form on March 20:—"It seems rather ridiculous that a financier of Carl Meyer's standing should venture to lecture our young, courageous, high-spirited, and lofty Under-Secretary for the Colonies, Mr. Winston Churchill, on public morality and sound finance, regarding South Africa. Has he forgotten the scandalous affairs of the International Bank of London, of which he was chairman, when he was publicly accused by Mr. Alfred S. Marks, a member of the advisory committee, at the general meeting of June 5, 1905, 'of wilful misrepresentation of facts and figures and gross neglect of his duties by issuing balance-sheets which he knew to be inaccurate, &c., &c.'?"

"It is to the scandalous method of such financiers and their friends, the unscrupulous Rand landlords, that the British and foreign public owe the greatest part of their heavy losses. Now comes one of them trying to make the vigorous new Liberal Government responsible for the consequences of their having saddled the public with their mining, land, and exploration shares at highly inflated prices during the misrule of the late Administration. By-the-bye, who knows if this entirely artificial agitation about Chinese labour and African disaffection is not one of the Randlords' latest schemes to disgust every holder of African shares to induce him to throw his holdings on a disorganised market so that the schemers may be able to pick up cheap goods? The ways and means of the South African magnates are manifold."

Now I come to a much more agreeable duty to congratulate Mr. Frederick Seymour Salaman, the Official Receiver of the Selected Gold Mines, on his circular to the shareholders of the Joint Stock Trust and Finance Corporation (which applies partly word for word to the International Bank), on which you comment in your issue of March 31. As this gentleman is also the second liquidator of the unfortunate International Bank of London, specially appointed by the very aggrieved and shamefully deceived shareholder, Mr. Benjamin Newgass, who, for private reasons, was most unfortunately unable, at the time, to support the other independent shareholders (about 99 out of 229, representing 5,150 shares) for a compulsory liquidation, we have good reasons to hope that in his capacity of voluntary liquidator he will show the same fervour and zeal exhibited so honourably by him in the Bottomley mushroom concern, and cause the chairman and directors of the International Bank to be publicly examined before the Registrar to explain how the capital and reserve fund of the bank, viz., £431,000, ap-

parently disappeared within the very short period of six weeks, viz., between February 25 and April 4, 1904. The bank had been about 30 years in existence and had of late years paid only 5 per cent. Yet all has vanished. If Mr. Salaman will do this good deed, well may we shout with Shylock: "A Daniel, a second Daniel."

Yours sincerely,

C. HEROLD.

South Norwood Park, London, S.E.,

April 2, 1906.

MARCONI'S WIRELESS TELEGRAPH.

SIR,—I beg to draw your attention to the way in which this company is being exploited for the benefit of the directors. The profits for year to September 30, 1904, were sufficient to pay 5 per cent. on the capital, and for year 1905 7 per cent.; but the shareholders have never been paid a penny on their investment, and the directors retain the whole of the profits, on the excuse that it is required for the development of the business. The excuse is absurd, in view of the fact that the directors at the same time are issuing new shares to the amount of £128,063 for the purpose of development; and this issue is guaranteed by a syndicate including most of the directors on terms satisfactory to themselves. At the meeting held on the 26th ult. the information was dragged out of the board that the lump sum of £6,229 charged in profit shop account included £200 a year for each of the directors, and £1,500 a year and 5 per cent. on profits for the managing director. The arrangement for paying the latter 5 per cent. on profits, of which the shareholders never get any, seems a scandalous one. His remuneration for 1905 must have amounted to over £2,300; and if such an expensive man is required, it must be utterly unnecessary to have a board of nine directors, at least six of whom might be got rid of as useless dummies. Of course, no one would grudge Mr. Marconi any amount of remuneration, but it would seem that his brains are being picked as well as the shareholders' pockets for the benefit of company promoters and guinea-pig directors. Shareholders are such a helpless crew, that it is only by invoking the help of such professional critics and experts as yourself that there is any hope of justice being done them. As I send you extracts from the last report, I subscribe myself merely as, and am,

Yours very truly,

A SHAREHOLDER.

SOUTH AFRICAN MINES.—PRO EXPROPRIATION.

Sirs,—I am the owner of nearly 1,500 mining shares, chiefly South African, all bought at high prices. I speak, therefore, as one having a considerable stake in that unhappy country. Impoverished by the never-ceasing shrinkage in quotations, I have applied my mind very earnestly to the problem of the appalling position of affairs, and the way out of it. And I have come to the conclusion that expropriation under certain safeguards will be for the benefit of all but the bosses. These miscreants are threatening what they will do, and what they will leave undone to embarrass the party in power. Let the Government take heart of grace and meet threat by threat. Nay, more—let it carry out its threat and confiscate the mines for the good of South Africa in general, and the shareholders in particular. Let the mine owners "close down," as they threaten, and let the State step in and take possession.

As a distinguished Parliamentarian said the other day, the Randlords are "without honour, without conscience, and without God," and honest men have been hanged by hundreds. What can we hope for while our affairs are in such hands? Under the State we shall at least have a clean administration. We shall never get it under the bosses, for they are steeped to the lips in fraud, chicanery, and trickery, and are congenitally incapable of "going straight."

With their swindling promotions, their gross-as-a-mountain capitalisations, their endless reconstructions and amalgamations, their "bearing" of their own shares, and their jugglery generally, they have made the Kaffir market "a reproach and a hissing," and their crimes cry to God for vengeance. Why, sir, half the concerns launched at the great boom, with the tacit approval of the bosses, have melted into thin air. All traces of them—registered offices, directorates, secretaries, and the like—have vanished altogether—so have the mines, which never existed, save in the heated imaginations of the criminals who hatched them. Thus the public have been pillaged, not only by the Napoleonic Park Lane villains, the exponents of *la haute finance*, but by the little villains who swindled under their wings. And yet the Randlords are received in Society! It is true they are only contemptuously tolerated, but that is not enough—they ought to be hounded out of the society of decent people. Some ought to be at Portland, others at Wormwood Scrubs.

As shareholders under these knaves, our position is desperate. A change, therefore, cannot worsen, and may better it. We may get small dividends under State administration—we shall never get the smell of one under the bosses. Many of us can ill afford further loss, nor, indeed, the crushing loss we have suffered already, but it would sweeten the cup of our bitterness if the authors of our calamities suffered in kind. Expropriation will not ruin them—they have feathered their nests too well for that

—but it will sensibly diminish the millions they have amassed over a hecatomb of victims.

The writer has been a Conservative all his life, but is one of that vast body which, nauseated with the rottenness, tergiversation, ineptitude, and extravagance of the worst Government ever known, gave it its quietus at the recent election. But after fifty years' association with a party, it is difficult to sever oneself wholly from it, so I abstained from voting. I regret now this passivity, and recognise that I ought to have offered active resistance by recording my vote. Conservatives are already talking of the next election, which is to redress the grievances of the last. What fatuity! Another appeal to the country will result in the return of a hundred Labour members to St. Stephen's instead of the fifty at present there. And a good thing too! The honour and interests of the State are safer in the hands of honest sons of toil than in those of the riff-raff of the Stock Exchange and our decadent nobles. For a long time the only function of the latter has been that of "decoys" on the front pages of prospectuses, but they are now too discredited to have any market value even in that capacity. The prostitution of our "old nobility" is simply appalling, and the proud motto of their order, "*noblesse oblige*," is become ludicrously inappropriate. Few Conservatives would shed tears at the abolition of the House of Lords, which, but for the leaven of a few great names and unsmirched reputations, were more fitly called the House of Humbugs.

The association of the "gentlemanly party," with the Randlords (*Anglicè*, Rand thieves) had more to do with the great Unionist *débâcle* than all other causes combined, because it is to that association we owe the inglorious South African war, and the consequent impoverishment of this country. We all see that, now it is too late.

I urge Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman to take his courage in both hands, and deal in energetic fashion with the bosses, from whom the country is in no temper to brook interference or dictation. Let him show that the policy and destinies of Great Britain and its dependencies will be directed and shaped by the people's Parliament—not by a spawn of cosmopolites who, although the word "Empire" is so glib upon their lips, pronounce it with a foreign accent, and regard it as a synonym for plunder. The Prime Minister's action will have not only the support of his unparalleled majority in the House of Commons, but that of thousands of Conservatives (I will answer for myself and many friends) who, opposed as they may be on the Education question, are heart-whole in their reprobation of government by Park Lane.

PRO PATRIA.

April 5, 1906.

P.S.—A refreshing feature of the late election was the proved impotency of the yellow press. The Daily Liar and the Daily Toady got their reward a very short time before the country furnished them with their certificates as "spent forces."

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

BANK OF SCOTLAND.

There was again an improvement in the net profits of this bank for the year ended February 28. It amounted to £7,099, the total being £244,284, including £12,185 brought forward. This enables the directors to again add £50,000 to the reserve fund, raising it to £1,000,000, against a paid-up capital of £1,250,000, and to lift the final dividend for the year to 15 per cent. per annum, making, with the interim dividend at the rate of 14 per cent., 14½ per cent. for the year. This will leave £13,034 to be carried forward; but we regret that the dividend was increased, seeing that the bank continues the policy of writing nothing whatever off its freehold property and bank premises, the aggregate value of which is still £618,411. In the balance-sheet deposit and credit balances are stated to amount to £15,097,363, a decrease of nearly £101,000 on the figure of a year back. The note circulation has also once more fallen off by £38,752 to £1,067,088. Acceptances, on the other hand, have expanded by £116,518 to £1,509,691. Amongst the assets that uninforming agglomerate "gold and silver coin, notes of other banks, cash balances with the Bank of England, and cheques in the course of transmission," shows an increase of £26,268 at £1,535,556, but obviously it is impossible to say whether this is increase in cash or not. We should judge not, since the note circulation has fallen off. Another item which could very conveniently be segregated so as to reveal the facts is "British Government securities and money in London at call or payable within twenty days." This amounts to £4,339,876, or £201,534 more than a year ago. The amount of Indian and Colonial Government securities and other stocks and investments—which is also a mix-up which ought to be separated—is, however, down by £145,587 to a total of £2,851,304. Bills discounted, cash accounts, and other advances have risen by £146,192 to £9,559,374, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet, including acceptances both ways, is now £20,454,214, or £201,143 more than a year back. The gross profit for the year was £404,070, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, accrued interest, and rebate on bills discounted not yet due, and expenses of management took £171,971. As is customary with

all Scotch banks, no information whatever is given with regard to the business, but presumably it has been again favoured by good rates of interest and no appreciable amount of bad debts in the past year. How is the value of the stocks of whisky held affected by the recent decision against patent still spirit?

NATIONAL BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

Considering the times passed through we certainly agree with the chairman of this bank that it did wonderfully well in earning a gross profit of £266,342 in the year to December 31 last. That is a decline of less than £2,000 compared with the preceding twelve months, and with £12,969 brought forward the total credit is £279,311, against £287,013. Rebate on bills was somewhat heavier at £5,392, but the expenses were reduced by £7,253 to £154,124, and the nett balance is only about £1,000 smaller at £119,796. As before, two dividends aggregating 8 per cent. are declared, £10,000 goes to reserve, and £10,000 to capital readjustment account, and £11,796 is carried forward. Capital readjustment account, which formerly stood at £98,000, is now reduced to £40,000, and at the present rate of contribution will disappear altogether in about three years. It arose out of the issue of 10,000 new shares in lieu of founders' shares, right to cumulative dividend, and Government's right to surplus profits. Reserve fund is increased to £140,000 by this year's allocation, against a paid-up capital of £1,100,000. Notes in circulation on December 31 were £292,075, or an increase of about £20,000, current and deposit accounts have gone up no less than £1,586,316, and bills receivable with their per contra entry, bills for collection, stand at £628,367 against £593,707. Cash, remittances in transit, and native gold on hand and in transit show the excellent increase of £481,825 to £2,101,525, and there is the big advance of £954,299 in the money at call and short notice. Investments remain the same, £731,388, bills of exchange are less by £39,167 at £1,278,015, and bills discounted have gone up £475,780 to £3,775,807. Bank premises and other properties in South Africa show the considerable advance of £86,024 to £332,704, and the balance-sheet totals £10,047,723 against £8,329,297.

DISCONTO-GESELLSCHAFT.

Here is another great German bank, the total of whose balance-sheet as at December 31 last amounts to £39,143,310. Like its bigger neighbours, it does an enormous business, and participates in all manner of public issues and industrial enterprises, about whose fate considerable information is furnished in the abstract from the German report, printed in English and circulated here. Among other things, we are told that the Shantung Railway Company has shown very satisfactory results in the past year, but what the nett revenue was is not disclosed. The bank has participated in a number of issues last year, including the 4½ per cent. Russian Loan, the Roumanian Conversion and other loans and a variety of enterprises in various parts of the world. Its balance-sheet shows a liability of £16,272,523 on deposit and current accounts, and of £8,109,345 on acceptances, besides £2,020,067 on guarantees. The paid-up capital is £8,500,000, and the reserve funds £2,879,631, exclusive of £447,475 at the credit of the David Hensemann Pension Fund and other savings bank funds for the staff. Cash in hand amounts to £2,408,147, bills receivable to £7,598,291, securities, syndicates, &c., to £4,364,235, and the current account advances; total £15,959,942. The Disconto-Gesellschaft owns the whole of the capital of the Norddeutsche Bank in Hamburg, which amounts to £2,500,000. Out of the profits of the past year, which amounted in gross to £1,314,354, £876,842 was paid in the form of a 9 per cent. dividend, against 8½ per cent. in 1904, on the share capital, together with the proportion of profits, not disclosed, distributed to the partners and directors, the liability of the acting partners being unlimited. Working expenses, taxes, and bad and doubtful debts, all stated separately, came to £393,366, and £7,500 was transferred to the David Hensemann Pension Fund, leaving £36,646 to be carried forward. Premises stand in the balance-sheet at £569,305, including £56,300 for the London office. The aggregate turnover of the business in the year came to £2,400,240,000, and deposit and current account balances showed an increase of £2,074,448. It is stated in the report that the Norddeutsche Bank in Hamburg paid 9 per cent. for the past year, against 8½ per cent.; the Allgemeine Deutsche Credit Anstalt 9 per cent., against 8½ per cent.; that the Süddeutsche Disconto-Gesellschaft will distribute a 6 per cent. dividend, on the strength of which, perhaps, it is proposed to raise its capital by 5,000,000 marks to 25,000,000 marks; and also the Banca Generale Romana declared an 8 per cent. dividend, as against 6 per cent.; the Brazilianische Bank 10 per cent., against 8 per cent.; and the Bank für Chile und Deutschland and the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank the same dividends as before, viz., respectively 8 and 10 per cent.

SAN PAULO (BRAZILIAN) RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

This undertaking continues to gather some wonderfully fine revenues, but so far as the increase displayed for the six months ended December 31 is concerned, the improvement in exchange is solely responsible. In currency the income actually showed a falling off of Rs.1,715,126 at Rs.13,674,794, mainly because of a drop of about 93,000 tons in the goods traffic, 44,000 tons being in coffee and 49,000 in other commodities, chiefly coal, bricks, lime, and similar materials. When, however the revenue was converted it produced £947,535 or £161,244 more, but the influence which affected the income did the same with the expenditure, which altogether came to £419,976 an advance of £102,143. Nett revenue is, therefore, better by £59,101 at £527,559. Balance

brought forward was £66,344, and interest on debenture stock £46,875, so that the directors now have £547,028 to dispose of. They therefore provide the preference dividend, and again pay dividend and bonus aggregating 6 per cent. on the ordinary stock. Income-tax takes a further sum of £30,000, and the directors put by £150,000, being £50,000 to reserve and £100,000 to a rolling stock suspense account, carrying forward £162,028 to the company's "lean" half-year. This appropriation on account of rolling stock is a temporary measure rendered necessary by the large demand for locomotives and wagons to enable the company to cope with future traffic. The cost of these, including freight, duty, and erection, will absorb more than the sum now allocated, and the directors do well to take advantage of the present prosperity because it minimises the chance of fluctuating dividends in the future. The coffee crop to be marketed during the current six months is estimated at about 1,500,000 bags, or 90,000 tons, being an increase of 50 per cent. over the corresponding period.

DEMERARA RAILWAY CO.

For the half-year ended December 31 the gross receipts of the original line amounted to £18,858, or £608 more than in the corresponding period. The improvement was directly due to the merchandise traffic, because passengers, parcels, &c., both showed small decreases. More important, however, were the movements on the expenditure side of the account. On maintenance of way and works the outlay was increased by £2,790 to £4,803, while locomotive power cost £560 less at £1,819. Other changes were not important until we come to the final item, and there the absence of any charge this time for new engines and boilers against an outlay of £4,647 for the corresponding period brings the total outlay down from £12,937 to £10,338. Balance of nett profit, therefore, improves by £3,206 to £8,519, and it is decidedly gratifying to note a decline in the loss on the Berbice Railway of £2,746 to £1,612. Moreover, the deficit on the West Coast extension was reduced a few pounds to £301, but the improvement which these figures seem to disclose is more apparent than real, because the special expenditure last year incurred, and which makes the present year's expenditure appear so small, was provided from previous credits, and was not taken off the revenue of 1904. Including the Government subsidy of £6,250 and £611 brought in, the total credit is £15,380, and after providing the losses mentioned, together with debenture interest, the sum remaining is £12,067. From that the dividend on the extension preference shares absorbs £6,250, and after making a distribution at 4 per cent. per annum on the 7 per cent. preference shares, bringing the total return for the year to 4 per cent., the directors add £3,000 to the renewal fund, and carry forward £517. Traffic for the current half-year to date compare favourably with those of the corresponding period, and a considerable accession of goods traffic is expected on the West Coast Railway in future. To meet this advance additional rolling stock will be required, and it has also been decided to proceed at once with the relaying with new 70 lb. steel rails of the remaining two miles of the old railway. On the completion of this work the permanent way of the entire system will be laid with steel rails.

DELAWARE AND HUDSON COMPANY.

In the year 1905 this important coal mining company had a gross revenue from its minerals of \$20,949,555 earned at an expense of \$18,423,597, so that the nett income of that department was \$2,525,958. Then the railroads belonging to the company earned \$16,382,075 at a cost of \$10,183,960, making the nett income from this source \$6,198,115. From this \$3,016,330 fall to be deducted as interest, rentals, &c., leaving \$3,181,785, to which the above-mentioned profit of the coal department has to be added, giving \$5,707,743 as the entire nett income of the year. From this, however, \$1,028,149 has been charged off, and then after paying a 7 per cent. dividend on the capital stock of \$40,940,000, there is a surplus of \$1,810,249 left over. The bonded debt in addition to the share capital is now only \$8,800,000, and is being steadily reduced, making the position of the company a very fine one.

MICHIGAN CENTRAL RAILROAD.

Last year this company earned gross \$23,283,868 at a cost of \$19,827,918, or 85.15 per cent. of the earnings. The nett income was thus \$3,455,950, slightly more than that for the present year, but less than in either of the two years before that. After meeting all charges the income suffices to pay 4 per cent. upon the capital of \$18,738,000, leaving \$223,934 by way of surplus.

TEXAS AND PACIFIC RAILWAY.

In the past year this company earned \$12,130,391 and spent \$8,210,166 or 67.68 per cent. of the income in doing it. This is exclusive of taxes. Add in taxes, and the total expenses amount to 70.5 per cent. of the receipts. However, nett income, after including \$584,162 received from other sources enabled the company to meet its bonded interest and to pay 5 per cent. on its second income bonds, together with other disbursements, including \$557,595 credited to the improvement account and \$570,523 to the equipment account, leaving a deficiency of only \$30,763 at the year's end, or the smallest of any recent year.

LANARKSHIRE AND DUMBARTONSHIRE RAILWAY COMPANY.

For the half-year ended January 31 this company's proportion of receipts payable by the Caledonian Company was £41,877, an increase of £1,630, but other items of revenue were less, so that the income from all sources came to £42,614 compared with £41,250. After meeting all charges, including £4,000 or £295

less for rates and taxes, the balance over is £37,484, which provides debenture and other interest, feu duties and a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares. Only £2,494 was spent on capital account during the half-year and the balance still in hand is £56,212.

OLDHAM, ASHTON, AND HYDE ELECTRIC TRAMWAY, LIMITED.

An increase of 371,864 to 5,817,155 in the number of passengers carried during the year ended December 31 was accompanied by a reduction of 0.04d. to 1.23d. in the average receipts per passenger, while the proportion of working expenses to receipts rose from 71.85 to 72.40 per cent. The total traffic receipts were £29,784, and, with £250 from advertising and £104 from miscellaneous sources, the total income came to £30,137, of which power and running expenses took £15,716, repairs and maintenance £2,605, and administration charges £3,202, and after providing for rent of lines, interest, &c., the net revenue was £6,286. Adding £142 brought forward, the amount available was £6,428, and, preference dividend having been met, £752 is put to depreciation and reserve fund and the ordinary shares receive 6 per cent. for the year, leaving £176 to be carried to the new account. Capital expenditure now stands at £153,922, while the reserve, with the present transfer from revenue, is only £10,500, or 6.8 per cent., and as the £1,765 Consols lodged with the Paymaster-General, which presumably form part of the funds representing this account, are valued at about 111¾, it is little wonder that the auditors have deemed it necessary to certify to the correctness of the account subject to depreciation of plant, &c. Liabilities to sundry creditors amount to £3,860 against £2,343 to come in, and the company is so hard up that in spite of an overdraft of £3,347 at the bank, it can show no more than £12 cash in hand.

CALCUTTA TRAMWAYS CO., LIMITED.

The directors of this company publish a very good account of the past year's operations. There was an increase in the number of passengers carried of almost 3,000,000, to 23,831,764, and the traffic receipts expanded by £17,484 to £145,264. Other receipts raised the income to £145,469, and as the advance in expenditure was £11,000, to £75,631, the balance of net profit comes out at £69,838, or an improvement of £6,325. Including £1,576 brought forward, and interest received of £1,521, the credit for disposal is £72,935, and after providing debenture interest and interest on new shares, the directors provide two dividends aggregating 8 per cent., adding £10,000 to depreciation fund and carrying forward £701. In March last the balance of 35,000 unissued shares were offered to the proprietors at par, in the proportion of one new share for every three held. The number taken up was 32,610, showing that there are still a few people who do not understand the advantages which these transactions afford. When offers of this kind, providing a substantial bonus, are made, would it not be well to send a short explanatory circular to the shareholders, just for the benefit of the uninformed? The brief announcement that proprietors may take up new shares at par is not sufficiently informative for some of the shareholders, who do not understand the mysteries of these something-for-nothing bonuses. Capital issued and paid up now amounts to £688,050, and the outlay for the year reached the heavy sum of £117,004, bringing the total to date to rather under £1,000,000. The depreciation fund will now amount to £53,667. The Harrison Road extension was not brought into use until July, but since opened the line has produced good results. Some technical difficulties have been encountered with regard to other extensions, but these have been overcome in the case of the Howrah and Alipore extension, and as the arrangements for the additional power needed to work these lines are well forward, it is anticipated that the new lines will be placed in a position to contribute their quota towards the earnings without undue delay. The disturbances arising out of the partition of Bengal threatened to adversely affect the company's business, but a movement amongst some of the employees to hamper the working of the system was abortive, and operations were carried on practically without interruption.

ANGLO-ARGENTINE TRAMWAYS CO., LIMITED.

This company's accounts for the twelve months ended December 31, 1905, show the result of the working of the combined Anglo-Argentine and City of Buenos Ayres Tramways. Comparison with the previous year is therefore of no use, especially as the City system is only now being converted to electric traction. Gross receipts are returned at £740,488, against which the working expenses, including £50,000 carried to depreciation and renewal fund, were £464,873, leaving £255,616 as net profit. When the electrification of the City of Buenos Ayres lines is completed even these excellent results will no doubt be improved upon. With £5,922 brought in, the balance for disposal is £261,538, from which debenture interest and sinking fund require £16,562. Annuity paid to the City of Buenos Ayres Company amounts to £71,060, and £71,502 is absorbed by the preference dividend. Already an interim dividend of 3s. per share has been paid on the ordinary shares, and the directors next provide £4,200 for sinking fund for redemption of capital when the lease expires, and £20,000 for the reserve fund. It is now proposed to declare a final dividend on the ordinary shares of 5s. per share, making 8 per cent. for the year, the same as before, and leaving £10,214 to be carried forward. Number of passengers carried during the year was 82,442,410, and as the population of the city is now over one million, this means that the entire community has been carried 82 times over. That strikes us as being particularly good, and the general manager says that the outlook for the future is hopeful if no political

disturbances or labour troubles arise to upset existing conditions. Moreover it is expected that when the remainder of the horse routes are converted to electric traction, the ratio of increase should be greater than in the past year. In view of the great increase in the company's business, the directors seek power to appoint a managing director, and say that they have the right man in Mr. H. F. Gunning. Capital expenditure during the year was £50,676, increasing the cost of the concessions, tramways and other property to £2,496,622. Against that the accumulations to date reach £138,869, apart from a small accident fund, and as the savings are all kept separate from the business, the directors are undoubtedly building up a very strong position.

THE FEDERAL SUPPLY AND COLD STORAGE COMPANY OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED.

In the past twelve months to December 31, including £1,234 brought forward, this company's total profit came to £50,485. Out of this the board is able to pay a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the shares, to write £3,000 off preliminary expenses, £3,000 off cost of issuing debentures and to transfer £5,000 to debenture redemption and depreciation account with £10,423 still left to carry forward. It is to be noted, however, that £11,829 nett was spent on capital account during the year; that is to say, this is the sum after deducting depreciation, and we can never be sure that profits are really quite as stated when this kind of item comes up. Business, however, is probably extending, and as far as we can judge the balance-sheet is a clean one. Certainly debtors for £137,526, after deducting £18,074 reserved for bad and doubtful debts, rather exceed the current liabilities of the company since bills payable amount to £22,385, making a total of rather over £112,000. The auditors state that the South African accounts as certified by the local auditors have been incorporated in the balance-sheet, and that the stocks in hand have been valued as heretofore. From that we infer that these auditors, Messrs. Blease and Sons, have accepted no responsibility in that direction. Working expenses, however, would seem to be comparatively slight, although the profit and loss account is not a full one, since it includes on the credit side only nett profits from branches and transfer fees, not gross profits. From these nett profits £5,383 has to be deducted for salaries, directors' fees, travelling expenses, and so on, together with a number of other general expenses, bringing the nett profit down to £49,251, exclusive of the balance brought forward. The directors say that the general depression in South Africa unfortunately still continues, but they are satisfied with the result of the trading up to the present in the current year, and assure us that expenses of administration have been considerably decreased in every particular, which is a satisfactory announcement.

VAN DEN BERGH, LIMITED.

We cannot say exactly how much profit this company earned in 1905, but the record is a very fine one. During the year another competitive business was acquired, and after providing the purchase price, which is not mentioned, from the year's profits, a nett balance is returned of £219,018. This total includes income on investments, and is arrived at after providing advertising and office and general expenditure, &c. Sum brought forward was huge at £147,628, making £366,645, from which a variety of charges absorb £32,893. Amongst them we may mention directors' and managing directors' remuneration £6,200, depreciation £13,095, written off preliminary and other expenditure in connection with new departments £9,156, and expenses of new issue of preference shares £894. Out of the balance still left of £333,752 the dividend on the preference shares absorbs £37,525, and £14,860 is placed to reserve. Two dividends aggregating 16 per cent. are then provided for the ordinary shares, and no less than £201,367 is carried forward. If that is added to the reserve, which in a sense it should be, the accumulations amount to over £309,000, a good round sum; but goodwill is also a ponderous item at £656,463. The fixed reserve is invested in Consols and other securities, and trade and other investments are entered at £77,676. Floating assets and liabilities are each exceedingly heavy, but then the business is a very big one. On bills payable the company owes £221,425, and to sundry creditors £154,956, while loans secured by deposit of warrants for stock, &c., amount to £327,076. That means a total of over £700,000; but, on the other hand, sundry debtors amount to £609,899, stocks are valued at £332,947, bills receivable are £12,910, and cash at bankers' and in hand comes to £85,429. Advertising expenditure carried forward after writing off £9,156, as above mentioned, will be £16,554. After providing for depreciation, buildings are entered at £187,145, plant, machinery and utensils at £89,524, and sundry other assets at £11,416. Land belonging to the company is worth £55,513, and these items do not strike one as being unduly heavy.

ANGLO-RUSSIAN PETROLEUM CO., LIMITED.

Shareholders of this wretched undertaking created a great deal of noise at the recent annual meeting, which is not surprising considering the position of affairs disclosed by the report and balance-sheet made up to October 31 last. The company has already been subjected to one violent reconstruction, and seems to have gone a long way on the road to another. Apparently the time has not yet arrived when it may be considered to have commenced operations, as no profit and loss account is issued, and we note that up to date £27,304 has been provided for prospecting, development and general expenditure. That includes

£7,018 spent last year. Cash in hand is but £1,699, and £117 is owing by sundry debtors; but ordinary creditors amount to £880, and already £3,550 has been borrowed from bankers. How is the company to go on? A year ago the directors obtained power to issue 20,000 priority shares carrying certain rights and privileges, and about half this number was taken up. So far £4,477 has been called up, but the subscribers do not seem keen on meeting the instalments, for while £477 has been paid in advance, the calls in arrear amount to £1,237—so that the amount the company has received is only £3,717, leaving under £7,000 to come in. If it can be got in, that sum might keep the thing going for say twelve months; but what is to happen after? No one can say, but the directors talk about the political upheaval in Russia and the demoralisation of the petroleum industry, which seriously hampered them in the administration of the business. But is there any chance of the company operating with success when, if ever, the country settles down and business resumes a normal course? From what the directors have to say regarding the position of the property and the wells we very much doubt it, and think the proprietors will be wise not to throw good money after bad. Most of the trouble at the meeting turned on the question of the election of directors, three new men, in the persons of Sir Harold Pelly, Mr. Lovibond, and Mr. Poore being proposed for election to the board. Resolutions to this effect were declared lost, but a poll was demanded, and was fixed for last Tuesday. Up to the present the result has not transpired, but the shake-up in the board-room can do no harm, and might be productive of good.

JOHN BAKER AND CO., LIMITED.

It is very pleasing to note that the ambitious rebuilding and extension schemes lately carried out by the directors of this big Kensington drapery and furnishing business are being justified by results. During the present year new capital was raised to the tune of £100,000, promising premiums of £33,125, and we find from the balance-sheet that the freehold and leasehold properties have been increased by a further sum of £38,000 to £719,664. Fixtures, fittings, utensils, &c., are about £17,000 higher at £77,170. Household furniture and carpets are now valued at £7,061, or £1,681 more, and horses, vans, carts and harness stand at £12,478. On the whole, fair sums are allowed for depreciation, and while the general reserve fund of £85,000 is invested in the business, the leasehold redemption funds are kept in Consols. The premiums on the new shares will be added to the general reserve, raising it to £118,125, and the proceeds of the issue from which these premiums arise will be used to cancel bankers' loans, which stand at the heavy total of £102,250. Another reserve against properties created when the revaluation was carried out in 1902 amounts to £56,740, so that the company is pretty well protected. Including cash deposits by employees to the amount of £32,165, but excluding the bankers' loans, the floating liabilities are £110,411—a pretty heavy sum, and the fresh capital was imperative. Trade debtors, however, amount to £100,268, stock in trade is valued at £158,962, and cash reaches £27,236. Including £4,312 received for rents, transfer fees, &c., the gross profit is returned at £196,748, or about £10,500 more than in the previous twelve months; but the current expenses actually rose £10,432 to £126,107, so that after providing £5,700 for depreciation, leasehold redemption, &c., the balance of profit is £64,935. That is just £198 more than in 1904 and after adding the rather smaller balance of £6,320 brought in the sum for disposal is £71,254 against £71,520. Debenture interest absorbs £17,417 and directors' fees £4,500, and, after providing the preference dividend, the directors again pay dividends of 12½ per cent. on the ordinary and £2 ss. 11 d. on the management shares, carrying forward £6,387.

WILLIAM WHITELEY, LIMITED.

Another substantial advance took place in the profits of this excellent business during the year to February 28 last, the trading profit being returned at £117,644, or an increase of about £16,000 compared with the preceding 12 months. Rents gave a further sum of £14,969, dividends £5,324, interest £4,772, profit on realisation of investments £966, and transfer fees £42. That means a total of £143,717 or £14,962 more, and after providing £10,883 for depreciation, £5,167 for directors', auditors, and trustees' remuneration, and £5,065 for displacements caused by improvements to buildings written off, the nett balance is £122,601 against £109,511. With £10,842 brought in the sum for division is £133,444, from which debenture interest takes £36,000 and preference dividend £20,250. A distribution of 9 per cent., or 1 per cent. more is provided for the ordinary shares, giving £3,284 for the management shares. The directors then add £10,000 to reserve and considerably more than double the carry forward at £23,410. This is really a splendid state of affairs, and we know that the financial position is a sound one, because the directors have ever been conservative in their methods. The company has a banking department in which the deposits amount to £99,195, but the trade and other creditors are only £68,416, and these liabilities are almost covered by the high-class investments entered at £145,760, and worth £149,533. Then cash amounts to £33,426, book debts and bills receivable come to no less than £189,122, and stock-in-trade is valued at £231,557, which does not seem at all out of the way for so vast a business. Another £33,223 has been advanced on mortgage. Reserve fund now stands at £68,000 and all told the capital expenditure is rather under £1,500,000.

DICKENS AND JONES, LIMITED.

This excellently-conducted West-end drapery business has the distinction of being one of the best of its kind in London, and

if ever the ordinary shares were put on the market at a reasonable price they would no doubt be greedily snapped up. At present the public is interested only in the £250,000 of preference capital, and these shares naturally stand high in the market. In the year to January 20 the directors provided for all repairs and renewals, added £7,573 to a sinking fund for redemption of leases, and made allowance for depreciation and bad and doubtful debts. They then returned a trading profit of £70,862, or £1,542 more than in the previous twelve months. Directors' fees absorbed £3,500, and income-tax £3,202, while £214 was set aside to the employees investment and bonus fund. Nett balance therefore came out at £63,855, to which is added the credit of £17,142 brought in, making £80,997. Dividend on the preference shares absorbs £11,875, and, in addition to a dividend of 12½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, the directors provide a bonus of 1½ per cent., or ½ per cent. more. Expenditure for special repairs £2,515 is then written off, and £1,500 carried to reserve for alterations, leaving the increased balance of £18,557 to be carried forward. Including this sum, the total reserve funds reach £106,100, the £50,000 specially held for the preference shareholders being invested in Consols. Additions to properties during the year cost £16,608, raising the total to £461,093, apart from fixtures, fittings, &c., which were increased by £3,736 and reduced by £1,854, being the depreciation allowance. Sundry creditors were light enough at £30,077, against which the debtors alone come to £92,061. Stock at or under cost is valued at £110,793, and cash amounts to £25,295.

CLAYTON AND SHUTTLEWORTH, LIMITED.

We are glad to find this company maintaining the steady improvement which set in immediately after the bad relapse that took place in the profits directly the business became a joint stock enterprise. For 1901 the trading income was less than £47,000, and the ordinary dividend was only 2 per cent., but since then each year has witnessed a substantial addition to the revenue, and for the twelve months ended December 31 it has passed the prospectus average. Balance on trading account comes out at £104,225 or £10,228 more than in 1904, and other revenue brings up the total to £107,410. On this occasion, however, there is fully £10,000 in interest to be provided on loans, besides the debenture interest of £10,000, so that after allowing £11,602 for depreciation, writing off £3,076 from plant account, and paying £1,754 to the directors, trustees, and auditors, the sum remaining is slightly less at £70,651. As before £20,000 is set aside as a reserve for capital expenditure, and £5,000 goes to the general reserve fund. That means the maintenance of the ordinary dividend at 6 per cent., after providing the preference payment, with an increase in the carry forward from £5,608 to £6,759. Capital expenditure for the year has been on a great scale, and after allowing for small deductions and transfers to other accounts, the land and buildings are now entered at £384,639 against £257,361. Hence the necessity for raising heavy loans, which now amount to £287,000. There have been some extensive changes under plant, machinery, &c., which finally left the value at £89,135, and we are glad the directors make these provisions against capital outlay. The amount set aside is now £40,000, and the reserve reaches £23,943. Very little is due to sundry creditors, but the company has an immense part of its resources outstanding in debtors and bills, no less than £554,657. No doubt all are good. Materials and manufactured stock represents a further amount of £379,632, investments at cost or market value stand at £30,488, and the cash balance at £41,370 about equals the undivided profit.

MOUNT VERNON (CEYLON) TEA CO., LIMITED.

This company is gradually disposing of more and more of its output in the local market, and during the year ended December 31 sales in Ceylon rose by £1,990 to £8,811, while London sales fell off by another £275 to £3,870. Although the average price was practically the same as a year ago at 7.33d. per lb., the crop was 55,347 lbs. larger at 414,894 lbs., and with £168 or £37 more from miscellaneous receipts, the gross revenue came to £12,849 compared with £11,097. Cost of production was £615 higher at £8,449, but after meeting London office charges, the nett balance, including £199 brought in, showed an improvement of £1,206 at £4,105, and the directors promptly seize the opportunity to raise the dividend from 6 per cent. to 9 per cent. It is proposed to set up a liquid fuel installation, and to purchase a new roll breaker, but it is not considered necessary to provide more than £200 out of revenue for this purpose, in addition to putting a similar sum to reserve, which will leave £105 or £94 less to be carried forward. With the present addition, the reserve reaches a total of £800 only, and even that trifle is not separately invested, although the cost of the estates works out at the very high figure of nearly £53 per cultivated acre. Current liabilities, however, are small at £363, and as stocks are £533 larger at £1,560 and cash is £783 up at £1,068, the company's position would be satisfactory enough if due regard had been given to the matter of reserves.

KELANI VALLEY TEA ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

The crop of tea for the year ended December 31 fell short of the previous year's output by no more than 4,033 lbs. at 554,260 lbs., but the quality does not appear to have suited the market, and the average prices realised dropped 1.16d. to 4.92d. in London and 4½ cents to 27½ cents in Colombo. Gross revenue, therefore, including £444 from miscellaneous receipts in Ceylon, was £1,150 down at £11,003, and as expenses were only reduced by £398 at £10,356, the profits were £752 smaller at £647. Against this general charges, debenture interest, and commission

paid to superintendents took £1,299, leaving a loss of £651, which practically wiped out the balance brought forward, leaving as surplus the £1 received from transfer fees. This is the second occasion on which shareholders have had to forego their dividend, and the time does not seem propitious for raising further capital, but as the directors have followed the fashion and gone in for rubber cultivation, more funds are urgently required. So far 46,026 trees have been planted through the tea in addition to 107 acres planted with rubber alone, on which £949 has been spent, and as a further 149 acres are to be opened this year the directors have decided to offer new shares to existing shareholders at an early date. In the meantime, of the debentures for £2,100 which matured on January 1, £1,350 have been renewed for five years, and £750 for three years from that date. The balance-sheet shows how pressing is the need for money, as with an increase to £8,012 in sundry creditors and bills payable, stocks of tea are £87 smaller at £1,707, cash is down from £1,093 to £256, and sundry debtors owe a mere trifle of £19. There are, however, investments of some sort valued at £3,236 and coast advances come to £1,195.

HIGHLAND TEA COMPANY OF CEYLON, LIMITED.

For the year ended December 31 it was estimated that a crop of 260,000 lbs. would be obtained, but the actual quantity gathered was 311,856 lbs., or an increase of 46,998 lbs. over 1904. This increase, however, was neutralised by a further drop of 0.58d. to 5.97d. per lb. in the price realised, and gross profits were much about the same at £2,168. Adding £253 brought forward and £35 from interest, the nett profit, after meeting general charges, &c., was £38 smaller at £2,015, and after repeating last year's dividend of 5 per cent., £200 is put to reserve against a similar amount written off estates account a year ago, and £213 is carried to the new account. A reduction of £421 in liabilities to sundry creditors was accompanied by decreases of £124 to £258 in sundry debtors and £214 to £800 in stocks, while cash has gone up £48 to £1,459, and there is also £1,000 on deposit with the National Bank of India, but coast advances now amount to £1,003, and it is surely time steps were taken to bring this item down to more reasonable proportions. The reserve fund, too, is pitifully small at £700 or a little over 2½ per cent. of the capital outlay.

RIVER PLATE GAS CO., LIMITED.

This efficiently managed undertaking continues to make steady progress, and the local electric lighting company is apparently not affecting its business in the slightest. No doubt there is room for both. The network of mains was increased by ten miles during the year ended December 31, making a total of 419 miles, and on balance 2,181 new house services were connected with the system. This meant a revenue balance of £116,295, or £3,058 more than in 1904, to which must be added interest, transfer fees, and profit on remittances, making a total of £120,934 compared with £109,975. Debenture interest takes £12,506, and London office expenses £13,860, leaving £94,568, out of which the directors again provide dividends aggregating 7 per cent., adding £23,429 to reserve, £1,000 to old age and pension fund, and carrying forward £21,222 compared with £21,083 brought in. During the twelve months the company issued 14,893 new £10 shares, increasing the capital to £1,000,000, and laid out £17,213 on capital account, raising the outlay on works to £1,195,217. Freehold premises in Buenos Ayres are worth a further amount of £24,171, and the reserve reaches £140,000, including the sum now added. This fund is kept in separate securities, and the company is in a nice comfortable position, because only £30,236 is due to sundry creditors, while debtors owe £34,070. Stocks are valued at £78,873, and cash and bills in hand reach the excellent total of £99,979.

WESTERN MANSIONS, LIMITED.

Revenue from rents in the year to December 31 last was £28,235 and £3 came in from transfer and registration fees, making £28,238. Total outgo was £24,253 including rates and taxes, ground rents, &c., £16,725, leasehold redemption £593, general expenses £694, directors' fees £500, and debenture interest £5,344. Sum remaining amounts to £3,985, which is increased to £4,077 by the credit of £92 brought forward. Already an interim dividend of 1½ per cent. has been paid, and the directors can do nothing better than a final 3½ per cent. making 2 per cent. for the year, with an increase in the carry forward to £183. This is not a very brilliant display, but the fact that flats of an aggregate rental of £3,850 were unlet at the close of the year explains much.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Sales have not been brisk this week, but as a rule markets have been firm, and where English wheat has been sparingly offered it has gone a little dearer. Foreign has been dull, though prices have as a rule been maintained. At Liverpool the tone of the market has been generally steady, and, influenced by good American and Continental cables, a fair amount has been done in speculative positions. Lighter shipments helped to improve matters, and in the cargo market also holders raised their quotations. Dornbusch estimates the quantities of wheat and flour on passage this week at 4,125,000 qrs., against 4,185,000 qrs. last week, and imports are 318,850 qrs. against 312,667 qrs. Farmers deliveries continue large when compared with those of last year, last week amounting to 51,842 qrs., averaging 28s. 3d., against 26,933 qrs., averaging 30s. 9d. last year. American markets

opened with a firm undertone, and improved on good speculative buying, large export acceptances, and the decrease in Bradstreet's supply estimate of the quantities in sight east of the Rockies, 66,599,000 bushels against 68,743,000 last week. Better weather, good crop news, and the tone of "Prices Current" had later a bearish effect.

WOOL.—The excitement over prices has cooled off a little, and markets for raw are settling down to a steady, if not over large business. Not that the upward movement in prices has as yet been checked, and for fine wools particularly topmakers advance their quotations when they get the chance. Spinners are well employed as a rule in both old and new contracts, and manufacturers appear more willing to pay their prices, while they in their turn are now getting more profitable rates for their goods. Exports are good both for yarns and piece goods, South America and Canada keeping to the front with orders for all classes of goods. Australian demand is chiefly for low and medium goods, and Continental for the finer makes. Trade with South Africa and the United States has been falling off lately.

LINEN.—Markets continue buoyant in tone, and the aspect of them presents little difference from that of last week. The tension in yarns still continues, and spinners grow more and more unwilling to take fresh contracts at any price, nor are buyers particularly anxious to place orders that they cannot get fulfilled for at least six months. Yet a large volume of business is done every week and tow yarns in finer numbers have been freely bought. If anything, prices are better in manufactured goods and buyers are willing to pay any reasonable advance to obtain a prompt delivery of their orders. Exports to America continue large, South America taking a quantity of drills from the Barnsley market, which is in a more hopeful state also as regards its home trade. The States are importing largely of all descriptions of goods, but more especially of handkerchiefs and housekeeping varieties.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The tone of our market during the past week has been decidedly firm, and has gained strength towards the close. The turnover, however, in both cloth and yarn has not reached large dimensions, and a quiet feeling seems to have prevailed in most quarters. Both manufacturers and spinners are in a strong position, and buyers who wish to enter the market have to pay full rates for anything wanted. In cloth for India a generally healthy inquiry has been dealt with, but buyers and sellers have had difficulty in getting to close quarters. Quite a number of offers have not been workable. Here and there odd lots have been put through, but business all round has been difficult to arrange. China business has not been important, and the heavy purchasing at the close of last week seems to have satisfied the most important wants of shippers. The Levant and the outlets of South America have been open for a miscellaneous class of goods, where price and delivery can be arranged. The smaller markets have been generally healthy. Practically all kinds of cotton piece goods are well held. Most manufacturers are quite indifferent as to further extending their engagements. T-cloths and Mexicans have not been very active in demand, but the engagements of manufacturers extend well on towards the close of the year. A moderate business has been placed in printing cloths, and makers have had no difficulty in holding for full rates. Sateens and coloured woven goods have shown some improvement in demand. Mulls and Dhooties are now very dear to buy, and not much has been done at to-day's quotations. Buyers for the home trade have given out a fair number of orders from day to day, and the reports from the country are of a generally satisfactory character. Home-trade American yarns have been well held by spinners, quotations in some cases showing a tendency to harden. The aggregate sales have not reached large dimensions, but odd lots from day to day have changed hands. Spinners of the better kinds find no difficulty in clearing their production, and in the finer numbers of ring beams a healthy demand has been met for early delivery. Coarse worst still lags behind, and the margin is poor. In shipping bundles not much has been put through for any market. China buyers have operated to a small extent, and producers have held firmly to quotations. Bolton spinnings close decidedly dearer owing to the advance in Egyptian cotton. Business has been restricted owing to the higher prices, and spinners have not been able to make much headway.

The market opened in New York with a decided reaction, "bear" pressure being prominent. The weakness continued, prices falling from 5 to 10 points, chiefly on selling from Europe. Later the market became steadier, though the tendency was still towards weakness, but at the close quotations advanced on support from the New Orleans "bull" party, covering by shorts and an improved spot demand. Closing prices are:—April-May, 5.91d.; May-June, 5.92d.; June-July, 5.93d.; July-August, 5.93d.; August-September, 5.90d.; September-October, 5.76d.; October-November, 5.69d.; November-December, 5.68d.; December-January, 5.68d.; January-February, 5.69d.

COAL.—Improvement is the rule almost everywhere, and in most coals. In Lancashire all kinds of slack and engine fuel have been advanced 5d. per ton by reason of the demand for them and the scarcity. In the north of England also this same likelihood of small supplies has brought buyers more freely into the market and sent prices up. Exports from this port are very good even at a good season, the French strike causing larger supplies to be sent to that country than usual. South Yorkshire coal-owners have come to an agreement with the railway companies as to their contracts, and are delivering largely to the different coaling stations. Gas coals at present are not so active, but an advance of 6d. per ton is expected when con-

tracts are resumed. There is no change so far in house coal prices, but the milder weather will probably soon bring a reduction, and in Scotland already demand has been falling off. Welsh trade has had a firm and active week, with heavy exports and rising prices. Best seams at Cardiff are now quoted at 15s. 3d. and 15s. 6d. and best seconds 14s. 6d. to 15s. Swansea prices remain unchanged, and from this port exports amounted to 72,292 tons last week.

COPPER.—This market continues to be characterised by great strength, buying of refined metal being reported from all parts of the Continent, Russia alone excepted. American consumption is on an unparalleled scale, and it is said that the amalgamated company is sold right out for April, and for the greater part of May as well. All this induces speculative buying, and as American advices were again firm, prices opened at a further advance. Offerings were exceedingly restricted, and after a fairly active week, prices closed at £84 12s. 6d. for cash and £81 12s. 6d. for three months. The fortnightly Liverpool and Swansea stock-taking revealed an increase of 31 tons. Messrs. Henry R. Merton and Co., Limited, give the visible supply as 9,016 tons, against 8,986 tons a month ago; the total supply for the month of March is 31,170 tons; and the deliveries, 31,100 tons; against 24,826 tons and 26,831 tons respectively for the previous month. Stocks in England and France are 4,816 tons, against 5,096 tons at the end of February; and the Chile charters are 2,050 tons.

TIN.—The good statistics for March shown below caused a firm opening for this metal. An eager demand for near delivery and moderate bear covering quickly established an advance in quotations, while some buying was also reported from the East. Prices, therefore, went steadily forward throughout, and the aggregate gain on the week is very substantial at £174 for spot and £169 5s. for three months. Messrs. A. Strauss and Co. give the visible supply as 12,748 tons, against 14,261 tons at the end of February. The London stock amounted to 1,740 tons. London deliveries for March were 1,343 tons, and the Dutch 1,284 tons, making a total of 2,627 tons, against 2,093 tons for February. Straits shipments for March total 3,850 tons, of which 2,850 tons are for London, 440 tons for America, and 560 tons for the Continent.

IRON AND STEEL.—There has been little or no change in the conditions of the various branches of the iron and steel industry during the week. If anything, the pig-iron market has shown a tendency to weakness. There has likewise been but a moderate tendency for hematite, and prices are a shade easier. Makers, however, continue well employed, and there are plenty of orders on hand. Markets have been better in the North-East of England than in the North-West. Cleveland warrants have shown a sharp recovery, and sellers have raised the price of No. 3 Cleveland G.M.B. pig-iron. Makers of East Coast hematite pig-iron are well supplied with orders, and are not likely to experience any difficulty for months to come in disposing of all they are likely to produce. Few fresh orders are at present being booked for manufactured iron and steel, but producers have plenty of contracts in hand, and their position is considered good.

SUGAR.—Demand from the trade has been slow this week. The continuance of labour troubles in the Magdeburg refineries led to covering of granulated contracts, and for April delivery up to 10s. 6d. was paid. But refiners here did not alter their prices, and the proximity of the Easter holidays and of the budget statement probably accounts, so Mr. Czarnikow thinks, for the indifference of buyers. There is, however, a steady tone prevailing, though the Cuban receipts continue much above the corresponding weeks of last year. The American market has been rather firmer. United States refiners show more inclination to buy Cuban sugars for forward delivery at a premium upon spot values, which seems to indicate that they hold only moderate stocks, and do not now expect the Cuban crop to exceed last year's. Landings in the three ports were 68,000 tons and meltings 33,000 tons, increasing stocks to 246,000 tons.

TEA.—Duty payments last month were slightly in excess of last year in March, and for the first few days of April are well ahead, says Messrs. Gow, Wilson, and Stanton, Limited's, circular. As these payments are being kept within the smallest limits possible in view of the probable reduction in the duty, this points to a satisfactory state of the markets, and there can be no excessive weight of tea outside the bonded stocks. Another heavy auction in Indian teas this week was again responsible for irregularity in quotations, and the withdrawal of a large quantity of poorer quality. Common leaf sold as low as 3½d. and 3¼d. A few fine flavoured autumn teas, chiefly Assam and Dooars, were taken freely. 30,947 packages were sold out of 40,429 offered, at an average price of 7.33d. against 7.16d. last week and 6.73d. a year ago. Ceylon auctions were smaller, 19,744 packages being brought forward, but bidding was less animated and prices irregular except for strong useful sorts. The average for the week was 7.09d. against 7.14d. last week and 6.85d. in 1905. Export orders were good and prices obtained for them were satisfactory. Javas did not show much improvement in quotations, but the 3,127 packages put up for sale were taken more willingly at a slight decline.

RUBBER.—According to William James and Henry Thompson's fortnightly india-rubber circular, at the London auction on the 30th ult. 1,051 packages were offered and mostly sold at full rates, Madagascar and Central American being well competed for. Plantation kinds were rather irregular, with a good demand for finest scrap, which realised about 2d. per lb. over last auction prices. The Para market was firm but quiet during the fortnight. Owing to short supplies a considerable business was done forward.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

GREAT BOULDER PERSEVERANCE GOLD MINING COMPANY.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of the Great Boulder Perseverance Gold Mining Co., Limited, was held on Wednesday at Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C., the Right Hon. Sir West Ridgeway, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.C.S.I. (Chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. William Goldie, F.C.I.S.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in addressing the shareholders, stated that the profit for the past year amounted to £142,152, which, added to the balance of £43,705 brought forward made a total available balance of £185,857. The sum distributed in dividends, including the final one, was £139,973, representing 2s. per share, or 10 per cent. on the nominal value of the shares. He would like to emphasise the fact that the large sum of £48,256 expended on development work during the year had all been debited to revenue. An item of £44,438 figured in the balance-sheet as loan and interest due by Mr. Gardner (the late chairman of the company). Under their agreement with Mr. Gardner 25 per cent. of the loan and interest became payable on October 11 last. Prior to that date notice was formally given to him of the instalment falling due, and Mr. Gardner was reminded of the assurance which he (the chairman) gave the shareholders at the last meeting as to the energetic steps which would be taken in case of default. No reply was received to this communication, and the amount had not been paid. Legal proceedings were therefore promptly taken against Mr. Gardner, and they were now pending. The litigation between the company and the firm of Messrs. Bewick, Moreing, and Co., which was pending at the time of the last meeting, had been settled on a basis which the directors considered quite satisfactory to this company. Last year he dealt fully with the development which had taken place on each of the lodes in their mine, and since then their colleague, Mr. Hooper, had inspected it, and had made a very full report upon the property—a report which he regarded as very satisfactory. With respect to the future, the shareholders would, of course, realise that the mine was a low-grade "proposition," and as such he saw no reason why it should not continue to be a regular dividend-paying concern for many years to come. Even if no richer ore were developed to increase the average grade of the mine, he confidently hoped that the present rate of dividend—10 per cent.—would be maintained, but development work was being vigorously carried on, and there was every possibility that good strikes would be made in the future, such as that to which he referred at the last meeting—the rich strike on the Perseverance lode at the 1,100ft. level. A considerable quantity of high-grade ore had been extracted from that place, and there seemed to be a considerable quantity still remaining. They also hoped that the East Boundary lode would disclose a large body of payable ore. The directors desired to congratulate the general manager on the highly satisfactory results of his energetic efforts since he took charge of the mine. By careful management and strict economy, Mr. Klug had been able to reduce the working costs considerably, and, from a metallurgical point of view, it was doubtful whether any other mine operating on "the Golden Mile" could show as good an extraction of precious metals from the ore as that at present obtained by Mr. Klug. The Chairman concluded by asking Mr. Edward Hooper to address the meeting.

Mr. Edward Hooper, A.M.I.C.E., said he made a thorough examination of the property in October last, and he had set forth in his report a summary of the more important development work that had been done. Costs had been considerably reduced. During last February the average gold contents of the residues amounted to only 21½ grains of gold per ton, as compared with 30 grains during 1905 and 66½ grains during 1904. Mr. Klug informed them that for the last week of February the assay value of the residues was further reduced to 17¼ grains. This was almost extracting every bit of gold. When all the furnaces had been altered to Mr. Klug's design, it was anticipated that a still closer extraction than this would be obtained. The savings under these two heads would enable the company to treat with profit a lower grade of ore, and this would mean a large increase of the ore reserves and a prolongation of the "life" of the mine.

The Chairman then formally moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

This was seconded by Sir Christopher Furness, M.P., and afterwards carried unanimously.

LONDON AND LANCASHIRE LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The forty-third ordinary general meeting of the proprietors of the London and Lancashire Life Assurance Company was held on Thursday at the offices, 66 and 67, Cornhill, E.C., Colonel Sir Nigel Kingscote, G.C.V.O., K.C.B. (the chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. G. W. Mannering) read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, after some preliminary remarks, said: The proposals submitted were 2,321, for over £937,000, and of these there were completed 2,564 policies for £750,000, yielding a new premium income of nearly £33,000. These figures show an increase over the previous year of £54,000 in sums assured and £1,830 in new premiums. You will agree with me that this is

a satisfactory result to have attained, and doubtless the improvement for some months past in the general business of the country may have had something to do with it. Whether that be so or not, I am sure it reflects great credit on the representatives of the company, and indicates on their part a great amount of zeal and perseverance. (Applause.) The total premium income has now reached the amount of nearly £303,000, after deduction of reinsurance premiums, and the increase over the previous year—amounting to over £9,000—is considered a very satisfactory feature. The total income of the company, including interest and dividends, amounted to about £382,000. Claims, with bonus additions, amounted to over £143,000, and, although in excess of the amount of the year before by something like £20,000, are, nevertheless, within the expectancy by nearly £12,000. I have pointed out on former occasions that, as the company advances in age, the claims are bound to increase. What we have, therefore, to ascertain is whether they are within the expectancy. Although the amount under the policies which have become claims shows an increase as compared with the previous year, the actual number of deaths, I am informed, is 23 per cent. less than expected, showing clearly that the mortality has arisen under some of the heavier policies. It is interesting also to note that the average age at death during the past year was 55, against 51 of the previous year, and that out of the deaths during the past year 27 per cent. were between 65 and 70 years of age, and 20 per cent. over 70. These facts show that the amount paid cannot be regarded entirely as a loss to the company or as an undue strain on its funds. On the contrary, under the older policies there is a great relief to the liabilities, which tells, of course, favourably in a valuation. I may add that the average age of all the existing lives on the books of the company is only 42 years, showing that although the company has been established for nearly 44 years, the lives are still young. (Applause.) The funds of the company, after the additions of the past year, amounting to £117,000, now stand at £2,118,000 in round figures. It is shown clearly in the balance-sheet how this large amount has been invested, the average rate yielded on invested and uninvested funds being £3 18s. 3d. per cent.—very similar to the previous year—although on the actual amount invested it comes out at £4 2s. 10d. per cent. As regards the question of expenses of management, which come out very much the same as the year before, we are aware of the importance of this point, and it has, I know, the closest scrutiny on the part of the management. I am bound, however, to say the increased competition nowadays existing is very great, and renders the acquisition of new business at a moderate cost more difficult than ever. In conclusion, gentlemen, I have only to express a hope that all those connected with the company will continue to co-operate with us in increasing its business, and I know that our friends not only at home, but in Canada as well as in India—in both of which countries considerably more business has been done—take a very great interest in the continued progress and prosperity of the company. I am sure we are very much indebted to all for their cordial co-operation in enabling us to attain the figures which I have submitted to you to-day, and I trust that the steps which the board have lately taken with a view of increasing the home business may show satisfactory results in the future. I beg to move: "That the report of the directors, with the statement of revenue account and balance-sheet, with the auditors' certificate, be received, adopted and entered on the minutes." (Applause.)

Mr. Vesey G. M. Holt, deputy chairman, seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, without discussion.

Mr. William P. Clirehugh was then appointed a director of the company, after which the retiring directors and auditors were reappointed.

SOUTH AFRICAN TERRITORIES.

The fifth ordinary general meeting of shareholders of the South African Territories, Limited, was held on Wednesday, at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Captain James Inman, the chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Charles Launspach) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: As regards the balance-sheet, which I will take first, you will have seen that it shows a balance of revenue over expenditure of £159 18s 10d. Nearly the whole of the revenue has been earned by our trading business, which has provided sufficient profit to pay the whole of the company's expenses, including European expenditure. When you consider that we have a staff of twelve to fourteen constantly employed by the company in Africa, you will realise that the expense is rather considerable, and this, added to the London expenses, makes up an amount of between £4,000 and £5,000 a year. By the trading we have earned more than that, and I think you will admit that, taking into account the extremely anxious and trying times we have been through—and, indeed, are still going through—the result is as good as could be looked for under the circumstances. With regard to the items on the debit side, you will see that against the large amount "by debtors" £18,877 there is the item of creditors £15,776. These items refer almost entirely to our trading business. The bulk of the money is owing us by the German Government or other persons who are considered to be in a sound position. Now, I think I should say a word about the item of directors' fees. We have five directors, and since 1902 they have waived a portion of their fees, the sum they are at present receiving being less by £400 a year than that to which they are entitled. The state of affairs in South-West Africa has created not only an enormous

amount of anxiety, but also a large increase of work for the directors, and makes much larger demands upon their time. With regard to the rebellion, it is considered that in the northern and central parts the rebellion is now crushed, and normal conditions are in course of being re-established. Unfortunately that is not quite the case in the south, where our company's possessions lie. The Hottentots are still, to a large extent, unsubdued, and, although guerilla warfare only is carried on, it is sufficient to render the country so unsafe that communications are still frequently interrupted between our headquarters at Warmbad and the Orange River, whilst prospecting, or surveying, or any operations entailing travelling at a distance from the military posts are entirely out of the question. Of course, this is a matter which the directors cannot control; we are bound to wait until the termination of the war. The only benefit to counter-vail the unfortunate position created by a state of things for which our company is in no wise responsible lay in the opportunity of extending our store and trading business. Our policy has, therefore, been to obtain contracts for foodstuffs, liquors, cattle, &c., in Cape Colony, and execute them, as far as possible, on commission, so as to minimise the risk. Then, again, the situation has been enormously complicated by the partial closing of the drifts on the British side against supplies to be sent into German territory. In view of the state of things created by the war, the Cape Government considered it necessary, in their own interest, to supervise and regulate the exportation of supplies from Cape territory into the German Protectorates. All the drifts on the Orange River where such supplies are crossed are policed, and the quantities allowed to cross limited to those for which permits have been issued in Cape Town. You will understand that obtaining these permits requires a certain amount of tact and negotiation, as our company has to consider not only the Cape Government, but also the representatives of the German Government in Cape Colony, as well as the local merchants and traders, who, of course, are as eager as ourselves to secure permits. Under these circumstances, and having regard to the amounts at stake, the board again prevailed upon Mr. Shaw to go out to South Africa last October, and I am very pleased to tell you that, thanks to his efforts, our company has secured a very respectable portion of the total trade done. After further observations the Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. D. N. Shaw seconded the motion, which was carried.

On the question of the re-election of directors, Mr. W. Grant moved that the number be reduced from five to four, and this proposal was carried.

COLONIAL CONSOLIDATED FINANCE.

The ordinary general meeting of the Colonial Consolidated Finance Corporation, Limited, was held yesterday at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. W. P. Forbes presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. Milner Willis) read the notice and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, after a few preliminary observations, said: We are in a very strong financial position, and I do hope the shareholders will agree that the best policy of a finance company is to keep a good balance at the bank. When I use those words, I mean that we should have money lent out on short and profitable loans, which will keep the company in a strong financial position. Our cash assets amount roughly to over £30,000 in good securities. I think you will agree that a good many companies have been ruined by having invested too much money in securities that could not be immediately realised, so that when money was wanted they had not enough at the bank, and either had to borrow at a heavy rate of interest or sell out securities at a loss. In our case we stand in a solid position, and we shall always aim at having money at the bank to fall back upon. We have in freehold lands and buildings in Western Australia an asset valued at £55,093. We have done wonderfully well in land in Western Australia; our Perth investments have always yielded good returns, and we have been always able to sell at good profits. Those investments have been extremely good ones, and I should like to read you a short report giving what the manager says about the city of Perth. He says: "The progress of the city of Perth for the past year has been steadily advancing, while the industries of the State show a marked prosperity. Ever since the discovery of gold Perth has progressed year by year, and 1905 has proved no exception. In the principal business thoroughfares old buildings are being superseded by modern structures, while the residential portions of the city show a corresponding advance as regards new buildings. The assessment on the annual value of city property amounts to £432,356 as against £405,981 for 1904—an increase of £26,375—and the capital value of city property is now set down at £4,360,585. The present estimated population of the State is 254,874, as compared with 243,289 for the previous year, and while all the exports from the State, with the exception of gold, which shows a slight falling off, have increased in a satisfactory degree for the year 1905, and the returns for six months ending September, show that 3,157 applications for 7,152,725 acres of land in this State have been approved by the Government, it is safe to say that there is a great future for this State, and that Perth will be one of the most important cities in the Commonwealth." That is what our manager writes about Perth, where you have large interests in house and land property, and I am glad to be able to add that the house property is all first class, and is all let. You have also considerable interests in Kalgoorlie, and I should like to read our manager's

opinion with regard to that place. He says:—"The year 1905 has not been marked by any sensational developments in the gold mining industry, but has seen a marked advance in the economical handling and treatment of ore. A healthy rivalry among the engineers of the big mines has resulted in a still further lowering of working costs, and as a natural consequence ore of a somewhat lower grade has been treated during the year as compared with past years, but the tonnage has been so increased in proportion that investors have this year received the largest sum in dividends which has yet been recorded to the credit of the States for any one year." We are also interested to a certain degree in the Kalgoorlie trams, which are prospering more than we thought at one time they would. I believe the town of Kalgoorlie will continue to progress and that our investments there will be extremely satisfactory and profitable. As regards our mining shares, we have our interest in the Cosmopolitan, which is brought down to bedrock, and you will be glad to know that this mine has got a new lease of life. Fresh discoveries have been made there, and so important are these discoveries in the opinion of the managers that they have resumed sinking the main shaft, which is now down to 1,665 ft. They intend to go down to 1,720 ft. This shows that they have great hope that the mine will return to the prosperous condition it was in in former years. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

This was seconded and carried.

VAL DE TRAVERS ASPHALTE PAVING COMPANY.

The annual meeting of the Val de Travers Asphalt Paving Co., Limited, was held on Wednesday at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, E.C., under the presidency of Mr. H. C. Scott.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting, The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts, and remarked that in spite of the increasing competition in these days it was very satisfactory to them all to note that the profits for the past year had amounted to £26,707, compared with £26,745 in the preceding twelve months. Though the prices realised had been much lower the company had done more work, and the company's turnover had been greatly in excess of any since the company was formed. He went on to say: It is because we have been able to do such an increased business that we have been able to make the profits we have earned. Out of the profits we have made the following appropriations:—For depreciation and cost of maintaining plant and machinery, £3,121 14s. 4d.; we have written off cost of buildings, £164 12s. 7d. and we have added to the reserve fund £2,000. We have written off cost of mining property £1,000 and for the maintenance reserve account we have added £1,000, and we have written off concessions purchase £3,615 2s. 4d. This last writing off extinguishes this account, so that there is £3,615 2s. 4d., which will no longer have to be written off, and after the other amounts required are written off this will in the ordinary course of things be available for dividends. The expenditure for Venezuela was £3,381 15s. 5d., which we have also written off. This property we acquired from the Compagnie Generale Asphalt de France when we took over their business, but since that period Venezuela has been, as you know, in a chronic state of revolution, and work has stopped; in fact, we could do nothing, and had to keep up our machinery and employ labour, which yielded no return—in fact, it was a considerable item. Now that the machinery is erected we have succeeded in refining the bitumen we have taken out of the ground, and we have got the second shipment from this mine. The first shipment was about 1902. Then we suddenly stopped, and now we have about 3,000 barrels coming forward. This year, when we get into possession, and Mr. Bassett has analysed it, we shall find out the value of our material, and if it is satisfactory we shall be able to go on working without any fear of interruption. The manager writes us in one of his last letters that he now sees his way to make shipments of about 2,000 barrels a month. Should he fulfil his promise it will be of considerable advantage to this company, as, should the material turn out well, it would turn a dead property into one which will yield a small profit, but we cannot speak about that definitely until we have given it a little longer time. Then we have written off plant and machinery in New York £1,000. It is the first time we have done that. These are considerable amounts to be written off the net profit of £21,652 5s. 8d., which, with the sum brought forward, £5,145 9s. 5d., amounts to £26,797 15s. 1d. From this we have to deduct interest on debenture stock amounting to £6,900. We have paid an interim dividend of 6d. per share, which was paid in October last, and a further dividend of 1s. per share, free of income-tax, is now recommended, making together 1s. 6d. per share, or 7½ per cent. per annum, the amount carried forward being £5,197 15s. 1d. The dividend will be payable on April 11. It is proposed to make certain alterations in the articles of association, and for this purpose an extraordinary meeting will follow the annual meeting, notice of which accompanies this report. As to the French case which we have had in the Law Courts against the Municipality of Paris for ten years past, I may tell you this case is practically closed. It has gone out of the Conseil d'Etat, which was the Supreme Court, and is now being dealt with in the Prefectural Court. I am very pleased to tell you that we have got as far as we expected, and at an early date this amount will be paid off. That will be a very satis-

factory thing, should it come about. We have got a very large business going on, and Mr. Bassett tells me to-day that he is very busy; and I may tell you that the turnover is gradually increasing, which is somewhat surprising to ourselves. For the year 1905 the turnover was £107,000, and to-day there is an increase of 75 per cent. on that, which shows you that the asphalt business is a continually growing one. It is going up every year, and we have this year £25,000 more work in the turnover than in the previous year 1904. If this state of things continues I think that the shareholders will congratulate themselves on the strong position which asphalt has now obtained. It seems to have taken possession of the field, and there is now nothing to stop it. I propose that the report and balance-sheet be received and adopted, and that a final dividend of 1s. per share, making 1s. 6d. per share for 1905, free of income-tax, be declared on the shares of the company, payable on and after the 11th inst.

Mr. C. H. McEuen seconded the motion, which was put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

An extraordinary general meeting was then held, at which resolutions were adopted for the purpose of making certain alterations in the articles of association.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, APRIL 9.

Australian and New Zealand Mortgage.—Cannon Street Hotel 1 p.m.
Baku Russian Petroleum.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Commercial Union Insurance.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Craven Bank.—Skipton, 2 p.m.
English Celluloid.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.
Fields Reward Gold Mines.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Federal Supply and Cold Storage of South Africa.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
Griffiths (William).—Great Eastern Hotel, noon.
Motor Traction (1905).—Winchester House, noon.
Nelson (James) and Sons.—Winchester House, noon.
Provincial Motor Bus and Traction.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
White (R.) and Sons.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10.

Atlas Assurance.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Anglo-Argentine Tramways.—Winchester House, noon.
Anglo-French Exploration.—Salisbury House, noon.
Balaghat Gold Mining of India.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.
Bell Bros.—Middlesbrough, noon.
Calcutta Tramways.—1, Queen Victoria Street, 12.30 p.m.
Gold Coast Concessions.—Winchester House, 11.30 a.m.
Great Southern of Spain Railway.—Winchester House, noon.
John Barker.—Town Hall, Kensington, noon.
Lambert Bros.—Cannon Street Hotel, 11 a.m.
Liverpool Exchange.—Liverpool, 11.30 a.m.
Mercantile Bank of India.—Winchester House, 1 p.m.
Ooregum Gold Mining of India.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
Standard Bank of S. Africa.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11.

British Dominions Insurance.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Clayton and Shuttleworth.—Lincoln, 2 p.m.
Conde d'Eu Railway.—Winchester House, noon.
Egyptian Estates.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
General Steam Navigation.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Golden Horse Shoe Estates.—Winchester House, noon.
Lamson Paragon Supply.—Winchester House, noon.
New England Breweries.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
San Paulo Brazilian Railway.—Cannon Street Hotel, 1 p.m.
Thames Iron Works.—Cannon Street Hotel, 3 p.m.
Willans and Robinson.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12.

United States Debenture Corporation.—Winchester House, noon.

NEW ENGLAND BREWERIES CO., LIMITED.

Including a very small sum brought forward, the profits of the New Jersey business for the twelve months ended December 31 were £43,157, and after reserving £3,504 for depreciation, a dividend has been declared of £39,588, leaving £65 to be carried forward. In addition to this dividend the English company received interest on investments £1,559 and transfer fees £14, making a total of £41,160, which is reduced to £26,992 by general charges on this side and debenture interest of £12,000. Add £1,401 brought in, and the sum for disposal is £28,394, which enables the directors to pay the preference dividend and 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares, with a largely increased balance of £3,794 to next account. No addition is made to the reserve fund of the English concern, which remains at £39,000, but the financial position seems a good deal better than that of the American company, because it possesses no reserve of any kind, and the depreciation allowance of \$16,992 seems absurd on a total capital outlay of \$1,956,631, especially as the additions for the year came to \$67,635. Its floating liabilities, however, are very small, and a pretty good supply of liquid resources is provided by stocks \$170,649, debtors' loans and bills receivable \$222,390, and cash \$189,496. The company on this side had only a small cash balance at the date of the balance-sheet, but the American company owed £18,954, and good-class investments reach £43,548.

No Portion of this issue has been or will be Underwritten.

A Prospectus has been filed with the registrar of Joint Stock Companies which states amongst other things that:—
The SUBSCRIPTION LISTS are NOW OPEN, and will CLOSE at or before Noon on MONDAY, April 9th 1906.

NEW LEADER CARS, LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900.)

CAPITAL

£75,000,

In 75,000 Shares of £1 each.

15,000 of the Shares will be issued fully paid, in part payment of the purchase money; 15,000 Shares are reserved for future issue; and there are now issued for public subscription,

45,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH,

Payable as follows:—2s. 6d. per Share on Application; 5s. per Share on Allotment; 5s. per Share 31st May, 1906; 7s. 6d. per Share 31st July, 1906.

DIRECTORS (Directors of New Leader Motors, Limited):

FREDERIC GOODENOUGH, Winscombe Court, Ealing, W., Merchant, Director of the Didcot, Newbury, & Southampton Railway Company, Chairman.
ARTHUR ROBINS GRIMSDALE, Delaford, Iwer, Bucks, Director of Grimsdale and Sons, Limited, London and Uxbridge.

DANIEL HERBERT GRIMSDALE, The Shrubbery, Uxbridge, Director of Grimsdale and Sons, Limited.

THOMAS BOND WATKINSON, Rawthorpe Hall, Huddersfield, Chairman of James Watkinson and Sons, Limited, Holmfirth and Huddersfield.

BANKERS.—THE CAPITAL AND COUNTIES BANK, LIMITED, Market Place, Nottingham. (Subscriptions may be paid to any of their London or Provincial Offices, from whom Prospectuses and Forms of Application may be obtained.)

SOLICITORS.—NICHOLSON, GRAHAM, AND BEESLEY, 24, Coleman Street, London, E.C.

BROKERS.—Nottingham: PERCY B. DOBSON, Albion Chambers, King Street, Nottingham.

Birmingham: G. AND W. BEECH, Temple Street and Stock Exchange, Birmingham.

AUDITOR.—EDWARD HARLOW, King Street, Nottingham.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.—THOMAS TINSON, Aspley Motor Works, near Nottingham.

The Company has been formed for the purpose of acquiring as a going concern the whole of the assets and undertaking of the business carried on by "New Leader Motors, Limited."

The Works of New Leader Motors, Limited, are situated at Aspley, in the City of Nottingham. The premises, which are freehold, occupy an area of about 23,157 square feet, and possess exceptional advantages for effectively and economically carrying on the manufacture of Motor Cars and Engines.

The Factory is of modern construction and fitted with every convenience and appliance suitable to the Company's business. It is lighted by electricity and gas, heated by steam, and is fully equipped with all the most efficient and up-to-date machinery and plant necessary for the production of from 6 to 8 of the well-known Leader Cars per week.

There are already orders in hand sufficient to keep the works fully occupied for several months ahead.

In this respect it is claimed that the Company is in an exceptionally good position, as the Factory is complete in every particular, and will be in a position to earn profits from its inception.

A large sum of money has been expended upon the designing and production of Leader Motor Cars ranging from 8 to 60 horse power, and the Directors are satisfied that the Cars are of exceptional merit, having already obtained the confidence of the public, as combining comfort and speed with reliability.

The Vendor Company have already constructed Motor Launch Engines with a very valuable improvement in the mode of reversing the propeller. The

Directors anticipate that the manufacture of Motor Launch machinery will prove a source of considerable revenue to the Company.

The Directors, after careful examination of the total manufacturing cost of the cars, estimate that with a minimum output of 250 cars per annum there should be a net profit, after providing for all management charges, of at least £12,000 per annum, which would be sufficient to provide a substantial dividend on the whole of the present issue and leave an ample amount for Reserve Fund and all other contingencies.

This issue is made with the object of providing additional Capital for the extension of the works, and for further machinery and plant for the construction of Motor Omnibuses, Vans, and Commercial Lorries.

The Designs for a Motor Omnibus are already completed. There is at the present time an almost unlimited demand for Motor Omnibuses at highly remunerative prices, and inquiries have been received for supply of Leader Omnibuses. The Directors estimate that a capital outlay of about £15,000 on the additional works would enable the Company to produce at least 50 Motor Omnibus chassis per annum. These extensions will take about six months to complete, and the Directors confidently expect that they will produce a very substantial addition to the net revenue of the Company.

The Assets to be acquired by the Company are as follows:—

1. FREEHOLD LAND AND BUILDINGS, comprising Main Building of three floors, each being 180 feet long by 60 wide. Part of the ground floor is sublet, the remainder is fitted with Special Plant and Machinery, including a large and costly series of jigs which have been specially designed by the Works Manager for the accurate and economical production of the Cars on the interchangeable principle.

2. SUBSIDIARY BUILDINGS, completely fitted with case-hardening furnaces, smiths' shops, electric brassing plant, polishing shops, workmen's dining-room, and electric light installation.

3. The whole of the valuable designs and inventions for Motor Cars, Omnibuses, and Launches, including: a The combination carburettor worked from the governor of the engine. b New expanding metal to metal clutch. c Four speed gear with the direct drive on the third speed, arranged first speed, second speed, direct drive fourth speed. d Reversing gear for the Launch propellers. e New high tension distributor for synchronised ignition.

The Company will also acquire a costly range of stamping dies and metal patterns which have been specially produced for the manufacture of the above.

4. STOCK-IN-TRADE, CARS AND LAUNCHES in course of construction, and benefit of all orders on the Company's Books.

The Freehold Factory, which has been adapted to the requirements of the business at considerable expense, has been valued by Messrs. Morris and Place, of Nottingham, as a going concern at the sum of £7,000.

The Machinery, Plant, Stock-in-Trade, Designs, Inventions, etc., have been valued by Mr. W. J. Crampton, M.Inst., E.E., of 75, Queen Victoria Street London, at £24,092.

Mr. Alexander E. Tucker, President of the Automobile and Cycle Engineers' Institute, reports on the general efficiency of the works, and a copy thereof is printed in the prospectus.

Applications for shares will only be accepted upon the terms of the full prospectus, copies of which, with Forms of Application, may be obtained from the Bankers, Solicitors, and Brokers and at the Offices of the Company.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Bengal and North-Western.—For the half-year of £2 per cent. and a bonus of £1 per cent., making £6 per cent. for the year.

Nitrate.—Final of 4½ per cent. on the ordinary (unconverted) shares, making 8 per cent. for 1905; final of 3½ per cent. on the preferred converted ordinary shares, making a total and maximum dividend for the year of 7 per cent.; and 1 per cent. on the deferred converted ordinary shares.

Piræus, Athens, Peloponnesus.—3.50 drachmas a share for 1905.

Rio Claro Sao Paulo.—Final of 7 per cent. for the half-year, making 14 per cent. for the year.

Rohilkund and Kumaon.—For the last half-year of £3 per cent. and a bonus of 10s. per cent.

Taltal. Interim for the half-year to Dec. 31 at the rate of 3s. per share.

MINES.

Brilliant Central Gold (No Liability).—6d. per share, payable April 14.

Champion Reef Gold Mining of India.—Interim of 9d. per share, payable May 1.

Chinese Engineering and Mining.—Interim of 5 per cent. on account of the year ended Feb. 28.

Ida H. Gold.—First interim of 5 per cent. on account of 1906.

Ivanhoe Gold.—Fourth and final for 1905 of 9s. per share, payable April 25.

Jubilee Gold.—No. 73, of 5s. per share.

Waihi Gold.—Bonus of 2s. per share, making 6s. per cent. for 1905, writing off £70,039 for capital expenditure and appreciation, and carrying forward £16,626.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Anglo-American Telegraph.—Interim for the quarter ended March 31 of 15s. per cent. on the ordinary stock and 30s. per cent. on the preferred stock, payable May 1.

A. and F. Pears.—Interim at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Babcock and Wilcox.—Final of 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares and a bonus of 4 per cent., making 20 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31.

British and Australasian Trust and Loan.—1s. 3d. per share, making 5 per cent. for 1905, and a bonus of 1s. per share, payable May 1, placing £2,000 to reserve.

Callard, Stewart and Watt.—Interim of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended March 31.

China Mutual Steam Navigation.—For the year 1905 of 5 per cent. on the ordinary and ordinary "B" shares, carrying forward £12,052.

City of Santos Improvements.—Final for 1905 of 4½ per cent. (making 7 per cent. for the year) on the ordinary share capital.

Clayton and Shuttleworth.—6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, placing £5,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £6,759.

Cuba Submarine Telegraph.—On the ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

D. and W. Murray.—Interim of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary share capital for the six months ended Jan. 19, carrying forward £17,736.

Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph.—For the quarter ended Dec. 31 of 2s. 6d. per share, together with a bonus of 4s. per share, or 2 per cent., making 7 per cent. for 1905, payable May 10.

Eastman Kodak of New Jersey.—Extra dividend of 2½ per cent. on the common stock.

Hodgson's Kingston Brewery.—Interim of 4s. per share for the six months ended March 31.

Hope Brothers.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, payable May 1, for the half-year ended Feb. 28.

Jabez Johnson, Hodgkinson, and Pearson.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Jan 31.

Oriental Telephone and Electric.—Final of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares issued, making 7 per cent. for the year.

Primitiva Gas and Electric Lighting of Buenos Ayres.—7 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for past year.

Stock Exchange.—£7 per share, carrying forward £244,000.

Tower Tea.—Half-yearly at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares.

Trust and Agency of Australasia.—5 per cent. for the year on the called-up ordinary share capital.

Wilson's and Clyde Coal.—Interim of 5s. per share on the ordinary shares, being equal to 8 1-3 per cent. for the half-year ended Feb. 28.

Yorkshire Engine.—At the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £318.

MILLAR AND LANG, LIMITED.—Dividend warrants in respect of the second half-year's dividend on the six per cent. cumulative preference shares, and a full year's dividend on the ordinary shares, at the rate of 15 per cent., free of income-tax, have been posted.

The Central Insurance Company have prepared a printed card for hanging up in garages, hotels, &c., &c., calling attention to the various measures of precaution which it is desirable to all who have the care of motor cars to observe, with the object of preventing accidents of all descriptions.

The Investors' Review

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Investment Queries.

Questions about Public Securities will be answered each week in the **Investors' Review** on the following terms:—

For each question thus answered the charge will be **One Shilling**. Where more than One Question is put they should be numbered, and a copy kept. No Security is ever named in the Answers Printed.

Private Letters giving fuller answers can be had if desired. The minimum charge for such letters is **Ten Shillings** each; but for that Three Questions will be answered. For all additions beyond three the charge will be **Half-a-Crown** per query.

Lists of Investments furnished by correspondents will be annotated, or new sets of suggested investments will be supplied on the same terms, viz.:—**10s.** for the First Three, and **2s. 6d.** for each Additional one. But no group of securities forming a trust calculated to yield a given income will be supplied for less than **One Pound**.

The charge for Wires about New Issues appearing on days that prevent timely criticism in the **Investors' Review** will also be **2s. 6d.**, plus a prepaid telegram form.

The Editors cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

Letters from correspondents must, in every case, be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

The Investors' Review.

Our Foreign Trade in March and in the First Quarter.

There is no abatement in the prosperity indicated by the month to month figures as they come out. In the past month imports reached a total of £53,270,587, an increase of £4,827,275 or 8.7 per cent. Exports of British and Irish produce showed an increase of £3,580,339 or 12.7 per cent. at a total of £31,651,162. The reshipments of foreign and colonial merchandise also showed an increase of £464,188, or about 6.8 per cent., at a total of £7,276,397. For the three months, moreover, the increase in the value of the imports was £14,674,806 or over 10½ per cent., the total being £154,252,271, and the exports of British and Irish produce were up about 16.4 per cent. or £12,287,433 at a total of £91,197,096. The reshipments of foreign and colonial produce also expanded about 10.5 per cent. to a total of £22,718,112. The movements of gold have also been on a much increased scale during the past three months, the total imports having increased by £1,908,884 to £13,309,701 and the total exports by £1,022,504 to a total of £6,659,576. It would thus appear that we have retained nearly £900,000 of the additional amount of gold imported during the quarter.

Business seems to be good in all branches, but especially in manufacturing branches. We imported less wheat, barley, oats, peas and beans last month than in the corresponding month of 1905, but the aggregate values of our imports of food and drink run singularly even from year to year. It totalled in the past three months £55,821,316 and in the first quarter of 1905 the total was £55,090,386, while in 1904 it was £55,785,993. We are steadily increasing our imports of meat, and in both beef and mutton the Argentine Republic is now in the front rank. We drew more fresh beef from that country last month than from the United States, and Argentina has also beaten the United States for the three months. In fresh mutton, too, the Argentine Republic stands first for March, although not for the three months, Australia still leading thereon. The Commonwealth is only slightly ahead, however, with 350,580 cwts. against 328,458 cwts. from Argentina. We hear, by the way, that the Argentine supplies of chilled meat to Liverpool often arrive in poor condition owing to the slow voyages made by the steamers trading with that port, whereas the consignments coming by the mail steamers to Southampton are quite up to the required standard. It results from the defects of the Liverpool service that an undue proportion of the Argentine supply of dead meat delivered at that port is condemned as unfit for human food. This must involve the shippers in losses most detrimental to the progress of the trade.

Amongst other supplies of raw material which have come in to an increased extent during the past month is raw cotton, but the aggregate for the three months is not so very much greater than that for the first quarter of 1905, the respective totals being 6,067,453 cwts. and 5,339,700 cwts. The price, however, is very much higher, as is shown by the fact that in the past month, while the increase in quantity was less than 29½ per cent., the increase in value was nearly 59 per cent. There is not much evidence as yet of progress

by other countries in rivalry with the United States as producers of raw cotton; still the total receipts from unspecified foreign countries in the first quarter of this year reached nearly 49,000 cwts. against less than 18,500 cwts. in the same section of 1905. We also received 11,894 cwts. from unspecified British possessions against only 919 cwts. a year ago and 10 cwts. two years ago. The supply from British Africa and from the British West Indies is also showing progress. It remains the fact, however, that the United States and Egypt continue to be our chief sources of supply for this raw material, and it will take many years of hard work to depose the North American Union from its supremacy. Deposed it assuredly will be unless it mends its ways. Nearly 70 per cent. of our supply of sheep and lambs' wool still comes from British possessions, constituting the most valuable product they send to us. It would take us too long to go through the other leading branches of the import trade, and it is unnecessary to do this month by month.

In looking at the exports with a view to discover the directions in which our enlarged business is going, we can only touch upon the leading commodities. Thanks to a formidable dispute with the miners in Northern France, which has curtailed output there, the French purchases of coal are greater at present than in either of the two previous years up to March 31. France is always an excellent customer for English coal, but in the past three months the quantity shipped there was 2,115,428 tons against 1,658,648 tons in 1905. Italy also bought more this year, her total supply slightly exceeding that of France, Germany coming third amongst European countries. Altogether we shipped 13,084,796 tons of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel to foreign buyers in the first quarter of this year against 11,460,383 tons in 1905. Great though this trade is in bulk, it is not so important in money, the total value of the exports for the three months being only £7,081,198. Coal, in short, constitutes our principal raw product sent out of the country, and the remainder of our trade is more or less in manufactured goods. It is consequently eminently satisfactory to find the total value of our iron and steel and manufactures thereof exported this year reaching a total of £9,076,854 as compared with £7,181,297 last year. Most parts of the world take their share in giving us this larger business, and the trade is of a very miscellaneous description, so that if one particular item in it falls off another is almost certain to give us compensation. The Trade and Navigation accounts published are, moreover, becoming more and more divided up, so that we can follow the ins and outs of this highly important branch of our business with greater ease than formerly. It is noticeable that we got the above-mentioned sum for only 992,411 tons. If we compare these figures with those relating to coal, some perception will be attained of the meaning of "manufactured" articles and what they imply to us. We received in the past quarter, for example, nearly £7,000 for 285 tons of steel castings and £41,627 for 14,092 tons of steel forgings; 4,489 tons of bedsteads represented nearly £114,000 in money, and 31,663 tons of tubes, pipes and fittings represented £520,409.

Out of a total export of 91,771 tons of tin plates and tin sheets of a value of £1,203,882 only 23,061 tons went to specified British possessions, but British possessions took nearly 72 per cent. of the total exports of hardware, and there are some descriptions of machinery and of railroad implements and furniture for which our own possessions, or countries like Argentine in course of development by British capital, are our chief customers. Last month, for instance, we exported 12,595 tons weight in locomotives, the value being £637,926, and of this total 5,091 tons representing nearly £261,000 went to countries in South America and 4,025 tons worth £198,000 to British India. The Indian demand this year has so far been less than half what it was in the first quarter of 1905, but the South American shipments have gone up by nearly 4,000 tons. There was also a large increase in the

supply taken by unspecified countries so that the total export for the three months in spite of the drop of over 4,800 tons in the Indian demand was 97 tons more than in the first quarter of 1905.

IMPORTS.

	March.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as compared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
General merchandise	£ 48,692,275	£ 48,983,312	£ 53,270,587	+ 4,287,275
Gold	3,856,052	3,920,698	5,332,086	+ 1,411,388
Silver	1,140,251	1,292,175	1,835,757	+ 543,582
	53,688,578	54,196,185	60,438,430	+ 6,242,245

EXPORTS.

	March.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as compared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
Brit. & Irish Produce	£ 24,251,796	£ 28,070,823	£ 31,651,162	+ 3,580,339
For. and Col. M'dse..	5,946,649	6,812,209	7,276,397	+ 464,188
Gold	1,842,754	1,347,210	2,077,675	+ 730,465
Silver	1,009,954	1,502,614	2,067,865	+ 565,191
	33,051,153	37,732,856	43,073,039	+ 5,340,183

IMPORTS.

	Three months ended March 31.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as compared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
General merchandise.	£ 138,900,038	£ 139,577,465	£ 154,252,271	+ 14,674,806
Gold	9,460,071	11,400,817	13,309,701	+ 1,908,884
Silver	3,693,306	3,410,559	6,008,619	+ 2,598,060
	152,053,415	154,388,841	173,570,591	+ 19,181,750

EXPORTS.

	Three months ended March 31.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as compared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
Brit. & Irish Produce	£ 72,229,974	£ 78,329,663	£ 91,197,096	+ 12,867,433
For. and Col. M'dse..	19,063,990	20,545,819	22,718,112	+ 2,172,293
Gold	8,215,505	5,934,072	6,956,576	+ 1,022,504
Silver	4,003,828	3,769,642	6,155,553	+ 2,385,911
	103,513,297	108,579,196	127,027,337	+ 18,448,141

VISIBLE BALANCE OF TRADE.

	March.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as compared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
Imports	£ 53,688,578	£ 54,196,185	£ 60,438,430	+ 6,242,245
Exports	33,051,183	37,732,856	43,073,039	+ 5,340,183
Excess value of imports over exports	20,637,395	16,463,329	17,365,391	+ 902,062

	Three months ended March 31.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as compared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
Imports	£ 152,053,415	£ 154,388,841	£ 173,570,591	+ 19,181,750
Exports	103,513,297	108,579,196	127,027,337	+ 18,448,141
Excess value of imports over exports	48,540,118	45,809,645	46,543,254	+ 733,609

The values of the imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

The values of the exports represent the cost and charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

Russia still figures as a buyer of machinery of various descriptions and took £9,768 worth of steam engines not agricultural in the first quarter of this year. What amount of agricultural machinery it may take the returns do not enable us to say, but European countries altogether took 4,126 tons of agricultural steam engines worth about £170,000 out of a total of 6,717 tons sent abroad, the value of which was £255,541. Europe also took 5,102 tons of agricul-

tural machinery not steam engines out of a total of 7,155 tons shipped and the Continent is by far our best market for sewing machines. It took 5,500 tons of these useful little tools in the past quarter out of 6,248 tons shipped and it is worth while noting that the total value of this weight was £353,801. For mining machinery South Africa continues our best single customer and took rather more in the past quarter than in the first quarter of 1905, but little more than half as much as in the same section of 1904. Our exports of textile machinery show considerable fluctuations, but Europe in the past quarter took about 19,000 tons out of a total of 38,362 tons shipped, or nearly one half. The total value of these 38,000 odd tons was £1,626,238 and the value of our machinery together, the weight of which was 145,854 tons in the past quarter, came to £6,193,379. In figures like these we can trace the dominant characteristic of our export business. It is the product of long trained and highly developed skill and of carefully perfected machinery.

We have only space to say a word about the textile exports which continue to flourish in an eminently encouraging way. The total value of cotton piece goods of all kinds exported last month was £6,673,547 and in the three months £19,203,528. There is a larger demand for these tissues of ours almost everywhere, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Portugal, Italy, Turkey, Foreign West Africa, Persia, the Dutch East Indies, the Philippine Islands, Cuba, the United States of North America, most Central and South American States, notably Argentina and Chili, all showing an increased demand. Nor is there any falling off in the custom of British possessions. Madras took rather less in the past quarter but considerably more in the past month, and both Bombay and Bengal have increased their imports for the quarter, although Bombay shows a falling off for the month of March alone. We have also sent more cotton tissues to the Straits Settlements whether in the month or the three months, more to Australia and New Zealand, and considerably more to Canada, but rather less to the British West Indies. Exports of woollens show much the same characteristics. The trade is steady if not so decidedly expansive. Japan is an increasing customer as was to be expected after the end of the war. France took more woollen tissues in the past month and quarter than in 1905 or 1904. The German demand has also been greater both on the month and the three months, but there has been a decline in our shipments to China, some of the trade last year carried on with Hongkong having probably returned to Japan direct. Central and South American States are generally improving customers although Brazil has taken less in the past quarter and past month and Chili very little more, but the Argentine orders are increasing and as a whole the trade has gone up by about 1,446,000 yards in the three months. The same may be said to apply to worsted tissues for which the United States of North America continue our greatest customers, although in the past quarter they took rather less than in the first quarter of 1905. The aggregate of 8,971,800 yards is, however, about 2,100,000 yards greater than in the first quarter of 1904. Trade is steady, too, both in worsted and woollen fabrics with British possessions except that British India is taking rather less, and the quarter altogether shows an export of 30,113,300 yards worth £1,963,501. The linen trade continues excellent with a total export of 52,478,000 yards in the first quarter of the year and the decline in jute yards and manufactures is quite insignificant. We have not space to analyse the minor portions of our export business but may note an increase in our exports of British made motor-cars and in cycles. The cement trade has also increased considerably on the comparison of quarters and there is a large increase in the export of oilcloths, of stationery and other paper, the result being the total of articles wholly or mainly manufactured has risen from £59,263,618 in the first quarter of 1904 to £75,703,891 in that just ended.

Gold Mining and Chinese in California.

San Francisco, March 7, 1906.

The difficulty in answering your letter lies in the fact that the quartz mines in California do not, as in most other places, and especially in the Transvaal, lie together, and the cost of working them is therefore subject to a great number of very varying conditions, while in the Transvaal, where the mines practically adjoin each other, the conditions must be so similar that the cost should be about the same. For instance, our mine is about 60 miles from the railway, and every ton of material or provisions we get in costs us \$60 for freight, while at the "Treadwell" mine, situated on the coast on an island in Alaska, the freight by water from San Francisco was, I think, often as low as \$5 per ton.

Then the size of a quartz ledge is a very important factor in the cost of working. If you have a ledge 8 to 10 feet wide, carrying \$4 or \$5 to the ton, you can work it more easily, more cheaply, and make more money out of it, than you can out of a mine carrying four or five times as much gold to the ton, but only one foot wide. It is also likely to be much more permanent, so there is much less risk of loss in fitting it up in the most thorough manner. Then the hardness of the rock is another very important factor in the cost of working. In some mines you may have very hard quartz, difficult to drill, and afterwards to crush in the stamps; in others you may find the quartz half decomposed, and so soft that it can almost be worked with pick and shovel, and twice or three times the quantity can be passed through the mill. Again, there is the cost of power. In some mines you have all the water power you need for your hoisting and crushing, &c.; in others you are dependent on fuel. In some the gold is free, in others the ore is base, and the gold must be extracted by a chemical process.

However, you can assert this most positively, that there are mines in California, and in other States on this coast, working quartz, sometimes at a great depth, where the rock does not carry \$5 to the ton, paying their miners from \$2.50 to \$4 per day, and making good profits. (I may mention that \$1 per ton is practically equal to one pennyweight per ton). In Tuolumne County in this State there is a mine with 40 stamps, where the rock only carried \$1.85, which is paying the owners very well. They have, however, a great body of ore which they can quarry out very cheaply. The "Treadwell" mine in Alaska was another mine in which the rock was quarried out, and although the rock never, I believe, ran much over \$3.50 per ton, and often much lower, an immense amount of money was taken out of it. There are, however, many other regular quartz mines in different parts of California, and of these perhaps the "Kennedy" is a very good example. Their rock does not run over about \$4 to the ton, and they are now down about 2,000 feet, and are paying well. I hope, in the course of a day or two, to be able to send you some further details and some figures showing the cost of working, but we have no public statement such as you used to publish in THE INVESTORS' REVIEW, probably because the diversity of conditions regulating the cost of mining would have made it of comparatively little value.

The Chinese never work in quartz mines here now, but they are employed very largely in some of the placer mines, where the work seems to suit them. In the "Hidden Treasure," a large gravel drift mine in Placer County, a large number of Chinese are employed, and do very good work. Some of them have been working there for 20 years, and are receiving from \$1.50 to \$2 a day, and earning it. They get on well both with their employers and their white fellow-workmen. At one time, however, Chinamen were employed in the quartz mines, and one of my friends who had employed them gave me his experience of them.

He did not find them a success. As a rule, they are not fitted for the work, and only a very small number of them ever became expert hammersmen. He found

it took too long to break them in to the work, which is very trying on a beginner, and the Chinaman always wants to be able to lie off for a day or two to recruit. He also does not like working seven days a week, as we expect men to do in mining in California. It was, however, possible to work them here, because, when a man wanted to lie off, another could be got from the camp to replace him, while the great majority who were unfitted for the work, and never would have made good miners, went off and worked at something else for which they were better suited. In South Africa, however, this cannot be done. As I understand it, a mine there imports some hundreds of men under contract to work for a certain number of years. Of these probably not one-third would ever make even third-class miners, and so, when they cannot, or will not do their allotted tasks, as they cannot be discharged, cannot be fined out of the miserable pittance they are getting, cannot be allowed to lie off, as they must be fed in any case, they are flogged or otherwise tortured. If I remember aright, they were only required to drill 30 inches a day, while here we expect a man to drill 8 to 10 feet, but then he has been doing this for years, and a beginner will ache in every bone of his body before he has drilled 12 inches, and will ache for days.

I see the South African mine-owners and their abettors, the late Government, object to this being called slavery, but it is the worst form of slavery, and I know of no parallel to it, except that of a man who, for instance, owns a pair of horses and, anxious to save them, when he has any very severe and trying work to do, hires another pair, and takes all he can out of them, having no interest in them beyond the time for which he has hired them. His own horses are unquestionably his slaves, and he can do anything he likes with them, but his interest is to spare them, while with the hired pair his interest is to get all he can out of them while he has them.

I also came across a very intelligent working man, a first-rate miner, who has just returned from South Africa, where he was one of the foremen in one of the mines. He tells me that among the Kaffirs only a few ever become good miners, the bulk of them work out their time, take their wages and go off, but there are some who take to the work, and come back time after time, becoming in the end very expert hammersmen. The Chinese, he thinks, will never be a success, as it takes too long to break them in to be of any value at all, most of them never are worth much at the best, and cannot be got rid of, while the good men have no inducement to do their best or better than the worst. Then there is this very material difference between the Kaffir and the Chinaman, the former works for a few months at a time, and then goes off and invests his savings in wives and cattle, while the Chinaman has to look forward through years of unremitting labour before he can get any results from his work, and is receiving such a miserable pittance that, after buying the few luxuries he requires, there is nothing left. The Chinaman in California was always well paid, and was able to live well, and at the same time remit a large part of his wages to China.

I do not know if you saw an article I had in the December number of the *Contemporary*, but, if not, it might be worth your while to read it, as I say a good deal about the subject in question, and most mining men here seem to agree with me.

There may be a question as to whether we should admit Chinese or not—there is a good deal to be said on both sides—but I am quite sure that neither they nor any other labour ought ever to be admitted under contract. I, personally, am in favour of admitting Chinese, and I do not believe they ever harmed white labour. They never came over in great numbers, only 106,000 in the 34 years from 1848 to the passage of the Exclusion Act, at a time when wages were much higher than they now are in California. The Chinaman here has always been extremely conservative, never working for low wages. It was the virtues and not the vices of the Chinaman which raised up the feeling

against him. This western country is unfortunately run by the liquor dealers, and they objected to the Chinaman not spending his money on whisky. I pay thousands of dollars every year in wages, and it is no exaggeration to say that some 80 to 90 per cent. of that goes in whisky. There is no liquor place within 20 miles of our mine, and I have men, and very good men, too, who work hard and steadily saving \$2 and \$2.50 a day, until they have some \$400 or \$500 to their credit, and who then go out and squander this sum in a couple of weeks. This the Chinaman never does, and personally he is well liked by his fellow-workmen, as he is a most good-natured, obliging man, and by his employer, as he is sober and steady, and very easily managed when fairly treated. Most of the labour troubles in this country had their origin in contract labour before the Act prohibiting it was passed. Men like Carnegie, &c., had agents on the Continent who engaged labourers for them at what appeared to be, and what they represented to be, good wages, and when they arrived here they found that they were the victims of fraud and misrepresentation, and that they were receiving only a fraction of what free men were being paid, and that they had been imported to crowd these men out. Strong advocate as I am for freedom of contract, and freedom of every sort, I think the Liberals would do well to pass a similar Act, for such contracts are always dishonest.

One thing I see I have omitted. The general opinion here is that in these South African mines the miners (Chinese, Kaffirs, &c.) are shamefully underpaid; the white working men, foremen, shift bosses, &c., are paid about the same as here, but the head men, managers, superintendents, engineers, &c., are most extravagantly overpaid.

WILLIAM MAITLAND.

Anglo-French Exploration Company.

In several respects the report and accounts of the Anglo-French Exploration Company are remarkable. To shareholders they are exceedingly disappointing, and will go a long way to spoil their thorough enjoyment of the Easter holidays. Until recently this company was a member of the Farrar group, but Sir George Farrar has severed his connection with it, and the glory of his illustrious official direction has departed. Shareholders may be inclined, in their bitterness, to assign this as the cause of their misfortunes in the past twelve months, but probably the company's adversities would not have been avoided under any régime. It is now, as always, dependent for its income upon the market, and even had Sir George remained chairman, he would not have made the Kaffir Circus boom in 1905. But 1904 was equally depressed, yet in that year the company managed to earn large profits. Let us recall the results for the purpose of illustrating more clearly the sudden change that has come over its fortunes. Large blocks of shares were sold on the market in 1904, realising a profit on the sales of no less than £102,656, in addition to which £36,627 was received from dividends and interest, making a total credit of £139,283. As the expenditure was only £32,817, the profit was £106,466. No less than £102,308 was brought in from 1903, giving the directors a divisible surplus of £208,774. After paying the dividend on the 6 per cent. preference shares, 20 per cent. was given to the ordinary shares, and £64,165 left to carry forward. Inspired by these charming results, the directors issued during the year 72,000 reserve ordinary shares and 150,000 preference shares, the premiums, amounting to £161,348, being added to the reserve fund, raising it to £520,000, with £8,000 taken out of the year's profits. This money was raised because the directors were confident that the outlook was favourable. And again for the thousandth time directorial wisdom has been at fault—the results have been lamentable. Profit realised by sales of shares in 1905 was only £14,947, but a trifle more at £38,128 was received from dividends, com-

mission and interest—the details are not given, so we cannot tell which was dividend and which interest, much “commission” there could hardly have been.

Expenditure, including £10,526 realised losses and amounts written off, amounted to £23,882, so the nett profit was £29,193 only, raised to £94,941, with help of the credit from 1904. Though this is a fairly good sum, sufficient to pay a dividend of at least 10 per cent., with comfort, after distributing the preference dividend, the directors carry the balance of £64,941 to the credit of the current year, and so disappoint the reasonable expectations of shareholders. But this is not the whole sad tale, for the directors have decided, “in view of some further depreciation which has taken place since the end of the financial year,” to transfer from the reserve fund the sum of £120,000 in order to write down certain of the company's holdings. We can almost hear them say:—“We'll show 'em what they've got to suffer if the Radicals interfere with Chinese labour. Not only will we pay 'em no dividend, but we'll admit a further loss of £120,000. Of course, we can easily write it back again later on, but let 'em weep over it for a few months, it'll show 'em what good friends they've got in the Liberal Government.” It is true there has been a further depreciation in Kaffir prices since the beginning of the year, but it is likewise true that those prices are now recovering. So, assuming former valuations genuine, the directors appear to be acting not only too hastily, but in a way not to be reconciled with the statement in the report of the auditors. These write:—“The published prices at December 31 of such of the debentures and shares in other companies as had published prices (about 74 per cent. of the whole) showed in the aggregate an excess over the amount at which they are entered in the balance-sheet. The remainder and the interests in properties are stated at cost, or under cost, and we are informed by the directors that they estimate them to be of full value.” There has not been since then a slump in prices sufficient to wipe out these excess values, and £120,000 in addition; therefore, we cannot think the directors are justified in their action. Note should also be taken of their phraseology:—“In view of some further depreciation.” This is very vague, and the sum they have decided to write off is evidently quite an arbitrary one. If such action were really necessary now, it was necessary twelve months ago, but at that time the directors were in a more sanguine mood. It was not necessary then to demonstrate to the shareholders what sacrifices they would have to make for the privilege of having a Government hostile to the continuance of Chinese indentured labour. It is all rather silly, for the public were no more disposed to support the market under the late Government than they are now. But, perhaps, policy has nothing to do with the confession of loss. Assets may have been over-valued all through. Yet there does seem to be political rancour about, for in another part of the report the directors give us their opinions of the causes which have produced the depreciation, not within the past few weeks, but “since the end of 1904.” “In the first place,” say they, “the public has been unfavourably impressed by the fact that since the mines have been in more active operation, owing to the employment of Chinese labour, there has been some falling off in the grade of the ore produced, and that there has been so far but little corresponding reduction in the cost of production.” This is true, and commendably candid, but why should the directors go on to say that the other cause is the unsympathetic attitude of the Government towards the industry, and to express the hope this attitude will become modified “as soon as all the facts of the case have been thoroughly investigated?” Here, however, are two causes independent of each other, between which there is not any visible relation, yet each has contributed, in these men's opinions, to make an unfavourable impression upon the public. Suppose the one alleged cause were removed, namely, the attitude of the Government, by declaring that the bosses may employ as many

Chinese as they please under any conditions of serfdom they choose. Would the other cause cease to operate simultaneously? Would the ore become richer? The directors make an attempt to answer this objection by saying the fall in value in some mines is more apparent than real, “as low grade ore is now being worked, which was not previously taken into account.” Still, the ore is low grade, and must reduce profits, and if profits are reduced, the shares must be less valuable. And the reason why low grade ore is now being worked is one we have explained many times in this REVIEW—the rich ore was worked for certain ends in the nineties so that the poor ore only is left in many mines, and if that were not treated these mines must cease to exist. This is the real sacrifice which present shareholders have to face. The bosses made their fortunes out of the old policy at the expense of those who are called upon to support the new, and Chinese labour has neither been cheap nor efficient. Slave labour, or underpaid labour, never is.

Another remarkable passage in the report is the following:—“It should be recognised that the objections raised by His Majesty's Government are not so much to the employment of Chinese labour as to some of the conditions attaching thereto. It is most earnestly to be hoped that these conditions will be altered to the satisfaction of the Government, and in such a manner that the supply of Chinese labour may be secured without offending the susceptibilities of the inhabitants of the Transvaal.” Here is an unconscious tacit admission not only that the conditions can be changed, but that the existing conditions offend the susceptibilities of the inhabitants of the Transvaal. Such a confession as this is worth a great deal, and no doubt when the directors note how incautiously they have given themselves away they will be ready to call each other anything but complimentary names. Thanks to the large issue of shares in 1904, the financial position of the company is comfortable enough, but there still appears the following comical note in the balance-sheet:—“There are liabilities in respect of the proportion £500,000, guaranteed by the company, of the first instalment of £10,000,000 of the proposed Transvaal 4 per cent. War Loan.” What a burden this guarantee is!

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE RUSSIAN LOAN.

The Russian loan appears to hang fire, and it cannot now be issued until after Easter. The most definite fact which has emerged since we last wrote is the refusal of the German Government to allow the loan to be issued within the Empire. This has been ascribed to pique on the part of the Kaiser at the way the Russian delegates supported France at the Algieras Conference. There is no necessity to go so far to find a reason for the step. Germany has no money to spare for Russia just now, as the issue of £28,000,000 of Prussian and Imperial loans last week proves. The domestic loans will be all that German banks can conveniently manipulate and place over and above their world-wide commitments in enterprises of all descriptions, many of which are still suckers instead of revenue yielders. The refusal of Germany, however, throws the loan back upon France and strenuous efforts have been made by the French banks to get the loan countenanced and to some extent subscribed here. We understand that the Rothschilds have decided to have nothing to do with it, and that is a reasonable and proper attitude for them to take, in view of the treatment to which their co-religionists are subjected within the Russian Empire. It follows that if a portion of the loan is offered here, as it probably will be, Messrs. Baring Bros. and Co., Limited, will take charge of it. What the amount may be seems still undetermined. The latest Petersburg report, however, is that it will be about £80,000,000 effective or £92,000,000 gross. The loan, as already notified, will bear 5 per cent. in-

terest, and is to be issued to bankers at 85. French banks will take £50,000,000 of it and it is proposed to give bankers in London, Amsterdam and New York £4,000,000 each, the Russian banks themselves taking *pro forma*, and because no one else will, the £30,000,000 which it was originally proposed to offer in Berlin. Of the proceeds of the loan the Petersburg correspondent of the *Times* says, £25,000,000 will be required to pay off the recent issues of short term bonds and the balance of £55,000,000 "will be insufficient to cover the expenses of the war, the cost of famine relief, and the budget deficit." This same correspondent adds that a prominent financier has declared that unless a loan were secured within a month the Government would be unable to meet its payments. The persistent drain of gold, the difficulty of collecting revenue, and other adverse conditions resulting from the past sins of the Government, had brought the country to the very verge of bankruptcy. This may be to a large extent true, and undoubtedly a determined effort must forthwith be made to avert the catastrophe. Whether or not it will be successful remains a conjecture. Something will depend on the Duma perhaps, something on the Tsar and his bureaucrats, and no little on times and chances.

LONDON'S ELECTRICITY IN 1905.

Probably from the shareholders' point of view the results obtained during the past year by the companies supplying energy in London were not so good as in 1904, but the extension of the various systems was on the whole fairly regular, and showed that the use of electricity for power as well as for lighting purposes continues to increase. Except in one or two instances, where special circumstances such as the extensive rebuilding in the district served by the St. James' and Pall Mall and the cessation of building in the Chelsea area have retarded the growth of business, the additions of the older companies measured in terms of 8 c.p. lamps were well up to the average, while the County of London, which is a comparatively young undertaking, materially improved upon the large extensions of the two previous years. Our table shows a heavy decrease in the connections of the Metropolitan company, but this was due to the transfer of a portion of its business to the Marylebone Borough Council, and, as a matter of fact, 80,834 lamps were added compared with 89,000 a year ago. With the growth of the business the companies have been able to reduce their charges to consumers, and, indeed, have been obliged to do so in order to meet the competition of the gas companies, which has again become keen owing to the help afforded by the more general use of the incandescent mantle, but the decline in the average rate per unit is due more to the development of the supply of power at a low figure than to any very substantial reduction in the charge for lighting current. The County of London, for instance, devotes itself more to the first-named branch, and is now supplying users of motors with 9,932 horse-power, with the result that nearly 1,500,000 more units were sold, and the average price per unit was brought down by 2d. to 2.81d. No other company showed anything like that reduction, but the South London, which derives a very large proportion of its income from its contract with the L.C.C. tramways department was able to supply current at the very low figure of 1.73d., and still make a fair profit. The struggle between the City of London Company and the City undertaking of the Charing Cross, West End and City Company has had good results for the consumer, in that it has reduced the charges to 2.78d. and 2.26d. per unit respectively, while on the other hand we find the Brompton and Kensington, Chelsea, Metropolitan and Notting Hill still charging from 4.21d. to 4.62d.

The expansion of the business noted above has not been accompanied by a corresponding increase in the gross revenues in all cases, and leaving out of the question the Metropolitan, which was affected by the transaction with the Marylebone Council, we find the Chelsea, Kensington and Knightsbridge, St. James'

and Pall Mall and Westminster all recording a falling off in income. Several others, although earning more, found their expenses increased to a greater extent, and were able to add very little to their nett profits, and the West End undertaking of the Charing Cross Company and the Notting Hill came out with smaller nett balances. The Central Electric Company, which supplies the St. James' and Pall Mall and Westminster with a good portion of their current, had a most un-

Company.	Board of Trade Units Sold.		Charge per Unit.		8-c.p. Lamps Connected.	
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1905.	Increase.
Brompton and Kensington	2,544,758	2,632,480	d.	d.	188,586	18,717
Charing Cross, West End, and City	8,604,149	9,976,598	4'50	4'43	453,285	43,622
Central	7,351,737	9,757,600	3'48	3'07	371,209	70,128
Chelsea	6,214,873	7,102,960	2'56	2'26	—	—
City of London	3,212,412	3,222,038	1'76	—	—	—
County of London	16,320,288	19,602,264	4'23	4'21	221,809	11,159
Kensington and Knightsbridge	7,181,309	8,614,187	3'25	2'78	818,955	90,994
London	4,558,176	4,734,269	4'81	2'81	770,640	122,929
Metropolitan	10,531,785	13,042,932	3'95	3'73	326,827	23,779
Notting Hill	15,232,839	14,079,160	2'60	2'31	—	—
St. James' and Pall Mall	1,645,492	1,711,955	4'66	4'37	607,762	**115,238
South London	7,515,341	7,977,582	4'70	4'62	143,102	11,000
South Metropolitan	9,205,342	10,350,892	3'65	2'96	286,084	7,195
Westminster	14,513,764	14,899,170	1'85	1'73	120,412	13,412
					125,674	17,283
					764,930	53,251

* West End undertakings.

† City undertaking.

‡ Not including street lighting.

§ Decrease owing to transfer of part of the business to the Marylebone Borough Council.

Company.	1904.			1905.		
	Total Revenue.	Profits.	Put to Depreciation out of Revenue.	Total Revenue.	Profits.	Put to Depreciation out of Revenue.
Brompton and Kensington	£ 50,189	£ 20,271	£ 8,000	£ 51,149	£ 21,940	£ 8,000
Charing Cross, West End, and City	125,553	50,967	11,000	130,733	48,648	11,000
Central	80,869	33,274	—	95,340	42,000	—
Chelsea	47,484	12,640	9,000	55,402	298	10,000
City of London	60,071	22,356	12,707	59,911	25,110	10,918
County of London	255,087	96,868	45,500	261,995	100,177	45,500
Kensington and Knightsbridge	135,790	66,129	19,150	146,014	71,797	20,000
London	78,149	27,065	10,967	77,372	25,657	5,736
Metropolitan	118,395	41,793	23,540	130,591	48,721	30,000
Notting Hill	306,541	156,837	20,000	269,007	140,281	20,000
St. James' and Pall Mall	34,564	17,096	2,750	35,315	16,948	3,000
South London	120,809	40,409	14,871	115,672	31,670	14,792
South Metropolitan	72,506	21,208	10,140	76,473	22,042	11,587
Westminster	28,797	12,825	13,750	35,422	18,131	4,000
	248,131	90,661	31,001	237,965	74,409	31,796

* West End undertakings. † City undertaking.

‡ Including £4,140 in 1904, and £4,300 in 1905 written off cost of provisional order.

§ Including £1,500 off preliminary expenses.

Company.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Brompton and Kensington	% 10	% 8	% 10	% 10	% 10
Charing Cross	10	10	8	8	5
Central	—	—	—	5	nil
Chelsea	4	4½	5½	6	6
City of London	5	5	5	6	11
County of London	4	4	4	4½	5
Kensington and Knightsbridge	10	10	12	12	10
London	—	—	—	3	4
Metropolitan	6½	7½	8½	10	10
Notting Hill	6*	6*	6*	7*	7½*
St. James' and Pall Mall	14½	14½	14½	14½	12½
South London	—	12	3	4	4
South Metropolitan	—	—	—	nil	2½
Westminster	10½	12	13½	14	13

* Dividends also paid on founders' shares.

satisfactory year, in spite of a big rise in its gross income, and after paying debenture and other interest could only show a trifling balance of £298. These heavier expenses had a bad effect on the dividends declared, the Charing Cross being obliged to come down from 8 per cent. to 5 per cent., while the Kensington and Knightsbridge and Westminster paid 2 per cent. and 1 per cent. less and the Central could make no distribution at all. The St. James', too, in spite of appropriating the dividend received from the Central for 1904 instead of putting it to contingency account as intended, had to forego paying its usual bonus of 2 per cent. On the other hand, the London, which has a contract with the County Council for supplying current for the tramways, and also does a large business in power, was so far successful as to be able to pay an extra 1 per cent. at 4 per cent., while the South Metropolitan has evidently benefited by taking

over the Crystal Palace district system, and enters the ranks of the dividend-payers with a small distribution of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. When we come to the question of depreciation allowances, we find that too often the old story has to be repeated. The City of London directors, however, have at last seen the error of their ways, and in addition to placing the usual £45,500 nominal to reserve, have written off that account the ascertained value of plant, &c., long since discarded. This is a step in the right direction, but it must be followed by further substantial writings down, as, owing to the years of neglect, the reserve fund only amounts to about $9\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the capital outlay. The London recognising the possibility of hard times when its contract with the L.C.C. expires, has done well in adding £6,500 to the fair provision made a year ago, and the South London, County of London and Central either maintain or moderately improve upon last year's increased provision, but the Kensington and Knightsbridge has rather fallen away from grace, and without a word of explanation cuts down its appropriation by some 50 per cent., although its accumulations to date cannot be regarded as altogether satisfactory, representing as they do no more than 16 per cent. of the capital expenditure.

BAKU RUSSIAN PETROLEUM CO.

Monday's meeting of the shareholders and those interested in this company will we trust be the last of the kind held for some time. The agitators were beaten on a poll by 624,190 votes to 217,411 and after that they would do well to make the best of a bad job. It is assuredly not in the company's interests in any direction that the struggle should continue, a struggle marked as it has been by extreme violence of language in attack and the hurling of many charges of a more or less discreditable kind against the old board. This should now stop. All the time and energy of the board and management are now required in the labour of setting the business on its legs again. Good possibly was done at the beginning by the attacks which culminated on Monday afternoon. They may have had the effect of clearing out some abuses and of putting the board upon its mettle, but now that defeat has ensued after the most strenuous efforts to tear the business out of the hands of the present board, nothing but mischief can ensue should the agitation continue. All concerned will be wise therefore in allowing the excitement to die away, and the board above all ought to be relieved from the constant nagging of sundry malcontents, whose real motives have never been fully disclosed, and behind whom may stand interests of a type wholly antagonistic to those of the genuine shareholder. As the most bitter of the attacks were directed against Mr. Henry Nevill Gladstone and his firm, and as we printed a letter from Dr. Dvorkovitz repeating some of the charges he had made on every opportunity, we deem it only fair to append to this note the full report of the reply Mr. Gladstone made at Monday's meeting.

Mr. H. N. Gladstone: I have during a period of six months^s been attacked in a most virulent manner, and have sat still under^r a very great deal. I will only ask for a few minutes, and hope^e you will listen to me with patience. Dr. Whitty has accused me of having made a mis-statement. That is not true; the words in the letter read to the shareholders at the first meeting were that I had had no share in the management of the syndicate, which was managed by Messrs. Verner; I did not say I had no interest; perhaps it would be more correct to say I had no share or part, but the managing profit was included in the figure given in the letter, and there was nothing kept back. I will now confine myself to the question of the connection of my firm with the company and the commission. They loom very large in the eyes of many shareholders, and I do not wonder at it in face of the unfortunate result of the working of the company, but to my firm at the time they did not do so. The commissions were earned in the ordinary course of business. The connection was similar to that which prevails in other cases with other firms, and perhaps I can bring that home to your minds better by giving you particulars of a few such companies with which those who are attacking me to-day are themselves connected. The first company I will take is the Jokai Tea Co., the chairman of which is Sir A. de Renzy. Another director, a much esteemed gentleman, Mr. Alexander Lawrie, is deputy-chairman; the company's agents in India are Balmer Lawrie and Co., in which Mr. Alexander Lawrie is a partner. The next is the Assam Railway and Trading

Co., in which Sir A. de Renzy, who seems to object so much to the system, is again a director, with Sir Charles Tennant and other esteemed men, including Mr. H. de C. Agnew. The agents in Calcutta are MacNeill & Co.; partners, Mr. H. de C. Agnew and others. Here are two cases in which Sir A. de Renzy is connected with the same system, and I have no doubt he will say it tends to the advantage of the companies.

Sir A. de Renzy signified his assent.

Mr. Gladstone: He confirms what I say. I will now deal with a Liverpool case—the British Shipowners' Co.; directors, Mr. William Gracie and Mr. E. A. Beazley; the managers are Messrs. Gracie, Beasley & Co. Then there is the Shell Transport and Trading Co.; head office, London; Sir Marcus Samuel, chairman; Messrs. Marcus Samuel & Co., managers of the company; directors, Mr. A. V. D. Best and R. J. Black, partners in Best & Co., Madras, agents in India to the company. ("They have not taken secret commissions.") We have taken no secret commission; every commission we have got is set out in contract between the firm and the company, passed by the solicitors and by the board, and I took no part in these proceedings. I have several more instances, but I will not take up your time; I merely wanted to show you that what my firm did came in the ordinary course of business, and while I can recognise the objections that may be made to an arrangement of this kind, I believe it has worked well in the interests of companies, and it has worked well in this case. I will tell you why. The commission which my firm received is entirely in connection with the export trade in kerosene—please remember that 85 per cent. of the production of the company is sold in Russia, and the only commissions my firm got were in connection with the export kerosene department of the company. These amount to a considerable sum, but formed altogether only a minor portion of the firm's business. Any big merchant here will tell you the same thing. In order to transact this work and to work the 45,000 tons of steamers for the company we brought over a partner from India and had to double the office.

Any independent merchant will tell you that there was an immense amount of work and responsibility, and I can tell you my firm would not do the same thing again for double the money. I am saying that as a business man. My business career has been an honourable career—(applause)—and has been a successful career. I followed on my forbears in business; my grandfather was a merchant, and my uncle, and I shall hand it on to those who come after me. I belong to a firm which is nearly 100 years old, and has borne an unsullied name during the whole of that time and I know perfectly well that it has not done anything during all that time that is not absolutely straightforward, above-board, honest and honourable. (Loud and continued applause.) With regard to my personal position, I decline to resign under any pressure led by Dr. Dvorkovitz. If the Board is reconstructed with commercial men of business capacity and I am satisfied that I can then retire without disadvantage to the company, I will be pleased to be relieved of my duties in connection with the company. I feel sure that if the shareholders were to ascertain the real facts with regard to the financial assistance rendered by my firm to the Baku Russian Company they would be surprised that I have not insisted on retiring long ago, as on several occasions I expressed the wish to do, not only at the board meetings but in public meetings. (Applause.)

MINING THAT PAYS IN CALIFORNIA.

This week we print a letter from Mr. Wm. Maitland, of San Francisco, which is better worth the attention of shareholders in South African mines than a thousand directorial logomachies. Faithful readers of THE INVESTORS' REVIEW know Mr. Maitland of old, and will remember the valuable services rendered by him through its pages when the proceedings of Messrs. Chaffey Bros. and their "Australian Irrigation Colonies" came under the harrow. Thanks chiefly to Mr. Maitland the money sinking part of that interesting experiment was stopped, though not before numbers of people in this country had been lured to their ruin by it. Knowing Mr. Maitland to be as conversant with gold mining as with fruit-growing in California, and with the behaviour of the Chinese there, we asked him to give our readers a few facts. He does so in the letter we now print. Will serious-minded shareholders in Kaffir mines study that letter, and try to grasp what it means? It means that "cheap" labour in the South African boss, the cosmopolite or Phœnician sense is the dearest of all labour; that the Chinaman can no more be induced to give his best energies to his work when driven by lash and boot and cudgel than the Dutchman; that, in a word, and as we have throughout contended, the only genuine cheap labour is labour thoroughly trained, carefully selected and generously remunerated. Notwithstanding the monstrous over-capitalisation of most of them, South African mines would never have disappointed their shareholders as they have done, and now do, if selected, highly paid white labour, linked to the very best mechanical appliances available, had been employed therein from the first to the exclusion of every

other kind, of the mere slave kind above all. At last, if we may believe the Johannesburg correspondent of the *Financial Times*, the Phoenixian plutocrats or helots are beginning to have a perception of this truth. If shareholders had all along acted together with intelligence and in a spirit of equitable copartnership these purse potentates would have been thoroughly imbued with up-to-date principles long ago. And they might even have been wealthier than they are!

RAND MINES AND YIELDS: LANGLAAGTE ESTATE.

The Langlaagte Estate is the leading member of the Robinson group and is also one of the oldest outcrop mines on the Rand. Next to the Robinson it has probably produced in the aggregate more gold than any other mine, but the directors have not attempted to distribute colossal dividends, and have always kept these at a moderate figure. The record of payments since the year 1889 is a fine one, nevertheless, and we give it in detail for leisurely examination:—

Date.	Rate per cent.	Issued Capital £	Stamps Working	Date.	Rate per cent.	Issued Capital £	Stamps Working.
Mar., 1889	5	447,000	60	Dec., 1895	25	470,000	160
June, 1889	11	"	70	June, 1896	15	"	"
Sept., 1889	8	"	"	Dec., 1896	15	"	"
Dec., 1889	8	"	"	June, 1897	15	"	"
June, 1890	7½	"	"	Dec., 1897	15	"	"
Dec., 1890	7½	"	60	June, 1898	15	"	Average 183
June, 1891	5	"	"	Dec., 1898	15	"	
Dec., 1891	5	"	"	June, 1899	15	"	200
June, 1892	10	"	180	June, 1903	10	"	150
Dec., 1892	10	"	120	Dec., 1903	10	"	"
June, 1893	10	467,000	"	June, 1904	10	"	"
Dec., 1893	20	"	160	Dec., 1904	10	"	156
Mar., 1894	12½	470,000	"	June, 1905	10	"	171
June, 1894	12½	"	"	Dec., 1905	10	"	179
Sept., 1894	10	"	"				
Dec., 1894	10	"	"				
June, 1895	25	"	"				
				Total	364 per cent.		

The total amount distributed is £1,692,880, equal to a little over £3 12s. 9d. per share, in addition to which, in the year 1889, 432,000 Block B shares, of the nominal value of £1 each, were given to the shareholders share for share. At the end of 1905 the credit balance carried forward was no less than £1,043,628, so that had the directors divided up to the hilt they could have paid away another million. Nearly three parts of this undivided surplus has been invested in shares in allied companies. For all this unless much higher dividends are paid in the future the present price of shares is too high. Taking the yield at 7½ per cent. and calculating the life at fourteen years, the investor would find only his principal returned at the end of that period, so it would be anything but a profitable investment. If he provided his own sinking fund he would have to set aside each year, and reinvest at 3 per cent. compound interest the sum of £5 12s. 6d. per cent, which would leave him a nett yield of £1 12s. 6d. by way of income. He could no doubt easily invest his money more remuneratively in gilt-edged securities. But there is every likelihood not only that future dividends will be larger, but that the life of the company will be prolonged. It has recently been announced that the company has entered into an arrangement with the Block B, whereby it has leased from the latter its mynpacht, deep-level claims, and other rights for a period of twenty-five years. As it will probably take two years before the Block B mine will be fully developed and its ore become available, it has been arranged that the profits shall accrue from January 1, 1908, from which date they will be divided in the proportion of two-thirds to the Langlaagte Estate, and the other third to the Block B Company, after making provision out of the proceeds of the joint concerns for the redemption, by instalments, of the amount provided by the Langlaagte Estate. As it is intended to treat 40,000 to 45,000 tons per month the Directors are considering proposals for the erection of a further 100 stamps in addition to the present battery of 200 stamps, or to increase the crushing capacity of the mill by the installation of tube mills. The advantages of this arrangement to the shareholders of the Langlaagte Estate are that it will add 25 years to the company's life, "and will be the means," the directors promise, "of considerably increasing its dividends for that period." If this promise be redeemed—and there is no reason for doubting that it

will—then the shares look fairly attractive at their present prices. But that will depend upon the actual increase of the dividends. They should not be less than 30 per cent.

AUSTRALASIAN GOLD MINING IN 1905.

As a rule, the official documents of the various States of Australasia, giving the statistics of mineral production, are very belated publications, often issued twelve months or so after date. The monthly journal of the Chamber of Mines of Western Australia, on the other hand, is always up to date and sets a praiseworthy example not only to Government departments, but to similar institutions in other gold fields. Thus, some weeks ago it published an article setting forth and commenting upon the output figures for the past year, and this has recently come to hand by mail. It is not in the least surprising to learn that mining in Australasia was not so profitable an industry in 1905 as it has been in former years, though there are many experts who still tell us that it is as yet in its infancy and has a glorious career awaiting it. But it is a very difficult thing to get the public to believe this in the absence of striking evidence in support of the assertion. In nearly every gold field of this continent there was a marked decline in the results compared with the two preceding years, and this is shown in the following comparative table, which gives in fine ozs., and quite near enough for all practical purposes, the outputs for three years past of the States mentioned, including New Zealand. For New South Wales and Tasmania the figures of two years only are given:—

STATE.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	ozs.	ozs.	Estimated ozs.
Western Australia ..	2,064,791	1,983,133	1,959,222
Victoria ..	767,351	765,600	735,080
Queensland ..	668,546	639,151	593,000
New Zealand ..	480,090	467,897	487,413
Totals ..	3,980,778	3,855,781	3,774,715
New South Wales ..	—	270,017	280,841
Tasmania ..	—	65,921	74,318
Totals ..	—	4,191,719	4,129,874

We see from the above that the total gold output of Western Australia, Victoria, Queensland and New Zealand declined by 100,000 ozs. in 1904, and to a like extent in 1905, whilst last year there was an appreciable falling off in the yield of the six States. This diminution is attributed in part to the increased attention paid to mining for the inferior metals, but there is likewise the important fact to be considered that in the past three years comparatively few new reef and alluvial mines have been discovered and opened up. This has checked prospecting work, or brought it to a standstill. Unwise and illiberal legislation is partly blamed for this, inasmuch as it has virtually prohibited the investment of money in new ventures, but we are inclined to think that this alleged cause is somewhat exaggerated. Legislation has hardly been wise and liberal enough to check the many scandals that have disgraced Australian mining, particularly West Australian mining, in the past, many being free and flourishing men to-day who ought to be in prison. Considerable disabilities, it is said, are imposed upon genuine prospectors, who, if only reasonable inducements were held out to them, would probably display the same energy and meet with the same success as in previous years. That may be, but what about promoters and dishonest directors and managers? Would the energy of prospectors reform their characters and methods? Would it restrain their greed? Would it stop or encourage scandals? Would it put an end to the watering of capital? We think we can unhesitatingly answer these questions in the negative, and this is why the public are not eager now-a-days to invest their capital in Australian mines. True, some West Australian Companies are more honestly managed now than they used to be, but this is in despite of the disabilities the Chamber of Mines bewails. Is it at all certain that new gold

discoveries in any of the Australasian States would bring us a new boom?

The above table shows the pre-eminence of Western Australia as a gold-producer; for each of the past three years its output has exceeded the combined outputs of Victoria, Queensland and New Zealand, and for the past two years has almost equalled the outputs of these States together with New South Wales and Tasmania. And Kalgoorlie continues the principal district of Westralia. For the past three years its yield has been 55.7, 57.3 and 55.9 per cent. respectively of the total output of the whole colony; that is, it has yielded more gold than all the other West Australian fields combined. Hence the shrinkage of 59,000 ozs. in the Kalgoorlie output between 1903 and 1905, though large, is relatively about on a par with that of other fields—it represents rather more than half the total decline in the production for the whole State. The decline in the output between 1903 and 1905 has been relatively much greater in the outlying districts than in the big and longer established centres. The large mines, the writer of the article points out, are holding their own fairly well in the matter of output, taking into consideration the increased and growing difficulties with which the working of them is attended, the chief being greater depth and diminishing ore grade. They are now treating a larger tonnage of ore, but are obtaining, on the whole, a lower average per ton. One satisfactory development of the past year's working was the reduction in working costs, so that profits were really larger, despite the diminished yield. The amount distributed in dividends in 1905 exceeded that of any previous year, the total being £2,167,639 compared with £2,050,547 in 1904 and £2,024,152 in 1903. Up to the end of last December the aggregate sum paid in dividends was £13,739,842. The Golden Horseshoe and the Great Boulder Proprietary have returned more than two millions each, whilst the Great Boulder Perseverance, the Great Fingall, the Ivanhoe, the Lake View Consols and the Oroya-Brownhill have each paid over one million. Still, the money lost in West Australian mining has, unhappily, been greatly in excess of these millions.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

There is no doubt at all that this steadily progressive bank exercises a very powerful influence on Egyptian financial and commercial affairs. Of comparatively recent origin it must already be considered the leading institution of the country although whether some of the operations which have brought it so prominently to the front were altogether enviable is another matter. Doubtless, however, the restless energy of the administration and particularly the London committee under the sway of Sir Ernest Cassel is in some directions productive of good. The shares of the bank still stand at a remarkably high price measured by the dividend at present paid, but in May last proprietors were given an option of subscribing for new shares in the proportion of one for every five held, and when new shares can be had at £20 apiece and the current quotation for the old is in the neighbourhood of £28 much is explained. This was the position when the issue was made and it is profitable both for the bank and its proprietors to keep the market value of the shares at a good high figure. When, however, bonuses of this kind are no longer forthcoming something much better than an 8 per cent. dividend will have to be accomplished to justify the price of £27 or £28 for the £10 share. In the twelve months to December 31st the gross profit was £408,902 or only £11,165 more than in the previous year, but whereas in 1904 the exceptional profits derived from special investments amounted to £154,630 this time the sum is no more than £81,724. Therefore, although the fact shows itself to only a small extent, the ordinary banking profits were last year on a greatly increased scale. Sum brought forward was up by £6,565 to £30,447 making the total credit £439,349, but there was naturally a big increase in current expenses as the scope of the bank's operations is steadily extended. These reached £84,906 or

£26,214 more, rebate required fully twice as much at £27,419 and the fixed 10 per cent. to be transferred to reserve comes down from £32,539 to £29,658. Directors' remuneration is likewise on a smaller scale, being £16,692 against £21,285 and as the directors wish to raise the dividend from 7 per cent. to 8, requiring an extra £60,000 at £200,000, the sum to be transferred to special reserve is reduced by £75,000 to £50,000 and there is a slight increase in the carry forward to £30,675. We make no comment on the matter, but it will be noted that the sum placed to special reserve is £31,724 less than the exceptional profits. Indeed the aggregate sum saved including the 10 per cent. of nett revenue which the directors are bound to set aside is actually smaller than these special profits, and we have no idea whether extraordinary revenues will be forthcoming for the current year. It may be well to bear in mind that the new shares mentioned above only commenced to rank for dividend from the beginning of 1906, that is to say they were not a charge on the profits of the period under review. Therefore, if the present rate of dividend is to be kept up an extra £40,000 must be distributed on account of the present year and we are disposed to think that this money will take a deal of earning. Most decidedly we should not give £27, the current quotation, for the £10 shares and are much disposed to think that the board does well to put the special £50,000 from last year's profits to a fund for equalising future dividends. We fancy it will be wanted. Now as to the balance-sheet. Capital of the bank is £3,000,000 of which £2,750,000 was paid up at the date of the accounts and the final £250,000 came in on January 15th, while the total reserves, ordinary, extraordinary, and special amount to £1,430,844 including last year's allocations of £79,658. Current and other accounts amount to £1,232,432 or £624,771 more, and the deposits bearing interest have gone up by £746,373 to £2,270,433. Deposits of the mixed tribunals are a trifle larger at £397,838, while the Ministry of Finance had £3,000,000 more in the bank than at the end of the previous year at a total of £3,883,606. It is probably quite true then, as dealers have lately reported, that a good deal of British Government stock has recently gone into the names of the Egyptian authorities. On special account the Ministry had deposited a sum of £83,646 or £36,070 less, but the Soudan Government has a credit of £201,100 against £139,940. Then we get fresh items, administration of railways and telegraphs £69,220 and the Egyptian Army £41,026. Bankers' accounts stand at £156,833 or an increase of £46,810 and cheques and bills payable show a reduction of £60,365 to £279,613. Sundry smaller items and the balance of profit and loss raise the balance-sheet total to £13,084,881 against £7,386,904, an increase of magnitude rarely encountered. Needless to say the movements on the assets' side are of great importance and the great advance of over £3,000,000 to £3,609,343 in the money at call and short notice immediately catches the eye. We wonder where this money is lent, in London or Egypt? In London we should say, and if the cash was recently called in and then set free again on account of the purchases of the Egyptian Government a little of the irregularity in the money market might be explained. Bills of exchange provide another big movement being up £1,564,260 to £1,871,620, and notes and cash show an advance of £1,090,017 to £1,993,678. Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government amount to £1,488,043 against £1,133,085 and sundry securities appear at £197,566 compared with £89,662. Accounts current £233,354 are smaller by £385,182 and accounts current with securities are a little less at £2,275,854. Then we have merchandise guaranteed accounts, presumably advances against produce, of £385,223, a decline of £220,108, and local bills discounted moderately higher at £569,443. In bills receivable there is an increase of £33,769 to £55,803 and bankers' accounts stand at £251,602 against £106,041. The bank has a separate issue

department, the notes issued amounting to £1,700,000 against which £761,280 is held in securities and £938,720 in cash.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA.

The annual report of this fine Eastern bank made up to December 31st last discloses a position of remarkable strength and prosperity, the outcome of able and efficient management backed up by a loyal and hard-working staff. We are very pleased to note that the directors see their way to give their staff a bonus of 10 per cent. on their salaries for the period under review. Gross profits amounted to £489,400 or £54,002 more than in the preceeding year against which the expenses of management and general charges rose £31,563 to £227,373, leaving the nett balance better by £22,439 at £262,033. Credit brought in was up £16,595 to £80,079, making the aggregate for disposal £342,112 against £303,079. An interim dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum has been already paid, and the directors now propose a final dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, making 13 per cent., or 2 per cent. more for the year. Bonus to staff takes £17,000 and £10,000 or £10,000 less goes to the officers' superannuation fund, after which the board increases the allocation to bank premises account by £5,000 to £25,000 and adds £100,000 or £25,000 more to reserve, carrying forward the increased balance of £86,112. Reserve fund is now £975,000 against the paid up capital of £800,000, and no bank, home or foreign, can point to a better looking balance-sheet. There is a decrease of about £100,000 to £538,752 in the note circulation and current accounts are less by £170,421 at £5,076,546, but the fixed deposits of £6,509,145 show an increase of £781,373. Bills payable have gone up £544,076 to £2,845,239. Acceptances on account of customers are much the same at £953,477 and loans against securities are just £13,500 smaller at £692,083. Sundry adjustments and other accounts figure at £446,150 and sundry liabilities at £95,113 against £51,869. On the other side we have a very slight drop in the cash in hand and at bankers at £2,835,720, but bullion is larger by £138,742 at £388,035 and Government and other securities show the splendid advance of £548,724 at £1,744,759. The security lodged against note issues and Government deposits is somewhat larger at £398,879, and whereas bills discounted and loans have increased over £1,000,000 to £6,841,753 bills of exchange have gone down by £259,000 at £5,549,672. Liability of customers for acceptances reflect the item on the other side. Agents and correspondents owe £110,201 against £82,794, sundry assets amount to £55,971, balances between head office and branches, including exchange adjustments, appear at £40,310 and bank premises show an increase of £16,489 at £212,870. The whole adds up to a total of £19,122,248 against £17,549,307, and we have no doubt that the shareholders will readily agree to an increase of £2,000 to £6,000 in the directors' remuneration. The amount was fixed at £4,000 in 1864 and we know that since that date the business of the bank has enormously increased.

MR. ANDREW HAMILTON ON HIS CAREER.

This gentleman, the great law-twisting and law-maker influencing agent of the American life offices, has been continuing to tell his story to a listening public in the Union, but it has not found favour with the present management of the New York Life Insurance Company. On the contrary, the investigating committee of that body has addressed a letter to Mr. Hamilton, in which it denies altogether his assertions with reference to the evidence available for them in passing judgment upon his proceedings. This letter is a straightforward, pungent document, which would be well worth giving in full if we had space for it, or if there were sufficient interest here in the quarrel now in

progress. In substance, the committee asserts that there are no vouchers whatever for an expenditure of about \$1,000,000 made through the agency of Mr. Hamilton, and with the connivance of the late President McCall alone. There was, for instance, a total of \$134,500 remitted at various times from the Paris office, and utilised by Mr. Hamilton in his operations, for which there are no vouchers of any sort. It was just a little tribute paid by French policy-holders on the quiet. "The directions to make those payments to you and your receipts for them were never before any auditing or other committee, and there were no entries on the books here of any kind concerning them." It is the same in other instances, and the committee continues to press for the missing documents. "You say," Mr. Orr, the chairman, goes on to remark, "that the committee should by this time be satisfied that the statements contained in this report of February 7, 1906, are seriously wrong. The report is a plain statement of facts, which is not impeached in any particular by anything you have said, and which is corroborated by the report of the Armstrong Committee." There or thereabouts the matter rests for the present, but Mr. Hamilton goes on his way and makes some self-revealing utterances of a very remarkable kind, one sample of which we shall here make room for and recommend to the perusal of all interested in healthy life insurance business.

When Governor Odell caused the franchise tax to become a law upon our statute books I informed Mr. McCall that it was unconstitutional save so far as it taxed the first year's premiums. I offered to bear the expense of recovering the taxes and having the tax law declared unconstitutional. The New York Life, Equitable, Metropolitan, and Mutual entered into agreements with me whereby I was to receive one-third of all the taxes I recovered. In order that the public might not raise an outcry because the big insurance companies were trying to dodge their taxes, I had some one suggest to Mr. Scott, president of the Provident Life, that it would be a good thing to employ me to collect these back taxes.

I accepted and fought the law in the name of the Provident Life. I purposely let the matter run on for three years, while the taxes were paid, for I knew if I exposed the weakness of the law at once the Legislature would amend it. Finally I won in the Court of Appeals, and got back for the New York Life, Mutual, Equitable and Metropolitan \$1,033,000. Of this I was entitled to one-third—that is, \$344,333. The share of back taxes I recovered for the New York Life was about \$200,000. I have not yet collected all that is due to me from the New York Life, and the Equitable has not paid me, for the reason that Mr. Hyde and Mr. Alexander continually put me off. The Mutual has paid me, and the Metropolitan is all right.

Then I undertook to recover the tax in other States where the retaliatory tax was imposed. I got some of the foreign corporations to give me an agreement similar to that which the big companies had given me, and to-day I have suits pending in Western States for the recovery of these taxes. Several days ago I received notice that \$33,000 of taxes had been refunded by Illinois to the New York Life. Of that amount \$11,000 belongs to me. Now I want it understood that no other lawyer ever recovered a penny of this illegally collected franchise tax, and that I collected for the big four—the Equitable, Metropolitan, Mutual, and New York Life Offices—more than one million dollars.

SEQUEL OF THE GEDULD SCANDAL.

Some weeks ago the directors of the Geduld Proprietary appointed a commission to investigate the origins of what is known as the Geduld scandal. It will be remembered that there were serious discrepancies in the assays of the ore taken from the No. 2 shaft, that the first values were very high, and the second very low. These were published after the interval of some weeks. The original figures caused the prices of the shares to bound upwards, the later ones knocked them down again. They have recovered but partially since, but these discrepancies were not so offensive as the fact that gamblers on the market evidently had an inkling of them before they were published and were able to benefit from this pre-knowledge. That they divined the knowledge by some intuitive process is not possible, and the only common-sense assumption is that the news on each occasion leaked out by personal intermediary where it could be used to advantage. Recognising that investigation into the circumstances was necessary the directors appointed a commission consisting of Messrs. Webber and Wentzel, Mr. J. W. Leonard, K.C., and Mr. Sidney Jennings.

These were to make an inquiry on the spot, but we urged at the time that it was necessary to make thorough investigations on this side also. The directors have now received a cable intimating that the commission has ended its labours and that they have been, we are not astounded to learn, abortive. Evidence has been taken from sundry employes, it seems, and tests have been made by a metallurgical expert, with the result that the inquirers have concluded that all reasonable precautions were taken in the sampling, and they find it difficult to conceive that any tampering or irregularity occurred at the mine, for we interpret the word "here" to mean at the mine. There was tampering somewhere, for they have discovered that five samples represented rock taken from some other locality than shaft No. 2, or that free milling ore was added to the original samples. Yet the other locality must surely have been in the mine? Who were the culprits? "We don't know," say they, blandly enough. All the employees evidently looked as guileless and spoke as innocently as babes, so that the investigations have failed to elicit any information to justify, in the words of the cable, "casting suspicion on any particular individual." So their labours have been in vain, but the gamblers have had a nice time on the market. The directors express their regret at this negative result. They cannot do otherwise, but they promise to press the inquiry further "if an opportunity offers." What is the value of this promise as a solace to the bled ones? And what opportunity do they imagine will offer itself? Have they investigated on the spot here in London?

CUNARD STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

Few things impress us more deeply than the utter senselessness of rate wars. No end of damage may be done to a supposed enemy by the inauguration of a policy of rate cutting, but the business is bound to recoil with disastrous consequences on its instigators. The conflict in the Atlantic trade during 1904 gave the Continental companies which started it a lesson they are not likely to forget, but at the same time it unhappily landed the shareholders of the Cunard Company without a dividend. But in the early part of 1905 the desire for revenge gave place to reason and common sense, and during the year conditions of business assumed a more normal aspect. Freights outwards were fairly well kept up, and within the last few months homeward business was much improved. Passenger business showed no great change; emigration was large, but there was a falling off in third-class traffic eastward. Total revenue from freights, passage money, postages, &c. was £1,773,269, or £284,508 more than in 1904, against which the working expenses were up only £39,986 to £1,216,697, so there was a tidy balance on the right side. Office and agency expenses were up £3,566 to £71,627, and including law expenses, directors' fees, &c., the total out-go was £1,294,118. Repairs and renewals cost £120,166, or £11,753 less, but the insurance charges were larger by £6,206 at £50,802, and the nett profit is returned at £308,182 compared with £61,588 for 1904 and £248,564 for the year before that. With balance brought forward, £7,430, and sundry receipts of £6,599, the total credit is £322,212, from which the directors provide £16,195 for interest, £175,597 for depreciation of ships, and £6,464 against wharf properties, while £2,669 goes to the insurance fund to meet the year's claims and expenses. The directors are then able to add £50,000 to reserve and pay a dividend of 4 per cent., carrying forward £7,285. For the previous year there was no dividend, and £75,000 had to be withdrawn from reserve in order to provide for depreciation. The insurance fund remains at £380,000, and the reserve is built to £150,000. In November last the *Carmania* was received from the builders, and has since been running successfully and regularly in the New York service. This ship is the first turbine steamer employed in the New York trade. The *Caronia* also continues to do good work, the directors tell us, having made two voyages from New York to the

Mediterranean with satisfactory results. Including sundry tenders and barges, the fleet at present in service reaches 182,242 tons, and in addition there are the two huge boats of 33,000 tons each, now being built with Government money, one of the legacies of the Tories. Up to the present the Treasury has paid out £455,917 only, with the result that the company has out bankers' acceptances on account of new ships to the amount of £1,190,000. These, however, have now reached their maximum we are told, and a portion has already been paid off. Payments last year on account of new construction were just over £1,000,000 nett, a pretty huge sum, and after deducting the depreciation allowance, £175,597, the valuation of the fleet is £3,481,657. Wharf properties, engine works, &c., are worth £120,280, and movable plant and machinery, materials, stores and coals are entered at £67,892. Apart from the bankers' acceptances the company owes £244,090 to sundry creditors, but £63,809 has been paid out on account of pending voyages, sundry debtors owe £116,923, investments amount to £26,746, and cash balances reach £188,554. The opening paragraph of the report refers to the great loss which the company has sustained by the death of the late chairman, Lord Inverclyde, in October last, and the regrets of the directors will doubtless be shared by the shareholders, because both as John Burns, and subsequently as Lord Inverclyde, the late chairman did much towards building up and maintaining the great Cunard Company and developing the Atlantic trade.

Passing Events.

There is a business promptitude about this Government of ours which is refreshing to look upon after the lackadaisical past. It ordered Mr. Winston Churchill's last speech to be officially cabled to South Africa, and the tied Press there had perforce to publish it. The effect was instantaneously excellent, so much so that even the *Times* Johannesburg man became at once almost decent. "Why was that speech not made before?" He bleats complainingly. It was often, only neither he nor South Africa knew it. He and it now know that the Liberal Government has no intention of stultifying anything, except oppression. When will we be able to get the truth also from South Africa itself? When shall we have done with sham petitions, pro-Chinese agitators who break up meetings at 15/- per head, and other unseemly products of cosmopolite finance? The Government, unfortunately, cannot cleanse the channels of information both ways. Where is Sir Wm. Butler, and what is he doing?

An interesting experiment in comparative statistics has been made by Mr. Llewellyn Smith, head of the statistical department of the Board of Trade. Taking the year 1900 as a starting point, he has had the values of our imports and exports for succeeding years calculated on the prices of that year. To a small extent estimates have had to be resorted to, especially in dealing with the trade of 1905, the figures for which, as published every month, are less complete than in the "Annual Statement of Trade." But the estimates do not much affect results—only to the extent of about 5 per cent. in imports and 10 per cent. in exports—which are in several ways suggestive. The import trade of 1905, for example, would have had a value greater by £7,154,000 than that actually brought out had prices remained at the 1900 level, and the value of the exports would have been £29,356,000 greater. Does the lower range of values thus demonstrated, and in the case of exports reaching nearly 8·8 per cent., signify that our export trade was last year to this extent less profitable? That is a possible explanation, but the greater probability is that the ability to sell at reduced prices is a natural product of increased consumption and greater economies in manufacture. As yet dogmatism upon the subject would be misplaced, but Mr. Smith promises to continue the comparisons in future years, and as the calculations are repeated they will grow alike more

instructive and less affected by incidental errors or guesses.

We knew from the steady, upward movement in the debentures of the Paraguay Central Railway Company which have received no interest since 1891, that something interesting was afoot, and a message from the Buenos Ayres correspondent of the *Financial Times* lets us partially into the secret. We are still a good deal in the dark as to what is actually going to happen, but there is talk of a capital reorganisation with payment of interest arrears out of certain new issues. The whole thing is very vague at present, and the company's officials profess to know nothing about it, but that means little. We shall doubtless hear something definite presently.

A "Constant Reader of the INVESTORS' REVIEW" writes to support the view that the directors of the International Bank of London ought to be called to book for their handling of that unfortunate company's affairs. He agrees with Mr. Herold, whose letter was published in our last issue, and even goes further, claiming that the board should be compelled, if necessary by law, to refund some of the dividends paid out during the last few years. This claim is based upon the fact that the balance sheets cannot possibly have been in accordance with facts, and the writer goes on to point out that Mr. Alfred S. Marks, one of the advisory committee appointed by the shareholders, said that the bad and doubtful debts of clients of the bank who had suspended payment had been allowed to accumulate for years, and to reach a total beyond that of the reserve fund. Whatever the sources of the loss, the fact remains, that at least the paid-up capital of £300,000, and the whole of the uncalled capital, amounting to £100,000, have been clean lost. It is really a disgrace to City finance that an incident of this kind could happen and pass by, not only without interference by the Law Courts, but almost without comment in the Press or in City business circles. A sort of tacit agreement seems to have been come to that silence should be kept, and the whole unclean transaction be allowed to slip into oblivion with nobody punished, nobody made to refund. The writer winds up by saying that he wishes to be careful not to touch on politics, and would have preferred if Mr. Herold had not let his enthusiasm for Radicalism influence his cool judgment as a financial critic. However, if he has such faith in his heaven-born friends on the Government bench "now is the time to make them act instead of talk, talk, talk."

A meeting of the holders of the first mortgage debentures of the European Petroleum Co., Limited, is summoned for the 20th inst., at 11.20 a.m. at Winchester House, as set forth in the advertisement on the back page of this issue. The purpose of the meeting is—(1) To sanction the issue of £400,000 second mortgage debentures to rank after the £376,000 first debentures already existing—(2) To suspend the sinking fund now applicable to the first debentures up to May 1, 1909, the assignment of £60,096 per annum for this purpose to be operative again from May 1, 1910, onward, and (3) to forbid payment of dividends prior to the year ending May 1, 1911, or afterwards, until the arrears of sinking fund payments have been made good. There are other changes to be enacted in the supplemental Trust Deed which those interested will do well to study, bearing in mind that sacrifices must be made if the company is to be pulled round. This seems to be the view also of the committee appointed to consider the question, as the chairman of that committee recommends the debenture holders to agree to the proposals.

Critical Index To New Investments.

INDUSTRIAL CREDIT CO., LIMITED.

Registered in December last to amalgamate the Industrial Bank, Limited, and the Trust Co., Limited, two promoting concerns about which little or no information is to be obtained from the usual reference books, this company appears to be a wild cat of the most aggressive type. Its capital is £150,000, divided into 75,000 £1 ordinary shares and 75,000 cumulative and participating

shares entitled to 6 per cent. per annum and one-third of any surplus profits distributed, of which 10,000 preference shares have been issued to holders of the income bonds of the Industrial Bank, and 40,000 ordinary shares, 15s. paid, have been allotted to shareholders of the two derelicts. The assets of the bank, including £25,218 for goodwill, were valued at £46,960, and were paid for by the issue of 25,000 ordinary shares and the assumption of liabilities amounting to £25,855, while the Trust Company's assets, with £11,195 for goodwill, came to £15,482 and were purchased for 18,000 ordinary shares and the payment of liabilities of £1,433. Proposals for dealing with several undertakings promising substantial profits on flotation are being considered, and subscriptions are invited for 50,000 preference shares to provide the necessary working capital. Of these shares 15,000 have been underwritten by the Surety Syndicate on terms which can only be described as scandalous, as in return for its guarantee and the payment of the preliminary expenses, that syndicate is to receive for a period of thirty years a share of the profits, after providing for the cumulative preference dividend and a reserve of not more than 10 per cent. of the annual profits, which commences at 30 per cent. and drops by 1 per cent. per annum to a minimum of 20 per cent.

Notes on Books.

British Imperialism and Commercial Supremacy. By M. Victor Bérard, Secretary of the "Revue de Paris." Author of "The Russian Empire and Czarism," etc. Translated by H. W. Foskett, M.A. (Longmans.) 7s. 6d. nett.

It is good to see ourselves as other see us, especially good when the other is a foreigner whose prejudices are not British prejudices, who approaches us from a different point of view from our own. M. Bérard is the author of a most important and illuminating work upon Russia, and this new work exhibits the same intimate knowledge of the history and development of our own country as his former work does of Russia. It is impossible to do anything like justice to such a work in the limits of a short notice. We can, therefore, only touch on the first part—Imperialism—which M. Bérard identifies with Chamberlainism. M. Bérard, in a preface, avows that his intention is to fight with all his might against *le radicalisme brummagem*, builder of empires and destroyer of peoples. The idea that an empire after the fashion of Germany can give England her old commercial monopoly appears to him "pure childishness." Imperialism, and Joseph Chamberlain, the Apostle of Imperialism; the Imperialism of Birmingham, which has wrought so astounding a change in the sentiments of Englishmen; the latest development of the great Midland capital, which gave us electoral reform, as Manchester gave us Free Trade—this sort of imperialism "is a positive menace to the entire world." It means an Empire "comparable to that of the Romans." Its first exponent was Sir Charles Dilke, with his "Greater Britain"—an idea received at first with "much shrugging of shoulders." Our first thought then was of the Weary Titan. But then the Lords—and Lord Rosebery—joined the Imperial Federation League. Froude and Seeley wrote of the Expansion of England, and set forth her mission to "dominate the universe, and so make this den of suffering and crime the promised land of happiness and virtue." Then Kipling began to sing us the Hymn of Empire; in words which "make every ear tingle and illumine every brain, he tickles the pride of force, the vanity of riches, the fanaticism of the national mission, and the conviction of Anglo-Saxon superiority, and stirs up the hatred or contempt of other races." Lastly, "the other Manager of Imperialism," Joseph Chamberlain, made empire a practical affair, a paying concern. His imperialism is radical—that is, "before aught else, utilitarian. Jingoism was a tory plant—at first, only the "overbearing expression of John Bull's wrath." Imperialism is Radical. "War with profit" has followed "Peace with Honour." Mr. Morley taught Chamberlain that race policy by itself has never

given any definite result. "The true source of force is invariably self-interest." Imperialism must therefore be wedded to profit if it is to do anything; it must be "stiffened with self-interest." So Mr. Chamberlain taught us that Trade follows the Flag.

M. Bérard has made a careful study of the statements as to the decline of trade which were laid before the Commission of 1885. From 1750 to 1880, Birmingham had "inundated the entire world with tools, machines, arms, screws, nails, waggons, toys, buttons, pins, and feathers, not to mention jewellery, saddlery, and furniture." She believed her reign eternal. But by 1885 the note was changed. The delegates from Birmingham told the Commission, "We are being ruined." They no longer have the monopoly. They complain alike of English and foreign competition, of Cardiff and Middlesbrough, as well as of Belgium and America. They seem to have expected the world to stand idle, that Birmingham alone might sell screws for ever. The cost of transport appears as a sort of last straw. Messrs. Nettlefold talk of moving down to the sea! Messrs. Elliott think they might still struggle on if they moved to Cardiff, and so saved transport. Cheap (and nasty) foreign goods have ousted British from the market. Asked to suggest a remedy, these delegates from Birmingham replied "Commercial union with our Colonies—the monopoly of our markets for their raw articles, the monopoly of their markets for our manufactures." That is—we are to buy raw material only of the Colonies, the Colonies are to buy manufactured articles only of us. This is the system which lost us America. In those days we insisted on our North American Colonies manufacturing nothing for themselves—not a nail, not a spade, not a plough. We even forbade their trading among themselves—all must come from England, or if it could not come from England, because we had not got it, then it must be landed in England, pay duty, and so go on to the Colonies. De we really believe the Colonies will consent to restrict their freedom of purchase?

The delegates accuse Germany of forging our trademarks, and placing them on their own inferior goods, whereby the good name of England has suffered. And having succeeded in disgusting the world with English manufactures, the Germans straightway began to offer articles of good quality with their own marks upon them.

In the midst of these accusations, however, we come on one or two curious remarks. "Germans have the great advantage over us of technical education. Besides which, they are sober and travel the world over." This admission appears in the same depositions by the same persons as the accusations, and they must throw considerable doubt on the true causes of English trade-decline. The fact that a man without technical education is competing with a man who has this "great advantage" is quite enough to account for everything, without the diabolical stratagem to damage our reputation.

When we come to later statements of British Consuls, we find more. They, indeed, lament as loudly as Birmingham itself the falling off of trade. But what do they say? The Consul at Cherbourg, in 1897, has asked the Director of the grand bazaar why he does not buy English goods, and the Director has shown the Consul "articles of wood and earthenware made in Germany, according to model given by himself, and of a size suitable to the taste of the population, with views of Cherbourg and scenes from Norman history." The Consul of Bilbao, in the same year, says: "Up to 1892 we had the monopoly of this place. Our products still come here, but . . . German wares are generally preferred. They are cheaper; they are, above all, more suitable to local needs; commercial agents come from Germany to make inquiry on the spot." The Birmingham delegates said in 1885 that bad Belgian glass had supplanted "our crystal." The Consul of Bilbao says, in 1897: "Belgian glass is considerably cheaper, and even the inferior qualities are

better and much whiter." "In Peru," says the Consul of Callao, "English trade in other articles is still prosperous. But as for implements, we are rapidly losing our once dominant position. American implements, on account of their finish and cheapness, are held in higher esteem than ours to-day . . . it seems as though the English manufacturer cannot or will not supply the model asked for. English locks, too heavy and too dear, and of an obsolete type, have been replaced by the German, American, or French locks. American mowing and reaping machines are preferred on account of their light weight and cheapness." In Australia, surgical instruments made in America "have the reputation of being better finished." In hardware and toys, "the Americans have earned a reputation for skilful and conscientious work." Germans have to copy their models. "Your saws," writes a customer from the Bahamas, "are too dear and too old. You only send me models quite useless in this market. Indifferently tied up in grey paper, your articles get rusty on the voyage, and make a very poor show in my window. Your American competitors send me their locks in neat cardboard boxes, which tempt the customers, and spare me much trouble and loss." "I return your lamps," says a man in Trinidad. "American lamps are more handy, less heavy, more novel in shape than yours." Ceylon complains of our conservatism! Hong Kong says the English manufacturer "does not know how to adapt himself to the needs of the country, he clings to old styles, old colours, old weights, old shapes and styles. English pianos have the style and tone of 40 years ago. . . . English articles, eternally the same, with no change for 40 years, have wearied the public."

We might go on for pages, but space forbids, and it only remains to say a cordial final word in praise of this brilliant book. It is fascinating reading throughout, the work of a man of acute observing powers and wide and accurate information. The charm of style characteristic of the original has been unusually little blurred in the translation, which, a few Gallic turns of phrase excepted, appears to us a full and lucid rendering in idiomatic English.

Manual of Japanese Securities. A useful hand-book for investors and others interested in Japanese Government, municipal loans, &c. Compiled by Dunn, Fischer, and Co. (London: 85, London Wall, E.C.)

This little manual contains a mass of useful information, in a convenient and handy form, relating to Japan's foreign trade, national debt, internal and external loans, &c., together with short articles on the natural resources of the country, banking, shipbuilding, and railways, the latter being opportune in view of the recent passing of the Railway Nationalisation Bill by the Japanese Diet. The compilers state that wherever possible only official statistics have been used.

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN BANK.—The statement for March shows current accounts and deposits of £13,501,616, other liabilities £371,887, and acceptances and endorsements £4,023, against assets consisting of cash in hand and at Bank of England £1,894,945, money at call and short notice £858,660, British Government and other securities £3,957,013, and bills discounted, loans, &c., £9,162,885.

LLOYDS BANK.—The balance-sheet for March shows liabilities consisting of current and deposit accounts £61,775,916, and bills accepted or endorsed £2,225,065, and assets of cash in hand and at Bank of England £9,531,651, cash at call and short notice £4,623,749, bills of exchange £6,280,726, Consols and other investments £12,540,532, and advances to customers and other securities £33,844,292.

LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK.—Liabilities on March 31 consisted of current accounts and deposits £24,570,691, acceptances and endorsements, £1,196,366, and other liabilities £652,993, against which there were cash in hand and at Bank of England £3,136,749, money at call and short notice £6,544,200, Imperial Government securities £3,885,000, bills discounted, loans, &c., £14,558,387, and other securities £1,299,346.

LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK.—Current and deposit accounts on March 27 amounted to £17,368,612 and acceptances to £1,287,441, against which there were Government stock and other investments £3,507,453, cash in hand and at Bank of England £2,512,593, money at call and short notice £5,155,625, and bills discounted, advances and other securities £8,680,797.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for ten days ended April 7, \$2,892, decrease \$243.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 9, \$17,265, increase \$159; aggregate from January 1, \$170,269, decrease \$1,595.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 10, Rs. 69,256, decrease Rs. 8,091; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 6,90,837, increase Rs. 51,141.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 31, \$162,300, increase \$62,500; total from July 1, \$3,796,100, increase \$945,500.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 10, Rs. 28,249, increase Rs. 1,841.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 25, £384, decrease £38.

Midland Uruguay.—Receipts for March, £4,255, decrease £291.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 4th week of March, \$26,169, increase \$928; aggregate from January 1, \$199,026, increase \$38,585.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 10, Rs. 15,263, increase Rs. 7,159.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended March 31 amounted to \$14,825.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts or week ending March 31, £1,271, increase £14; aggregate from January 1, £15,844, increase £198.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending March 31, £726, increase £47; aggregate from January 1, £9,195, increase £653.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for January, £4,263, decrease £267.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending March 31, £452, increase £84; aggregate from January 1, £5,959, increase £470.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 6, £1,472, increase £225; aggregate from January 1, £18,970, increase £2,959.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 8, £8; decrease £1; aggregate from January 1, £95, decrease £3.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 6, £4,957, increase £361; aggregate from January 1, £65,458, increase £2,613.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending March 30, £26,190, increase £1,840; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £344,242, increase £52,769; 435½ miles, against 418½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 7, £1,283, increase £156; aggregate from January 1, £15,214, increase £1,209.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 8, £106, decrease £25; aggregate from January 1, £1,322, decrease £40.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 6, £97, decrease £7; aggregate from January 1, £1,247, decrease £90.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 6, £4,592, decrease £26; aggregate from January 1, £62,180, increase £1,333.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 7, £4,895, increase £269; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £63,950, increase £2,316.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 23, £207, decrease £57; aggregate from January 1, £2,312, decrease £365.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 5, £421.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 7, £298, decrease £13; aggregate from October 1, £6,943, decrease £660.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 24, £13,745, decrease £167; aggregate from April 1, £746,625, increase £96,412. Miles 51 against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 31, £19,825, decrease £4,136; aggregate from January 1, £265,834, decrease £16,669.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 7, £8,441, increase £789; aggregate from January 1, £100,018, decrease £1,445.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 31, £177, decrease £20; aggregate from January 1, £2,425, increase £107.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 8, £760, increase £128; aggregate from January 1, £10,150, increase £2,416.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 8, £15,381, increase £1,519; aggregate from January 1, £208,961, increase £21,654.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903 Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of January, 1906, £11,016, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to February 28, \$781,825, increase \$164,838. Nett earnings from July 1 to February 28, \$353,410, increase \$100,695.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending April 1, £3,597, increase £328; aggregate from January 1, £45,953, increase £4,004.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 3, £1,544, increase £425; aggregate from January 1, £12,788, increase £3,103.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of March, £320,200.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 7, Rs. 45,142, increase Rs. 4,768; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 6,28,928, increase Rs. 61,094.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of March, £4,997, increase £2,050. Total from January 1, £14,261, increase £5,719.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of November, \$417,218, increase \$63,017; aggregate from January 1, \$4,320,887, increase \$390,457. Nett traffic receipts, \$226,858, increase \$35,361; aggregate from January 1, \$2,359,439, increase \$272,120.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			No. of Weeks.	Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.			Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	
Baker St. and Waterloo ..	Apr. 7	£ 1,429	—	4	£ 6,328	—		
Brecon and Merthyr ..	" 8	1,900	+ 193	14	28,897	+ 1,887		
Cambrian	" 8	5,413	+ 50	14	69,149	— 845		
Central London	" 7	6,735	— 423	14	97,281	— 3,084		
City and South London ..	" 8	2,678	— 126	14	41,617	+ 436		
Furness	" 8	10,036	+ 1,153	14	134,216	+ 17,018		
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 1	72,009	+ 3,682	13	902,816	+ 37,196		
Great Eastern	" 8	98,900	+ 4,600	14	1,497,900	+ 21,100		
Great Northern and City ..	" 7	1,813	+ 97	14	25,503	+ 937		
Great Northern	Mar. 31	112,600	+ 6,095	13	1,369,000	+ 30,333		
Great Western	Apr. 1	215,400	+ 2,100	13	2,735,900	+ 17,300		
Hull and Barnsley	" 8	9,929	+ 1,882	14	131,183	+ 5,588		
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 8	104,777	+ 3,795	14	1,394,817	+ 33,226		
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 7	56,311	+ 1,557	14	740,807	+ 2,783		
London & North Western ..	" 1	294,000	+ 18,000	13	3,394,000	+ 114,000		
London & South Western ..	" 8	83,700	+ 800	13	1,104,700	+ 3,300		
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 8	8,217	+ 148	13	111,049	+ 4,314		
Metropolitan	" 8	15,742	— 1,591	14	233,992	— 4,542		
Metropolitan District ..	" 8	7,806	+ 572	14	113,156	+ 6,326		
Midland	Mar. 31	223,511	+ 15,158	13	2,814,139	+ 83,281		
North Eastern	Apr. 7	188,880	+ 16,969	14	2,380,252	+ 122,566		
North London	" 1	8,680	— 234	13	117,390	— 2,554		
North Staffordshire	" 8	19,067	+ 1,504	14	246,851	+ 9,433		
Rhymney	" 1	6,022	— 398	13	79,343	+ 2,610		
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 7	97,954	+ 4,422	14	1,071,359	— 914		
Taff Vale	" 8	19,261	— 201	14	272,912	+ 11,48		

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Apr. 1	88,632	+ 3,523	11	728,391	+ 12,650		
Glasgow & South-Western	Mar. 31	32,278	+ 557	10	278,189	+ 6,156		
Great North of Scotland ..	Apr. 7	9,190	+ 210	10	82,235	— 426		
Highland	" 8	9,233	+ 552	10	80,341	— 424		
North British	" 1	89,226	+ 3,944	9	769,774	+ 15,142		

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Apr. 6	2,246	— 154	8	31,309	— 879		
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 11	1,825	+ 72	8	20,348	+ 149		
Great Northern	" 6	17,303	+ 518	14	225,567	+ 1,521		
Midland Great Western ..	Mar. 30	11,792	— 857	8	121,464	— 8,263		

§ From January 1.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, April 6.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, April 6.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
SOUTH AFRICAN.							
4 1/2	Angelo	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	May Consolidated.....	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Anglo-French Ex.....	1 1/2	2 1/2	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
4 1/2	Apex	4 1/2	4 1/2	7 1/2	Modderfontein	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Aurora West	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. B.	1 1/2	1 1/2	
3 1/2	Bantjes	3 1/2	3 1/2	New Goch	1 1/2	1 1/2	
1 1/2	Block B.	1 1/2	2 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2	
4 1/2	City and Suburban, £4 ..	4 1/2	4 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2	
2 1/2	Comet (New)	2 1/2	1 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	
4 1/2	Cons. Goldfields	4 1/2	4 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2	
1 1/2	Do. Pref. 21/6	2 1/2	1 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	
12 1/2	Crown Reef	12 1/2	6 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	6 1/2	6 1/2	
2 1/2	Driefontein	2 1/2	1 1/2	Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	
3 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	3 1/2	8 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4	8 1/2	8 1/2	
5 1/2	East Rand	5 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	
1 1/2	East Rand Extension	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rodepoort United	1 1/2	1 1/2	
18 1/2	Ferreira	18 1/2	1 1/2	Salisbury	1 1/2	1 1/2	
1 1/2	French Rand	1 1/2	7 1/2	Sheba (New)	7 1/2	7 1/2	
3 1/2	Geduld	3 1/2	3 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1 ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	
3 1/2	Geldenhuis Estate	3 1/2	4 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	3 1/2	3 1/2	
1 1/2	Ginsburg	1 1/2	1 1/2	Steyn Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2	
1 1/2	Glencarm	1 1/2	14 1/2	Transvaal Development	14 1/2	14 1/2	
7 1/2	Harmony Proprietary	7 1/2	14 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates	1 1/2	1 1/2	
11 1/2	Henderson's Transvaal ..	11 1/2	1 1/2	Treasury	1 1/2	1 1/2	
3 1/2	Heriot	3 1/2	2 1/2	Van Ryn	2 1/2	2 1/2	
1 1/2	Johannesburg Con. In. ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2	
2 1/2	Jubilee	2 1/2	2 1/2	Vogelstruis	1 1/2	1 1/2	
1 1/2	Jumpers	1 1/2	3 1/2	Weigedacht	3 1/2	4 1/2	
1 1/2	Kleinfontein	1 1/2	5 1/2	Wemmer	5 1/2	5 1/2	
3 1/2	Knight's	3 1/2	3 1/2	West Rand Consols	1 1/2	1 1/2	
2 1/2	Lancaster	2 1/2	3 1/2	Wolthout, £4	3 1/2	3 1/2	
2 1/2	Langlaagte Estate.....	2 1/2	2 1/2	Worcester	1 1/2	1 1/2	

DEEP LEVELS.					
Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
Bonanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
Cinderella Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2	Robinson Deep (new) ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
Crown Deep	12 1/2	12 1/2	Rodepoort Cn. Deep ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	South Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
Geldenhuis Deep	6 1/2	6 1/2	Village Main Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2
Knight's Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2			

RHODESIANS.					
Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2
Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rhodesia Exploration ..	2 1/2	2 1/2
Charter Trust and	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2
Agency	13 1/2	13 1/2	Selukwe	5 1/2	5 1/2
Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	Tanganyika	4 1/2	4 1/2
Lomagunda Develop-	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wankie Coal	1 1/2	1 1/2
ment	1 1/2	1 1/2	Willoughby	11 1/2	11 1/2
Mashonaland Agency ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2
Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 1/2			

DIAMONDS.					
De Beers Deferred	18 1/2	18 1/2	Koffyfontein	3 1/2	3 1/2
Do. Preferred	17 1/2	17 1/2	Lace Diamond	2 1/2	2 1/2
Eland's Drift Diamond ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	Orange Free State	1 1/2	1 1/2
Frank Smith Diamond ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	Diamond	14 1/2	14 1/2
Jagersfontein Deferred	8 1/2	8 1/2	Premier Diamond Def.	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do. Preferred	4 1/2	4 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	8 1/2	8 1/2
Kamlersdam	1 1/2	1 1/2			

WEST AFRICAN.					
Abbotiakoon	17 1/2	17 1/2	Gold Coast Agency, new	8 1/2	8 1/2
Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	2 1/2	2 1/2
Ankobra	1 1/2	1 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau)	5 1/2	5 1/2
Ashanti Consols, 2/- paid	3 1/2	3 1/2	Deep	5 1/2	5 1/2
Do. Goldfields	12 1/2	12 1/2	Hibma Concessions	13 1/2	13 1/2
Sansu	6 1/2	6 1/2	Hibbuss Syndicate	1 1/2	1 1/2
Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	Prestea	7 1/2	7 1/2
British Gold Coast	1 1/2	1 1/2	Seckondi and Tarkwa ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
Bromessie	2 1/2	2 1/2	Taquaah and Abosso ..	2 1/2	2 1/2
Effuente (Wassau)	5 1/2	5 1/2	Wassau	1 1/2	1 1/2
Fanti Consolidated	14 1/2	14 1/2	W. A. Gold Trust	1 1/2	1 1/2

AUSTRALIAN.					
Anglo-Aus. Exploration ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ida H.	6 1/2	6 1/2
Associated	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ivanhoe Gold Corp. ..	6 1/2	6 1/2
Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	Kalgurli	8 1/2	8 1/2
Bellevue Proprietary	3 1/2	3 1/2	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 1/2
Boulder Deep Levels ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	Lancefield	1 1/2	1 1/2
Brownhill Extended	8 1/2	8 1/2	London & W.A. Explor-	12 1/2	12 1/2
Chaffers	1 1/2	1 1/2	ation	12 1/2	12 1/2
Cosmopol'n Prop'ry	6 1/2	6 1/2	Mount Boppy	3 1/2	3 1/2
Golden Horseshoe, New	1 1/2	1 1/2	North Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
Shares	5 1/2	5 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	2 1/2	2 1/2
Golden Links	3 1/2	3 1/2	Peak Hill	1 1/2	1 1/2
Golden Pole	1 1/2	1 1/2	South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
Great Boulder, 2/-	23 1/2	23 1/2	Sons of Gwalia	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do. Perseverance	10 1/2	10 1/2	W'str lia Mt Morgans ..	2 1/2	2 1/2
Great Fingall	5 1/2	5 1/2			
Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2			
Hampton Plains	1 1/2	1 1/2			
Hannan's Star	1 1/2	1 1/2			

MISCELLANEOUS.					
Anaconda, 25 dols.	14 1/2	14 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	2 1/2	2 1/2
Balaghat, full paid	32 1/2	32 1/2	Mount Lyell	47 1/2	47 1/2
Brilliant and St. George	9 1/2	9 1/2	M't. Morgan	3 1/2	3 1/2
Broken Hill, Prop.	3 1/2	3 1/2	Mysore, 10s.	6 1/2	6 1/2
Camp Bird	24 1/2	24 1/2	Mysore Goldfields, 15/6	3 1/2	3 1/2
Cape Copper, £2	5 1/2	5 1/2	Do. West, 10/-	10 1/2	10 1/2
Champion Reef, 2/6	23 1/2	23 1/2	Do. Wynad, 19/-	10 1/2	10 1/2
Con. Gold N.Z.	14 1/2	14 1/2	Namaqua, £2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Cosmopol'n	1 1/2	1 1/2	Nile Valley	6 1/2	6 1/2
Esperanza	4 1/2	4 1/2	N'dydroog, 10/- shares	27 1/2	27 1/2
Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oregeum	17 1/2	17 1/2
Frontino and Bolivia ..	9 1/2	9 1/2	Do. Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	67 1/2	67 1/2
Do. (No. 2)	2 1/2	2 1/2	St. John del Rey	9 1/2	9 1/2
Libiola, £5	2 1/2	2 1/2	Tharsis	5 1/2	5 1/2
Linares £3	4 1/2	4 1/2	Waihi	7 1/2	7 1/2
			Ymir	1 1/2	1 1/2

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.
	Week ending Amount. In. or Dec. on 1905.	Amount. In. or Dec. on 1905.
Alcoy and Gandia	April 7 Ps. £ 10,000 — £ 5,500 **	Ps. £ 231,400 + £ 8,400
Antofagasta (Chili) and		
Bolivia	Feb.* \$64,241 + \$5,013 **	\$153,108 + \$35,072
Argentine Gt. Western	April 6 16,380 + 2,090	519,022 + 82,041
Algeiras (Gibraltar) ..	Mar. 31 Ps. 25,588 — P. 4,578 **	P1,227,212 — P107,287
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	April 7 40,325 + 4,229	1,195,254 + 299,249
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o		
and Cen. Argentine	" 7 91,795 + 18,495 **	1,223,794 + 154,392
Buenos Ayres G. Sthn.	" 8 81,867 + 2,396	2,956,770 + 457,475
Do. Western	" 8 41,674 + 3,934	1,307,941 + 165,799
Do. Ensenada	" 8 256 — 29	13,827 + 330
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	" 7 8,770 — 119	334,683 + 10,616
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 7 3,058 + 301	81,748 + 1,022
Do. Northern Ex.	" 7 1,459 + 125	46,867 — 5,722
Do. Western Ex.	" 7 1,368 + 457	48,271 + 6,161
Cordoba Central	" 1 4,540 + 2,120 **	41,340 + 7,950
Do. Northern Ex.	" 1 8,645 + 3,800	36,015 + 20,970
Do. N. W. Argntn. Ex.	" 1 2,180 + 1,305 **	21,520 + 7,245
Cordoba and Rosario ..	" 1 4,975 + 1,020	170,110 — 2,490
Costa Rica	Mar. 10 6,362 — 1,482	169,747 + 12,839
Cuban Central	" 31 14,912 + 3,373	270,386 + 19,270
Gt. West. of Brazil	April 7 9,521 + 1,131	159,388 + 33,451
Entre Rios	" 7 4,844 — 236	152,322 + 11,713
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico	" 7 \$114,100 — \$114,000	\$4,601,890 + \$42,740
Leopoldina	" 7 15,947 + 4,022	179,956 — 17,736
Mexican	Feb.* \$546,000 + \$20,700 1*	\$1,138,500 + \$95,700
Mexican	April 7 \$124,000 + \$25,500 **	\$1,854,800 + \$148,300
Do. Southern	" 7 \$28,608 + \$758	\$343,309 + \$15,028
Do. Central	Feb.* \$2,229,926 + \$181,788 8*	\$181,854 + \$14,073
Do. Do.	" 1 \$635,795 — \$8,666 5*	\$5,328,789 + \$221,747
Manila	April 7 \$45,430 + \$815	\$506,806 + \$4,109
Nitrate	Mar. 31 24,977 + 2,598	143,012 + 6,736
Ottoman	April 7 3,906 — 1,330	60,284 — 7,307
Peruvian Corporation ..	Mar. 7 \$739,475 + \$270,775 8*	\$5,846,350 + \$931,850
San Paulo	April 1 22,488 + 1,497	271,653 + 5,969
Salvador	" 7 \$28,400 + \$12,000	384,756 + 100,856
United of Havana	" 7 28,021 + 14,735	567,264 + 156,332
Villa Maria & Rufino	" 7 1,455 + 754	19,173 + 1,296
Western of Havana	" 7 4,134 + 754	166,040 + 4,222

* Month ended. † Fortnight ended. § Nett. § From July 1, 1905.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.
	Week ending Amount. In. or Dec. on 1905.	Amount. In. or Dec. on 1905.
Bengal Nagpur	Mar. 17 Rs. 5,50,671 — R. 4,966	R. 62,56,479 + R. 9,06,329
Bengal & N.-W.	" 17 Rs. 2,48,330 — R. 32,502	R. 26,81,423 + R. 1,02,688
Bombay & Baroda	" 31 Rs. 3,64,000 — R. 48,000	R. 50,88,000 + R. 91,000
Do. State Lines	" 31 Rs. 4,96,000 — R. 2,000	R. 73,19,000 — R. 21,000
Burma	" 10 Rs. 3,79,607 + R. 817	R. 1,06,30,008 — R. 4,635
Delhi Umballa	April 7 Rs. 43,000 — R. 1,349	R. 5,00,932 — R. 14,465
East Indian	" 7 Rs. 16,32,000 + R. 1,81,000	R. 22,28,190 + R. 12,46,000
Gt. Indian Penin.	Mar. 31 Rs. 12,95,400 — R. 39,186	R. 1,86,24,001 + R. 3,51,224
Indian Midland	" 31 Rs. 1,86,200 + R. 21,767	R. 30,32,209 + R. 4,37,337
Madras	" 31 £26,492 + £1,676	£323,217 + £22,447
South Indian	" 3 Rs. 2,42,292 + Rs. 7,268	R. 20,95,541 + R. 9,937
South Behar	" 17 Rs. 10,931 + Rs. 323	R. 119,331 + R. 5,360
S'hrm. Mahratra	" 17 Rs. 2,49,037 + Rs. 31,879	R. 27,01,262 + R. 4,91,541
Southern Punjab	" 31 Rs. 59,500 + Rs. 7,110	R. 7,92,320 — R. 6,236

* Thirteen days. † From July 1, 1905. § From Jan. 1, 1906.

UNITED STATES AND CANADIAN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.
	Period ending Amount. In. or Dec. on 1905.	Amount. In. or Dec. on 1905.
Canada Pacific	April 7 dols. 1,305,000 + 310,000	dols. 46,385,000 + 7,796,000
Canada Atlantic	" 7 6,605 + 250	80,901 + 7,284
Chicago Gt. Western	Mar.* 267,402 + 34,381	6,705,366 + 925,472
Denver & Rio Grande	April 7 352,200 + 47,600	14,670,400 + 1,877,400
Gr. Trk., Main Line	" 7 £119,274 + £13,038	£1,450,708 + £157,405
Gr. Trk., Western	" 7 £19,302 — £5,320	£286,425 — £6,536
Do. Det., G. H. & Mil.	" 7 £5,625 + £82	£87,551 + £9,339
Louisville & Nashv'l.	Mar.* 1,258,000 + 96,000	31,918,000 + 2,484,000
Miss. K. & Texas	" 31 592,235 — 13,534	16,311,285 + 907,555
Southern	" 31 1,554,000 + 62,000	40,249,000 + 3,636,000
Wabash	April 7 424,000 + 25,000	19,199,000 — 305,000

* For ten days. § From July 1, 1905. † From January 1, 1906.

MONTHLY STATEMENTS.

NAME.	NET EARNINGS FOR MONTH.	NET EARNINGS TO DATE.
	Month. Amount. In. or Dec. on 1904-5.	No. of Months. Amount. In. or Dec. on 1904-5.
Atchison	Feb. dols. 2,573,000 + 1,466,000	8 19,827,000 + 4,512,000
Canada Atlantic	" £2,000 + £1,000	2 £2,900 + £100
Canadian Pacific	" 1,206,000 + 904,000	8 14,661,000 + 4,791,000
Chic., Mil., & S. Paul	Jan. 1,331,000 + 226,000	

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£2% PER ANNUM—£100 PER £1,000 ASSURED

to policies which have already participated; and 22% for each year excluding first that they have been in force, if they participate for first time.

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The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE $3\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT. (Reduced from 4 per cent.
on April 5.)

Norfolk House, Wednesday Evening.

We have only three days' business on the Money Market to deal with this week, being compelled to go to press early on account of the Easter holidays. It is a pity that the story has to break so soon, for the market is growing full of interest. Superficially it is easy, short credits being abundant at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for seven days, and 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for twenty-four hour loans. These, indeed, are rather the higher quotations current to-day owing to the extra demand induced by the Stock Exchange settlement payments. Yesterday it was possible to borrow for seven days at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and call money sank to $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 per cent. There seems no immediate probability that this abundance will be materially lessened, and as at the same time discount rates are firm at 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on three months remitted bills, the brokers would be in clover were it not for fears about the immediate future. The market's position is for the time being a much more favourable one to the bill-discounter than anything he experienced in the first three months of the year. Unhappily the ease in short loan rates gives no assurance of continued calmness in the credit market as a whole. The market is dominated by the demand for gold, and with the French cheque at 25.11 $\frac{1}{2}$, and the New York rate down to a figure which permits bankers there to go to the Bank of England for eagles, the credit jobber does not know when he may find floating balances in short supply.

It is, therefore, fear which keeps up the discount rate. Were it let down, possibly enough gold would be withdrawn in millions for Paris as well as for New York; and if much gold does go to New York, as things are, then the Bank of England will have to put up its rate again. The one saving characteristic of the present universal credit overstrain is the abundance of gold coming from the mines. Were it not that upwards of £1,000,000 a week in the yellow metal is being produced by the mines of the world, and that the greater part of it finds its way, sooner or later, to our free bullion market, we should be almost certain that the current year could not pass away without bringing upon all credit markets a searching crisis, and on London a panic. As it is the supply of gold, though staying off the worst, is not sufficient to meet the urgent demands of credit distenders. New York has lately been so pinched in consequence of its excesses that it has been compelled to create credit and to discount accommodation bills on our market, wherever it could in Europe, in a most reckless fashion, so as to be able to buy gold with which to prop up its enormously over-committed banks and finance trusts.

We have had something approaching a small flurry in our money market to-day because of a first manifestation of this urgent demand for gold on New York account. There was none to be had in the open market, all the small supply of the week having been disposed of on Monday, when the United States buyers got about £250,000. One New York bank accordingly went to the Bank of England this morning and bought £452,000 of United States gold coin. As there have been withdrawals from the Bank on previous days since the last weekly return was made up, this means a nett efflux of £239,000 for the week ending this evening, and it is declared that New York wants immediately from £1,000,000 to £1,500,000 more. It will certainly take all the £500,000 or so in raw gold due into our market next week, for the price of bars has risen to-day $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 78/- per ounce. The actual or "live" price for American eagles is 76/8 per ounce.

No wonder if in these circumstances our discount market is a little nervous and disposed to put rates up. It took three months remitted bills readily this morning at 3 per cent., but when the rumours of gold exports got about the brokers shied off and asked $3\frac{1}{8}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. If more gold goes we shall see the rate at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and people beginning again to talk of a rise in the Bank rate. No help can come to us from any quarter at present except the mines. France and Germany want all the gold they can command to sustain their own finance operations, and Russia dare not part with much more of her diminished stock under penalty of a disastrous fall in the value of the paper rouble. It is going to be a most interesting time.

SILVER.

The announcement last Saturday of a French tender for £80,000 of the metal had the effect of steadying the market, but the actual movement in price was confined to a rise of $\frac{1}{8}$ d. to 29 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per ounce for forward delivery. Business this week, however, has been very insignificant and quotations sagged back to 29 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per ounce for spot and 29 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per ounce for future shipment before buyers were tempted in, but to-day there was a decided rally with an inquiry from both the Indian Government and the bazaars and, the closing figures are again up to last Friday's level. Application for Rs.30.00.000 Indian Council bills offered to-day amounted to Rs.2,20,60,000 in bills and Rs.60,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. The amounts allotted were Rs.23,92,000 in bills and Rs.6,08,000 in transfers, tenders at $1/3\frac{1}{2}$ and $1/4$ per rupee respectively receiving about 13 per cent. Next Wednesday Rs.30,00,000 will be offered.

UNION OF LONDON AND SMITHS BANK.—Deposits and current accounts on March 31 came to £33,880,507, acceptances and liabilities by endorsement to £4,398,860, and other liabilities to £515,300, while assets consisted of cash in hand and at Bank of England £5,297,152, money at call and short notice £5,885,150, investments including reserve fund £6,287,646, and discounts, loans and other advances £20,274,383.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 0
1,800,000	6 months	June 1	3 2 6
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
11,200,000			
1,000,000	6 months	June 29	2 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 12	2 10 8
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 26	2 13 8
1,500,000	6 months	Sept. 16	2 11 5
1,000,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 10 0
14,913,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Saturday Australia .. £11,000	Wednesday, United States
Monday, " .. 275,000	Gold Coin Sold .. £452,000
Net Efflux .. 166,000	
Total .. £452,000	Total .. £452,000

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	April 7, 1906	Mar. 31, 1906.	Mar. 24, 1906	April 8, 1905.
Gold	£15,093,309	£15,084,420	£5,078,190	£14,834,944
Silver	23,798,126	23,959,725	23,849,006	20,806,354
Foreign Bills ..	3,200,088	3,305,382	3,508,922	1,650,558
Discount and Short Bills	22,810,546	22,801,276	22,376,400	50,449,618
Treasury Account ..	37,396,638	37,394,154	37,386,755	20,980,934
Notes in circulation ..	61,760,592	61,054,437	61,102,523	63,885,486
Current Account deposits	23,070,221	23,317,205	23,411,862	25,362,782
Dividends Interests ..	2,221,929	2,626,990	1,140,095	2,781,457
Government Securities	7,192,810	7,606,556	8,024,045	3,603,212

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25 11 3	25 11 3	Antwerp	short	25 2 1 3	25 20 3
Brussels	chqs.	25 21	25 19 3	Italy	sight	25 13	25 13
Amsterdam	sight	12 14 3	12 14 3	Constantinople	3 mths	110 20	110 20
Berlin	chqs.	20 47 3	20 48	Rio de Janeiro.	3 mths	158 3 3	158 3 3
Do.	3 mths	20 31	20 31	Valparaiso	90 dys	141 3 3	141 3 3
Hamburg	chqs.	20 46	20 46 3	Calcutta	T.T.	1 33 3	1 33 3
Frankfurt	short	20 46	20 47 3	Bombay	T.T.	1 33 3	1 33 3
Vienna	sight	24 04	24 04	Hong Kong	T.T.	2 09	2 09
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	94 10	94 10	Shanghai	T.T.	2 10 3	2 10 3
New York	60 dys	4 82 3	4 81 3	Singapore	T.T.	2 4 3	2 4 3
Lisbon	sight	5 1 3	5 1 3	Yokohama	4 mths	2 0 3	2 0 3
Madrid	sight	28 96	28 90				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	2 1/2 3 27
Berlin	5	December 11, 1905	3 3 39
Hamburg	5	December 11, 1905	3 3 39
Frankfurt	5	December 11, 1905	3 3 39
Amsterdam	3	November, 1905	3 3 39
Brussels	4	October 30, 1905	2 2 28
Vienna	4 1/2	October, 1905	3 3 39
Rome	5	September, 1904	4 4 4
St. Petersburg ..	8	January, 1906	8 8 8
Madrid	4 1/2	August 21, 1901	4 4 4
Lisbon	5 1/2	January 11, 1899	5 5 5
Stockholm	5	January, 1906.	4 1/2 4 1/2
Copenhagen	5	October, 1905	4 1/2 4 1/2
Calcutta	6	April 5, 1906	— —
Bombay	6	March 29, 1906	— —
New York call money	20	—	— —

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Apr. 5, 1906.	Mar. 29, 1906	Mar. 22, 1906.	Apr. 6, 1905.
Coin and bullion ..	£5,289,320	£4,988,680	£5,133,400	£4,931,720
Other securities ..	23,232,640	22,444,000	22,604,520	22,246,880
Note circulation ..	26,890,960	27,021,800	26,575,840	26,064,800
Deposits	4,121,200	2,976,920	3,525,840	3,068,040

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Mar. 16/29 1906.	Mar. 8/21, 1906.	Mar. 1/14, 1906.	Mar. 16/29, 1905.
Gold	£72,825,912	£73,425,877	£75,182,803	£90,162,616
Silver and subsidiary coin ..	4,944,063	4,803,211	4,762,362	6,852,146
Advances and bills discounted ..	51,150,721	53,617,521	55,471,714	37,739,549
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	8,255,551	7,665,259	7,826,279	5,252,554
Notes in circulation ..	111,802,378	113,268,944	114,907,730	88,465,177
Deposits and current account ..	46,117,226	46,110,931	44,801,349	49,832,388
Treasury account ..	3,090,642	3,117,801	5,688,719	10,280,156

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Apr. 7, 1906.	Mar. 31, 1906.	Mar. 22, 1906.	Apr. 7, 1905.
Cash in hand ..	£45,789,550	£44,449,000	£51,722,400	£50,788,000
Bills discounted ..	47,808,800	54,966,800	41,141,700	43,851,200
Advances on stocks ..	4,561,550	9,293,200	2,889,400	3,403,050
Note circulation ..	73,864,350	81,454,900	63,058,000	71,660,880
Public deposits ..	27,225,700	29,449,800	31,866,000	29,981,450

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Apr. 7, 1906.	Mar. 31, 1906	Mar. 24, 1906.	April 8, 1905.
Specie	£34,352,000	£35,580,000	£36,484,000	£41,608,000
Legal tenders ..	15,308,400	15,681,800	15,441,400	16,534,600
Loans and discounts ..	206,540,000	205,100,000	205,860,000	218,160,000
Circulation	10,343,400	10,369,000	10,274,000	8,224,000
Net deposits ..	200,680,000	200,860,000	202,620,000	225,520,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £509,600 against an excess last week of £1,026,800.

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	April 7, 1906.	Mar. 31, 1906.	Mar. 22, 1906.	April 7, 1905.
Gold Reserve ..	£46,001,541	£45,923,831	£46,088,750	£47,810,730
Silver reserve ..	12,787,666	12,833,833	12,859,458	12,992,666
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	1,626,916	1,660,333	1,528,750	1,812,291
Note circulation ..	70,145,833	71,194,208	66,860,000	65,127,250
Bills discounted ..	17,510,541	18,943,083	14,948,500	11,807,875

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	April 5, 1906.	Mar. 29, 1906.	Mar. 22, 1906.	April 6, 1905.
Gold in hand ..	£116,992,280	£116,905,680	£116,059,000	£110,720,360
Silver in hand ..	42,037,680	42,034,840	42,031,150	44,030,000
Bills discounted ..	35,782,280	34,567,200	30,988,080	23,202,000
Advances	20,276,400	19,269,880	19,721,000	19,692,040
Note circulation ..	192,982,520	188,142,280	186,454,440	176,544,200
Public deposits ..	5,416,720	7,877,640	7,484,240	6,583,000
Private deposits ..	22,485,640	24,012,280	21,407,480	20,493,840

Proportion between bullion and circulation 82 1/2 per cent. against 84 1/2 per cent. a week ago

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	Mar. 29.	April 3.	April 5.	April 10.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12 3	12 3	12 3	12 3
Do.	3 months	12 5	12 5	12 5	12 5
Antwerp and Brussels	3 months	25 46 1/2	25 45	25 46 1/2	25 46 1/2
Hamburg	3 months	20 71	20 70	20 70	20 69
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20 72	20 70	20 70	20 70
Paris	cheques	25 13 3	25 12 3	25 12 3	25 12 3
Do.	3 months	25 36 1/2	25 35	25 35	25 33 1/2
Marseilles	3 months	25 36 1/2	25 36 1/2	25 35	25 35
Switzerland	3 months	25 47 1/2	25 46 1/2	25 46 1/2	25 46 1/2
Austria	3 months	25 37	24 35	24 35	24 35
St. Petersburg ..	3 months	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Moscow	3 months	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2	24 1/2
Italian Bank Places	3 months	25 46 1/2	25 46 1/2	24 43 1/2	25 43 1/2
New York	60 days	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	40 1/2	40 1/2	40 1/2	40 1/2
Lisbon	3 months	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2
Oporto	3 months	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2
Copenhagen	3 months	18 44	18 44	18 44	18 44
Christiania	3 months	18 45	18 45	18 45	18 45
Stockholm	3 months	18 45	18 45	18 45	18 45

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3 3/8
Three months	3 3/8
Four months	3 3/8
Six months	3 3/8
Three months fine inland bills	3 1/4
Four months	3 1/4
Six months	3 1/4

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	3 1/2
Bankers' rate on deposits	2
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	2 1/2
" 7 and 14 days' notice	2 1/2
Current rates for 7 day loans	2 1/2
" for call loans	2 1/2

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

With the holidays upon us it is unnecessary to make many comments about stock markets this week. The account has passed off with smoothness, and most people are looking for better markets when business is resumed next week. They may be right, and circumstances do favour renewed activity in many directions, were it only in the direction of stirring up the public to buy the new Russian loan and the various other slices of foreign state debts recently placed, or about to be placed, on our market. For the moment, however, attention is concentrated upon Wall Street which is playing the part of a sort of financial Vesuvius, smothering the world with its paper, and we shall not be free of anxiety until it is seen how the eruption there ends. If nothing material

gets buried by it, if nothing substantial takes fire, we may have an active summer, but it is by no means improbable that a good many fine-looking institutions may get shaken down or overwhelmed in the stress of the market. We must never forget either that should anything happen to credit in the United States our market cannot escape. It will suffer in various ways, not least by the great mass of accommodation bills which American financiers have created and placed here in order to get the means with which to sustain their play on the other side. Time given these accommodation bills might be worked off, especially as trade is good just now and the exports of the Union unusually profitable, so far at least as raw cotton goes. We prefer not to discuss this aspect of markets further until after the holidays. There will be no overthrow of towering credit fabrics in the United States until then as far as can be judged, and catastrophe may be averted for months if Europe continues able to furnish the necessary means with which to sustain quotations. Europe, however, has a formidable year before it, what with the domestic requirements of its various states and nationalities, the pressing demands of Russia for large advances, the budget deficits, and the generally excessive burdens of taxation. It is going to be an interesting, but arduous year in credit circles, of that we are persuaded. But the skill and resource of the latter-day master of finance are equal to much, if only you do not press him for cash.

The Week's Stock Markets.

With the Easter holidays so near and the fortnightly account to be settled up it was not to be expected that business on the Stock Exchange would be at all active this week, and the majority of the members present found very little to do outside the settlement routine. The absence of the Jews for the Passover accentuated the quietness, and markets have really had no pronounced tendency. They may be called steady, with perhaps a firm undertone, and dealers are hoping for some revival after the holidays, should money remain cheap, and the big Continental loan operators be got comfortably out of the way. The Wall Street outlook, however, is not too comfortable, and we are disposed to think that if any trouble does arise it will come from that quarter. Bankers charged 3½-4 per cent. for Stock Exchange fortnightly loans, and although this is about ½ per cent. less than on the last occasion, the rates are fairly stiff for the first account in April, when money is usually so abundant. The size of the American account to be financed was doubtless

cents. all showed small losses, which was recovered before the end in the case of Spanish only. Brazilians showed some weakness owing to realisations for the purpose of changing into the new shipping loans. The allotment letters for the latter are now out, and some "stag" selling caused the premium to slip away. Other South American stocks were also inclined to ease off, but the losses were quite unimportant. In the Central American group Colombians and Guatemalans still kept up, while Honduras showed a trifling loss. Peruvians were neglected with quite insignificant changes, and Buenos Ayres Cédulas, after rallying to 23, closed slightly lower. Chinese bonds were firm, and Japanese somewhat harder.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
103½	101½	Argentina 5 p.c. 1886 ..	102½	102½
101½	100	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly.	101½	101½
103½	100½	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	102½	102½
93½	89½	Do. 4 p.c. Rescision ..	93½	93
93	89½	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	90½xd	90½
92½	90	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	90½xd	90½
104½	101½	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	101½xd	101½
92½	88½	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	89½xd	88½
102	97½	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	99½	99½
105½	103½	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	104½xd	104½
91½	86½	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	90½	90½
102½	99½	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	101½	101½
96½	95	Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885 ..	96	96
97½	94	Do. 4½ p.c. 1886 ..	96	96
96	93½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1895 ..	95½xd	95
101½	98½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	101	101
99	96½	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	99	99½
105½	103½	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	105	105
105½	102½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	103½xd	103½
101½	96½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	98½	99½
105½	100½	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	102½	102½
52½	51½	Costa Rica A ..	52½	52½
43½	42½	Do. B ..	43	43
46½	45½	Colombian External ..	46½	46½
108½	105½	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	106	106
106½	104½	Egypt United 4 p.c. ..	106	106½
102½	101½	Do. 3½ p.c. pref. ..	102½	102½
105½	103½	Do. 4½ p.c. State Domain ..	105	105
88½	87½	German 3 p.c. ..	87½xd	87
53½	50	Greek, 1884 ..	54	53½
53½	50½	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	54	54
43	39½	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	42½xd	42
52½	49½	Do. Funding ..	52½xd	53½
98	94½	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	95	98
104½	103½	Italian 5 p.c. ..	104½	104½
103½	102½	Japan 5 p.c. ..	102½	102½
104	100½	Do. 1901-2 ..	101	101
91½	88½	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	92	91½
105	101½	Do. 6 p.c. ..	101½xd	101½
105	101½	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	101½xd	103½
70½	68½	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	70½	70½
87	81½	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	83½xd	83
83	79½	Servian 4 p.c. ..	83	83
96	90½	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	93½xd	93½
103	101½	Turks 3½ p.c. Tribute ..	102½	102½
105	103½	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	105	103
94½	90½	Do. 4 p.c. United ..	92½	92½
73½	70½	Uruguay 3½ p.c. ..	73½	73½
98½	94½	Do. 5 p.c. ..	96½xd	96
54½	50½	Venezuelan, Dip. (3) ..	53	52½

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS (Last year's dividends are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
90½	89	Consols (2½ p.c. Money) ..	90½	90½
91	89½	Do. Account (May 4) ..	91	90½
89½	88	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	89½	89½
100½	99½	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907 ..	100½	100½
92½	90½	Irish Land (2½) ..	92½	92½
100½	99	Local Loans (3) ..	99½	99½
99½	98	National War Loan (2½ p.c.) ..	99	99
99½	98½	Do. Account (May 4) ..	99	99
101½	98½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	99½xd	99½
300½	293	Bk. of England Sick. (9 p.c.) ..	295½xd	295½
106½	104½	India 3½ p.c. Stock red. 1931 ..	105½	105½
97½	96	Do. 3 p.c. Stock red. 1948 ..	97	96½
82	79½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stock red. 1926 ..	81½	81½
66½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66½	66½

chiefly responsible, and we are assured that the amount of shares carried here was quite £2,000,000 larger this time owing to further transfers from the other side, loan rates in Wall Street having again touched startling figures. Consols were dull at the start but braced up and closed steady round about opening figures. Other British Funds, however, did not always recover, and some of them show fractional losses compared with Friday last. Home County and Corporation stocks were steady, and Colonial Inscribed stocks improved in several instances. The last were continued at 4-5 per cent.

The actual appearance or imminence of the various Continental loans caused a little dulness in European stocks, and Spanish, Turkish, and German Three per

Carry-over rates reflected the lower charge for bankers loans, and were about ½ down all round. On the South American group of securities the general rate was 4-5 per cent., with Peruvian Corporations paying about 1 per cent. more, and Uruguays considerably less. Chinese issues were continued at 4-5 per cent., as were Japanese 4½ per cent. first series, but the 4½ per cent. second series were done at 3½-4½ per cent., and the rest at 1-2 or 3 per cent. Among Continental stock, Egyptians were carried over at 3-5 per cent., but on Turkish the rate was 3-4 per cent., on Spanish 2-3 per cent., and Italians and Russians 1-3 per cent. Making-up prices were decidedly irregular, but where important declines occurred dividend deductions were almost entirely responsible. Thus Argentines showed a general decline of ½ to 2½ and Brazils a drop of ½ to 2½. Chinese 5 per cent. 1896 fell 1½, French 3 per cent. 1½, Greek Rentes ¼, Japanese 6 per cent. issues 2½ and 2½, Russians 1½ to 2½, San Paulo 1904 2½, Spanish 1, and Uruguay 5 per cent. 1½. On the other hand, Chilians were up ½ to 1, Chinese ½ to 1½, Colombian 2½, general Greeks ½ to ½, Guatemala 1½, Hungarian 3½, Japanese ½ to 1½, Uruguay 3½ per cent. 1, and Venezuela Diplomatic ¼.

With the account in process of settlement, the absence of the Jews for the Passover and the nearness of the Easter holidays, it was not to be expected that Home Railway stocks would show much sign of reviving in-

terest. In spite however of the small volume of business the tendency of the market has been upwards and Southern stocks in particular were firm on anticipations of good holiday traffics induced by the fine weather. North-Eastern on the other hand was still affected by the prospects of labour troubles, and Midland deferred and District also finished lower. On the Account this fear caused a drop of $1\frac{1}{2}$ in North-Eastern, while Brighton ordinary and deferred, Chatham second preference and South-Western ordinary were all 1 lower. Central London preferred too fell $1\frac{1}{2}$, but City and South-London and District were that amount up. Other movements consisted of fractions only and included gains of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ in Great Northern Issues, $\frac{3}{4}$ in Hull and Barnsley, $\frac{1}{2}$ each in North-Western, Midland preferred and South-Eastern deferred and $\frac{1}{2}$ in Great Eastern. Allowing for the reduction in money rates there was not much change in contangoes which ranged from 5 to 6 per cent. with the bulk of the business arranged at 5 per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
141 $\frac{1}{2}$	133	Brighton Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	136	137
137 $\frac{1}{2}$	149 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	153	155
130 $\frac{1}{2}$	120 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	122 $\frac{1}{2}$	122 $\frac{1}{2}$
120 $\frac{1}{2}$	112 $\frac{1}{2}$	Caledonian Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	112 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	112 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
80	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1 p.c.) ..	37 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	37 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	91	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	92	92
89	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	83 $\frac{1}{2}$
16 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chatham Ordinary ..	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
44 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	City and South London (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	42	42
69	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	Furness (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$
40 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Central Pref. ..	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$
19 $\frac{1}{2}$	18	Do. Def. ..	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Eastern (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	46	46 $\frac{1}{2}$
144	135 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Western (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	136	136 $\frac{1}{2}$
52	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	Highland (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hull and Barnsley (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	44	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
169 $\frac{1}{2}$	164 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lanc. and Yorks. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	166	166
89 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	78	78
37 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan District ..	29	28 $\frac{1}{2}$
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	Midland Pref. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	67	67
74 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	69	68 $\frac{1}{2}$
78 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	70 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	70 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
147 $\frac{1}{2}$	142 $\frac{1}{2}$	North-Eastern (6 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	141 $\frac{1}{2}$	141 $\frac{1}{2}$
163 $\frac{1}{2}$	156	North-Western (6 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	158 $\frac{1}{2}$	158 $\frac{1}{2}$
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	87	South-Eastern Ord. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	89	89
132	126 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	127	127
164	150 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. ..	53	53 $\frac{1}{2}$
168 $\frac{1}{2}$	154 $\frac{1}{2}$	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	156 $\frac{1}{2}$	156 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	105	105
57 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$

Yankee Railroad shares weakened in New York on Saturday after the return of the Associated Banks came out showing a deficit of £512,380 in the legal reserve, and prices at the opening here on Monday were consequently considerably lower. Wall Street, however,

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	Atchison Shares (4) ..	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	105	Do. Pref. (5) ..	107	107
120	112 $\frac{1}{2}$	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (5) ..	117 $\frac{1}{2}$	116 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99	99
63 $\frac{1}{2}$	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{1}{2}$
195 $\frac{1}{2}$	178 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	183	182
52 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	Denver Shares ..	48	47 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5) ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92
52 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Erie Shares ..	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	46
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4) ..	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$
77	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
185	171	Illinois Central (7) ..	178 $\frac{1}{2}$	177 $\frac{1}{2}$
160 $\frac{1}{2}$	148 $\frac{1}{2}$	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	156 $\frac{1}{2}$	154 $\frac{1}{2}$
41 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	Missouri and Texas ..	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
159 $\frac{1}{2}$	147	New York Central (5) ..	151	149 $\frac{1}{2}$
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Norfolk and Western (4) ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	92	Do. Pref. (4) ..	93	93
57 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ontario Shares (3) ..	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
75 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pennsylvania (5) ..	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	72 $\frac{1}{2}$
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	Reading Shares (1 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	47	47
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	50	50
74 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern Pacific ..	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$
43 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern ..	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5) ..	105	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
163 $\frac{1}{2}$	151 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union Pacific (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	163 $\frac{1}{2}$	160 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99	99
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	Wabash ..	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
53 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5) ..	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	51
87	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Income Debs. ..	81	84
182 $\frac{1}{2}$	173 $\frac{1}{2}$	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	178 $\frac{1}{2}$	177 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	109	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	111	111 $\frac{1}{2}$
29 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Guar. (4) ..	104	104
119 $\frac{1}{2}$	114 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	119 $\frac{1}{2}$	119 $\frac{1}{2}$
110 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	110 $\frac{1}{2}$	110 $\frac{1}{2}$
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3rd Pref. (2) ..	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	66
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109	109

seemed determined not to let the market slip away very far, and sent over large buying orders for Union Pacific and Eries, but selling was renewed when money rates were then once more run up to 25 per cent. The news that about \$1,000,000 in gold had been bought in London for import, and indications that the drain of currency for the interior was coming to an end steadied the market a little, but closing quotations nevertheless show a number of losses ranging from about \$3 downwards. The demand for money in this section was again heavy owing to the large account which has been transferred to this market, and loans cost from $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., with the ruling quotation about the middle figure. Thanks to the strenuous efforts of the financiers to prove that Wall Street is indifferent to all such outside influences as dear money and strike fears, making up prices were all higher on the fortnight, Union Pacific ordinary and Great Northern preference being as much as \$5 up. Baltimore, Milwaukee, and Reading rose 3 each, Denver common and preferred $2\frac{3}{4}$ and 2. Erie ordinary and second preference, Norfolk common and Pennsylvania $2\frac{1}{2}$, and New York Central and Ontario $2\frac{1}{2}$. Northern Pacific were 2 higher, Chesapeake and Southern Pacific gained $1\frac{3}{4}$, and Illinois Central and Rock Island both put on $1\frac{1}{2}$.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
220 $\frac{1}{2}$	211 $\frac{1}{2}$	Antofagasta (10) ..	219 $\frac{1}{2}$	221 $\frac{1}{2}$
335	313	Do. Def. (15) ..	335	340
130 $\frac{1}{2}$	125	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	125	125
132	128 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5) ..	129	129
88	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bahia Blanca Pref. ..	85xd	85 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
144 $\frac{1}{2}$	140	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	141 $\frac{1}{2}$	142
129 $\frac{1}{2}$	127	Do. Pref. (5) ..	128	128
136 $\frac{1}{2}$	132	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	134 $\frac{1}{2}$	134 $\frac{1}{2}$
120 $\frac{1}{2}$	115 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	119	119
110	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	110	110
120 $\frac{1}{2}$	115	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	120	119 $\frac{1}{2}$
119	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	118	117 $\frac{1}{2}$
170	165 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	168	168
109	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (7) ..	106	107
138 $\frac{1}{2}$	135 $\frac{1}{2}$	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	133xd	133 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Central Uruguay (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	88	88
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	105	108
96	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	94	94
75 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	72
59 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	Costa Rica ..	56	56
7	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cuban Central ..	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
111 $\frac{1}{2}$	111 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	112	112
106	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	90	East Argentine (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	91	94
97 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Interocenic of Mexico Pref. ..	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
86 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	Leopoldina (3) ..	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4) ..	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
108	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	108	108
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. "B" (5) ..	106	106
28 $\frac{1}{2}$	25	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	27
130 $\frac{1}{2}$	128 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1st Pref. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	129 $\frac{1}{2}$	130
59 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	57 $\frac{1}{2}$
68 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Southern (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	66	65
16 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nitrate Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	16	16 $\frac{1}{2}$
21 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (4) ..	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
214	203	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	214	214
193	170 $\frac{1}{2}$	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	177	184

Grand Trunk stocks continued to dwindle right up to the close of last week, but Monday morning found "bears" rather anxious to buy back, and although there was no very pronounced recovery the losses at the close were comparatively small. Canadian Pacific shares followed much the same course and finished with a fractional loss. The "bear" account open in Grand Trunk stocks at Monday's settlement was still considerable, and rates were therefore light enough, especially on the second preference. Both the first and second preference were $\frac{1}{2}$ better on the fortnight, but the third preference lost 3 and the ordinary was $1\frac{1}{2}$ down. Canadian Pacific shares, on the other hand, followed Americans with an advance of $1\frac{1}{2}$.

Dulness was the prevailing characteristic of Argentine Railway stocks, and such favourites as Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary were disposed to give way. Prices for the less active issues, however, were firmer and Cordoba Central first preference, Cordoba and Rosario first preference, East Argentine, and Cordoba and North Western debentures, all improved sharply with a fair business in the last named. Brazilian Railway stocks failed to add very much to their quotations. Uruguay things, too, were quiet, and Paraguay Central debenture stock gave way a little but Antofagasta ordinary and deferred showed appreciable gains, and business was again active in United Railways of the Havana ordinary

are in a dangerously weak position, money rose in the end of the week to 35 per cent., and has ruled between 10 and 25 per cent. in the days so far elapsed of the present week. This cannot continue without bringing some large dealers in credit to grief.

Interesting figures have been made public about the Chinese boycott of American goods, and they indicate that the Standard Oil Company's business has been very severely hit there. In the last three months of 1904 China imported 2,052,000 cases of American oil, and in the same period of last year only 315,000 cases. There has likewise been a severe falling off in the Chinese consumption of carriages, clocks, sewing-machines, provisions, locomotives, copper, and so on. During the month of February last the decline amounted to no less than 81½ per cent.

It is announced in New York that the well-known firm of Baring, Magoun, and Co. has dissolved. It has for many years been the representative of our Baring Brothers. Two new houses are to take its place, and one is to be called Baring and Company, the other Taiter and Company. In the new firm of Baring and Company the Hon. Hugo Baring, brother of Lord Revelstoke, will be a partner, and Messrs. G. D. Hallock and A. L. Mason, the latter for many years managing clerk to Baring, Magoun and Company, will be members of it. This house will doubtless be the agents of Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co., Limited.

It is stated that the directors of the Mexican Telegraph Company have decided to add £1,000,000 to its capital stock, making it \$3,000,000. This is to be used to capitalise the earnings expended upon the third Mexican Gulf cable and upon other betterments. The shareholders' meeting will be held on May 8 to authorise this issue, which will take the form of a dividend of 50 per cent. to shareholders. In other words, a portion of the expenditure hitherto made nominally out of revenue is to be capitalised.

Shareholders in the Diamond Match Company, which controls a very large match-making business here, as well as in the United States, are also to add \$1,000,000 to their capital making it \$16,000,000 in order to provide funds for increasing manufacturing facilities and for liquidating the debt incurred in connection with the acquisition of the lands and the erection of plant in California.

A pamphlet has been issued by President Wilcox, of the Delaware and Hudson Company, in which he seeks to prove that the anthracite coal trade has not been anything like so profitable of late as the workmen make out. The Miners' Union is asking an increase of 10 per cent. in the wages and an 8 hours' day, but Mr. Wilcox says they only work 7.6 hours a day now, and for but 258 days in the year, so that the change of the length of the day from a nominal 9 to 8 hours would be equivalent to an increase of 12½ per cent. in the wages. The extension of the scale which is also demanded would, he further estimates, give outside men an increase averaging from 30 to 38 per cent. in their wages as compared with 1901. Moreover, the total increase in the cost of labour has amounted to more than 30 cents per ton, and the further demands now made would increase the price of anthracite coal by \$1.10 cents per ton. As there are about 150,000 men at work in getting anthracite coal, that would mean an annual increase in the wages bill of about \$92,000,000. How far this is accurate we cannot say, but there must unquestionably be something in the contention.

Recent additions to the capital rearrangements and improvements made by the Rock Island and Pacific Railway Company bring the total of refunding bonds outstanding up to \$55,592,000, of which \$11,250,000 is deposited to secure \$7,500,000 three-year notes, the remainder being on the market. A new issue of \$4,400,000 4½ per cent. equipment trust bonds of \$1,000, each maturing at the rate of \$220,000 each half-year from August 1, 1906, to February 1, 1916,

has been made by the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad, in order to provide it with additional rolling stock.

A company called the Philippine Railway has been incorporated in Connecticut with an authorised capital of \$5,000,000, and it is to own 300 miles of railroad to be built in the Philippine Islands. This incorporation is merely preliminary to an issue of \$10,000,000 of 30-year 4 per cent. bonds to pay for the construction of the lines in the usual American style, and in order to see that the spending benefits the proper individuals a Philippine Railway Construction Company has been created, and registered in New Jersey State. Its capital is to be \$1,000,000, and it has made a contract with J. G. White and Co. to build the road.

Messrs. J. P. Morgan & Co. are reported to have bought the \$15,000,000 of debenture bonds just issued by the New York, Newhaven and Hartford Railway.

Letters to the Editors.

REDEEMABLE CORPORATION STOCK.

SIRS,—Referring to my letter of March 7th, and your instructive article thereon, it is interesting to note in the prospectus of the Corporation of London, issued last week, the following significant words:—

In paragraph 2, after reciting the sources of revenue—

"For further securing and providing for the redemption of the stock the Corporation have covenanted to set aside £15,000 per annum out of their annual income after providing for the annual interest on the stock, and to invest and accumulate such annual sums and the income thereof."

And in paragraph 4—"The stock if not previously redeemed will be redeemable at par on the 1st July, 1957."

The above are two important points for investors. First, a clear statement as to the Sinking Fund. Second, a definite date fixed for repayment of loans. Let us hope the officials of other Corporations will follow this excellent example.

Yours truly,

H. M. FORBES.

Red Court, Sutton, Surrey,
April 9.

SOUTH AFRICAN MINES.

SIRS,—I judge from his vocabulary that "Pro Patria" has made a close study of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, but I doubt whether it can have been of long standing, or if it has, whether he can have taken your counsels much to heart, otherwise I do not understand his having all those South Africans "all bought at high prices," and that his conclusion that the mining magnates, "miscreants," "criminals," "villains," "spawn of cosmopolites"—there seems to be something particularly derogatory in that word "cosmopolite"—or whatever other opprobrious title they may be called by, richly deserve hanging, should be, as it seems to be, a comparatively recent one. I may point out in the first place, that any one who puts so large a part of his capital into anything so speculative as mines, that if things go wrong, he is seriously crippled, is, to put it mildly, not particularly wise. And if he does venture on mines, he should surely choose something that can be said to be proved, so far as anything in mining can be said to be so. I suppose the best of the South African mines answer this criterion better than most, tonnage and quality of ore being calculable within fairly narrow limits. Did "Pro Patria" confine himself to such mines and was he guided by intrinsic values? If not, who is to blame? If he did, then I suppose the ore is still there, or have the mine-owners swallowed it? What is his exact grievance against these monsters in respect of the particular shares he has bought? General charges of "fraud, chicanery and trickery" are all very well, but we should like him to condescend to particulars. What, for instance, is implied by saying that the minor villains had the "tacit approval" of the big ones, and swindled "under theiregis," if anything is meant at all? The *bona fide* investor who has bought his shares for what they were intrinsically worth, and to hold—the man who has the most, if, indeed, not the sole, right to complain if things go wrong, is, I suppose, primarily and almost exclusively concerned with the good management of the mine. He wants the biggest nett profit possible on the working and he does not want more capital put in than can be usefully employed. "Bulls" and "bears" and the fluctuations of the markets are absolutely no concern of his. Now one would suppose that the mine owners, who are so called because they hold such large interests in the mines that they can practically control them, have *prima facie* more to gain than any other shareholder by the management of the mines being made the best possible, and the best possible dividends being secured. Have they other interests still stronger in another direction, and if so how, exactly, do they work? Do they for instance simply divert a good slice to their own use before the ordinary shareholder comes in at all, and if so what is the proof of this? Or is it that they are not knaves, but merely fools who cannot see their own interests or are incompetent to secure them? Considering the particular "foreign accent" with which they generally speak, I am amused at the continual gibing at the

Israelite by people who made so much of the sowing of "race hatred" in South Africa, and are so inordinately proud of this "go-as-you-please" Government, which has such a noble band of Samuels, Mondes, Isaacs, Moneys, &c., to support it, but perhaps these particular aliens are "Israelites, indeed, in whom there is no guile"—the supposition is not a very likely one. As for his remedy of expropriation or confiscation, the latter seems in every way the more suitable word. I should think that like Clive he must "stand astonished" at his own moderation! Why this impotent conclusion? Why not make a law to hang them as well as rob them when they so nobly deserve it? But which of them exactly is it to be? The nation is to take over the mines, but I suppose at least some of the shareholders, "Pro Patria" himself, for instance, will be paid for their shares. Whoever is to fix the price, and on whatever principles? And I suppose everyone who went in to "make a bit" and did the other thing will be recompensed for his unjust losses. Why not away with the whole thing? "All property is theft" say the Socialists; and it is only on some such theory that these proposals for robbery "naked and unshamed" can possibly be defended. I should not like, rashly, to set limits to the lengths our egregious Premier will go to in yielding to the clamour of sections of that glorious majority which is so much in its own way, but I fancy confiscation on this scale would prove too strong a dose, even for his stomach.

That the whole position of the mining industry in South Africa is most urgently in need of full inquiry, and especially how an adequate supply of labour is to be obtained on such terms as will allow of the payment of decent dividends on a reasonable capital, which to my mind, as a possible prospective small investor, is of infinitely more importance for the future of the industry than the alleged misdeeds of mine owners, I would not deny, but rather strongly insist. But as the Government has refused the commission which would be the natural method of making an inquiry, and indeed does not seem to admit the necessity of any inquiry at all, what is to become of the mining industry? It must continue to be a gamble pure and simple with no reference to intrinsic values, since no man on earth can even approximately guess them. One man will say that the threat to veto Chinese labour is a bit of pure bluff on the part of the Government, intended to save their faces after all the lies they told about it at the election. Another will say that the mob of briefless barristers, third-rate journalists and out-of-works in general, who form so large a section of the Radical party in the House, who have no South Africans themselves and think it a crime that anyone else should have any or expect any return on them, will force their astonishing leader to yet another surrender, and a treatment of the Transvaal as if it were of no more importance than West Ham. Which will be right? Who can say? Aut diabolus aut Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman?

Yours, &c.,
RUSTIC

Kirkby Stephen,
April 9, 1906.

PERAK RUBBER PLANTATIONS.

SIRS.—The attention of our clients, the directors of the Perak Rubber Plantations, Limited, has been called to various statements in the press purporting to emanate from London, to the effect that the recent issue of shares of that company was not subscribed, and that the company would not go to allotment. There is no foundation whatever for either of these statements, which are false and libellous, the fact being that the whole of the issue was considerably over-subscribed, and that the directors duly went to allotment. Our clients are taking immediate steps in the matter in the proper quarters, but in view of the serious inconvenience and embarrassment that has been caused, especially in rubber circles, by the publication of the statements, we should be obliged if you would kindly accord us the opportunity of formally contradicting them in your columns.

Your obedient servants,
STEPHENSON, HARWOOD & CO.

31, Lombard Street, E.C.,
April 10, 1906.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

Despite the approach of the Easter holidays, also the facts that the settlement has been in progress, and that the Jews are celebrating the Passover, the Kaffir Circus has been more cheerful and active than for some weeks past. Prices have shown surprising vigour and have generally advanced, especially so in many of the favourite counters. At the same time there is little evidence that local operators have extended their commitments, and it is hardly likely that they have. So the explanation is that the buying support has come from the other side, particularly from Cape Colony. This may be largely true, for it is known that the publication in the Johannesburg newspapers of Mr. Winston Churchill's speech has made a most favourable impression. It has quite defeated the insidious tactics and machinations of the bosses, who have sedulously tried to stir up hatred and strife by the dissemination of lies and the suppression of the truth. There may be some connection between this defeat and the recognition of a lost cause and the publication of a "record" output for the month of March, even though there was another

slight falling-off in the native labour supply. We give the figures in a separate note. The rise in prices has forced "bear" covering on this side, which has helped the advance, though the public are still doing nothing. Rumours are being circulated regarding new labour schemes, whilst a further development has been the location of pyritic leaders, or zones, entirely distinct from the banket, in the sandstone behind the Main Reef. The Johannesburg correspondent of the *Financial Times* writes to say that it is too early yet to gauge the importance of this. It is nothing new, however, for Mr. Denny referred to a similar occurrence in his report on the George Goch—now the New Goch—as far back as 1898. This pyritic zone has been encountered in several mines, from the Wolluter on the east to some of the Robinson companies on the west. Development must necessarily be carried out before any true judgment can be passed on the value of this strike. The most remarkable rise has been in Transvaal Consolidated Land, and no one knows why. Various reasons are given for the sudden spurt, one report stating that diamonds have been discovered, another that a tin deposit has been found, whilst a third says it is nothing more than a "bear" squeeze.

Rhodesian shares have not shared in the Kaffir advance, and the majority of the prices show no change. In the diamond group De Beers and Jagers have been dull, but Premiers have strengthened. West Australians, West Africans and Egyptians have hardly moved, and each of these sections continues torpid. Amongst Indians there has been a sharp recovery in Ooregum shares, both the ordinary and preference. Anacondas, in the copper list, have lost but little, but Rio Tintos are better on balance.

TRANSSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT.—It is announced by the Transvaal Chamber of Mines that the output of gold for the month of March amounted to 424,773 ozs. from the Witwatersrand and 18,958 ozs. from the outside districts, making a total of 443,731 fine ozs. of a value of £1,884,815. Compared with the return for February this is an increase of 36,055 ozs. in weight, and of £153,151 in value. But more glorious still it is a record, exceeding the previous best by 12,129 ozs., which was last December. The wonderful thing is that this record is coincident with the lamentation about the dearth of labour, and with dire threats to close down mines if the coolies are to be stopped. There was also a simultaneous loss of 219 in the natives at work, and it proves to us what can be done with even the present supply were the bosses to pursue a policy of honesty, not one of self-interest. The output of gold per diem last month was, however, actually less than in February—14,313 ozs. against 14,559 ozs., a decline of 246 ozs. There are discrepancies here which need much explaining, but it is not probable that we shall get them. Compared with March, 1905, the increase is 43,900 ozs.

VOGELSTRUIS CONSOLIDATED DEEP.—In January, 1905, the directors of this company reduced the issued capital by £196,500, by means of a reconstruction scheme, and were thereby able to wipe off a deficiency expenditure of £126,678. Thus shareholders have already lost heavily, and one cannot say with absolute assurance that they will be recouped. The work of unwatering the centre and west shafts was commenced early in February of last year, whilst sinking in both shafts was resumed in the following April and May. In the centre shaft the value of the reef has averaged 50.11 dwts. over the narrow width of 5.18 in., which is equal to 8.6 dwts. over a stopping width of 30 in.—not a high value. The total ore exposed at the end of the company's financial year—December 31—amounted to 48,615 tons, of which 32,707 tons were payable, assaying on the average 10.38 dwts. per ton over 30 in. In the twelve months the administrative expenditure came to £11,332, against a revenue of £1,176 from rents, interest, exchange, commission, and discount on debentures redeemed, showing the large deficiency of £10,156. Debtors owe a sum much exceeding that owing to sundry creditors, and there is as much as £46,445 cash in hand, which will probably quickly be spent. Since the end of the financial year the South Reef has been intersected in the west shaft at a depth of 2,676 ft., the average reef width being 8.5 in., and the average value 45 dwts.—equal to 12.75 dwts. over the stopping width. This practically exhausts all the valuable information given in the reports, and it is impossible to base on this a very reliable opinion of the company's prospects. At the annual meeting the chairman said the native labour supply since the beginning of December has been below the company's requirements. But he does not regard the present deficiency as serious, and he hopes it will right itself before long. And then he delivered himself of this cryptic utterance:—"I mention the fact because everyone who has the interest of the industry at heart must earnestly hope that the many schemes for altering the conditions of our labour supply, which have been discussed so freely lately, will never eventuate, or become entitled to claim more than an academic interest." What does he mean by this? To what labour does he allude—native, Chinese, or white? And what are the schemes he hopes will not mature? It is impossible to say. As he is hoping the native labour supply will be adequate ere long, probably he is in favour of a *laissez-faire* policy? He could easily have made himself clear without mystifying us in this tantalising manner.

CLOVERFIELD MINES.—The mine-boss, Mr. W. H. Daw, delivered two extraordinary speeches on the labour question on the same day—the 7th of March last. We give extracts from the one speech in our note on the Vogelstruis Consolidated Deep, wherein he spoke hopefully of the prospects of getting a satisfactory supply of native labour, and belittled the schemes that have been discussed for solving the labour problem. His observations were much more precise and clear at the annual meeting

of the Cloverfield Mines, wherein he strongly advocated the employment of coolies. "In view of the profound results, both politic and economic, which would be caused by a reduction in the supply of Chinese labour, it is difficult to believe that any serious attempt will be made to put into force the various restrictive proposals which have recently been made. It is my duty, however, to mention this aspect of the case, because, although the effects of any procedure which would limit the amount of Chinese labour would be felt by all companies, whether they are producing or simply shaft-sinking, in all probability the limitation of the supply would be most severely felt by companies whose work is in the initial stage." How can the two utterances be reconciled? One moment he is hopeful that the native labour supply will duly right itself, and the next he is dwelling on the serious results likely to follow upon the limitation of Chinese labour. At two consecutive meetings he hopes certain schemes now discussed will never eventuate, or have more than an academic interest, and urges that the most prominent scheme of all should continue or become practical. At one meeting he confines himself to mystic hints, and leaves the interpretation of them to imagination, at the other he enunciates his views in the clearest language. The directors of the Cloverfield Mines, in their report for the year 1905, have very little to say, for the company is only shaft-sinking, the shaft having reached a depth of only 607 ft. by the end of December. The capital expenditure amounted to £59,223, and the general expenses to £3,923, whilst £3,455 was received from rent and interest on deposits. In the balance-sheet the deficit is only £524. There is an appreciable amount of cash in hand at £70,057, and there are 90,000 reserve shares, which the directors may or may not be able at some future time to issue. In the past even such a company as this has been able to issue 75,000 £1 shares at a premium of £1.

MARIEVALE NIGEL GOLD MINES AND ESTATE.—This company belongs to the same group as the Vogelstruis Consolidated Deep and the Cloverfield Mines, but no active operations were undertaken on its property during the twelve months ended December 31, and it still remains in the charge of a caretaker. The only capital expenditure incurred was under the head of live stock and vehicles, amounting to £352, in connection with farming operations, which are being conducted on a small scale as an experiment. Revenue consisted of £1,615 from the estate, &c., and £726 from interest, making a total of £2,341; and, as the expenditure was only £1,999, there was actually a small profit of £342. Since the inception of the company, revenue has aggregated £21,291, and the expenditure £11,734, thus showing a goodly balance on the right side of the accounts. Only the trifling sum of £21 is owing to sundry creditors, and liquid assets consist of loans £16,031, shares £73,042—16,255 Driefontein Deeps and 10,000 Witwatersrand Deeps—and cash £3,583.

KLERKSDORP GOLD AND DIAMOND COMPANY.—This is a concern in which a vast amount of money has been lost since it originally came into existence as the Klerksdorp Gold Estates in the ancient days of 1888. Since then it has been reconstructed no less than four times, and it would not surprise us in the least if it were reconstructed four times more ere we heard the last of it. This is not the opinion of the chairman, however, and that does not astonish us, for the chairman is not a disinterested observer and critic. In February and March he paid a visit of inspection to the property, and already he has issued an artistic pamphlet in the shape of his report, accompanied by illustrations. This is expeditious work, indeed; and we cannot but marvel at the express speed at which so much has been done in a few weeks. If only the company could win gold and diamonds in the same breathless way the shareholders might soon be pocketing dividends. Perhaps we need hardly say that the report is written in language quite the reverse of cheerless. Hardly a pessimistic word is written, even on the labour question. For this is the chairman's ingenious argument:—"Should the British Government carry out what is supposed to be their intention of repatriation, it is believed that the only effect on the future working of your property would be beneficial, though at a cost to others that is not pleasant to contemplate, and which it is to be sincerely hoped will never eventuate. The stoppage of Chinese labour means the closing of the mines now employing them, and the consequent discharge of at least 4,000 skilled British workmen now drawing nearly £1,200,000 a year in wages, who, thrown on the labour market would at once bring down the present high rate of European wages, and so prove beneficial to your interests. Though it is to be hoped that so deplorable a state of things will not be brought about, yet it is necessary to bear in mind the probable results of the British Government's anticipated action. In conclusion, we may consider the labour outlook on your property as distinctly hopeful and unencumbered by many difficulties surrounding that question on the Rand." This shows how self-interest will often give us the mental ability to see many sides to a question, and there is little doubt that a dialectician of Mr. Hogg's calibre could easily argue that his company would greatly benefit if the Government declared to-morrow that all China was to be at the disposal of the bosses. We cannot say we are at all impressed by Mr. Hogg's optimism, for we cannot forget this company's disastrous experience. Still we may as well put on record the following conclusion of his:—"Working on ore below the mine average, and suffering under a shortage of labour, we have already nearly doubled the gold extraction, obtaining gold at the rate of £48,000 per annum (about), and though at present only a small margin of profit can be relied on, yet there is now no longer any doubt that with a gold produce of £9,000 per month (which may be depended upon when the

foregoing recommendations have been carried into effect) substantial profits should be made enabling satisfactory and continuous dividends to be regularly paid." Only a shadowy prospect, this!

DRIEFONTEIN DEEP.—As the work done on this company's property during the past twelve months was confined to shaft sinking, the directors have not much to say in their report for the financial year ending December 31. Very little progress was made even in shaft sinking, owing to the large amount of water which had to be dealt with. However, they managed to sell a goodly quantity of this liquid, not entirely for dilution purposes, and received £5,237 for it, and "as satisfactory arrangements have been made for the disposal of practically the whole of the water pumped, the receipts under this head are likely to show a material increase in the future," say the directors. We are glad to hear it, but we hope some restraint will be shown in pumping it into the capital should more water of that special kind hereafter be wanted, which is far from unlikely. In all, receipts totalled £14,275, interest on loans bringing in £8,456, and as the expenditure on administration account took £4,867, there was a credit of £3,590. The company will not need cash for a long time to come, as it lends no less than £177,000 to market speculators, and has a few thousands in the bank. There are also 119,000 reserve shares for issue when the public are on the feed.

MEYER AND CHARLTON GOLD MINING COMPANY.—According to the quarterly report of this company to the end of December, the quantity of ore crushed was 32,751 tons, a slight decrease compared with the previous quarter. The total yield was nearly 14,039 ozs. and the revenue was £59,902, equal to close on £1 16s. 7d. per ton. Working expenses amounted to £35,588, or £1 1s. 8 7/9d. per ton, so the profit was £24,314, or 14s. 10 1/7d. per ton, a trifling improvement upon that of the preceding three months. The new treatment plant was started on October 21, and is said to have run smoothly since then. In the months of November and December the native labour supply rapidly fell off, so machine drills had to be used to maintain the monthly tonnage.

NEW GOCH COMPANY.—The profits earned by this company continue to be on a small scale, and the progress it is making towards the payment of a dividend is not rapid. Particulars of the working of the last quarter of 1905 have been published, and it is explained that the new mill and the new treatment plant had to be tried over some period before they could be got into perfectly smooth running order. Of the total quantity crushed the larger proportion of the ore was drawn from what is called development rock, and it was not until early in the month of December that it was drawn steadily from the stopes. Thus the results, we are assured, are in no way representative of what may be expected. At the end of December the whole equipment was running smoothly and satisfactorily. Unfortunately, it is added, the prevailing scarcity of native labour is being felt very acutely, and whereas it was estimated that in order to earn normal profits it would be necessary to sort 25 per cent., run the full mill of 120 stamps, and crush over 20,000 tons a month only 15,813 tons were crushed for the best of the three months, this on a basis of 7 1/5 per cent. sorting. The shortage of labour had the effect of the stopes being carried at a greater width than was intended, and this, in conjunction with the use of machine drills for breaking rock and the small percentage of sorting, resulted in a large amount of waste rock being sent to the mill, thus lowering the grade.

TUDOR GOLD MINING COMPANY.—The directors of this company have issued a circular which runs as follows: "As stated at the annual meeting on March 28, the company's funds have been reduced to about £15,000. The directors have therefore decided, in view of the impracticability of raising further capital on favourable terms while the labour question is in its present unsettled state, to suspend shaft sinking from the beginning of April in order to husband the funds for the purpose of meeting the expenses of licences, caretaking, and upkeep. The money in hand will be sufficient to cover these requirements for a considerable time." We commented upon this action in last week's issue, under "Passing Events," and have nothing to add to what we then said.

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY COMPANY.—In their report for the six months to the end of November the directors state that the alterations in the construction of the smelting furnaces at Port Pirie have now been completed, with the result that the recoveries of both the lead and the silver contents have been materially improved, whilst the cost of the bullion production has been reduced by about 3s. 6d. per ton. The refinery treated 1,300 tons of bullion per week, giving a total of 33,504 tons of soft lead, the stocks at the close of the half-year being 4,500 tons. Shipments of lead to China, Japan and India were 6,250 tons, 3,050 tons were consumed in the Commonwealth and New Zealand, and the balance was disposed of in European markets. As regards the mine, the most important occurrence there has been the developments disclosed by prospecting work carried on at the 1,100 ft. level. At this point the lode has been proved to be 65 ft. wide, assays giving the metallic contents about the same as at the higher level—viz., 17 per cent. zinc, 19 per cent. lead and 13 ozs. of silver, which is slightly in advance of the general average of the mine. The zinc concentration plant has been in almost continuous work during the half-year, producing 27,768 tons of concentrates. Profit per ton of gross ore treated was 12s. 10d., the highest obtained for eight years, and representing an increase of 2s. 11d. per ton on the preceding half-year's work, this being almost entirely due to the heavy advance in the market price of lead. Gross profit for the six months amounted to £227,300, and after deducting £30,340 for depreciation the nett profit was £196,959. The total output of silver was

2,896,585 fine ozs. against 2,705,929 ozs. for the previous six months, the average price realised being 2s. 6 5/64d. per oz. fine, an advance of 1/8d. per oz. over the previous half-year. Soft lead produced was 34,479 tons compared with 34,747 tons, whilst the average price averaged £12 10s. 6d. per ton against £11 6s. 4d., an increase of £1 4s. 2d. A credit of no less than £580,470 was brought in, so with the profit the directors had a disposable sum of £777,430. Two dividends of 1s. 6d. each absorbed £144,000, and £633,430 was left to carry forward.

MASON AND BARRY.—The directors of this company in their report for 1905 do not refer to the fire that broke out at the end of 1904, the effects of which were felt for some time in 1905, seriously interrupting work. This evidently accounts for the fact that the total quantity of ore broken and raised at the mine in the twelve months was 176,843 tons against 209,458 tons, and that the shipments were 351,094 tons compared with 380,943 tons, whilst the quantity of ore sold and invoiced for its sulphur value was 373,287 tons in comparison with 370,511 tons in 1904. After writing off £12,000 for depreciation of works, plant, &c., and deducting management expenses and income-tax, the nett profit on working account amounted to £41,976 against £63,567, to which have to be added £7,463 received as dividend on La Sabina shares, and £3,473 from sundry sources, making a total of £52,912, or £22,020 less than a year ago. The sum brought in was £8,100 more at £31,200, and after writing £1,000 off La Sabina shares, the divisible balance is £83,113, compared with £97,010. No change is made in the dividend, which is again at the rate of 35 per cent., but the forward credit is reduced from £31,200 to £16,502. As usual, there is no criticism to offer on a very fine balance-sheet.

QUEENSLAND GOLD RETURNS.—The Queensland gold returns for March were as follows:—

	Tons crushed.	Yield ozs.
Charters Towers	19,000	16,100
Croydon	4,100	1,300
Gympie	19,100	8,800
Mount Morgan	20,800	9,100
Ravenswood	2,700	3,400
Other fields	3,000	1,700
Alluvial	—	900

TOTAL 41,300

NEW SOUTH WALES GOLD YIELD.—The gold output of New South Wales for the month of March came to 16,539 ozs., worth £60,583, compared with 23,592 ozs., valued at £79,212, in March, 1905. For the first quarter of the year the yield totals 95,493 ozs., of a value of £328,505, against 84,376 ozs. and £296,945 in the corresponding period of last year.

NEW ZEALAND GOLD OUTPUT.—For the month of March the New Zealand gold output amounted to £35,281 ozs., valued at £143,338, compared with 34,024 ozs. of a value of £137,109, in the corresponding month of last year.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

BUENOS AYRES AND ROSARIO RAILWAY CO., LTD.

This great Argentine Railway earned a gross revenue of £3,994,838 during the year 1905, being an increase of £235,398 compared with the preceding twelve months, and as the rise in working expenses was £96,213 at £2,059,762, the nett profit shows an improvement of £139,185 at £1,935,076. Ratio between expenditure and income .67 per cent. lower at 51.56 per cent. No wonder that the president of the local committee speaks in enthusiastic terms of the great prosperity enjoyed, far outstripping that of any previous year, and, so far as any rate as this Company's line is concerned, there is no sign as yet that any reaction need be apprehended. That, however, is just as well, because progress and capital expenditure usually go hand in hand, and the shareholders have to contemplate the outlay of a vast sum of money. Of that we shall say more presently. Last year's splendid results seem to have been mainly due to the extended cultivation of cereals, the excellent results obtained having an influence for good on general commercial conditions, which in turn naturally led to a large movement of miscellaneous traffic. Total number of passengers carried was 9,544,651, or an increase of no less than 1,321,391, leading to an advance in revenue of £104,850, and these gains must be considered highly satisfactory. Flourishing conditions have encouraged long-distance holiday travelling, and the crowded condition of Buenos Ayres is causing a constant exodus of families, who are taking up their residence in the suburbs served by the railways, thus building up, the manager says, a valuable short-distance traffic. Parcels and excess luggage returned £11,878, more chiefly in the transport of market garden and dairy produce which is growing in importance, and telegrams improved by £1,904, owing to the greater commercial activity. Tonnage of freight-earning goods and live stock carried during the year was 6,499,580, or an advance of 181,668, the receipts from goods improving £101,972, and from live stock £13,344. Nearly all descriptions of traffic went up, hay and grass advancing 30,339 tons, maize 37,010 tons, foreign timber 29,359 tons, native timber 46,727 tons, firewood 41,253 tons, and general goods 283,211 tons. On the other hand, there were the important declines of 242,162 tons in wheat and 93,085 tons in linseed, due to the very unseason-

able weather which prevailed while the crops were being harvested. Sheep farming in the company's district is rapidly giving way to agriculture, and in consequence the sheep traffic is declining. In order to transport the additional traffic the company ran 308,481 extra train miles; but a satisfactory point is that the earnings per train mile were 1d. better at 13.10½. Seeing that the proportion of expenditure to total income was less, there can hardly be cause for complaint at the actual increase in outlay, and it does not show a very conciliatory spirit to attribute the high rate of wages and reduced hours of labour which prevailed during 1905 to "the strikes which agitated the whole of this country during the year 1904." We assume the general manager does not expect to handle an extra £235,000 worth of traffic for nothing. As already announced the nett revenue on operations was £1,935,076, to which must be added interest, exchange and registration fees, making a total of £1,981,898. Debenture interest £314,978, western annuity £90,787, and general interest, &c., £2,536, reduce this to £1,573,596; but it is raised again to £1,590,325 by the balance brought forward. The directors have already paid interim dividends absorbing £581,949, and they now transfer £120,000 to the general reserve fund, £44,000 to the fire insurance fund, £10,000 to the staff pension fund, and £5,000 to the grain elevators fund. Sum still left is £829,376, and after completing the preference dividend the directors propose a final payment of 3½ per cent. on the ordinary stock, making 6 per cent. in all, and a dividend for the whole year on the deferred stock of 6 per cent., carrying forward £30,849. Without doubt a brilliant display, and there is every probability that the current year will be equally good, because, although the dreaded locusts have unfortunately made their appearance and threaten no end of trouble, prospects seem quite bright. Wheat and linseed may again give a reduced tonnage, but it is expected that the maize crop in the company's zone will be heavier than anything previously carried. To give the general manager's own words: "Traffic generally is improving all round. Business is brisk, money abundant. The colonists have had three or four good seasons in succession and are fairly prosperous. Industries new to this country are springing up along our line, and healthy confidence in the future is evident on all sides." That is undoubtedly an encouraging prospect, but, as already mentioned, money must be spent with a lavish hand in order to keep pace with the times. The directors tell us that the good crops in recent years have induced colonists throughout the country to extend the area brought into cultivation. The result is that in the huge territory served by the systems greater traffic facilities are called for, and the directors have decided to continue the policy of constructing extensions where the country's natural expansion requires. Further engines, wagons, and passenger coaches are likewise required, and important works will have to be put in hand for supplying terminal accommodation in the city of Buenos Ayres commensurate with the volume of traffic to be dealt with. Workshop extensions have also been authorised, and the policy of stone ballasting and relaying the track with a heavier section of rail is being continued as and when labour is available. So the directors propose to increase the capital by £3,000,000, by the creation of 300,000 shares of £10 each, making it £25,635,230.

BUENOS AYRES GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

We shall deal fully with the report of this company next week, contenting ourselves now with a bare outline of the half year's results. Gross revenue for the second half of 1905 was £1,795,464, showing an increase of £319,034 but the advance in working expenses was £265,759 to £1,014,463, raising the proportion of expenditure to gross receipts from 50.71 to 58.50. Nett revenue is £781,001 or £53,237 more and after adding the balance brought in £113,704 and other revenue the aggregate for disposal is £914,622. Deducting debenture and preference interest, &c., £366,440, £548,183 remains from which the directors proceed to pay the usual interim dividend on the ordinary stock at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £188,182. The improvements and additions authorised to be carried out at and about Bahia Blanca have been the subject of special attention on the part of the management during the past half year, and it is hoped that the increased facilities will enable the heavy grain traffic to be dealt with efficiently and expeditiously. Further accommodation, however, is required, and the directors have recently obtained the approval of the Government to the construction of additional moles for both deep and shallow draught vessels. Contracts have already been placed for the construction of the first section of these new works. Very important additions have likewise been made to the company's rolling stock, and further quantities are at present on order.

CENTRAL URUGUAY RAILWAY CO. OF MONTE VIDEO, LIMITED.

After deducting the proportions appertaining to the Northern, Eastern and Western Extensions the gross revenue for the six months ended December 31 showed an increase of £3,649 at £205,676, coaching traffic having yielded £2,946 and live stock £2,349 more, while goods traffic fell off by £1,646. Working expenses, however, rose by £6,588 to £95,564, partly because extensive repairs were effected to the permanent way, buildings and rolling stock which did not receive due attention during the civil war of 1904, and partly because wages have gone up, and the nett receipts consequently were £2,909 less at £110,112. A much larger balance of £18,042 was brought forward, and with £16,996 from interest on Western Extension 6 per cent. debenture stock and £3,627 from other sources the balance available was only £1,276 down at £148,778. Of this, interest and other payments, including £20,000 on Western Extension 4 per cent. debentures, £23,838 for North Eastern Railway rent less the Government

guarantee, and £3,722 for balance advanced to the Western Extension line over profits received, absorbed £83,266 or £5,008 less, so that the actual amount available for dividend was £1,276 less at £65,512, and after paying the usual interim dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, £25,512 was carried forward. The results from the combined system were less satisfactory looking. An increase of 33,288 in the number of passengers carried was accompanied by a decrease in the average receipts per passenger of 7.89d. at 3s. 9.4d., attributable to the large number of short-distance excursions at low rates which were run for the fairs and other functions held in the suburbs of Monte Video. In addition to this, of course, there is the fact that a year ago receipts in this branch were swollen by the carriage of troops for long distances during and immediately after the conclusion of the civil war. Part of the falling off in passengers was recovered from the carriage of excess luggage and parcels, but the gain was to some extent illusory, as milk and cream are now included under this head instead of being classed with general goods as heretofore, and in spite of this, coaching traffic on balance produced £3,871 less. There was a trifling improvement of £1,948 in earnings from goods traffic, the principal items contributing to this increase being wheat and other cereals, principally linseed, flour, bones, building materials, and general goods, while wool and sheep skins, hay, maize, wire, posts and limestone showed decreases. The falling off in wool and sheep skins, however, is due to shearing having been later than usual, and as the clip is estimated to be 10 per cent. larger than the previous one it seems highly probable that the present deficiency will be more than made good before the end of the year. In maize, too, much the same thing has happened—the crop last year was a failure owing to the dry weather in the end of 1904 and the beginning of 1905, but the new crop is expected to be a heavy one. In this case, however, the benefit may not be felt until the six months following the current half year. The increase in building materials is due to the development of a new sand traffic from Santa Lucia, which, although carried at a very low rate, is profitable by reason of the large quantities handled. A decrease of £1,416 in live stock was caused by the large number of horses carried in 1904 owing to the war, as not only have sheep been sent in large numbers to the cold storage establishment in Monte Video, but a reduction in the freight rate has induced owners to move more of their flocks from one camp to another by rail. The slaughtering of cattle, too, began earlier in order to get as much meat into Brazil as possible before the increased import tax on "jerker" beef came into force at the commencement of the current year. Gross receipts, therefore, showed a shrinkage of £3,339 at £310,616, and as working expenses, for the reasons given above, were £13,293 heavier at £153,757, or 49.50 per cent. of the receipts against 44.74 per cent. a year ago, the net profits showed a falling off of £16,632 at £156,858. With regard to the future, the chairman of the local committee at Monte Video seems to think the prospects encouraging. The Government has finally approved the agreement for the prolongation of the Eastern Extension, by which one of the most productive zones of the country will be opened up, while the new branch connecting the Rio Grande system with the terminus of the Northern Extension at Rivera, which a Belgian syndicate has in hand, is to be commenced immediately.

ESPIRITO SANTO AND CARAVELLAS RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

If the Brazilian Government were a little more straightforward in its dealings it might be able to raise loans in foreign countries on more generous terms. Unfair treatment never pays in the long run, and those who have suffered from the arbitrary and unprincipled action of the Government have the satisfaction of knowing that the advantage is not all on one side. Nothing could be more reprehensible than the Government attitude towards this company. In addition to the railway the company owns a warehouse situated on a portion of the land required for the Port of Rio improvement, and it may be recalled that the authorities passed a law reducing the expropriation value of private property needed for the scheme by 40 per cent. But the Espirito directors had no intention of being robbed in this way, and flatly declined to negotiate on this arbitrary and, we are bound to say, dishonest basis. The Government retorted by declining to renew the licence to work the Trapeche Reis or warehouse as a bonded warehouse, and the company made it free, thus starting a new kind of business. Not only that, but success rewarded the directors' efforts, and unable to reduce the company to submission by underhanded means, the Government agreed to submit the question to arbitration. By the unanimous vote of a Court composed of two arbitrators, one appointed by the Brazilian Government and the other by the company, and an umpire appointed by the judge, the company was awarded 951,800 reis (or about £63,000). In other words the Government was beaten, but instead of accepting the decision of the arbitrators it apparently instructed the judge to annul the award, and matters are now just where they were before. We have no doubt, however, that the directors will go on fighting until they are accorded fair and decent treatment, because sooner or later the Government is bound to come round to the view that dishonest practices do not pay. There has been some alteration in the method of rendering the accounts, the directors having decided to take advantage of the rise in exchange, so that the statement is made up on the average rate at which remittances were received in London, instead of the fixed rate of 18. per milreis hitherto adopted. Receipts from the railway were £15,164, and the expenses £11,479, showing a profit of £3,685 and the Trapeche Reis gave revenue £9,723, expenses £6,292 and profit £3,430. After providing general charges in London and Rio the nett balance is £4,929, to which must be added

interest, profit on investments realised and transfer fees, in all £575, making a total of £5,504. Interest and premium on debenture stock required £423, leaving £5,081, so that with £2,188 brought in the sum for appropriation is £7,269. The directors therefore propose a dividend at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum, equal to 5s. per share, the same as before, carrying forward £2,424. All the debenture stock has now been paid off and the position looks fairly comfortable. The directors, by the way, have reduced their fees to £737, which is a good deal less than the sum to which they are entitled.

BABCOCK AND WILCOX, LTD.

The magnificent financial position built up by this boiler-making business rendered it impossible to take much exception to the reserve bonus scheme carried through during the past year. Some of the details were furnished in the last report, but the bulk of the particulars were reserved for future announcement, and it may be useful to recall what actually took place. First of all the directors added £175,000 to the reserve fund, making it £365,000, and then withdrew £265,000 in order to create new shares to an equal amount. These were then distributed to the shareholders for nothing, in the proportion of one for every two held, so that while the reserve fund came down from £365,000 to £100,000, the ordinary capital was increased from £535,000 to £800,000. As a general rule when anything of this kind takes place the dividend subsequently falls back in exact proportion to the increase of capital, and the finances of the Company are materially weakened without giving benefit to a soul. But this does not happen to Babcock and Wilcox. Profits are still so marvellous and the financial position so sound that the company again pays dividend and bonus aggregating 20 per cent. on the enlarged capital with the greatest ease, besides putting by the trifle of £120,000 to reserves. After providing all charges the manufacturing profit for the twelve months ended Dec. 31 was £299,419, or £6,457 more than in the previous year, in addition to which £12,968 came in from other sources, making £312,387. From this the outgo for income tax, directors' and auditors' remuneration, patents expenses and fees, and rents, rates, taxes, etc., was £21,365, leaving £291,022. Add £26,945 brought in, and the sum for disposal is £317,965, out of which the dividend on the preference shares absorbs £6,000. A sum of £160,000 is then distributed amongst the ordinary shareholders in the shape of two dividends of 8 per cent. and a bonus of 4 per cent., making 20 per cent. in all. £100,000 is placed to the general reserve, and £20,000 to the dividend equalisation fund, leaving £31,967 to be carried forward. With these additions the total reserves are again built up to £325,000, and at the date of the balance sheet the company had investments of £245,908, and total cash balances of £181,221. There are one or two other small liquid items besides the large sum of £545,317 owing by debtors, and the outlay of £27,573 on orders not invoiced. Stock of merchandise and work in progress appear at £204,774 and sundry creditors at £120,814, in addition to which there is a reserve of £100,000 for estimated further expenditure on orders invoiced, fall in value of investments, etc. Land and property account has been increased by £74,387 to £346,435, and although the allowance for depreciation is not mentioned we may be sure it is on a perfectly adequate scale.

CANADIAN GENERAL ELECTRIC CO., LIMITED. CANADA FOUNDRY CO., LIMITED.

Early in the present year the Canadian General Electric Company offered, through Messrs. Sperling Bros., 11,000 common shares in this country, and they were so eagerly subscribed that the lists were open for only two hours. The price of issue, was fixed at \$142½, or £29 5s. 8d. per \$100 share, and so far as we can gather, those who became interested have a very fair industrial investment of the semi-speculative kind. During 1905 the company itself issued 9,000 \$100 shares, asking a premium of 25 per cent. only, so that Canadian investors got a better bargain than those in England. Perhaps the difference is the intermediary profit. Total paid up capital is now \$4,979,705, and the reserve and contingent funds and balance of profit and loss amount to \$1,891,083, so that the financial position is being well looked after. Fixed indebtedness may be considered a negligible quantity, but the floating liabilities reach over \$2,500,000. On the other hand, the company has what it calls current assets, that is, cash, debtors, investments, stock, and work in progress, to the amount of \$4,170,251, or, say, 80 per cent. of the entire capitalisation. Capital expenditure during the year was wonderfully small at \$188,082, raising the total to \$4,071,333, and the directors lay stress on the fact that everything that prudence can suggest in the way of writing down and depreciation and keeping wasting assets well under their true value is carried out. And of a truth it does not seem mere idle boasting, because so far as can be gathered the company is conducted on cautious, well-defined lines, and it is probably quite right that the various assets are worth a good deal more than their balance-sheet value. How the unfortunate consumer stands with it all we are naturally not told, but that he is taxed pretty severely in order to produce this prosperity goes without saying. People of a mind to point to a company such as this as proof of the blessings of protection, should bear this one patent fact in mind, that other companies depending for their supplies on these tariff-protected industries have their chances of success seriously jeopardised by the over-capitalisation which their early initial expenditure involves. For how much less would the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway be built if the company could buy freely in the markets of the world, instead of being restricted to home manufacturers. We should say the saving would be quite one-third, and remember that, this being on capital expenditure account, the company has to be saddled with this

extra burden for ever in order that the manufacturing companies may make one profit. Will that not greatly curtail the railway companies' spending power in the future, and can that be to the permanent benefit of Canada? If the country likes to produce an artificial prosperity by imperilling its future development it is no affair of ours—but let us have done with humbug. As with the Grand Trunk Pacific so with the Electrical Development Company at Niagara, or indeed with any enterprise which is dependent for supplies upon protected home industries. Personally, it will not affect us a sixpence whether these companies succeed or fail, but if Canada thinks that she is building up permanent prosperity on the present lines there was never a greater mistake, and this country is asked by the brainless to tax itself in order to sustain this artificiality. However, the company last year made a profit of \$608,207, to which is added the balance on January 1, 1905, making \$690,120. From that, interest paid and discounts allowed absorbed \$125,988, and \$137,870 is written off for depreciation, &c., leaving \$426,261. So the directors provide the preferred dividend and four quarterly dividends at 10 per cent. per annum on the common stock, carrying forward the increased balance of \$90,763.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS, LIMITED.

The closing of the cattle markets of this company continued until near the end of November last, and receipts from these and the abattoirs together again fell off, the average per market per week being 1s. 7d. less at £2 13s., giving a total of £16,549 against £17,027. General markets produced £249 more at £9,387 and interest, &c., showed an increase of £164 at £601, making a total revenue of £26,538 compared with £26,603, while on the other hand expenses, allowing for the fact that the directors and trustees surrendered a portion of their fees in 1904 were £1,872 heavier as £17,908, leaving £8,630 as net profits. Of this sinking funds for the share and debenture capital and debenture interest absorbed £8,595, or £893 less owing to the re-arrangement effected by the extension of the concession, but even so the balance on the year's working was only £35. The markets having been re-opened, however, the directors were free to deal with the large balance of £9,094 brought forward, and promptly distributed a dividend of 5 per cent. in December last, leaving £2,899 to be carried forward. With the present addition the sinking funds have been brought up to £31,560, of which £19,269 has been paid in premiums on policies for £170,000, and £3,910 is invested. Sundry creditors, including £5,882 for unclaimed interest and dividends, come to £10,096, against which sundry debtors owe £495, and cash stands at £14,248. No attempt has yet been made to write down the item of preliminary expenses amounting to £18,749. The troubles of the company over the cattle markets do not yet appear to be at an end, as a local outbreak of plague has since necessitated the closing of some of the markets in the Beni Suef and Fayoum Provinces.

ALLIANCE ASSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

In the past year this large company, which does life, fire, and marine business, issued new policies in its life department for £1,085,097 gross and £952,097 nett, or about £81,000 gross and £3,500 nett more than in the previous year. The nett premium income came to £422,931, or £24,564 more than in 1904, and the nett interest income on the life funds was £157,378. Expenses and commissions are limited to 10 per cent. of the nett premium income. After meeting all claims and current charges, the life fund was increased by £292,469 during the year, and amounted on 31st December last to £4,377,677. The annuity fund also rose by £19,227 to a total of £587,637. These figures relate to the Alliance Company's own life business, but it has recently absorbed the Imperial Life Company, and the premium income of that department was £172,824 as against £185,941 in 1904, expenses in this case also being limited to 10 per cent. of the premiums. In the natural course of things the Imperial branch of the business will gradually merge into the Alliance and in time wholly disappear. Meanwhile the life fund of the Imperial Company was increased by £44,348 last year, and now amounts to £2,638,900. The quinquennial valuation of the Imperial business was made at the beginning of this year, and brought out a surplus of £244,798, including £1,644 paid away as interim bonuses to policy holders during the quinquennium. Out of the £243,154 remaining, the directors have set aside £189,350 as divisible profit, of which the shareholders get £37,500 and the policy holders £151,850. Even then £55,448 will be left to carry to the Imperial Life fund. In the fire business the nett premium income was £923,854, or £12,843 less than in 1904. Losses by fire came to £43 os. 11d., of the nett premiums, as against £49 os. 10d. in 1904, and expenses of management and commissions reached £34 11s. 10d., against £34 2s. 5d. in the previous year. The surplus on the underwriting account, exclusive of interest, is £206,599, or £53,545 in excess of 1904, and the interest income was £120,064. This includes interest upon the share capital, the shareholders investment reserve fund, and the fire fund. The leasehold investment and general account has at its credit £351,026, or £10,985 more than the year before. In the marine department the profit brought out is £174,779, and the total at credit of profit and loss for the year amounted to £230,421. The year began with a balance of £484,898, and finished with one of £715,319. Dividends and bonuses aggregating 10s. per share have been declared, and a 4s. interim dividend was paid on January 5 last, leaving 6s. to be paid on 5th July next. After paying dividend and bonuses, including the balance of interest in lieu of dividend payable upon the new shares issued under the provisions of the agreement between the Alliance Marine and General Assurance Company and the Alliance Company, which together absorb £246,981, £468,337 will be left to carry forward. The total of the company's funds of all descriptions now amount to £12,238,998.

THE EDINBURGH LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Last year this company issued 1,398 policies, insuring £633,626, of which £3,500 only was re-insured. Also £31,728 was received in payment for 55 annuities. The total premium income of the year was £306,682, and the total interest income £159,006. The entire income, exclusive of the annuity purchase money, was £465,824, and claims under death and endowment policies took £269,342. After meeting all these and paying £21,720 for surrender values, the life and annuity fund was increased by £106,144, and now totals £3,971,628, the aggregate of the company's funds being £4,085,850. The expenses of working the business amounted to rather over 15 per cent. of the premium income.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Great Western of Brazil.—Final of 3 per cent., making 6 per cent. for the year to Dec. 31, on both preferred and ordinary shares, placing £20,000 to reserve, £5,000 to amortisation fund, and carrying forward £21,956.

Mexican Southern.—2½ per cent. on the ordinary stock for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £7,000 to the renewal and contingency fund, and carrying forward £14,344.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Bank of Tarapaca.—Interim of 3s. per share, being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Bell's Asbestos.—At the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum for 1905, carrying forward £6,578.

Cuba Submarine Telegraph.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £1,818 to reserve, and carrying forward £5,604.

Fleming, Birkby and Goodall.—10 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended Feb. 28., placing £2,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £766.

Golden Horseshoe Estates.—First interim dividend for 1906, at 5/- per share.

Ibbotson Brothers.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Indo-European Telegraph.—For the six months ended Dec. 31 of 17s. 6d. per share (making 6 per cent. for the year) and a bonus of 20s. per share, also a special distribution of 15s. per share, out of interest accrued during the year upon investments.

John Arnott & Co.—At the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for the year ended Jan. 31.

North of England Trustee Debenture and Assets.—5 per cent. and bonus of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. for the year ended March 31.

Pacific Steam Navigation.—Final for 1905, payable 1st prox., of 15s. per share, making 25s. per share or 5 per cent. for the year.

San Miguel Copper.—Final for the last quarter of 1905 at the rate of 25 per cent. per annum, writing off the whole of the expenditure on mine development, £9,015, and also the preliminary expenses, £688, and carrying forward £856.

South British Fire and Marine Insurance of New Zealand.—Interim of 2s. 6d. per share for the past half-year.

United States and South American Trust.—At the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, for the half-year ended, April 4, making 4 per cent. for the year, with £5,000 placed to reserve, and £913 carried forward.

Variety Theatres Consolidated.—Interim at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended March 31.

Victoria Rubber.—At the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £375.

MINING RETURNS.

Abbottiakoon, Block 1.—Treated 5,000 tons, 3,015 ozs.

Abosso.—Crushed 3,845 tons, 2,575 ozs.; cyanide, 3,105 tons tailings, 812 ozs.; total, 3,387 ozs.

Akrokerrri (Ashanti).—Crushed 2,200 tons, 2,475 ozs.; assay of tailings, 4 dwts.; 1,320 tons of sands by cyanide 150 ozs.; total output, 2,625 ozs.

Alaska Treadwell.—38,148 tons ore, value \$54,522; saved 629 tons sulphurets, value \$85,520.

Angelo Gold.—Tons milled, 16,088, 3,883 ozs.; tons of sands, 9,664, 3,489 ozs.; tons of slimes, 3,265, 428 ozs.; total output, 7,800 ozs.

Ankobra (Taquah and Abosso) Development.—No. 1 dredger, 123 ozs.; No. 2 dredger, 49 ozs.

Ashanti Goldfields Auxiliary.—Recovered 225 ozs.

Ashanti Goldfields.—Obuasi Mill—3,280 tons crushed, 2,750 ozs.

Ayrshire Gold.—1,900 ozs. from 9,257 tons crushed; 942 ozs. from 6,680 tons cyanided.

Bellevue Proprietary.—Treated 3,810 tons, total 1,941 ozs.

Bibiani Gold Fields.—Crushed 2,821 tons, 1,805 ozs.; 2,480 tons of tailings by cyanide £2,555.

Briseis Tin Mines.—Black tin cleaned up, 86 tons, in addition to New Brothers Home No. 1, 36 tons. Briseis proportion, total output, 108 tons.

Broomassie.—Crushed 1,250 tons, 1,350 ozs.; 11 tons of concentrates of an assay value of £35 1s. per ton.

Burma Ruby Mines.—161,000 loads washed, producing rubies valued at Rs. 1,15,000. Royalties, Rs. 26,000.

Cape Copper.—Ookiep, 1,614 tons of 16 per cent., equal to 162 tons fine copper; Nababep, 3,789 tons of 4.3 per cent., equal to 163 tons of copper.

Carrington's Lion.—Crushed 300 tons for gold value £750.

Chillagoe.—Treated 1,526 tons copper ore and 1,680 tons lead ore, producing 57 tons copper matte and 130 tons lead bullion, containing 45 tons copper, 130 tons lead, and 15,331 ozs. silver.

City and Suburban.—9,478 ozs., 25,900 tons crushed.

Consolidated Main Reef.—Tons crushed 17,715, 3,754 ozs.;

tons of sands and concentrates by cyanide, 17,715, 2,323 ozs.;

total, 6,077 ozs.

Copiapo.—730 tons copper ores, averaging 12 per cent.

Crown Deep.—Tons crushed 27,310, 7,207 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates by cyanide 18,400, 3,303 ozs.; tons of slimes 7,827, 610 ozs.; total, 11,120 ozs.

Crown Reef.—Crushed 20,298 tons; from mill, 6,183 ozs.; yield from sands and concentrates, 2,734 ozs.; yield from slimes (current and accumulated), 1,561 ozs.; yield from dump process, 509 ozs.; total, 10,987 ozs.

Day Dawn Block and Wyndham.—4,660 tons, value £4,000.

Driefontein Consolidated.—Tons milled 19,639, 3,874 ozs.; tons of sand 14,728, 2,342 ozs.; tons of slimes 4,287, 495 ozs.; total, 6,711 ozs.

Durban Roodepoort Deep.—Tons crushed 11,040, 3,080 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates by cyanide 7,600, 743 ozs.; tons of slimes 3,311, 200 ozs.; total, 4,023 ozs.

Durban-Roodepoort Gold.—10,785 tons, 3,387 ozs.; tailings 7,030 tons, 950 ozs.; slimes 2,480 tons, 180 ozs.; total, 4,517 ozs.

East Gwanda.—Crushed 4,514 tons, 997 ozs.; concentrates 158 tons, 472 ozs.; Geelong cyanide 3,600 tons, 203 ozs.; total, 1,672 ozs.

Ferreira.—Crushed 21,400 tons, 9,527 ozs.; sands 15,111 tons, 2,549 ozs.; slime 6,876 tons, 627 ozs.; total, 12,708 ozs.

French Rand.—Tons crushed 18,500, 3,803 ozs.; tons tailings 19,314, 2,004 ozs.; total, 5,807 ozs.

Geldenhuis Estate.—17,165 tons from mill, 4,354 ozs.; from tailings by cyanide 2,021 ozs.; from slimes 557 ozs.; from dump by the "Stark" process, 339 ozs.; total, 7,271 ozs.

Globe and Phoenix.—Crushed 6,225 tons, 3,205 ozs.; cyanide, 4,000 tons, 594 ozs.; total 3,799 ozs.

Golden Horse Shoe.—20,335 tons, 13,319 ozs.

Grant.—4,699 tons, 2,114 ozs.; slimes plant 4,699 tons, 431 ozs.; total, 2,545 ozs.

Great Boulder Perseverance.—Treated 12,990 tons for 5,541 ozs. fine gold and 833 ozs. fine silver.

Great Boulder Proprietary.—12,619 tons for 12,321 ozs.; tailings (old), 2,776 tons for 225 ozs. Total (ozs.), 12,546.

Great Fingall Consolidated.—Tons of ore 20,169, 5,841 ozs.; tons of tailings by cyanide, 21,509, 2,804 ozs.; tons of concentrates 316, 1,964 ozs.; total, 10,609 ozs.

Hainault.—Crushed 4,697 tons for 1,681 ozs.

Hannan's Reward and Mount Charlotte.—Crushed 567 tons, 221 ozs.

Hyderabad (Deccan).—Output of coal from the Singareni Collieries, 32,431 tons.

Ivanhoe.—17,640 tons crushed, 3,295 ozs.; 8,620 tons of sands, 1,662 ozs.; 7,840 tons of slimes, 3,008 ozs.; 1,180 tons of concentrates, 2,309 ozs.

Johannesburg Consolidated Investment.—New Primrose—6,865 ozs.; 16,115 tons treated; Glencairn Main Reef—4,122 ozs.; 13,226 tons treated; Ginsberg—3,030 ozs.; 7,759 tons; New Rietfontein—4,958 ozs.; 8,800 tons; Consolidated Langlaagte—5,811 ozs.; 17,474 tons; New Unified Main Reef—2,242 ozs.; 8,888 tons; Buffelsdoorn—461, ozs.; tons (slimes), 2,940.

Jumpers.—Crushed, 11,200 tons; obtained from mill, 3,095 ozs.; tailings by cyanide, 1,352 ozs.; total, 4,447 ozs.

Jumpers Deep.—Tons crushed 15,741, 3,829 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates by cyanide 10,350, 1,715 ozs.; tons of slimes 5,123, 326 ozs.; total, 5,870 ozs.

Knight's Deep.—Tons 22,375, ounces 7,653.

Lake View Consols.—10,905 tons, 3,104 ozs.; 3,510 tons of old tailings, 591 ozs.; total, 3,695 ozs.

Lancaster West.—Crushed 6,572 tons, 1,489 ozs.; cyanide 5,214 tons, 715 ozs.; total output, 2,204 ozs.

Langlaagte Estate.—Ore crushed 29,075 tons, 5,346 ozs.; concentrates, cyanide, 551 tons, 780 ozs.; tailings, cyanide, 19,350 tons, 1,773 ozs.; slimes, 13,085 tons, 1,101 ozs.; total, 9,000 ozs.

Le Roi.—Shipments 10,465 tons, containing 4,672 ozs. gold, 7,030 ozs. silver, 246,500 lbs. copper.

Matabele Reefs and Estates.—Crushed 1,805 tons, 720 ozs.

May Consolidated.—Crushed 14,280 tons, 3,800 ozs.; cyanide, 9,350 tons, 2,003 ozs.; slimes, 3,808 tons, 285 ozs.; total, 6,088 ozs.

Meyer and Charlton.—2,736 ozs. from 10,740 tons crushed; 2,120 ozs. from cyanide; total, 4,856 ozs.

Mills Day Dawn United.—Crushed 1,477 tons, value £4,500.

Morven (Rhodesia).—Crushed 1,455 tons, 579 ozs.; 1,572 tons of tailings by tributor, 145 ozs.

Mount Lyell Blocks.—Treated 4,200 tons of crude ore for 56 tons 17 cwt. 20 lbs. fine copper.

Mount Morgan (Queensland).—Tons chlorinated 20,746, 9,522 ozs.

New Comet Gold.—Tons milled 17,500, 3,633 ozs.; tons of sands 11,690, 2,721 ozs.; total 6,354 ozs.

New Goch Gold.—2,313 ozs. from 14,492 tons crushed; 3,296 ozs. from cyanide; total, 5,609 ozs.

New Kleinfontein.—Tons milled 31,218, 7,371 ozs.; tons of sands 21,439, 2,952 ozs.; slimes, 8,761 tons, 518 ozs.; total, 10,841 ozs.

New Modderfontein.—Tons crushed 11,347, 3,160 ozs.; tons of tailings 7,546, 1,071 ozs.; total, 4,231 ozs.

New Rhodesia.—Crushed 659 tons, 349 ozs., of 10.59 dwts. per ton.

New Zealand Crown.—Crushed 1,833 tons, value £4,231.

Nigel.—3,028 ozs., tons crushed 7,480.

Nigel Deep.—Tons crushed, 3,139, 1,771 ozs.; profit, £741.

North Broken Hill.—Plant treated 1,206 tons, producing 222 tons concentrates containing 153 tons 12 cwt. lead and 2,264 ozs. silver.

North Randfontein.—Crushed 14,888 tons, 3,394 ozs.; concentrates, cyanide, 1,645 tons, 563 ozs.; tailings, cyanide, 8,460 tons, 1,481 ozs.; slimes, 4,667 tons, 562 ozs.; total, 6,000 ozs.

North White Feather.—Mill crushed 1,860 tons, 933 ozs.; cyanide, 1,702 tons, 82 ozs.

Penhalonga Proprietary.—Crushed 6,600 tons, 792 ozs.; 105 tons concentrates, 573 ozs.; total, 1,365 ozs.

Pergees Randfontein.—Crushed 13,927 tons, 4,043 ozs.; concentrates, cyanide, 1,089 tons, 373 ozs.; tailings, cyanide, 9,072 tons, 1,254 ozs.; slimes, 3,828 tons, 330 ozs.; total, 6,000 ozs.

Princess.—Crushed 6,585 tons, 2,110 ozs.; cyanide, 4,387 tons, 1,001 ozs.; total output, 3,111 ozs.

Red Hill, Westralia.—Crushed 1,817 tons, 720 ozs.

Rezende.—Crushed 3,100 tons, 893 ozs.; 2,075 tons sands, 140 ozs.

Rhodesia Matabeleland Development.—Crushed 112 tons, 81.65 ozs.

Robinson Central Deep.—Tons crushed, 16,705; 7,860 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates by cyanide, 11,200, 1,983 ozs.; tons of slimes, 6,104, 640 ozs.; total yield, 10,483 ozs.

Robinson Deep.—Tons crushed 30,004, 16,121 ozs.; profit, £36,787.

Robinson Gold.—Crushed, 30,500 tons, 12,385 ozs.; from tailings (by cyanide), 4,765 ozs.; from own concentrates (by chlorination), 1,117 ozs.; from slimes, 1,576 ozs.; total, 19,843 ozs.

Robinson Randfontein.—Crushed, 15,199 tons, 3,209 ozs.; concentrates, cyanide, 1,125 tons, 338 ozs.; tailings, cyanide, 8,190 tons, 1,459 ozs.; slimes, 5,003 tons, 494 ozs.; total, 5,500 ozs.

Roodepoort Central Deep.—Crushed, 7,527 tons, 1,975 ozs.; cyanide, 5,524 tons treated, 908 ozs.; total output, 2,883 ozs.

Roodepoort United.—2,867 ozs. from 10,030 tons crushed; 1,578 ozs. from cyanide; total, 4,445 ozs.

St. David's.—1,219 tons crushed, 59 ozs.

St. John del Rey.—Gold produce, £21,250; yield per ton, 50 of an oz. troy.

San Francisco del Oro.—704 tons shipped; value, £1,682.

Simmer and Jack.—Tons, 53,200; ounces, 20,010.

Simmer and Jack East.—Tons, 16,463, 5,680 ozs.

Sons of Gwalia.—Ore crushed, 10,872 tons, 3,587 ozs.; tailings, by cyanide, 6,120 tons, 923 ozs.; concentrates, 230 tons, 702 ozs.; totals, 5,211 ozs.

South Randfontein.—Crushed, 14,689 tons, 3,411 ozs.; concentrates, cyanide, 1,470 tons, 425 ozs.; tailings, cyanide, 8,440 tons, 1,519 ozs.; slimes, 4,848 tons, 645 ozs.; total, 6,000 ozs.

Surprise.—Crushed, 3,050 tons, 1,085 ozs.; cyanide, 547 ozs. from 3,495 tons.

Talisman Consolidated.—Tons, 4,190; value, £10,321.

Tasmanian Copper.—Treated, 4,157 tons of ore, fluxes, &c., producing 265 tons copper matte, assaying 57 per cent.

Treasury.—Tons crushed, 8,723, 1,660 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates, by cyanide, 7,871, 829 ozs.; total, 2,489 ozs.

Tyee Copper.—Tyee ore, 2,154 tons; Customs ore, 675 tons; matte produced, 278 tons; value, \$37,966.

Van Ryn.—Crushed, 22,540 tons, 5,929 ozs.; cyanide, 22,614 tons of tailings, 2,796 ozs.

Village Deep.—Tons crushed, 20,440, 4,185 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates, by cyanide, 14,850, 2,282 ozs.; tons of slimes, 5,261, 464 ozs.; total, 6,931 ozs.

Village Main Reef.—Crushed, 23,800 tons, 6,536 ozs.; cyanide, 16,365 tons of sands and concentrates, 2,674 ozs.; slimes, 7,020 tons, 470 ozs.; total, month, 9,680.

Vivien.—1,500 tons of ore milled, 404 ozs.; 1,060 tons of tailings, 76 ozs.; 310 tons, current slimes, 34 ozs.

Wanderer (Selukwe).—Cyanide, 17,112 tons, 2,704 ozs.

Wemmer.—Crushed, 8,940 tons, 3,019 ozs.; 7,020 tons sands, 742 ozs.; 2,700 tons slimes, 162 ozs.; 178 tons concentrates caught with an average assay value of 82 dwts. (estimated); total, 4,655 ozs.

West Rand Central.—Crushed, 2,525 tons, 516 ozs.; 2,150 tons, by cyanide, 590 ozs.

Windsor Gold.—Crushed, 5,120 tons, 727 ozs.; cyanide, 4,282 tons, 723 ozs.; total, 1,450 ozs.

Witwatersrand Deep.—Tons crushed, 26,940, 7,795 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates, by cyanide, 28,195, 2,968 ozs.; total, 10,763 ozs.

Witwatersrand Gold.—9,151 ozs., 28,300 tons.

Wolhuter Gold.—Crushed, 14,400 mill tons, sands and slimes, 12,000 tons; from mill, 2,862 ozs., from sands, 2,153 ozs.; total, 5,015 ozs.

Worcester Exploration.—764 ozs.

A special general meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Liverpool was held at Liverpool on 9th inst. for the purpose of passing resolutions for the increase of the bank's capital and alterations in its deed of settlement in connection with the amalgamation of the Craven Bank, Limited, with the Bank of Liverpool, Limited. The resolutions were unanimously adopted, and will be submitted for confirmation at a second meeting to be held on 25th inst.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

BANK OF LIVERPOOL, LIMITED.

THE ABSORPTION OF THE CRAVEN BANK.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS CONFIRMED.

A special general meeting of the proprietors of the Bank of Liverpool, Limited, was held on Monday, April 9th, at noon, at the Law Association Rooms, Cook Street, for the purpose of passing the necessary resolutions in connection with the amalgamation of the Craven Bank, Limited. Sir Thomas Royden, Bart., chairman of the Bank of Liverpool, presided, and among those present were Messrs. J. W. Alsop, L. Amoroso, J. G. Barnes, T. W. Bird, T. E. Blenkarn, C. W. Bond, G. Brocklebank, T. Brocklebank, A. Buckley, E. F. Callister, F. W. Calloway, W. H. Castle, J. M. Caw, E. A. Chapman, W. Conway, T. W. Cook, F. W. Crewdson, W. Crosfield, S. S. Dawson, G. C. Dobell, G. Downie, C. F. Finney, Sir W. B. Forwood, C. Goodwin, E. J. R. Hargreaves, J. P. Hargreaves, E. H. Harrison, E. J. Harrison, J. A. S. Hassal, Robert D. Holt, P. H. Hope, H. H. Hornby, G. Lehr, T. A. Leigh, W. J. Little, R. C. Lockett, C. Lumgair, W. Lytham, R. L. M'Glashen, S. M'Millin, W. Macvie, J. T. Miller, J. Moreton, A. T. Neilson, J. G. Neish, J. E. Nevins, W. Nevins, W. H. Nicholson, William P. O'Dwyer, R. B. Pickering, W. Potts, J. P. Preston, F. J. Priest, J. Pritchard, J. Rankin (deputy-chairman), G. H. Robertson, H. R. Robertson, T. Rogers, E. B. Royden, C. B. Royds, A. Scott, James H. Simpson (general manager), S. G. Sinclair, L. Spear, E. Taylor, E. C. Thin, J. Thorburn, J. F. von Gahlen, F. G. Walker, W. Walker, J. Webster (Bootle), W. W. Wilson, J. Marke Wood.

Mr. J. W. Alsop, the solicitor to the bank, read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, I think I may take it that you have carefully considered the circular which has been addressed to you with reference to the amalgamation of this bank with the Craven Bank, Limited. A great change has taken place of recent years in the English banking system. Partly by the opening of new branches, but mainly by the process of amalgamation, there have come into existence powerful banking institutions, which, by means of widespread organisation and ample resources, exercise a great and growing influence upon the trade and finance of the country. It is a matter for congratulation that the influence and power of these great banks have been wisely used, and, while we all regret the absorption from time to time of local private or joint stock banks which may for many years have efficiently served the interests of the community in which they carry on their business, we cannot reverse, nor can we ignore, the change to which I have referred. What you are concerned with, however, is the effect of this change upon the Bank of Liverpool. I am glad to say that in consequence of our absorption of the business of Arthur Heywood, Sons & Co., the Liverpool Commercial Banking Company, and Wakefield, Crewdson, and Co., we have so far been able to hold our own, in spite of severe competition; but we have for some time recognised that we cannot stand still, and we have accordingly been on the look-out for any favourable opportunity of extension. Such an opportunity now presents itself in the acquisition of the Craven Bank by the Bank of Liverpool, and your directors feel that they can congratulate the shareholders that they have succeeded in bringing negotiations to the stage described in the scheme which we have submitted to you. Your directors hope that you will show your cordial approval of the scheme by passing the resolutions required under it for the increase of the capital of the bank and sundry alterations of the bank's Deed of Settlement.

THE CRAVEN BANK

was formed in 1880 to take over the old and successful private banking business of Messrs. Birkbeck, Robinson & Co., and its sphere of operations extends from Settle in the North, to Burnley in the South-West, and Bradford in the South-East, with its centre at Skipton, where the head office of the bank is situated. It has fourteen branches and twenty-five sub-branches, and trades at all the important towns in the Craven district of Lancashire and Yorkshire. It thus approaches very close to our own branches in Lancaster, Kirkby Lonsdale, and Sedburgh, and forms a natural extension of this bank's business area. The nature of its business reflects, of course, the trade of the districts to which I have referred. From Skipton to Settle we have agriculture, in the Lancashire towns cotton weaving and spinning, while in Yorkshire the bank comes in contact with the woollen industry. In addition to these elements, the Craven Bank has a good general business and considerable deposits. With all these advantages presenting themselves on the surface, your directors did not hesitate to approach the Craven Bank with a view to amalgamation; and I am glad to say that every stage of the negotiations has only tended to further confirm our belief that the amalgamation is highly desirable from this bank's point of view. From the outset it was decided by those representing your interests and those representing the interests of the Craven Bank that the negotiations between the two banks could only be brought to a successful termination provided they could be made

MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS

to both bodies of shareholders, and we believe that we have arrived at such an arrangement under the scheme now submitted to you. First, the relative value of the shares had to be settled, and this was done on the natural basis of the medium market prices of the respective shares on the day when negotiations were opened,

namely, £38 for each Bank of Liverpool share and £23 10s. for each Craven Bank share. The next thing was to arrange terms which would offer a sufficient inducement to Craven Bank shareholders not only to consent to the merging of their bank, of which they are justly proud, with the Bank of Liverpool, but to take Bank of Liverpool shares in exchange for their shares. Your directors felt that it was highly important that the shareholders generally should be led to make such an exchange, with a view to enlist their continued interest in promoting the business of the bank in their district, and we accordingly decided to offer exchanging shareholders a bonus of £1 6s. upon each of their Craven Bank shares. Working out the values of the shares, and taking this bonus into calculation, five Craven Bank shares are equivalent to three Bank of Liverpool shares, plus a cash payment of £10, and if every Craven Bank shareholder decided avail himself of the option to exchange, the Bank of Liverpool would have to issue 18,000 of its shares, and pay £60,000 in cash. We had, however, to protect the interests of any Craven Bank shareholders who might not wish to take shares in this bank, and it was arranged that these should receive the value of their Craven Bank shares at £23 10s., together with a cash bonus of 7s. per share. We next had to secure that the business of the Craven Bank should not suffer in any way by the exchange, but that its local influence, and, as far as possible, its individuality should be maintained. With this view we made some

IMPORTANT ARRANGEMENTS

of which I have no doubt you will approve. We agreed to elect to the board of this bank three directors of the Craven Bank, conversant with the Craven district and with that bank's affairs, and to the other directors, as is usual in such cases, we made a cash payment in compensation for loss of office equivalent to five years' purchase of their respective fees. We also secured the services for five years of Mr. F. J. Ponting, the able general manager of the Craven Bank. Mr. Ponting will serve as District General Manager, and in order to compensate him for the loss of rank which he suffers in ceasing to be an independent general manager, we agreed to make him a cash payment. Mr. Ponting also had certain pension rights as against the Craven Bank, which the Bank of Liverpool would have had to assume, and which would have increased with every additional year of service with the Bank of Liverpool. These rights we have also agreed to compound, and the sum agreed to between Mr. Ponting and the directors of both banks has been fixed at £20,000, half of which will be paid in two and a-half years from now, and the balance at the end of five years. We have further agreed to take over the whole of the staff of the Craven Bank, and to run the business as a separate district on the lines which we have found so successful in the case of our Northern district. We shall also retain, at any rate for some years, the name of the Craven Bank in the title of each branch in the Craven Bank district. Now I come to two matters of vital importance. Firstly, the soundness of the Craven Bank's business; secondly, the effect of the amalgamation upon the profits of this bank. In regard to the first, it is fortunate that our own auditors, Messrs. Harwood Banner and Son, happen to have been for many years, and are still, auditors of the Craven Bank. Mr. Banner has, accordingly, been able to give each bank the most ample assurances as to the soundness of the position of the other bank. In addition to this, our general manager has made an exhaustive examination of the overdrafts and other business of the Craven Bank, and is perfectly satisfied as to its safe and progressive character. He also found that the internal organisation of the bank, which is of the most perfect description, will render its absorption into our own system a facile matter. On their side their general manager is equally satisfied with the high character of our business. Now I come to the important question of dividend. While the arrangement which we have made with the Craven Bank shareholders will bring them in a slightly larger revenue than that which they have been accustomed to receive on their holdings, we have satisfied ourselves, as far as it is possible for business men to satisfy themselves on such a point, that your interests in the matter of dividend will by no means suffer by the amalgamation now proposed. We are satisfied that when the scheme has been carried through the earning power of the combined business and of the increased capital will fully provide the dividend upon the bank's increased share capital at our usual rate, and will leave at the disposal of the board a substantial surplus of profits to be applied towards strengthening our reserve fund and the other funds of the bank. Speaking of the reserve fund, I may say that our intention is to transfer the whole of the Craven Bank reserve fund, —namely £90,000—to our own reserve fund, which by this means and by the transfer out of the profits which we hope to make, as usual, in July, will be increased to over £800,000. The internal funds of the bank will also be largely augmented. The amalgamation scheme, if it is your pleasure to adopt it, will mark a

GREAT STEP FORWARD

in the progress of the bank by adding 15 branches and 25 sub-branches to our already considerable list, and will give us an addition to our deposits of three millions and a half. While extending in one direction we thought it well to make some extension in another, and while only 18,000 shares would be required for the purpose of the amalgamation, we have decided to further augment our capital account by issuing in all 25,000 shares, and all this can be done, as I have said, without encroaching upon the dividend you already receive on your existing shares. The new shares not required for purpose of exchange will be shortly offered to the shareholders of the combined bank upon favourable terms and will no doubt be readily taken up by the shareholders. If I have carried your judgment with me, as I trust

I have, it only remains for you to pass the resolutions necessary for increasing the capital of the bank by creating 25,000 new shares, and to authorise sundry alterations which are called for in our Deed of Settlement. These have been before you for some time, so I shall only refer to the most important of them—namely, those which are intended to abolish the somewhat obsolete provisions of the deed in regard to the reserved surplus fund. The object and effect of these changes will be to enable your directors to alter the form of the annual report, which we find the public generally do not easily follow, and to give the directors a freer hand in the apportionment of the surplus profits. We hope you will, therefore, find when you receive our annual report in July that it is drawn up in a modern form, and upon lines similar to those of the other leading banks of this country. It is, perhaps, unnecessary that I should, in conclusion, assure you that I should not be occupying the position of chairman at this meeting if I were not myself thoroughly satisfied, and if my friend the deputy-chairman and the other directors of the bank were not also thoroughly satisfied, with the proposal which we now lay before you (applause).

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by the Deputy-chairman (Mr. John Rankin), the necessary resolutions were unanimously passed for increasing the capital of the bank from £8,000,000 to £10,500,000, and for the requisite alteration of the Deed of Settlement, as set out in the circular previously advertised.

The business having been concluded,

Mr. G. C. Dobell proposed that the thanks of the meeting be given to the chairman, who, he said, had presided that day as he generally did—in a very able manner.

Mr. Edmund Taylor seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman, in reply, said he was very much obliged for their mark of confidence. He hoped that what they had done that day would mean the further success of the bank.

Mr. James H. Simpson (general manager) reminded the shareholders present of the subsequent meeting, to be held on the 25th inst., at which it would be necessary to confirm what they had done that day. He hoped the shareholders would make it convenient to attend so as to secure a quorum. The business would probably be short and formal.

MEETING OF THE CRAVEN BANK, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Craven Bank, Limited, was held at Skipton yesterday for the purpose of passing the resolutions approving of the amalgamation of that bank with the Bank of Liverpool, Limited, and also resolutions for the voluntary winding up of the Craven Bank. The resolutions were unanimously passed, and will be submitted for confirmation to a second meeting to be held on the 26th inst.

R. WHITE AND SONS.

The thirteenth annual ordinary general meeting of shareholders in R. White and Sons, Limited, was held at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., yesterday, Mr. Robert James White (chairman and managing director) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. John J. Ball) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—In submitting to you the report and balance-sheet for the year ended November 30, 1905, I regret that it shows unfavourably, but in this respect, if we can take any comfort from it, we are not alone. Other businesses, notably the beer brewing industries, have continued to suffer, I think, to a much greater extent than ours. As far as we are concerned, I foreshadowed at our last general meeting the then coming season would be a difficult one unless we were relieved in the price of sugar. This relief was not given. Through the Sugar Convention and the speculation which was consequent upon it, the prices went up in 1905 to 24s. 6d. per cwt., and affected our purchases of sugar for the whole year so much that we paid an average price of 4s. more per cwt. than in 1904. You will remember that we had passed through a time of severe competition. I was able, however, to assure you that this competition was likely to be ended to a great extent. Although the agreement had a most satisfactory effect in stopping the growth of discounts, there was a large amount which had still to be paid out to our customers in the shape of rebate or discount, and this amount could not be properly estimated until the accounts had been made up. Although we have made trading profits much sounder for the future, we have not benefited to any great extent in the past year's accounts. I am pleased to inform you that there is a better outlook for the coming season in two things—we shall save on the contracts we have made for sugar, and we shall also save through stopping the competition to which I have just alluded. Unfortunately for us, the sugar-tax still remains. You will notice that we have suffered to the extent of £120,000 since its imposition. This is from the tax alone, quite apart from the extra cost through the Sugar Convention. As stated in the report, we have been working with others in the hope of getting this burden relieved, and we are looking forward to the time when this unfair handicap to our industry will be removed. May I urge every shareholder to help us by writing to his local member of Parliament asking his help towards relieving us from a portion, if not all, of this, which was originally a war-tax? I think, perhaps, it would be as well to give some of the reasons for the falling off in profits since 1900. First, there is the imposition of the sugar-tax and the Convention. These combined have cost us something like £140,000. In the next place, the general depression of trade in all

branches and the consequent loss of employment amongst the working classes has affected us very severely. We consider the success of our business largely depends upon the prosperity of the working and middle classes. I think it as well, also, to point out to you that we had committed ourselves during 1902 to the purchase and equipment of a factory for the manufacture of vinegar. We were two or three years elaborating this factory and filling it with plant, necessitating a large outlay of capital, and we have now a factory which, we believe, is the finest of its kind in London; moreover, our business there is capable of great expansion. We have now been manufacturing for a period of nearly two years, and the sales have reached a very satisfactory figure. We have shown profits in both years; still the opening and building up of a new business is expensive, but I may say the outlook here is most encouraging. The outgoings of the past three or four years have been heavy for the following reasons. We prepared, on the top of a run of successful years, to start two businesses, one at Manchester and the vinegar business I have just mentioned. They have absorbed a large amount of capital, and during the two or three years following the conditions of trade were much against us. We can still say, however, as the holders of the ordinary shares, that we have confidence in everything we have done, and given fairly warm seasons—which we have not experienced lately—and relief from the sugar tax, I have no doubt that the profits of this company will revive. Personally, I give a very large amount of time to the business, and it is known to many of the shareholders here that every detail is closely watched. The confidence we have in it is still unabated, and the sacrifices we have made to help the preference shareholders and the financial assistance we have given are known to you. I merely mention these facts so that you may feel that, however disappointing it may be not to receive regular dividends, you may judge how much more unsatisfactory it is to us being the ordinary shareholders. Your dividends are cumulative; therefore when we have weathered our bad times and are able to resume payment, it will be much more pleasant for me to preside at these annual meetings. The Chairman concluded his speech by formally moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

After some discussion the motion was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors, Mr. C. W. Clayton and Mr. H. B. Grotian, were re-elected, the auditors reappointed, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors.

BAKU RUSSIAN PETROLEUM COMPANY.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Baku Russian Petroleum Company, Ltd., was held on Monday, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C. in compliance with requisitions signed by shareholders owning more than one-tenth of the issued capital of the company, for the purpose of considering certain resolutions set out in the notice convening the meeting. Colonel Ivor Philipps, M.P. (chairman of the company), presided.

The secretary (Mr. A. S. Evens) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman: There is a letter written to the secretary by Mr. Compton Rickett, M.P., which I will ask Mr. Evens to read.

The secretary read the following letter, signed by Mr. J. Compton Rickett:—"Owing to the introduction of the Education Bill to-day, I am detained in the House of Commons in the interests of the Nonconformist Associations with which I am closely connected. Otherwise I should certainly have been present at your meeting to-day in support of the chairman and surviving members of your board. Your present chairman is a capable man who has been a sufficient time in office to have acquired the details of the business, and yet whose appointment is so recent as not to involve him in any questions relating to the inauguration of the company. No doubt there are matters concerning capital and commissions paid for service which are open to comment, more particularly in the light of subsequent events. I am, however, personally satisfied that there is no ground for impeaching the honour of Mr. Henry Gladstone, or of his firm, and recognise with satisfaction their willingness to stand by the company in its darkest hour. It is impossible to disentangle the question of management from the unexampled series of misfortunes which, through political disturbance, has overtaken the oilfield of Baku. To press for the retirement of the present board in favour of an untried alternative would, I am of opinion, prove fatal to the interests of the ordinary shareholders; whereas, some further patience and confidence extended to Mr. Gladstone and his friends may, at any rate, carry the company through the present emergency with, at least, the possibility of a more fortunate issue. The connection of Mr. Gladstone with a neighbouring company will, I hope, be an advantage rather than a disability, as in the present crisis in the Russian oil trade British companies are bound to be in touch with one another for their common interests."

The chairman in the course of an exhaustive address on the earlier Dvorkovitz movement for reform detailed the outcome of that agitation and the circumstances connected with the renewal of the battle between the board and their opponents, and he went on to point out that the resolutions having relation to the appointment of a temporary committee of management were not in order, that the resolution for the dismissal of Mr. Urquhart was most unfair, that gentleman being directly responsible to the board. The committee which went into the allegations of Dr. Dvorkovitz was a representative body, and it was in no sense a "packed" committee. The report of that body appointed to inquire into the charges of fraud disproved, he said, the statements of Dr. Dvorkovitz. The real object of the agitation was not, he alleged, disclosed in the circulars, and the chairman proceeded

to observe, amid the protests of a few of the shareholders, that what he called the Beninson and Tweedie group were at the back of the leader of the movement. The shareholders by means of the agitation could not get their money back, the movement was harmful, as it prevented the board conducting the business with success. Proceeding, he went *seriatim* through the allegations of the opposition, characterising them as being either untrue or exaggerated. The board had no objection to receiving the nominations of one or two gentlemen with the view of appointment to the board.

Mr. Dvorkovitz then addressed the meeting, and criticised the address of the chairman, the burden of his speech being that he and his friends had made out a good case for a change in the control.

The first resolution, to the effect that the shareholders had lost confidence in the board, and calling upon the directors to resign, was lost on a show of hands, 34 voting in favour, and 60 against.

Dr. Whitty and others demanded a poll.

The poll resulted: For the resolution, 217,411 votes; against the resolution, 624,190 votes.

MOTOR TRACTION COMPANY (1905).

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Motor Traction Co. (1905), Limited, was held on Monday afternoon, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. F. H. Bromwich (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. Gulliver) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said that the object of the meeting was to confirm an agreement, dated March 31, 1906, between the Mercedes Daimler Co., Mr. S. F. Edge, and this company for the compromise of disputes; also to increase the capital from £60,000 to £120,000 in order to enable the directors to carry out the agreement. The Chairman proceeded to deal with the history of the company, and went on to say: The British Motor Co., your original licensors, had ceased to exist, and the patents formerly owned by them had been acquired by the Mercedes Daimler Co. and Mr. S. F. Edge. It was consequently with that company and Mr. Edge that our negotiations took place, and with them, as the owners of the patents, it is that our agreement has been made. I think you will all agree that we took the right course in coming to this agreement. Litigation with the German company we could face, because the most they can claim, even if they get the judges to listen to their extraordinary claim, is to be competitors; but the very essence of our trading existence was that we should have a full and complete licence to manufacture and sell under the patents right up to date, and this we could only obtain either by agreement with the patent owners or as the result of the litigation to which I have referred. Even had we succeeded on all points, we should still be left to face a constantly recurring difficulty in the future, of deciding between ourselves and the patent owners how far any addition to the 'bus was a mere improvement or a new invention, and we should never have known, therefore, where we stood. We considered that the question should be settled once and for all; so by the agreement in question we get not only our licence brought up to date, but we have the right for all future time, and, I beg you to remember, without any further payment, to a licence under all improvements or new inventions relative to the patents which may become the property of either the Mercedes Daimler Co. or Mr. Edge. Of course, this licence applies not only to the Daimler patents, but to the De Dion Bouton patents. I have referred in my remarks to the Daimler 'bus principally, because it is in respect of that 'bus that we claim our 'exclusive rights; but the De Dion Bouton system is well known, and the licence your company possesses for that system is by no means a negligible quantity. I cannot impress upon you too strongly the importance which your directors attach to these additional rights. Your licence was, moreover, in the nature of a personal matter to our company, as we had no right to grant a sub-licence, but by the agreement now come to we obtain such a right upon terms to be mutually agreed or settled between us in case of dispute by an arbitrator. We have converted a possible enemy—I refer to Mr. Edge—into a powerful friend, and I think you will all, along with your board, attach the very highest importance to this. Mr. Edge's name is too well known in the motor world for it to be necessary for me to say anything in his eulogy. I have his promise now to work heart and soul with your board and to give them every assistance for the future. I hold in my hand a letter from Mr. Edge, which I will read to you. It is as follows:—"Dear Mr. Bromwich,—I enclose my proxy for the Motor Traction meeting for Monday next. I am exceedingly sorry that important matters have called me abroad at the moment, as I should have liked to have been present at the inauguration of what I hope will be a very successful business undertaking for all of us.—Yours truly, S. F. Edge." You will see that in the letter Mr. Edge uses only a hopeful expression. This is his modesty, as I may tell you that he and your directors have determined that your company shall be, and cannot fail to be, a success. Neither he nor the Mercedes Daimler Co. get anything for giving us these very valuable rights, except shares in your company, and he is not the sort of man to give away his property for shares without meaning to make those shares of intrinsic value. I think I have dealt sufficiently with the main features of the agreement. It has, in accordance with the notice, been open for inspection by any shareholders, and it will be read to you by the company's solicitor before I put the resolution. Now as to the future. I ventured to

prophecy when I met you last, at the statutory meeting, that the negotiations which were then pending would conclude favourably. This has been fulfilled. I will now venture upon another prophecy, which is that when I next have the pleasure of meeting you at the ordinary general meeting for the consideration of our accounts we shall have a very respectable showing to make. In conclusion, he called upon the solicitor to read the agreement.

Mr. Hunter having read the agreement *in extenso*,

The Chairman moved: "That an agreement dated March 31, 1906, made between the Mercedes Daimler Motor Co., Limited, of the first part, Selwyn Francis Edge of the second part, and the company of the third part, being an agreement for the compromise of certain disputes therein mentioned, be confirmed."

Mr. Gilbert seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved: "That the following resolution of the board be hereby sanctioned and confirmed, viz.: 'For the purpose of giving effect to the said agreement, and subject to the same being sanctioned by the said extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of the company, it is hereby resolved that, in accordance with Article 43 of the company's articles of association, the capital of the company be increased to the sum of £120,000, by the creation of 60,000 shares of £1 each, ranking *pari passu* with the present share capital of the company.'"

Mr. Hart seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and the proceedings terminated.

BALAGHAT GOLD MINING COMPANY.

The tenth ordinary general meeting of the Balaghat Gold Mining Co., Limited, was held on Tuesday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., the Right Hon. Lord Ribblesdale, chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. L. Bayley) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—It has been a year's steady progress in output, in treatment of quartz, and in our sales, and if you turn to the reserves you will see that they have substantially increased. As I have nothing exciting in policy to say about the mine during the year or about our present circumstances, I shall stick to the figures which are before you in the report. During the year 48,820 tons of quartz and 33,000 tons of tailings were treated, yielding 42,470 ozs. of bar gold, of the value of £164,203, whereas during the previous year there were only treated 36,000 tons of quartz and 28,560 tons of tailings, from which we obtained 31,706 ozs. of bar gold, which realised £122,666, so that the receipts from sales of gold were no less than £41,537 greater in 1905 than in 1904. This improvement is caused through larger quantities of quartz and tailings being treated, as the combined average extraction by these processes was the same in both years—namely, 18 dwts. 1 gr. of gold per ton. If you turn to the revenue account you will observe that the receipts, after allowing for royalty to the Mysore Government of £8,131, aggregate £157,961, and the expenses in India and in England £83,049, leaving a profit of £74,912, which shows an increase of £20,168 as compared with the result of the preceding 12 months. Mr. John Taylor last year told you of the gradual decrease in the cost of treatment which had been effected in the history of the mine, and I am pleased to say to you that this time we can congratulate you on a further reduction in the mining and milling cost to the extent of 6s. 2d. per ton, so that we are gradually bringing our costs down, although, of course, we are not treating the same quantity of ore which enables the Mysore and Champion Reefs to show a lower cost than we can. The more we can treat the cheaper we can mill and mine. The credits of the profit and loss account are as follows:—£702, the balance brought forward from 1904, £358 interest on investments and £74,911 profit for the twelve months ending December 31 last, making a total of £75,971. Out of this sum £16,674 was paid in dividends on July 20th and £15,238 on November 3, and the following items charged:—Income-tax, £1,619; depreciation of machinery, plant, &c., at the mines, £5,111; reserve funds, £6,000; written off outlay on mines and general expenditure account, £6,000, leaving a credit balance at December 31 of £25,327. This enabled us to pay a balance dividend of rs. 6d. on each class of share on March 30 last, absorbing £22,858, leaving £2,468 to be carried forward to the current year's account. The total dividends paid out of the year's profits were 5s. per share on the preference shares and 3s. on the ordinary shares, as against 3s. 6d. on the preference shares and 1s. 6d. on the ordinary shares, paid in 1904. I think you will agree that this is a very substantial improvement. Last year I think something was said at the meeting about our paying three dividends a year. We have been able to do that this time, not from any representations made at the meeting, anxious as we always are to pay attention to these, but because we have been able to come into line in our dividend-earning capacity with the big mines on the Kolar field. It may be of interest to you to hear the steady progress made in recent years in the payment of dividends. In 1900 10 per cent. was paid on the preference shares and nothing on the ordinary shares. In 1901, 1902, and 1903 15 per cent. was declared on the preference shares and 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares in each year; in 1904 17½ per cent. was distributed on the preference shares and 7½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, in 1905 the preference shares received 25 per cent. and the ordinary shares 15 per cent. After some further observations the chairman concluded by formally moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Henry Taylor then addressed the meeting, and spoke very hopefully of the outlook. He seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, after which the retiring directors and auditors were re-elected.

OOREGUM GOLD MINING COMPANY.

The ordinary general meeting of the Ooregum Gold Mining Company of India, Limited, was held on Tuesday, at the Cannon Street Hotel, Cannon Street, E.C., Mr. Malcolm Low (Chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. H. Williams) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: When we met last we still had with us our late valued secretary, Mr. Richard Garland. His death has deprived us of an able and faithful servant, and I am sure you all wish to join with us in expressing our regret at his loss. (Hear, hear.) Mr. F. H. Williams, his successor, is, I think, well known to many of you, and on the present occasion I will only say of him that we think ourselves very fortunate in having secured his services. Now, in taking a survey of our development work during the year, I think we have really no cause for dissatisfaction. Our three most important shafts, which, as you know, are the new vertical, Oakley's and Taylor's, have been put down in the aggregate 1,618 ft., and of this no less than 1,019 ft. are due to the new vertical shaft—a very considerable feat of work, as we explain in the report, for a period of twelve months. Apart from these three great shafts, the footage we have driven, risen and sunk amounts altogether to 12,701 ft. These results outstrip those of the year 1904 by 357 ft. and 1,381 ft. respectively. Then with regard to the tonnage milled, we put through the mills 121,779 tons of quartz, and we cyanided 122,491 tons of tailings—that is, 5,670 tons less in the case of quartz and 391 tons more in the case of tailings than were treated in the year 1904. The payable reserves at the close of the year estimated in sight amounted to 131,226 tons, including 27,154 tons belonging to what we call the east reef, which last-stated quantity, by the way, as may be gathered by what Mr. Bullen says on the subject, certainly does not err on the side of over-caution. Well, that is all satisfactory enough. On the other hand, the total return of gold is less this year by 7,385 ozs. In this decrease the tailings play no part; in fact, they are better both in quantity and in quality than they were in the year before. The decrease arises partly from the shortage of 5,670 tons of quartz milled, but still more from the fall in the average value of our ore from 9 dwts. 16 grs. to 8 dwts. 21 grs. That result, of course, is to be regretted; but it has been beyond our power, or at least beyond power prudently exercised, to prevent. I ventured last year to point out that a great mine like ours cannot be administered except with careful regard and continuous careful regard to future capacity. As a matter of fact, that really is platitude. We can all of us see that it would never do for us to be rushing through all our best ore only to find ourselves at the end of a certain number of months faced by a very ugly drop. That would not do at all. Mr. Bullen keeps nothing back from us; we know all that is passing in his mind; we also know all that is passing through the mine, and we can confidently tell you that the returns of the past year are as good as the mining conditions of the past year warranted. We have now been passing for two years through what we may call lean years, or, at all events, lean years for the Ooregum, and it is a very pertinent question to ask, "Are we now coming to the end of these lean years?" That is a question, no doubt, we should all like to see satisfactorily answered. For myself, I say without hesitation, that my own opinion is that the mine has not been looking better than it does at the present moment for a great number of months past—(hear, hear)—and that is to a great extent borne out by the telegram sent to us for submission to you, which I shall have the pleasure of reading later on. We have here Mr. Edgar Taylor, who will follow me, but we certainly must not ask him for any positive prediction as to future events, although no man knows the mine better than he does, and no man is more thoroughly conversant with its present condition in every detail. Without asking him formally to assume the mantle of prophet, we shall all be gratified, I am sure, to receive from him his opinion as to the present outlook, and more especially as he is so competent an observer. Let me read to you a remark in Mr. Bullen's report which perhaps may not have had attached to it the importance which I think does attach to it. He says:—"Although many of the development points on our several reefs have opened out good stoping ground, the prospects are not as yet such as will allow of any increase being made either in the return of gold or the output of quartz, but I hope that we can maintain the latter at about 10,000 tons a month for the coming year. The grade of the ore crushed, as will be seen from this report, owing to the main reef still being very much impoverished, shows a slight decrease when compared with the yield per ton of the previous year; this was anticipated in our forecast." Now, the second of those two sentences deals with the past year's operations. Mr. Bullen says, and says quite truly, that the decrease which we have now had was forecasted by him in his report for the year 1904; but the first of the two sentences refers to the present and to the future, and as to this what he really does say is, that he hopes to maintain the quantity of 10,000 tons per month, but this time he does not foreshadow any decrease in the value of the yield per ton, though he does not contemplate any quite immediate increase. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Edgar Taylor seconded the motion, and spoke at some length on the position and prospects of the mine. He stated that in the numerous and complicated workings of the property there were a number of points offering promise of a better state of things than had recently prevailed.

The resolution was put to the meeting and carried unanimously without discussion.

Resolutions were afterwards passed approving of the dividends, re-electing the directors and auditors, and passing a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors.

JOHN BARKER AND CO.

The thirteenth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of John Barker and Co., Limited, was held on Tuesday at the Town Hall, Kensington High Street, W., Mr. John Barker, M.P. (the chairman of the company), presiding.

The secretary (Mr. Henry W. Over, F.C.I.S.) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman: The company's trading for the past year has exceeded that of any previous record, in spite of the fact that during the first six months many of the departments were much hampered by rearrangements and alterations. Now, however, that the new buildings are fully equipped with up-to-date facilities and requirements for the fullest expansion of business, and that the various departments are in full swing, your directors look forward to a still greater increase in the volume of trade. The residential flats covering the new premises are proving so attractive, owing to their exceptional and convenient arrangements, that many of them are already in occupation. It is confidently anticipated that tenancies for those at present unlet will be effected in the near future, and will prove a substantial source of income to the company. You will observe from the report that the flats in Cromwell Crescent are let to substantial tenants. A notable feature of the financial year recently closed is the surprising elasticity of this business, which has never been shown more fully than in the phenomenal number of new customers. These have been attracted from all parts of London and the suburbs, while our European and foreign orders have also greatly increased in number, and owing to the exceptional facilities we are able to offer of "shopping by post," the expansion of this branch has been no less remarkable. (Applause.) It will be seen that the gross profit for 1905 is £10,545 in excess of the previous period. This result is the more gratifying when it is remembered that the financial year was closed on the 19th instead of at the end of the month in order to ensure an earlier commencement of our spring trade, so that the accounts presented to-day are nine days short of the full year. While this gross increase is itself satisfactory, indicating as it does the continued growth of this business, I must point out that the proportion of net profit has not been so well maintained. The explanation is that although the transactions have been much increased in number, they have been smaller in individual amount, as is generally the case when trade is not good; but further improvement in business will no doubt witness an increase in the amount as well as in the number of purchases. Another cause why gross and net profits do not on this occasion bear more satisfactory relation to each other is the general tendency towards an increased standard of living, the consequence being that salaries are much higher; and besides increased expenses generally, provisions have been dearer. Of course, there always will be items of expenditure which, however carefully watched, will go on increasing with an expansion of trade; but it is difficult to explain why the item of rates and taxes should show such a marked increase, amounting to £2,000 a year. And when it is remembered that not only have we to pay higher rates and taxes owing to a so-called enhanced value of property, which is often a fictitious value, but that we have also to pay additional taxation on improvements made and paid for by ourselves, it becomes a double hardship. The ever-increasing expenditure on the part of local authorities during the last ten years has grown to an alarming extent, which, added to a shilling income-tax, has become very detrimental to trade. (Hear, hear.) Indeed, many think the time has come when the whole question of rating and taxation and their relation to local needs should be fully and promptly inquired into for the sake of the commercial life of the country. (Applause.) Your trade creditors show an increase of £9,500, and trade debtors, as well as the stock-in-trade, also appear higher than last year, owing to closing the books at an earlier date than previously. The much larger loan from bankers was, of course, attributable to expenditure in completing the new premises; but this will be liquidated by the new issue, which, I am pleased to say, has been more than fully subscribed. After some further remarks the Chairman formally moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

This was duly seconded and unanimously carried.

A further resolution was then carried approving of the dividends.

CALCUTTA TRAMWAYS.

The ordinary general meeting of the Calcutta Tramways Company, Limited, was held on Tuesday at the offices, 1, Queen Victoria Street, E.C., Mr. E. C. Morgan (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. R. Elston) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman: Before I proceed to deal with the accounts, I have to apologise on behalf of two of our colleagues—Sir Howard Vincent and Sir Henry Kimber—for their absence, which, I am

sorry to say, is due to ill-health in both cases. I suppose that, as usual, I may take it that you will not desire the report to be read, and I will therefore in the first instance address myself to the accounts, which on this occasion show considerable variations as compared with those of last year, with which we are now able to show the comparison with some accuracy. Our capital was, as you know, increased during the last year by the issue of 35,000 new shares, representing £175,000. It was necessary to make this provision, although we were aware that it would not become fully reproductive during the year, or, indeed, until the beginning of 1907, and for that reason it was decided that the new shares should only bear interest at 5 per cent. per annum until that date; but this was a charge which had to fall for the most part upon the earnings of our existing capital. We are quite satisfied, however, that the step which we took was a wise one, as it enabled us to get forward with the increased power and machinery which will become necessary the moment we have the lines of the new extensions laid and in working order, and we have derived some advantage from the additional power thus created in substantially increasing our revenue earnings—an increase which has become even more apparent since the commencement of the present year. You will notice that no less a sum than £117,000 has been expended on the additions to our plant and machinery during the year under review. This has been divided into three heads. Permanent way and equipment figure for £26,653. This amount has been spent on the completion of the Harrison Road (which, although practically finished when we last met you, was not wholly paid for until this year), the laying down of the permanent way on the Buckland Road Bridge in Howrah, done concurrently with the rebuilding of the bridge, the completion of the high tension cable laying, and a considerable amount of extra paving with granite setts, in place of the marginal paving and macadam previously used, with the object of reducing our permanent way repairs. The heaviest amount—£52,358—has been spent on the extensions to power and sub-station plant and buildings, which covers additional engines, boilers and generators, as well as a new chimney at the head station, all the buildings and machinery at two sub-stations, and a new paint shop and smithy. It is largely due to this outlay that we have been able to handle so effectively the very much increased traffic, and to run an additional 500,000 miles during the year. The expenditure under the head of cars and electrical equipment also appears to be a very heavy amount, £34,322, but this may be explained by the fact that the number of cars given in the statement of averages at the end of the account only shows the actual number of cars on the road, and is stated at 354. In addition to these there are a large number of cars in course of construction, bringing the total number up to 400 cars, of which 200 are motors, and the outlay under capital expenditure consists of outgoings in respect of these additional cars. Coming now to the revenue account, although there is a considerable increase in the expenditure, we consider it satisfactory that the revenue receipts have enabled us to meet the interest charge on the new capital and to add £10,000 to depreciation, bringing that fund up to £53,667, whilst maintaining the dividend at the same rate as that paid last year. The account mainly responsible for this additional expenditure is power expenses, which is greater by £5,000 than last year, and this is very largely due to the increased consumption of fuel. Of course, it will be understood that to run more miles we must use more coal, but our increased consumption has been added to by various defects in the machinery which developed during the year, which have operated against economical working. We have, however, taken steps which will, we hope, prove effectual to reduce our consumption of fuel, and we anticipate that this will be less costly during the present year, although we are paying more for our coal supply. The only other item under this head showing a large increase is maintenance, which is due to repairs necessary to remedy the defects to which I have already alluded. Under the other heads there are also increases of expenditure, but only such as can reasonably be accounted for by the additional work done in the shape of extra mileage. I may, perhaps, mention that under the head of general expenses in Calcutta a large increase is shown in law charges and compensation. This is due to our having had to utilise the services of our legal advisers more than usually freely in connection with the new extensions, which have bristled with technicalities, but this may be considered a non-recurrent item. To come to the extensions themselves, I may say at once that we are greatly disappointed not to have more progress to report. We had every reason to hope that more than one of these extensions might have been completed by the end of last year, but, as a matter of fact, the only one of them which has been running is the Harrison Road, opened on July 7. We are now, however, we believe, in a fair way to get forward with the permanent way and overhead work in Howrah and Alipore, and may be in a position to work portions of the lines by the end of the year. Meantime, it is satisfactory to note that our existing system is showing such elasticity, and that our takings up to date this year show an increase of about £4,000 over those of the corresponding period of last year, which had up to that time established a record. (Applause.) It is also extremely satisfactory to note that the large addition to our mileage in 1905 has practically produced the same rate per train mile as that which was shown by the mileage run in 1904, which is tolerably good evidence that we are not running a mile too much. (Hear, hear.) In conclusion, I should like to again record my appreciation of the excellent work done by our staff in Calcutta. Mr. Wells (who is home on a short holiday and is with us here to-day) and Mr. Pfeiffer have had a most strenuous time in carrying out the

additional works and in dealing with the increased volume of traffic. There have also been important negotiations with the Local Government and the various municipalities in connection with the extensions and other matters, but, thanks to the tact and ability displayed by these gentlemen, our relations both with these bodies and the public generally continue to be of a most friendly nature. I will move: "That the directors' report and statement of accounts to December 31, 1905, as submitted to this meeting, be received and adopted."

Mr. C. Sanderson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman: I now have to propose: "That a dividend at the rate of 4s. 6d. per share for the half-year ending December 31, 1905, making with the 7 per cent. interim dividend already paid a total dividend for the year of 8 per cent., be and is hereby declared, such dividend to be paid on April 11, free of income-tax."

This was also seconded by Mr. Sanderson, and carried.

The retiring directors and auditors were then reappointed.

VAN DEN BERGHS.

The eleventh ordinary general meeting of Van den Berghs, Limited, was held yesterday at Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C., Lord Ebury, the chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary, Mr. John Martin, having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—Those, and I hope there are many of them, who watch the progress of this company with interest and attention, will have observed that the profits for the year 1905 have not equalled those of its phenomenal predecessor. The difference between the two has been accentuated by the charge to revenue of a substantial sum of money in cash for the goodwill of a competitor's business; but had that amount been otherwise charged, although it would have modified, it would by no means have reversed the relative positions of the respective years as profit-earning periods. It is to the incidence of trade in both and to the higher price of material, which prevailed during a great part of last year, that the company had owed its inability to establish another record. No doubt the profit is, and always will remain, a fluctuating element, but there is a safer measure of this company's position to be found in the volume and vitality of its business, and, judged by that test, the operations of the past year have left nothing to be desired, because marked progress all along the line has been their distinguishing feature. (Hear, hear.) Of that there is ample evidence in the figures on both sides of the balance-sheet, to which I now beg to draw your attention. Beginning with the debit side, the nominal capital remains unaltered, but the issued capital has experienced an addition of £50,000, the last instalment of the 200,000 "B" preference capital authorised in 1898. The last instalment was issued just shortly after our last meeting, and it completed the authorised capital of the company—namely, £1,150,000. These shares were issued at 1s. premium, and were rapidly taken up by the public, and perhaps I may here interrupt my consideration of the balance-sheet for a moment to answer a question which has been submitted by a correspondent. The question was, Why were arrangements made for underwriting these shares instead of issuing them without that *Arbeitszeit* operation? Well, my answer to that is that the method of issuing shares is a matter within the province of the directors to settle. Taking up the balance-sheet at the point where I left it, and passing over the reserve fund, which, being separately invested, appears on both sides of the sheet, and which I shall come across again, the first item to meet us is that of bills payable and sundry creditors, which taken altogether amount to £376,000, of which £27,000 is the addition as compared with the previous year. Then there are loans secured by deposit or warrants for stock and other securities, amounting to £327,000, of which £98,000 is the augmentation for the past year; and here I may perhaps notice that the item from which, so far as my recollection goes, no previous balance-sheet has ever been free, has disappeared entirely from this one—namely, that of advances by managing directors, which I think you will recognise is a welcome indication that the cash position is not strained. (Hear, hear.) Passing over to the credit side of the account, certain brick and mortar additions to various factories necessitated by the rapidly increasing business have swelled the building account to the extent of £33,000, while plant and machinery and other paraphernalia of trading account are about £8,000 more. The largest additions to this side of the account is £130,000 to the sundry debtors account, which now totals £610,000, and there are minor increases in the way of stock bills receivable and cash in hand taken together and advertising brought forward collectively amounting to £33,000. I will now, with your permission, turn back to the column on the front page and deal with its last three figures. The first of them refers to the reserve, and you will notice that with this year's increment that fund has risen beyond the maximum which has to be invested in trustees securities. Any further automatic allocation to that fund, in accordance with your decision arrived at last year, although it will appear under the heading of reserve, will be dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the business. The second figure refers to the dividend, and there you will notice that for the first time in the company's history we are proposing to pay 20 per cent. for the final half-year, which, with the 12 per cent. interim dividend, makes 16 per cent. for the year. At first sight it may seem

rather a liberal measure to propose, a considerably increased dividend upon a sensibly reduced revenue, but it must be borne in mind that the profits for the past year, after all proper deductions and including that provision for reserve, which is a compulsory deduction, have exceeded in amount £170,000, whereas £120,000 is needed to pay the dividend upon all classes of shares, the contribution of this year's profits to the amount carried forward is £54,000. When it comes to a question of dividing the profits, my colleague, Sir Herbert Praed, and myself have to look at the matter from several points of view. As directors elected by the preference shareholders, we have to look at the matter from the point of view of a preference shareholder, with special regard to his claim for the fortification of his property when times are good by attaining the nearest approach possible to an unassailable financial position. Then we have to consider the reasonable desires and requirements of the ordinary shareholders, and finally we have to consider as men of business, responsible and interested in the permanent welfare of this company, what sort of floating reserve a man in the street might expect to find upon the accounts of a company whose floating debits and floating credits are on a scale of unusual and increasing magnitude. (Hear, hear.) I now beg to move that the directors' report, together with the statement of the company's accounts to December 31, 1905, be received and adopted, and I will ask someone to second the motion.

Mr. Jacob Van den Bergh seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—The wheat market has been firmer in sympathy with better inquiries from America. Prices have also steadied on reduced local stocks and moderate United Kingdom shipments. A fair business has been done in spot parcels at a slight improvement in values. "Dornbusch" estimates the quantity on passage this week at 4,025,000 qrs., against 4,125,000 qrs. last week. Farmers' deliveries were large at 51,532 qrs. compared with 25,600 qrs. in the corresponding week of last year, the price averaging 28s. 7d. against 30s. 9d. There is little or no change to note in the American market, wheat showing a tendency to firmness on a good cash demand.

WOOL.—The wool market continues very steady and prices are firm all round. Users display rather more hope and confidence and sales have been done mostly at last week's quotations. Some slight advances have been realised on home-grown wools, but merino wools have not changed. The market is also strong in Scotland, with a hardening tendency. The arrivals to date for the third series of colonial wool auctions fixed to commence on May 8 are:—New South Wales, 14,157 bales; Queensland, 4,600; Victoria, 20,646; South Australia, 523; West Australia, 2,347; Tasmania, 1,020; New Zealand, 72,782; Cape and Natal, 23,495; total, 139,579 bales, of which about 79,000 bales (24,000 Australian, 35,000 New Zealand, and 20,000 Cape) have been forwarded direct to the Continent, Yorkshire, etc. The week's imports total about 45,500 bales, and comprise—Sydney, 7,975 bales; Queensland, 2,970; Melbourne, 360; Adelaide, 355; New Zealand, 29,760; Newcastle, 560; Cape, 65; China, 960; Singapore, 510; River Plate, 315; Antwerp, 600; Bremen, 670; and sundries 400 bales.

LINEN.—There is little or no change to note in the condition of the home trade, which is still very quiet. Sentiment, however, is as hopeful as ever that greater activity is in prospect. Inquiry on foreign account is well maintained. South America is taking a goodly quantity of drills of various patterns, and the improvement in the business with the United States for all kinds of medium-grade goods shows no indication of weakening.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—Firmness has been characteristic of our market during the past week, and sellers of both cloth and yarn being in a strong position, full rates have been demanded for anything wanted. Owing to the deep engagements of spinners and manufacturers, operators find it exceedingly difficult to enter the market. Most producers are indifferent as to further selling their production, and business is refused if full rates cannot be obtained. Owing to the holidays, transactions have been somewhat disturbed, and the aggregate sales cannot be described as important for any section. In cloth for export, a fair business has been done for different markets, without any prominent new feature. There is no lack of inquiry for India, but offers are reported to be rather low, and hardly based on current values. China buyers seem to have satisfied their more important wants for the time being. The Levant and the outlets of South America have been open for goods of a miscellaneous character, but the question of delivery for these markets is a difficulty not easily overcome. T-cloths and Mexicans are very well held at late rates, with a fair business coming round from day to day. Printing cloths are firm at quotations with sufficient business to keep the engagements of manufacturers well up. Most makers of different kinds of goods have engagements extending well on towards the end of the year, and anything like early delivery is not easily obtained. Rather better reports have come forward with regard to home trade purchases, and a fair number of orders have been placed. In American yarns for home use a steady trade has been done from day to day. Spinners if anything are gaining strength, and users find it anything but easy to operate in the superior qualities. Ring beams are decidedly strong and are at a premium for early delivery. In shipping bundles rather more inquiry has been met, but the business in this section has not been important, as owing to the engagements of producers, transactions are difficult to arrange. A fair weight has been entered in cots for

the Continent. Bolton spinnings are, owing to their dearness, practically out of the reach of buyers, and the turnover has been quite unimportant.

The cotton market in New York opened with a weak tendency, but later it developed more firmness on better cable advices, buying by houses with foreign connections and support from Manchester. Some realising at the advance was followed by renewed strength and the close is firm. Closing prices are:—April-May, 6.04d.; May-June, 6.05d.; June-August, 6.05d.; August-September, 6d.; September-October, 5.85d.; October-November, 5.76d.; November-December, 5.75d.

COAL.—Business has naturally been affected by the approach of the holidays, but it has been fairly good nevertheless in some parts. At the London market the attendance was very poor, the brighter weather and the holiday spirit having their effect upon the feelings even of coal merchants, who showed no disposition to load themselves up with orders prior to the Easter vacation. Official quotations have been lowered to 15s. 6d. and 14s. 6d. for best and seconds respectively. Prices are:—Best Admiralty large, 15s. to 15s. 3d. per ton, f.o.b.; Durham unscreened bunkers, 9s. 9d. to 10s.; best Yorkshire, 11s.; Derby black shale, 9s. 6d.; Tufton 8s.; and Barnsley seam, 10s. 9d.

COPPER.—The extraordinary strength of this metal still continues, and it is now said that the Amalgamated Copper is sold right up to the end of May, and has also marketed great quantities for June delivery. The American demand is exceedingly strong, but the quantities offering are so small that business is on a comparatively small scale. The close may be called firm and inactive at £84 17s. 6d. cash and £81 10s. three months. It may be remarked that the high price now prevailing is checking sulphate manufacture, but in all other directions consumption is exceedingly heavy.

TIN.—The Continental demand for this metal is still good, and great scarcity is reported in the States, so that a further pronounced upward movement in values causes no surprise. The advance was helped by firm Easter advices, and as bears were displaying great anxiety to cover a rise of over 30s. was quickly established. Enquiries for forward deliveries helped to keep quotations on the move, and final figure shows a further important gain at £176 spot and £171 10s. three months.

IRON AND STEEL.—The proximity of the holidays has inevitably affected the business done this week, and there has been a weakening of demand in most centres, which became more pronounced as the week wore on. Prices have accordingly shown a tendency to fall away. There is no fresh development to call attention to in the hematite iron trade, which is not so active as it was a short time ago; neither is there more activity manifested in warrant iron. The demand for Cleveland pig-iron continues good, the producers being well off for orders, and iron is still being drawn out of the public warrant stores in order to meet requirements.

TEA.—Sales of tea on Monday last amounted to 28,821 packages of Ceylon. Despite the approaching holidays supplies were rather large and the demand was just sufficient to maintain last week's prices.

Answers to Correspondents.

FERRUM.—We should be disposed to sell both, as the company is having a hard struggle without apparently much prospect of success.

Z. X.—(1) As the yield and dividends show an appreciable falling off, there is little likelihood that the price will go higher, so you may as well sell out and take your chance of getting in again at a lower price. Should the quality of the ore hereafter improve, the price will recover, and that is your principal speculative chance. (2) We certainly look for a recovery in these shares, and think you should hold on for the present. (3) Broadly speaking, the theory is an excellent one, but of course it is nothing like so infallible as its originators would like to have you believe. (4) This security has the guarantee of the Chartered Company, which may be worth a little, but we cannot consider the bonds a good permanent investment. All right for a time, perhaps. (5) This ought to be fairly secure, but it is only second class. (6) A very poor company, hardly likely to improve its position. The shares do not seem at all attractive.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

TUESDAY, APRIL 17.

Espuela Land and Cattle.—Suffolk House, 11.30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18.

Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.—Cannon Street Hotel, 1 p.m.

Helani Valley Tea.—16, Philpot Lane, 2 p.m.

Sunnygama (Ceylon) Tea Estates.—138, Leadenhall Street, noon.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19.

Babcock and Wilcox.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.

Buenos Ayres and Rosario Railway.—River Plate House, noon.

Bandarapola Ceylon Tea.—16, Philpot Lane, noon.

Burnside Tea of Ceylon.—16, Philpot Lane, 2 p.m.

Cunard Steam Ship.—Liverpool, noon.

Highland Tea of Ceylon.—16, Philpot Lane, 3 p.m.

Municipal Trust.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20.

Army and Navy Co-operative.—Caxton Hall, 3 p.m.

Economic Life Association.—6, New Bridge Street, 1.30 p.m.

Meux's Brewery.—Institute of Chartered Accountants, 3 p.m.

THE EUROPEAN PETROLEUM COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Meeting of the holders of the First Mortgage Debentures of the above-named Company, secured by a Trust Deed dated the 6th day of July, 1900, and made between the Company of the one part and Sir Henry Seymour King, K.C.I.E., M.P., Henry Torrens Anstruther, and Arthur Francis Pease, as Trustees, of the other part, will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, on Friday, the 20th day of April, 1906, at 11.30 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing an Extraordinary Resolution as defined in the fifth schedule to the said Trust Deed, sanctioning certain modifications of the rights of the holders of the Debentures secured by such Trust Deed and of the provisions of the said Trust Deed, which will be explained to the Meeting, and authorising the said Trustees, for the purposes of effectuating such modifications, to concur with the Company in executing a Supplemental Trust Deed, framed with or without modification, in the terms of the draft which will be submitted to the Meeting. The said draft consists of the following operative clauses:—

- 1.—The Company shall be at liberty to issue £400,000 Second Mortgage Debentures charged on its undertaking after and in subordination to the £376,000 First Mortgage Debentures aforesaid, save that until the security constituted by the principal Trust deed is enforced, the payment of the interest on the Second Debentures shall rank as regards current profits next after the interest on the First Mortgage Debentures and before the sinking fund for the redemption thereof.
- 2.—In each of the four years ending respectively on the 1st day of May, 1906, the 1st day of May, 1907, the 1st day of May, 1908, and the 1st day of May, 1909, the Company shall, in lieu of being bound to apply £60,096, as provided by condition 6 aforesaid on the First Mortgage Debentures, be bound to apply only a sum sufficient to pay the interest on the First Mortgage Debentures for such year, and the difference, hereinafter called the sinking fund arrear, between that sum and the sum of £60,096 shall only be payable as hereinafter provided, but the Company shall be at liberty at any time to satisfy the arrears aforesaid of any such year by setting aside the sum of £25,000, and applying such sum in redeeming or purchasing Debentures in accordance with the said condition 6.
- 3.—In respect of the year ending the 1st of May, 1910, and of each subsequent year ending the 1st of May, the Company shall be bound to apply the full sum of £60,096 in accordance with condition 6 aforesaid.
- 4.—The Company shall not pay any dividends to its Shareholders prior to the year ending the 1st of May, 1911, and thereafter the Company shall not pay any dividends unless and until the sinking fund arrears shall have been paid off or satisfied, save that out of the net profits of any year remaining, after providing the full Debenture service fund and paying the interest on the Second Mortgage Debentures to the close of such year, the Company may pay a dividend not exceeding 5 per cent. for such year on its Preference Shares, but it shall be bound, if such remainder shall be more than sufficient to pay such 5 per cent., to apply the balance in or towards paying off or satisfying the sinking fund arrears as aforesaid.
- 5.—Clause 3 of the principal Trust Deed shall extend not only to the lands and properties specified in the Second Schedule to the principal Trust Deed, but to all the lands and properties which have been acquired by the Company since the execution of the principal Trust Deed.
- 6.—If the Company, with the concurrence of the Trustees of the principal Trust Deed, shall sell the Company's freehold land at Thames Haven, comprising about 15 acres or any part thereof, the net proceeds of the sale, notwithstanding any of the provisions contained in the principal Trust Deed, shall be applied in purchasing or redeeming a competent part of the First Mortgage Debentures in accordance *mutatis mutandis* with the provisions contained in conditions 6 to 10 on the First Mortgage Debentures.
- 7.—These presents shall take effect by way of modification of the provisions of the Principal Trust Deed, and the First Mortgage Debentures and the principal Trust Deed and these presents shall be read together accordingly, and the Second Mortgage Debenture shall be framed with due regard hereto.

A Copy of the said draft proposed supplemental Trust Deed is open for inspection by any Debenture holder on any day within Office hours, at the Offices of the Trustees' Solicitors, Messrs. Waltons, Johnson, Bubb and Whatton, Leadenhall House, 101, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.

This Notice is given under the provisions contained in the Fifth Schedule to the said Trust Deed of the 6th July, 1900.

Dated the 9th day of April, 1906.

By Order of the Board,

JOHN CLARK,
Secretary.

BANK OF LIVERPOOL, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the PROPRIETORS of the BANK OF LIVERPOOL, LIMITED, will be held at the Law Association Rooms, 14, Cook Street, Liverpool, on Wednesday, the Twenty-fifth day of April, 1906, at 12 o'clock noon precisely, at which Meeting the following Resolutions which were passed at the Special General Meeting of the Proprietors held on the 9th day of April, 1905, will be submitted for confirmation as Special Resolutions under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900, and also for confirmation under the provisions of the Company's Deed of Settlement.

RESOLUTIONS.

- (1) That the Capital of the Bank, which is now £8,000,000 divided into 80,000 shares of £100 each, upon which £12 10s. 0d. per share has been called up and £60 per share is not capable of being called up except in the event of and for the purposes of the Company being wound up, be increased to £10,500,000, divided into 105,000 shares of £100 each, by the creation of 25,000 new shares of £100 each, and that upon the said new shares £60 per share shall not be capable of being called up except in the event of and for the purposes of the Company being wound up.
- (2) That the said new shares be issued at such times, at such prices, and upon such terms and conditions as the Directors may from time to time determine.
- (3) That the Company's Deed of Settlement be altered as follows:—
 - (a) In Article 6 of the Deed of Settlement the words "nor shall any person be allowed to hold fewer than five shares in this Company" shall be cancelled, and the words "beyond the number so determined" shall be substituted for the words "beyond or below the respective numbers hereinbefore prescribed."
 - (b) In Article 14 of the Deed of Settlement the words "or who shall not reside within the distance of fifty miles from the Town Hall of Liverpool" shall be cancelled and the words "or cease to reside within the distance of fifty miles from the said Town Hall" shall be cancelled.
 - (c) In Article 32 of the Deed of Settlement the words "the British Islands" shall be substituted for the word "England."
 - (d) Articles 36, 37, and 38 of the Deed of Settlement shall be cancelled and the following Articles shall be substituted:—
 36. Before declaring any dividend the Directors may, in their discretion, set aside out of the profits of the Company such sums as they think proper as a Reserve Fund to meet contingencies or for equalizing dividends or paying special dividends, or for repairing, improving and maintaining any of the property of the Company, or for such other purposes as the Directors shall in their absolute discretion think conducive to the interests of the Company and may invest the several sums so set aside upon such investments (other than shares of the Company) as they may think fit, and from time to time may deal with and vary such investments and dispose of all or any part thereof for the benefit of the Company, and may divide the Reserve Fund into such special funds as they think fit, with full power to employ the assets constituting the Reserve Fund in the business of the Company, and that without being bound to keep the same separate from the other assets.
 - 37.—Subject as aforesaid the profits of the Company shall be divisible among the proprietors in proportion to the capital paid up on the shares held by them respectively. The Directors may declare a dividend to be paid to the Proprietors according to their rights and interests in the profits, and may fix the time for payment. No dividend shall be payable except out of the profits of the Company, and no dividend shall carry interest as against the Company.
 - 38.—The Directors may from time to time pay to the Proprietors such interim dividends as in their judgment the position of the Company justifies.
 - 38 (A).—The Directors may retain any dividends payable in respect of shares on which a Call has been made (whether before or after the dividend has been declared), or on which the Company has a lien, and may apply the same in or towards satisfaction of the Call or of the debts, liabilities or engagements in respect of which such lien exists.
 - 38 (B).—Any one of several persons who are registered as the joint holders of any share may give effectual receipts for all dividends and payments on account of dividends in respect of such share. Unless otherwise directed any dividend may be paid by cheque or warrant sent through the post to the registered address of the Proprietor entitled thereto, or in the case of joint holders to the registered address of that one whose name stands first in the Shareholders' Register in respect of the joint holding.
 - 38 (C).—All dividends unclaimed for one year after being declared may be invested or otherwise made use of by the Directors for the benefit of the Company until claimed.
 - (e) In Article 47 of the Company's Deed of Settlement the words "Every holder of one share" shall be substituted for the words "Every holder of five shares," and in the same Article the words "unless such shares shall be new shares allotted within such period" shall be inserted after the words "and no Proprietor shall be entitled to vote in respect of any shares which he shall not have held for three calendar months previous to the Meeting."
 - (f) In Article 70 of the Deed of Settlement for the words "out of the said fund called the reserved surplus fund" shall be substituted the words "out of the Reserve Fund set aside in pursuance of Article 36," and in Article 74 for the words "reserved surplus fund" shall be substituted the words "Reserve Fund."
 - (4) That all moneys and property standing to the credit of the Reserve Surplus Fund specified in Article 36 hereby cancelled of the Deed Settlement shall be considered as forming part of a Reserve Fund set aside as specified in Article 36 hereby substituted therefor and shall be applied accordingly.

Dated this 9th day of April, 1906.

By Order of the Directors,

JAMES H. SIMPSON,

GENERAL MANAGER.

7, Water Street,
Liverpool.

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The Investors' Review.

Trade of Germany in 1905.

The United Kingdom was not alone in encountering a remarkable trade revival during 1905, and because of the fact that industrial activity and prosperity in one country are bound to find reflection elsewhere, we are glad to know that Germany shared with us the flourishing conditions which characterised the past year. The progress was naturally not so rapid as that of the British Isles, never can be while the freedom born of unrestricted markets is still denied her manufacturers and traders, and it is very questionable whether the profit on the business turned over is anything like so large pound for pound as that earned in this country. There is too much artificiality about the methods employed in producing the prosperity in the shape of bounties, subsidies, and so forth, for that to happen, but progress was undoubtedly made, and because Germany's purchasing power must have been increased thereby the circumstance is all to the good, however looked at. There seems to have been a decided revival in all the leading industries of the country, especially iron and coal, textile manufactures, chemicals, electrical apparatus, machinery and metals. The building trade was also decidedly active until late in the year, the timber trade, too, was brisk, and even the cement industry, which for several years past has suffered from excessive expansion and ruinous competition, recovered to some extent. The good railway returns also provided an indication of favourable conditions, and the demand for labour was so strong, Mr. Consul-General Schwabach tells us in his wonderfully able report, that the home supply was not always sufficient. This state of affairs unhappily, but perhaps inevitably, led to labour disputes and strikes, but apart from the gigantic miners' strike in January, none assumed really alarming proportions. The shortage of labour is not a little curious in view of Germany's high rate of increase of population, which means that a much greater number both absolutely and relatively, than in the United Kingdom, has to be provided for each year, and that the stress on the labour market is as a rule much more formidable in Germany. While on this subject it may be well to pursue it a little further, because by means of the population statistics, Mr. Schwabach demolishes in quite masterly style some of the most cherished heretical phantasms of the protectionists. Great attention is being paid in the United Kingdom, he says, to the development of Germany's foreign trade, especially exports, and while there is no questioning the expansion of the last ten years, there are one or two points which are often overlooked and which cause these achievements to appear less remarkable or menacing to British trade. Quite true that in the decade from 1895 to 1905 German exports increased by 111 millions against the 104 millions of Great Britain, and that as Germany started from a lower base her percentage increase is 68.3 compared with 45.9 of the United Kingdom, but when measured by the only true standard, that of population, these figures assume a very different aspect. During the ten years mentioned the population of the United Kingdom increased by 4,100,000, that of Germany by upwards of 8,100,000, so that calculated per head the British exports rose from £5 15s. 4d. in 1895 to £7 12s. 9d. in 1905, while those of Germany increased

from £3 2s. 4d. to £4 10s. 8d. In other words, we easily outdistanced the Teuton in the race for commercial prosperity, and if our protectionist reactionaries were intelligent enough to grasp the meaning of statistics they would doubtless be amazed to find, still taking the head quotation, that whereas in 1895 the difference in our favour was £2 13s., in 1904 it was £2 14s. 8d., and in 1905 it was £3 2s. 1d. Not in any sense a surprising matter when we remember the vast wealth we can continually pour into the country in the shape of imports of foreign produce, far outstripping that of any other nation, but a hard nut for the protectionists to crack. Every shilling's worth of goods brought into the country increases our riches and producing power in some form, and when we remember that our great accumulations of wealth the world over in the form of reproductive capital enable us to attain a standard of living the like of which is nowhere equalled, the figures mentioned are no longer a cause for wonder. They merely form the inevitable sequence of events. We are told that in some directions wages in Germany have shown a tendency to increase, but in many cases they are said to be still below the scale ruling in the depression year of 1900, and can never reach the level paid to the British artisan merely because, as before pointed out, the actual ratio of profit earned in German industries is relatively small. Difference between cost and selling value may appear all right, may reach handsome proportions if you add on a bounty or a subsidy, but money used in this way does not come like manna sent from heaven, and if it has first to be provided in the shape of taxes, where does the profit come in? Incomes of £45 and upwards pay taxes in Prussia, and individuals with an annual pittance of less than £150 paid £3,889,200 in 1905. How would our average bank clerk, who talks glibly about the advantages of protection, and opines that our mercantile marine should be subsidised "like that of Germany" relish that? Other forms of taxation are equally heavy, but a nation enslaved by protection, and which wastes its substance on military display, has got to suffer somehow. Note, for example, that although, as some say, wages are still lamentably poor and hours of labour long, prices of many articles of food as well as rents rose considerably. We know how the meat famine was perpetuated in the agrarian interests, the frontiers being closed to the importation of pigs, and prices went up so rapidly that even those with a 10 per cent. increase in wages reaped no benefit. Listen to what Mr. Schwabach has to say on this subject: "The level of prices was considerably higher in 1905 than in the preceding years, statistics compiled by the Imperial Statistical Office showing that the average wholesale prices of most articles of food had increased considerably—a fact which was acutely felt by the masses of the population, and gave rise to loud complaints and protests against the prohibitive policy of the Government regarding the importation of cattle, while prices of raw materials for industrial purposes and fuel rose as a rule less than in the United Kingdom, especially in the case of coal and pig-iron, which is primarily attributed to the price policy of the pig-iron and coal syndicates." It is said that the rise in prices of the principal necessities of life has affected the working man's budget to the tune of £4 per annum since 1900—a very heavy sum on an outlay of little more than £50 a year. And matters are going to grow a lot worse yet. Uncertainty and uneasiness have been introduced by the new commercial treaties which came into operation in March last, and which will in all probability have the effect of still further enhancing the cost of living through considerably higher impositions on breadstuffs and other necessities of life, and introducing new or heavier rates on a number of raw materials and partly finished goods required for industrial purposes. Not only that, but German manufacturers will have to face increased duties in some of the most important markets—retaliation and protection in its most illuminating form. We might pursue the subject much further, but there are one or two other

matters to touch upon, and space is limited. Total imports for the year were 352 millions or about 9 millions more than in 1904, while the expansion in the exports was something like 19 millions, showing in one sense that the country's purchasing power was somewhat diminished. That is to say, 19 millions additional were sent out in order to bring in 9 millions extra. Beyond the trades mentioned, the shipbuilding industry has made a certain amount of progress, and exclusive of warships and craft under 100 tons the number of vessels on the stocks in German yards at the end of September amounted to 72, aggregating 224,642 registered tons. At the same time seven vessels with a tonnage of 50,400 tons were being constructed in the United Kingdom for German account, so that, even in a country that has made more progress than any other in this particular trade, the United Kingdom has not been quite pushed out yet. The money market has presented some interesting features during the year, but they will be familiar and need not be enlarged upon. It may, however, be mentioned that the aggregate amount of new issues of stocks and shares, excluding conversions and exchanges, was £154,000,000, the highest figure touched for seven years at least. The concentration and centralisation of banking business was also an incident of the year, and the continued competition from foreign institutions is one of the present-day influences that English bankers will have to keep constantly in mind.

The Trade of Company Director.

In the *Directory of Directors* for the current year, compiled by Mr. Thomas Skinner, we learn that about 20,000 names are embraced, and the book is a very interesting one to turn over. The study of the book is in some respects more reassuring as to the business morality of the community than might be expected. That is to say, the vast majority of those whose names figure in it as directors of public companies evidently concern themselves either with businesses that have probably belonged to their families or occupy more or less honorary positions on a comparatively small number of genuine industrial enterprises. Some, like the Duke of Sutherland on the London and North Western Railway, are hereditary directors. Others, through business or family connections, mix a little insurance directing with high grade banking, or, by reason of their business interests, devote themselves to electrical undertakings, to iron and steel companies, to distributing companies, and so on. It would be easy to compile a most entertaining essay upon the readiness with which generals of the army, admirals of the fleet, noblemen, and gentlemen of all title gradations convert themselves into old washerwomen for the sake of a guinea fee, or into hotel keepers, restaurant keepers, wine merchants, grocers, weavers, whisky blenders, and, of course, brewers, when occasion offers. It is more instructive, however, to look at the subject from another aspect. Amongst the enormous army of men who figure upon the boards of companies great and small, a certain few stand out conspicuously as men who devote their energies to looking after their own or their employers' interests on the boards of many companies at one and the same time. We find one gentleman, for instance, named Rube, whose name figures on no less than 42 company boards. Another gentleman, named Davis, takes a hand in running 35 different companies. Another sits upon 29 boards, and they all, perhaps, get fees from each—will surely do so while the money lasts. Four men are directors of 23 companies each, two figure on 22 boards, one, the Earl of Chesterfield, on 20 boards, two on 19 boards, two on 18 boards, five on 17 boards, six on 15 boards, ten on 14 boards, twelve on 13 boards, seventeen on 12 boards, twenty-nine on 11 boards, fifty-one on 10 boards, and fifty-seven on 9 boards. We have not gone further down the scale, but the number of people who sit upon from five to eight boards is obviously very much greater than the greatest here given. It is a puzzle to guess how they contrive to justify their positions; that

they can know in any intimate way the business carried on is impossible. They may, however, be familiar with the process of voluntary liquidation.

One thing may be said, that passion for mining adventures which has become so fashionable among all classes, but particularly in society, within the last dozen years or so, has brought into prominence a class of men who appear to spend most of their time in the absorbing labour of fee gathering upon the greatest attainable number of mine company boards. Occasionally a man of this stamp may himself have capital in the enterprises he "directs," but a good many people of this class would really seem to be either mere docile guinea-pigs, easily fooled, or more or less astute gentlemen who lay themselves out for hire to the promoter and play the game with a certain energy and skill. What other use most of them can be to the shark or leech class of citizen we are totally unable to guess. The great majority of the men who figure upon mining company boards are totally unknown to us. Here and there one may come across a peer who has been drawn into the trade by his necessities or hereditary esurience, but generally speaking the ruck of professional and especially of alleged mining company directors are without label or distinguishing mark of any description. Still another class of men are evidently nominees of powerful interests that stand behind the companies. This is the position occupied by Mr. C. Rube, of Wernher, Beit and Company, merchants, London Wall, whose name, as we have said, stands upon the boards of no less than 42 different companies, every one of which appears to be in or connected with South Africa. The companies belong in fact to the "Wernher, Beit" Eckstein group, and some of them are, happily for simple investors, unknown as yet upon the market. Others like the Crown Deep, the Crown Reef, Ferreira, Bonanza, the Robinson, and the Wolhuter are or have been amongst the most respectable in the revenue-yielding sense of all the South African promotions. They have helped to make the controlling firm stupendously rich, able to pay anybody his price. What we should like to know is, why has it been necessary for Messrs. Werner, Beit and Co. to put one man as a representative of theirs on to such a number of boards? Had they no other trustworthy partners or dependants to split the fees among? Whatever Mr. Rube's talents may be, he cannot hope to attend to the affairs of all these companies in any systematic or effective manner. Must we not, then, regard an exhibition like this as proof that the leading mine company creating, launching and managing house on the Witwatersrand, the chief representative of the Great South African De Beers monopoly in diamonds and gold, land and labour, bread and water, dynamite and drink, holds these companies completely in its grasp? Outside shareholders have, obviously, no voice at all in the appointment of directors, else they would have long ago stopped Mr. Rube's expansiveness and asked him to confine his attention to such a number of mines as he could really attend to. Perhaps they mostly need no attention, being in "cold storage." The fact that the wonderful man is upon the boards of so many companies emphasises the impotence of the shareholders, and the same plain lesson is enforced by Mr. L. Wagner. He also is a Wernher, Beit man, and as such sits upon the boards of 22 companies, his only rival in this feat being Mr. Oliver Wethered. Sir Julius Wernher himself is content with only eight directorships, and Mr. Alfred Beit sits on no more than nine; at least, nine is the number set forth in Mr. Skinner's Directory. These nine include the De Beers Consolidated Company and the British South Africa Company. Other controlling financiers or company promoters also figure largely upon mine, mine finance, land-grab and syndicate boards, and their presence upon most of them usefully reminds the rest of us how easy it is to play the fool. The shareholders are not, and are not capable of being, the masters; all rests with the financier, the promoter, the mining engineer, or the syndicate by which the various companies have been brought into existence.

We should imagine that most of these mining properties, or "propositions," which provide the bulk of the

directorships held in bunches by the various individuals, whose names are scattered through this directory are the reverse of profitable. And it might be interesting, if one had time, to trace back through a series of years to see how such companies come and go. What is the average life of a "wild cat" or of the graver class of duper? We might, could we ascertain this, get a conception of the proportion of outside capital subscribed in order to start each company. If the money lasts for some years, that is to say, if for some years we find the same men drawing fees upon the same boards, it is reasonable to infer that there has been enough money raked in to pay fees, or fees and feeds, for this class of individual is not habituated to giving his services for nothing, and even if he only takes a guinea a board meeting it runs away with funds. Many companies never get hold of the public at all. They come and go, and probably enough the directors upon such have to go without their fees; but in the majority of instances there is a certain amount of outside capital provided, and this the directors take care to share as far as possible amongst themselves while it lasts. Fees of two and three guineas per board meeting plus three to ten, or more guineas for travelling expenses soon run the reservoir of wealth dry. But can the directors do as they like in this way? Certainly, and, generally speaking, without much probability of challenge from the victimised public. A director who figures largely in this line of business, and many of whose companies have lived their brief day and vanished into limbo, may often be heard when worried to remark in sorrow that the best companies to have to do with were those that died soon, those that became complete wrecks. They are buried without mourners. If, by chance, an undertaking gives signs of vitality, if a "mine" meant for sale only yields gold or silver in sufficient quantities to tempt the public to go on subscribing capital, paying "reconstruction" assessments and so on, a great deal of trouble very often ensues for the board, because a few of the shareholders in such circumstances are prone to become interested in following the career of their sovereigns. They turn up at meetings and ask questions, or snuff around offices and prevent the directors from enjoying their fees in peace. Boards get worried, sometimes they are even abused and turned out. It is usually quite otherwise with a company that scrapes in, say, between £50,000 and £250,000 from the innocent multitude, and then, after two or three years, disappears, yielding "nothing to nobody," except fees and pickings. Those who have been victimised do not like to say anything about the ghost. The directors are therefore left undisturbed. They enjoyed their fees scrumptiously as long as the funds lasted, and then drew a veil over the dead, free to set their wits to work again to invent some other snare, whereby to repeat the operation and renew the supply of grist or guineas. Many men of this class must have enjoyed considerable, though fluctuating, and at times precarious incomes in recent years through the multitude of companies they have assisted in hatching, putting upon the market, keeping alive for two or three years and then burying.

What, however, on the whole astonishes us most, is that men, apparently in the position of respectable merchants, partners sometimes in more or less well-known trading houses, should allow themselves to be dragged into this kind of life. It cannot be good for their credit. We should have thought the knowledge that they were concerned in swarms of "insane-gamble" and other "mine" products would have interfered with their position as traders or manufacturers. We can understand the business principles of an accountant who gets his name upon quite a number of companies, regardless of their intrinsic quality, because that means business to him. Once he knows there is money to divide up, he can easily put a clerk on to do the work and get not only fees as a director, but earn an income as book-keeper, secretary, and balance-sheet maker over and above, get rent also for office accommodation, and, when the money is nearly done, wind the whole thing up so as to have no waste. But there are men who are, if we may judge, really merchants buying and selling

commodities all over the world, who turn up in this Directory as members of boards of all sorts of ragtag and bobtail promotions just as if a few fees were a matter of life and death to them. They jostle the retired army and navy officer, the younger sons of peers, the briefless barrister, the society loafer, the promoter's decoy, the imperial alien and the keen man of "business" and sometimes win in the struggle. Names as insignificant as John Trott and Bill Blott blossom out upon page after page of this most moral and improving compilation, followed by those of half-a-dozen or a dozen-and-a-half companies whose "boards of directors" these worthy obscurities adorn, or to whose debenture issues they act "trustee." And we are a civilised people!

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE NEW RUSSIAN LOAN.

An aspect of mystery has been maintained here around this grave financial enterprise from the outset. All our information has come from abroad, chiefly from Petersburg, but sometimes from Berlin, and now and then from Paris. It looks as if the difficulties to be surmounted had been greater than the Tsar's Government ever had to encounter before, and there was much nervousness in Russian official circles until the underwriting had been completed. When German bankers, their hands already full, withdrew and refused to take any part in the loan, the scheme of borrowing had evidently to be modified, until now the amount asked is said to be £8,000,000 short of the acknowledged deficits of the past and present years. How much the real deficits amount to the world may never know, and one reason for delaying the emergence of the new Imperial Duma or incipient Parliament upon the scene until after this loan had been launched may not unlikely be found in the determination of the bureaucracy to hide the facts. If the Duma had dragged out the truth, it might have been impossible to get a loan abroad on any terms, whereas, this big issue once placed out of the way, the Duma may be impelled from patriotism to smooth the way of further loans. The loan will have to be accepted by the new distantly representative body; of that we may be pretty confident, because it is either this or chaos all over the Empire. The *Tribune's* Petersburg correspondent states the amount of the loan at £89,325,000, of which France has undertaken to swallow £48,000,000, England £13,000,000, Austria £6,800,000, and Holland £2,200,000, leaving £20,000,000 nominally for Russian banks themselves. Perhaps they could handle that amount in quiet times, but hardly now, and means will presently have to be found to dump this slice also abroad. The same authority says that Italy, Belgium, and the United States declined to participate unless the loan were sanctioned by the Duma, which is their polite way of saying, "No thank you, we do not want it, and could not hold it if we did." Will the public here take the new mortgage on Russian thews and sinews, on harassed peasants' crops, on product of factory and mine? *Quien sabe?* There is no morality in high finance, and the yield to the buyer will be over 5½ per cent., even at the small premium on the issue price now asked. In a sense, therefore, the loan will feed the hungry, and, time and quiet given, it may be absorbed. But away from the market and its commission hunters, there will be no enthusiasm displayed.

ABOUT OUR MINING TRUST.

A correspondent writes to us in a manner we deem quite unjust respecting the mining trust we drew up 12 months ago. He points out that of the seven companies selected, the Mysore, the Champion Reef, the Great Fingall, the Angelo, and the Geldenhuis Deep shares have all depreciated, and says:—"I confess to a feeling of disappointment, as I had hitherto looked

upon THE INVESTORS' REVIEW as an honourable exception to the average financial journal, which apparently looks upon its public as mere conveniences to dump inflated securities upon." If our readers desire a mining trust we can make a selection of the best mines only, and this we did. Had Providence endowed us alone with the gift of divining what will happen in a mine, what policy boards of directors will adopt, and what the gamblers will do on the market in the course of a twelvemonth, we should prefer to make our own fortunes rather than labour at financial journalism for the benefit of strangers. But being ordinary human beings we cannot foresee these complex and varied events, and we also know that no other human being can, whether he be honourable or dishonourable. It is not dishonourable to state facts, and we gave facts when we stated that seven companies paid certain dividends, were well managed, and were likely to pay those dividends as far as it was possible to foresee. All the companies mentioned are still paying good dividends, and those who purchased the shares are receiving them and may receive them for years to come, but we did not guarantee that speculators would keep up the market prices. Those who buy mining shares must run those risks, and we said so in the clearest language at the time. How were we to foresee, when the mine managers themselves did not foresee, that the ore in the Champion Reef mine would decline in its quality? How could we predict that the directors of the Great Fingall, after paying a much higher dividend for 1905 than for 1904, would deliberately start to reduce the distributions at the beginning of 1906? They did not foresee it themselves 12 months ago. And as for the Angelo and the Geldenhuis Deep, everyone knows they have fallen in company with other Kafir shares, from causes which are general, not particular. May not the bosses and the gamblers try to put them higher in the future? The Waihi has, on the other hand, paid a higher dividend, and the price is better, and there has likewise been an appreciable gain in Mason and Barry, whilst the fall in Mysore is comparatively trifling. We selected the mines for their dividends, and the selection was well justified, for no other similar number of shares could have been chosen with better merits, which would not have suffered from the stagnation that has characterised every section of the mining market in the past year. To use the word "honourable" in the sense our correspondent seems to use it is entirely uncalled for. Is it too much to expect readers to exercise some commonsense and judgment? Those who want to invest their money at over 10½ per cent.—which was the yield of our trust—must be prepared to face risks, particularly in mining, for the ordinary economic laws will not work for their exclusive benefit. If all possibility of risk were eliminated our correspondent may be sure a 10 per cent. mining trust would be as impossible as a 10 per cent. gift-edged trust. Yet we unquestionably made a mistake in compiling that trust, and all we can now say is that it is not likely to be repeated.

BONANZA, LIMITED.

The famous Bonanza company is rapidly nearing the end of its life, and in a short time its machinery and like assets will probably be put up for auction. This explains why the price of the shares is so low and the present yield so high. Exactly how much longer the mine will last it is impossible to say. Not even the officials know, but the probability is that it will not be earning profits twelve months hence. At the annual meeting of the company on March 8 the chairman said:—"During the past two months 15,990 tons have been mined, 700 tons of which are estimated to have been gains from sweepings and other sources, so that at date there apparently remain 28,486 tons in place. This tonnage will certainly be extracted if there is no decrease in the number of unskilled labourers, and if there is no serious fall of ground. On the other hand, it may be increased by the clearings from stopes and the discovery of further

small bodies of ore. It is impossible, therefore, to say exactly how much longer the company can continue to mill, but I need hardly say that it will do so as long as it can at a profit. It is essential that before it ceases to be profitable to work, an arrangement should be come to with one of the neighbouring companies to purchase the plant and mine, in order that there may be as little delay as possible in handing over the property once mining operations have ceased. Your directors are negotiating to this end, and you will shortly be called together and asked to give them the necessary authority to deal with this matter. They will probably propose to put the property up to public tender, whatever offer may have been received meantime." This, then, is the forlorn prospect, not one to tempt even the least prudent to buy a Bonanza share. And there are several other mines which have lives only a little longer than this, as we detailed in the list published on March 17. The Bonanza can boast of an illustrious career as a dividend-payer, and it was not inaptly named. But the richest mines must be exhausted in time, though some people seem to dream that the quantity of ore in them is illimitable. In the past financial year ending December 31, this company crushed 103,175 tons for a yield from all sources of 54,808 fine ozs., thus showing an average yield of 10.62 dwts. per ton. Total revenue was £233,162 and the working costs were £124,833, leaving a working profit of £108,329. With £15,345 from 1904 the total surplus was £123,674. Two dividends, of 5s. and 6s. 6d. per share respectively, 11s. 6d. in all, absorbed £115,000, and after paying the profits tax only £589 will be left to carry forward. So profits were divided up to the hilt. Having in view the near termination of the mine's life the directors have not considered it necessary further to depreciate the values at which the machinery, plant, buildings, &c., are entered in the balance-sheet, though it is possible that these prices will not be fetched at a sale. Since the company paid its first dividend it has distributed an aggregate of £1,255,000 amongst the shareholders, which works out at 627½ per cent., whilst the total value of the gold taken out of the mine is £2,557,883. Thus shareholders have received only 50 per cent. of the output, whilst the other 50 has been swallowed up in expenses and outgoings of all kinds, not the thriftiest management one can conceive. In the past twelve months the directors did succeed in reducing costs by 6.7d. per ton, but they were still high at £1 4s. 2.37d. At the close of the year the manager estimated the ore reserves at 43,776 tons only, and as about half of this consisted of what is called pillar ground it is uncertain what percentage of it will be recovered. It will not take many months to crush this quantity. Several shareholders, it appears, have written to the directors suggesting that the company should acquire and work other ground, but the answer is that it is impossible, as the surrounding ground is owned by other companies.

IVANHOE GOLD CORPORATION.

The report of the Ivanhoe Gold Corporation for the year ending December 31 gives us a further illustration of how it is possible to work mines economically with white labour. It cannot be said that the conditions in Western Australia are more favourable than on the Rand; on the contrary, the facilities existing there for economical working have always been less favourable, quite apart from the class of labour employed. There is but one conclusion to come to in comparing the costs of mining on both goldfields—either the management of the West Australian mines is more efficient than it is on the Rand, or it is more thrifty; and we are inclined to think that both efficiency and thrift are greater. For some years now there has been a steady reduction in the working expenses at the Ivanhoe mine, and in 1905 they were cut down to as low a figure as 19s. 5d. per ton, whilst the total West Australian costs which include the whole of the cost of mine development and the ordinary expenditure on buildings, plant, and

equipment, worked out at 23s. 10d. per ton. The following comparative table is worth putting on record, as evidence of the success attending the efforts of the managers to save as much as possible:—

Year.	Costs per Ton		Cost per Ton (West Australian).	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1901.....	1	11 8	2	6 10
1902.....	1	7 1	1	19 10
1903.....	1	3 4	1	10 2
1904.....	1	1 3	1	6 0
1905.....	0	19 5	1	3 10

The mine manager hopes the treatment costs will show still further diminution, notwithstanding the extra concentrating machinery which will be running during the current year, and he concludes his report by saying:—"With the present up-to-date plant now installed on the mine, the costs in the future should show a slight reduction, and no further equipment will be required as far as indications point, except, perhaps, in the direction of additional cyanide vats and a larger return water pump, as we consider it is advisable to direct all energy to improvements in extraction." A larger quantity of ore was mined and treated in the past twelve months—196,569 tons against 184,362 tons—but there was a slight falling off in its quality, as shown in the fact that the total yield was 125,590 ozs. in comparison with 125,940 ozs. in 1904, the average being 12.77 dwts. per ton compared with 13.66 dwts., though the percentage of extraction was increased from 84.84 per cent. to 85.07 per cent. The bullion realised about £1,150 less at £537,652, interest was also a little lower at £4,291, but as this time the accounts are credited with £4,282 rebates on purchases through the co-operative stores, the total income was nearly £3,000 higher at £546,443. Consequently the nett profit carried to the appropriation account was not only £3,500 in excess of that earned in the previous year, but was the highest aggregate in the company's history. A year ago the surplus left was £29,403, but as £15,781 was appropriated to special expenditure on buildings, plant, and equipment, the sum now added to the profits is £13,622, making a total of £302,458. Three interim dividends were paid, aggregating 15s. per £5 share, and these are supplemented with a final distribution of 9s. per share, making a total of 24s., equal to the payment in 1904. After placing £50,000 to reserve against £20,000 put a year ago to the credit of a machinery renewal account, there remains £7,809 to carry forward. The outlay on mine development, buildings, plant, and equipment, amounting to £59,612, has been written off. Since the formation of the company the total expenditure on these items, £637,315, stands in the balance-sheet at £54,295, the amount of the original working capital. The ore reserves are estimated at 769,060 tons, averaging 13 dwts. 23 grs. per ton, against 715,120 tons, and 15 dwts., at the end of 1904. At the forthcoming meeting the directors will submit a resolution for the splitting of the £5 shares into five shares of £1 each, in order to make the shares more marketable, and there is little doubt that shareholders will agree. But we hardly think it desirable.

NATAL AND THE ZULUS.

We do not like the look of things in Natal, and think it time for the Government here to make up its mind either to interfere to put a stop to the rebel hunt, to the court-martialling of disaffected blacks, or to withdraw its troops and refuse all assistance to the white Natalians in dealing with the natives. Bambata has not been caught, and the "loyal" Zulus, about whom so much has been said, do not appear to be desirous to earn the £500 reward offered by the Pietermaritzburg Government for his capture. It is said that no other tribes have as yet followed this petty chief's example, but that they have not done so is obviously not the fault of the said Government. They are mustering volunteers and mobilising their militia in order to resume the work of kraal-destroying, and

another court-martial or series of court-martials is about to be held. Twenty-three natives suspected of having been concerned in the Bambata rebellion have been forwarded to Pietermaritzburg to be thus tried, and 30 others remain in jail at Greytown, to be sent after them in the course of a few days. One would have thought that the experience gained through the recent execution of twelve black "rebels" would have led the whites in this small colony to hold their hand. They boasted at first that an excellent impression had been produced by these executions, and a few days after Reuter's agent in Durban telegraphed that four of the men killed in Bambata's outbreak had formed members of the firing party at these executions. Meanwhile, the Zulu chiefs are becoming increasingly hostile. If not actually opposed to the whites, they are lying low and biding their time. Two of them, however, Siganandi and N'Dubi, have refused to co-operate, and there can be no doubt that unless methods of conciliation, of common-sense, and common decency are adopted we shall presently have to deal with a very formidable black rebellion that may extend from one end of our dominions in South Africa to the other. Prompt action is therefore necessary, and when our Government has once made up its mind it must be prepared to stick to its policy, for nothing can be more dangerous than shilly-shallying. In the circumstances, we are glad to see that Lord Selborne appears to be doing his best to make himself acquainted with the feeling in the native mind, with the position of these blacks, and rumour says that he has already incurred the hostility of the more rabid of the white settlers by so doing. If the Government finds that the High Commissioner has really endeavoured to master facts, then they ought to listen to his advice, to stick by him and support him no matter what the local clamour may be. Whatever happens, we cannot afford another war in South Africa, however many demi-gods of war and paragon heroes who waste our substance it might produce.

CHINESE AND OTHER LABOUR ON THE RAND.

A rather ingenious letter from Mr. R. M. Catlin, addressed to "Dear Lord Harris," has been forwarded by that gentleman to the *Times*, and appears in its Thursday's issue. His lordship explains that Mr. Catlin has had eleven years' experience on the Rand, during which time he had the management of a group of developed deep-level mines, and that he is now going back to America. According to this American expert, the white degenerates on the Witwatersrand, so that, however good a labourer he may be at the beginning, in the end he is no better than the Kaffir. Lord Harris apparently imagines that this establishes the wisdom of working the mines on the Witwatersrand with low-grade labour, black and yellow. To us another inference would seem the obvious one—viz., that the conditions under which work is carried on in these Witwatersrand mines are so degrading that high-class workmen cannot endure them. They either become degenerates, as Mr. Catlin says, or they leave the work altogether. There cannot be anything inherent in the atmosphere of these Transvaal uplands which involves the demoralisation of white men living there, and if they degenerate it must be because they are not properly handled, not encouraged with prospects of advancement or with sufficient wages for the work done. That a mixture of white and coloured labour does tend to degrade the whites if they are all set to the same task sounds probable enough, but such a result appears to us to imply a condemnation of the entire system under which gold is won in that part of the world. At any rate, it may be worth while for readers to cast an eye over the subjoined extract from a further letter received by us from Mr. William Maitland, dated San Francisco, March 27 last. The writer has no interest whatever in misrepresenting facts, and his citation of the opinions given to him by miners seems to us of remarkable force. These men had no more interest than our correspondent in twisting the

truth, and they all unite in condemnation of the system to which the cosmopolites of the Rand are wedded, and which the men of our market cling to as if it were the last embodiment of industrial wisdom.

"Mr. Crawford, the manager of the Gwin Mine—a very fair type of a Californian mine, since, in the first place, it pays well, and, perhaps better still for your purpose, keeps very exact accounts—tells me the lowest priced labour they have in the mine is \$2.50 per day. This is for what are called muckers—that is, the men who shovel the rock into the trucks. They pay timber-men \$3, hammermen \$3.50, and so on, and pay their shift bosses (i.e., the man at the head of each shift, and immediately under the foreman, or superintendent) \$5 to \$6 per day. The cost of the superintendence is \$660 for the mine and the mill, which with the cost of the office in San Francisco brings the total cost of management to \$750 per month.

"A considerable part of their value is in the sulphurets, so that the ore when mined is hoisted to the mill, there it is crushed, and the pulp passes out through fine screens on to the quicksilver plates, on which and in the mortar into which the stamps work the free gold is caught. From the plates the pulp passes into concentrators, where the sulphurets are caught. These are collected, and as the Gwin Mine has not its own chlorinisation plant, they have to be sent to San Francisco to a smelter. The mine turns out about 100,000 tons of ore per annum, and this ore runs considerably under \$5 per ton. The cost of working this ore, including management, labour, freight and smelter charges, everything, in fact, is about \$2.25, sometimes a little more, sometimes a little less. They have one advantage—their rock is rather softer than the average—but against this may be put the fact that their timbering is very expensive. They are very careful of their men, and spare no expense in making their drifts safe, a thing owners do not always do. One English company here was so niggardly in this respect that, after several bad accidents, the best class of miners would not stay with them, and at last they had a bad cave, in which 14 men were killed, and which cost them many times more than if they had had the mine well timbered from the outset.

"Then, therefore, you have a mine working, as most Californian mines work, with small salaries and very high wages, if I may make the distinction, and I doubt very much if any South African mine, working under similar conditions as to rock, timbering, base ore, &c., can produce their gold at a lower cost.

"I have not met a man here who did not scout the idea of using Chinese as quartz miners, and many of these were men who, like myself, approve of the Chinese, and would be glad to have them in other industries, but as rock miners we believe they would rarely become efficient, and therefore could not be profitable."

IND, COOPE AND COMPANY.

We print the following note with pleasure, but think that Mr. Tripp can scarcely have read our remarks with care. In choosing the title for the article mentioned, and in the use of the word "collapse," we had no intention of implying that any of the companies referred to were unable to meet their ordinary trading and other obligations. What we meant was that their trade and profits had collapsed—i.e., fallen swiftly and heavily—and that there had been a simultaneous fall in the market value of practically every English brewery security. Nor did we imply or desire to imply that this collapse, which has been the subject of universal comment, is irretrievable. Those facts we thought we brought out quite clearly, the article being written essentially to show the causes that had contributed to the breakdown. In the case of Ind, Coope and Co. it must be remembered that dividends on the "B" preference shares ceased as from October, 1904, and on the first preference shares from January, 1905, meaning that with the £448,000 in ordinary shares, capital

to the amount of £1,448,000 is at present receiving no return. Moreover, on the credit side of the balance-sheet, made up to October 7 last, there is a suspense account of £272,249, and as a result of paying a preference dividend which was not earned, a deficiency of £3,238 appears in the profit and loss account. Present market value of the £10 "B" preference shares is 2½-3, while the £100 debenture stocks are quoted at prices ranging from 90 down to 60. Comparing these prices with those ruling two or three years ago, the word collapse seems the aptest possible. Nor have we laid any special stress upon the question of the real value of the brewery buildings and other properties belonging to this company, and standing in the balance-sheet at £2,929,335. Surely it cannot be that they have escaped depreciation when tremendous losses under this head are being disclosed on all hands by being the case.

SIR,—Your issue of the 7th inst. of THE INVESTORS' REVIEW has come under my notice, and in your article on "Causes of the Brewery Collapse," I notice on page 427 that you refer to "the collapse of concerns like Ind, Coope and Co.," &c. Did you not intend to refer to some other company, as, of course, a most serious mis-statement has been made in having referred to our company as "collapsed"? This, of course, *not* being the case!

I feel sure you will kindly correct the matter in your next issue with a reference of regret for the slip which has been made by your printers.

Believe me, yours truly,

For Ind, Coope and Co., Limited,

C. HOWARD TRIPP,

Managing Director.

Burton-on-Trent, April 11, 1906.

THE CALAMITY AT SAN FRANCISCO.

No words can express the horror excited by this disaster. In spite of all the piled-up calamities the cables bring news of we cannot help nourishing a hope that when the facts are investigated the ruin will prove to have been less complete than the first panic messages led us to expect. At the best, however, San Francisco, one of the most flourishing and perhaps the most beautiful of all the cities of the States, is in ruins. The City Hall has collapsed, a building which cost £1,200,000, and most of the Leyland-Stanford Junior University buildings, have become a heap of ruins, including the Memorial Church, said to be the finest building of the kind in all the Union. Although most of the hotels are said to have withstood the shocks well, they nearly all succumbed to the conflagration which ensued, the tremors of the earth having broken the water mains and prevented the firemen from being able to do anything to cope with the fire. Estimates of the numbers killed vary from 1,000 to 3,000 or more, and it may be a week or two before we know the full truth. The monetary damage, too, is variously estimated at from £10,000,000 to £50,000,000, and there likewise no certainty can be reached until quiet has been restored, and a thorough investigation made. On the whole the population seems to have displayed remarkable self restraint, although looters were early about, so that the city had to be placed under martial law, but naturally the terror was great, and thousands of people fled the city, while those that remained filled the streets, afraid to enter the tottering buildings. The worst scene of ruin covers 75 blocks, and at the time when this message was sent off the earth had not ceased to quiver. One cannot help feeling some astonishment that San Francisco, which has always been subject to earth tremors, should have taken to sky-scraper buildings. Its people should have learned from the example of Mexico, where also seismic disturbances are by no means rare. We believe unless they have been recently put up, no sky-scrappers are to be found in Mexico City, and when San Francisco is rebuilt it will have to adapt its housing arrangements to the conditions of life as determined by the unstable

character of the soil on which it stands. What our insurance companies have lost by the fire will take time to ascertain, but there is one consolation; they are all able to meet their liabilities, and thus to contribute powerfully to relieve the acute and appalling distress.

More and more horrible grows the tale of disaster from San Francisco. The above paragraph was written while yet there was hope that the news might be tinged with the exaggeration of panic, but that hope must, this Friday morning, be abandoned. Only one ray of light pierces the murky darkness. The Mayor of the stricken city has wired to President Roosevelt that he now hopes to control the flames which since Wednesday morning have been eating up street after street, quarter after quarter, the hovel of the Chinese coolie equally with the palace of the millionaire. His hope is founded on the restoration of the water supply, but that comes too late to save much. The tale of the dead is guessed at 5,000, and may well be more, for the human contents of many of the crushed or burnt-out structures cannot yet be known, perhaps will never be fully known. But 200,000 people are said to be homeless, and their sufferings must be beyond the power of the most comprehensive imagination to conceive. The world has beheld no such calamity since the destruction of Lisbon. We thought the misfortunes of Naples and neighbourhood great—and they have been great—but they pale before the devastation in and around San Francisco. Never in the whole course of human history has such a calamity been recorded as that which befel the Cliff House Hotel, a great stone structure overlooking the ocean, and built on solid rock. It was thrown bodily into the sea, the *Times* correspondent says, "not a vestige of it" remaining. But wherever the eye looks upon the scene as depicted in the messages it is one of unrelieved gloom. Well may the civilised world proclaim the solidarity of mankind by giving practical proof of its sympathy, for all the world suffers with the homeless and ruined thousands who now dot the shores of the bay, or huddle together, forlorn and desolate, in the open spaces of what was but four short days ago the queen city of the Pacific. Along with it fourteen other cities and towns are stated to have suffered, and the damage done to several among them is said to equal that inflicted upon San Francisco itself. Nor have the earth tremors yet ceased. They are said to have travelled eastward as far as Michigan.

ROOSEVELT THE RESTLESS.

Whatever quality President Roosevelt may lack he manages to keep himself well before the public. A citizen of the great republic over which he rules has just given us an extremely unfavourable opinion of this gentleman's energies and capacity. He predicts disaster for the Republican party at the next election, and possibly he may be right if the trusts and big railway corporations are no longer permitted to subscribe heavily in order to keep the electorate well bribed. And there is this to the President's credit, that he does not seem to be solicitous of retaining the goodwill of these all-powerful capitalist combinations. Right and left he is attacking excessive wealth, one day surprising his countrymen by declaring that measures ought to be enacted to prevent the accumulation of colossal fortunes, to confiscate the overplus of such fortunes to the public Treasury if need be, and the next fulminating against the decision of a judge in one of the numerous actions against the Beef Trust, declaring such decision to be a defiance of public opinion and a misinterpretation of the law. Simultaneously, one may say, he is busy goading Congress to pass measures restricting the power of the railroad corporations to prey upon the lives and substance of the people, and inciting it to greater activity in passing restrictive laws. Along with this, too, there is the inquiry ordered into the position of the great railroad companies which own amongst them almost the whole of the soft and hard coal deposits in the Eastern States. These powerful corporations are no longer to be

allowed to work their will. Under impulse from the President, the United States Department of Justice has employed, the *Tribune's* New York correspondent says, "special attorneys, including Mr. Charles Hughes, who gained a great reputation as inquisitor in the insurance scandals, to investigate charges of violations of the Anti-Trust Law, by such prominent railroads as the Pennsylvania, New York Central, Erie, Baltimore and Ohio, in connection with their coal-carrying trade." It is alleged that these railways control all the anthracite and bituminous coal in the eastern part of the United States, and already a remarkable state of affairs is said to have been disclosed. We cannot help feeling that good may come out of this whatever mistakes in detail, product of impulsiveness or rash zeal, the President may commit.

Passing Events.

The tangle of insurance affairs in the United States does not become less as time goes on. It promises for one thing abundant revenue for lawyers. The present managers of the Mutual Life Company, for instance, are suing Mr. Richard McCurdy, the former president, for no less than \$3,370,341 on various accounts, with interest as damages for unfaithfulness and neglect of duty. The ex-United States Ambassador to the Court of St. James, Mr. Joseph Choate, as counsel for the Truesdale Committee, has served the complaint in this the first of a series of eight actions against Mr. McCurdy, his son, son-in-law, and associates. The sum claimed is made up of various items, the enumeration of which possesses a certain interest. Thus, \$292,500 is claimed as political contributions illegally given, \$225,000 as unauthorised increase in personal salary, \$600,000 as confidential "yellow dog" fund, that is to say as legislative bribery money dispensed through the agency of Mr. Andrew Hamilton and others, \$1,250,000 as representing losses through the Raymond deal, and \$1,282,841 representing commissions paid to Mr. McCurdy's son. What the fate of the actions may be it is not for us to attempt to guess, but that the representatives of the policy-holders have good ground for the steps taken we have no doubt whatever.

While on this subject it may be interesting to ask what body of British policy-holders in the Mutual Life Insurance Company asked that the whole British business should be turned over to a new company, to be formed in London, the New York board at the same time delivering the total reserves held against British policies? We have never heard of any such move on the part of independent British holders in the Mutual. Is this Mr. Haldeman's attempt to wrench off the British part of the business? If so we cannot be surprised that Mr. Peabody, the new president of the company, expressed a doubt whether the British policy-holders really made any such demands. What they do want, and the want has been expressed in a very definite way, is a thorough investigation of the affairs of this and other American life companies by capable and trusted British actuaries. Doubtless they would also like were some portion of the enormous funds controlled by these premium gathering organisations transferred to the custody of trustees in the United Kingdom, but they have never gone so far as to desire the rending asunder of these insurance offices, and it would be a mistake to dislodge their funds so that a certain proportion might be transferred into British securities, or to the exclusive custody of British trustees. What is desired is honest and economical management. The investments open to insurance funds in the United States are as good as any in the world, and as abundant, but the business done by these companies here is bound to diminish and to disappear altogether after a time, unless they reform their methods of administration, their habits of waste and irresponsible handling of funds, and come into line with the highest class of British life offices.

For one brief week the numbers of poor in receipt of relief on the famine fund works of the Simla Government dipped below 400,000, but the Governor-General's tele-

gram dated April 16, covering the week ended April 7, informs us that the numbers have again risen until the total at that date was 475,000, of whom 194,000 were in the United Provinces, 103,000 in Central India, and 97,000 in Ajmer and Rajputana. The numbers in Bombay have risen to 61,000, and as regards the United Provinces the report still is no rain in affected districts. Although markets are well supplied the scarcity of fodder is felt in parts. Prices, however, are generally easier and still falling. This applies to other parts of the stricken regions as well, and rain has fallen in Rajputana where the numbers on relief decreased during the week on account of harvest operations, but poor-houses are being opened in Central India where the position remains unaltered in spite of the slight fall in prices, and the best that can be said of the affected districts in Bombay is that distress is not yet acute, but the cattle are deteriorating and much grass is being imported. We fear the amount set aside in the Indian budget for the current year to meet the charges involved in these relief camps and works will not be sufficient.

Newfoundland seems to have been doing well lately, and its Government is able to show a flourishing state of affairs. The revenue for the year ended June last is stated to have been £514,800, and the expenditure £26,000 less. Then for the year ending June 30 next a revenue larger by over £9,000 at £524,000 is expected, against an expenditure of only £514,000, so that a further surplus of £10,000 is reckoned on, while for the year ending June 30, 1907, the revenue is put at £521,600, and the expenditure again at £514,000. The revenue, then, looked for is thus rather less, but that is due to the proposed establishment of an internal penny postage and the reduction of the whaling licences. If these expectations are realised, Newfoundland in its modest way will be one of the best placed of all our colonies, and we only hope that its prosperity will not tempt it into habits of extravagance.

Proposals have at length been elaborated for the reduction of the swollen capital of the well-known locomotive and shipbuilding business of Robert Stephenson and Co. We long ago said that reorganisation was inevitable, but the directors have been a long time making up their minds. In the last balance-sheet recently issued the lands, buildings, machinery and goodwill were entered at £684,705, and the directors have decided to bring this amount down to £563,274 by writing off £121,430. In addition there is the debit to profit and loss of £101,920, and another small sum of £1,605, making an aggregate deficiency of £225,036. It is, therefore, proposed to reduce the capital of £600,000 by £237,500 to £362,500 by writing off £2 10s. from each preference and £7 off each ordinary share. Not only that, but the preference holders are asked to forego the whole of their arrears of dividend, and if they agree will make great sacrifices entirely for the benefit of the ordinary shareholders, who are not really affected whether their shares are nominally £10 or £3. We doubt if the scheme will go through. If it does both classes of shares will be subdivided into one pounders.

We are inclined to think that the Government of India is behaving exceedingly well to the shareholders of the Kalka Simla section of the Delhi Umballa Kalka Railway. This line was built without any Government guarantee, and estimates formed by the Government engineer, for which, by the way, the authorities declined any responsibility, and checked by Mr. Duff Bruce, the company's consulting engineer, and also by Mr. Harrington, a Government officer, put the cost at £600,000. This, however, was so terribly wide of the mark that the actual cost has been nearer £1,200,000, partly due to the fact that the company, on its own responsibility, decided to make the gauge 2 ft. 6 in. instead of 2 ft., as originally intended. As a result, the line has not even earned enough to pay 4 per cent. interest on the £800,000 advanced by the Government, let alone anything to the shareholders in respect of their £400,000 of capital, and the chances of the railway paying its way seemed somewhat remote. In these circumstances the Government was asked to make a proposal,

with the idea of freeing the company from its difficulties, and in return made the very generous offer of £300,000 for the shareholders' interests, *i.e.*, 15s. in the £. A strenuous effort was made to get this raised to £350,000, but without success, and the directors of the company are undoubtedly wise to recommend acceptance of the original proposal. No doubt the railway will prove very useful to the Government, but including the advances of £800,000, it is paying £1,100,000 for a system planned to cost £600,000, and that seems quite enough.

Critical Index To New Investments.

NATIONAL RAILROAD COMPANY OF MEXICO.

An issue of \$3,000,000 prior lien $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. gold bonds of this company are offered simultaneously in London by Messrs. Speyer Bros. and in Amsterdam by Messrs. Teixeira de Mattos Bros. at the price of 106 per cent. or £212 per bond of \$11,000. These bonds, which form the balance of a total authorised amount of \$23,000,000, are secured by a first mortgage covering about 1,446 miles of railroad, whereof 1,079 miles are standard gauge and 367 miles narrow gauge, with terminals, equipment, and telegraph lines. They are redeemable at par on October 1, 1926, but may be repaid on six months' notice at 105 per cent. (New York price) and accrued interest on any interest day. For the past two years the nett surplus, including interest on bonds owned, &c., was \$2,420,628 and \$2,721,545 United States gold respectively, and the nett earnings for the first two months of the current year show an increase of \$311,249 Mexican over 1905, while the amount required for interest on the whole issue is \$1,035,000. The existing bonds are quoted on the London, New York, and Amsterdam Exchanges and stand in London at 109 per cent., or, allowing for accrued interest, at 107 $\frac{1}{2}$, so that there is a fair turn to be secured on the present issue.

Notes on Books.

Science in Public Affairs. With a Preface by the Rt. Hon. R. B. Haldane. Edited by the Rev. J. E. Hand. (London: George Allen.) Price, 5s. nett.

We like the spirit in which these essays are written. It may not be so broadly humanitarian as that displayed in the writings of some of the nobler of the Positivists—as, for instance, in that little essay, "What is Positivism?" sent us lately by Mr. Sydney Style—but it is something in these days to find men and women deeply absorbed in problems relating to the improvement of conditions of existence for the multitudes of their less favoured fellow-citizens. At best, however, the writers of these essays deal only with palliatives or suggestions, but they are all earnest and anxious to bring about a better social order, and to open some path by which the masses may reach a higher plane of civilisation. Of the essays we have examined, the one we like best is Mr. J. A. Hobson's "Science and Industry." He approaches his subject in a philosophical spirit, and if we are not carried very far in a practical sense, we at least come across stimulating ideas and pleasant vistas of a better future to come; as when he discusses the great electric problem which confronts civilised nations. "If cheap production of electric energy," he says, "owned or controlled by the public can be cheaply distributed in small quantities over large areas for industrial purposes, a counter revolution will be set on foot which will profoundly modify the entire fabric of modern capitalisation, re-establishing large numbers of substantially independent producers, and restoring free competition in industries where the economy of large scale production with control of the best sources of power had led to the establishment of monopolies." Will that happy day really come when the monopolist will no longer make mankind his bond slave? Into the essay on "Science and Citizenship" we have also dipped, but have failed to grasp its drift, although it seems to be brightly and

in places wittily written. Perhaps this is because it is unfinished. The editor, Mr. Hand, and Mr. C. H. Denyer are responsible for the first paper on "Science and Physical Development," and write sensibly enough, and Mrs. Barnett discourses informingly, if empirically, about "Science and City Suburbs," while Mr. Sadler's paper upon "Science in National Education" reaches forth towards a co-ordinated sequence in the apparatus set up for equipping the young to enter the battle of life. Mr. Walker's essay on "Science and Colonial Development" has not attracted us much, and we shall therefore say nothing about it. The book, however, is worth reading in places, because it stimulates the mind; but what do the writers mean by "science"?

INDIAN GOLD MINES.

The production of gold from the crushing gold mines on the Colar goldfield for the month of March was a very poor one, viz., 47,935 ozs., against 48,538 ozs. for February, a decrease of 603 ozs., though March was a longer month. This was due to an appreciable decline in the output from the Champion Reef, the Mysore and other leading mines showing increases.

Name of Company.	Dec.		Jan.		Feb.		Mar.	
	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.
Balaghat	4,400	4,117	4,400	3,818	14,200	3,543	4,400	3,774
Champion Reef	19,720	17,705	19,350	17,222	16,990	16,386	16,100	14,460
Coromandel								
Mysore	16,650	18,463	16,150	17,190	15,150	16,477	15,700	17,371
Mysore W. and Wynaad	1,879	1,140	1,944	1,214	1,395	960	1,493	751
Nundydroog	7,000	6,118	6,900	5,898	6,200	5,543	6,800	5,951
Ooregum	10,176	5,529	10,229	5,528	9,696	4,529	10,267	5,606

The following table gives the total monthly returns from the Mysore Field alone, for 1906 and the previous five years:—

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.
January ..	48,829	41,612	48,080	50,935	50,999	50,870
February ..	40,764	40,093	46,268	49,500	49,629	48,538
March ..	43,727	41,575	48,327	50,914	51,629	47,935
April ..	42,038	38,329	48,271	49,991	52,324	—
May ..	44,110	28,093	48,628	50,445	51,095	—
June ..	41,829	37,466	48,980	50,300	51,553	—
July ..	42,071	43,847	50,571	50,476	51,086	—
August ..	42,048	49,628	50,286	50,613	50,541	—
September ..	41,524	49,480	51,452	50,526	50,962	—
October ..	41,670	47,558	51,380	50,031	51,287	—
November ..	41,669	48,332	51,559	50,442	50,802	—
December ..	43,069	48,078	53,984	51,560	53,077	—
Total ..	504,348	514,291	597,786	606,233	615,561	147,343

RHODESIAN MINING RETURNS.

The output of gold from Rhodesia in March amounted to 44,574 ozs., and is the highest aggregate for this so-called goldfield. It exceeds the yield for February by 6,537 ozs., and the previous best in January by 1,624 ozs. Compared with March, 1905, the increase is 9,600 ozs. Still the progress made towards dividends is imperceptible.

Name of Company.	Nov.		Dec.		Jan.		Feb.		March	
	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.
Anterior (Matabele)	1,110	915	1,200	985	1,370	1,067	1,130	904	1,230	852
Ayrshire	9,314	2,890	10,008	3,063	10,050	3,091	8,722	2,903	9,257	2,842
Battlefields ..	—	—	—	—	820	1,180	682	840	—	—
East Gwanda ..	3,067	1,821	4,425	2,024	5,287	2,140	4,571	1,213	4,514	1,672
Gaika	1,068	637	1,326	620	1,389	650	1,254	606	1,619	691
Giant	—	—	—	—	4,335	2,207	4,051	2,111	4,699	2,515
Globe and Phoenix ..	6,222	4,049	6,410	4,045	6,435	4,010	5,653	3,639	6,225	3,799
Golden Valley ..	—	—	—	—	1,050	713	1,060	703	1,120	671
Killarney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hibernia	3,790	1,517	3,400	1,363	3,938	1,551	3,914	1,555	4,196	1,561
Morven	302	353	1,015	700	2,101	805	1,430	658	1,455	579
Penhalonga	4,650	1,014	4,850	991	4,950	991	4,600	1,000	6,600	1,265
Rhodesia Consolidated...	2,105	1,622	2,169	1,316	2,197	1,445	1,970	1,290	2,397	1,761
Rhodesia Mines	585	296	575	297	722	313	640	349	—	—
Selukwe	6,000	2,072	6,530	2,384	6,322	2,274	5,844	2,026	6,781	2,07
Surprise	2,838	1,088	3,082	1,611	3,002	1,086	2,743	1,807	3,050	1,83
Theta	1,509	631	1,260	873	1,475	885	1,205	1,042	—	—
Wanderer ..	15,578	2,828	13,020	2,347	16,182	2,597	14,322	2,015	17,112	2,79
Willoughby's ..	—	—	1,402	538	1,307	717	1,376	900	1,574	67

The following table gives the total monthly return since the commencement of crushing:—

	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.
January ..	15,955	16,245	19,159	32,531	42,590
February ..	13,204	17,090	18,673	30,131	38,097
March ..	16,891	19,626	17,756	34,927	44,574
April ..	17,559	20,727	17,062	33,268	—
May ..	16,698	22,137	19,424	31,332	—
June ..	15,842	22,166	20,402	35,256	—
July ..	15,226	23,571	24,339	34,693	—
August ..	15,747	19,187	24,669	35,765	—
September ..	13,164	18,741	26,029	35,785	—
October ..	16,849	17,918	24,919	33,383	—
November ..	15,923	15,714	26,183	32,861	—
December ..	16,210	18,750	28,100	37,116	—
Total ..	194,868	231,872	267,715	407,048	475,967

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—The London cargo market opened with a good tendency, and, although business was very slowly resumed, prices were advanced in a quiet way in response to better cables from America. Rain is no doubt wanted in some parts, but on the whole farmers are not disposed to complain of the weather, which is favourable for field work and spring sowing. A certain demand is experienced on the Continent, and on the whole the position looks fairly good. In America opening prices were a shade easier on the favourable weather and larger world's shipments than expected, and further declined under liberal realising and some interior short selling. A better tone, however, was soon in evidence owing to the strength prevailing elsewhere, and on the Chicago market aggressive "bull" operations and covering by shorts brought about a fair improvement. Some irregularity followed, but the undertone continues good partly on the decrease in Bradstreet's estimates. These gave the supply east of the Rockies at 24,796,000 bushels against 25,938,000 last week and 21,700,000 a year ago. According to Dornbusch, the quantity of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom is 4,080,000 qrs. against 4,025,000 a week ago, and to the Continent 2,040,000 qrs. compared with 2,120,000 qrs.

WOOL.—Though there is no great activity in the wool market, it may be said to be in a healthy condition; at any rate, this is the general opinion of manufacturers. Winter orders in some places are coming in, so that looms are fairly well employed. Business is gradually getting into a normal condition after the holidays. There is little speculation going on for the moment, which is attributed mainly to the dearth of supplies. Holders are very hopeful respecting the prices of the forthcoming new season's clip of home-grown produce, but buyers are offering a little more resistance, and business has been done at about 32s. per tod of 28 lbs. Many small lots have been taken up on the basis of this figure. A characteristic of the market has been an active demand for bright lustre fleeces for special requirements, and good Shropshires exhibit much firmness. The arrivals to date for the third series of colonial wool auctions, which are fixed to commence on May 8, are as follows:—New South Wales, 18,385 bales; Queensland, 4,972; Victoria, 24,942; Australia, 609; West Australia, 2,346; Tasmania, 1,174; New Zealand, 75,120; Cape and Natal, 29,264 bales; total, 156,812 bales, of which about 95,000 (33,000 Australian, 37,500 New Zealand and 24,500 Cape) have been forwarded direct to the Continent, Yorkshire, &c. The week's imports total about 880 bales.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—Owing to the holidays at the beginning of the week business in our market has been rather unsettled, and, on the whole, the transactions that have taken place have been generally unimportant. Producers of cotton piece goods and yarn have plenty of work to go on with, and no pressure has shown itself for new contracts. Buyers, on the other hand, have not shown a great amount of eagerness to purchase freely. A healthy feeling has prevailed throughout, and sellers in all quarters have held firmly for full rates. In cloth for export the total sales have not reached large dimensions, but here and there business has been arranged for different markets. For India the outlook is healthy, and the inquiry pretty extensive. Some offers, however, are rather low, and transactions all round for our Dependency are not easily arranged. A fair business has been done for Calcutta, and the other outlets have sent a fair amount of inquiry. China buyers have not been particularly active, but business has not been altogether stopped for that country. The smaller markets have been healthy in tone, but buyers and sellers find considerable difficulty in arranging price and especially delivery. The outlets of South America and the Levant have been open for a miscellaneous class of goods. Not much has been done in goods suitable for home consumption, but the outlook for this department is, on the whole, bright. Home trade American yarns have not moved very quickly, users for the most part only purchasing from hand to mouth. Spinners are in a strong position, and do not press for business. The margin for most kinds and qualities is generally satisfactory. The better kinds are most sought after, and it is not easy for users to obtain early delivery of good twists and ring beams. The commoner qualities rather lag behind, but the production of the spindles is absorbed by the looms. In shipping bundles nothing particularly fresh has occurred. The turnover has been of small extent on the whole, but producers are firm, owing to deep engagements. A fair business has been done in cops for the Continent. Gassed yarns continue strong, and extra hard descriptions are well held. Bolton spinnings are placed almost out of the reach of users by to-day's high prices. To buy Egyptian cotton to-day and sell yarn is a very different thing to a few months ago.

At the beginning of the week the market in New York exhibited a firm tendency, prices advancing on general buying, but the news of the terrible catastrophe at San Francisco brought about a complete change to a state of weakness, from which there has been no recovery. In fact, the more conscious the market became of the magnitude of the disaster the heavier was the decline. Closing prices are:—April to July, 5.89d.; July-August, 5.88d.; August-September, 5.83d.; September-October, 5.70d.; October-November, 5.63d.; November-December, 5.62d.

COAL.—There have been indications of slackness in the coal trade as the effect of the Easter holidays, but the sudden change in the weather to winter coldness has encouraged a feeling of greater hopefulness in regard to the immediate outlook. In the London market it was decided to reduce prices to dealers by 6d. per ton, but in the seaborne section there were no signs of an improved demand. The official report states that owing

to the holiday influence the market was exceedingly quiet, no cargoes being on offer. At Swansea there has been some degree of slackness in the anthracite trade, and prices have not improved. Latest quotations are:—Best steam, 14s. 9d. to 15s.; best seconds, 14s. 6d. to 14s. 9d.; seconds, 13s. 6d. to 14s.; dries, 13s. 9d. to 14s.; best smalls, 9s. 9d. to 10s.

COPPER.—This market still maintains a very strong tendency, steady consumption by consumers and "bear" covering for near dates assisting to keep quotations well up to recent levels. Supplies are still exceedingly scarce, and for this reason dealing since the resumption of business on Tuesday has been on a very moderate scale. Strong American advices, however, caused a further slight advance in quotations on the opening day, which there was not much difficulty in maintaining, although a few small speculative sales brought about a slight reaction. Final figures, therefore, show little change at £84 17s. 6d. for cash, and £82 2s. 6d. for three months. Messrs. Henry R. Merton and Co. give the visible supply as 9,533 tons against 9,016 tons at the end of March. The total supply for the fortnight amounts to 13,606 tons, and the deliveries to 13,089 tons, making stocks in England and France 5,033 tons against 4,816 tons a fortnight ago. The Chile charters total 1,400 tons.

TIN.—Supplies of this metal still fall short of requirements, and stocks are so small that there is a disposition not to encroach upon them. The market, therefore, reopened with considerable strength in sympathy with good Eastern advices, and as offers were very restricted "bear" repurchases quickly established a further substantial advance. Strong general buying and speculative support kept the market moving upwards, but the rise was so rapid that a slight reaction later set in. Quotations soon rallied again, however, and closed at £177 15s. spot, and £174 10s. three months. Straits shipments for the first half of April are reported at 2,400 tons.

IRON AND STEEL.—Business has been affected everywhere by the holidays, the works in many districts not opening until Wednesday and others not till Thursday. In some branches quietness rules and makers are urged to accept easier rates, which they naturally have reluctance in doing, for many have good orders in hand. Steel makers especially have a great amount of work to get through. At Birmingham the attendance has been very poor, and an insufficient business has been done to test prices. The price of East Coast hematite pig-iron is a little easier, the supply which is available for sale for delivery before the autumn is very small, for almost all that can be produced is contracted for. In Scotland there is a large and steady market for this class of iron, but prices are somewhat easier in sympathy with the general condition of the market.

SUGAR.—During the past fortnight business has been very satisfactory; owing to Magdeburg strikes there were only moderate supplies of prompt foreign granulated, which rose 3d. per cwt., and, notwithstanding the holidays, a good demand was experienced by refiners here, who were able to raise their prices, whilst raw beet and Paris crystals advanced only fractionally. The weather in Cuba, Mr. Czarnikow thinks, will be one of the factors influencing summer prices, because though 50,000 or 100,000 tons is not of much account in the world's present supplies, yet whether that quantity has to be shipped from Europe or not always creates some impression. The American market has been influenced by the more favourable weather in Cuba and by the consequent larger offerings of ready sugars from the island. Landings in the three ports amounted to 48,000 tons and meltings to 33,000 tons, leaving stocks at 294,000 tons.

Answers to Correspondents.

A. B. C.—Somewhat speculative, of course, but a fair risk for a small sum. The bonds are not quite a first charge, but the issue in front is now almost redeemed, and will be entirely so in about three years' time. Then there will be nothing before the railway bonds.

L. E. W.—(1) It is extremely unlikely that the shares will touch £3, or even go much higher than they are at present as far as it is possible to see into the near future. (2) We should be inclined to give this company a chance to pull round before sacrificing your shares. That the company is in a bad way is undoubted, and reconstruction is, of course, inevitable, but the annual report is almost due, and it might be as well to wait for that.

S. M. H. J.—(1) The theory is good, but we should not care to put it into practice through the firm you name. An ordinary broker would not find it profitable to undertake such work, and as the institution is not a philanthropic one you may be sure you would find it a costly business in the long run. (2) There does not seem to be much use in holding on, but the market at present is out of favour, and by waiting a little while you might be able to get out on better terms than are possible at present. (3) A good company, the shares of which should certainly be held.

Nemo.—Not now. The advantages expected seem to have been fully discounted, and we fear the present price must be very near the top.

I. T. W.—The company's financial position is sound, and as it appears to do a very good business the shares should be a fair enough speculation.

Western Australian Bank.—A branch has been opened at Mount Barker with an agency at Tambellup. An agency of Beverley has been opened at Brookton.

MINING RETURNS.

Alaska Mexican Gold.—Crushed 17,681 tons ore; value, \$23,373; saved 301 tons sulphurets; value, \$19,374.
 Alaska United.—Crushed 18,720 tons ore; value, \$25,454; saved 345 tons sulphurets; value, \$12,161.
 Brilliant and St. George United.—Crushed 2,199 tons, 1,556 ozs.; residues (tailings and concentrates), £2,045.
 Brilliant Block Gold.—Crushed 630 tons, 232 ozs.; residues (tailings and concentrates), £850.
 Brilliant Central Gold.—Crushed 940 tons, 394 ozs.; residues (tailings and concentrates), £431.
 Brilliant Extended.—Crushed 3,190 tons, £8,254; cyanide £595.
 British Broken Hill Proprietary.—4,752 tons crude ore produced 720 tons concentrates, containing 446 tons lead and 20,880 ozs. silver.
 Burbank's Birthday Gift Gold.—Crushed 1,456 tons, 938 ozs.
 Central Chili Copper.—Production of regulus, 106 tons fine copper, and gold and silver, valued £281.
 Eaglehawk Consolidated.—Crushed 960 tons, 344 ozs.; cyanide 154 ozs.
 El Oro.—Crushed 20,939 tons, producing U.S. \$181,706.
 Esperanza.—Crushed 13,647 tons; shipped to smelter 4,713 tons, value \$523,914; profit, £58,168.
 Kamfersdam.—Diamonds 2,599 carats.
 Kelantan Gold Dredging.—Recovered 91 ozs.
 Maryborough Leviathan Gold.—13 ozs. from 130 tons crushed.
 Mitchell's Creek Gold.—574 tons crushed, 281 ozs.; concentrates 24 tons, £260.
 Mungana (Chillagoe).—2,720 tons, containing 82 tons copper, 25,476 ozs. silver, and 221 tons lead, shipped to Chillagoe smelting works.
 New Queen Gold.—Concentrates, £260; cyanide, tonnage 1,184.
 New Ravenswood.—1,429 tons crushed, value £4,400; 178 tons concentrates, value £1,160; tailings 102 tons concentrates, value £1,020.
 No. 2 South Great Eastern.—Crushed 5,220 tons, 1,912 ozs.
 North Broken Hill.—Treated 1,113 tons crude ore, producing 220 tons concentrates, containing 154 tons 4 cwt. lead and 2,068 ozs. silver.
 Northern Territories of Australia.—Shipped 152 tons copper matte, 37 per cent., containing 700 ozs. gold, 24,000 ozs. silver.
 Ouro Preto Gold of Brazil.—6,450 tons of ore, 2,266 ozs.
 Palmarejo and Mexican Goldfields.—Crushed 3,744 tons, treated 3,000 tons, producing \$15,730 gold, \$43,720 silver.
 Rice Hamilton Exploration.—Crushed 3,458 tons, 946 ozs.; 2,640 tons cyanide, 757 ozs.
 Salisbury Gold.—Crushed 5,500 tons, 1,770 ozs.
 Theta Gold.—Crushed 1,660 tons, 791 ozs.; 624 tons by cyanide, 179 ozs.
 Weardale Lead.—Ore raised 313 tons; pig lead smelted, 234 tons.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Cathcart District.—At the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum for the half-year to April 30, carrying forward £20.
 Cuban Central.—Interim of 5s. 6d. per share on the 5½ per cent. preference shares for year ending June 30, 1906.
 Mexican.—For the past half-year on the 8 per cent. first preference stock at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum, making 6⅞ per cent. for the year.

BANKS.

Bank of Adelaide.—For the half-year at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, placing £15,000 to reserve, and carrying £18,239 forward.
 North of Scotland.—Interim at the rate of 11¼ per cent. per annum for half-year ending March 31.

MINES.

Le Roi No. 2.—Interim of 2s. per share, payable May 5.
 No. 2 South Great Eastern.—6d. per share, payable May 2.
 Tronoh Mines.—Interim of 1s. 6d. per share.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Alliance Investment.—2½ per cent. for the year ended April 15, on the deferred stock.
 A. I. Jones and Co.—5 per cent. per annum on the 5 per cent. cumulative guaranteed shares.
 B. Barnett.—Final of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. for the year ended March 31.
 Bath Electric Tramways.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred ordinary shares for year ended Dec. 31, placing £2,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £2,012.
 Broadbent's Bon Marché.—4d. per share for the year ended Feb. 28, carrying forward £134.
 Buenos Ayres (New) Gas.—4 per cent., or 8s. per share, for the six months ended Dec. 31, making 7 per cent. for 1905, carrying forward £22,808.
 Callao Dock.—3s. per share for 1905.
 Crosses and Winkworth.—Interim of 8s. per £5 paid share.
 E. Robinson and Sons.—4 per cent. for the past year, carrying £2,210 forward.
 F. Reddaway and Co.—3 per cent. on the 6 per cent. non-cumulative preference shares for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £15,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £2,829.
 Henry Ford and Co.—Fourth and final for current year of 7½d. per share, or at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum, and a bonus of 3d. per share.

John Cordeux and Sons.—At the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Feb. 28.

John Haslam and Co.—Interim of 10s. per £10 share.

Lincolnshire Property, Building, and General Finance.—£10 per cent. per annum and a bonus of £2 10s. per cent. per annum, placing £1,000 to reserve, carrying forward £685.

Monte Video Telephone.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the six months ended Jan. 31, payable May 1.

Rosebank Distillery.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, for the half-year ended March 31.

S. Blanckensee and Son.—10 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended Jan. 31.

Scottish Union and National Insurance.—17½ per cent. for 1905.

Standard Tea of Ceylon.—10 per cent., making 15 per cent. per annum, placing £1,000 to reserve, writing off £1,800 for depreciation, and carrying £1,195 forward.

Stoomvaart Maatschappij Nederland.—9 3-10 per cent. per annum for 1905. English holders are informed that the dividend will be paid on presentation of coupon No. 33, at the following rates, viz.:—On shares of 1,000fl., £7 15s., less tax, and on shares of 500fl., £3 17s. 6d., by Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co., 60, Old Broad-street, E.C.

Thompson, McKay, and Co.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £498.

Letter to the Editors.

A GAMBLING GROWL.

SIRS,—I only dabble in South Africans, but your REVIEW is so biased against anything South African that it is useless for a would-be investor to read your paper. Your remarks always seem to me to be the outcome of some spite or grudge you owe its connections, but from an investor's point of view this is no good. I hold with sound advice, and not when given indiscriminately, and from petty spite. There must be some good things for investors to buy, but from your remarks the country is damned. You are too "liberal" in your remarks, and should not allow your own politics to interfere with an industry which other people are requiring advice upon, and pay you for it.

Yours, &c.,

C. R. GORRINGE.

[This is the sort of reward a certain class of mind offers us for telling them the truth. They find us right, and being ignorant of all that relates to honest mining and clean finance, put it down to our "politics." THE INVESTORS' REVIEW is not produced for such people.—ED.]

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, APRIL 23.

Indian Glenrock (Wynaad) Company.—Winchester House, noon.
 Mason and Barry.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24.

Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway.—River Plate House, 11.30 a.m.
 Bell's Asbestos.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.
 Cammell, Laird.—Sheffield, 3 p.m.
 Indo-European Telegraph.—18, Old Broad Street, noon.
 Lydenburg Estates.—Winchester House, noon.
 London and Provincial Trust.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
 London and Brazilian Bank.—7, Tokenhouse Yard, 12.30 p.m.
 Western Canada Land.—Winchester House, noon.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25.

Brownhill Extended.—Winchester House, noon.
 Bank of Liverpool.—Liverpool, noon.
 Dr. Tibble's Vi-Cocoa.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
 Delhi, Umballa, and Kalka Railway.—Winchester House, noon.
 Eastern Produce and Estates.—59, Eastcheap, noon.
 Edinburgh Investment Trust.—Edinburgh, 12.30 p.m.
 Famatina Development.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.
 Kimberley Waterworks.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
 Primitiva Gas and Electric of Buenos Ayres.—153, Leadenhall Street, noon.
 Standard Tea of Ceylon.—25, Fenchurch Street, noon.
 Tharsis Sulphur and Copper.—Glasgow.
 Union Bank of Scotland.—Glasgow, noon.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26.

California Oil Fields.—Winchester House, 1 p.m.
 City of Santos Improvements.—Winchester House, noon.
 Durban-Rodepoort Gold Mining.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.
 Great Western of Brazil Railway.—River Plate House, 2 p.m.
 Nuwara Eliya Tea Estates.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
 Pelican and British Empire Life Office.—70, Lombard Street, 1.30 p.m.
 Paringa Mines.—Winchester House, 11.30 a.m.
 Transvaal Gold Fields.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27.

Anglo-Sicilian Sulphur.—Winchester House, 2.15 p.m.
 Condé d'Eu Railway.—Winchester House, noon.
 Espirito Santo Caravellas Railway.—Winchester House, noon.
 London Trust.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
 Slough Creek Gravel Gold.—Winchester House, 11 a.m.
 Yatiyantota Ceylon Tea.—30-4, Mincing Lane, noon.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for ten days ended April 14, \$3,080, increase \$342.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 16, \$13,672, decrease \$2,257; aggregate from January 1, \$183,942, decrease \$3,852.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 10, Rs. 69,256, decrease Rs. 8,091; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 6,90,837, increase Rs. 51,141.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 14, \$127,400, increase \$61,500; total from July 1, \$4,045,200, increase \$1,061,400.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 17, Rs. 22,138, increase Rs. 2,809.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 1, £371, decrease £86.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 2nd week of April, \$15,925, increase \$4,046; aggregate from January 1, \$231,198, increase \$46,441.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 17, Rs. 23,308, increase Rs. 12,453.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended March 31 amounted to \$14,825.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending April 14, £1,276, increase £6; aggregate from January 1, £18,422, increase £252.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending April 14, £782, increase £65; aggregate from January 1, £10,692, increase £751.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for January, £4,263, decrease £267.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending April 14, £341, decrease £64; aggregate from January 1, £6,722, increase £463.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 13, £1,425, increase £202; aggregate from January 1, £20,395, increase £3,160.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 15, £15; increase £9; aggregate from January 1, £110, increase £5.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 13, £5,358, increase £751; aggregate from January 1, £70,816, increase £3,364.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending April 13, £32,043, increase £7,888; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £405,479, increase £65,411; 437½ miles, against 418½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 14, £1,595, increase £557; aggregate from January 1, £16,809, increase £1,766.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 15, £138, increase £3; aggregate from January 1, £1,460, decrease £38.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 13, £132, increase £28; aggregate from January 1, £1,379, decrease £62.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 13, £4,550, decrease £70; aggregate from January 1, £56,730, increase £1,297.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 14, £4,989, increase £488; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £68,938, increase £2,803.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 13, £205, decrease £28.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 12, £618.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 14, £509, increase £157; aggregate from October 1, £7,452, decrease £503.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 7, £15,424, increase £2,019; aggregate from April 1, £15,424, increase £2,019. Miles 51 against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 14, £23,318, decrease £632; aggregate from January 1, £311,896, decrease £17,559.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 14, £8,524, increase £490; aggregate from January 1, £108,542, decrease £606.

Rosendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 13, £224, increase £39; aggregate from January 1, £2,839, increase £145.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 15, £925, increase £272; aggregate from January 1, £11,075, increase £2,687.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 15, £15,584, increase £1,325; aggregate from January 1, £224,545, increase £22,979.

Barceloná.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £8,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of January, 1906, £11,016, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Traffic receipts from July 1 to February 28, \$781,825, increase \$164,838. Nett earnings from July 1 to February 28, \$353,410, increase \$100,695.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending April 15, £3,806, increase £288; aggregate from January 1, £53,225, increase £4,311.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 17, £1,333, increase £128; aggregate from January 1, £15,558, increase £3,562.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of March, £320,200.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 14, Rs. 42,205, increase Rs. 3,196; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 6,71,133, increase Rs. 64,290.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of March, £4,997, increase £2,050. Total from January 1, £14,261, increase £5,719.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, \$407,865, increase \$56,745; aggregate from January 1, \$4,07,865, increase \$56,745. Nett traffic receipts, \$202,346, increase \$26,540; aggregate from January 1, \$2,02,346, increase \$26,540.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	
Baker St. and Waterloo	Apr. 14	£ 1,221	—	15	£ 7,549	—	
Brecon and Merthyr	" 15	1,940	+ 140	15	30,836	+ 2,026	
Cambrian	" 15	5,524	+ 630	15	74,673	— 215	
Central London	" 14	5,690	+ 1,071	15	102,971	+ 4,155	
City and South London	" 15	2,326	+ 433	15	43,943	+ 3	
Furness	" 15	10,563	+ 1,695	15	144,779	+ 18,713	
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.)	" 15	75,048	+ 6,382	15	1,048,626	+ 47,782	
Great Eastern	" 15	109,500	+ 14,100	15	1,407,400	+ 25,200	
Great Northern and City	" 14	1,671	+ 11	15	27,174	+ 948	
Great Northern	" 14	111,400	+ 2,718	15	1,588,500	+ 40,538	
Great Western	" 15	257,500	+ 24,400	15	3,215,500	+ 45,800	
Hull and Barnsley	" 15	9,659	+ 712	15	140,842	+ 6,300	
Lancashire and Yorkshire	" 15	129,137	+ 28,848	15	1,523,954	+ 62,074	
Loh. Brighton & S. Coast	" 14	71,709	+ 11,872	15	812,576	+ 9,089	
London & North Western	" 15	293,000	+ 21,000	15	3,957,000	+ 144,000	
London & South Western	" 15	107,700	+ 21,100	15	1,212,400	+ 24,400	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend	" 15	10,100	+ 2,136	15	121,149	+ 6,450	
Metropolitan	" 15	15,159	+ 2,301	15	249,151	+ 6,843	
Metropolitan District	" 15	6,812	+ 390	15	119,968	+ 5,936	
Midland	" 14	231,301	+ 13,887	15	3,268,178	+ 110,532	
North Eastern	" 14	195,125	+ 27,358	15	2,375,377	+ 149,924	
North London	" 15	8,253	+ 1,211	15	135,168	+ 3,972	
North Staffordshire	" 15	18,705	+ 2,230	15	265,616	+ 11,663	
Rhymney	" 15	5,772	+ 11	15	90,879	+ 2,361	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover	" 14	103,182	+ 18,561	15	1,174,534	+ 17,647	
Taff Vale	" 15	17,922	+ 1,352	15	290,834	+ 10,131	

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Apr. 15	92,293	+ 6,973	11	903,440	+ 21,935
Glasgow & South-Western	" 14	36,473	+ 3,427	11	348,537	+ 11,956
Great North of Scotland	" 14	9,310	+ 660	11	91,545	+ 234
Highland	" 15	9,432	+ 811	11	89,773	+ 387
North British	" 15	95,925	+ 5,374	11	953,326	+ 22,570

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down	Apr. 13	2,777	+ 305	8	34,086	— 574
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast	" 13	1,629	+ 16	8	21,977	+ 165
Great Northern	" 13	19,097	+ 249	15	244,664	+ 1,770
Midland Great Western	" 13	9,467	+ 1,807	8	142,734	+ 8,286

§ From January 1.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, April 6	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, April 6	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
SOUTH AFRICAN.							
41	Angelo	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	May Consolidated	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Anglo-French Ex.	2 1/2	2 1/2	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
4 1/2	Apex	4 1/2	4 1/2	7 1/2	Modderfontein	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Aurora West	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. B.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Banties	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	New Goch	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Block B.	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	City and Suburban, £4	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Comet (New)	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Cons. Goldfields	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Crown Reef	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Driefontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	East Rand	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	East Rand Extension	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Ferreira	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	French Rand	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2	Sheba (New)	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Geduld	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Goldenhuis Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Ginsburg	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Steyn Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Glencarn	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Development	1 1/2	1 1/2
7 1/2	Harmony Proprietary	7 1/2	7 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Henderson's Transvaal	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Treasury	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Johannesburg Con. In.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Van Ryn	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Jubilee	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Jumpers	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Vogelstruis	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Kleinfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Weigedacht	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Knight's	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wemmer	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Lancaster	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	West Rand Consols	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Langlaagte Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wolhuter, £4	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2		1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Worcester	1 1/2	1 1/2

DEEP LEVELS.

1 1/2	Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1	Rand Mines Deep	1	1
1 1/2	Bonanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Cinderella Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Robinson Deep (new)	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Crown Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Randfontein Cn. Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rose Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	South Rose Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Goldenhuis Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Village Main Reef	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Knight's Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			

RHODESIANS.

1 1/2	Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rhodesia Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Charter Trust and Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Selukwe	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Lomagunda Development	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Tanganyika	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wankie Coal	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Witloughby	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2		1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Zimbabwe Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2

DIAMONDS.

1 1/2	De Beers Deferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Kofffontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Preferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Lace Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Eland's Drift Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Orange Free State	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Frank Smith Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Jagersfontein Deferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Premier Diamond Def.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Preferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Kamlersdam	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			

WEST AFRICAN.

1 1/2	Abbotlakoon	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Gold Coast Agency, new	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Ankobra	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau)	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Asbanti Consols, 2/- paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Goldfields	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Himan Concessions	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Sansu	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Obbuss Syndicate	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Presea	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	British Gold Coast	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sekondi and Tarkwa	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Brommassie	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Taguah and Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Effuanta (Wassau)	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wassau	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Fanti Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	W. A. Gold Trust	1 1/2	1 1/2

AUSTRALIAN.

1 1/2	Anglo-Aus. Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ida H.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Associated	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ivanhoe Gold Corp.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Nra. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ivanhoe South	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bellevue Proprietary	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Boulder Deep Levels	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Brownhill Extended	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Lancefield	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chaffers	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	London & W.A. Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Cosmo'n Pr'p'ty	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Mount Boppy	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Horseshoe, New Shares	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	North Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Links	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Pole	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Peak Hill	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Great Boulder, 2/-	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Perseverance	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sons of Gwalla	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Great Fingall	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wstr lia Mt Morgans	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			
1 1/2	Hampton Plains	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			
1 1/2	Hannan's Star	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			

MISCELLANEOUS.

1 1/2	Anaconda, 25 dols.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Balaghat, full paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Mount Lyell	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Brilliant and St. George	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	M't. Morgan	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Broken Hill, Prop.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Mysore, 10s.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Camp Bird	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Mysore Goldfields, 15/-	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Cape Copper, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. West, 10/-	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Champion Reef, 2/-	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Wynaad, 10/-	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Con. Gold N.Z.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Namaqua, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Coplaop, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Nile Valley	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Coromandel 19/6 pd.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Nydydroog, 10/- shares	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Esperanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ooregun	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Frontino and Bolivia	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	St. John del Rey	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. (No. 2)	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Thariss	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Libiola, £5	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Walhi	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Liparez, £3	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ymir	1 1/2	1 1/2

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	
Alcoy and Gandia	April 14	Ps. 16,000	+ Ps. 9,400	**	Ps. 247,400	+ Ps. 17800
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia	Feb.	\$64,241	+ \$5,013	**	\$153,108	+ \$35,072
Argentine Gt. Western	April 13	17,115	+ 2,456	**	536,137	+ 84,497
Algeciras (Gibraltar)	" 14	Ps. 30,118	+ P. 620	**	Pr. 292,589	+ Pr. 107,911
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	" 14	38,202	+ 2,980	**	1,223,457	+ 302,229
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o and Cen. Argentine	" 14	88,657	+ 13,937	**	1,312,451	+ 168,329
Buenos Ayres G. Sthn.	" 15	80,027	+ 1,635	**	3,037,397	+ 459,110
Do. Western	" 15	43,142	+ 5,861	**	1,351,083	+ 171,660
Do. Ensenada	" 15	363	—	**	14,190	+ 296
C. Ur'g'ay of Mta. Vid.	" 14	8,635	—	**	343,318	+ 9,712
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 14	2,239	—	**	83,987	+ 430
Do. Northern Ex.	" 14	1,306	—	**	48,173	+ 5,957
Do. Western Ex.	" 14	1,202	—	**	49,473	+ 6,093
Cordoba Central	" 8	2,840	+ 70	**	44,180	+ 8,020
Do. Northern Ex.	" 8	5,720	+ 695	**	91,735	+ 21,665
Do. N. W. Arg'n. Ex.	" 8	1,835	+ 745	**	23,355	+ 7,999
Cordoba and Rosario	" 8	3,710	+ 55	**	173,820	+ 2,435
Costa Rica	Mar. 10	6,362	+ 1,482	**	199,747	+ 12,839
Cuban Central	April 14	12,507	+ 2,251	**	296,895	+ 25,134
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 14	6,634	+ 1,728	**	166,022	+ 31,723
Entre Rios	" 14	3,723	+ 1,359	**	150,045	+ 10,354
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico	" 14	\$121,000	+ \$21,560	**	\$4,722,500	+ \$21,180
Leopoldina	" 14	14,094	+ 2,223	**	194,050	+ 15,513
Mexican	Feb.	\$546,000	+ \$20,700	**	\$1,138,500	+ \$95,700
Do. Southern	April 14	\$146,200	+ \$41,300	**	\$2,001,000	+ \$139,600
Do. Central	" 14	\$24,480	—	**	\$367,789	+ \$13,278
Do. Do.	Feb.	\$229,926	+ \$181,788	**	\$1,818,422	+ \$120,73
Manila	" 14	\$635,795	+ \$8,660	**	\$5,328,789	+ \$221,747
Nitrate	April 14	\$35,729	+ \$9,521	**	\$542,535	+ \$13,670
Ottoman	" 15	17,651	+ 5,031	**	160,693	+ 1,705
Peruvian Corporation	Mar. 8	4,271	+ 1,483	**	64,555	+ 8,790
San Paulo	April 8	\$739,475	+ \$270,775	**	\$5,865,350	+ \$93,850
Salvador	" 14	17,525	+ 824	**	289,050	+ 5,145
United of Havana	" 14	\$24,950	+ \$900	**	\$409,000	+ \$100,356
Villa Maria & Rufo	" 14	26,944	+ 13,809	**	\$59,208	+ 170,141
Western of Havana	" 14	1,375	+ 101	**	20,548	+ 1,397
	" 14	3,643	—	**	169,683	+ 4,205

* Month ended. † Fortnight ended. ‡ Nett

** From January 1, 1906.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.				GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.			
NAME	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	
Bengal Nagpur ..	Mar. 27	Rs. 5,47,600	+ R.13,938	§	R.68,29,398	+ R.94,585	
Bengal & N.-W...	" 14	Rs. 2,64,660	+ R.16,938		Rs.29,68,920	+ R.1,42,463	
Bombay & Baroda	April 14	Rs.4,19,000	+ R.30,000	§	R.59,45,000	+ R.1,55,000	
Do. State Lines	" 14	Rs.5,38,000	+ R.37,000		R.83,77,000	- R.42,250	
Burma	Mar. 17	Rs.3,52,418	- Rs.7,773		R.1,09,87,845	- R.6,989	
Delhi Umballa ..	April 14	Rs.39,700	- Rs.2,766		Rs.5,43,212	- Rs.14,051	
East Indian	" 14	Rs.15,64,000	+ R.1,92,000	§	R.2,43,83,000	+ 14,38,000	
Gt. Indian Penin.	" 14	Rs.13,22,600	- R.97,879		R.2,14,04,238	+ R.3,88,846	
Indian Midland	" 14	Rs.1,85,300	+ R.25,820		Rs.33,78,392	+ R.4,58,588	
Madras	" 14	£26,125	+ £1,990		£374,458	+ £25,992	
South Indian	Mar. 3	Rs.2,42,292	+ R.7,268		Rs.20,95,541	+ R.9,237	
South Behar	" 24	Rs.10,865	- Rs.1,509		Rs.1,35,250	+ Rs.8,905	
S'thrn. Mabratta	" 24	Rs.2,66,580	+ R.36,024		Rs.29,80,972	+ Rs.540,695	
Southern Punjab	April 7	Rs.57,800	+ Rs.4,597		Rs.8,50,120	- Rs.1,639	

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- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

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HUGH LEWIS, General Manager.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE $3\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT. (Reduced from 4 per cent.
on April 5.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

We have all along warned the market and credit users in general not to count upon an easy time, as many of them were disposed to do when the Bank rate was reduced. There would have been no such time in any circumstances, because credit is strained everywhere, called upon to sustain enormous operations, to finance States in order that they may avoid insolvency, to supply the sinews of war for developing industries and a rapidly expanding international commerce, and in many other ways to meet unusual demands. When to this is added the sudden call made by the cruel extremity of California, we can quite understand that an anxious time lies ahead for all credit users. Even without the earthquake at San Francisco and its lamentable consequences, there could have been no steady ease in our credit market. Money would have been dearer this week than last whether or not. All that the earthquake in California has done has been to aggravate symptoms of a renewal of pressure already evident. The American demand for gold had become urgent last week, and it was certain also that the Japanese funds could not lie for ever in the London short credit market. Therefore it was a mistake on the part of discount houses to allow their rates to fine off. They may not have been quite able to help the decline, but it was none the less injurious to their in-

terests and to those of the market at large. From this point of view a withdrawal of Japanese money, which is blamed for the stringency that overtook the market in the middle of the week, is an open blessing because it has done what the withdrawals of gold for New York did not seem able to do—forced bill brokers to put their rates up.

Some of them began, when business was resumed on Tuesday, by trying to get $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on three months' remitted paper, but business was actually done at $3\frac{1}{8}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. On Wednesday, however, the rate stiffened rapidly, rising from $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. as a minimum in the morning to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. before the day closed, and yesterday the working rates became $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. under pressure of the greater stringency of the short loan market and the threatening depression of the Paris cheque. The continued sale of eagles also had a hardening effect. This morning the process was repeated. Beginning at $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., discount soon hardened to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and became so effective at that as to drive a huge business to the Bank, which took bills mostly of short dates from the market readily at its minimum. It also did a considerable proportion of the ordinary discount business, which proves the outside rate to have been hard at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Some houses, however, quoted $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent.

Short money did not rise much until Wednesday afternoon, when the gathering in of Japanese balances stripped the market of spare credits. Both call and notice money was generally $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on Tuesday, the overnight rate, however, sometimes rising to $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. On Wednesday the market had to pay for £2,500,000 of London County bills, while it was only to-day that it received money for £1,764,000 of such bills falling due. It was also disappointed in not getting much of the £1,000,000 disbursed by the Treasury in redemption of Exchequer bonds because the Japanese held the paper covering most of the amount. Rates accordingly stiffened until banks might easily have got $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for seven-day loans since call money rose to 3 per cent. and more before the day finished. Yesterday call money commanded 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and sometimes borrowers paid 4 per cent. rather than go to the Bank for seven-day loans at that figure, or to discount bills there at its minimum. Seven-day money was easily lent at 3 per cent. This was the rate, too, for seven-day loans this morning, although the release of the County Council money mentioned above made the supply of banking credit rather more plentiful. This is why there were no short loans raised at the Bank and why call money seldom rose to more than 3 per cent. The India Council got only $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on small amounts renewed for a month.

The Bank return this week indicates that our credit market is not in a position to endure severe strains—prolonged strains of any kind. Some little amount of the gold that went into circulation in consequence of the unprecedented Easter holiday demands may come back, but not much, for the Scotch term demand is now at hand, and as it stands the banking reserve is too low to be trusted to keep the market comfortable. It fell off £831,000 last week in spite of a return of £385,000 in notes from the active circulation, and the total is now only £23,370,000. Had it been £25,000,000 or £26,000,000, it would have been barely large enough to warrant bill brokers in discounting paper at 3 per cent. or less. Other deposits also indicate that there is not much now between our market and a very uncomfortable state of affairs should the American and other foreign demands for our gold continue, as they are only too likely to do. By a struggle the market was last week able to pay off £431,000 due on other securities, but the export of £873,000 nett of the Bank's gold told heavily upon the other deposits, and the two sources of depletion together brought them down by £1,155,000 to a total of only £43,502,000, in spite of a decline of £251,000 in the Government balances. At the outside this may be regarded as just about £2,500,000 above the limit

of uncomfortable poverty, which means constant applications to the Bank of England for assistance. In fact, the figure, including as it must do, an unknown amount of Japanese Government balances, is really probably at poverty limit, so far as the market is concerned, already for the Bank had to lend a little on Wednesday, and yesterday the market had to ask its help for a considerable sum. It lent for seven days at 4 per cent., a figure not at all unreasonable, the position taken into account, and the Bank's usage allowed for, but one which sadly disconcerted bill brokers who have been working their three months remitted bill rate down to 3 per cent. or below it.

And gold continues to leave the Bank. There is every indication that the pressure from New York will be renewed with as much urgency as was displayed a week ago. Yesterday the American exchange on London again fell rather sharply, and arrangements for the purchase of gold here have been renewed. The demand for South America also continues persistent, although not of a magnitude which would have attracted much notice had the New York pressure not been applied; and as the spring comes on we may find other buyers coming forward to an extent which will, for a time, altogether exceed the relief afforded by the supplies of fresh metal coming into the open market from the mines. Do we then look for a higher Bank rate at an early date? Some people talked in the middle of this week as if the Bank might at once go back to 4 per cent. We did not expect it to do so this week, but there is strong probability that it may have to go back to 4 per cent. at an early date, not improbably next week, and we may be very thankful should that rate prove sufficient to stave off or mitigate the world-wide demands upon our much too insignificant stock of gold. Gold is the one sure and infallible gap-stopper.

Another £52,000 in eagles was sold by the Bank today, and it is reported to-night that 250,000 sovereigns will be withdrawn for South America to-morrow. The price of bars in the open market, which rose to 78s. per oz., slipped back to 77-11½d. in the early part of the week, but is up again to 77-11½d., indicating emphatically enough the keenness of the foreign competition.

SILVER.

A fairly urgent demand on bazaar account for immediate delivery caused the price for shipment this week to rise to 30d. per oz., while ordinary cash transactions were put through at 29½d., and forward metal was quoted at 29½d. per oz. The inquiry ceased after a couple of days, and with more offering than could be absorbed, quotations relapsed to 29½d. and 29½d., but the market was steady enough, and on a little resumption of buying, together with limited offerings, finished 1½d. above these figures.

Applications for the Rs.30,00,000 India Council drafts on Wednesday amounted to Rs.2,48,35,000 in bills and Rs.60,00,000 in telegraphic transfers, when Rs.25,94,000 were accepted in bills and Rs.4,06,000 in transfers. Tenders at rs. 3 31-32d. and rs. 4d. per rupee respectively received about 6 per cent. Next week another Rs.30,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, April 18, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued ..	£ 50,678,440	Government Debt ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	32,228,440
		Silver Bullion ..	—
	£50,678,440		£50,678,440

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 15,977,281
Rest ..	3,208,403	Other Securities ..	31,876,365
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	9,894,659	Notes ..	21,803,075
Other Deposits ..	43,502,080	Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,566,956
Seven Day and other Bills ..	65,535		
	£71,223,677		£71,223,677

Dated April 19, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year :—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. April, 19.		April 12, 1906.	April 19, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,158,295	Rest ..	3,192,190	3,208,403	16,213	—
10,853,913	Pub. Deposits ..	10,145,721	9,894,659	—	251,062
39,001,646	Other do. ..	44,658,624	43,502,080	—	1,156,544
119,723	7 Day Bills ..	71,593	65,535	—	6,058
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,495,306	Gov. Securities ..	16,112,581	15,977,261	135,300	—
26,369,149	Other do. ..	32,307,687	31,876,365	431,322	—
25,822,122	Total Reserve ..	24,200,860	23,870,031	830,829	—
				1,413,664	1,413,664
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
28,958,410	Coin and Bullion	29,260,795	28,875,365	—	385,430
36,330,532	Proportion ..	35,011,655	33,795,396	—	1,216,259
5½ p.c.	Bank Rate ..	4½ p.c.	4½ p.c.	—	½ p.c.
2½ "		3½ "	3½ "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £973,000 out.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
1,800,000	6 months	June 1	3 2 6
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
11,200,000			
1,000,000	6 months	June 29	2 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 12	2 10 8
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 26	2 13 8
1,500,000	6 months	Sept. 16	2 11 5
1,000,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 10 0
14,913,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Week.	1906.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Jan. 3	340,266,000	276,940,000	63,326,000	—
" 10	228,921,000	215,432,000	13,439,000	—
" 17	287,646,000	254,259,000	33,387,000	—
" 24	214,928,000	186,205,000	28,723,000	—
" 31	289,958,000	300,588,000	—	10,650,000
Feb. 7	231,817,000	206,614,000	25,203,000	—
" 14	271,821,000	259,450,000	12,371,000	—
" 21	213,118,000	199,865,000	13,253,000	—
" 28	290,477,000	501,252,000	—	10,775,000
Mar. 7	235,959,000	215,866,000	20,093,000	—
" 14	201,348,000	268,032,000	—	6,684,000
" 21	208,709,000	211,042,000	—	2,333,000
" 28	250,066,000	205,714,000	44,352,000	—
April 4	281,635,000	345,370,000	—	60,735,000
" 11	266,009,000	210,891,000	55,118,000	—
" 18	182,932,000	300,087,000	—	117,155,000
	4,058,590,000	3,957,657,000	100,933,000	—

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.		WITHDRAWALS.	
Saturday	Australia ..	£84,000	Thursday, U. S. Coin .. £201,000
			" " " " .. 50,000
			Saturday, U. S. Coin .. 500,000
			Tuesday, U. S. Coin .. 201,000
			" " " " .. 5,000
Net Efflux	..	1,102,000	Thursday, U. S. Coin .. 80,000
			" " " " .. 57,000
			" " " " .. 40,000
			Friday, U. S. Coin .. 52,000
			Total .. £1,186,000
	Total ..	£1,186,000	

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs	25'11½	25'09½	Antwerp	short	25'20½	25'21
Brussels	chqs.	25'19½	25'20	Italy	sight	25'13	25'10
Amsterdam	sight	12'14½	12'14½	Constantinople ..	3 mths	110'20	110'15
Berlin	chqs.	20'48	20'49½	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	15'18d.	15'18d.
Do.	3 mths	20'31	20'31½	Valparaiso	90 dys	14'18d.	14'18d.
Hamburg	chqs.	20'46½	20'48	Bombay	T.T.	1'33½	1'4
Frankfort	short	20'47½	20'48	" " " " ..	T.T.	1'33½	1'4
Vienna	sight	24'04	24'04½	Hong Kong	T.T.	2'08	2'10½
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	94'10	94'05	Shanghai	T.T.	2'108	2'108
New York	60 dys	4'81½	4'82	Singapore	T.T.	2'48	2'48
Lisbon	sight	51½	51½	Yokohama	4 mths	2'018	2'018
Madrid	sight	28'90	28'88				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.	
			Last Week.	Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	2½	3
Berlin	5	December 11, 1905	3½	3½
Hamburg	5	December 11, 1905	3½	3½
Frankfort	5	December 11, 1905	3½	3½
Amsterdam	3	November, 1905	2½	2½
Brussels	4	October 30, 1905	3½	3½
Vienna	4½	October, 1905	4	4½
Rome	5	September, 1904	4	4
St. Petersburg	7½	April 17, 1906	8	8
Madrid	4½	August 21, 1901	4	4
Lisbon	5½	January 11, 1899	5	5
Stockholm	5	January, 1906.	4½	4½
Copenhagen	5	October, 1905	4½	4½
Calcutta	5	April 12, 1906	—	—
Bombay	6	March 29, 1906	—	—
New York call money	3½	—	—	—

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	April 19, 1906.	April 12, 1906.	April 5, 1906.	April 20, 1905.
Gold in hand	£118,218,520	£118,342,320	£116,992,280	£111,170,040
Silver in hand	42,008,520	42,004,240	42,037,680	44,036,400
Bills discounted	36,535,960	35,460,320	35,782,280	26,986,360
Advances	19,500,960	19,489,040	20,276,400	19,169,120
Note circulation	191,147,240	191,284,880	192,982,520	176,059,760
Public deposits	7,354,640	6,936,840	5,416,720	6,974,800
Private deposits	22,890,360	22,343,240	22,485,640	24,080,400

Proportion between bullion and circulation 83½ per cent. against 83½ per cent. a week ago.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	April 14, 1906.	Apr. 7, 1906.	Mar. 31, 1906.	Apr. 15, 1905.
Cash in hand	£46,971,650	£45,789,550	£44,449,000	£52,307,050
Bills discounted	43,983,750	47,308,800	54,966,800	39,970,700
Advances on stocks	3,084,800	4,561,550	9,293,200	2,929,200
Note circulation	69,310,750	73,864,350	81,454,900	67,704,000
Public deposits	29,579,050	27,225,700	29,449,800	33,145,150

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Apr. 12, 1906.	Apr. 5, 1906.	Mar. 29, 1906.	Apr. 13, 1905.
Coin and bullion	£4,861,560	£5,289,320	£4,988,680	£4,749,480
Other securities	22,562,120	23,232,640	22,444,000	22,355,800
Note circulation	27,167,680	26,890,960	27,021,800	26,262,320
Deposits	2,652,880	4,121,200	2,976,920	2,760,480

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	Dec. 31, 1905.	Dec. 20, 1905.	Dec. 10, 1905.	Nov. 30, 1905.
Reserve	£31,930,800	£31,390,080	£30,806,000	£30,494,200
State notes and small changed	561,920	749,640	580,200	561,240
Discount and loans	16,393,400	13,701,080	13,832,560	14,293,840
Public stock and State loans ..	8,408,280	8,150,000	8,146,320	8,149,400
Credits	5,619,920	5,900,200	6,332,080	6,225,640
Note Circulation	40,219,120	38,750,240	39,127,440	40,070,480
Current account	2,381,240	2,636,480	2,582,720	2,634,080
Deposits	5,038,640	4,427,720	3,896,520	4,259,240

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Apr. 14, 1906.	April 7, 1906	Mar. 31, 1906.	Apr. 15, 1905.
Gold	£15,095,869	£15,093,309	£15,084,420	£14,823,750
Silver	23,708,704	23,798,126	23,969,725	20,907,000
Foreign Bills	3,240,889	3,200,088	3,305,382	1,661,643
Discount and Short Bills	22,697,180	22,810,546	22,801,276	50,398,025
Treasury Account	37,404,926	37,396,638	37,394,154	20,959,289
Notes in circulation	61,893,204	61,760,592	61,052,437	61,952,285
Current Account deposits	22,896,713	23,070,221	23,317,205	25,501,761
Dividends Interests	2,356,806	2,221,929	2,626,990	2,684,982
Government Securities	6,851,444	7,192,810	7,606,556	3,565,407

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Mar. 23/Apr. 5, 1906.	Mar. 16/29 1906.	Mar. 8/21, 1906.	Mar. 23/Apr. 5, 1905.
Gold	£71,908,193	£72,825,912	£73,425,877	£89,905,072
Silver and subsidiary coin	4,914,402	4,944,063	4,803,211	6,833,875
Advances and bills discounted	59,973,051	51,150,721	53,617,521	36,794,824
Securities belonging to the Bank	8,400,183	8,255,551	7,665,259	5,517,173
Notes in circulation	113,160,162	111,802,378	113,268,944	89,589,222
Deposits and current account	45,705,386	46,117,226	46,110,931	48,321,139
Treasury account	3,514,967	3,090,642	3,317,801	12,224,276

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	April 14, 1906.	April 7, 1906.	Mar. 31, 1906.	April 15, 1905.
Gold Reserve	£46,111,625	£46,001,541	£45,923,831	£47,894,833
Silver reserve	12,777,333	12,787,666	12,833,833	13,016,375
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	1,599,791	1,616,916	1,660,333	1,777,458
Note circulation	69,571,458	70,145,833	71,194,208	64,704,916
Bills discounted	16,820,458	17,510,541	18,043,083	11,097,333

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Apr. 14, 1906.	Apr. 7, 1906.	Mar. 31, 1906	Apr. 15, 1905.
Specie	£34,540,000	£34,358,000	£35,580,000	£42,190,000
Legal tenders	15,506,000	15,308,400	15,681,800	16,664,600
Loans and discounts	201,856,000	206,540,000	205,100,000	219,920,000
Circulation	10,290,000	10,343,400	10,169,000	8,881,600
Net deposits	166,572,000	200,680,000	200,860,000	227,940,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £954,000 against an excess last week of £509,600.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	April 5.	April 10.	April 17.	April 19.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'3	12'3	12'3	12'3
Do. do.	3 months	12'5½	12'5½	12'5½	12'5½
Antwerp and Brussels	3 months	25'46½	25'46½	25'45	25'45
Hamburg	3 months	20'70	20'69	20'70	20'71
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'70	20'70	20'70	20'71
Paris	cheques	25'12½	25'12½	25'11½	25'09½
Do.	3 months	25'35	25'33½	25'33½	25'32½
Marseilles	3 months	25'35	25'35	25'35½	25'32½
Switzerland	3 months	25'46½	25'46½	25'45	25'45
Austria	3 months	24'35	24'35	25'35	24'35
St. Petersburg	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places	3 months	24'43½	25'43½	25'45	25'45
New York	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P. ..	3 months	40½	40½	40½	40½
Lisbon	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen	3 months	18'44	18'44	18'44	18'44
Christiania	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'45	18'45
Stockholm	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'45	18'45

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3½—3½
Three months	3½—3½
Four months	3½—3½
Six months	3½—3½
Three months fine inland bills	3½—3½
Four months	3½—3½
Six months	3½—3½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	3½
" " short loan rates	4
Bankers' rate on deposits	2
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	2½
" " 7 and 14 days' notice	2½
Current rates for 7 day loans	3—3½
" " for call loans	3—3½

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Nothing could more forcibly illustrate the interlinking of nations in a common weal or woe than the condition of our Stock Exchange as a result of the disaster which has overtaken San Francisco. At first everybody was disposed to repel the darkest features of the story, and stocks did not give way much. When, however, it became impossible any longer to doubt, markets became flat from top to bottom, and they continue so. It would, indeed, be impossible to forecast what the economic consequences of this calamity may be, coming as it does upon inflated markets within the American Union and to some extent here, coming also when all credit-generating institutions are committed to their utmost capacity and often beyond it, to the credit operations of States like Japan and Russia, and corporations old and new. What the amount of the loss involved by the disasters of San Francisco and in neighbouring places may be we cannot guess. Some reports put it as high as £60,000,000, but there can be no certainty for some time to come. Were it only £25,000,000 the gap is an enormous one to fill, and we are not surprised that holders of British insurance shares should be nervous and tempted to sell. Our fire companies have been doing a fine business in the United States for the last two years, especially was the business of 1905 good. Their shares have accordingly been going up, as we have had frequent occasion to point out, and some of them have lately risen so fast as to create doubts about the advisability of buying. Now all this is reversed, and for the past two days holders have been eager to sell, fearing lest reserves should be materially depleted, and the chance of profit in the current year, perhaps for some years to come, either diminished or swept away.

We are never of those who advise selling in a panic, and would now venture to remind the shareholders in British companies that they have had strains as sudden before, if not quite so enormous. All our best

fire offices, moreover, are rich, and we do not think that the most liberal interpretation of the liabilities this earthquake and the succeeding fires have thrown upon them will permanently cripple any one of them. That they will pay up without too close inquiry into their exact legal responsibility is, we believe, undoubted, and that they have gained immensely by this liberal policy in the past is also beyond question. It may be that claims will in some instances be reduced, and that where proof can be given of destruction of property by the agency of nature alone no claim whatever will arise, but where property has been destroyed by fire there is not likely to be any demur in frankly and fully meeting the liability. The disbursements will accordingly be formidable, but for all that we should not be in a hurry to sell, now that prices have been pressed back. Selling would only aggravate the trouble, and do mischief by involving holders in loss, which patience might in all probability enable them to avoid.

Of other parts of the Stock Exchange it is unnecessary to say much this week. They are governed by the monetary outlook more than anything else, and that is not very comfortable from any aspect. We are not at all surprised that Consols should be flat along with Home Railways and other large classes of marketable securities, because in this respect also the whole world is linked together. If, for example, the gap made in the pawnable or marketable assets of the North American Union should be such as to involve the suspension of a few trust companies and banks there the consequence to our market might be serious enough to cause acute credit affliction here. The credit of the world is so interwoven, and the credit-generating institutions so interdependent, that a calamity could not overtake a few of them at any point without somewhat endangering the stability of all the rest. Here also, however, we earnestly deprecate anything in the nature of alarm. Affairs are likely to prove difficult enough to manage without any aggravation through undue haste or precipitate action. At a time like the present it is the duty of all credit users and of all stockholders to do their utmost to spare the resources of the institutions they are accustomed to deal with or to lean upon, and instead of withdrawing means from them or abandoning them, they ought to be ready wherever possible to sustain and increase their power to deal with the difficulties by which they may be suddenly beset.

The Week's Stock Markets.

A good many causes have combined to keep markets depressed since the resumption of business after the Easter holidays. On Tuesday the attendance was so thin, and business so poor that prices fell of their own weight, being weakened a little by the disturbing news from Natal. A good deal of selling was later encountered by way of preparation for the new Russian loan, and markets were in a rather sensitive condition, just about ready for a break, when the full story of the San Francisco disaster came along. The close is therefore weak and apprehensive, and "bulls" will have very few profits to take on settling day next week. The obviously strained position in New York, necessitating unprofitable gold withdrawals from this side, was another unsettling influence, and it looks as though matters on the other side must now grow much worse, because an outflow of currency to the west is rendered certain by the terrible calamity in San Francisco. On the whole, a by no means comfortable outlook, and those who have light books are lucky. Fears that the English insurance companies affected by the California catastrophe may have to throw some investments upon the market caused considerable depression amongst gilt-edged securities, Consols leading the way with a sharp fall. All other British Funds, such as annuities, War Loan, Irish Land stock, Local Loans, Transvaal 3 per cent., and India sterling issues went down as well, and the weakness spread to the Home County and

Corporation list, Metropolitan Water "B" being specially flat on the sale of a rather large line. Colonial Inscribed stocks were quiet, but shared in the prevailing mood.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS (Last year's dividends are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	89	Consols (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Money) ..	90 $\frac{3}{4}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
91	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Account (May 4) ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
89 $\frac{1}{2}$	88	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907 ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	Irish Land (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99	Local Loans (3) ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	98	National War Loan (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	99	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Account (May 4) ..	99	99
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
300 $\frac{1}{2}$	293	Bk. of England Sick. (9 p.c.) ..	295 $\frac{1}{2}$	294 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	India 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Sick. red. 1931 ..	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
97 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	Do. 3 p.c. Sick. red. 1948 ..	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
82	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Sick. red. 1926 ..	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$
66 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$

The forthcoming Russian loan is still the chief influence affecting Foreign Government bonds. Realisations to provide the necessary funds were again in evidence during the week, and after opening pretty steady, Continental issues gave way all round. Sharp declines took place in Hungarian, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, German, and Turkish, and the older Russian loans were decidedly flat on sales by those intending an exchange into the new 5 per cent. The premium on this, however, is gradually falling away, and is now little better than $\frac{1}{2}$. The South American group slipped down with other things, but although the declines were

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Argentina 5 p.c. 1886 ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	93	93
93	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	90	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	102
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	87
102	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	89
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	102
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	Chilian 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1885 ..	96	96
97 $\frac{1}{2}$	94	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1886 ..	96	96
96	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1895 ..	95	95
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. 1895 ..	101	101
99	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	105	105
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103
52 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	Costa Rica A ..	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
43 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B ..	43	43
46 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Colombian External ..	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	106	106
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Egypt Unified 4 p.c. ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. pref. ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	101xd
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. State Domain ..	105	105
88 $\frac{1}{2}$	87	German 3 p.c. ..	87	86 $\frac{1}{2}$
53 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	Greek, 1884 ..	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	54
53 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	54	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
43	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	42	42
52 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Funding ..	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
98	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	98	97
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Italian 5 p.c. ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Japan 5 p.c. ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
104	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1901-2 ..	101	101
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$
87	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	83	81 $\frac{1}{2}$
83	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	Servian 4 p.c. ..	83	83
96	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93
103	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Turks 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Tribute ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	100xd
105	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	103	103xd
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
73 $\frac{1}{2}$	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	Uruguay 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. ..	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	73 $\frac{1}{2}$
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. ..	96	96
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Venezuelan, Dip. (3) ..	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$

numerous they rarely reached important proportions. Peruvians lost an early rise, and amongst Central American bonds Colombians, Venezuelans, Guatemalans, and Honduras all dropped back to a fractional extent. The weakness spread to Japanese in a small way, but Chinese bonds offered considerable resistance.

Dealings in Home Railway stocks showed no sign of broadening out after the holidays, in spite of the excellent traffic returns. Compared with the corresponding week of 1905 the increases of the passenger lines were naturally very large, and even when put against the Good Friday week the improvement was highly satis-

factory, but they failed to stimulate buying. The market became a little firmer when the figures came out, but that was all, and when the expected revival of business failed to take place, disappointed speculators who had laid in stocks in anticipation of the public coming in began to unload. Prices consequently slipped back, and the decline was accelerated by the sudden hardening of the Money Market and by fears that the appalling disaster in San Francisco would force the insurance companies doing business there to realise large masses of securities in order to meet the heavy losses which seem inevitable.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
141½	133	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	137	137
157½	149½	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	155	154
130½	120½	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	122½	122½
120½	112½	Caledonian Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	112½xd	112
80	76½	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	76½xd	76½
42½	37½	Do. Def. (1 p.c.) ..	37½xd	37
90½	91	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	92	91
89	87½	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	85½	85½
176½	149½	Chatham Ordinary ..	158	158
44½	40½	City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	42	42
69	63½	Furness (1½ p.c.) ..	62½	63½
40½	37½	Great Central Pref. ..	40½	40½
19½	18	Do. Def. ..	18½	18
91½	82½	Great Eastern (5½ p.c.) ..	84½	84½
105	100½	Gr. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	103½	102½
47½	43½	Do. Def. (1½) ..	46½	45½
144	135½	Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	136½	136
52	47½	Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	50½	49½xd
47½	42½	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	44½	44½
109½	104½	Lanc. and Yorks. (5½ p.c.) ..	106	105½
89½	75½	Metropolitan (2½ p.c.) ..	78	76½
37½	26½	Metropolitan District ..	28½	27½
70½	66½	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	67	67
74½	67½	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	68½	68½
78½	70½	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	76½xd	76½
47½	43½	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	41½xd	44½
147½	140½	North-Eastern (6½ p.c.) ..	141½	141½
163½	156	North-Western (6½ p.c.) ..	158½	158
90½	87	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	89	90
132	126	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	127	128
55½	50½	Do. Def. ..	53½	54
164	154½	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	156½	156½
108½	104	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	105	105
57½	51½	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	53½	53½

Yankee Railroad shares began promisingly and prices were lifted well over parity on the news that more gold had been engaged for shipment to New York. A further advance was secured when Wall Street opened on Tuesday afternoon, and the improvement seemed likely to continue until the news of the earthquake in San Francisco knocked the market to pieces. Atchison, Southern Pacific and Union Pacific being closely affected, naturally suffered most severely, but nearly everything else fell heavily in sympathy. Southern Pacific further relapsed on the issue of \$200,000,000 50-year 4 per cent. bonds sanctioned for

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
99½	91½	Atchison Shares (4) ..	95½	93½
109½	105	Do. Pref. (5) ..	107	106½
120	112½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (5) ..	116½	114½
101½	96	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	99	99
63½	58½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	60½	60½
195½	178½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	182	180½
52½	38½	Denver Shares ..	47½	46½
93½	89½	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	92	91
52½	42½	Erie Shares ..	46	45
85½	79½	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	80½	80½
77	68½	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	71½	72½
185	171	Illinois Central (7) ..	177½	178
160½	148½	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	154½	153
41½	34½	Missouri and Texas ..	35½	36
159½	147	New York Central (5) ..	149½	147½xd
95½	87½	Norfolk and Western (4) ..	92	93
96½	92	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	93	94
52½	49½	Ontario Shares (3) ..	52½	51½
85½	64½	Pennsylvania (6) ..	72½	72½
47½	40½	Reading Shares (1½) ..	70½	68½
51½	45½	Do. 1st Prefd. (4) ..	47	47
74½	66½	Do. 2nd Prefd. (4) ..	50	50
43½	37½	Southern Pacific ..	70½	68½
105	101½	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	105½	103½xd
163½	151½	Union Pacific (5½) ..	160½	158½
101½	98½	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	99	99
26½	20½	Wabash ..	23½	22½
53½	42½	Do. Prefd. ..	51	50
87	79½	Do. Income Debs. ..	84	83
182½	173½	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	177½	178½
160½	144½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	164½	164½
109½	109	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	111½	111½
29½	25½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	26½	26½
105½	102½	Do. Guar. (4) ..	104	102½xd
119½	114½	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	119½	118½xd
110½	105½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	110½	108½xd
70½	60½	Do. 3rd Pref. (2) ..	66	63½xd
109½	107½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109	109

the purpose of extending and strengthening the system, and Baltimores were also depressed by the creation of new capital. Pennsylvanias, on the other hand, were firm, partly, it was said, because the bituminous coal carriers would benefit if the trouble with the anthracite miners developed into a strike. The support, however, seemed to be due less to this than to efforts on the part of a syndicate interested in convertible bonds to make these more attractive to speculators. Towards the close a little rally was brought about by "bear" covering, but there was no pronounced recovery in quotations.

Fine increases of \$312,000 in the Canadian Pacific traffic return and £10,500 in the Grand Trunk figures gave the market a fair amount of strength just at first. There was, however, a lack of substantial interest in this section, and prices followed American Rails in the relapse on the San Francisco news and in the subsequent recovery, with the result that changes on the week were trifling.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
229½	211½	Antofagasta (10) ..	221½	226
335	313	Do. Def. (15) ..	340	350
130½	125	Argentine Gr. West. (6) ..	125	124
132	128½	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	129	131
88	84½	Bahia Blanca Prefd. ..	85½xd	85½
144½	140	B. Ay. Gr. Southern Ord. (7) ..	142	141½xd
120½	127	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	128	128½xd
136½	132	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	134½	132½
120½	115½	Do. Co. 1st Pref. (5) ..	119	119
110	107½	Do. Co. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	110	110
120½	115	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	119½	118½
110	109½	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	117½	116½
170	165½	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	168	167
109	105½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	107	107
138½	135½	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	133½xd	132½
92½	86½	Central Uruguay (4½) ..	88	86½xd
109½	106½	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	108	108
96	92½	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	94	94
75½	69½	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (5½) ..	72	72
59½	55½	Costa Rica ..	56	54½
7	6	Cuban Central ..	6	7
111½	111½	Do. Pref. (5½) ..	111½	112½
106	102½	Do. Deb. (4½) ..	103½	103½
93½	90	East Argentine (4½) ..	94	94
95½	6	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	8½	8½
80½	78½	Leopoldina (3) ..	80½	79
95½	95½	Do. Deb. (4) ..	95½	95½
100	107½	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	108	109
105½	103½	Do. "B" (6) ..	106	107
28½	25	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	27	25½
130½	118½	Do. 1st Pref. (6½) ..	130	125½
59½	49½	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	57½	55
66½	54½	Mexican Southern (2½) ..	65	64
106½	106	Nitrate Ord. (3) ..	106½	106
21½	19½	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (5) ..	20½	20½
214	203	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	214	210
193	170½	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	184	181

A sharp fall in Mexican Railway stocks in the early part of the week was ascribed to the liquidation of a deceased account in the provinces, but would appear to have been due rather to selling by dealers who had come to the conclusion that their estimates of the dividend were too high. Prophets had put the distribution on the first preference at from 6½ to 7½ per cent., but on second thoughts they so far modified their views as to look for no more than 6 to 6½ per cent., and this figure proved on Thursday to be nearer the mark. A rally followed the declaration of the dividend at the rate of 6½ per cent., but the realisations were on too large a scale for the recovery to make much headway, and all three issues show considerable losses on balance. United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock in which there has also been a good deal of speculative buying of late dropped back on the offer of £229,000 stock at 179 to holders of "scrip for bonus" and Brazilian issues were heavy owing to a sharp fall in the exchange. In spite of good traffic returns Argentine Railways were weak and lower without much doing in any of them, and Antofagasta ordinary and deferred dropped back on very little provocation. Russian Railways, of course, were marked down on the forthcoming new loan.

The severe break in Insurance shares on the San Francisco convulsion was the principal incident in the Miscellaneous market. Several of the leading British insurance companies do a very large fire business in America, and they are certain to be severely hit. Of late the companies' securities have risen rapidly on

hopes that the revelations regarding the American offices would lead to a large transference of business to this side, and they were therefore not in a position to withstand a very severe shock. Prices rattled down in a rather distressing fashion, the losses on Thursday ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$. In other directions quotations were fairly well sustained, and another run upon Anglo "A" carried the price up to $21\frac{1}{2}$. The rest of the company's stocks were also good, and the Telegraph list generally displayed strength. Hudson's Bays were firm until near the close, when a reaction set in, but other Land shares were less active than of late. Canada North-Western Lands, however, advanced $7\frac{1}{2}$. One or two Nitrate shares eased off towards the close, and the Iron and Steel list was steady without much business. Amongst

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
21	16	18½	Allsopp Ordinary	19	20
51	44	—	City of London Ord.	47½	46½
551	536	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	510	540
10½	16½	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	17	17
511½	411½	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	2½	2½
611½	451½	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	2½	2½
56	49½	50	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	50½	50½
9½	9½	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	55	55
6½	5½	5½	Acacia & Bre-d (32½)	6½	6½
2½	6½	6½	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	7	7
6½	6½	1½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½)	6½	7
27½	21½	24½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	1½	1½
15	40½	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2½	2½
7½	5½	—	Brunner Mond (35)	5½	5½
11½	11	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½) ..	11	11
14½	11½	13½	Calico Printers Ordinary (24) ..	11	11
5½	5½	104½	Coats Ordinary (20)	5½	5½
500	485	495	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	490	490
26½	19½	25½	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil)	1½	1½
25½	23½	24½	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	1½	1½
6½	6½	6½	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	6½	6½
80½	12½	—	Henley's Telegraph (15)	13	13
19½	81½	4½	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	4½	4½
27½	20½	26½	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½)	1½	1½
108½	107	—	Do. Debenture (42½)	108	108
24½	21½	21½	Lipton Ordinary (7)	1½	1½
6½	5½	5½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	5½	5½
34½	27½	27½	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	1½	1½
15½	10½	—	Russian Petroleum	7½	7½
7½	6½	—	Savoy Hotel (5)	7½	7½
18½	13½	17½	Sweetmeat Automatic	15	15
10½	14½	—	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	1½	1½
26½	10½	12½	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	1½	1½
19½	17½	15½	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	103½	103½
103½	102½	103½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	90½	89
91½	80½	90	Hudson's Bay Co. (58½) ..	51½	50½
54½	42½	51½	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (12½)	106	106
110½	107½	106½	Do. Debentures (6)	9½	9½
9½	9	—	National Discount (10)	12	12
13½	11½	—	Union Discount (11)	4½	4½
6½	5	4½	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	10½	10½
11½	11	10½	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	9½	9½
104½	98	—	Gas Light & Coke Ord. St. (4½)	128	128
33½	128	—	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	3	3
66½	61½	60½	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	4	4
85½	75½	4	Barbcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	1½	1½
28½	20½	14½	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10)	1½	1½
31½	30½	—	Howard & Bullough Ori. (7½)	12½	12½
14	12½	12½	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	43½	43½
47½	41½	44	United States Steel Ordinary ..	110½	110½
17	107½	111½	Do. Preference (7)	2½	2½
57½	52½	2½	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	15½	15½
14½	13½	—	Cunard Steam	237½	237½
41	23½	—	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13)	53	59
59	52	—	Royal Mail	8½	8½
9	7½	—	Union-Castle Mail Steamship	113	112½
14½	109½	113	Ordinary (5)	19½	21
			Anglo-American Telegraph—	146½	145½
			Pref. Ord. (2½)	15	15
			Do. Def. Ord.	112	111
20½	16½	19½	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	14½	14½
50½	145½	147	Eastern Extension (7)	6½	6½
15½	14½	15	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	9½	8½
13½	108½	111½	Western Telegraph (7)	85½	84½
14½	14½	14½	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	9½	9½
8½	6½	6½	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)	9½	9½
9½	8½	9½	London General Omnibus (7)	9½	9½
17	85½	—	London United Trams Pref. (5)	9½	9½
9½	8½	—			

Meat shares Nelsons were dull and Eastmans rather better, while the Catering list kept pretty steady. Textiles were quite a good market, but dealing was poor. United Langkats were restored to $4\frac{1}{2}$. Breweries were steadier, and an enormous rise to 221 took place in Bieckert's ordinary stock. The annual accounts are due about June, and may be expected to disclose a remarkable year's business. Salt and Co. debenture stocks were put up 5 and Allsopp's issues continued their upward course. Royal Mails were good in the Shipping division, but Road Cars touched 4.

It was all San Francisco still in the Stock Exchange to-day and everything was inclined to recede, prices closing about the worst. The greatest fall was again

in Insurance shares, those of the big companies dropping 6 to 7, which after all brings prices back only to about Christmas levels. It is significant that the selling has not been by the public, but by insiders supposed to know what is going to happen. The result is that it is now almost impossible to sell at all. There are less than half-a-dozen dealers in this Insurance market capable of loading up with considerable parcels of shares, and directly they close their books the market is done. This is another reason why the public ought not to take alarm, although it may be said: "Surely, if insiders are selling those outside ought to follow their example." Not necessarily so. We have been quite unable to get any estimate of the losses of individual offices, and they either can form no idea or do not choose to tell, but it seems certain that the reports coming from America of the involvements of our big companies are exaggerated. Moreover, there is considerable talk of pleading the "earthquake clause" in mitigation of liability, and some have gone so far to-day as to hint that £5,000,000 may cover all the British offices will ultimately have to pay. We think that a much too fine estimate, but it must not be forgotten that Continental companies are deeply involved as well as British, and that there is probably a large amount of property destroyed which is not insured at all. The premium on the new Russian loan, which was $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ two days ago, is down to-night to $1\frac{1}{2}$, and the only buyer at that was a French house. Home Railway stocks were flat and said to be affected by the selling of the fire insurance companies to provide funds to meet their losses.

American Business Notes.

At the time of writing it looks probable that the threatening credit upset in the United States will be conjured away for the time being. The truth has not been allowed to leak out much, and we cannot estimate here the extent of the danger. It obviously was extreme, else the Secretary to the Treasury would not have taken the extraordinary step of lending Government gold to the New York Banks for the few days intervening between the date of the gold purchases in Europe and the arrival of the metal in New York. In all probability several of the Associated Banks in New York City have been, and still are, to all intents, insolvent. The summary accounts of these banks are made up in averages, and if there is a deficiency in the aggregate reserve, as was the case a fortnight ago, we may be pretty sure that some of the banks are in danger of foundering—would founder if they stood alone. The whole of them are unquestionably involved to a dangerous extent in the gigantic credit operations of the market. Their funds are utilised to prop the speculations in connection with the copper industry, and in financing the enormous issues of railroad and other joint-stock securities which, as we have repeatedly noticed, have been coming upon the market in unwieldy masses for some months back. In this position they are faced with an inability to dispose of the securities financed by or pawned to them in the open market. The public in the United States, as here, regards prices as too high, and almost the whole of the play upon Wall Street is what may be called professional, either that or attempts of the locked up banks and trust companies to create a semblance of activity in markets with a view to get the public to relieve them of their overburden.

But the tension has been relieved, thanks to the creation of finance bills—"kites," as we familiarly call them—which have been negotiated in Europe, chiefly in London, to provide funds with which to purchase gold. Gold has been bought, or rather borrowed, regardless of expense, and thanks to this dangerous system of anticipating the future, and to the transfer of another large portion of the Wall Street floating stock speculative account to London, the position of the banks has been eased so that the aggregate deficiency of £512,000 shown by the Associated Banks

a fortnight ago was changed at the end of last week into a surplus of £953,000, no less than £4,686,000 having been knocked off the aggregate of loans and discounts, a reduction which led to a corresponding diminution of £4,316,000 in the nett deposits. For the time being all is middling well, but the crisis cannot be over so long as the finance bills created to the amount of untold millions in order to buy gold and lift the dead weight to some extent off New York have not been provided for. Can they be provided for? Not by ordinary course of business, not through the sale of United States products abroad. There is but one method through which effective liquidation of the floating debt created in Europe can be accomplished—by the sale of Stock Exchange securities to European investors. Should the masters of finance on Wall Street be unable to persuade investors here and in France, Holland, Belgium, or Germany to purchase for money down the hundreds of millions of new and other stocks they are diligently spreading before their eyes, then the bulk of the accommodation bills now afloat will have to be renewed, and the crisis will come on again some months later, probably enough in much more acute form than it has this time assumed.

A suggestive fact in connection with the recent gold purchases is the intervention of the Guaranty and Trust Company as a buyer. It would seem that this company, which is an offshoot of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, was first in the field after the gold, and subsequently transferred its purchase to the Bank of Commerce. What motive lay behind the action of this finance company? Was it driven by the position of its parent and controller, the Insurance Company, to take this desperate step in order to avoid insolvency, or has it merely been one of the principal mediums through which accommodation bills have been manufactured and placed on the London market? Bankers here might look through their bill cases and see to what extent the Guaranty and Trust Company has been manufacturing bills in New York to be accepted by its agency in London and discounted here. There is naturally disinclination on the part of private firms like Messrs. J. P. Morgan and Co. to engage in this kind of trade, and the Guaranty Trust is just the sort of instrument which the Wall Street financiers would be likely to set in motion in order to effect their purpose.

A Wall Street report has it that the New York City Bank, a Rockefeller dependent, is considering a proposal to establish a new bank with a capital of £10,000,000 for the purpose of regulating money and exchange rates during times of financial stringency such as New York has recently passed through. Stock-brokers there, it seems, are complaining that the high money rates have diverted a good deal of business to London, and to other foreign markets, and are advocating the establishment of a central bank which will control the currency and make all things smooth. This device has been tried in the United States before now with disastrous results, and we should doubt the wisdom of giving the Standard Oil monopoly control of banking credit and monetary circulation in the American Union after the fashion here outlined. But was there such a great deal of the business transferred to London? We have seen little or no trace of it on the Stock Exchange. So far as evidence of business there goes, much less has been done in recent weeks in United States corporate securities of any kind than used to be seen when times were much quieter.

It is stated that the New York Central Railroad interests have arranged to consolidate the Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa, Indiana Harbour, and the Danville and Indiana Harbour railroad companies aggregating about 400 miles of road, into a company called the Chicago, Indiana, and Southern Railroad. Its capital, report says, will be \$20,000,000, of which one-fourth will take the form of 4 per cent. cumulative preference shares. The Lake Shore Company will subscribe for \$17,000,000 and the Michigan Central for the remaining \$3,000,000. This can only be a matter of book-

keeping, as the lines are already the property of these two companies.

A suit has been brought in the United States Circuit Court at Cincinnati to foreclose the Cincinnati, Hamilton, and Dayton Railway. The \$50,000,000 mortgage of 1905 is to be the instrument under which this action is taken. Of that amount \$17,500,000 in 4½ per cent. bonds has been issued, including \$15,000,000 pledged as part collateral for the gold collateral notes of 1905. The time for the deposit of these 4½ per cent. collateral gold notes was extended to the 16th inst., after which they will only be received on payment of \$10 per note.

A consolidation of the companies busy burrowing tunnels under New York is arranged under the name of the Hudson and Manhattan Railroad Company. At present no less than four different corporations are busy tunnel building under the city, and the amount of capital involved is enormous, as may be judged by the following particulars given regarding this consolidation company. It is to have a 4½ per cent. first mortgage bonded debt of \$100,000,000, of which half will be issued to partly cover the cost of tunnels actually under construction, the remainder to be kept for future additions, extensions, and improvements. Then there will be \$10,000,000 of 5 per cent. non-cumulative preferred stock, with preference as to assets, in the event of liquidation, but no right to cumulative dividends. Of that issue \$5,250,000 will be utilised for the same purpose as the first half of the mortgage bonds, the remainder being kept for future requirements. Finally, the company is to have \$140,000,000 of common stock, of which \$40,000,000 will be issued now, the remainder being reserved, so that altogether the capital of this consolidation of tube companies will be \$250,000,000 or £50,000,000.

A company called the Norfolk and Southern Railroad represents another consolidation of sundry lines in the south, viz., the Virginia and Carolina Coast, the Norfolk and Southern, and the Atlantic and North Carolina Railways. To these will be added the John L. Roper Lumber Company, the Blades Lumber Company, and the Belhaven Lumber Company, making an aggregate of 600 miles of railroad and 600,000 acres of timber land, containing, it is stated, 4,000,000,000 feet of timber. The new consolidation company will have a capital of \$25,000,000 in shares and bonds.

The syndicate organised last year by Messrs. J. P. Morgan and Co. to underwrite the \$100,000,000 of 3½ per cent. convertible bonds issued by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which bonds were offered at par to shareholders, expired by limitation on the 1st inst. It has sold about 60 per cent. of its holdings, and the remainder will be distributed amongst the participants.

Another syndicate which has been dissolved is that which took up or underwrote \$15,000,000 of 5 per cent. debenture bonds created by the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company. This group has done rather better than the Pennsylvania Railroad one, for it has to take up only a little more than 30 per cent. of the issue, which is one that may be increased to \$20,000,000, and later to \$25,000,000. The Disconto Gesellschaft, it is said, took \$5,000,000 of the bonds to place in Germany.

Another of the Westinghouse offshoots, the Westinghouse Machine Company, has called a meeting of shareholders for the 21st prox., to sanction the issue of \$10,000,000 of new indebtedness authorised in December last. This will take the form of sinking fund bonds in place of debentures as first proposed, and it is not contemplated to create a mortgage to secure these bonds.

The Baltimore and Ohio Company has issued \$27,500,000 additional common stock. This will bring the total of that stock outstanding up to rather more than \$152,000,000. A slight fall occurred in the price after the announcement became public, but it still stands at about 14½ premium, so that, as the new issue will be made at par, holders of the existing stock being privileged to subscribe for the new at the rate of 15 per cent. of old, there will be a slight bonus,

tempting enough, perhaps, to ensure the absorption. Any way, the company evidently wants the money with extreme urgency, for it has had to borrow \$9,000,000 from the National City Bank to go on with, a loan to be repaid out of the proceeds of the new issue of stock.

Is it a sign of the financial strain under which American business now labours that a proposal has been made to start a bank in London, with a board of directors composed of English and American capitalists, in order to do arbitrage business, to make a cash market for American issues, so as to get over the inconvenience of the London fortnightly settlement? What good will an institution of this kind do? No good to investors here, we may be sure, but it is quite possible that it may stimulate gambling to a dangerous extent.

A new Atlantic steamship service is about to be established by a combination of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Allan Line. The railway company is to put its two new Empress steamers on to the route and the Allan line its steamers, the *Virginian* and the *Victorian*. It is declared that this arrangement will secure the fastest weekly service ever organised between Great Britain and Canada, and we wish it all success.

Some measure of the quality of Imperialism in the Dominion may be obtained from a remark made by Sir William van Horne, the chairman of the Canadian Pacific Railway, a United States citizen by birth, but now a great Imperialist. "If," he said, "one were Tsar of Canada, it would be his master-stroke of policy to suspend the tariff preference given to British trade until the prohibition of the importation of Canadian cattle had been cancelled." There is no question here of British rights, of any consideration whatever except what Canada deems to be its own interests.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

Frank and unbiassed answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

After the holidays speculators have found the Kaffir market more heavy than before. For the first hour on Tuesday morning dealers attempted to put prices higher, but finding no support they had to give up the effort and let the market look after itself. The attendance was thin, owing to the sunny weather, but the depression deepened as the week wore on, and prices have had a general tumble. Looking round for causes dealers have hit upon the native outbreak in Natal and the Russian loan, the latter having engrossed the attention of the French too much to dispose them to pay any regard to Kaffirs. And as the public are equally indifferent on this side, all round weakness has prevailed. A conspicuous exception has been Premier deferred in the diamond group, which have advanced rather sensationally, for it is not the effect of any exceptionally encouraging news from the other side. Therefore, it looks like a pure gambling movement. De Beers and Jagers, on the other hand, have been dull. Cinderella Deeps have attracted a little attention on the cable announcing the striking of another reef at a depth of 4,021 ft.

Rhodesians have not been helped by the loud-trumpeted "record" output for the month of March, but Bankets have been heaved up a trifle on a cable message vaguely stating that affairs are going on satisfactorily at the mine, accompanied by goodly-looking assay figures, which must be accepted for what they are worth. They may prove just as delusive as previous assays, as evidence of the permanent value of the property. Moreover, it is about time we had some tangible results.

West Africans have been adversely affected by the poor report of the directors of the Wassan company, but, on the other hand, West Australians have slightly benefited from the excellent reports of the Great Fingall and Ivanhoe companies. The share-splitting proposal of the directors of the latter is not popular in the market, whatever shareholders themselves may think. The theory that such splitting tends to greater stability is a far-fetched one. What alone gives stability is good results, and the Ivanhoe is one of the few companies that give them, so it has no need to depend upon other devices. Associated have substantially improved upon a hopeful-looking cable from the mine.

In the Miscellaneous list Esperanzas and Le Rois have improved, and amongst Indians Mysore has weakened. Anacondas, in the copper group, were at first rushed upwards, only to fall with similar suddenness, whilst Rio Tintos have relapsed rather heavily.

LANCASTER GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This outcrop member of the A. Goetz group of companies is struggling hard to earn

profits, but does not succeed, due as much to the poverty and patchy nature of the reefs as to other conditions, and the prospects are consequently not encouraging. The quantity of ore milled was 146,199 tons, and the output of gold from all sources 51,099 ozs., of a total value of £216,311. Thus the yield was less than 7 dwts., or 29s. 7d. per ton. Working costs aggregated £203,236, equal to 27s. 9.63d. per ton, so the profit was only £13,074, at the rate of 1s. 9.4d. per ton. A sum of £3,448 was brought from 1904, rents gave £1,251, water rent £378, and waste rock sold £211, and, after paying out interest on debentures and loans, taxes, losses, &c., as well as £15,485 for depreciation, the total loss was £11,362. The advances from A. Goetz and Co., which are secured by a second general mortgage bond, amounted at the end of the year to £120,000, and creditors were owed £17,217, so the financial position is deplorable, cash and other liquid assets totting up to £18,441. Having regard to the patchy nature of the reefs hitherto opened up, the consulting engineer feels that he cannot commit himself to an estimate of the life of the mine.

LYDENBURG ESTATES.—In their report for the financial year to September 30 the directors sadly regret that "affairs in South Africa have not made the progress which might reasonably have been expected"; therefore they have been unable to deal with any of the company's properties. Still, the darkness is not so dense as to obscure a hopeful sign in the desire of prospectors to work upon the company's farms, and arrangements have been entered into whereby several farms are to be prospected at no expense to the company. Meanwhile the directors are conserving the funds. Expenses in London have been again reduced, and the directors have voluntarily further cut down their fees from April 1, 1905, by 50 per cent. to £250 per annum. Even the latter, however, will keep them out of the workhouse. They fear the interest they took in the Sabie Syndicate, with the object of benefiting the farms Sabiehoek and Klipgat must be looked upon as lost. But this was not the only misfortune. A considerable amount of work was done on the Glynn's Lydenburg claims of the Sabie Syndicate, and the reef exposed looked promising. "The result, however, was so unfavourable that, upon the advice of their representative in South Africa, the directors decided to stop further expenditure." Probably the wisest thing to do would be to stop the company altogether, and waste no further money on futile work.

KLERKSDORP GOLD AND DIAMOND COMPANY.—Following upon our critical note on this company in our last issue, the directors publish a circular stating that the working capital has been spent and an indebtedness incurred which it is necessary to discharge. They propose to raise additional money by means of reconstruction for the sixth time in the company's career. The new company is to have the title of the Klerksdorp Gold Mines, Limited, so the directors have presumably given up hopes of finding diamonds. The nominal capital is to be £300,000 in 5s. shares. A commission of 75 per cent., or 3s. 9d. per share, will be paid by the underwriters to every person to whom shares are allotted, leaving a balance of 1s. 3d.

TRANSVAAL GOLD FIELDS.—This company has suffered seriously from the depression in the South African market during the past 12 months, the income being only £6,778 from interest and £2,763 from rentals, commissions, transfer fees, &c. Consequently there was a loss of £33,793, the directors charging the accounts with £33,422 for depreciation, principally on shares. So no dividend is paid, against 3s. per share in 1904, and £2,246 is carried forward out of the balance brought in, after placing £5,000 to reserve. During the year the capital was increased to £330,000 by the issue of 30,000 £1 shares at a premium of £1 10s., and the premiums of £45,000 have been added to reserve. This, of course, has greatly strengthened the financial position.

KIMBERLEY WATER WORKS COMPANY.—The consumption of water in 1904 was 246,883,652 gallons, an increase of 95,757,983 gallons over 1904, and the gross revenue was £79,234. A working profit of £51,819 was earned, and, after providing £4,418 for interest on debentures and £937 for depreciation abroad, the nett profit was £47,882, including £1,418 for interest. The directors provide £5,000 for debenture stock expenses, write off £12,132 from construction, transfer £15,000 to the contingency fund, and pay a dividend of 5 per cent., which leaves nothing to carry forward. The balance-sheet is a good one.

GREAT FINGALL CONSOLIDATED.—When analysing the report of the directors of the Great Fingall twelve months ago we did not hesitate to say that high dividends were promised for some time to come. We did not feel assured, however, that the results for 1905 would be much better than, but about the same as those for 1904. In some respects there was an improvement, in other respects retrogression, the result of a slight increase in the expenditure. The 100-stamp mill ran regularly and treated 203,317 tons of ore against 152,449 tons, but despite this larger tonnage the product was barely 4,000 ozs. more at 159.798 ozs. of fine gold, which realised £681,728 compared with £665,052. Working expenses, including development, averaged 19s. 9.30d. per ton against 19s. 8.02d. per ton, and in the aggregate in Western Australia absorbed £201,027 contrasted with £149,915. This time, too, there was an extra charge of £6,907 on the reserve for a special report on the mine, so after deducting London and other outgoings the gross profit fell from £516,808 to £473,522, the total income being £685,637 against £671,921. The directors, however, do not write off such large sums as in 1904, the total amount being but £32,839 in comparison with £160,105, hence they are able to distribute bigger dividends. The four interim payments totalled 31s. per share and the final one is 7s. per share making 38s. per 10s. share, or 3s. 6d. per

share more than the shareholders received in the previous year, and this will leave £39,699 to be taken to the credit of the current year in contrast with £106,691 brought in. As regards depreciation, it is only fair to say there was no necessity for further writing down this time. Though the working cost was a little higher it is nevertheless very low, and compares with 24s. 5d. per ton in 1903, showing how economically mines can be managed in Western Australia. The estimate of the value of the ore reserves shows some reduction in value per ton, due to large blocks previously included as "probable" ore having failed to prove on breaking as good as the preliminary development anticipated. "The values in the reef run in floors," it is explained, "and it now appears that Nos. 10 and 11 levels were driven in much better ore than the average of the whole blocks, as so far indicated by milling results. It is, of course, possible that actual extraction may prove more favourable in the future than the present estimates." The broken ore in stopes, the ore blocked out and probable ore is estimated at 753,042 tons, averaging £2 15s. 6d. per ton. This shows an increase of 131,799 tons over the previous year, but a reduction in value over previous estimates, for the reasons already given. There are also upon the property 42,950 tons of untreated sands and slimes averaging 18s. 6d. per ton. With regard to prospects, the general managers write:—"The continued shortening of the main ore chute and its much lower value at the Nos. 11 and 12 levels have been matters of disappointment during the year, nevertheless the ore in sight shows an increase, although of lower grade. The reappearance of values in the No. 2 winze below No. 12 level (the deepest working on the line of the main chute) looks encouraging; also the discovery of a considerable branch from the main reef on the No. 4 level promises to furnish a source of considerable ore." As the new policy of the directors is to reduce dividends they will be smaller in the current year, the first interim being at the rate of 5s. per share.

WASSAU (GOLD COAST) MINING COMPANY.—Another disagreeable and unsatisfactory report is issued by the directors of this leading Jungle company, covering the year 1905, milling operations being suspended from July to December. In the first six months 19,038 tons were treated and 47,755 tons of sands were cyanided, for a return of 18,135 ozs., realising £67,802, the revenue being raised to £68,271 with the receipts from interest, dividends, and transfer fees. The working profit was £15,053, and the nett profit £4,701, which has been carried to the development account. We mentioned a year ago that the company reacquired the property of its subsidiary, the Adjah Bippo Deep, when 35,000 shares were issued at 30s. per share to provide payment partly in cash and further working capital. But though at the end of the year there were 38,721 reserve shares, the directors propose to increase the capital by a further 50,000 £1 shares, to be issued at par. The plea for this is that everything at the Adjah Bippo Mine is now in such a condition that crushing could be resumed immediately, and development be kept ahead of the mill, "but the existence of fluctuating widths and values renders it most desirable that the largest possible ore reserves should be created before crushing is resumed, in order that when this does occur a regular output, on the basis of the fair average value of the mine, may be steadily and continuously maintained." Nothing has been done with regard to the Cinnamon Bippo property, but readers may be reminded that the New Gold Coast Agency decided to cease operations until they were satisfied that working costs in West Africa had been reduced to a point which would justify them in proceeding with the further development of the property and the erection of a battery. The debenture stock issued to the extent of £27,400 would have matured on June 30 next, but the directors have arranged with the holders to postpone the date of repayment for a further three years, in consideration of which the debenture-holders shall have the right during this period to convert into shares at 30s. instead of 40s. per share. Arrangements were also recently made whereby the balance of the authorised issue of £50,000, viz., £22,600, was placed, and the debentures are now in course of payment. So the directors are drawing in large sums of money from all sorts of sources, and this bulging out of the capital must necessarily increase their future burdens. This is not the kind of temporary plenty that ensures permanent prosperity.

WAHAI GOLD MINING COMPANY.—Though this famous New Zealand gold mining company has been in existence for many years it is to-day doing better than ever, thanks in a large measure to able management, which is ever striving to economise. During the financial year ending December 31 the quantity of ore treated was 298,531 tons, which not only exceeded the amount dealt with in the previous year, but the ore was of higher quality, whilst there was an increase in the values obtained through improved extraction. Three tube mills were at work during the greater part of the year at the Waibi mill and the benefit derived was threefold, says the superintendent, viz.:—(1) Increased tonnage; (2) decreased cost per ton crushed; (3) improved extraction. It has been decided to add two tube mills at the Victoria mill, whence better results can be looked for in the future. The gold and silver won realised £728,521, and with £5,039 from interest the total income was £733,560. Expenditure in New Zealand and London, including development at the mine, amounted to £316,967, leaving a gross profit of £416,593 compared with £370,154 in 1904. Adding the sum of £16,301 brought in, the credit was raised to £432,894, out of which the directors have written off £70,039 for capital expenditure and depreciation on plant and machinery, against £58,489 written off in the previous year. The following four interim dividends were paid:—2s. 6d. per share in March, 2s. 6d. in June, 3s. in September, and 3s. in

December, and the directors supplement these with a bonus of 2s. per share, making a total distribution of 13s. per share, or 65 per cent. compared with 60 per cent. in 1904, the carry forward being £300 higher at £16,627. The superintendent in his report assures shareholders that the prospects were never brighter than at the present moment. Developments in the 7th level are stated to have been very satisfactory, whilst considerable additions have been made to the ore reserves, which at the end of the year were estimated at 938,334 short tons compared with 712,794 tons. High values have been found in some of the ore bodies to the west of No. 2 shaft on the No. 7 level, and the extension of valuable ore to the west in this level is regarded as promising. The improvements in the company's works have necessitated the employment of additional power and a further increase will be required. After considering various available methods a scheme for the generation of electricity at the Waikato River and transmission to the mine has been formulated, and application has been made to the New Zealand Government for permission to carry it out. It is anticipated that the additional power obtainable from this source will enable the company to treat ore of a lower grade than has hitherto paid. At the request of several shareholders the directors propose to modify the articles of association in order to get a quotation for the shares in the Official List. The finances leave nothing to be desired, and the balance-sheet is a model for other mining companies to copy. Current liabilities to creditors are only £26,590. The reserve fund amounts to £120,000, against which there are first-class investments which cost £137,772 as well as over £109,000 in cash, to say nothing of bullion in transit and debtors. So shareholders have nothing to worry about.

STRATTON'S INDEPENDENCE.—This company continues to meet with a fair degree of success. In sending out the warrants for the 10th interim dividend the secretary issues an encouraging circular, stating that during the first six months of the current financial year, July to December, 16,027 tons of shipping ore were produced and sold of a gross value of £128,033. From the dump 2,192 tons of shipping ore were concentrated and sold of a value of £3,728, total £131,761, the average value of the shipping ore being as high as 1 oz. 17 dwts. to the ton. Royalties and share of the profits received from the lessees amounted to £37,613. After adding sundry receipts and deducting the company's establishment and other expenses the nett profit was £31,926. As the profit for January was £6,093 and for February £4,065, the total for eight months was £42,084. According to advices from the mine, under the new and augmented number of leases running to August next an increase in the production of ore may be looked for during the remaining four months of the year—March to June. Out of the profit already earned and the balance of £63,409 from the previous accounts three interim dividends of 6d. per share have been paid, which leaves a surplus of £28,603, the whole of which is represented by cash at the bank. Work is proceeding at a number of points all over the mine, the average width of the veins stopped running to as much as 6 ft. in several places. The average value is 22.7 dwts. per ton, which is 2 dwts. higher than the average for the previous financial year. Without any pumping at the mine the 1,050 ft. level is now drained, permitting the resumption of stoping at that depth, where the vein is shown to have averaged 6 ft. wide for an assay value of 30 dwts. to the ton. Further expert examination of the Cassel filter having confirmed the previous favourable opinions, the Metals Extraction Syndicate, Limited, have exercised their option, and a parent company is now being formed to take over the filter and process patents for the whole world, with the exception of the Cripple Creek district of Colorado, and the company is to be registered with a nominal capital of £200,000, of which £25,000 has been guaranteed for working capital. The proposed company to work the process in the Cripple Creek district has not yet been formed. Having regard to the importance of being able to utilise the dump and low grade ore in the Stratton's company's mine at a profit, and the large amount of capital required for the proposed mill, prolonged and very careful investigation has to be made into the values and quantities of ore available before the erection of a mill can be definitely decided upon. Under the advice of the consulting engineer the dump is being thoroughly sampled, and he is making a careful examination of the low-grade ore resources of the mine. It is expected that these investigations will be completed in about a couple of months.

THARSIS SULPHUR AND COPPER COMPANY.—Again satisfactory progress was made at this company's mines during the past year. The work of uncovering the mineral in the eastern extension of the Sierra Bullones lode resulted in a greater quantity of overburden being removed than in 1904. The mineral extracted amounted to 82,869 tons, compared with 40,137 tons, an increase of 42,732 tons. At the Calanas Mines the total quantity raised, including cupreous sterile, was 329,903 tons, against 329,972 tons. At the Laguaazo Mines a considerable quantity of copper was obtained from heaps of mineral laid down in former years. In all, the weight of mineral raised in the 12 months, exclusive of cupreous sterile, was 396,762 tons, in comparison with 338,868 tons, an excess of 57,894 tons. Shipments from Corrales were 398,285 tons, and the pyrites shipped totalled 392,557 tons, compared with 426,078 tons in 1904. Of copper precipitate the shipments were 3,207 tons, against 4,217 tons, and there was a decrease of 1,276 tons at 4,345 tons of refined copper produced. On the other hand, the deliveries of iron ore considerably exceeded those of 1904, and the price obtained was also better. Though the search for a new mine was continued throughout the year, the directors have not yet met with a pro-

erty they feel justified in acquiring. The option over the property in Canada was abandoned, investigation satisfying the board that the mine was not suitable. Nett profits, including £22,842 brought forward, amounted to £247,977, and the directors again pay a dividend of 7s. per share, equal to 17½ per cent., carrying forward £29,227.

ANANTAPUR GOLD FIELD.—This company, of which the well-known firm of Messrs. John Taylor and Sons are the managers, was registered on February 1 last, with a capital of £30,000 in £1 shares. The directors have issued a report stating that 23,432 shares were allotted, upon which 2s. 6d. per share has been called up, whilst a further sum of £175 has been received in anticipation of calls and £62 on application for 1,105 shares not then allotted. The managers add that they have secured the services of a competent engineer to take charge of the company's exploratory operations in India, and he has been instructed to commence work forthwith.

KOMATA REEFS GOLD MINING COMPANY.—The bullion won by this New Zealand company in the past financial year realised £42,748, and sundry receipts raised the income to £43,233, the nett profit being £8,634. As £5,873 was brought forward, the total credit was £14,507. Two dividends of 2d. per share each were paid, and £739 is taken forward. The manager speaks somewhat hopefully of the outlook.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

BUENOS AYRES GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

During the opening half of its financial year to December 31 last Argentina's premier railway earned a gross revenue of £1,795,464, or £319,034 more than in the corresponding period of 1904. The increase in the working expenses, however, was the considerable sum of £265,797 to £1,014,463, so that the ratio between expenditure and income shows an advance of 5.79 per cent. to 56.50 per cent. The number of miles open in each half-year was the same, viz., 2,481. Passengers carried during the six months came to 4,522,276, or 721,023 more, meaning an improvement in the receipts from this source of £78,881. Luggage and parcels gave an addition of £16,905, and the tonnage of goods handled rose by 369,053 to 1,671,289, the revenue therefrom showing a gain of £195,473 at £981,788. The expansion in the live stock traffic was less noteworthy, the number of animals carried amounting to 2,071,099, or 70,157 more, raising the receipts by £13,437 to £154,335. All classes of passenger business contributed to the excellent figures just noted, and under goods traffic the gain of 20,000 tons in the camp stores, dry goods and agricultural machinery is an excellent and encouraging sign. Wool shows an improvement of 13,940 tons, and the increase under wheat was the huge one of 253,052 tons, or 118.45 per cent. This was in part due to the heavy yield of last year, and the large quantity left over for transport during the period under review. The maize crop, however, was unsatisfactory, thanks to unfavourable weather conditions in the Bolivar and Las Flores districts, and the traffic handled was less by 90,883 tons. Other movements in goods traffic were small and unimportant. Unfortunately the tremendous business which the railway was called upon to handle brought about the usual congestion at the ports, not only of Bahia Blanca, but also at Buenos Ayres. As we know the trouble has been experienced annually for some time past, but this year the deficiency in port accommodation is more severely felt than ever. In the port of Buenos Ayres the docks seem to be terribly overcrowded, and ships suffer severely from the delay in being allowed to enter, in finding a berth, and in the obstacles which impede the rapid handling of the cargo owing to so many ships having to be alongside, and work abreast of each other. We can just imagine the awful confusion which arises, but so far as we can gather the company is doing its best to find a remedy. At Bahia Blanca improvements and additions already authorised have been pushed forward and the company has recently obtained the approval of the Government to the construction of additional moles for both deep and shallow draught vessels. Contracts have already been placed for the construction of the first section of these new works consisting of an iron mole of 324 metres in length, with a depth of 30 feet at low water. By this means provision will be made for the double berthing of eight ocean-going ships. The mole will be equipped with two large grain elevators, each having accommodation for 8,000 tons of grain in bulk and for 5,000 tons in bags, and possessing a loading or discharging capacity of 1,500 tons per hour. An additional shallow draught mole of 219 metres to be fitted with electric bucket elevators for effecting the rapid transfer of grain from wagons to barges is also being constructed. It is anticipated that both the foregoing moles will be completed in time for the next produce season. Enormous additions have likewise been made to the rolling stock, and since the issue of the last report, 118 locomotives, three steam motor coaches, 15 sleeping saloons, 921 bogie flat wagons, 662 covered wagons, 300 bogie cattle wagons, and 50 goods brake vans have been shipped to Buenos Ayres. The bulk of these are now in service. In addition six 800-ton, three 500-ton, three 300-ton barges, two pontoon elevators, and two steam tugs have been shipped to Bahia Blanca and are now being used in connection with the shallow draught grain dock

there for loading vessels that cannot be berthed at the existing moles. But even this is not all, because there are still on order 120 locomotives, 25 sleeping saloons, 14 dining and restaurant cars, 142 day saloons, 15 brake vans, 238 40-ton goods wagons, and 79 bogie flat wagons. The whole of these will be shipped during the current year, and will therefore be available for traffic next produce season. As before the increase in working expenditure is chiefly attributable to the shorter hours of labour, and the higher scale of salaries and wages now ruling throughout the Republic, and the perennial attack is made on the labour agitators so-called, but since Mr. White, the chairman of the local committee, admits that the cost of the ordinary necessities of life have gone up over 50 per cent. in the last few years these continued protests fall rather flat. Have wages increased 50 per cent. making allowance, even for the shorter hours now worked? We rather doubt it, and note that it seems to be considered a grievance that in certain trades the Government declines to allow men to work more than six days a week. The directors, however, are wise enough to recognise that a higher proportion of expenditure has been permanently established. Balance of revenue from operations is £781,001, to which must be added sum brought forward £113,704, and interest, etc., £19,917, making £914,622 in all. From this, fixed charges and income-tax absorb £366,440, leaving £548,183, and after providing the usual interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock, the credit to be carried forward is £188,183. No details of capital expenditure are furnished in the present report, and although it was doubtless fairly heavy, the company should have sufficient funds in hand to keep itself going for a little while longer. Immediate prospects still seem fairly favourable, and it seems likely that some decline in the cereal traffic will be compensated for by an increased movement of passengers and general goods; sure signs of steady prosperity.

ENTRE RIOS RAILWAYS CO., LIMITED.

In its modest way this little line has made quite as much progress during recent years as any of its big and powerful neighbours. During the six months ended December 31 a further £16,027 was added to the gross receipts at a total of £79,789, and since the addition to the working expenses was £9,743 at £57,531 the nett receipts are better by £6,284 at £22,258. To that must be added balance brought forward £6,743 and general interest, transfer fees, &c., £2,853, making £31,853 in all. Deducting £3,524 for debenture interest and £28,329 is left to be carried forward as usual and incorporated in the annual accounts to June 30 next. Compared with the previous year this is an improvement of £5,951, which is rather satisfactory seeing that interest on debenture capital had to be provided, money that at present gives no return. The ratio of expenditure to income is 72.1 per cent., the lowest figure ever reached, another encouraging sign. The receipts per train mile and per ton mile as well as the average receipts per passenger and per ton of goods are also records, so-called. Actual number of passengers carried was 89,282 or an improvement of 11,636, meaning a rise in revenue of £4,083, and the goods traffic was helped by the fact that a fair quantity of wheat was left over from the previous half-year to be carried during the period under review. Altogether the receipts from goods traffic were £47,459 or £10,715 more, and besides cereals and flour the general manager reports good business in charcoal, timber, building materials and general goods. Firewood showed a decrease and the carriage of live stock products was on a larger scale, bones alone excepted, the decline here being due to the healthy condition of animals. On the expenditure side increases are shown all round, and we are glad to note the additional £3,626 spent on maintenance. Traffic expenses were larger by £2,143 in consequence of the heavier business handled, wagon maintenance cost £1,454 more, miscellaneous expenditure rose by £1,140 and locomotive maintenance was up by £902. The construction of new branches previously referred to has commenced and the greater part of the material required for the extensions shipped. In accordance with the concession, a provisory bond for \$250,000, being one-fourth of the total subvention granted of \$1,000,000 5 per cent. bonds of the Province of Entre Rios, was handed to the company. Expenditure on capital account during the period under review was £26,375, progress on the new works being somewhat slow owing to the scarcity of labour, but more men should now become available and the rate of construction will doubtless be materially increased. Another matter worthy of notice is the placing of an order for the ferry steamer, and we learn that an agreement has been entered into with Messrs. Lacroze Brothers and Co., owners of a line between Zarate and Buenos Ayres of the same gauge as the railway of Entre Rios and Corrientes. This arrangement provides for the interchange of traffic and for the running of this company's rolling stock to Buenos Ayres *via* the new steam ferry route between Ibicuy and Zarate. Immediate prospects are not altogether favourable. The linseed crop is fairly promising and should give an increased yield, but heavy rainfalls damaged the young wheat and the crop is likely to be considerably less than last year. The dreaded locusts have also appeared and wrought a certain amount of harm to the growing maize, but we gather from the general manager's remarks that the latest visitation is not so serious as it might be. The insects are now disappearing to the north, and it is hoped they may be kept back until the new crops of wheat and linseed are beyond damage.

GREAT WESTERN OF BRAZIL RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

This important combination of railways made really wonderful progress during the year 1905, the gross receipts of £458,541

showing an increase of £179,231 compared with the preceding 12 months. At the same time the working expenses rose by £114,555 to £315,123, leaving the nett receipts £64,676 to the good at £143,418. The receipts were the best in the company's history, partly due to the fact that the second half of the 1904 sugar crop, which was a late one, continued well into the year under review, while the following crop commenced some three months earlier than in the preceding year. The high rate of exchange also contributed largely to the big revenue earned, but it likewise helped to swell the working expenditure. Number of passengers carried increased by no less than 635,746 to 1,813,444, sending up the receipts from £62,492 to £98,761. Luggage and parcels gave £7,650 more, and in goods the rise was the great one of 241,673 tons to 699,346 tons. The revenue from the merchandise traffic reached £319,886, or an advance of £130,972, and there was a considerable increase in the receipts from livestock traffic, although the numbers carried were rather less. In addition to the big increase of about 54,000 tons in the sugar carriage, cotton improved by 22,725 tons, cereals by 30,000 tons, and charcoal by 6,865 tons. With regard to the sugar business it should be mentioned that owing to very unremunerative prices, due, we suppose, to the immense size of the crop, there seemed to be a considerable danger that a large proportion would not be taken off planters' hands. It was, therefore, arranged with the State Government of Pernambuco to make a 25 per cent. abatement on all sugar freights, the Government at the time reducing the export taxes and all other transport and lighter companies coming into line. Working expenses show an increase in all departments, due in part to the working of the Central section, for the whole year—the mileage open was 795 miles against 711 miles—still more to the increase in sterling of the currency expenses, owing to the rise in exchange, and lastly to the provision made to meet the renewals and betterments which are being carried out. To the balance of nett revenue must be added sum brought forward £10,358, and transfer fees, interest, &c., £1,174, making £154,951. From that the fixed charges and contribution of £5,000 to the amortisation fund absorbed £61,995, and after providing dividends of 6 per cent. on the preferred and ordinary shares, the directors place £20,000 to reserve and carry forward £21,956. As indicated in the last report, the extension 6 per cent. debenture stock amounting to £266,000 has been redeemed, and the funds for this as well as for further capital outlay necessitated by the contract dated July 24, 1904 entered into with the Federal Government of Brazil, have been met by the issue in May last of £600,000 5 per cent. debentures. The construction of the extensions to Campina Grande and Pesqueira is proceeding satisfactorily, and the approval of the surveys of the link lines to connect the northern and southern sections is awaited. In addition, the gauge on the Sao Francisco section was completed on September 17, thus unifying the whole of the systems worked by the company, and the work of renewals and rerailing is being carried on as quickly as possible. Capital expenditure during the year was the heavy sum of £418,466, but thanks to the big debenture issue there is still £365,354 in hand, represented by cash and stores.

MEXICAN SOUTHERN RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

There was some improvement in this company's business during the year ended December 31, the gross receipts amounting to £122,157, or an increase of £10,085 compared with the preceding 12 months. Working expenditure being only £642 higher at £76,930, the nett revenue shows a gain of £9,444 at £45,227. In currency the revenue was slightly up, and the working expenses were considerably less, but the rise in the average value of the dollar from 23.9d. to 24.48d. produced the mentioned results in sterling. Receipts from passengers showed a small decline, and under goods the principal decreases occurred in groceries, firewood, railway material, ore and palm leaf manufactures, but these were partially offset by gains in grain, miscellaneous items and marble. Working expenditure items showed some variation, the principal movement being a sharp drop under maintenance of way due to the fact that in 1904 a large amount of exceptional outlay was necessary. Locomotive expenditure was also down for a like reason, but carriage and wagon repairs, traffic expenses, general charges and telegraph outlay showed small or moderate increases. All these remarks apply to the railway, but the company also possesses a tramway which contributed £14,643 to the gross increase in revenue. In fact the tramway was favoured with the largest traffic ever handled, and it is good to note that the increase of £4,834 in the working expenses means a drop in the proportion of expenditure to income from 68.90 per cent. to 64.30 per cent. In addition to the revenue from operations the company received £15,840 as the interest on Mexican Government 6 per cent. silver subvention bonds for the period from January 1 to May 31, 1905, less discount at the rate of 1.825 per cent. in consideration of the prepayment of the bonds on the former date. Other interest and dividends gave £3,119, transfer fees reached £127, and the directors generously returned fees to the amount of £1,100, so that with £9,087 brought forward, the nett income available amounts to £74,499. From that interest on first debenture stock to the date of redemption, February 1, 1905, required £2,319, interest and sinking fund on second debenture stock amounted to £24,800, and sundry other charges totalled £1,035. Sum still left is £46,345, so that after transferring £7,000 to the renewal and contingency fund, the directors provide a dividend of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary stock and substantially increase the carry forward to £14,345. This is done because for the current year there will be no credit on account of subvention bond interest, and if we also allow that the first debenture stock, being now redeemed, will also make no charge,

the company stands to be something like £13,500 to the bad. Shareholders will doubtless remember that we pointed out how seriously the company would be affected by the redemption of the silver bonds immediately the intentions of the Government were made known. Fortunately traffics keep up pretty well, and with a stable exchange the company may in future be able to produce small returns on the ordinary stock.

LONDON AND BRAZILIAN BANK, LIMITED.

This well-known bank did a highly profitable business during the year ended January 31 last, earning a gross revenue of £377,132 or £86,457 more than in 1904. This total is arrived at after providing for rebate of interest on bills discounted not due, bad and doubtful debts, and bonus to staff. Charges at head office and branches, income and other taxes absorbed £194,057 or £38,919 more, and £37,500 has already been disposed of in the shape of an interim dividend of 10s. per share leaving £246,128 including the rather smaller balance of £100,553 brought forward. The directors now propose a further dividend of 10s. per share and a bonus of similar amount making the total distribution 15 per cent. or 2½ per cent. more than in the previous twelve months. Not only that, but another £50,000 is placed to reserve, £15,000 is applied in reduction of bank premises account and £6,000 goes to the staff pension and benevolent fund, leaving £100,128 to be carried forward. The directors are again in the happy position of reporting that the capital employed in South America does not require any provision for depreciation, so that the reserve, now amounting to £700,000 or within £50,000 of the paid-up capital, is intact. Staff pension and benevolent fund stands at the fine total of £54,000. At the date of the balance-sheet the bank owed £3,775,800 or £252,277 more on current and deposit accounts, while the bills payable stood at £4,462,735 or an increase of £359,429. Bills for collection with the per contra entry amount to £1,691,362 against £1,577,841, but agents and sundry accounts are less by £610,185 at £422,485. On the assets side the principal movement is a rise of £539,939 to £3,484,047 in the bills receivable. Cash and remittances in transit are also a good deal larger at £800,408, but bills discounted and loans are less by £176,099 at £3,148,382 and specie and cash have been reduced by £385,435 to £2,755,011. Bank premises are valued at the old figure of £159,000, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is £12,046,509 compared with £11,842,143. On the whole a very good position, and the market value of the shares rose smartly when these accounts were published.

CREDIT LYONNAIS.

Many interesting statements are made in the report of this powerful French bank for the year 1905, but they are of a general character scarcely capable of transfer to our columns. The directors told the shareholders that the Paris establishment seconded by 47 auxiliary offices rendered the population of the capital numerous and more and more important services, and that the London branch is always the centre of very important affairs. The bank, indeed, spreads its net far and wide, with the result that it appears to do an increasingly profitable business. For the past year, for instance, the nett gain amounted to 28,505,548 francs, after meeting all expenses and setting aside reserves for current risks. Out of this a dividend of 50 francs per share, or 10 per cent., will be provided, absorbing 25,000,000 francs, leaving 3,505,550 francs to be carried forward. Of this dividend 20 francs was distributed on March 25 last and the balance of 30 francs is payable on September 25 next. The balance-sheet of the company is an imposing one and turned into sterling foots up to more than £87,000,000. The paid-up capital is £10,000,000 and the divers reserves £4,000,000.

NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED.

During the past year this bank has been allowed to eliminate the word "reduced" from its title and celebrated the event by increasing its gross profit by \$30,186 to \$263,489. At the same time the charges were reduced a little to \$118,338, so that including the balance of \$41,769 brought in the nett credit is \$186,920. From this the directors propose to write \$10,000 off furniture account, to place \$12,731 to capital reserve, raising it to \$12,735 at 1/8 to the dollar, and to add \$90,088 to reserve, leaving \$74,100 to be carried forward. In accordance with the wishes of a large majority of the shareholders the board has decided to continue the exchange business of the bank, and it is likewise their intention to build up the reserves until they reach \$600,000. At present the total accumulations are just over \$300,000, so that dividend payments are a pretty long way off yet. A heavy decline from \$359,025 to \$69,965 has occurred in the note circulation, and fixed deposits and current accounts have been reduced by \$244,007 to \$386,586. Loans payable formerly standing at \$366,685 have been liquidated, bills for collection and branch balances are less by \$110,797 at \$54,141, and drafts, acceptances and endorsements show a drop of \$288,176 to \$79,949. This is a very material drop in liabilities, and on the other side we note that the cash on hand has gone down from \$330,201 to \$209,668. Investments, on the other hand, are a trifle larger at \$303,389, while bills receivable, loans and advances are smaller by \$211,033 at \$2,525,583. Bills for collection, receivable and branch balances are down from \$1,216,048 to \$356,097, and the aggregate of the balance sheet is only \$3,404,741 against \$4,570,936.

BRITISH ALUMINIUM CO., LIMITED.

The ambitious schemes, involving a heavy outlay of capital, lately carried out by the directors of this undertaking, have been justified up to the hilt, and few companies have retrieved a seemingly hopeless position in quicker time than this one. In

the twelve months to December 31 the gross trading profit was £110,664, or £35,865 more than in the previous year, splendid progress, and after adding on sundry other items of revenue the total credit is £113,427. Deducting administrative and other expenses the balance remaining is £93,297, increased to £93,411 by the sum brought forward. From this £20,000 is allowed for depreciation and £20,588 is required for debenture interest, while £13,177 has been applied in purchasing and cancelling £13,200 debenture stock, leaving £39,646. Dividends on the two classes of preference shares take £20,000, and £4,000 having been provided for interest on the funding certificates, a dividend of 7 per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares, leaving £12,392. The directors are therefore able to apply £4,362 in cancelling 1,452 funding certificates, a balance of £8,030 being carried forward. The contractors have commenced operations in connection with the development of the Loch Leven power scheme, and the board is now of opinion that the amount of power which will be developed will be considerably in excess of anticipations. Should the demand for aluminium continue to expand, the whole of this power will be utilised, and while the capital outlay will be greater than originally estimated, the cost per horse-power will be reduced. To meet this increased expenditure and provide for extension of works and other outlays it is proposed to create 20,000 conversion shares of £10 each, and shareholders will be asked to sanction this issue at an extraordinary general meeting on April 30. At present the paid up share capital consists of £389,000 apart from £100,000 in funding certificates created for preference dividend arrears, but redemptions to date and in anticipation of the current year have reduced the debenture stock to £272,137. This apart from the Loch Leven debentures of £300,000. The company also has advances on security of £48,829, and owes £21,727 to sundry creditors. On the other hand, the ordinary capital expenditure is £481,060, including £17,757 added during the year, and £335,966 is invested in the Loch Leven Water and Electrical Power Company. Other investments amount to £53,520, debtors owe £49,561, and stocks and shares are valued at £41,800, but cash is poor at £4,074. Expenses of issue of new shares and debentures reached the heavy sum of £40,162, of which £8,156 has been written off. All round a wonderfully improved position, for which the directors are entitled to every credit, but we may perhaps be permitted to say that when all the works are finished and everything is in full swing the reserve fund question must be considered. In the meantime the board would like a little money for itself, and suggests that 5,000 guineas be paid to the chairman and vice-chairman as additional remuneration for their services up to December 31, including 2,000 guineas voted at the meeting on April 18, 1905. Furthermore, the shareholders are asked to permanently raise the directors' fees to £2,000 per annum. The conversion shares above mentioned will be allotted to the holders of the 7 per cent. preference and ordinary shares *pro rata* to present holdings, and when fully paid each share will be divided into two £5 shares, one to be a 7 per cent. preference and the other ordinary, in each case ranking *pari passu* with existing issues. At current prices this means a nice little bonus, and the shares are certain to be snapped up.

INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH CO., LIMITED.

Although the Russian section of this company's line passed into the possession of the Imperial Russian Government on January 31, 1905, the change, so far as the earning capacity of the company is concerned, appears to mean nothing more than that a rent has now to be paid for its use. The directors do not say so in so many words, but there seems to be little doubt that such is the case, as the gross revenue after deducting wire rentals only fell short of the previous year by £11,639 at £129,762. Outgoings took £1,137 less at £70,793, and as the balance brought forward was £3,026 larger at £19,391 the amount available after paying income-tax showed a decrease of no more than £7,693 at £74,199, out of which the usual dividend of 6 per cent. and bonus of 20s. per share, making 10 per cent. for the year are paid, £10,000 or £5,000 less is put to equalisation of dividends fund and £5,000 to retirement trust fund, leaving £16,699 to be carried forward. For the second time the directors do not consider it necessary to reinvest the interest on the unappropriated investments and on the deposit of Russian Government Rente, and again make a special distribution of 15s. per share bringing the total return up to 13 per cent. The cost of the Russian section has been written off out of reserve, reducing that fund to £138,629, but this means nothing more than a book entry which has the merit of bringing into strong relief the exceedingly sound position which has been built up. Included in the outgoings on revenue account was a sum of £25,669, and part, if not the whole, of this has been written off the capital cost of the Persian section, leaving that item at £25,244, while freehold property is valued at £10,226. But in addition to investments of £135,024 on account of the reserve fund and £46,395 representing the equalisation of dividends fund, the company holds unappropriated investments of £400,581 and has £16,926 deposited with the Imperial Russian Government, two items which amount to nearly as much as the paid-up capital. Trading balances, too, are well in its favour as against £36,647 due to creditors there is £46,364 to come in, and with £39,169 in cash the financial position is an exceedingly comfortable one.

BELL'S ASBESTOS CO., LIMITED.

Quite an exciting business has taken place in the shares of this company during the past few weeks, and the market quotation has risen rapidly to something near 2½. That is a pretty high

figure, relatively speaking, because the top figure touched last year was 1½ and at one time the shares were little better than 1s. All kinds of rumours have, as usual, accompanied the advance, as we have from time to time mentioned in our weekly stock market news, and the report now tells us what has actually happened, without furnishing complete details as had been hoped. To use the directors' own words, "negotiations for the sale of the company's asbestos estates in Canada have recently been brought to a successful termination, the company's requirements of raw material having been amply protected. Upon completion of the sale a rearrangement of the capital of the company may be deemed necessary." That is all the information set forth in the report, but doubtless it will be supplemented by further details at next Tuesday's meeting. Market gossip says that the nominal capital will be returned in full. Last year was a very good one for business and a gross profit of £25,874 is reported. That is an improvement of nearly £5,000, and after providing interest on debentures and mortgage £3,049, remuneration and bonus to directors £1,050, salary and bonus to managing director £2,689 and premium on debentures drawn for payment £510, the balance left is £18,575, a gain of £4,363. Add £3,003 brought in and the sum for disposal is £21,579, from which the directors provide a dividend of 12½ per cent. against 6 per cent. paid a year ago and 4 per cent. for 1903, and carry forward £6,579. No addition is this time made to reserve against £7,102 put by last year, the omission being due, we suppose, to the pending capital changes. The fund, therefore, remains at £25,000, all invested in the business, but we may remark that goodwill of £69,102 has already been written off. That is satisfactory, in view of the capital reconstruction. Sundry additions were made to the plant, machinery, fittings, &c., raising their total to £14,676, after providing for depreciation, and the balance-sheet value of the asbestos estates in Canada, together with buildings, machinery, &c., has been raised from £77,045 to £78,271. Freehold premises in Southwark Street, worth £43,277, have been mortgaged for £25,000, of which £68 has been repaid under a sinking fund policy, and we find that the important additions to the premises at Greenwich cost £5,055, increasing the value of this property to £8,494. There is a first charge on this asset, and a second charge on other property in connection with a loan of £10,000, and as sundry other liabilities amount to over £17,000 and the debenture debt is £25,831 it will be seen that the business is rather heavily weighted. Free assets, however, are in fairly good supply, stock-in-trade standing at £42,624 and cash and bills at £17,636. Debtors owe a further sum of £38,765, and we note that the company has some shares in kindred companies valued at the nominal figure of £999.

UNION ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

The report and accounts for 1905 show that in the life department 1,409 new policies were issued for £577,300 after deducting reassurances. The new premiums were £25,260 and the total premium income £352,316. The expenses and commission amounted to £49,627 or 14.09 per cent. The life funds were increased by £198,153 to £3,470,385. The average rate of interest yielded by the total life funds was £3 15s. 4d. per cent. after deducting income-tax. In the new accident department the net premiums were £4,931 for the period of the year covered and the claims paid and outstanding £1,303 (26.42 per cent.). Commission and expenses amounted to £2,275 (46.14 per cent.). In the fire department the net premiums were £695,263, the losses paid and outstanding £344,956 (49.61 per cent.) and the commission and expenses £249,243 (35.85 per cent.) of the said premium income, leaving 14.54 per cent. as surplus or £101,063. Out of this the reserve for unexpired risks was increased to £278,105 or 40 per cent. of the premiums and the credit balance carried to profit and loss account was then £97,152. The amount at credit of profit and loss account, after including £28,504 from interest and meeting the dividends paid in 1905, was £129,745. A dividend for the second half of the year 1905 of 10s. per share will be paid in May, free of income-tax. The total funds on December 31, including the paid-up capital of £180,000, were £4,491,820.

THE PELICAN AND BRITISH EMPIRE LIFE OFFICES.

In the year 1905 this life office issued 1,289 policies, insuring £932,792 and yielding £38,315 in new premiums, and of this £144,067 was reinsured at £5,292 in premiums, so that the net new premium income was £33,043, including £4,202 in single premiums. Also £22,710 was received for 18 annuities sold, and the total income of the year was £650,597, this including £199,906 nett in interest. The average rate of interest was £3 18s. per cent. after deducting income tax. Claims took £285,117 on policies payable at death and £66,101 on endowment policies. The result of the year's operations was an increase of £172,175 in the total funds, which amounted on December 31 last to £5,207,657. The quinquennial valuation fell due at the close of the year, and the directors made a special investigation of the investments and assets of the company. This brought out the highly satisfactory fact that the value of the securities held on 31st December last was in excess of the amount stated in the balance-sheet, in spite of the decline in the price of high class investments which has been so marked a feature in recent years. Therefore the investment reserve fund of £30,000 held against the company's securities remains intact. As a result of the investigation made on rigorous lines the divisible surplus amounts to £122,221, inclusive of £4,859 paid away as interim bonuses during the quinquennium. This enables the board to declare a bonus of £1 12s. for each complete year's premium paid in respect of the

quinquennium, or £8 per cent. for the five years. Out of the profits falling to the shareholders and amounting to £39,091 on the non-participating branch of the business and to £52,499 altogether, the directors have transferred £10,000 to the Provisional Fund, raising it to £100,000, and £25,000 to the Proprietors' Dividend Fund on account of dividends for the years 1906-10, leaving a sum of £17,491 to be carried forward. Out of these profits £1,400 is put aside on account of existing pension liabilities. An interim dividend of 7½ per cent. was paid on January 5 last, and another at the same rate is now recommended, payable on the July 5 next, making 15 per cent in all, tax free, for the past year. This company's business was worked at about 14·8 per cent. of the premium income.

THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.

Here is another powerful Scotch mutual office, whose figures for the past year must make the mouths of policy-holders in American life offices run with water. In 1905 the new policies issued amount to £1,332,628, of which only £127,250 was re-insured. The new premium income was £55,628, of which £11,584 was in single premiums. The society also received £85,530 for annuities sold. Altogether the premium income, excluding this annuity capital payment, amounted to £649,480, and the total payments to policy-holders under claims, endowments, and surrenders came to £727,000 in the past year. In fact, these payments amounted to nearly 63 per cent. of the entire income, again excluding the capital received for annuities sold, and yet at the end of the year the board was able to add £321,640 to the accumulated life funds, raising their total to £13,459,666. This has been made possible by the comparatively low percentage of premium income at which the business was worked. This percentage amounted to only 12·3 per cent. of the premium income, or 6·4 per cent. of the total income. The rate of interest earned, it may be added, averaged £3 17s. 10d. per cent. An interesting point brought out in the report is the fact that the bulk of the policies which became claims were on old lives, and the bonus additions averaged 50 per cent. of the original sum assured, more than 75 per cent. of the total claims being in respect of policies which had participated in the surplus. Attention is drawn in the auditors' report to an unusual item in an insurance society's balance-sheet, viz., a "temporary loan," obtained from the Bank of England against securities to the amount of £600,000. The reason for this is explained to lie in the fact that the Institution has bought property numbered 1 to 6, Lombard Street, and intends to build thereon a fine metropolitan office. A limited company has been created, called the Scottish Provident Institution Buildings, Limited, the whole of whose capital, except a few deferred shares taken by the vendors as part payment, is held by the insurance company, and it is intended to create a mortgage over this property when the buildings are completed. In the meanwhile the money is borrowed in the manner stated. There does not appear to be any material objection to the proceeding if the Scottish Provident's own funds were not available, but the amount of money sunk in business premises, this loan added, now amounts to nearly £1,150,000, and that surely is a very large sum out of the policy-holders' money to be so locked up, and unless rents on portions of the property should come in to recoup the Institution, an expensive possession. Does it charge rent against itself for the premises occupied, and on what scale? The investments are of the usual description, and require no other comment at our hands.

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The report just issued by the directors consists of extracts from a much fuller document which was apparently presented at the meeting held on the 10th inst., and does not give full particulars of the business done. It is therefore impossible to discover whether the improvement was due to the industrial or to the ordinary branch, and all we can say is that the general position shows that substantial progress has been made. The premium income for 1905 rose by £50,514 to £932,587, and the total revenue from all sources was £61,069 higher at £1,047,917, of which claims took £445,043 or £33,883 more and expenses of management, commissions and new business and extension expenses absorbed another £384,550 or an increase of £17,327, the ratio to premiums being a trifle smaller at 39·12 per cent. After meeting all outgoings, including £2,827 written off for depreciation of furniture, &c., the surplus on the year's working was £215,497, which was added to the accumulated funds bringing them up to £1,564,806, but of this surplus it has been decided to divide £50,000 between the participating policyholders and the shareholders and bonus notices will be sent out at an early date.

BANDARAPOLA CEYLON CO., LIMITED.

The output from this company's two estates in the year ended December 31st fell off by 4,091 lbs. to 662,936 lbs., but a much larger quantity was made from bought leaf, and the total production was therefore 2,805 lbs. up at 697,404 lbs. According to the directors' report the average price obtained showed some little improvement, but they do not give any figures and the gain can have been only trifling, as with £189 more at £345 brought in, and after repeating the dividend at the reduced rate of 7½ per cent. the amount carried forward is raised to £470. Like most Ceylon tea companies, this undertaking is extending its cultivation of rubber, and has now 470 acres planted in addition to about 540 acres of tea interplanted with rubber. The cost of this

work to date has been £2,930, and in spite of another 322 shareholders having exercised their option to pay up in full it has been found necessary to issue the remainder of the capital, consisting of 1,500 £10 shares, on which £2 per share has been called up, and these additional shares will rank for dividend from January 1st. This brings the share capital up to £29,850; but on the other hand a further £2,500 of debentures has been paid off since the closing of accounts, reducing the balance outstanding to £5,650—against which estates are valued at £34,188, and buildings and machinery at £3,455, in addition to the above-mentioned amount spent on rubber. Considering the uncertain nature of the industry and the ups and downs to which it is subjected, some addition to the reserve would seem to be urgently required, seeing that the fund has been ignored for a considerable time, and stands at the meagre figure of £2,000, of which £1,489 is invested in outside securities. Liabilities on bills payable seem heavy at £4,600 or an increase of £1,250, but sundry creditors have been reduced by £112 to £2,580, while stocks are down £309 to £3,884. Sundry debtors owe £762, cash, thanks to the issue of shares, is £971 higher at £3,030, and coast advances come to £426.

BURNSIDE TEA CO. OF CEYLON, LIMITED.

Again the Burnside group of estates belonging to this company yielded a small increase of 542 lbs. at 334,041 lbs., but the improvement in the Midlothian group for 1905 was only 2,876 lbs. at 91,249 lbs. compared with an advance of 14,831 lbs. in the previous year, and the manufacture of green tea is no longer carried on. Most of the Burnside crop was sold in Ceylon, but the market, both there and in London, was adverse and the average prices dropped from 6·31d. and 30·09 cents to 5·61d. and 29·46d. cents. The Midlothian teas also realised less at 7·45d. and 28·63 cents. against 7·65d. and 35·26 cents. Nett profits, therefore, were smaller, and in spite of the repayment of debentures early in the year and consequent reduction in the amount required for interest, reached a total of no more than £85 compared with £119, and after allowing for this, there was still a comparatively heavy debit balance of £492 to be carried forward. With such a record it is of course unnecessary to point out that no depreciation has been written off the estates valued at £34,065, and equally needless to remark on the absence of reserves of any kind. A further small increase of £82 in sundry creditors and bills payable is accompanied by an increase of £1,214 to £1,385 in stocks of tea on hand, but sundry debtors owe £686 less at £9, and cash is down £4,460 to £728, while coast advances seem unduly large at £943.

EDERAPOLLA TEA CO. OF CEYLON, LIMITED.

Including 10,096 lbs. or 963 lbs. more bought leaf, the output from this company's three factories in the twelve months ended December 31, showed an increase of 47,278 lbs. at 557,539 lbs. The Ederapolla crop was sold in London at an average price of 4·97d., while the produce of the other two estates was disposed of locally, and fetched 29·93 cents and 25·90 cents respectively, results which appear to have been rather better than for the previous year. Adding £358 from the previous account, the nett profits, after providing for debenture interest and other charges, were £251 up at £2,118; but the directors repeat the dividend at the reduced rate of 5 per cent., and write £406 off cost of rubber extensions against £233 allowed on sundry items in 1904, carrying forward £437. Floating liabilities are £164 higher at £2,775, against which sundry debtors have risen by £426 to £435, stocks are £104 up at £2,050, and cash comes to £258 more at £502. The margin of free assets is therefore small, and it is difficult to see where the money is to come from to pay the dividend just declared. It is true that the company holds investments of the nominal value of £1,283, but whether this is their market value or not we cannot say, and in any case, it is hardly likely that these will be realised seeing that they represent the reserve fund of £1,300. The experiment of rubber planting has not been indulged in on a large scale yet, but there are 40,549 plants of one to five years of age in the tea, and the arrangements for the current year will give the company 130 acres in rubber alone in a few months' time.

NEW SYLHET TEA ESTATES, LIMITED.

With 1,093 acres in full bearing the crop for 1905 amounted to 752,921 lbs. or 91,149 lbs. less than for the previous year, and at the same time the average price realised fell from 4 annas 7½ pies to 4 annas 1½ pies. Nett profits were consequently considerably reduced, and in spite of £373 more at £495 brought in, showed a shrinkage of no less than £2,513 at £1,221. A year ago the directors wrote £553 off sundry accounts and declared a dividend of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, but on this occasion they have to content themselves with writing down machinery account by £204 only, and by surrendering their fees are able to carry forward the smaller balance of £296 after paying the preference dividend. Capital expenditure on the estates, machinery, &c., comes to £50,270, against which there is not a penny piece of reserve. The amount owing to the general agents has been increased by £959 to £3,278, against a reduction of £318 to £247 in other creditors, and as cash amounts to no more than £1,421 in the position, so far as can be judged from the meagre balance sheet considered sufficient for the shareholders, is far from brilliant.

POONAGALLA VALLEY CEYLON CO., LIMITED.

A small increase of 8,455 lbs. to 499,078 lbs. in the crop for 1905 was accompanied by a reduction of ¼d. in the average price obtained, and nett profits, after meeting all charges and debenture interest, came to more than £264, compared with £913 and £2,099 in the two preceding years. At the same time the balance brought forward was £395 against £607, giving a total of £650, so that not only is the estates account again left alone but no dividend can be

paid, and the whole amount is carried to the new account. An advance of £705 to £1,960 in liabilities to sundry creditors and on bills payable is accompanied by a rise of £889 to £1,833 in stocks of tea, but debtors owe a mere trifle of £10, and cash has shrunk by £790 to £901, while coast advances are £298 up at £685. Like its neighbours this company is experimenting with rubber, and has 85 acres planted, which are to be increased by the opening up of another 75 acres during the current year.

BATTALGALLA ESTATE CO., LIMITED.

Apparently this undertaking had better luck than its neighbours in the year ended December 31, as it is able to report that it found the market more favourable for good quality teas while the majority of the reports so far issued contain complaints of the unsatisfactory state of the market. The output was 32,264 lbs. larger at 253,779 lbs. and although the average selling price in London was 0.24d. lower at 10d., the Ceylon price was 36.10 cents gross against 36.08 cents and as the bulk of the crop was disposed of locally the average over the whole crop worked out at 7.38d. compared with 7.15d. in 1904. Thanks to this the profits were £533 higher at £1,868 and after meeting administration charges and debenture interest and writing £250 off machinery account, the nett profits including £71 brought forward were £273 up at £1,094. A very meagre balance sheet is submitted from which it is practically impossible to form any idea as to the real situation, but two things stand out very clearly, viz. that while £1,303 is due to the general agents, the company has not a penny piece to bless itself with. Indeed its only asset, apart from the estate and machinery accounts is £529 due on coast advances, but that fact has not prevented the directors from increasing the dividend from 5 per cent. to 6 per cent., leaving £194 to be carried forward.

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL TRUST, LIMITED.

We should not care to have much money invested in this thing. It pays 4 per cent. on its ordinary stock, which may seem all right, but an awful effort is required to squeeze it out, and we don't much like the look of the securities. No specific details of the investments are given, but of the total reaching £195,185 only £119,494 have Stock Exchange quotations, and even these have a depreciation of 2.6 per cent. Moreover, this is at buying prices which is putting the best complexion on things with a vengeance. Another £50,000 is represented by debentures and bonds taken over in 1900 from two old wrecks, and which the directors only believe to be well secured. Interest is regularly paid for the present. The balance of the securities is in stocks and shares of a more fluctuating character, and there seems to be a lot of doubt about a sum of £13,726 put in the securities of two companies the names of which are not mentioned. Indeed, the directors express the hope that any loss on these investments will now be covered by the capital reserve of £8,908 increased to that figure by the profit of £2,982 made during the year on the realisation of investments. Revenue from all sources for the year to March 31 was £9,355 from which administration took £1,422 leaving £7,933. This provides income-tax, the preference dividend and 4 per cent. on the ordinary capital with an increase of £1 at £245 in the carry forward.

SCOTTISH ONTARIO AND MANITOBA LAND CO., LIMITED.

During the year 1905 this company sold for £18,448 various properties which had cost £17,734, so that the operations resulted in a profit of £714. On a portion of the lands, &c., the profit reached as much as £4,422, but unhappily the disposal of some building land in Toronto and small towns in the North-West Provinces resulted in a loss of £3,708, so that the actual income was reduced to very small dimensions. Fortunately the class of property which produced loss is not extensive. Revenue from interest, loans, &c., was £3,233, and exchange and transfer fees gave £4, making, with £23,815 brought in, a total of £27,766. Expenses of management required £533 and general charges £251, so that after meeting sundry small outgoing items the balance over was £26,241. In January last the sum of 20s. per share of capital was repaid to the shareholders and the directors hope to be in a position to make a further return of capital during the present year. Land unsold is valued in the balance-sheet at £92,854, and £50,539 has been lent on mortgage, against which the capital outstanding is £138,101. Cash balance at the date of the accounts was about sufficient to pay the January return of capital, and sundry creditors are quite unimportant. There is a reserve fund of about £2,500.

PRIMITIVA GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHTING CO. OF BUENOS AIRES, LIMITED.

The revenue earned by the gas undertaking in the year ended December 31 was £7,412 larger at £98,918, but the interest paid by the German Transatlantic Electricity Company on the unpaid portion of the purchase price for the electric section was £400 less at £23,480, and with £123 from transfer fees the total revenue came to £122,521 or £7,062 more. With a reduction of £272 to £23,393 in debenture interest and a saving of £612 at £8,325 in administration expenses, the nett profits showed an increase of £7,946 at £90,802, to which was added £16,469 from the previous account, giving a total available of £107,271 compared with £99,469. Last year £4,000 was written off discount on debentures and expenses of issue and £15,000 was transferred to reserve, but on this occasion the directors prefer to apply £22,285 of their surplus towards wiping out the first-named item, after which they pay an extra 1 per cent. at 7 per cent. on the ordinary shares and carry forward £16,986. A windfall of £20,612 in the shape of profit on the sale of surplus land was also utilised, together with £1,893 from interest, &c., and

in order to complete the cancellation of the entry the special reserve of £9,304 has been written off. Now that this asset has been got rid of the directors may be expected to turn their attention to the question of strengthening the reserve, as at present that fund only amounts to £58,484, or little more than 54 per cent. of the capital outlay exclusive of the £584,400 for the electric section which is now being reduced by the annual instalments paid by the German Company. Liabilities to sundry creditors are £6,463 down at £22,933, while sundry debtors have risen £1,012 to £27,070, and as bills receivable come to £6,000 more at £29,500, cash is £1,467 higher at £4,949, and investments stand at £69,183, there is nothing to grumble at in the position.

LAMSON PARAGON SUPPLY CO., LIMITED.

This company's accounts cover a period of seventeen months to January 31, and the directors have pleasure in stating that the profits have been satisfactory, and that the business continues to expand. After providing all charges, the trading revenue is returned at £35,520, and transfer fees gave £32, making £35,552 in all. From this, directors' fees absorb £1,417, a sum of £4,300 is reserved for depreciation of leaseholds, plant, and machinery, and the balance of the preliminary expenses, £3,007, is written off. Nett income remaining is £26,769, and £676 was brought in, making £27,465. Preference dividend for seventeen months amount to £8,081, and for the same period the directors declare dividends at 7½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, carrying £7,000 to reserve and £1,127 to next account. Capital expenditure during the year was fairly heavy at £14,639, increasing the total to £101,748, and we note that goodwill, patents, patent rights, trade marks, &c., have been raised by £1,700 to £60,993. Total reserves, however, now amount to £27,870, including the depreciation account of £9,700, and we think the directors realise that good reserves mean strength. Creditors are light at £9,139, and among the various assortment of assets may be mentioned cash £15,386, investments in trading companies £30,073, book debts, £28,996, bills receivable £1,891, loan against security £2,000, and stock £17,057. A very fair position.

The Union Bank of Australia has opened a new branch at Gore, New Zealand.

Bank of Adelaide.—The agency at Halbury has been withdrawn, and an agency of the Georgetown branch has been established at Spalding.

London and India Docks and Millwall Dock Amalgamation.—With regard to the Bill for the amalgamation of the undertaking of the Millwall Dock Company with that of the London and India Docks Company, the Government have notified to the promoters that they intend to deal with the question of the Port of London next Session, and would consequently require the insertion of a sterilising clause in the amalgamation Bill. As the board of the purchasing company cannot in the interests of their proprietors accept such a clause they have, after consultation with the Millwall Dock board, decided to drop the Bill.

NEWNES' MAGAZINES.—We had an impression that a copy of the *Grand Magazine* issued by this firm for the current month reached this office, but if so somebody has seized it and taken it away, doubtless finding the temptation too great to be resisted. As for the others, the *Strand* and the *Wide World*, their contents are of the usual complexion, and the *Strand* contains quite a thrilling instalment of Sir Conan Doyle's new story "Sir Nigel," a tale wherein he is able to gratify all his tastes for the picturesque, "by my halidom" side of warfare. Take it altogether the best thing in the magazine are those wonderful chronicles of the Strand Club, full of spontaneous mirth as they are. In the *Wide World Magazine*, amongst other pleasant essays, the story of Malek Chand is re-told with accuracy and effect. That was the famous case where the late Manamohun Ghose intervened and by his assiduity and legal acumen prevented an unfortunate native from being hanged for a murder he did not commit. In the *Wide World Magazine* for April the most interesting article to us was the description of the new Cunarders. It made us wish we could take a voyage across the Atlantic once a month.

MAZAWATTEE TEA

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA.
AND CHINA.

The 52nd ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China was held at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., on Wednesday, April 18, Sir Montagu Cornish Turner presiding.

The manager, Mr. Caleb Lewis, having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I regret to say that two of the directors, Sir Henry Cunningham and Mr. Wallace, are laid up with influenza and unable to attend the meeting to-day, much to their regret. Before moving the adoption of the report, I would like, with your permission, to make a few remarks in regard to the conditions of trade and other matters affecting directly or indirectly the operations of the bank during the twelve months ending December 31 last. The year 1905 will be memorable in history as marking the conclusion of the great struggle between Russia and Japan and the ratification of the treaty of peace which was to a very great extent due to the wise moderation, sagacity and courage of the Emperor of Japan and his immediate advisers. But 1905 will also be notable for a distinct revival in trade and expansion of commerce throughout many parts of the civilised world. The United States and Canada enjoyed a year of unrivalled—I would say unequalled—prosperity. Germany witnessed a distinct spurt in her export and import trade, due no doubt to some extent to the anticipated change in her tariff list; but the expansion of business in Germany still continued, and I am glad to say, in the matter of imports, it has benefited the trade of Great Britain. France had a quietly prosperous year, and in this country there were very gratifying indications that the period of depression and gloom in trade and our money market due to the exhausting effects of the South African war had passed away. For the first time for many years our exports showed a very gratifying increase, the ratio of increase being greater than the ratio of increase in the matter of imports. This has continued up to the quarter just ended. Lancashire enjoyed a year of prosperity. Shipments of yarn and cloth to India, China and Japan were far above the average. But this revival of trade, added to the unrest in Russia and certain political complications on the Continent, now happily at an end, caused in the early part of the autumn a distinct stringency in the money market. This naturally led to high discount rates which prejudiced to some extent successful operations of institutions like this bank. Great care and caution were necessary, and therefore it is that I consider the greatest credit is due to the management and staff of this bank for the very satisfactory results attained in the working of the year 1905. In the East, India continues to pass through a period of prosperity, judging from the recent budget estimates for the year 1906-7. A very substantial surplus is shown after allowing for the increased cost of civil administration, and also for the very desirable remission of taxation in various provinces of India. It is true that at the moment there has been a decline in her exports of wheat and oil seeds, due to a deficiency of rain in the autumn of last year and the high prices of cereals, but later reports are to the effect that the condition generally has much improved, and we can anticipate good crops in the Punjab, Sindh, and elsewhere. India has also had a prosperous year in the matter of her jute and cotton. Jute has been at a very high rate—about 50 per cent. in value more than last year—and the cotton mills, after passing through a cycle of very lean years, have had an exceedingly prosperous twelve months. I mentioned just now the stringency of the money market in London during the autumn, and I had then intended to add how vital it is that there should be a gold supply sufficient to meet modern requirements of commerce, and also the requirements of nations to build up the reserves for war and other purposes. We are apt to forget that many countries, especially in the East, who were accustomed to live on the basis of a silver currency have now adopted a gold standard. India, for example, has a gold standard, the Straits might, I think, be said to have adopted a gold standard; Mexico, Japan and possibly Siam will do so. Without good supplies of gold we cannot build up those gold supplies in the great banking centres of the world which are necessary, and without which bankers are unable to fully accommodate their customers, and the stimulus to trade arising from cheap money is wanting. It is therefore not out of place to say how necessary it is to encourage the gold mining industry of South Africa. I do not speak in the unfortunate position of a shareholder; I speak from a public point of view. In an interesting article which appeared in the *Statist* in the early part of the year, it was shown that the whole gold production of the world in 1905 amounted in value to 75 millions sterling. South Africa headed the list with a production equal in value to 22 millions sterling, beating the whole of Australasia and the United States. It is, therefore, to my mind, not a question of considering the interests of the so-called mining magnates or even of the unfortunate shareholders, but it is a question which practically affects the prosperity of the whole world. I trust that this view may commend itself to those who have charge of the interests of South Africa. To return to the East, in Singapore I think the most noticeable feature of the year has been the fluctuation in exchange. The sterling value of the dollar has been fixed as a temporary measure at 2s. 4d., and I presume that the authorities will defer fixing the absolute value until a clearer indication as to the future price of bar silver can be

obtained. In Siam the Government has fixed the sterling value of the tical at 1s. 3d., or 16 ticals to the £1 sterling. It would not be amiss if they fixed the value at 1s. 4d., and so made the Siamese tical equivalent to the Indian rupee, seeing that there is a considerable interchange of business between Siam and Burmah. In China there is apparently a very serious effort being made to fulfil the oft-repeated promise of a uniform silver currency. In November last an Imperial edict was issued authorising the coinage of a coin to be called a tael, equal in value and weight to the Kuping tael. A coin has been sent from the Central Mint to the subsidiary mints at Tientsin and elsewhere with orders to have the new coins issued as soon as possible. It remains to be seen whether the Imperial Government take the further necessary measures to ensure the free circulation of this coin and its free use, so that it should be made acceptable in the matter of purity, whether in foreign or domestic transactions. Japan is apparently suffering to some extent, as she naturally would, from the effects of her great struggle with Russia. Imports, as might be expected, have slightly declined, and exports, probably due in some measure to the famine which prevails in parts of Japan, are also declining at the moment. This, however, is only a temporary relapse, and we should, I think, congratulate Great Britain's ally upon the very high credit she has attained in all the European money markets, due, no doubt, to the scrupulous fairness and conspicuous ability which attended the issue of her foreign and domestic loans and the general management of her own finances. With regard to our own affairs, I dare say that you have noticed in the Press that we have opened a branch at Kurachi, which measure we consider fully justified in view of the importance of Kurachi as a port. The agency at Hamburg has also proved eminently successful, and we cannot but feel highly gratified at the support we have obtained in that very important commercial centre. Then, as regards our report, which we submit to you for your approval, the directors have done their very utmost to meet the wishes expressed at the meeting last year that we should pay a somewhat higher dividend. At the same time they cannot depart from that policy of prudence and caution which has characterised the management of this bank for so many years in the past, and which has led to the building up of a reserve proportionate in some degree to the expansion of our business and increasing commitments of this bank. We feel that we are consulting the best interests of the shareholders by doing our very utmost to maintain the deservedly high position of credit which this bank has won not only in the East but in the West. I now have the pleasure to move the first resolution, that the report now presented, together with the balance-sheet and profit and loss account, be approved and adopted.

Mr. Emile Levita: I have much pleasure in seconding that.

Mr. John Squibb: I am sure we must all most heartily congratulate you, not only those present but those absent, and ourselves upon the very excellent—almost phenomenal—report which you have presented to us. There is one feature which I always notice with considerable satisfaction, and that is the way in which you recognise the services of the staff. You feel, I know, that they ought to share somewhat in the prosperity of the bank. I was therefore very glad to hear what you said about the staff, because, with all due respect to you sitting in Hatton Court, and your great ability, I know you will be the first to admit that very much depends upon the local branch managers and the staff and the way in which they perform their duties, and therefore I have noted with great pleasure what you have said about them. With regard to the reserve fund, I may say at once, without hesitation, that I believe thoroughly in very strong reserves, but even that is a matter of degree, and I hope you will not lose sight of the fact that for many years we were only getting 7 per cent. I must say I have no greedy spirit in me, but still, at the same time, I hope that at the end of the year, while you are piling up the reserve at an enormous pace, you will consider whether you cannot go a little further with the dividend. Fifteen per cent. would not be a serious increase; it would mean another £16,000 out of the £100,000. Two or three years ago the late chairman foreshadowed that he would not be satisfied until the reserves amounted to 150 per cent. of the capital. It is all very well to do something for posterity, but posterity has done nothing for us, and while you, as I am sure you will, will always continue to safeguard the interests of the bank, still it is a matter of degree, and I hope you will not lose sight of that at the end of the year now about to commence.

The Chairman: I am quite sure that the staff will very much appreciate the words that have fallen from Mr. Squibb, because they have so deservedly won them, and I think no body of men more than the directors feel how essential it is to have a staff which you can rely upon thoroughly at all times, and to treat them well. As regards the building up of the reserve, you must remember that we have enormous transactions which I think it would be impossible to face unless we had a good reserve behind us. Of course, the directors are always looking forward to the time when they can perfectly satisfy the shareholders. When that millennium will arrive it is impossible to say, because so much depends upon the future.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

The Chairman: The second resolution is to this effect: "That a dividend at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, for the half-year ended December 31 last be now declared, payable on and after the 25th inst."

Mr. William Christian seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman: The third resolution is to the effect: "That the remuneration of the directors as from the beginning of the

year under review be the sum of £6,000 per annum, to be appropriated out of the funds of the company as provided by Clause 77 of the deed of association." Before putting that to the meeting I would like to give you a few figures to show how the business of this bank has expanded in the last forty years or so. As evidence of the continuous growth and satisfactory expansion of the business of the bank, I would mention that the sum total of the balance-sheet for 1864 amounted to £4,439,000, for 1884 £9,708,000, for 1894 £11,000,000, for 1904 £17,500,000 and for 1906 £19,122,000. I would also like to mention that, although we have only one board meeting a week, we have two committee meetings besides, and as chairman—and I have been chairman of a good many companies, in the East and elsewhere—I have never seen a more gratifying attendance of directors in my experience. That is to say, we generally get a full board both on committee days and at board meetings, and this is of great assistance, I think, to the management, because it enables them to put through their business without delay. In view of the figures that I have mentioned, I think you will all acknowledge that more time is needed and greater attention to detail is needed by your board.

Sir Alfred Dent, K.C.M.G., seconded the motion, which was carried.

The Chairman next moved the re-election of Mr. Emile Levita as a director, which was seconded by Mr. Jasper Young and carried unanimously.

The other retiring director, Mr. William Christian, was unanimously re-elected on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. H. N. Gladstone.

Mr. Maurice Girdlestone and Mr. Magnus Mowat were re-elected auditors for the ensuing year on the motion of Mr. Henry B. Henley, seconded by Mr. Squibb.

Mr. Henry: I should like before the meeting concludes to propose that the best thanks of the shareholders be given to the directors and staff for their successful management of the bank. After what we have heard from you, and after the resolution which has been proposed, it is hardly necessary to add any remarks on that motion. We have substantially shown our appreciation of the staff by voting a sum of money, which I hope we shall be able to do again in future years, if the bank goes on in the same prosperous way in which it has been managed during the last twelve months. We have also shown our appreciation of the directors in the policy they are carrying out, and I hope they will be enabled also in future to continually add to that reserve fund which is such a mainstay to the credit of the bank.

Mr. R. de Manin seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman: I thank you on behalf of the board for the kind recognition which you have just passed, and I hope that next year we will meet with equally smiling faces.

The proceedings then terminated.

ORSK GOLDFIELDS, LIMITED.

The statutory meeting of the shareholders of Orsk Goldfields, Limited, was held on Thursday, the 12th inst., at the offices, 20, Copthall Avenue, E.C., Mr. J. F. Remnant, M.P., presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Ernest Lesser) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: My first duty is to lay before you the statutory report which has been already circulated, showing the number of shares allotted to date and the receipts and payments on capital account. The figures in the report, which have, of course, been passed by the auditors, speak for themselves. I should now like, in a few words, to refer to our property, although I have little to add to the detailed statement contained in the circular which you have already received. The property is situated in the Government of Orenburg, an important province of the Russian Empire, and well known for its mineral resources. It comprises something like 16,000 acres, on a part of which several rich reefs have already been proved and favourably reported upon by Messrs. John Taylor and Sons after very careful examination. The late owners have for several years worked their property with primitive appliances, and, under the circumstances, have made a good profit, which last year is said to have amounted to £20,000. It is confidently hoped, with improved machinery and with the additional six Chilean mills which have already been ordered and ought to be working by September next at the latest, to increase this £20,000 profit to one of £50,000. The late owners show their confidence in the value of their property by giving us a three years' working lease on favourable terms within which to test the mines and to exercise our option of purchase. We have already paid over £30,000, of which £15,000 is in respect of rent and £15,000 for stores and ore at grass, and these sums and any subsequent payments for rent will, on the exercise of the option, be deducted from the purchase price, which has been fixed at £150,000. At present our property has only been worked by primitive methods down to water level. The experience of other mining properties in the same district, which have attained a depth of over 400 ft., shows that the reefs fully maintain their value at the deepest points. Therefore, there is every reason to anticipate that in the case of your mines the reefs, with depth, will be found equally good, and of this we are advised that there is already every indication. Our Russian manager took possession of the property on behalf of the company on March 14, and he has since cabled that everything is going on satisfactorily. Our English staff should, by now, have reached the mines, and they have had instructions to at once proceed with the development of the property with a view to equipping it as soon as possible with from 100 to 150 stamps. Side by side with this development

it is the intention of your board to maintain and increase the existing system of working by tributors. Our profits, therefore, when the stamps are in full operation, should be very considerable. We have the greatest confidence in Mr. Provis, who has been appointed our manager, and we feel sure that under his direction everything will be done to obtain the best possible results. To Mr. Orkin, our managing director, our best thanks are due for the way in which the preliminary work has been carried out. He knows the property well, and with Mr. Provis has had personal experience of many of the mines in the district. He is here to-day and will be happy to answer any questions and give any further information you may desire. The shareholders will be glad to hear that our board has very cordially welcomed the co-operation of our French and Swiss colleagues. We yesterday received a notification from M. Ernest Carnot, son of the late President of the French Republic and a mining engineer of high standing, with a particular knowledge of mining in Russia, that he has accepted a seat on our board. (Hear, hear.) It cannot but be a source of real strength to us to have the addition on the board of such influential members. I now beg to move: "That the report and balance-sheet as submitted be received and adopted," and I will ask Mr. Orkin, after it has been seconded, to address you in more detail as to the working of your mines.

Sir Alfred Major seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

KLERKSDORP GOLD AND DIAMOND COMPANY.

An extra-ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Klerksdorp Gold and Diamond Company (1904), Limited, was held on Thursday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. Charles E. Hogg (the chairman of the company) presiding, the object being to consider an agreement for the sale of the undertaking to a new company to be formed.

The Secretary (Mr. William H. Brown) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said he wished to take this opportunity of thanking the shareholders who had sent their proxies in support of the proposition. The Klerksdorp company had frequently been accused of coming to its shareholders for money, but on this occasion he wished to say that he did not think it would be necessary for the directors to come to the shareholders again for funds. (Hear, hear.) Mines on the Rand requiring money during the boom days of 1895 adopted the simple method of issuing working capital £1 shares at a premium of about £5. That course could be adopted then, but it was impossible to do it now. A large amount of money had been required for the equipment of the Rand mines which were of low grade compared with those of other countries. When he was in Johannesburg a few weeks ago the directors of one company were preparing to expend £600,000 on the equipment of their property. In the early days it was almost impossible for engineers to estimate exactly the amount of capital that would be required, and the Klerksdorp company, missing the boom days, had had to come to its shareholders for the funds which it would otherwise have obtained by an issue of shares to the public at a premium. In 1901 the shareholders were good enough to elect him as chairman of the company, which up to that time had produced gold to the extent of 115, or 115. 6d. per ton at the best; but already they were in a position to say that they had nearly doubled that extraction. This was an extraordinary record which mining engineers would thoroughly appreciate. As a matter of fact they were obtaining, even under the present adverse conditions, nearly £50,000 worth of gold per annum, and surely that demonstrated the fact that they had a gold mine. The property was situated nearly 100 miles from the Rand, where they had to solve problems and to deal with difficulties such as were met with on every mine, but having no neighbours they were not able to go next door and ascertain how any particular problem was being solved; they had to work out their own, and everyone acquainted with mining knew the extraordinary variations which occurred and the difficulties which arose in each separate mine, whether in the Rand, West Australia or America. Although they had nearly doubled the extraction already, they did not propose to stop there. A large portion of his previous forecasts had been borne out by results, and he would ask the shareholders to accept his statement now that the board had not by any means reached finality in this matter. The shareholders were good enough to subscribe funds for the erection of a battery, and that plant was second to none in South Africa for its capacity. It was doing excellent work, and the extraction, although not what they expected it would be in future, was still good. The mine was known as a dry mine, and they obtained their water at present from a very beautiful stream about 1¼ mile off, known as Schoon Spruit, which unfortunately had suffered from long periods of dryness. As they increased the production, they would have to look for a more permanent source of supply, and he was already occupied in that direction, but as he said in his report no capital of this company or the next would be employed for that purpose. After dealing with other matters, particularly the increased extraction and the reduction in the working cost, the Chairman moved:—"That the agreement produced and read to this meeting and made between the Klerksdorp Gold and Diamond Company (1904), Limited, of the one part, and the Klerksdorp Gold Mines, Limited, of the other part, be and the same is hereby approved, and that the directors be and they are hereby authorised to carry the same into effect with or without modification."

Mr. A. J. May seconded the motion, which was carried.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the proceedings.

Britannic Assurance Company, Ltd.

(Formerly called BRITISH WORKMAN'S & GENERAL.)

ESTABLISHED 1866.

Chief Offices - - BROAD STREET CORNER, BIRMINGHAM.

Extracts from the DIRECTORS' REPORT for the Year ending December 31, 1905.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

Your Directors have again the privilege of recording substantial and gratifying progress.

The PREMIUM INCOME amounted to £983,101, showing an INCREASE of OVER £50,000.

The INCOME FROM ALL SOURCES amounted to £1,047,917, showing an INCREASE of OVER £61,000.

The ACCUMULATED FUNDS reached the sum of £1,564,806, showing an INCREASE FOR THE YEAR of £215,497. The Directors have particular pleasure in calling your attention to the fact that the funds have been doubled in less than four years.

Acting upon the advice of the Consulting Actuary the Directors propose to allocate £50,000 of the surplus for division between the Participating Policyholders (including adequate provision for those in the Accumulated Profit class) and the Shareholders. The Bonus notices will be sent out at an early date to Policyholders entitled in the Immediate Profit class, giving the usual options for dealing with the Bonus allocated.

The CLAIMS PAID during the year amounted to £445,043, including the sum of £98,798 paid under Maturing Endowment and Endowment Assurance Policies.

The TOTAL AMOUNT paid by the Company to its Assurants up to 31st December, 1905, was £4,784,704.

The TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW POLICIES issued was 513,561, at a Yearly Premium of £351,125.

S. J. PORT, *Secretary.*

FREDK. T. JEFFERSON, *Chairman.*

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FOUNDED FEBRUARY, 1892.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1906.

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Head Office—40, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C.

Capital Authorised	£1,500,000
Capital Paid Up	£562,500
Reserve Fund	£135,000

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Branches and Agencies in India, Ceylon, Straits Settlements
China, and Japan.

The Bank buys and sells Bills of Exchange, issues Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, and transacts banking and agency business in connection with the East, on terms to be had on application. Deposits received for fixed periods on the following terms: Six months, $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.; one, two, or three years, 4 per cent.; and on current accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances, provided they do not fall below £200.

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Over 140 Branches in South Africa.

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Reserve Fund	£1,997,050

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Sir Spencer Walpole, K.C.B.
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WILLIAM SMART, London Manager.

Gresham Life Office.

FOUNDED 1848.

TEN YEARS' PROGRESS.

Annual Income	1894	£1,012,786
	1904	£1,348,659
Assets	1894	£5,536,659
	1904	£9,014,532
Payments under Policies	1894	£12,173,703
	1904	£20,474,666

HEAD OFFICE: ST. MILDRED'S HOUSE, POULTRY, LONDON, E.C.

JAMES H. SCOTT,
General Manager & Secretary.

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Reserve Fund	Yen 10,300,000
Special Reserve Fund	Yen 1,000,000

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Bombay.	Mukden.	Peking.
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Secretary: A. G. WALLIS. London Office Manager: W. S. GOLDBY.

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Drafts and Telegraphic Transfers are also issued upon Dawson (Klondyke). Bills, Coupons, &c., purchased or forwarded, for collection.

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INSURANCE.

ALLIANCE

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Head Office: Bartholomew Lane, London, E.C.

LIFE.—FIRE.—MARINE.

CHAIRMAN:

The RIGHT HON. LORD ROTHSCHILD, G.C.V.O.

Invested Funds exceed £12,000,000.

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The Investors' Review.

The Russian Five per Cent. Loan.

Already in various ways particulars have been given about this long-negotiated issue, and it has now made its appearance. The total amount, as we have already stated, is to be £89,325,000 or 843,750,000 roubles, and of this enormous total France takes £48,000,000 in round figures, while £13,101,000 is allotted to the London market, and offered here as expected by Messrs. Baring Bros. and Co., Limited. The loan is to be irredeemable for ten years, that is until May 1, 1916, after which date a sinking fund applied by annual drawings will be put in force calculated to redeem the entire loan by May 1, 1956, and the first drawing is not to take place later than February 1, 1917. The price at which the bonds are nominally offered is £88 6s. 8d. per bond of £99 5s., and the instalments are spread over the next ten months, £10 being paid on application per £99 5s. bond, £18 6s. 8d. on allotment, and the remaining £60 in three equal instalments on August 1, November 2, and February 1 next. The whole amount, however, may be paid up in full under 2½ per cent. discount on the date of any instalment, and as the bonds are to carry full interest from the 1st prox., it follows that the issue price is really much below the nominal £88 6s. 8d. As worked out in the French prospectus, which is more full and detailed than the English one, it is calculated that the nett price of the loan will be about 86.90 per cent. It is, therefore, in round figures a 6 per cent. security, and the wonder is it has not been run after with more enthusiasm.

We have no hostility whatever to anything Russian as some people seem to imagine. On the contrary, we have always been eager to welcome any sign of genuine development in the higher forms of civilisation within the Russian Empire, and have recognised that great efforts have been put forth to do something towards providing the means of education for the people, and that spasmodic progress has been made in various directions. Therefore it is inferred when any observation is made with regard to Russian credit in these columns that it must be put down to our usual pessimism and settled habit of "crabbing" everything. On the mere ground that Russia has fought a disastrous war and incurred an enormous expenditure, we should have been disposed to welcome a loan of this description as something that might be provided with a good conscience out of the resources of other friendly nations in order to enable the Government and country to recover from the effects of a great disaster. It must not, however, be forgotten by those who subscribe to this loan that it has been brought out without reference to the proposed new constitutional authority, the elections for which have recently been held, and that the successful sale of bonds representing this enormous addition to the debt of Russia may tend to prolong the power of an irresponsible autocracy over the various races constituting the Russian Empire. We should be sorry to see the Russian autocracy default; at the same time it must be a question for every individual who subscribes to the new loan in this country whether a greater evil would not be done to the Russian nationalities by riveting upon their necks the bondage of their present Government. The country is undeniably mis-

governed, and the Tsar is obviously powerless to carry out his well known good intentions. He is a man full of benevolent ideals, but not strong enough to take in hand the bridling of that all-powerful bureaucracy by which he is controlled and driven into counsels probably enough repugnant to his better judgment. A grave moral responsibility therefore attaches to those who by subscribing for this new Russian debt contribute to prolong the tyranny under which the inhabitants of the Russian Empire now groan and grovel.

Another aspect will present itself to many Englishmen, but it is one on which we do not desire to insist with too great vehemence. Let us put it this way:—If you believe in the alarmist statements made by Lord Kitchener and the military party in India and here which is continually dinning into our ears the danger to our Indian dominions in Russian machinations and a projected Russian invasion of the Peninsula, will you be doing your duty as a patriot in giving your money to the Russian Government on the present occasion? How can you reconcile patriotism on the part of the bankers, Stock Exchange underwriters and others who have taken an interest in this transaction with the views expressed by the above mentioned military faction? If Russia is a danger to India, plainly it is our duty to keep her crippled, and we cannot be true British patriots or in any degree solicitous for the peace and stability of our Indian dominions if we are ready to contribute of our substance in order to put the demoralised and impecunious Russian Empire again upon its feet so that it may be able, in accordance with the views of the gentlemen above mentioned, to hurl its legions over the mountain passes or through Persia and Afghanistan down upon our defenceless dependency. We infer that it is defenceless from the clamour made by those who are continually adding to the weight of military charges upon the hunger-driven inhabitants thereof.

These are points which deserve consideration, and although we have no sympathy whatever with the clamour of those who cannot sleep o' nights for fear lest the Russian bear should make a descent upon India between night and morning, we do sympathise with those, not only within Russia itself, but all over the world, whose minds have been shocked, and whose feelings of humanity are continually lacerated by the tales of oppression, irresponsible absolutism, betrayal of promises, imprisonments, deportations, exactions, fines, and confiscations which come to us every day in the week from the misgoverned Empire of the Tsar. And because we sympathise with all those who believe that no empire or country can take its place amongst the civilised and progressive nations of the world by means such as the Russian autocracy uses to stifle liberty and prevent the dissemination of higher conceptions of existence, we personally should not care to touch this new debt, to underwrite it were the commission 10 per cent., or to have anything whatever to do with it. At the same time there seems ground for doubting whether the present Government of Russia will really be much assisted by this huge loan. It may not be possible to accept at all points statements made in the Russian correspondence of the *Times* which has for a long time past been, one may say, ruthlessly hostile to the Government and all connected therewith; at the same time, it is the general belief that Russia gains no new resources by this loan. Its deficits, arising from the war primarily and in a secondary degree from the disorders of the country, its bad harvests and general industrial disorganisation, exceed even the amount of this loan. The principal excuse offered for its issue at the present time lies indeed in the fact that default must have occurred as a consequence of delay. The Petersburg correspondent of the *Times*, telegraphing on April 20, says that "the capitalists reluctantly consented not to await the assembly of the Duma because Russian finances were in such desperate straits that delay might be fatal. The Government's bills were glutting all the money markets of Europe, and

the Government had actually sold 15,000 Russo-Chinese Bank shares, losing heavily on the transaction, for the shares which then stood at 200 have now risen to 350." "The banks," he adds, "offered 10 and 15 per cent. for discounting Russia's bills," which means, we suppose, that they demanded these usurious rates. In such circumstances the foreign Governments and financiers agreed to the issue of the loan in order to avert bankruptcy. Should these statements be approximately true, then it may be the next Russian loan which will apply the crucial test to British patriotism and sentiments of humanity. Meanwhile, our portion of the loan has been taken up, if not with enthusiasm, at any rate in a manner which warrants the belief that the British public is putting some of its savings into it.

Yet another aspect of the transaction is presented in a remarkable letter from a peculiarly well-informed correspondent to be found in another column. It deals with the refusal of the German banks to take up the share in the loan originally assigned to them, and draws a picture of the motives underlying that refusal and of the behaviour of Kaiser William, which certainly opens up a dark prospect. We have no doubt at all that the account the writer gives of the means taken to stop the participation of German banks in this huge transaction in usury, in pawning the lives and substance of the Russian people to the foreign money-lender, is substantially accurate, because it accords with what we hear about the Kaiser and his extraordinarily impulsive behaviour from other quarters. What we hope, however, is that not even the rash and irresponsible German Emperor will be able to bring about that horrible war which our correspondent foresees. Still, we must not overlook this contingency when next Russia appeals to us for some portion of our spare capital in order to prevent the autocracy or the empire from foundering. Are we going to at one and the same time assist the Government of Russia with the means to put her fighting forces again on a war footing and to provoke Kaiser Wilhelm II. into a belief that if he does not fight soon he may be unable to fight at all, because of a combination between England, Russia, France, and Italy, brought about in order to confine German ambitions, and to put a stop to German efforts at expansion in Asia Minor or elsewhere? Is the Near Eastern question involved in this loan-raising adventure? We must not lose sight of this grave aspect of the business.

A Trio of A. Goerz Companies.

PRINCESS ESTATE, LANCASTER WEST, AND MODDERFONTEIN DEEP LEVELS.

These three members of the A. Goerz group have issued their annual reports during the week, all covering the year 1905, not one of which will be studied with pleasure. All are still in the struggling stage, overwhelmed with debt and losses, and the outlook for each, if not dismal, is far from promising. The oldest of the three is the Princess Estate and Gold Mining Company, which came into existence in the ancient times of 1889, was reconstructed in 1890, and has paid two dividends only during its lengthy career—the first of 10 per cent. in 1897 and the second of 7½ per cent. in 1899. In the nineties, when other companies had attained the zenith of dividend-paying, helped largely by "eye-picking," the Princess was turning out a fair quantity of gold, but it was of poor quality; consequently the profits earned were small. This could not be attributed to any labour difficulties, but in these later days this is seized upon as a ready excuse for many failures, though it must be admitted that the directors of this particular company scarcely grumble at this, nearly all the unskilled labour on the mine being Chinese. But it is an ill wind that blows good to no one, even on the Rand, and the parent company is able to benefit from the financial woes of its subsidiaries. It keeps them going, lending them as much cash as they want, and charging 7 per cent. interest.

which is not generous usury. There is little risk that the loans may not be repaid, but that will involve the indefinite postponement of dividends, assuming, of course, that the day will eventually come when these can be resumed.

The Princess Estate recommenced milling operations in December, 1904, and as crushing was conducted without interruption throughout 1905, the results will help us to form an idea of what this company may do in the future. The quantity milled was 74,936 tons, and from all sources the yield was 32,253 fine ozs., of a value of £136,554, equal to a little over 8½ dwts., or 36s. 5d. per ton. Working costs, however, were as high as 34s. 9d. per ton, or, in the aggregate, £130,195, leaving a tiny profit of £6,358, or 1s. 8d. per ton. The consulting engineer explains that "the higher working costs are due principally to the higher cost of the Chinese coolies per unit of work done as compared with Kaffirs." These being his own words, we cannot be accused of bias in quoting them, and it is only one out of numerous cases in which coolie labour has sent up costs. In addition to this, the natural reef conditions tend toward higher underground costs, in that the reef is narrow, necessitating narrow stopes, in order to break a minimum amount of waste. To the above profit there fall to be added receipts from rents, licences, &c., bringing the credit to £10,512, but interest on loans takes £10,423, on debentures £2,452, depreciation £10,360, premium on debentures redeemed £353, estate expenses £220, and debenture trustee fees £200, so the final result is the raising of the debit balance from £62,788 to £76,285. At the end of the year the loan from A. Goerz and Co. (is not this another name for the Deutsche Bank?) amounted to £150,881. At first the arrangement made was to give the lenders bills of exchange covering the indebtedness, with interest, but as it was evident these could not be met at maturity, and as further loans were necessary, "for expenditure on shaft sinking, mine development, the importation and housing of Chinese labourers, &c.," an agreement was concluded in June of last year, under which, in consideration of A. Goerz and Co. lending the company £160,000 up to July 15, 1906, at 7 per cent., they should be given an option to call and purchase 65,000 of the authorised but uncreated shares at 20s. per share and 75,000 at 22s. 6d. per share. Also in terms of the agreement of April, 1904, a second mortgage, covering a bond for £175,000, has been executed in favour of A. Goerz and Co. as security for their advances. What can one predict of the future of such a debt-laden company? If a full year's working, with Chinese, resulted in a heavy loss, when will profits be possible? As for dividends, they need not even be dreamed of.

Ever since 1897 the Lancaster West Company has been striving to attain success, and it looks as if its struggles are far from ended. Hitherto work has been confined to what is called the Battery Mine, but ultimate prosperity is mainly dependent on the Botha Mine, where shaft-sinking is proceeding in order to reach the reef. In the year 1905 the full number of 40 stamps was again run, and 77,564 tons were treated for a total yield of 29,132 fine ozs., of a value of £123,218, which works out at the rate of 7.51 dwts., or 31s. 9.26d. per ton. Working costs amounted to £89,544, equal to 23s. 1d. per ton, so the working profit was £33,674, or 8s. 8d. per ton, which compares with £36,753 in 1904, when the profit averaged 9s. 6d. per ton. The yield fell from 33s. 5d. to 31s. 9d. per ton, due to the fact that the lower levels of the Battery Mine developed ore of less value than was met with in the upper levels. On the other hand, the general manager reduced the working costs by 10d. per ton to 23s. 1d. per ton, which includes mine development redemption. From the above profit have to be deducted interest on debentures and loans, premium on debentures redeemed, and various other items, totalling £14,232, whilst £13,859 was allowed for depreciation. After adding in the balance of

£15,766 from 1904 and £1,119 from rents, there is left a credit of £22,467 to take to the current accounts. Thus no dividend was paid, and the solitary distribution remains the 10 per cent. paid in 1903. Who can foresee when this will be followed by a second? For money is required to develop the Botha Mine, and the company is being financed by A. Goerz and Co., the debt at the end of the year amounting to £60,979, in addition to which £8,717 was owing to sundry creditors, cash and other liquid assets totalling £12,448. The debenture debt was reduced during the twelve months by £7,740 to £166,400. In the Battery Mine 110,715 tons of ore are developed, of an average value of 9 dwts., from which, however, must be deducted 35,441 tons, contained in shaft pillars, and other reef matter not at present available for stopping. The grade is lower than that of the preceding year, the development resulting in opening up a smaller quantity of payable ore by about 49,000 tons than the tonnage milled in 1904. There are in the Battery Mine 159,000 tons opened up, which probably cannot be profitably milled. Not only has the value of the ore in this mine deteriorated, but the property is disturbed by several large faults.

There is little to say about the Modderfontein Deep Levels, as the company has done practically nothing beyond boreholing, and years must elapse before profits and dividends are possible. Shareholders must meanwhile draw what comforting conclusions they can from the following statement in last year's report, which is so much gibberish to the lay mind:—"During the year a survey of No. 2 borehole was carried out, with a view to determining its deflection from vertical and the probable angle of dip of the reef in that part of the property. The results of the survey show that the borehole reached a vertical depth of 3,100 ft. from the surface, as against a depth of 3,503 ft. measured along the actual course of the hole, and that the vertical depth of the footwall contact of the reef from the surface is 2,320 ft., compared with 2,568 ft. along the curve of the borehole." The data obtained from this survey go to show that the angle of dip of the reef at this spot is probably between 12 degrees and 16 degrees, and that the contact will be found at a vertical depth of from 2,520 ft. to 2,590 ft. below the mouth of this borehole." Expenditure in the 12 months totalled £3,523, against £1 received from rent, and the debit balance is thereby increased to £17,997. At the annual meeting the chairman candidly admitted that it was very unlikely an opportunity would present itself during the current year "to place the company on a financial basis to enable it to commence active operations." Accordingly the directors have entered into a fresh arrangement with Messrs. A. Goerz and Co., by which the latter undertake to lend up to £12,500 at 7 per cent., repayable on February 28, 1907. For consideration the lenders have been given an option to purchase 7,500 of the 10,000 reserve shares at 40s. per share until the above-mentioned date.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

FIRE INSURANCE LOSSES AT SAN FRANCISCO.

A few facts or preliminary estimates begin to emerge, but they must not be taken to represent with any close approximation the amounts ultimately to be paid. One can judge how wide the margin of error is from the statement that in San Francisco itself the loss imposed by the fire which followed the earthquake there upon 107 companies is put at between £37,000,000 and £40,000,000. In New York, however, the estimate is that the total will only be about £25,000,000, and we shall be surprised if the ultimate liability to be met reaches half that total. Meantime, the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company apparently estimates its losses at less than £1,000,000, an amount which will not touch the company's reserve. The

Royal Insurance Company is said to have ascertained from its manager at San Francisco that the possible liability arising from the disaster will reach £1,325,000. Even this formidable total will be met without reduction in the fire and reserve funds of the company, so strong is it. Then, as intimated elsewhere, the London and Lancashire Fire Company is making provision to meet a payment of, say, £1,080,000, and is not appalled by the prospect. For the last fifteen years, the chairman told the shareholders, the surplus on the company's underwriting in San Francisco had been nearly 30 per cent. of the premium income. There is consequently a large margin accumulating to meet unforeseeable claims, such as the various companies have now to deal with. In all probability we must again insist the payments to be made will not reach anything like the sums now put down. It is possible even that the State Fire Insurance Company, whose directors have just made a call of £2 per share on their shareholders may not require all the money. It is a small company, and if trouble does arise at any point it will be amongst such. A call of £2 per share, for instance, will only amount to £140,000, since, although this company has a nominal capital of £1,000,000 in £10 shares, only £700,000 of this capital has been issued, and £70,000, or £1 per share, thus far called up. And insurance shareholders ought to bear in mind the probability that the claims lodged against the insurance companies by the victims of earthquake and fire in San Francisco are not necessarily representative of the ultimate liabilities that will have to be paid. There is not merely the "earthquake clause," but, as the *Times* City article of Thursday appositely and lucidly points out, other restrictions exist which will tend to reduce in a material degree the amount of the claims enforceable. Probably enough British offices will not pile up huge law costs in fighting doubtful demands, but they will be able to resist claims arising as a direct consequence of the earthquake. Also, in some instances at least, they may not have to meet losses incurred through the steps taken by the authorities to get control of the fire such as the blowing up of buildings by dynamite or from destruction by artillery. Policies issued according to the New York standard form embodied in the large majority of the contracts exempt the companies from liability caused directly or indirectly by order of any civil authority. The Alliance and Commercial Union offices, it should further be mentioned, with perhaps others, have a clause in their contracts which exempt them from claims of any description arising through causes such as earthquakes or the order of any civil authority. The indirect losses may be difficult always to assess or to determine, but the object of this note is to deprecate once more alarm on the part of insurance shareholders. They ought not to be frightened into sacrificing their property rashly upon a market partially demoralised.

SAN FRANCISCO.

We wrote last week when the stories coming from this stricken city were at the height of their horror, and now a feeling of relief may perhaps incline us to think that the mischief wrought has been less than it really is. Still, it is becoming plain that San Francisco, cruelly stricken though it has been, is not the absolutely ruined city we were led to believe. The great Cliff House Hotel, for instance, was not, as many messages told us last week, chucked bodily into the sea. The damage done to it is now said to be no more than about £100. Elsewhere losses are being gradually reduced, and it will not improbably be found that a great deal of property within the area scorched by fire has not been completely swept away. The number of the dead, too, is now, at the worst, not expected to much exceed one thousand, and the disturbance of the soil over the city area cannot have been so tremendous as we were led to believe, since we are now told that certain lines of tramway may soon again be running. Even in the end of last week news came that the water mains had been at least

partially repaired, and much of the wealthier residential portions of the city has escaped both earthquake and fire. Comforting as this may be up to a certain point, the losses have been cruel and enormous, so great as to amply warrant the efforts being generously made by the people of the United States to relieve the distress. Already about \$15,000,000 are said to have been subscribed within the country, and the President of the Republic is perfectly justified in refusing foreign help. But far more than this will be required, not merely to keep the people alive but to begin the work of rebuilding the city, work which with characteristic resolution and energy the citizens are already setting about. To aid in this work of reconstruction the money to be drawn from the insurance companies will come in handy. We are still, however, completely in the dark as to how much their liabilities may be. Obviously, the earlier statements have been enormously exaggerated. We never even pretended to believe them, and in all likelihood, when the facts are sifted out and when the damage has been fully ascertained, it may be found that from £8,000,000 to £12,000,000 will be all that can possibly be claimed. The London and Lancashire Fire Office alone, we see by the chairman's admission, expects to lose over £1,000,000, and undoubtedly the offices will pay generously, as we have already said, where the damage is one of fire alone, but it does not follow that they will honour claims arising directly from the earthquake. They would not be justified in so doing. Assume, however, that the British portion of the losses legitimately falling upon the companies and to be met by them reaches £6,000,000 to £8,000,000, or even £10,000,000, is there any reason in this why holders of their shares should rush to throw them on the market? We think not, and regret to see the evidence of scare in the way prices have been sinking on the Stock Exchange. Holders should keep a calm mind and await events. Enough has already been ascertained to encourage the belief that neither the aggregate of mischief wrought nor the nett loss to be covered is anything like the wild estimates hitherto current.

ORIENT STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The managers of this anything but flourishing undertaking continue to conduct its finances in a very unwise fashion. During the year ended December 31 the company made a nett profit of just £116, so that once more the managers are under the necessity of providing practically the whole of the money required for the preferred dividend. They are pledged to pay this during the term of their engagement, which does not expire until 1910. As a set-off, Messrs. F. Green and Co. and Anderson, Anderson and Co. have steadily drawn on a previously accumulated reserve fund in order to provide dividends on the deferred shares held by them. On the present occasion a 5 per cent. dividend is declared on these deferred shares, making the fourth successive withdrawal for this purpose, but unless a marked improvement takes place during the current year in the company's position a deferred dividend cannot be produced twelve months hence, because the reserve account which furnishes them will now be brought down to £1,836. Not only that, but the managers know quite well that depreciation has not always been allowed in full in the past, and although £50,382, or 4 per cent., was written off in respect of the past year, we believe the balance-sheet value of the fleet of £563,780 is well above true worth. Cost of the company's steamers, including refrigerating engines, was £1,270,811, against which the total sum written off to date is £707,031, leaving the item at £563,780 as mentioned. That may not appear a very large sum, but it represents five boats only of an aggregate tonnage of 36,037 or something under £15 13s. per ton. This is against a share and debenture capital of £442,432, and as reserves are exceedingly minute, it follows that the floating indebtedness is still very heavy. The company owes £82,000 on loan, and £89,840 to sundry creditors, besides £8,027 on bills

payable, or almost £180,000 in all, and under present circumstances it is quite impossible to liquidate any large part of this sum. Debtors, for example, owe no more than £34,062, and cash is only £44,056, even including freights and passage money of £7,231 to be collected, and nearly £10,000 of this will be required for dividend payments. There are sundry other assets, such as plant, steam tenders, &c., £12,325, stock £7,411, unexpired value of insurance policies £6,236 and payments on account of pending voyages £6,201, but all these items relate to the current business, and could not possibly be used for liquidating indebtedness. It may be mentioned that there is an underwriting account of £34,069, and a repair and renewal account of £5,000, but we doubt if these would make good the deficiency in depreciation. Actual balance on voyage account for the past year was £60,327 against £59,371 in 1904, from which general charges took £932 and interest £8,448, so that after allowing for the 4 per cent. depreciation the balance remaining is £116. The managers therefore had to find £10,059 in order to furnish the preferred dividend, while the 5 per cent. to be paid on the deferred shares absorbs a sum of £5,791. This company now conducts the mail service between England and Australia, and has a contract with the Commonwealth Government which expires on June 31, 1908. Tenders have been invited for a mail service for a further period of seven or ten years from the expiry of the present agreement, and this company proposes to compete. As already announced, the agreement between the Orient and the Pacific Steam Navigation has come to an end, but the Royal Mail company immediately decided to take the Pacific company's place, and will become a joint tenderer with the Orient for the mail service. We misinterpreted this change when originally notified, and should now say that it does not indicate a weakening of the Orient company's position. On the contrary, the alliance with the Royal Mail may tend to strengthen it. So this is one ray of hope.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM TRAMWAYS CO., LIMITED.

An increase of 905,983 to 54,939,631 in the number of passengers carried during the twelve months ended December 31 resulted in an improvement of £1,844 to £283,326 in the traffic receipts, but advertisement and other income fell off a little, leaving a gain of £1,422 at £295,383 in the total revenue. This is not much of an improvement perhaps, but the proportion of expenses to receipts was reduced from 67 to 63 per cent., and the saving this represented brought the nett revenue up to £94,723 compared with £84,426. The directors, however, remembering that the life of some of their leases is drawing to a close, prefer to keep the dividend and bonus at the handsome enough figure of 10 per cent. usually paid, and transfer the extra £10,297 at £64,304 to reserve, raising the fund to £361,055. Capital expenditure for the year amounted to £26,202 for new electric cars, electrical equipment, and additional plant for the Coventry Road tramways, &c., but the horse omnibus undertaking has been transferred to a new concern, called the Birmingham and Midland Motor Omnibus Company for £42,834, and this amount, less £221 for stores, has been deducted from the property account, leaving it at £617,079. In addition to the transfer to reserve, the sixth instalment of £10,000 was paid over to the debenture trustees, and the redemption fund further benefited by £12,722 from the price received for the sale of the lines and depôt at Aston, as well as by £19,824, representing the book value of the depôts sold to the new 'bus company, and £200 from a sale of land, so that the total now in the hands of the trustees is £99,778, against £300,000 debentures issued and redeemable in 1917. The loan to the B.E.T. Company appearing in the 1904 balance-sheet has, apparently, been liquidated by transferring the amount to the Birmingham and Midland Tramways, Limited, as the indebtedness of that company has risen from £25,000 to £75,000. Another £20,000

has been placed on deposit at short notice against securities, and, with £7,312 in National War Loan and mortgages, brings the total under investments up to £102,312, but the company also holds preference and ordinary shares in the 'bus company to the value of £50,096. Floating liabilities, although £19,280 down, are still fairly heavy at £33,526, especially as sundry debtors only amount to £11,984, and there is a further decrease of £30,401 to £96,495 in cash. The report states that a sum of £3,086 has been received from the Corporation of Birmingham for disturbance of traffic, through the reconstruction of the steam tramways in the city during the period of the company's lease of the Balsall Heath lines, which are to be taken over by the Corporation on December 31 next. A sum of £20,000 is to be paid in connection with this purchase, and another £16,000 will be given for the Kyott's Lake Road depôt, which is to be taken over on July 1 next. In consequence of the sale of this depôt, other arrangements must be made for rolling stock repairs, and as the remainder of the company's leases in Birmingham terminate in 1911, it has been decided to erect workshops and car-sheds at Tividale, near Dudley, in conjunction with the companies worked by the Birmingham and Midland Tramways joint committee. The company continues to shed bits of its system in various directions, and the right of the King's Norton Council to purchase the King's Heath and Moseley Steam Tramways arises at December 31 next, when the lease of the connecting lines within the city also expires. Aston Manor Corporation has completed the purchase of the lines in its district, and has partly reconstructed the system for electric traction, but delays have arisen through the carrying out of sewerage and other works simultaneously with the reconstruction, and the company, which is still working the line under agreement, has made a claim against the Corporation in respect of the loss on the year's working, caused by the inability to work the line to the best advantage. The agreement with the Erdington Council for a 21 years' lease to the company of the tramways when constructed has fallen through, and in the case of the Handsworth Tramways payment of the £11,705 fixed by the arbitrator for the steam tramways has been deferred until the end of the year, the company in the meantime working the line and retaining the receipts. All this chopping and changing must complicate the capital account, and, pending the final settlement, the adequacy or otherwise of the reserves can only be a matter of surmise. On the surface, however, they look satisfactory enough.

CHAMPAGNE FRERES, LIMITED.

This well-known fruit-importing business seems to be in a rather bad way. A severe decline was shown in the profits for the year ended September 30, 1904, and now the report and accounts for the fifteen months to December 31 last disclose an actual loss. Innumerable reasons and excuses are advanced for this unfortunate state of affairs, such as adverse climatic conditions, abnormal or irregular seasons, and defective railway and steamboat services. That seems a pretty formidable list, but from further remarks in the report we gather that the administration has not been all that could be desired. It will accordingly be strengthened in various ways, and a close study made of the methods to be adopted for the purpose of extending the business and increasing its efficiency. Moreover, the directors recognise that until there is a return to something approaching former conditions the scale of expenses both in Paris and London requires some modification. Therefore, the board has reduced its fees, the London office lessors agreed to a reduction of the contract amount for rent and remuneration of secretary and clerks, and the management in Paris consented to take £3,000 instead of the £4,000 per annum to which it is entitled. Even £3,000 seems very fair remuneration. So far as the changes in the direction are concerned, Sir E. Leigh Pemberton is desirous of

making room for a younger man, and Mr. Achille Adam finds that his other engagements do not permit of his giving that close attention to the business of the company which it demands. Thus the path is nicely smoothed for other appointments, and Sir Robert A. Hampson, late Lord Mayor of Liverpool, and Mr. Gustaf Schack-Sommer will take the vacant seats, the former becoming chairman. Mr. Brand has already retired, and Mr. Henry Richards, the former secretary, has taken his place. The new board will at once proceed to take in hand all questions relating to the present position and future policy of the company, financial and otherwise, with a view to reporting fully thereon to the share and debenture holders at an early date. In view of the eminently sensible attitude of the board, and its obvious desire to assist the company back to its former happier condition, we do not propose to be too severely critical so far as the accounts now under notice are concerned. Shareholders are reminded that despite the poor nett result the volume of business during the past year was very large, and that the managing directors are of opinion that the company has passed the most critical period. It will therefore be good policy, we think, to give the directors a chance of retrieving the position. Including dividends and interest, and after charging working and general expenditure the profit on trading is returned at £7,607, and transfer fees gave another £10, making £7,617 in all. From that managing directors' remuneration absorbed no less than £5,000, and directors' fees took £1,056, so that the administration of the business swallowed up almost all the profit. Other charges aggregated £2,407, and there is a deficiency in the profit and loss account of £847. It would have been graceful on the part of the managing directors to return enough to have prevented this debit. At the meeting of the company held in January, 1905, the report and accounts then presented naturally provoked a good deal of criticism, and an amendment was moved and carried to the effect that the dividend of 4 per cent. proposed on the ordinary shares should not be paid. For this reason the directors brought forward £4,746, after providing the preference dividend for 1904, and have therefore been able to pay six months' preference dividend on account of the period under review, leaving nine months in arrear. The debit to profit and loss is also made good, and a credit of £899 carried forward. Debentures to the amount of £12,000 appear for the first time in the balance-sheet, this amount having been authorised in consequence of the considerable shortage of working capital, and the loan of £3,200 concurrently disappears. Ordinary floating indebtedness is £11,210, against which there are debtors £12,508, stocks £21,412, bills receivable £3,357, and cash £3,356. It has been necessary to provide a reserve of £1,200 against trade investments valued at £20,864, and the auditors in a manner hint that the valuation is still a little doubtful. The reserve fund amounts to £10,500, and "purchase of business £166,615" is presumably wholly intangible.

GREAT BOULDER PROPRIETARY.

In our recent article on the gold mining industry of Australasia we pointed out that the tendency of the ore in the West Australian goldfield was to become poorer in quality. This fact has been emphasised within the past few weeks by the results recorded in the various reports of the leading companies, and further testimony is now to be found in the report of the Great Boulder Proprietary Company. Against this lower yield, however, must be set the steady saving in working costs, for the managements of all these mines are ever striving after economy. Otherwise the consequences would be more serious to shareholders, who would receive smaller dividends. In some cases the saving is almost equal to the loss of gold, but profits are maintained with the help of dealing with larger quantities of ore. The Great Boulder Proprietary is not managed so economically as the Ivanhoe, Great Fingall and others, but here also substantial re-

ductions in the costs have recently been made. In 1903, for instance, the figure was as high as 37s. 8d. per ton, but in 1904 it was brought down to 33s., and in 1905 to 29s., which is still very dear compared with the expenses elsewhere. The mine manager, however, holds out the prospect of a further cutting down this current year to 26s. 6d. Not only do these reductions lessen the fall in profits, but they enable lower-grade stuff to be treated which formerly had to be put aside. Still, the results in 1905 did not equal those of 1904 and 1903, the output of bullion amounting to £545,087 compared with £567,445 in the preceding twelve months, and after providing for income-tax in the colony and London and again transferring £35,000 to depreciation fund account, the divisible balance, including £10,432 brought forward, was £267,648, in contrast with £284,808 and £262,898 respectively in the two preceding years. In 1904 the dividends totalled 3s. 3d. per 2s. share or 162½ per cent., the highest in the company's career, but they are now reduced to the 1903 distribution—viz., 3s. per share, or 150 per cent.—and only £5,148 is left to carry forward. It is stated that the mill and working plant were employed continuously throughout the year; likewise that various improvements have been made, the full effects of which will be obtained in the present year, whereas the benefits of the new machinery were felt only in the latter part of 1905. Looked at from a wide standpoint, prospects appear most promising. A large amount of work has been done above and below ground at Hamilton shaft, which practically constitutes another mine. Up to the present this work has absorbed a large portion of the profit from the southern end of the property, but recent developments encourage the expectation that the money spent on this part of the property will be returned with good interest. The ore reserves blocked out and ready for the mill are now given by the mine manager as 453,649 tons, with an estimated yield of 456,379 ozs. of fine gold, showing an average of 20.12 dwts. per ton. This is still a high yield, but it compares with 22.6 dwts. and 26.4 dwts. per ton in 1904 and 1903 respectively. Allowing for the output in the past twelve months, the ore developed increased by 206,535 tons and 172,523 ozs. respectively, and the value of the reserves ready for the mill may be taken at £1,894,000. At the end of 1904 it was estimated that there would also be upon the mine a deposit of at least 530,000 tons of residues, having a value of about 12s. per ton, and arrangements have now been made to treat these at a very substantial profit. In regard to the future, the directors speak quite confidently. They describe last year's developments as of an especially progressive nature; "changes and improvements in the position of the mine are evident at many points. There can be no doubt that the value of the mine during the year has considerably improved. The developments at the 1,900 ft. level are most important as having now been proved in lode, both north and south of the shaft, and investigations in this shaft show that there are indications of the formation of a new ore body at about 1,900 ft., the explorations of which in a southerly direction and at depth will prove one of the most interesting features of future development." So the position and the outlook appear tolerably satisfactory and hopeful, though it would seem a little too sanguine to expect larger profits and higher dividends.

A REVIVAL OF TIN MINING IN CORNWALL.

Is this old industry going to revive? It looks very much like it. Thanks to the application of scientific principles to the extraction of the ore, the position promises to change in Cornwall, and with profitable results to those bold enough and intelligent enough to take in hand an abandoned enterprise that looks hopeless. Well within the present generation the shares of tin mines of Cornwall bulked largely in the business of the London Stock Exchange, but gradually they nearly all disappeared, and the mining industry they represented went to rack and ruin. It did so partly

because the "cost-book" system was followed whereby losses had to be made good each year out of the shareholders' pockets. This meant unlimited liability, and what with unintelligent mining, imperfect extraction of the tin, decline or great variability in the grades of the ore, and the increasing competition of Asiatic tin, the bulk of the mines were shut down. Now, however, there are good hopes that the enterprise is reviving, thanks, as we have said, to the application of scientific methods to the extraction of the ore. We hear, for example, of an old mine, the Clitters, which has been opened up again, and of another, the South Crofty, about to be opened up, on both of which the prospects appear to be excellent, thanks to a reduction in the cost and to the application of magnetism to effect the separation of wolfram from the tin concentrates. The average cost of working tin mines in Cornwall is, we are told, about 21s. to 22s. per ton, while at the Clitters Mines it has been reduced to 13s. 9d. It is not, however, only in the working charges that modern plant brings in a saving, but also in the amount of tin which is kept from going away in slimes. The average tin production of Cornwall may be taken at 40 lbs. of tin to the ton, but, taking black tin at £70 per ton (it is now £110), with modern plant working on modern lines, the ore which yields only 30 lbs. of tin to the ton would furnish a handsome profit. In dealing with complex ore as distinct from plain tin ore, the cost of treatment is hardly any greater, we are told, only the initial outlay for plant is larger, and in these complex ores the modernised methods of treatment have various beneficial results: First, they lower the cost of production; second, they effect savings in tailings; third, they thoroughly separate each class of mineral, so that the full value is obtained for the whole product. At this Clitters Mines, for example, we hear that when the new undertakers first got to work without using magnetic separators their concentrates contained a percentage of wolfram, which they could not eliminate, and, in consequence, the tin smelters gave £20 per ton less for the company's concentrates than the actual price of tin warranted. In addition, the value of the wolfram wrapped up with the tin was lost. Now, by the use of magnets the wolfram is completely separated from the tin, which accordingly commands full price, while the wolfram itself is also a valuable article of commerce. This is but a first rough sketch of the new conditions and changes coming about in the oldest mining region of the United Kingdom, if not one of the oldest in the world.

BOTTOMLEY'S LATEST.

We cannot unfortunately say "his last" because he has hitherto proved to be irrepressible, as many a foolish person who has trusted him knows to his cost. We have received yet another circular produced by this wily gentleman. It is forwarded by a man who has suffered at his hands, and he in doing so takes a fling at us thus: "I have lost very seriously in South Africans through holding in spite of your reiterated warnings, but the fact is that you have expressed throughout such perverse, in my opinion, views on certain phases of the question that one had little faith in your prognostications." Just so; the views did not consort with bucket-shop-inspired hopes and so they were "perverse." We had nothing to sell. Does the writer wish to class us with Bottomley, or to blame us for his Kaffir losses? He can if it is any gratification to him and truth will prevail just the same. After all a mind that can be taken in by Bottomley's snares is not likely to be impressed by anything THE INVESTORS' REVIEW can say. This circular, for instance, is precisely of the same impudently grotesque yet plausible type familiarised by all its predecessors. We thought when the trick was performed of turning the so-called "Joint Stock Trust" over to a "voluntary" liquidator under pretence that certain interests were about to buy its assets and make them valuable, that the whole thing was the usual flummery.

So it proves, for this circular discloses that there is no substantial backing to the promises of assistance. Several "financial groups," a "syndicate," and so on, anonymous benefactors "acting with me," that is Bottomley's machinery always and the action of the play never gets further than the levy of a fresh contribution. Accordingly he and those working with him, perhaps a clerk or two, have decided to form a "salvage syndicate" of £50,000, and half this "capital" is to be reserved for subscription by "friends," who have been duped and submitted in the past. "I am prepared to offer you," says Bottomley, "subject to an immediate reply, a participation in this fund to the extent of £50, and will take the shares you hold in the Selected Gold Mines of Australia, Ltd., at the price of 12s. 6d. per share on account of such subscription, so that all you have to do in returning the enclosed form is to send a cheque for £18 15s., together with your certificate for the Selected shares, and in exchange I will send you a receipt for a participation in the fund to the full amount above mentioned." Kill two birds with one stone this would. Wipe out the Selected Gold Mines and provide Mr. Bottomley and associates with a little further cash to go on with. If people will be duped by this sort of thing they must not come to us for sympathy. Well, well, but is not the dear Horatio so very persuasive? Nothing "perverse" about his style is there? "You pays your money and you never sees it again."

MEXICAN RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

The excitement on the Stock Exchange the other day when the Mexican Railway market was awaiting the dividend announcement hardly recalled, perhaps, the experiences of many years ago, when Mexican railway issues were amongst the principal gambling counters of the House. But there has undoubtedly occurred a considerable revival of speculation in the stocks during the last year or so, and especially since the currency legislation of the Government gave a certain stability to the exchange, and the estimates of dividend for the past six months were so wide and varied that the announcement was certainly contemplated with a considerable amount of eagerness, not to say trepidation. Two or three weeks before the declaration was due sanguine "bulls" put the probable dividend on first preference stock as high as 7 per cent., and even 7½ per cent., per annum, but as the day for the announcement drew near much more modest views prevailed, and a distribution at 6½ per cent. per annum would have satisfied the most optimistic. Six to 6½ per cent. was the general anticipation on Thursday of last week, and the directors split the difference as near as possible by announcing a return at 6½ per cent. per annum. Prices scarcely moved on the declaration, chiefly because quotations had previously gone back rather heavily in accordance with the less rosy dividend prospects. On the whole the company seems to have enjoyed a fairly prosperous half-year. Gross receipts were \$3,161,955, or \$208,001 more than in the corresponding period of 1904, towards which the passenger traffic contributed \$77,455, goods and live stock \$111,496, and express and sundry earnings \$33,979. In passengers' luggage the gain was very trifling, and pulque showed an unimportant falling off. Total number of passengers carried was 516,370, or an advance of 20,970, first-class improving 1,800, second 2,635, and third 16,535. Under goods there was a gain of 21,144 tons at 344,837 tons, apart from the company's own materials, the gain in national merchandise being 6,921 and in foreign 14,223 tons. Principal increases were in building stone, bricks, &c., sand, lime, and cement, coal and coke, ores, dry goods, clothing and shoes, hardware, nails, and other similar products, coffee, seeds, and liquors, and sundry articles of a miscellaneous character classed under general merchandise. On the other hand several items showed declines to a rather important extent, chief among which we may mention firewood, Indian corn, pulque, machinery, and castings. Against the gain in

receipts we have a rise of no less than \$200,255 to \$1,941,244 in the working expenditure, the proportion to gross receipts being up from 58.94 per cent. to 61.39 per cent. But some such increase was inevitable sooner or later, because, as we have been pointing out for some time past, the directors have recently adopted the policy of charging necessary improvements to the system occasioned by the heavier traffic, not to revenue, but to sundry renewal funds previously built up. In fact they actually created important debits under some abstracts, and we have still to note an excess of revenue expenditure on permanent way renewal account of £10,165, carried forward. This is about £2,000 less than at the end of June, but a credit to carriage and wagon renewal account of £8,734 has been converted into a deficiency, and even if we allow the increased credit of £3,458 standing to locomotive renewal account, there is still a balance on the wrong side of £6,974. Last half-year maintenance of way cost \$259,301, or \$45,738 more, of which \$15,681 related to special renewals, locomotive expenses went up by \$77,930, despite a smaller allowance on special account, and there were also important increases under telegraph expenses, traffic expenses, general expenses, and general charges in London and Mexico. General expenses were swollen by the compensation payments in connection with the Metlac Bridge accident about a year ago. The result is a nett balance better by \$7,746 at \$1,220,711, but the increase from 23.09d. to 24.49d. in the average value of the dollar again stood the company in good stead, and the sterling equivalent was £124,563 against £116,697. Gain on exchange was £811 compared with £2,755, and the Vera Cruz Pier and Launch gave an improved revenue of £10,491, so that with transfer fees and interest the aggregate nett income is £137,951, an advance of about £10,000. Debenture interest takes £60,000, and £2,000 is again written off suspense accounts leaving £75,951, to which is added £2,988 brought in making £78,939. But the dividend at $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum on the first preference stock requires £78,219, so that the directors distribute more than was earned, and the credit carried forward is no more than £720. Traffic receipts for the current half-year show a very satisfactory increase, but we fancy a pretty considerable growth in working expenses must again be anticipated.

Passing Events.

A queer notice is that issued from the offices of the Transvaal Land and Exploration Company, which may be regarded as a member of the octopus Wernher-Beit group. Several weeks ago we alluded in our mining notes to rumours of "wonderful" finds on its property, but the rumours were not definite enough as to whether these were finds of gold, precious stones, or tin. Anyway, for a moment of two they sufficed as an excuse to hoist the price of the shares. On profit-takers rushing in the price fell, and nothing more was heard until about a week ago, when there was a startling rise of $\frac{1}{8}$ at a time when the Kaffir Circus was supposed to be dead. This gave gamblers another opportunity to make a bit at someone's expense, and, after seizing it, the price once more relapsed. Now, after several days have gone by, the secretary issues the following:—"With reference to the notice issued on April 19, 1906, regarding the discovery of tin on one of this company's farms, and to the fact that rumours and statements regarding such discovery obtained currency prior to the issue of the company's official notice, I am instructed to state that news of the discovery was spread by the inhabitants of the district before it reached even the directors of the company. The company was naturally desirous of obtaining reliable information before making any official announcement." Can these "inhabitants" be identified, and the means of communication between them and the market gamblers be discovered?

Evidently a strenuous and concerted effort is about to be made to accomplish the unification of the debts

issued by the various Australian colonies now embraced in the Commonwealth. We should not object much to this provided there were no fresh advances wrapped up in the unification scheme, and that the utmost care was taken to curb the borrowing tendencies of the different settlements after the unification has been brought about. If the debts of the colonies are to be massed together in one great stock there ought to be no power left to these individual settlements to contract further debts on local account. All borrowings in future should be made through the Commonwealth alone, and on its responsibility. Furthermore, in any unification scheme something like a working and effective provision ought to be inserted for the redemption, the gradual extinction, of the enormous aggregate of already existing debts. The sinking funds, as hitherto constituted, have been a mockery, and our financiers will not be doing their duty either to the inhabitants of Australia or to investing classes here if they do not insist when the unification project comes up for elaboration upon the insertion of stringent provisions for debt redemption.

What debt is doing for the inhabitants of Australia and its Governments may to some extent be guessed from the speech of Mr. Reid, the leader of the Commonwealth Opposition. A brief telegram only comes through telling us that he has formulated a policy which includes a fight to the death against Socialism, for a fiscal truce, federal old-age pensions, and so on. "Federal old-age pensions," the sop to Cerberus. First produce misery by loading the people with intolerable burdens, and then keep them from rebellion by a pauper's dole.

Does the sudden outcry which has arisen about the horrible condition of part at least of London water mean that London ratepayers are presently to be asked to pay for a new supply? That is quite possible. We ought never to have been asked to pay for the property of the old water companies, least of all the monstrous price exacted, and it is only adding insult to injury in the usual manner to forthwith proceed to load upon the backs of the citizens another £30,000,000 or £40,000,000 in order that a fresh supply of pure water may be substituted for the tainted one bought so dear.

The news from India about the famine continues suggestive of a rapid spread of suffering. Telegraphing on the 20th inst., the Governor-General gave the figures and facts covering the week ended April 14. These show that the total number in receipt of relief had risen by that date to 496,000, of whom 200,000 were in Agra and Oudh, 99,000 in Ajmer and Rajputana, 112,000 in Central India, and 66,000 in Bombay. In the first-named two provinces the numbers on relief are increasing except where field work still gives employment, but prices do not seem to be rising at any point, although the spring harvest has been very poor in affected States and fodder is scarce in many places causing the condition of the cattle to deteriorate. Crops, however, are said to be in good condition in Bombay except in the affected districts. On the whole the prospect is not particularly reassuring.

May we hope that, after all, the trouble amongst the blacks in and around Natal will not develop into a great conflict? It is said that Bambata is fleeing into Natal from the Zulu country accompanied by some 300 followers. If that be so, then all fear of an early rising must surely be at an end, and with judicious handling there ought not to be any danger from that quarter in the future. Bambata cannot do very much with the 300 followers, but we think the farmers in Vryheid and elsewhere within range of this depredatory rebel ought to have rifles and ammunition served out to them so that they may be able in emergency to defend themselves. The columns of volunteers cannot be everywhere at once, and as they seem to have no adequate maps it is quite possible that a cunning native familiar with the country will often outwit them, and until caught do far more mischief than his mere fighting strength might lead people to suppose.

In face of the policy of the directors to reduce dividends, beginning with the current year, the annual

meeting of the Great Fingall Consolidated was an important function. In a somewhat guarded way, as though afraid to commit himself to definite forecasts, the chairman tried to reassure shareholders as to the future. But the most important part of his address was that wherein he enunciated the future policy of the directors, for here he said something quite new. As we have said in our analyses, the company can display a really fine array of cash and other liquid assets, but when the mine is exhausted, as it must be in process of time, it is not the intention of the board to distribute this wealth amongst the shareholders. It has been the policy hitherto, he explained, to carry on the company as a permanent industrial concern, and with this in view it is the intention of the directors to gather together sufficient resources to be able to take up another mine when the present one has yielded up its last ton of ore. Do the directors fear the life of the mine will be short? must have been the question many shareholders put to themselves, and conscious of such doubts the chairman immediately replied: "We do not wish this reference to be understood as meaning that we are within easily measurable distance of the end of the Great Fingall mine." There is, he went on to say, a great deal of exploratory work still to be undertaken on the property, "and it would be a grave error of judgment to assume that we anticipate that that work will be unsuccessful." So shareholders must derive what comfort and encouragement they can from this pronouncement.

A circular has been issued by the secretary of the United South Africa Association, one of the promoters of the Premier Diamond Company, the first two sentences of which run as follows:—"My directors are informed that a rumour is in circulation that the association has disposed of the bulk of its shares in the Premier Diamond Company at low prices, and that considerable anxiety is being felt by the shareholders in consequence. I am instructed to inform you that this rumour is absolutely without foundation; the Association's holding is the same as it was at the date of the last balance-sheet." We have not heard of this rumour, and it would be interesting to learn who have made it their business to inform the directors that a report of the kind was going about. The strange thing is that, despite this alleged rumour, the shares have recently been astonishingly strong, when the natural effect of such a report would be to weaken them. It seems a little puzzling, but, then, have not the movements in Premiers been very puzzling for some months past? The directors of the Association take the opportunity of saying they are pleased that recent advices from their Johannesburg managers are very satisfactory. Could nothing more explicit have been written whilst they had their pens in hand?

The shareholders of the Ivanhoe Gold Corporation have acted wisely in rejecting the directorial proposal to split the £5 shares of the company into five shares of £1 each. As we said last week, it was not a desirable thing to do, and it is a promising sign to note that shareholders are not swayed by the casuistry that such splitting improves the marketability of the share. The gambler might prefer shares of a smaller denomination, but to the investor it should make no difference. No advantages have attended the splitting of the shares of other West Australian companies, and there could be no better guide to shareholders than experience. At the meeting, too, Mr. Govett, the chairman, gave voice to warnings to be seriously heeded. These referred to the important matters of the impoverishment of the ore in depth and wages, subjects dealt with in other articles in the present issue. Mr. Govett said he does not grudge the men their high pay, but he fears a poorer time is coming for them. Some day the questions would arise for answer:—Were they going to let the poor mines shut down, and would the men be content to be unemployed, or would they accept a lower wage? It is inevitable that this will have to be decided some time in the future. Not a happy prospect for the Westralian gold mining industry.

The English military garrison in Egypt is to be increased by 3,000 men to a total of 5,000, in consequence of the dispute which has arisen with the Sultan of Turkey over the delimitation of the frontier at Tabah. Will the cost of this addition to the garrison be borne by the Egyptian Treasury or ours? A most alarming picture of the whole position is drawn by the *Tribune*. If half of it be true—Turkish troops massed around Damascus, unrest all over Syria and Arabia, discontent among the population of Egypt, &c.—twice 5,000 men will soon be less than enough for the work to be done. But the storm may blow over, unless the Sultan is being egged on by someone on whose support he counts.

Critical Index To New Investments.

LAND AND MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT, LIMITED.

This company finds that the method hitherto adopted of making frequent reissues of debentures to replace those paid off is not only troublesome and expensive, but inconvenient as well, and the directors consider that the time has come to consolidate the various issues and to reduce the interest to a rate more in accordance with existing conditions and the very ample security offered. At present there are outstanding £160,700 5 per cent. debentures and £222,100 4½ per cent. series "B" debentures, which are redeemable by annual drawings, extending in the case of the 5 per cents. until 1917 and of the 4½ per cents. until 1928, and it has been decided to create a 4 per cent. debenture stock for £400,000, repayable at par in 1956, or at 105 on six months' notice, at any time after November 11, 1930. Of this amount £17,200 is offered for public subscription at par, and the balance will be issued in exchange for the existing debentures, holders of the 5 per cent. issue being offered £100 in stock and £2 10s. in cash, and holders of the 4½ per cent. bonds £100 in stock and £2 in cash for each £100. The trust deed provides that so long as any of the existing debentures remain outstanding the new stock will have a first floating charge, ranking *pari passu* with the debentures on the undertaking and assets, including the uncalled capital of £750,000. After deducting liabilities other than the existing debentures, the remaining assets were valued on March 31, 1905, at £642,527, of which £608,869 consisted of loans secured on lands and property in Egypt. The business done is a profitable one, the dividends during the five years to March 31, 1905, having been raised from 7 per cent. to 10 per cent., and the position seems to justify the directors' efforts to borrow more cheaply.

SAN PAULO MATCH FACTORY, LIMITED.

A Brazilian undertaking, known as the Companhia Nacional (Brazileira) de Phosphoros de Seguranca, was formed in 1904 to take over the business of Messrs. Britto and Co., match manufacturers at San Paulo, Brazil, and now wishes to dispose of the same to this company. The capital of the Brazilian company was only 2,000,000 milreis, but its assets, including £54,895 for trade marks, patents, and privileges, are valued at £222,088, subject to a debt of £36,878 on capital account, and for these Messrs. Britto accept £80,000 in cash, £60,000 in shares, and £40,000 in cash or shares, according to the reception accorded to the present issue. This, however, is not the price at which the present company secures the property, as the S.P.M. Syndicate intervenes, and stipulates for £86,000 in cash, £105,000 in shares, and £45,000 in cash or shares, the difference representing a profit of £56,000. Of the total capital, amounting to £200,000 in £1 shares, 35,000 are reserved for future issue, and the remaining 60,000 were offered for subscription at par, together with £100,000 6 per cent. first mortgage debentures at 97½. Owing, it is said, to the protective tariff, the importation of matches into Brazil is practically prohibited, and from the fact that the tax of 20 reis or .31d. per box on matches manufactured in the country is estimated to produce

£426,250, the consumption is put down at 330,000,000 boxes per annum. As, however, the trade is controlled by a convention, regulating the output of the factories, and we are not told what proportion is allotted to this company, these figures are meaningless. Profits are only given for the period from September 12, 1904, to December 31, 1905, and are stated at Rs.607,878,027, or equivalent to £30,103 per annum, but it is impossible to judge from the results of such a limited period what the real earning powers are, and we should like to know why the Brazilian company has been so ready to part with the property for so much less than the nominal value of the assets.

WEST HAM GAS COMPANY.

Tenders were invited by Parr's Bank for £35,000 perpetual 4 per cent. debenture stock and £100,000 consolidated ordinary stock of this company at a minimum price of 106 per cent. in each case, to provide funds for prepayment installations, for plant at the new auxiliary station at East Ham, and for other purposes. Before this issue the capital amounted to £1,203,415, made up of £193,300 4 per cent. debenture stock, £185,000 5 per cent. preference stock, £745,872 consolidated ordinary stock, and £79,243 received from premiums, while the reserve and insurance funds on December 31 were £30,625, invested in India 3 per cents. During the past five years the manufacture of gas has increased from 1,135,289,000 to 1,477,210,000 cubic ft., and the nett profits, after payment of debenture interest, &c., have risen from £28,215 to £51,721, the figures for 1905 being £2,688 over those of the preceding year, notwithstanding a reduction of 1d. per 1,000 cubic ft. in the price charged. The company, therefore, seems to be making very steady progress, and both issues should be sound enough investments.

CAPE TOWN AND DISTRICT GAS LIGHT AND COKE CO., LIMITED.

Incorporated in 1890 to amalgamate the gas works at Cape Town with those of the South African Gas Company at Woodstock, this company has had a pretty successful career, the nett profits having risen from £15,192 in 1896 to £24,674 in 1904, while the dividend for the last five of the nine years has been at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. The paid-up share capital is £200,000, and, in addition, the company has issued £50,000 6 per cent. first mortgage debentures, repayable on November 1, 1910, and £100,000 consolidated 4½ per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, forming part of an authorised total of £150,000. Further funds are now required for the purpose of providing additional plant and mains, for extensions to suburbs, and for the repayment of temporary loans and other purposes, and an issue of £50,000 5 per cent. registered mortgage debentures was this week offered for subscription at par. These debentures are repayable at par on December 31, 1950, but may be redeemed earlier on six months' notice, and are secured by a mortgage on certain specified freehold lands, buildings, &c., with the fixed plant and machinery thereon, and by a floating charge upon the entire undertaking and property, subject to the prior issues of debentures and debenture stock.

LONDON ELECTROBUS CO., LIMITED.

We would extend a hearty welcome to any scheme for eliminating from our streets the awful smell and noise of the petrol-driven 'bus, if it could be shown that there was the least chance of its success, but the project put forward in connection with this company is so palpably nothing more than an attempt to snatch a profit from its promotion that it does not deserve serious consideration from investors. To begin with, an arrangement has been made to pay to a Mr. Montague Jerome Ward de Martigny, who carries on business as the "International Motor Traffic Syndicate," £20,000 in cash and £5,000 in deferred shares for nothing more substantial than the right to the exclu-

sive use within a radius of 15 miles from Charing Cross during a period of seven years of an invention of which no description is given, but which we believe is not specially designed for electrically-propelled vehicles. Even this right is subject to at least 50 motor omnibus chassis per annum being purchased from the holders of the patent at £700 each, so that the company pays £25,000 for the privilege of guaranteeing that someone will make a handsome profit for that period. It must not be forgotten either that £5,000 of this sum consists of deferred shares, entitled to half the surplus profits after 10 per cent. has been paid on the ordinary shares, and that if the promoters' estimates are at all near the mark this means a present of anything up to £50,000 per annum indefinitely to the lucky holder. This is a bad start, but it is not the only way in which the company is bled, as although the said Montague Jerome Ward de Martigny professes to pay the preliminary expenses, he exacts £8,500 for the purpose, together with the right to nominate two of the directors, and to take, at a premium of 5s. per share, any shares which may be issued after the general allotment. The total capital is £305,000 in 300,000 ordinary shares, and the above-mentioned deferred shares and the ordinary shares were offered for subscription to provide for the promoters' cash profit and for the purchase of 300 omnibuses. Having made his own profit, Mr. de Martigny, just to show he is not greedy, brings in a friend, the Securities Exchange, which gets a commission of 5 per cent. in cash for underwriting 50,000 shares, but if what is said about the Exchange be true, it would find it impossible to make good its guarantee upon one-tenth of that number. Such being the inception of the company, it seems hardly worth while to examine the estimates of results, but we may mention that these are on the same scale as the vendors' ideas of the value of their property, and £135,780 is put down as the probable annual profit. Although the lists were not to be closed until Thursday, the directors took the extraordinary step of sending out allotment letters the day before, and a letter from the secretary admits that this was done because of the criticisms to which the prospectus had been submitted. The directors describe the comments as unjustifiable, but if they really thought so it would have been fairer to all concerned to bring forward proofs of the genuineness of their scheme than to rush out allotments in this fashion. We believe that counsel's opinion is being taken as to the legality of the proceeding, but the directors ought in any case to return the money at once.

FORESTAL LAND, TIMBER AND RAILWAYS CO., LIMITED (ARGENTINA).

The objects with which this company has been formed include the purchase of about 107 miles of light railway, 1,231,202 acres of freehold timber lands and two large quebracho extract factories in the Chaco district of Argentina, and a comprehensive scheme of this kind naturally calls for ample funds. Accordingly the capital has been fixed at £1,000,000, divided equally into preference shares, entitled to a cumulative dividend of 6 per cent. and 25 per cent. of the surplus profits available for dividend, and ordinary shares, all of £1 each, and in addition there is £550,000 in 5 per cent. first mortgage debentures authorised. All the ordinary and 50,000 of the preference shares are issued to the vendors in part payment of the purchase price, and 450,000 preference shares are offered for subscription at par, together with £400,000 of the debentures at 98, but firm applications have been received for £105,400 of the debentures and 400,855 preference shares which will be allotted in full. The properties have been valued by Mr. H. H. Leng, of Buenos Ayres, at £804,105, and the stock, debtors, cash, furniture, &c., are certified by the auditor of the vendor company to have been worth on December 31 last £520,021, making a total of £1,324,126. Deducting £495,961 for liabilities which are assumed by the English company, and add-

ing £110,000 for estimated balance of cash out of the proceeds of the present issue, the total value is £938,165. Leaseholds are not included in this figure, and no value has been put upon them, but £405,163 is asked for goodwill, and the purchase price has been fixed at £1,080,000 plus a sum of £153,328 in respect of the 1905 profits, payable as to £683,328 in cash, £50,000 in preference shares and £500,000 in ordinary shares. Nett trading profits for 1904 and 1905 amounted to £142,125 and £186,038, from which were deducted £36,472 and £43,863 for depreciation and reserves. Gross profits for the second year were £238,000, and it is estimated that after providing for administration and other expenses and depreciation, and setting aside £22,500 for reserve, the nett balance would be £146,000, of which debenture interest and sinking fund and preference dividend would absorb £68,230, leaving £77,770 available for final distribution, and as there is small reason to doubt that these results will be obtained the issues seem well enough secured. Messrs. Emile Erlanger and Co., who are promoting the company, guarantee the whole of the debentures offered, and pay expenses of advertising and all brokerages and commission in consideration of receiving the difference between the issue price of the debentures and 89 per cent. of their face value, and in addition they get from the vendors £20,000 in cash and £10,000 ordinary shares. They also guarantee 100,000 of the preference shares for an option to purchase 100,000 of them at 24s. per share.

ISSUES BY TENDER, &c.

SCOTTISH AMERICAN INVESTMENT COMPANY.—Holders of ordinary shares are offered an issue of 50,000 ordinary shares of £2 each in the proportion of one for every five held at £3 10s. per share. The price is payable in three instalments, of which the first was due on the 25th inst., and the last will fall on July 1, 1907, but the notice sent to us does not state when the second has to be met.

Letters to the Editors.

THE NEW RUSSIAN LOAN.

WHAT IT TEACHES.

SIRS,—Politics, as you justly say, are only of interest to your readers in so far as they are connected with finance, but with regard to the Russian loan which is just coming out, two important political facts have to be seriously considered, because they will be of great importance for the future.

The first is that England has again taken a share in a Russian loan, after having abstained for many years from doing so.

The second is that Germany has, for the first time for some years, withdrawn from a Russian loan, about which the negotiations had already been completed in Berlin.

With regard to England, I am convinced that either before taking the loan the Government was consulted, or more probably that the Government distinctly advised the loan being underwritten here.

With regard to Germany, I know that the group of bankers under the guidance of Messrs. Mendelsohn, the so-called "Russen-Consortium," were willing, and anxious, to underwrite a large proportion of this loan (I believe between £20,000,000 and £30,000,000), but the German Government at the last moment forbade them to have anything to do with it, and the excuse then was put forward that the almost simultaneous issue of the German and Prussian loans prevented the German bankers from taking a share in the underwriting. As a matter of fact, the German group in question is furious, having been deprived of what they consider their share of the plunder. Of course, the above statement with regard to both of these groups will, no doubt, if necessary, be officially contradicted. The cynical advice, never to believe anything until it has been officially contradicted, has been ascribed to various people, but whoever may be the author, it is certainly applicable in this instance, for I

shall presently show how important the bearings of these facts are for the future; and, of course, it is not desired to let the facts leak out already.

In order to understand what has happened during the last year in the world, it is necessary to rightly appreciate the *causa causans*, viz., the German Emperor. This monarch is generally represented in English newspapers as a mixture of the clever dilettante and Machiavelli, with far-reaching, deep-laid plans, which he pursues notwithstanding all obstacles. Now, nothing is further from the truth than this idea. Germany at the present moment is governed like an Asiatic despotism; every independent individual is eliminated from the Government, Army, Navy, and Civil Service, and none but men ready to flatter and swallow their principles—and a good many other things—have the slightest chance of any career. The unfortunate natural servility of the people has brought about a state of things in which this monarch, contrary to the Constitution, contrary to the rights of the other German Princes, and contrary to what any civilised nation would and ought to stand, disposes of the resources of the country, and directs its policy in an absolute way, which, for instance, the Emperor of Russia would not dare to adopt. A strong man, your readers will say! "Nothing of the kind; an incredibly vain, headstrong, and conceited man, with a certain dangerous cleverishness and half culture, even eloquence very often observable in similar 'cases,' who has never found anybody independent enough to stand up against him, and who has now brought the Government and the Services into such a dependent and servile condition that it will be very difficult to deprive him of this usurped power."

The present German Chancellor's occupation, for instance, consists mainly in explaining away imprudent speeches which his monarch has made, and he has absolutely no power as far as the policy of Germany is concerned. This international policy is entirely directed by the Emperor, who is quite convinced of his transcendental ability to do so, and who changes his mind generally once every 24 hours, and who has consequently succeeded in offending most of the European and other civilised nations, and rendering suspicious of his purposes those who are not open enemies. The personal quarrel which broke out some time ago between him and our King, caused for the greater part probably by some remarks concerning our King, which in a less august personage would have been called "indiscreet" and even offensive, is perfectly well known, and has been the cause of most of the trouble which Europe has experienced during the last 12 months.

The German Emperor knew that the "entente" between us and France was very near its realisation, and tried very hard to get "in" beforehand an interview with President Loubet during his last year's trip in the Mediterranean. It is said that he applied to the King of Italy to get this interview realised, but that the latter, out of regard for England, refused to mediate, so that the interview fell through. In order to punish France, or to show his resentment, the celebrated visit of the Kaiser to Tangier took place, which was contrary to the official declaration of Prince (then Count) Buelow that Germany was not concerned in the Morocco question. The Kaiser went to create trouble for France, and intended, by his triumphant entry there, and, no doubt, one of his usual speeches, to create a great stir. How often must it be preached to English readers that the Kaiser's real policy is show, effect, and pose. He has "specialised," therefore, in triumphant entries and speeches which have to be explained away. What happened to turn the plan of this pageantry into a fiasco? Was it that the Kaiser's courage failed him when it came to a decisive step, or was it, as some say, a telegram, stating that anarchists intended to make an attempt on his life? Anyhow, the ceremony ended in a fizzle, and the celebrated Algeciras Conference took place, which deceived nobody, and was simply a conference "à la papa" to save Germany's face. The boundless vanity of the man, which, again, in a less august personage would be considered pathological, the maladif desire to

"show off" *coûte que coûte*, found vent again in resentment when the result became known, and hence the telegram to the Austrian Prime Minister, with its insulting *critique* on Italy and reflection on Russia, and hence finally the refusal to allow the German bankers to take part in the Russian loan is the tangible sign of this resentment.

The unfortunate part is that all this tends directly to the danger of war in the near future, for, unfortunately, the German nation—which, as a whole, is as innocent of the actions of its eccentric monarch as a newly-born babe, although the German Press (the vilest of its kind) is quite ready to defend him—will presently see a coalition of France, England, Italy, Japan, and Russia against it, and will have to fight for its existence against odds which it has never had to encounter before. The only possible aid may come from Austria, but it is exceedingly unlikely that Austria will give this help, especially if the storm does not break until the death of the aged Austrian Emperor. Besides, there will be 20 ways of forcing Germany to fight, in which case the *casus federis* with Austria does not arise, for if we come to a peaceful settlement with Russia by obtaining assurances and concessions as to Afghanistan, Persia, &c., against our giving them a free hand with regard to Constantinople (which since our settlement with France as to Egypt, &c., is not of vital importance to us), Germany will be obliged to fight Russia, for its interests in Turkey and Asia Minor are so great that it will have to defend them.

This seems to me the danger signal of the new Russian loan, and I thought it might interest your readers to hear the views of one who is strongly opposed to war, and who would like to do his best to prevent it.

Yours faithfully,

ESCEE WIN.

London, April 24, 1906.

THAT MINING TRUST.

SIRS,—I have read your reference to my letter *re* "Mining Trust" in your current issue, and now write to disclaim any intention of implying that in recommending these shares to your readers you did so with any knowledge that they were at, or about, their highest figures, and likely to depreciate. In using the term "honourable," with which you find fault, I tried to differentiate between your journal and similar publications which are open to the suspicion of occasionally wilfully misleading their readers.

I may say that I did not dip very deeply into your "Trust," somewhat to my own advantage, so far. With reference, however, to one of the mines I bought, viz., Great Fingalls, I should like to point out that the monthly returns of bullion produced are utterly unreliable. No doubt, as you say, Messrs. Bewick, Moreing, and Co., are a firm of good standing, and the mine may be honestly and capably managed by them, but, all the same, the accounts are "cooked." This can be proved by a comparison of the output of gold for the year 1904 as given in the report, with the statement for the same period of Mr. Rolker, a mining engineer of repute, who reported on the mine last year. The official statement for the year 1904 is as follows:—

	Tons.	Fine Gold Ozs.
Mill (by amalgamation).....	152,499	113,096'15
Concentrates.....		11,835'15
Cyaniding sands.....		24,284'47
Cyaniding slimes.....		6,509'58
Treatment of slag.....		114'22

Ozs. fine gold 155,839'58

Mr. Rolker's statement gives the following figures, taken from the company's bullion book at the mine:—

	Tons.	Fine Gold Ozs.
Mill (extracted in boxes and on plates).....	152,499	117,123'50
From concentrates (bar gold).....		5,144'32
From concentrates (between products, estimated).....		876'29
From concentrates (sent to stock).....		6,214'54
From sands.....		24,163'73
From slimes.....		6,630'31
From tailings sent to dam for storage (estimated).....		1,819'72
		161,972'44

The above shows a difference (between 161,972 ozs. and 155,839 ozs.) of over 6,000 ozs., or over £25,000; in other words, that amount of bullion, though actually extracted from the tonnage milled in 1904, was held over to bring up returns in following

years. That this is the explanation is borne out by the fact that while the bullion book for May, 1905 (quoted by Mr. Rolker), shows only 7,283 ozs. recovered from the mill by amalgamation, the monthly card makes it 9,526 ozs., or a difference of 2,243 ozs.

So long as a company has fairly reliable managers, shareholders can regard such manipulations as the above with equanimity, but the question naturally arises, how much of the recent selling has originated with those who have access to the bullion book?

Yours truly,

GEO. W. MACKAY.

2, Craigcrook Place, Edinburgh,
April 24, 1906.

SOUTH AFRICAN MINE RETURNS.*

The output of gold for March was the largest monthly aggregate so far recorded, for it totalled 424,773 ozs. for the Witwatersrand itself, and 18,958 ozs. from the outside districts, making a return of 443,731 fine ozs. of a value of £1,884,815. Compared with the figures for February this is an increase of 36,055 ozs. in weight, and of £153,151 in value, and exceeds the previous best, of last December, by 12,129 ozs. This was achieved despite a further loss of 219 natives. But it does not show actual progress measured by the daily output, which was 14,313 ozs. against 14,559 ozs. in February, a decline of 246 ozs. So there is nothing in the so-called "record" to boast about. Neither is there anything important in the individual returns to draw attention to, an exception to a general run of increases being an all round decrease in the Crown Reef output and profit. The cable from the Crown Deep states that two tube mills are working and that one is in operation at the Jumpers Deep.

MINE.	January.			February.			March.		
	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.
Angelo.....	Tons. 15,153	Ozs. 8,264	£ 15,046	Tons. 14,908	Ozs. 7,967	£ 14,521	Tons. 16,088	Ozs. 7,800	£ 10,678
Barrett.....	2,550	415	..	425	550	..	..	435	..
Bonanza.....	8,450	4,660	10,000	7,420	4,558	10,439	6,800	4,248	8,684
Buffelsdorp Estate.....	..	542	1,181	..	527	1,093	..	461	926
City and Suburban.....	25,300	9,729	17,297	23,400	8,904	16,750	25,900	9,478	17,273
Comet, New.....	15,473	5,630	4,966	14,397	5,244	3,910	17,500	6,354	4,289
Cons. Langlaagte.....	16,265	5,938	4,886	15,639	5,287	4,423	17,474	5,811	5,321
Cons. Main Reef.....	17,724	6,242	8,048	16,300	5,753	7,068	17,715	6,077	7,173
Crown Deep.....	29,108	11,443	20,900	26,648	10,721	20,000	27,310	11,120	21,200
Crown Reef.....	20,168	11,399	25,005	18,007	10,996	25,119	20,298	10,987	23,030
Driefontein.....	22,653	7,601	6,477	19,016	6,491	3,702	19,639	8,711	3,318
Durban Roodepoort.....	10,995	4,562	7,300	9,705	4,630	6,500	10,785	4,517	6,250
Do. Deep.....	10,130	3,798	1,850	9,410	3,397	1,100	11,040	4,023	2,200
Ferreira.....	20,245	12,686	29,298	19,150	12,200	29,109	21,400	12,703	29,049
Do Deep.....	19,400	12,090	31,100	17,308	11,638	29,500	19,744	12,275	30,300
French Rand.....	17,000	5,620	3,223	16,400	5,063	3,308	18,500	5,807	3,057
Geldenhuis Deep.....	22,200	9,621	14,150	20,660	9,142	13,750	23,860	9,913	14,850
Geldenhuis Estate.....	17,265	7,758	16,604	15,675	6,647	14,533	17,165	7,271	15,012
Ginsberg.....	8,181	2,861	2,131	7,161	2,875	3,245	7,759	3,030	2,729
Glencairn.....	14,386	4,090	5,017	12,144	3,877	4,857	13,226	4,122	7,564
Glen Deep.....	14,370	5,609	7,150	14,710	5,498	6,050	13,940	6,090	7,000
Glynn's Lydenberg.....	2,050	1,291	..	1,980	1,264	..	2,200	1,411	..
Goch New.....	17,280	5,088	3,575	14,052	4,922	4,077	14,492	5,609	4,762
Heriot.....	9,300	3,819	4,411	8,410	3,519	3,644	9,260	3,813	3,853
Jubilee.....	5,620	1,901	..	5,032	1,766	..	5,544	1,806	..
Jumpers.....	12,900	4,809	5,594	11,000	4,320	5,105	11,200	4,447	4,300
Jumpers Deep.....	15,991	6,068	2,850	14,700	5,335	2,000	15,741	5,870	2,000
Knight's.....	29,040	9,162	8,408	27,450	8,962	9,185	28,300	9,151	9,595
Knight's Deep.....	22,402	7,576	7,956	20,888	7,413	9,174	22,375	7,653	8,503
Laucaster.....	13,883	4,040	448*	13,403	3,775	134*	14,660	3,708	1,022*
Lancaster West.....	6,595	2,490	2,791	5,985	2,244	2,427	6,572	2,204	1,646
Langlaagte Deep.....	20,103	6,962	6,550	17,648	6,418	6,200	19,652	7,098	6,450
Do. Estate.....	26,705	7,748	8,200	25,140	8,002	10,400	29,075	9,000	10,000
May Consolidated.....	14,200	5,982	12,461	13,010	5,735	12,033	14,280	6,088	12,244
Meyer and Charlton.....	11,200	4,657	7,508	10,190	4,397	7,501	10,740	4,856	8,499
Modderfontein.....	9,753	3,619	3,203	9,060	3,593	2,832	11,347	4,231	3,358
New Kleinfontein.....	28,522	9,592	7,610	27,752	9,479	9,015	31,218	10,841	12,022
New Unified.....	8,787	2,560	867	7,662	2,072	..	8,888	2,242	..
Nigel.....	6,850	3,712	5,646	6,900	3,659	6,158	7,480	3,028	5,044
Nigel Deep.....	3,188	1,827	982	2,983	1,899	1,960	3,139	1,771	741
North Randfontein.....	14,438	6,230	7,900	13,169	5,763	7,400	14,883	6,000	7,100
Nourse Deep.....	26,500	11,471	15,300	23,235	10,667	14,050	16,440	11,877	15,000
Porges Randfontein.....	14,145	6,229	8,600	12,571	6,038	10,000	13,927	6,000	8,400
Primrose.....	15,902	7,090	13,508	13,925	6,585	13,508	16,115	8,865	13,545
Princess Estate.....	5,810	2,872	1,884	5,526	2,674	1,475	6,585	3,111	2,346
Rietfontein New.....	9,021	4,904	9,030	8,060	4,420	7,541	8,800	4,958	..
Robinson.....	29,500	19,601	18,932	26,675	18,549	48,938	30,500	19,843	50,803
Robinson Cent. Deep.....	15,114	9,419	26,860	14,538	9,413	27,153	16,705	10,483	30,396
Robinson Deep.....	29,325	15,387	33,502	26,038	14,197	34,249	30,604	16,121	30,787
Robins'n R'nd'ntein.....	15,110	5,346	3,720	13,421	5,116	3,700	15,199	5,500	4,000
Roodepoort Central.....	7,872	3,019	2,570	7,323	2,936	2,667	7,527	2,883	2,355
Do Deep.....	9,140	4,002	4,500	8,700	3,907	4,005	10,030	4,445	4,010
Rose Deep.....	24,500	8,829	11,650	22,300	7,876	9,050	25,100	8,943	11,050
Salisbury.....	5,500	1,765	2,000	5,300	1,530	1,620	5,500	1,770	1,640
Sheba.....	..	2940	..	6,100	3,030	..	..	3,250	..
Simmer East.....	16,335	5,344	4,429	15,352	5,633	5,769	16,643	5,680	1,211
Simmer and Jack.....	52,950	19,605	29,687	48,000	18,044	26,605	53,200	20,010	29,744
South Randfontein.....	14,200	5,922	5,100	12,715	5,654	6,000	14,689	6,000	5,900
Transvaal Gold.....	9,061	4,041	..	7,923	3,587	..	8,899	3,867	..
Treasure.....	6,400	2,580	1,497	6,425	2,305	1,021	8,278	2,489	1,023
Van Ryn.....	21,800	8,091	11,099	20,240	7,910	11,011	22,540	8,725	12,505
Village Deep.....	18,991	6,406	5,540	17,555	6,396	5,165	20,440	6,931	5,276
Village Main Reef.....	25,400	9,538	14,424	23,000	9,064	14,495	23,800	9,680	14,527
Vogelstruis Estates.....	6,300	2,376	..	6,275	2,372	..	..	..	..
Weimer.....	8,646	3,870	7,690	7,990	3,993	..	8,940	4,655	7,582
W. Rand Central.....	2,550	1,091	2,775	2,425	1,045	1,000	2,525	1,106	1,050
Windsor.....	4,750	1,311	458*	4,390	1,119	968*	5,120	1,450	7
Wt. Deep.....	25,290	10,265	15,163	24,320	9,845	15,008	26,940	10,703	16,105
Worcester.....	2,460	742	..	2,480	591	..	..	704	..

* Loss.

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
January	—	70,340	199,279	288,824	369,258	428,638
February ..	—	84,405	196,513	289,502	363,811	407,668
March	—	104,127	217,465	308,242	399,823	443,723
April	—	119,588	227,871	305,946	399,166	—
May	74,888	138,602	234,125	314,480	416,395	—
June	19,779	142,780	238,320	308,219	412,317	—
July	25,960	149,179	251,643	307,840	419,505	—
August	28,474	162,750	271,918	312,277	428,581	—
September ..	31,936	170,802	276,197	312,286	416,487	—
October	33,393	181,439	284,544	325,625	415,527	—
November ..	39,075	187,375	279,813	336,167	424,757	—
December ..	52,897	196,023	286,061	362,264	431,594	—
Total ..	238,992	1,704,410	2,963,749	3,779,621*	4,897,221	1,280,029

* Includes 7,949 ozs. not previously declared.

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
January	—	293,786	846,489	1,226,846	1,568,508	1,820,739
February ..	—	345,782	834,739	1,229,726	1,545,371	1,731,664
March	—	442,303	923,739	1,309,329	1,698,340	1,884,815
April	—	507,980	967,936	1,299,576	1,695,550	—
May	31,271	588,746	994,505	1,335,826	1,768,734	—
June	84,014	606,493	1,012,322	1,309,231	1,751,412	—
July	110,269	663,674	1,068,917	1,307,621	1,781,944	—
August	120,953	691,322	1,155,039	1,326,468	1,820,496	—
September ..	135,054	723,522	1,173,241	1,326,506	1,769,124	—
October	141,848	770,706	1,208,669	1,383,167	1,765,047	—
November ..	165,986	795,922	1,188,571	1,427,947	1,804,253	—
December ..	224,692	832,652	1,215,110	1,538,800	1,833,495	—
Total ..	1,014,687	7,259,888	12,589,247	16,054,809*	20,802,074	5,437,218

* Includes £33,766 not declared previously.

WEST AUSTRALIAN CRUSHINGS.

The gold exported and received at the Perth mint in March amounted to 155,575 fine ozs., of the value of £660,839, against 160,917 ozs., worth £683,534, in March 1905, thus showing an appreciable falling off.

Name of Company.	January.		February.		March.	
	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.
Associated G. M. of W. A. ..	8,135	£19,932	8,065	£18,502	8,912	£20,933
Associated Northern Blocks ..	3,360	£16,020	3,091	£14,175	3,370	£15,303
Bellevue Proprietary ..	3,346	1,656	3,477	1,744	—	—
Burbank's Birthday ..	555	246*	—	—	—	—
Cosmopolitan Proprietary ..	8,248	£9,151	7,753	£8,653	8,590	£9,230
Golden Horseshoe ..	19,839	12,937*	18,409	12,640*	—	—
Golden Pole ..	1,170	1,196	1,000	1,026	1,120	1,201
Great Boulder Perseverance ..	13,999	8,362*	11,997	7,332*	—	—
Great Boulder Proprietary ..	12,253	13,067	11,635	12,840	—	—
Great Fingall ..	20,021	11,781*	18,042	10,609*	20,169	10,609*
Hainault ..	4,649	1,643*	—	—	4,697	1,681*
Hannan's Reward ..	660	288	705	369	—	—
Hannan's Star ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ida H. ..	1,400	1,011	1,250	944	1,500	1,093
Ivanhoe ..	17,010	10,433*	15,560	10,019*	17,640	10,274*
Kalgurli ..	9,408	6,888*	8,609	6,286*	9,764	7,109*
Lake View Consols ..	10,489	3,776*	9,716	3,405*	—	—
Menzies Consolidated ..	1,405	£3,443	1,215	£3,608	1,470	—
Merton's Reward ..	2,590	845	3,017	772	—	£3,310
North Kalgurli ..	—	—	425	208	—	—
North White Feather ..	1,785	656*	900	502*	1,860	860*
Oroya-Brownhill ..	10,620	12,719*	9,845	12,647*	10,460	12,572*
Peak Hill Goldfield ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Queensland Menzies ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red Hill ..	1,804	687	1,735	724	1,617	720
Sons of Gwalia ..	10,161	5,206*	9,754	5,190*	10,872	5,572*
South Kalgurli ..	7,550	3,327*	7,150	3,012*	7,710	3,222*
Viivien ..	1,346	537	—	—	—	—
Westralia and East Extension ..	2,900	1,341	3,053	1,623	3,218	1,571
Westralia Mount Morgans ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
White Feather Main Reefs ..	581	474	—	—	—	—

* Fine Gold.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Delhi, Umballa, Kalka.—Interim on the ordinary stock at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

East Indian.—17s. 3d. per cent. on the deferred annuity capital and the deferred annuity capital class D, in addition to the guaranteed interest of £2 per cent. for the half-year, making total return of guaranteed interest and dividend for 1905 of £5 18s.

Lauder Light.—At the rate of 1½ per cent. per annum on the share capital for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Puerto Cabello and Valencia.—1 per cent. on the second charge debenture stock.

BANKS.

Bank of Montreal.—Quarterly at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

Canadian of Commerce.—Usual at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending May 31.

MINES.

Briseis Tin.—Second interim of 9d. per share.

Broken Hill Proprietary.—1s. 6d. per share for the quarter to May 19.

Fremantle Smelter.—First interim for 1906-7 of 5 per cent. (or 1s. per share), payable on May 31.

Greene Consolidated Copper.—Bi-monthly (No. 17) of 4 per cent. on the capital stock.

Pusing Lama Tin.—Fourth interim of 6d. per share.

Tilt Cove Copper.—Final for 1905 of 2s. 6d. per share.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Ashley Gardens Properties.—Interim on the ordinary shares for the past half-year at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum.

Borax Consolidated.—Interim of 5s. per share for the quarter ended Dec. 31, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares.

Burmah Oil.—Final for 1905 on the ordinary shares of 1s. per share (equivalent to 10 per cent. per annum from June 30 to Dec. 31, 1905), making 10 per cent. for the year, placing £50,000 to reserve, £15,000 to insurance fund, and carrying £10,591 forward.

Ceylon Tea Plantations.—Final of 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares, payable 30th inst., making 15 per cent. for 1905.

City of Buenos Ayres Tramways (1904).—1s. 3d. per share for the three months ending March 31.

Debenture Securities Investment.—4 per cent. on the preferred stock, and 6 per cent. on the ordinary stock for the year ended March 31 last, placing £800 to reserve.

Dundee Gem Line Steam Shipping.—2½ per cent. for the year ended March 31, carrying forward £306.

Dunville and Co.—Interim of 10s. per share, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended March 31.

Industrial and General Trust.—For half-year to March 31, at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum on the preference stock; at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock; at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on instalments of capital on the conversion shares (equal to 3 2-5d. per share), placing £50,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £28,911.

J. B. Brooks and Co.—Interim on both preference and ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Feb. 28.

Johns, Son, and Watts.—At the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £325.

London Nitrate.—Interim for the year ending June 30, 1906, of 5s. per share, payable May 1.

Montreal Light, Heat, and Power.—For the three months ending April 30 at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, payable May 15.

Nobel Dynamite Trust.—8 per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent. on the ordinary, with £74,000 to reserve.

Orient Cafés.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the year ended Feb. 28.

Oxford Canal Navigation.—At the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £301.

Pan de Azucar Nitrate.—Interim of 6 per cent., payable May 3.

Parkgate Iron and Steel.—Final of 1s. per share, making 10½ per cent. for the year ended March 31. It is also proposed to pay a bonus of 1s. 8d., per share, against which a call of 1s. 8d. per share will be made, making the shares 18s. 4d. paid.

Powell and Mooney.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the year ended March 1, carrying forward £268.

Ragalla Tea Estates.—7 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £1,000 to reserve, £566 to carry forward.

Reading Electric Supply.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ending Dec. 31, and carrying forward £838.

Salar Del Carmen Nitrate.—£1 per share, making 30 per cent. for the year, placing £16,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £1,802.

Spillers and Bakers.—On the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent., placing £20,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £97,000.

Tarapaca Waterworks.—Final of 4 per cent., making 7½ per cent. for 1905.

MINING RETURNS.

British Broken Hill Proprietary.—2,961 tons crude ore produced 460 tons concentrates, containing 281 tons lead and 13,340 ozs. silver.

Camp Bird.—Crushed 3,542 tons: bullion (including cyanide bullion), \$149,931; concentrates (624 tons), \$38,754.

Chinese Engineering.—Output of coal 19,000 tons, sales 20,500 tons, consumption 1,325 tons.

Cobar Gold Mines.—Sands 780 tons, 368 ozs.

Kelantan Gold Dredging.—Recovered 187 ozs.

Mill's Day Dawn United.—Crushed 1,369 tons, value £4,000.

Mitchell's Creek Gold.—Crushed 558 tons, 240 ozs.; concentrates 24 tons, value, £260.

Mount Roudny Gold.—Crushed 3,685 tons, 307 ozs.; concentrates, 117 tons, 212 ozs.; tailings (cyanide), 2,068 tons, 40 ozs.; total, 559 ozs.

New Queen Gold.—Crushed 456 tons, 227 ozs.

Raub Australian Gold.—Crushed 6,040 tons, 710 ozs.

Victorian Cornish Gold.—Crushed 1,400 tons, 1,008 ozs.

Westralia Mount Morgans.—Treated 4,296 tons, 1,029 ozs.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for ten days ended April 21, \$2,427, decrease \$83.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 16, \$13,672, decrease \$2,257; aggregate from January 1, \$183,942, decrease \$3,852.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 24, Rs. 74,369, increase Rs. 7,166; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 8,44,297, increase Rs. 79,142.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 21, \$122,300, increase \$55,500; total from July 1, \$4,167,500, increase \$1,116,900.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 24, Rs. 35,295, increase Rs. 317.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 1, £371, decrease £86.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 3rd week of April, \$15,552, increase \$1,273; aggregate from January 1, \$246,750, increase \$47,684.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 24, Rs. 16,593, decrease Rs. 6,113.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended April 14 amounted to \$14,000.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending April 21, £1,231, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £19,653, increase £268.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending April 21, £889, increase £162; aggregate from January 1, £11,581, increase £913.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for January, £4,263, decrease £267.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending April 21, £336, increase £7; aggregate from January 1, £7,058, increase £470.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 20, £1,795, increase £557; aggregate from January 1, 22,190, increase £3,717.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 22, £26; increase £13; aggregate from January 1, £136, increase £19.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 20, £6,539, increase £1,831; aggregate from January 1, £77,355, increase £5,195.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending April 20, £38,448, increase £13,393; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £443,928, increase £78,804; 437½ miles, against 418½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 21, £1,091, decrease £276; aggregate from January 1, £17,900, increase £1,490.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 22, £165, increase £31; aggregate from January 1, £1,625, decrease £7.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 20, £166, increase £32; aggregate from January 1, £1,545, decrease £30.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 20, £5,886, increase £1,292; aggregate from January 1, £72,516, increase £2,479.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 21, £4,663, increase £146; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £73,601, increase £2,949.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 20, £236, decrease £18.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 19, £1,237.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 21, £644, increase £154; aggregate from October 1, £8,096, decrease £349.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 14, £15,547, increase £1,957; aggregate from April 1, £30,506, increase £3,510. Miles 49½ against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 21, £23,284, increase £2,145; aggregate from January 1, £335,180, decrease £15,414.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 21, £8,597, increase £1,666; aggregate from January 1, £117,139, increase £538.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 20, £222, increase £8; aggregate from January 1, £3,061, increase £153.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 22, £1,201, increase £524; aggregate from January 1, £12,276, increase £3,211.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 22, £15,144, increase £1,883; aggregate from January 1, £239,689, increase £24,862.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of January, 1906, £11,016, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Nett earnings for March, \$26,091, increase \$2,444. Nett earnings from July 1 to March 31, \$379,501, increase \$103,049.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending April 22, £3,597, increase £198; aggregate from January 1, £56,822, increase £4,456.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 24, £1,462, increase £227; aggregate from January 1, £17,020, increase £3,789.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of March, \$320,200.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 21, Rs. 41,181, increase Rs. 5,438; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 7,12,314, increase Rs. 69,728.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of March, £4,997, increase £2,050. Total from January 1, £14,261, increase £5,719.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, \$407,865, increase \$56,745; aggregate from January 1, \$4,07,865, increase \$56,745. Nett traffic receipts, \$202,346, increase \$26,540; aggregate from January 1, \$2,02,346, increase \$26,540.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	
Baker St. and Waterloo ..	Apr. 21	£ 1,523	—	6	£ 9,071	—	
Brecon and Merthyr ..	" 22	1,913	+ 194	16	32,749	+ 2,220	
Cambrian ..	" 22	5,616	— 105	16	80,289	— 320	
Central London ..	" 21	6,359	+ 143	16	109,330	+ 4,012	
City and South London ..	" 22	2,715	+ 190	16	46,659	+ 194	
Furness ..	" 22	10,412	+ 1,307	16	155,191	+ 20,000	
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 22	65,473	— 4,355	16	1,114,099	+ 43,427	
Great Eastern ..	" 22	102,100	— 7,500	16	1,509,500	+ 17,700	
Great Northern and City ..	" 21	1,729	+ 125	16	28,903	+ 1,073	
Great Northern ..	" 21	105,100	— 1,049	16	1,693,600	+ 39,489	
Great Western ..	" 22	238,200	— 13,400	16	3,453,700	+ 32,400	
Hull and Barnsley ..	" 22	8,787	+ 581	16	149,629	+ 6,881	
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 22	112,762	— 8,439	16	1,636,716	+ 53,635	
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 21	65,227	— 2,957	16	877,803	+ 6,132	
London & North Western ..	" 22	271,000	— 7,000	16	4,228,000	+ 137,000	
London & South Western ..	" 22	97,500	— 3,700	16	1,309,900	+ 20,700	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 22	10,851	+ 1,528	16	132,000	+ 7,978	
Metropolitan ..	" 22	16,514	— 1,084	16	265,665	— 7,927	
Metropolitan District ..	" 22	7,401	+ 857	16	127,369	+ 6,793	
Midland ..	" 21	204,974	— 17,492	16	3,473,152	+ 93,040	
North Eastern ..	" 21	184,046	— 2,009	16	2,759,427	+ 147,915	
North London ..	" 22	9,149	+ 735	16	144,317	+ 3,437	
North Staffordshire ..	" 22	18,816	+ 108	16	284,432	+ 11,771	
Rhymney ..	" 22	5,173	— 178	16	96,052	+ 2,183	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 21	90,046	— 8,428	16	1,264,580	+ 9,219	
Taff Vale ..	" 22	17,461	+ 382	16	308,295	+ 10,513	

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian ..	Apr. 22	89,761	+ 1,047	12	993,201	+ 22,980
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 21	36,152	+ 1,520	12	384,680	+ 13,476
Great North of Scotland ..	" 21	8,730	+ 30	12	100,275	+ 264
Highland ..	" 22	8,965	+ 281	12	98,738	+ 668
North British ..	" 22	94,904	+ 3,141	12	1,048,430	+ 25,711

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	Apr. 20	3,714	+ 925	8	37,800	+ 351
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 20	1,761	+ 206	8	23,738	+ 371
Great Northern ..	" 20	21,745	+ 3,401	16	266,409	+ 5,171
Midland Great Western ..	" 20	12,355	+ 2,102	11	155,087	+ 6,184

§ From January 1.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, April 23.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, April 23.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
4 1/2	Angelo	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	May Consolidated	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Anglo-French Ex.	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
4 1/2	Aper	4 1/2	4 1/2	7 1/2	Modderfontein	7 1/2	7 1/2
4 1/2	Aurora West	4 1/2	4 1/2	12 1/2	Do. B.	12 1/2	12 1/2
4 1/2	Bantjes	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	New Goch	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Block B.	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	City and Suburban, £4	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Comet (New)	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Cons. Goldfields	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Do. Pref.	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Crown Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2	6 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	6 1/2	6 1/2
4 1/2	Driefontein	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	4 1/2	4 1/2	8 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4	8 1/2	8 1/2
4 1/2	East Rand	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	East Rand Extension	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Rodepoort United	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Ferreira	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Salisbury	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	French Rand	4 1/2	4 1/2	7 1/2	Sheba (New)	7 1/2	7 1/2
4 1/2	Geldul	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Geldenhuis Estate	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	3 1/2	3 1/2
4 1/2	Ginsburg	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Steyn Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Glencairn	4 1/2	4 1/2	14 1/2	Transvaal Development	14 1/2	14 1/2
4 1/2	Harmony Proprietary	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Henderson's Transvaal	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	Treasury	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Heriot	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	Van Ryn	3 1/2	3 1/2
4 1/2	Johannesburg Con. In.	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Jubilee	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Vogelstruis	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Kumpers	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	Welgedacht	3 1/2	3 1/2
4 1/2	Kleinfontein	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	West Rand Consols	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Knight's	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	Wolhuter, £4	3 1/2	3 1/2
4 1/2	Lancaster	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	Worcester	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Langlaagte Estate	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2			

DEEP LEVELS.

1 1/2	Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1	Rand Mines Deep	1	1
1 1/2	Bonanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Cinderella Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	5	Robinson Deep (new)	5	5
1 1/2	Crown Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Rodepoort Cn. Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	South Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Geldenhuis Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Village Main Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Knight's Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2				

RHODESIANS.

1 1/2	Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Rhodesia Exploration	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Charter Trust and Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Selukwe	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Lomagunda Develop.	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Tanganyika	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wankie Coal	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Willoughby	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2		1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2

DIAMONDS.

1 1/2	De Beers Deferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Koffyfontein	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Preferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Lace Diamond	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Eland's Drift Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Orange Free State	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Frank Smith Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Jagersfontein Deferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2	Premier Diamond Def.	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Preferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	Kamfersdam	1 1/2	1 1/2				

WEST AFRICAN.

1 1/2	Abbottiakoon	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2	Gold Coast Agency, new	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Ankobra	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau)	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Ashanti Consols, 2/- paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Deep	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Goldfields	1 1/2	1 1/2	12 1/2	Himan Concessions	12 1/2	12 1/2
1 1/2	Sansu	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Obbuss Syndicate	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2	Prestia	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	British Gold Coast	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sekondi and Tarkwa	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Broomassie	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Taquaah and Abosso	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Efuenta (Wassau)	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Wassau	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Fanti Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2	13 1/2	W. A. Gold Trust	13 1/2	13 1/2

AUSTRALIAN.

1 1/2	Anglo-Aus. Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Ida H.	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Associated	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2	Ivanhoe Gold Corp.	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ivanhoe South	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bellevue Proprietary	1 1/2	1 1/2	9 1/2	Kalgurli	9 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Boulder Deep Levels	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Brownhill Extended	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Lancefield	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chaffers	1 1/2	1 1/2	11 1/2	London & W.A. Explor.	11 1/2	11 1/2
1 1/2	Cosmopol'n Pr'p'ty	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Mount Boppy	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Horseshoe, New	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	North Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Shares	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Links	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Peak Hill	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Pole	1 1/2	1 1/2	9 1/2	South Kalgurli	9 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Great Boulder, 2/-	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sons of Gwalla	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Perseverance	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	W'str lia Mt Morgans	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Great Fingall	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2			
1 1/2	Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			
1 1/2	Hampton Plains	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			
1 1/2	Hannan's Star	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			

MISCELLANEOUS.

1 1/2	Anaconda, 25 dols.	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Balaghat, full paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Mount Lyell	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Brilliant and St. George	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	M'tn Morgan	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Broken Hill, Prop.	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Mysore, 10s.	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Camp Bird	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Mysore Goldfields, 15/6 3/4	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Cape Copper, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	9 1/2	Do. West, 19/-	9 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Champion Reef, 2/6	1 1/2	1 1/2	10 1/2	Do. Wynaad, 19/-	10 1/2	10 1/2
1 1/2	Con. Gold N.Z.	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Namaqua, £2	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Coplapo, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2	Nile Valley	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Coramandel 19/6 pd.	1 1/2	1 1/2	26 1/2	N'ndydroog, 10/- shares 27/-	26 1/2	26 1/2
1 1/2	Esperanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	16 1/2	O'neidrog	16 1/2	16 1/2
1 1/2	Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Frontino and Bolivia	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	9 1/2	St. John del Rey	9 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Do. (No. 2)	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Tharsis	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Libiola, £3	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2	Wahl	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Linares, £3	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Ymir	2 1/2	2 1/2

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE		
		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	
Alcoy and Gandia	April 21	Ps. 15,000	- Ps. 400	**	Ps. 262,400	+ Ps. 17400	
Antofagasta (Chill) and Bolivia	March*	\$90,750	+ \$25,052	**	\$243,858	+ \$60,124	
Argentine Gt. Western	April 20	18,692	+ 43	**	554,820	+ 84,540	
Algiciras (Gibraltar)	" 21	Ps. 27,951	- P. 6,153	**	P. 1,320,547	- P. 114,064	
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	" 21	38,586	+ 4,968	**	1,272,043	+ 307,197	
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o and Cen. Argentine	" 21	82,597	+ 12,524	**	1,395,048	+ 180,853	
Buenos Ayres G. Stn.	" 22	84,059	+ 11,791	**	3,121,466	+ 470,904	
Do. Western	" 22	43,660	+ 8,455	**	1,394,743	+ 180,115	
Do. Ensenada	" 22	509	+ 162	**	14,699	+ 455	
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	" 21	8,763	+ 1,102	**	352,081	+ 10,814	
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 21	2,884	+ 1,028	**	86,871	+ 1,458	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 21	1,203	+ 132	**	49,376	+ 5,825	
Do. Western Ex.	" 21	1,117	+ 128	**	50,599	+ 6,221	
Cordoba Central	" 22	3,625	+ 1,210	**	50,555	+ 9,125	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 22	7,120	+ 2,095	**	104,435	+ 24,195	
Do. N. W. Argtn. Ex.	" 22	2,053	+ 825	**	27,065	+ 9,250	
Cordoba and Rosario	" 22	4,190	+ 935	**	181,200	+ 1,830	
Costa Rica	Mar. 31	5,813	+ 1,140	**	187,451	+ 6,380	
Cuban Central	April 21	12,357	+ 3,654	**	309,522	+ 28,788	
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 21	8,467	+ 2,278	**	174,489	+ 34,001	
Entre Rios	" 21	3,833	+ 946	**	159,878	+ 9,408	
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico	" 21	\$127,000	- \$37,730	**	\$4,849,890	- 16,530	
Leopoldina	" 21	18,672	+ 7,636	**	212,722	+ 7,877	
Mexican	March*	\$93,400	+ \$28,200	**	\$1,731,900	+ \$123,900	
Mexican	April 21	\$120,800	+ \$6,800	**	\$2,122,900	+ \$197,500	
Do. Southern	" 21	\$24,401	+ \$34	**	\$393,653	+ \$14,707	
Do. Central	Feb.	\$2,229,926	+ \$181,788	**	\$18,854,222	+ \$142,073	
Do. Do.	" 1	\$655,795	+ \$6,660	**	\$5,328,789	+ \$221,747	
Manila	April 21	\$38,334	+ \$5,529	**	\$8,380,869	+ \$16,199	
Nitrato	" 15	17,651	+ 5,031	**	160,663	+ 1,705	
Ottoman	" 21	4,019	+ 1,703	**	68,574	+ 9,893	
Peruvian Corporation	Mar.	\$739,475	+ \$270,775	**	\$5,846,350	+ \$931,850	
San Paulo	April 15	15,962	+ 2,084	**	305,140	+ 3,061	
Salvador	" 21	\$22,250	+ \$5,500	**	\$431,256	+ \$38,856	
United of Havana	" 21	27,709	+ 15,494	**	621,917	+ 185,635	
Villa Maria & Rufino	" 21	1,329	+ 189	**	21,877	+ 1,586	
Western of Havana	" 21	3,967	+ 487	**	173,650	+ 4,692	

* Month ended. † Fortnight ended. ‡ Nett § From July 1, 1905.

** From January 1, 1906.

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The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE $3\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT. (Reduced from 4 per cent. on April 5.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

We have had a rough week in the Money Market as the credit jobber can very well testify, but as the last day of it approaches there is some little lightening of the perplexity. We can hope again that the worst may now be over for a little time at any rate. In the first half of the week, however, the apprehensions about large shipments of gold to the United States and other foreign destinations kept the short credit market in a state of agitation, and caused day-to-day loans to run up occasionally to 4 per cent. and now and then beyond it. Seven-day money, however, never cost much more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. except when the market was driven to the Bank, which, of course, charged 4 per cent. Much, however, of the heavy business done by the Bank was in discounts at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and thanks to the extensive demands made upon it, by which other securities have increased during the Bank week ended on Wednesday afternoon by £5,186,000, the supplies of short credit in the market have become so abundant for the time being as to make the market look quite comfortable. To-day bankers were not able to obtain more than 3 per cent. whether for the day or for seven days, and overnight balances were frequently lent at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

A good deal of the disturbance was caused by the movements of Japanese credits. A call, for instance, amounting to £1,300,000 fell due on the London portion of the Japanese latest 4 per cent. loan on Wednesday, and the market was momentarily pinched thereby in spite of the freedom with which the banks who collected the money at once lent it out again. Old balances of the Japanese Government were also taken off the market, and may not come back again except slowly or indirectly as the accounts of the Government get paid. Provision had also to be made to carry the very heavy American account in stocks and shares and the bills discounted in large amounts in order to get the means to pay for the gold which was being taken from the Bank and from the open market for export to

the States. The result has been, as just mentioned, indebtedness on the part of the market to the Bank, very unusual at this time of year, and productive of a quite deceptive momentary ease. On Thursday, for example, the market was not able quite to pay off all its loans at the Bank then due, and as the days pass we fear it will have increasing difficulty in liquidating the balance of this debt; hence easy money is not to be trusted to. We might have a return of the pinch next week, and the reserve does not promise to recover much because gold coin taken out by the Scotch banks to cover their extra note circulation at term time will neutralise the return of Easter holiday money.

The position of the Bank return is indeed full of warning, in spite of the fact that other deposits have, thanks to market borrowings, risen to £48,499,000. But the increase is not equal to the amount borrowed within the Bank week, for, in spite of the help given from Treasury balances, which were reduced to the extent of £358,000, the withdrawal of bullion for export caused a nett reduction in the reserve of £523,000, thus taking away some of the borrowings. Its total is now only £22,847,000, and we may have much of the spring export demand for gold still to meet with all the holiday requirements to follow. It thus remains by no means improbable that the Bank will again have to raise its rate. Many thought it would have to do so this week, but the recovery in the French Exchange to 25.16, the successful issue of the Russian loan, and the report that the New York demand for gold had either ceased or been diverted to Paris eased men's minds, and discount business became possible on Thursday at $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., or less on 90-day remitted paper. Earlier in the week the market was quoting $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., sometimes subject to an advance in the Bank rate. The worst of our discount market is its sudden twists. The rate will be firm at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the morning, and in the afternoon holders of bills will be rushing about trying to place them at $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., and succeeding in cutting the rate to some extent. To-day, for example, brokers quoted $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. for all usances, but took parcels freely enough at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

We are not able to take a very sanguine view of the immediate future for these and other reasons, and cannot regard it as probable that our Money Market will settle down into a steady, moderately firm, but yet in no sense oppressive range of discount rates. The stock of gold is too small to permit us to indulge in any such expectation, and as the gold goes down so does the reserve. Our only hope lies in the power of the Bank to acquire the raw gold every week coming into the market, and it is thought in many quarters that it will succeed in obtaining a portion at least of the £1,000,000 or more to arrive in the beginning of the week. This seems more probable now that the price of bars has fallen back to 77s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and with the French portion of the Russian loan disposed of, there may be less avidity in Paris for the metal, although the French Government itself has many debt consolidating operations in view; but as yet we cannot be at all sure that either Paris, or New York, or Buenos Ayres, to mention three most threatening points, will abstain from competing in our market for the supplies. Until they do, one or all of them, or until demands become intermittent and comparatively insignificant, so that the Bank of England is free to add to its stock at a reasonable price, we fear it must continue dangerous for discount houses to cut rates. The nearer they keep to the Bank of England minimum the safer will their business be.

SILVER.

The market for bars has been active owing to a strong inquiry from the bazaars and to repurchases by the "bears" on this side. At the same time supplies from America have been very moderate, and prices have consequently advanced $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. for spot and 30 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per oz. for delivery two months forward, closing however dull. Tenders for the Rs. 30,00,000 Council drafts on India on Wednesday

amounted to Rs. 1,70,20,000 in bills and Rs. 1,19,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 17,34,000 were accepted in bills and Rs. 12,66,000 in transfers, applications at 1s. 4d. and 1s. 4 1-32d. per rupee receiving about 10 per cent. The amount to be offered next week is increased to Rs. 40,00,000.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, April 25, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued ..	£ 50,061,840	Government Debt ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	£ 7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	£ 31,611,840
		Silver Bullion ..	—
	£50,061,840		£50,061,840

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 15,977,281
Reserve ..	£ 3,227,300	Other Securities ..	£ 37,062,489
Public Deposits (including		Notes ..	£ 21,356,630
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	£ 1,490,486
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	£ 9,536,515		
Other Deposits ..	£ 48,498,779		
Seven Day and other Bills	£ 71,292		
	£75,886,886		£75,886,886

Dated April 26, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. April 27.		April 19, 1906.	April 26, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,167,197	Rest ..	3,208,403	3,227,300	18,897	—
8,435,345	Pub. Deposits ..	9,894,659	9,536,515	—	358,144
46,913,619	Other do. ..	43,502,080	48,498,779	4,996,699	—
132,509	7 Day Bills ..	65,535	71,292	5,757	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
17,283,980	Gov. Securities	15,977,281	15,977,281	—	—
25,370,225	Other do. ..	33,795,396	33,102,326	—	5,186,124
24,547,405	Total Reserve ..	23,370,031	22,847,116	522,915	—
				5,544,268	5,544,268
				Increase.	Decrease.
£		£	£	£	£
28,387,990	Note Circulation	28,875,365	28,705,210	—	170,155
34,485,455	Coin and Bullion	33,795,396	33,102,326	—	693,070
49% p.c.	Proportion ..	43% p.c.	39% p.c.	—	4% p.c.
3 "	Bank Rate	3% "	3% "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £1,352,000 out.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
1,800,000	6 months	June 1	3 2 6
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
1,200,000	—	—	—
1,000,000	6 months	June 29	2 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 12	2 10 8
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 26	2 13 8
1,500,000	6 months	Sept. 16	2 11 5
1,000,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 10 0
14,913,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Week.	1906.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Jan. 3	340,266,000	276,940,000	63,326,000	—
" 10	228,921,000	215,482,000	13,439,000	—
" 17	287,646,000	254,259,000	33,387,000	—
" 24	214,923,000	186,205,000	28,723,000	—
" 31	289,938,000	300,588,000	—	10,650,000
Feb. 7	231,817,000	206,614,000	25,203,000	—
" 14	271,821,000	259,450,000	12,371,000	—
" 21	213,118,000	199,865,000	13,253,000	—
" 28	290,477,000	301,252,000	—	10,775,000
Mar. 7	235,959,000	215,866,000	20,093,000	—
" 14	261,348,000	268,032,000	—	6,684,000
" 21	208,709,000	211,042,000	—	2,333,000
" 28	250,066,000	205,714,000	44,352,000	—
April 4	284,635,000	345,370,000	—	60,735,000
" 11	266,009,000	210,891,000	55,118,000	—
" 18	182,932,000	300,087,000	—	117,155,000
" 25	230,499,000	139,973,000	90,526,000	—
	4,280,089,000	4,097,630,000	192,459,000	—

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs	25'09	25'16	Antwerp	short	25'21	25'23
Brussels	chqs	25'20	25'22	Italy	sight	25'10	25'15
Amsterdam	sight	12'14	12'14	Constantinople	3 mths	110'15	110'12
Berlin	chqs	20'49	20'49	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	15'08	15'08
Do.	3 mths	20'31	20'29	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4	1/4
Hamburg	chqs	20'48	20'48	Bombay	T.T.	1/4	1/4
Frankfort	short	20'48	20'48	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	2'08	2'08
Vienna	sight	24'04	24'03	Shanghai	T.T.	2'10	2'10
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	94'05	94'05	Singapore	T.T.	2'44	2'44
New York	60 dys	4'82	4'81	Yokohama	4 mths	2'03	2'03
Lisbon	sight	51'7	51				
Madrid	sight	28'88	28'93				

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Monday, Germany ..	£25,000
" Australia ..	55,000
Friday, Germany ..	5,000
Net Efflux ..	1,125,000
Total ..	£1,210,000
Saturday, U. S. Coin ..	£251,000
Monday, U. S. Coin ..	301,000
Tuesday, U. S. Coin ..	351,000
" S. America ..	300,000
Friday, S. America ..	7,000
Total ..	£1,210,000

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.	
			Last Week.	Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	3	2 ³ / ₄
Berlin	5	December 11, 1905	3 ³ / ₄	3 ³ / ₄
Hamburg	5	December 11, 1905	3 ³ / ₄	3 ³ / ₄ ¹ / ₂
Frankfort	5	December 11, 1905	3 ³ / ₄	3 ³ / ₄
Amsterdam .. .	3	November, 1905	2 ¹ / ₄	2 ¹ / ₄
Brussels	4	October 30, 1905	3 ³ / ₄	3 ³ / ₄
Vienna	4 ¹ / ₂	October, 1905	4 ¹ / ₂	4 ¹ / ₂
Rome	5	September, 1904	4	4
St. Petersburg ..	7 ¹ / ₂	April 17, 1906	8	8
Madrid	4 ¹ / ₂	August 21, 1901	4	4
Lisbon	5 ¹ / ₂	January 11, 1899	5	5
Stockholm .. .	5	January, 1906.	4 ¹ / ₂	4 ¹ / ₂
Copenhagen .. .	5	October, 1905	4 ¹ / ₂	4 ¹ / ₂
Calcutta	5	April 12, 1906	—	—
Bombay	7	April 26, 1906	—	—
New York call money ..	3	—	—	—

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	April 26, 1906.	April 19, 1906.	April 12, 1906.	April 27, 1905.
Gold in hand ..	£ 119,826,160	£ 118,218,520	£ 118,342,320	£ 111,747,000
Silver in hand ..	42,185,440	42,008,520	42,004,240	43,942,920
Bills discounted ..	41,008,800	36,535,960	35,460,320	29,750,600
Advances ..	19,881,440	19,500,960	19,489,040	18,507,560
Note circulation ..	188,430,960	191,147,240	191,284,880	174,339,800
Public deposits ..	8,864,640	7,354,640	6,936,640	9,578,800
Private deposits ..	31,889,280	22,890,360	22,343,240	24,324,880

Proportion between bullion and circulation 83 1/2 per cent. against 83 1/2 per cent. a week ago.

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Apr. 23, 1906.	April 14, 1906.	Apr. 7, 1906.	Apr. 22, 1905.
Cash in hand ..	£ 50,667,150	£ 46,971,650	£ 45,789,550	£ 53,436,900
Bills discounted ..	40,882,200	43,983,750	47,308,800	39,310,500
Advances on stocks ..	2,910,050	3,084,800	4,561,550	2,610,450
Note circulation ..	66,667,300	69,310,750	73,864,350	65,459,500
Public deposits ..	32,459,950	29,579,050	27,225,700	35,721,600

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Apr. 19, 1906.	Apr. 12, 1906.	Apr. 5, 1906.	Apr. 20, 1905.
Coin and bullion ..	£ 5,555,320	£ 4,861,560	£ 5,289,320	£ 4,792,960
Other securities ..	22,694,920	22,562,120	23,232,640	22,995,560
Note circulation ..	26,837,240	27,167,680	26,890,960	26,350,360
Deposits ..	3,733,800	2,652,880	4,121,200	3,103,280

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	March 31, 1906.	March 20, 1906.	March 31, 1905.
Reserve ..	£ 32,342,200	£ 32,246,960	£ 26,411,720
State notes and small changed	529,720	615,760	544,080
Discount and loans ..	13,889,840	12,682,920	10,024,760
Public stock and State loans ..	8,320,800	8,297,320	9,280,720
Credits ..	5,692,600	5,536,560	6,580,200
Note Circulation ..	39,622,920	38,234,520	35,419,040
Current account ..	2,432,200	2,718,360	3,941,720
Deposits ..	4,368,080	4,181,040	3,967,880

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	April 23, 1906.	April 14, 1906.	April 7, 1906.	April 22, 1905.
Gold Reserve ..	£ 46,356,125	£ 46,111,625	£ 46,001,541	£ 47,987,791
Silver reserve ..	12,806,916	12,777,333	12,787,666	13,027,041
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	1,584,791	1,599,791	1,626,916	1,747,958
Note circulation ..	68,228,500	69,571,458	70,145,833	63,896,625
Bills discounted ..	15,904,875	16,820,458	17,510,541	10,894,958

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Apr. 21, 1906.	Apr. 14, 1906.	April 7, 1906	Apr. 22, 1905.
Gold	£ 15,101,053	£ 15,095,869	£ 15,093,309	£ 14,807,417
Silver	23,883,568	23,708,704	23,798,126	21,040,912
Foreign Bills	3,240,540	3,240,889	3,200,088	1,685,225
Discount and Short Bills	22,566,224	22,697,180	22,810,546	50,261,444
Treasury Account	37,403,762	37,404,926	37,396,638	21,017,911
Notes in circulation	61,829,324	61,893,204	61,760,592	63,626,961
Current Account deposits	22,926,135	22,896,713	23,070,221	25,589,090
Dividends Interests	2,099,483	2,356,806	2,221,929	2,709,215
Government Securities	7,076,916	6,851,444	7,192,810	3,598,110

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Mar. 23/Apr. 5, 1906.	Mar. 16/29 1906.	Mar. 8/21, 1906.	Mar. 23/Apr. 5, 1905.
Gold	£ 71,908,193	£ 72,825,912	£ 73,425,877	£ 89,905,072
Silver and subsidiary coin	4,914,402	4,944,063	4,803,211	6,833,875
Advances and bills discounted	50,973,051	51,150,721	53,617,521	36,794,824
Securities belonging to the Bank	8,400,183	8,255,551	7,665,259	5,517,173
Notes in circulation	113,160,162	111,802,378	113,268,944	89,580,222
Deposits and current account	45,705,386	46,117,226	46,110,931	48,321,139
Treasury account	3,514,967	3,090,642	3,317,801	12,224,276

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Apr. 21, 1906.	Apr. 14, 1906.	Apr. 7, 1906.	Apr. 22, 1905.
Specie	£ 37,930,000	£ 34,540,000	£ 34,332,000	£ 43,224,000
Legal tenders	15,715,800	15,506,000	15,308,400	16,664,600
Loans and discounts	203,480,000	201,856,000	206,540,000	221,460,000
Circulation	10,296,200	10,290,000	10,343,400	8,886,600
Net deposits	201,500,000	196,372,000	200,680,000	230,400,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £3,270,800 against an excess last week of £954,000.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	April 17.	April 19.	April 24.	April 26.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'3	12'3	12'3	12'3
Do. do.	3 months	12'58	12'58	12'52	12'52
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'45	25'45	25'46	25'46
Hamburg	3 months	20'70	20'71	20'70	20'70
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'70	20'71	20'70	20'70
Paris	cheques	25'11	25'09	25'12	25'14
Do.	3 months	25'33	25'32	25'35	25'36
Marseilles	3 months	25'33	25'32	25'35	25'36
Switzerland	3 months	25'45	25'45	25'46	25'46
Austria	3 months	25'35	24'35	24'35	24'35
St. Petersburg	3 months	24	24	24'35	24'35
Moscow	3 months	24	24	24	24
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'45	25'45	24'46	25'47
New York	60 days	48	48	48	48
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	40	40	40	40
Lisbon	3 months	50	50	50	50
Oporto	3 months	50	50	50	50
Copenhagen	3 months	18'44	18'44	18'44	18'44
Christiania	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'45	18'45
Stockholm	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'45	18'45

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3 1/2 - 3 3/4
Three months	3 1/2 - 3 3/4
Four months	3 1/2 - 3 3/4
Six months	3 1/2 - 3 3/4
Three months fine inland bills	3 1/2 - 3 3/4
Four months	3 1/2 - 3 3/4
Six months	3 1/2 - 3 3/4

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	3 1/2
" " short loan rates	4
Bankers' rate on deposits	3
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	2
" 7 and 14 days' notice	2 1/2
Current rates for 7 day loans	3
" " for call loans	2 1/2 - 3

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

All week markets have again been dominated by San Francisco, and there has been a good deal of selling by the fire insurance companies to provide means for meeting their losses. At any rate, this is what the market blames for the weakness shown by Consols and Home Railway guaranteed and preference stocks. We do not think the insurance companies held much Consols as investments, but they probably did lend a good deal of their money to the Stock Exchange on this security, and it will be interesting to see whether the amount of stock they may have thrown out in order to get possession of their funds thus lent has any influence upon Consol contango rates next week. They do, however, hold large amounts of railway privileged securities, and it is possible that the selling of these may continue for some little time to bend prices downwards. There ought consequently to

be a good opportunity in this direction for those who are in quest of first-class investments yielding moderate rates of interest, and the market ought to be watched so that the better class of such stocks may be picked up when prices are falling.

International markets have been cleared to some extent by the successful issue of the Russian loan. It has undoubtedly gone into the possession of investors to a greater extent than we should have anticipated, especially in this country, where there is not merely sentiment at work against Russia owing to the present state of her internal politics, but prejudice arising from old associations and memories. The diligence with which the Russian bogey has been worked so as to give colourable excuse for unnecessary expenditure in India, not only on the troops, the army maintained there, but upon all manner of defensive works, strategic railways and other purely wealth-destroying undertakings, and the memory of old quarrels with Russia, jealousy about the succession to the sick man of Constantinople and other traditional causes of antagonism, have made Russian securities unpopular with British investors for many a year. This loan, however, has been taken up, the English portion of it probably as fully as the French, and although it may not yet be nearly all in the hands of ultimate investors it seems well on the way there. With the subscription of this loan money markets are partially lightened of a very onerous charge. A large amount of the floating debts of Russia which they have been carrying will now be regularised, if not paid off, and the banking money thus released may stimulate activity on Stock Exchanges in various ways. If, therefore, we could look for easy money during the summer we might see a revival of business which would cheer the hearts of those who have so long been lamenting its stagnation. Unfortunately, as we show elsewhere, money markets all over the world are likely to be full of cross currents for some time to come, and most of them are still carrying great masses of securities on borrowed money at inflated prices. They are thus liable to be upset by accidents, prone to become the victim of scares, and all the perplexed investor can do is to take things quietly and watch opportunities, which will arise when waves of depression come, to step in and purchase. It needs courage to buy when the popular cry is "Sell, sell," but that is the kind of courage which profits the investor, and we are not going to sound notes of alarm when chances may offer by which the careful husbander of his means may profit.

We still, however, insist that the speculative investor should keep clear of the Yankee market. Liquidation there has been again staved off, but it is a dangerous market to play in, and the danger seems to us to increase with every postponement of what we should regard as a genuine settlement. There is no substantial foundation in the form of profit-yielding assets for the high prices still ruling on Wall Street, and therefore people here who have money to put away should not touch any American security except bonds that are patently secured. The whole surroundings of business, the well-springs of prosperity, have not altered so much or become so phenomenally prolific within the last three or four years in the States as to make it possible to believe that the soaring quotations now prevalent in this part of the market are durable. And however lightly they may be disposed to regard it just now, or to say that they regard it, bankers in the United States are going to find it a very difficult business to finance the losses caused by the earthquake and fires at San Francisco. We have seen how our home markets have been affected by the shadow of coming loss in that direction, and there is surely greater reason for believing that they are substantially buttressed by the assets beneath and behind them to a degree a feverishly developed country like the United States cannot parallel.

It is to be hoped that the public is disposed to scan with great vigilance the new joint-stock enterprises now being put before them every day in the week. We

have long warned it to expect avalanches of fresh promotions directly the financial sky cleared a little, and they are now coming thick and fast. Amongst them are some that offer very fair speculative chances indeed. All the prospectuses appearing are not those of dishonest or delusive promotions, but much discrimination is necessary, and we shall certainly stick to the advice that no appeal made in circulars from outside brokers or contained in prospectuses scattered broadcast through the post should be responded to without careful inquiry and a full examination of the facts. If the public neglects this warning and follows its old habit of jumping to the bait thrown at it without thought and on the mere vague promise of great profits to come, then we shall presently have to record another crop of losses and to listen to the wailings of those who cry out that they have been cheated. No man really need be cheated if he will listen to prudent counsel and abstain from acting on impulse—the impulse awakened by that unreasoning passion of cupidity which seems to prompt those who have worked and saved with the utmost care and circumspection all their lives to fling their savings away, often in a moment, at the call of the tipster and company promoter.

The Week's Stock Markets.

Markets commenced the week in a depressed and nervous condition, and a fresh bout of selling by frightened "bulls" seemed not at all unlikely. The strained monetary position, in part traceable to the San Francisco disaster, helped to create a certain amount of unrest, and dealers are naturally apprehensive of probable heavy sales by the insurance companies to meet their losses on the other side. Extensive selling is no doubt sooner or later inevitable, because the companies do not keep very large cash balances, and while it may not commence just yet, the knowledge that these operations are hanging over the market will naturally render investors extremely

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS (Last year's dividends are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
90½	89	Consols (2½ p.c. Money)	90½	90½
91	89½	Do. Account (May 4)	90½	90½
89½	88	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	89½	89
100½	99½	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907 ..	100½	100
92½	90½	Irish Land (2½) ..	92	91½
100½	99	Local Loans (3) ..	99½	99½
99½	98	National War Loan (2½ p.c.)	98½	98½
99½	98½	Do. Account (May 4) ..	99	98½
101½	98½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	99½	99½
300½	292½	Bk. of England Stk. (9 p.c.) ..	294½	292½
106½	104½	India 3½ p.c. Stk. red. 1931 ..	105½	105½
97½	96	Do. 3 p.c. Stk. red. 1948 ..	96½	96½
82	79½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stk. red. 1926 ..	81½	81½
66½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66½	66½

cautious. There is no inducement to buy securities which may at any time be knocked down several points by causes having no connection with intrinsic merits. The shares of the various insurance companies have shown some very startling declines, but a good deal of the movement is no doubt very nominal in character. Attempts to buy at the quoted prices rarely meet with success, but, on the other hand, any serious selling immediately results in a fresh break in the quotation. This section apart, markets have sustained themselves pretty well, and when the Bank directors relieved anxiety by leaving the Bank rate unchanged, prices showed a distinct disposition to rally at several points. But we are not out of the wood yet, and although the American demand for gold has ceased for the moment, there is no saying when it will again revive. The successful placing of one portion of the Russian loan was also a helpful influence during the closing days of the week, to say nothing of the fact that the fortnightly settlement, which commenced on Monday, passed off with a minimum of disturbance. Bankers' charges were naturally high, fully ½ per cent. more than last time, and we may put the range at 4½-½ per cent., money brokers being supplied at the lower figure. Consols kept wonderfully steady throughout

the week, and a sharp spurt towards the close put the price well above the closing figures of last Friday. Other British Funds were also decidedly firm, and Annuities, Irish Land stock, War loan, Exchange bonds, Transvaal 3 per cent., Local Loans, and India sterling issues all closed good, with conspicuous strength in Transvaals. Home County and Corporation and Colonial Inscribed issues were likewise firm, but the changes were not important.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
103½	101½	Argentina 5 p.c. 1886 ..	102½	102½
101½	100	Do. 4 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	101½	101½
103½	100½	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	102½	102½
93½	89½	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	93	93
93	89½	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	89½	89½
92½	90	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	89½	89½
104½	101½	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	102	101½
92½	86½	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	87	87½
102	99½	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	99½	99½
105½	103½	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	104½	104
91½	86½	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	89	89½
102½	99½	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	102	101½
96½	95	Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885 ..	96	96
97½	94	Do. 4½ p.c. 1886 ..	96	96
96	93½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1895 ..	95	94½
101½	98½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	101	101
99	96½	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	99½	100
105½	103½	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	105	105
105½	102½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	103½	103
101½	96½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	99	99
105½	100½	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	103	103
52½	51½	Costa Rica A ..	52½	52½
43½	42½	Do. B ..	43	42½
46½	43½	Colombian External ..	46½	45½
108½	105½	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	106	106
106½	104½	Egypt Unified 4 p.c. ..	106½	106
102½	101½	Do. 3½ p.c. pref. ..	101xd	101
105½	103½	Do. 4½ p.c. State Domain ..	105	105
88½	87½	German 3 p.c. ..	86½	86½
53½	50	Greek, 1884 ..	54	53½
53½	50½	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	54½	54
43	39½	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	42	41½
52½	49½	Do. Funding ..	52½	52½
98	94½	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	97	96½
104½	101½	Italian 5 p.c. ..	104½	104½
103½	100½	Japan 5 p.c. ..	102½	102½
104	100½	Do. 1901-2 ..	101	100½
91½	88½	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	91½	91
105	101½	Do. 6 p.c. ..	101½	101½
105	101½	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	103½	103½
70½	68½	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	70½	70½
87	81½	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	81½	82½
83	79½	Servian 4 p.c. ..	83	83
96	90½	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	93	93½
103	101½	Turks 3½ p.c. Tribute ..	100½xd	100½
105	103½	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	103xd	103
94½	90½	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	91½	91½
73½	70½	Uruguay 3½ p.c. ..	73½	73½
98½	94½	Do. 5 p.c. ..	96	95½
54½	50½	Venezuelan, Dip. (3) ..	52½	52½

The Foreign Bond market was again somewhat depressed by moderate selling in anticipation of the Russian loan, the London portion of which made its appearance on Monday. At one time the premium fell as low as ¼ on reports that applications were not coming in very briskly, but later on the premium hardened, considerably. The loan was fully subscribed by Thursday morning, largely by the aid of Continental applications, particularly German, so it is understood, and the list was closed at 11 o'clock. At the start several of the leading Continental stocks, such as Russian 4 per cent., Spanish and Turkish lost ground in a small way, and there was distinct weakness in Brazilians and Cédulas. Perus were a shade better, but subsequently declined on reports of a cholera outbreak at Lima at the same time that other issues previously depressed began to pick up. A recovery in the European list easily wiped out previous losses, and although Brazilians responded very slowly they finally came into line. Argentines and Chilians were stagnant throughout, while sundry Central American things gave way to a small extent. Chinese and Japanese were firm. Practically the entire South American list was carried over at 4-6 per cent., together with Chinese and several Japanese. One or two issues of the last-named were scarce, and could be continued at 1-3 per cent. Low charges also prevailed in the European group. Russians were done at 1-3 per cent., Spanish at 2-4 per cent. and Turkish at "even" to 2 per cent. In this section making-up prices were distinctly adverse, the Argentine list showing losses of ½ to ¾. Brazils were down ¼ to 2, Germans dropped ¾, Hun-

garian $1\frac{1}{4}$, Japanese $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1, Russians 1 to 2, Spanish $\frac{1}{2}$ and Turkish $\frac{3}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{4}$.

The Home Railway market continues to show very little evidence of any public interest, and the movements in prices have been mainly the reflection of incidents elsewhere. Prior charge securities were offered by holders who feared the effect of realisations by the insurance companies in connection with their San Francisco losses, as well as by the insurance companies themselves, with the result that falls of several pounds were recorded in a good many instances, and the weakness naturally extended to the ordinary stocks. The losses in these, however, were never really important, and the recovery which was brought about when it seemed probable that there would be no alteration in the Bank rate this week reduced most of them to small fractions. North-Eastern was one of the few exceptions, and being still influenced by the prospects of trouble with the employees, finished more than £1 down, while Midland deferred, Brighton issues, South-Eastern and South-Western ordinary all showed fairly large declines. Metropolitan, too, was heavy, partly because the traffic returns are still unsatisfactory and partly on talk of a new issue of capital. Although bankers charged from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more for money, contangos in this market were not appreciably heavier than last time and ranged from about 5 to 6 per cent. including stamps and fees. The only exception was on District, where the rate rose to as much as 9 per cent., but the shortage of stocks in that case was largely due to large amounts having been delivered at the previous settlement owing to the difficulty experienced in finding takers-in. As the result of the public neglect quotations have steadily dwindled throughout the fortnight, and making-up prices showed a long list of declines broken only by a modest gain of $\frac{1}{4}$ in Hull and Barnsley. North-Western was as much as $2\frac{1}{2}$ lower, North-Eastern fell $1\frac{1}{2}$, Great Western $1\frac{1}{2}$ and Midland deferred 1. Great Northern stocks were all 1 down, Lancashire and Yorkshire also lost that amount and Brighton issues dropped 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$. Underground things, too, were flat, Metropolitan receding 4, District 2 and Central London things 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
141½	133	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	137	135
157½	149½	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	154	153
130½	120½	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	122½	120½
120½	111	Caledonian Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	112	111
80	75½	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	76½	75½
42½	36½	Do. Def. (1 p.c.) ..	37	36½
90½	91	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	91	91
89	81½	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	81½	81½
168½	148½	Chatham Ordinary ..	158	15½
44½	40½	City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	42	42
69	63½	Furness (1½ p.c.) ..	63½	64½
40½	37½	Great Central Pref. ..	40½	39½
198½	18	Do. Def. ..	18½	18
91½	82½	Great Eastern (3½ p.c.) ..	84½	84
105	100½	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	102½	102
47½	43½	Do. Def. (1½) ..	45½	45½
144	135½	Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	136	135
52	47½	Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	49½	49½
47½	42½	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	44½	44½
109½	104½	Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.) ..	105½	105
80½	73½	Metropolitan (2½ p.c.) ..	76½	73½
37½	26½	Metropolitan District ..	27½	26½
70½	66½	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	67	67
74½	67½	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	69½	68
78½	76	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	76½	76
47½	43½	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	44½	44½
147½	140½	North-Eastern (6½ p.c.) ..	141½	140½
163½	156	North-Western (6½ p.c.) ..	158	156½
90½	87	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	90	90
132	126	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	128	127
55½	50½	Do. Def. ..	54	53½
164	153½	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	156½	153½
108½	104	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	105	105
57½	51½	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	53½	52½

With the insurance companies raising funds by sales of securities and by borrowing Wall Street has naturally been kept in a very unsettled state all week, and the nervousness was increased by rumours of several of these companies being unable to meet their liabilities. The large transfers of money to the West have also had a depressing effect, and the general uncertainty regarding the outcome of the San Francisco disaster caused a good deal of selling by the "bulls."

Support has only been forthcoming in a spasmodic sort of fashion, as the "bears" came in to cover from time to time, and each rally was followed by renewed liquidation. The result, therefore, has been that we have seen in our market prices after opening at parity levels lifted well above these figures by overnight buying orders from New York, only to be sent flying back before the day was out. This has been a daily occurrence throughout the week, and as each time the relapse occurred it left quotations a little lower than before, losses in the aggregate reach fairly large amounts. Milwaukee, for instance, closed on Thursday night with a fall of \$8, New York Central and Union Pacific were both about \$5 down, and declines of \$2 to \$4 were freely scattered throughout the list. Losses on the fortnight were equally heavy, and here again Milwaukee led the way with a drop of 7½. Union Pacific fell 7½, Great Northern preferred 7 and Reading 6½. Louisville and Wabash preferred both receded 4½, Atchison and Southern Pacific 4½ and Ontario 4, while amongst the smaller declines were Baltimore, Erie ordinary and second preference and Northern Pacific from 3 to 3½ lower, and Denver Missouri and Kansas and Southern issues from 2 to 2½ down. So much stock has been transferred to this side to be carried that the inquiry for money at the settlement was extremely keen, and although most borrowers were able to get their supplies at 5½ to 6 per cent. the charge rose at times to 6½ per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
99½	91½	Atchison Shares (4) ..	93½	92½
109½	105	Do. Pref. (5) ..	106½	105½
120	112½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (5) ..	114½	112
101½	96	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99	98
63½	57½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	60½	58
195½	172½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	180½	172½
52½	35½	Denver Shares ..	46½	44½
93½	89½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	91	89
52½	42½	Erie Shares ..	45	42½
85½	79½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	80½	79
77	68½	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	72½	68½
185	171	Illinois Central (7) ..	178	176
160½	148½	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	153	150
41½	34	Missouri and Texas ..	36	34
159½	142	New York Central (5) ..	147½	142
95½	87½	Norfolk and Western (4) ..	93	90½
96½	92	Do. Pref. (4) ..	94	94
57½	49½	Ontario Shares (3) ..	51½	50½
75½	70½	Pennsylvania (6) ..	72½	71½
85½	64½	Reading Shares (1½) ..	68½	64½
47½	40	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	47	46
51½	48½	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	50	48½
74½	66½	Southern Pacific ..	68½	66½
43½	36½	Southern ..	40½	38½
105	101½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	103½	103
164½	151½	Union Pacific (5½) ..	158½	153½
101½	98½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99	98
26½	20½	Wabash ..	22½	21
53½	42½	Do. Pref. ..	50	45½
87	78½	Do. Income Debs. ..	83	80
182½	173½	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	178½	165½
106½	104½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	104½	104½
109½	109	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	111½	111½
29½	25½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	26½	26½
105½	101½	Do. Guar. (4) ..	102½	102
119½	114½	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	118½	118
110½	105½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	108½	108½
70½	60½	Do. 3rd Pref. (2) ..	63½	62½
109½	107½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109	109

Canadian Pacific shares seemed to be less susceptible to the conditions prevailing in Wall Street, and were fairly steady throughout the week with the exception of Tuesday, when realisations from the other side sent them down about \$1. They rallied again on the increase of \$1,320,000 in the traffic return, and after allowing for the deduction of the "rights" on Thursday the final price was only a trifle down. The Grand Trunk traffic figures on the other hand were considered disappointing, but had very little effect, and both the ordinary and third preference were slightly better. On the account the last-named stocks were apparently from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 lower, but the change was due to the deduction of the dividends, and allowing for these making up prices show gains of 1 in the first preference and $\frac{1}{2}$ each in the seconds and thirds, while the guaranteed was unaltered. Canadian Pacific shares too were unchanged on the fortnight at 178. Money was difficult to lend at a profit in this market, and the rate on Grand Trunk stocks never rose above $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., while on the second preference it was only about $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Business has not been brisk in Argentine Railways, but there has been a certain amount of forced selling, which was ascribed to the insurance companies. Then the remarks of the chairman of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern on the permanent character of the increase in working expenses were not calculated to cheer the market, and in spite of excellent traffic returns most of the group show more or less severe declines. Mexican Railway stocks were flat on the issue of the report, as dealers did not like the advance in expenditure or the way in which nett profits have been divided up to the hilt, and Interceanic preferred shares and Mexican Southern ordinary stock fell back in sympathy. United Railways of the Havana stock and scrip for bonus, as well as Western of Havana shares were also weak, and Antofagasta went back several pounds on a few sales, but Brazilian issues were steady under the influence of the Leopoldina traffic return, which showed an increase of £7,600.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last com- pleted year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
229½	211½	225	Antofagasta (10)	226	222
335	313	—	Do. Def. (15)	350	350
130½	125	122½	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	124	120 xd
132	128½	129½	Do. Prfd. (5)	131	128 xd
84½	85½	85½	Bahia Blanca Prfd.	85½	85½
144½	140	137½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	138½ xd	137
129½	127	125	Do. Prefce (5)	126½ xd	125
136½	132	131	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	132½	128½ xd
120½	115½	119	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	119	119
110	107½	109½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	110	108 xd
120½	115	118	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	118½	114 xd
119	109½	116	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	116½	110 xd
170	165½	166½	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	167	162 xd
109	105½	105½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	107	106
138½	135½	131	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	132½	131
92½	86½	85½	Central Uruguay (4½) ..	86½ xd	85
109½	106½	107½	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	108	108
96	92½	93½	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	94	94
75½	69½	71	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	72	71
59½	55½	55½	Costa Rica	2½	2½
7	6½	6½	Cuban Central	7	7
11½	11½	11½	Do. Pref. (5½)	11½	11 xd
106	102½	—	Do. Deb. (4½)	103½	103½
93½	90	93½	East Argentine (4½)	94	94
86½	78½	78½	Interceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	8½	8
98½	95½	95½	Leopoldina (3)	79	79
108	107½	95½	Do. Deb. (4)	95½	95
105½	103½	—	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	109	109
28½	25	—	Do. "B" (6)	107	107
130½	118½	25½	Mexican Ord. Stk.	25½	24
59½	49½	128	Do. 1st Pref. (6½)	128	127
68½	54½	55	Do. 2nd Pref.	55	53
169½	146½	62½	Mexican Southern (2½) ..	64	62
21½	19½	158½	Nitrate Ord. (8)	16	15½
214½	203	202	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (5) ..	20½	20
193	209½	209½	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	210	204 xd
	180½	180½	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	181	179

Carrying over rates on South American things ranged from 5½ to 5¾ per cent. or about ½ per cent. more than last time, and in Mexican Railway stocks the charge was also stiffer at 5½ to 6 per cent. Except for improvements of 2½ in Cordoba Central first preference, 2 in East Argentine and ½ each in Argentine Great Western preference, Bahia Blanca and North-West preference and Buenos Ayres and Pacific first preference, changes on the fortnight in the Argentine list were all adverse. Buenos Ayres Great Southern ordinary and preference stocks fell 4½ and 3, Buenos Ayres and Pacific ordinary 3½, Entre Rios ordinary and preference 3½ and 1½, Argentine Great Western ordinary and Buenos Ayres Western ordinary lost 2½ and 2½, and Buenos Ayres and Rosario issues and Cordoba and Rosario first preference dropped 1 to 2. San Paulo was 4½ and Leopoldina 1½ down, Central Uruguay dropped 2½ and United Railways of the Havana 2, but Antofagasta put on 6, Mexican Railway ordinary and second preference receded 1½ and the first preference ½, Interceanic "B" debenture stock fell 2 and Mexican Southern ordinary 3.

The great feature of the Miscellaneous markets was, of course, the movement in Insurance shares. What the aggregate losses will be none can say, but a certain indication was given when the Royal Insurance Company announced its probable liability at £1,350,000, and the chairman of the London and Lancashire Fire said that the company's reserve of £2,157,735 had been halved. We are told that the Liverpool, London and Globe Company has lost round about £1,000,000, while the directors of the State Fire Insurance Company

have decided to make a call of £2 per share. The Royal Company's announcement was thought to be reassuring, and the shares moderately recovered. There were one or two other small improvements, but the great majority of the movements were still adverse. In the Brewery list Allsopp's and Salts issues again advanced, particularly the last-named, but when the actual terms of the amalgamation leaked out no further movement took place. Bieckert's ordinary stock slipped back a little after the recent sensational rise. Catering shares were steady, and a good tendency was noticeable for the majority of shares in the Textile list. Iron and steel shares were likewise firm, but a pretty general

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
21	16	20	Allsopp Ordinary. . . .	20	20
51	44	—	City of London Ord. . . .	46½	46½
55½	53½	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) . .	540	540
19½	16½	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	17	17
51½	41½	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	2½	2½
61½	45½	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) . .	2½	2½
56	49½	50	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	50½	50½
99½	95	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	55	55
6½	5½	5½	Aerated Bread (32½)	6½	6½
7½	6½	6½	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	7	7
6½	6½	13½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½)	6½	6½
27½	21½	25½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7) . . .	1½	1½
45½	40½	—	British Westinghouse Pref. . .	2½	2½
7½	5½	—	Brunner Mond (35)	5½	5½
11½	11	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½)	11	11
14½	11½	14½	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½) . .	1½	1½
58	5½	104½	Coats Ordinary (20)	5½	5½
500	495	495	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	490	490
26½	19½	1½	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nll)	1½	1½
25½	22½	24½	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	1½	1½
6½	6½	6½	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) . .	6½	6½
13½	12½	—	Henley's Telegraph (15) . . .	13	13
89½	81½	4½	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) . . .	4½	4½
27½	26½	13½	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½)	108	108
108½	107	—	Do. Debenture (42)	108	108
24½	21½	21½	Lipton Ordinary (7)	2½	2½
6½	5½	5½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	5½	5½
34½	27½	22½	Nelson James Ordinary (10) . .	1½	1½
15½	10½	8	Russian Petroleum	7½	7
7½	6½	—	Savoy Hotel (5)	7½	7
18½	13½	16½	Sweetmeat Automatic	15	15
16½	14½	—	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	15	15
12½	10½	12½	Welsbach Ordinary Stock . . .	10½	10½
19½	17½	18½	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	10½	10½
103½	102½	103½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	89	88½
91½	86½	88	Hudson's Bay Co. (58½) . . .	50½	50
54½	42½	50½	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½)	106	105½
110½	107½	105½	Do. Debentures (6)	9½	9
9½	9	—	National Discount (10)	12	11½
13½	11½	—	Union Discount (11)	4½	4½
6½	5	4½	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	10½	10½
11½	11	10½	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	98½	97½
104½	98	—	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4½)	128	127
133½	128	—	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) . .	3	2½
66½	61½	23½	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) . .	4	4
85½	75½	4	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) . .	1½	1½
28½	26½	1½	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10)	1½	1½
31½	30½	—	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½)	12½	12½
14	12½	—	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) . .	43½	43½
47½	40½	43½	United States Steel Ordinary . .	110½	110½
117	107½	110½	Do. Preference (7)	27½	27½
57½	52½	23½	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	15½	15½
14½	13½	—	Cunard Steam	237½	237½
24½	23½	—	Pennsular & Oriental Def. (13)	59	59
59	52	—	Royal Mail	8½	8½
9	7½	—	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5)	112xd	114
114½	109½	113	Anglo-American Telegraph— Pref. Ord. (2½)	21	22½
22½	16½	21½	Do. Def. Ord. . . .	145½xd	145½
150½	145½	145½	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	15	14½
15½	14½	14½	Eastern Extension (7)	111	110½
113½	108½	110½	National Telephone Def. (5) . .	14½	14½
14½	14½	14½	Western Telegraph (7)	6½	6½
8½	6½	6½	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	8½xd	8½
9½	8½	8½	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)	84½	84½
117	85½	—	London General Omnibus (7)	9½	9½
9½	8½	—	London United Trams Pref. (5)		

relapse took place amongst Nitrate issues. Nelsons were lower amongst Meat issues, but Eastman's were better. United Lankats were still a good market, and amongst Telegraphs Anglo "A" continued its steady rise. Telephones were a little easier. Hudson's Bays fluctuated narrowly, finishing better, but Pekins were still flat. Entertainment shares were adversely affected by the very bad Coliseum report. The appearance of the Electrobuss prospectus caused weakness in London Motor Omnibus shares, but the severe criticisms provoked by the former led to a recovery. London Generals and Road Cars were fairly steady. Associated Cements were enquired for in anticipation of a big demand for the company's products from San Francisco, and it is worth noting that British cement makers have largely increased their trade with the States during the past year or so. Drapery companies'

shares were rather easier. Gas Light and Coke and other Gas issues relapsed a little, but Trusts were still moving up, and in the Shipping division a considerable business was done in Furness, Withy at improving prices. Dock stocks were flat on the abandonment of the amalgamation proposal. Carry-over rates in this section showed no important change, and while the majority of movements in the making up list were adverse, there were a fair number of small rises, besides some rather large ones. Allsopp issues, for example, went up $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 7, Bieckert's Brewery ordinary rose 30, and the preference $4\frac{1}{2}$, and Anglo-American Telegraph deferred advanced $1\frac{1}{2}$. On the other hand California Oilfields lost $\frac{3}{8}$, D. H. Evans $\frac{3}{8}$, Wm. Griffiths ordinary and preference $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$, and James Nelson 4s. 6d. Pease and Partners fell $\frac{3}{8}$, Shell Transport 3s. 3d., Hudson Bays 2, Pekin Syndicate $1\frac{1}{8}$, and the deferred 10, Eastern Telegraph $1\frac{1}{2}$, and National Telephone preferred and deferred $1\frac{1}{2}$, Standard Bank of South Africa were $1\frac{1}{2}$ lower, Anglo-Argetnine Trams declined $\frac{7}{8}$, and Commercial Union Assurance showed a loss of $11\frac{1}{2}$.

Markets were not much more active to-day, but the tendency everywhere was cheerful under the influence of Consols, which improved on Budget prospects. Insurance shares were inclined to recover. Foreign bonds were steady, owing to the firmness in Paris, and a little investment, buying in Home Railways brought about a modest recovery. Yankées also opened better this morning, but were unable to maintain their improvement for long as Wall Street again proved a heavy seller. The Kaffir market was fairly steady most of the day, and Rhodesian things were good, with a fair business in Bankets, but there was not a great deal doing owing to the revival of the Chinese labour question.

American Business Notes.

Thanks to the help given, by the Secretary to the Treasury and to the prompt borrowing of considerable amounts of gold abroad, the New York banks have been able to retrieve their position in a quite remarkable manner within little more than a fortnight. It results that the weekly return published on Saturday last shows an increase of £3,390,000 in the specie average and of £3,600,000 in the total reserve, which is now up to £53,646,000, or £3,273,000 more than the legal minimum, an increase of £2,323,000 within a week. Loans and discounts have expanded rather less than £2,000,000, so that the banks, taken in the aggregate, are altogether stronger than they were. We shall be curious, however, to discover how far individual banks have regained their strength by the means indicated. In the detailed figures of their return for the week ended April 7 there is quite a number of the clearing-house banks below their minimum. The largest bank of all, the City, had 25.6 per cent. of its liabilities in reserve, so that its proportion was slightly above the legal minimum, but there were about 30 banks out of the whole 53 whose reserves were below the statutory minimum of 25 per cent. Most of them were small banks; still, the First National, whose liability on deposits was \$76,350,000 at that date, had a reserve of only 20.4 per cent. against its liability, and there were several others who dipped to about 20 per cent., or even less. It will be difficult for the weaker of these banks to put themselves in line with the statute, but something has been gained, and yet the New York stock markets are not happy. Will San Francisco bring about the overturn for which they have been so long piling up financial skyscrapers?

A communication from the Chicago Great Western Railway Company tells us that for the first six months of this fiscal year the surplus earnings over full dividends on the preferred "A" stock was \$387,734. Next to the preferred "A" stock comes the preferred "B," on which at present there is only \$9,464,000 outstanding, but the company has contracted to issue \$14,000,000 more of this stock in exchange for the

stock of the Mason City and Fort Dodge road. On the total contemplated issue of an approximate \$24,000,000, the half-year's dividend requirements would be \$480,000. It is, however, declared by an officer of the company that the preferred stock of the Mason City and Fort Dodge line, to be received dollar for dollar for the \$14,000,000 of New Chicago Great Western preferred "B" stock, is earning nearly, if not quite, 4 per cent., and as the parent company owns all their stocks, the earnings of the Mason City and of the Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania line will come wholly into its treasury. The memorandum adds that should the Mason City and Fort Dodge Company contribute an equivalent of 4 per cent. on the \$14,000,000 to the parent company's treasury, the Chicago Great Western may be regarded as having earned \$198,000 on an aggregate of \$44,000,000 common stock during the six months ended with December last, or at the rate of nearly 1 per cent. per annum. It should not, however, be forgotten that there are still large capital requirements of the road to be considered. This is quite understood, but we shall be glad to find the long-jeered-at Chicago Great Western drawing out of its troubles.

Splendid figures are exhibited by the United States Steel Corporation for the first quarter of the current year. We only get them in summary by cable, but the figures deserve to be recorded here. The nett earnings are given at \$36,634,000 compared with \$23,026,000 in the first quarter of 1905. After deducting sinking fund, depreciation, interest, &c., which took \$14,262,000, or \$114,000 more than in the corresponding quarter, and the preferred share dividend which took the same amount at \$6,305,000, the surplus remaining is \$16,067,000 compared with \$2,573,000 in the March quarter of last year. Then apparently extraordinary expenditure to the amount of \$10,500,000 is allowed for, after which there will still be a surplus on the accounts of \$5,567,000 compared with only \$2,573,000 a year back. Should all these figures represent cash, should, in other words, the corporation have been paid for its goods in the ordinary way and not by more or less unmarketable securities, then the position must be regarded as a strong one, provided always the apportionment for depreciation is adequate, which it never hitherto has been. And the promise of business is good for the current quarter since the unexecuted orders on the books on the 1st inst. aggregated 7,018,000 tons against 7,605,000 tons on January 1 and 5,598,000 tons on April 1 last year.

Our own iron markets are showing strength in the hope that much of the demand for steel created by the projects for rebuilding San Francisco, with which its citizens are already keenly occupied, may come to this country. It is said that the American steel producers are so full of orders as to be unable to cope with the unexpected demand thus arising, and some even hint that the Washington Government may be persuaded to suspend the import duties on foreign steel so as to assist San Francisco in its rehabilitation. We do not know what grounds there are for these hopes, but it assuredly would be a graceful act on the part of the said Government to open its doors in this way to British producers as a means of giving us some little compensation for the very heavy drafts made upon our insurance companies in payment of damages.

Messrs. J. P. Morgan and Co. are reported to have been called on to take up 33 per cent. of the \$10,000,000 of 4 per cent. Atlanta, Knoxville and Cincinnati Division bonds underwritten by them and issued by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company. The firm can stand it.

The New York demand for gold would appear to have been in part diverted to Paris, if it be true, as Reuter reports, that part of the £800,000 engaged for importation this week has been drawn from that city. We can only hope that French bankers may now be disposed to let the New Yorkers have as much more of the metal as they want, since that would do more to relieve our market than any other visible means of relief.

The banks of San Francisco have reopened, and business at once resumed its ordinary course. Nothing resembling a "run" occurred, for as much money was paid in as was withdrawn. This is reassuring news, inasmuch as it should contribute to reduce the strain upon the cash resources of the Eastern banks. Much gold will doubtless have to go to San Francisco to enable payment to be made for the formidable work of restoration and rebuilding to be undertaken there, but if it goes gradually all the money markets of the world will feel relieved.

The Big Brewery Amalgamation.

The *Financial Times* seems to have distinctly scored over this affair. Rumours by the score almost have been circulated lately concerning this brewery and that, and it was very definitely stated that a scheme of amalgamation was afoot embracing Allsopps, Thos. Salt and Co., and the Burton Brewery, the last a concern not much known in London except by name. Certain other companies were said to be involved, and doubtless are, although the *Financial Times* was unable to give their titles when publishing details of the scheme on Thursday. The particulars have not been officially admitted yet, and there is great assumed indignation at Burton over the premature disclosure, but they are doubtless right, and near enough. Being the largest concern, Allsopps seems to be the moving spirit, and, according to the story, has arranged to acquire on lease the whole of the assets of the other two companies at an annual rent sufficient to meet interest and dividends upon the loans and capital. The usual economies in working the business are expected, of course, and it is said that the arrangements for financing the scheme are complete. It appears that the operation will be carried out by a certain trust company already formed, which will first of all acquire all the assets, less the liabilities, of Thomas Salt and Company and the Burton Brewery. Cash payments to the amount of £87,300 will have to be provided for, and in order to obtain the necessary money the trust will issue $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. debentures for £100,000, to be underwritten by Allsopps. That company will also underwrite another £100,000 of debentures, but where Allsopps is to get £200,000 from, should it be called upon to take up the stock, is a mystery to us. Under the leasing plan Allsopps will pay a rent of £70,000, ranking prior to its 4 per cent. debenture stock, and will also give a floating charge over its assets ranking after the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. debenture stocks. The company will also enter into a guarantee of £100,000 that the rent shall be paid, and agrees to provide an additional £10,000 per annum when the profits are sufficient to pay interest on its own 4 per cent. debenture stock. Then a sinking fund is to be formed for the acquisition of the other properties, £25,000 being paid in for the first two years, and £7,500 per annum thereafter. In 45 years it is estimated that Allsopps will have acquired the absolute right in the properties, provided all these obligations have not "busted" it long before. With regard to the contingent additional sum of £10,000 above mentioned, the trust company will issue certain ordinary shares to the ordinary and preference shareholders of the Burton Brewery and Thomas Salt. Should the trust company be able to pay 5 per cent. interest on these shares during the last five years of the leasing agreement, and Allsopps preference shareholders also receive their dividend, then Allsopps must buy them back at their face value. How much is face value? £10,000 will provide 5 per cent. on £200,000. If these dividend payments are not forthcoming, then the share will be considered valueless, and the trust wound up. Some sanguine spirit has estimated that the economies to be effected will provide Allsopps with a profit of over £100,000 a year after paying the rent agreed upon, but we doubt if the amalgamation of three derelicts will produce such a good result as that.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

The week opened with the carry-over, Monday being contango day in the mining market. There was, however, little to arrange and the business did not take up much time. Rates here and there were inclined to be slightly stiffer than at the mid-April settlement, though not as a result of a broadening of the bull position. Such speculative favourites as Gold Fields, East Rands, and Rand Mines were carried over at $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. against 4—5 per cent., but the rate on Johannesburg Consolidated was again 5—6 per cent. Modderfonteins were arranged at $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., compared with 5—6 per cent., Randfonteins and T. C. L.'s at $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and Gedulds at 4—5 per cent. On the generality of gold, land, and finance shares the rate was 6—7 per cent., about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. harder than last time, and it was likewise the ruling charge on Rhodesians. There was no change in the contangos on diamond shares, which were $3\frac{1}{2}$ — $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on De Beers and Jagers, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on Premiers. The Egyptian and West Africa rates were 6—7 per cent., and the Westralian 6—8 per cent. Such shares as Associated, Perseverance, Great Fingalls, Great Boulders, Kalgurli's, Oroyas, and Sons of Gwalla were, however, carried over at 5—7 per cent., and Golden Horseshoes at 3—5 per cent. In the American group Esperanzas, El Oros, Stratton's, Camp Birds, and Le Rois were arranged, as before, at 6—8 per cent.

Changes in prices in the South African list were not all adverse, and taken on the whole the movements either way were of slight importance. Premier Diamond deferred was the most conspicuous share with the substantial rise of £2, and Montrose Diamonds gained 1½. Other advances included ½ in Rand Klipfonteins; ¾ in Afrikanders and Transvaal Diamonds; 9-32 in Bankets, ¼ in Central Minings, Ferreira's, H. F. Company and Tanganyikas; ¾ in Coronation Syndicates, Wolhuters, and Robinson Central Deeps; and 5-32 in Van Ryns. The losses were ¾ in Geduld Proprietary, ¾ in De Beers deferred, ¼ in New Brighton, and ¾ in Treasury. In the Jungle Broomassies were ¾ lower, Wassaus 5-32, and Amalgamated ¾. Amongst Egyptians the outstanding movement was a rise of ½ in Egyptian Options, whilst in Westralians Kalgurli's spurted ½, allowing for the 5s. dividend, Associated ¼, Ivanhoe 5-32, and Northern Blocks ¾. Golden Horseshoes, on the other hand, fell ¾. In the Indian section Ooregum Preference advanced ¾, but there were relapses of ¾ in Champion Reefs, Mysores, and Dharwar Reefs. Of the copper group Rio Tintos relapsed to the extent of £2 and Anacondas ¾.

There are no symptoms discernible of an improvement in the Kaffir Circus. On the contrary, the dulness has been unrelieved and prices have again steadily declined. Each day's recessions have not been heavy in degree, but on the week the individual aggregates are substantial. Doubtless this market has been affected by the prevailing monetary conditions, likewise by the native rebellion in Natal, but more particularly by the disgust and apathy of the general public. The French have been too preoccupied with the Russian loan to give any marked attention to South Africans, though report says they have within the past day or so bought Central Minings and Premier Diamonds. Anyway, these are the solitary shares in which the changes have been conspicuous. The movements in them have not been in one direction, for one day they gain substantially, the next fall heavily, and these cannot be the effect of legitimate dealings. The contrast with the surrounding flatness is too pronounced also to excite other than suspicion of inside manipulation. In "Passing Events" we deal with the circular issued by the United South Africa Association, one of the promoters of the Premier Diamond company.

The other sections of the market, with the exception of Coppers, may also be dismissed in a few words, for all have been in a condition of heavy torpor. Anacondas and Rio Tintos have relieved by their erratic movements the monotony of the Miscellaneous department. The changes have been in utter disregard of any conditions in the metal market, for when Anacondas have fallen Rio Tintos have risen and vice versa. They have been manipulated evidently by independent market players. At one time it was declared that the market took a serious view of the recently announced landslide at the Rio Tinto mine, and the price fell ½, but on the following day the shares put on ½, and this cannot be explained by saying the market did not know its own mind two minutes together. It looks like a pure gambling move, especially as we hear there was some influential buying at the fall. The leading Indian shares have shown a tendency to weakness, but even here there have been some quick changes of sentiment.

DURBAN ROODEPOORT GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This company's working results in 1905 compare favourably with those for 1904, the mill running regularly and crushing 131,446 tons, the gold from which realised £254,606, out of a total income of £255,660. The working profit was £105,269, and the nett profit £75,873, including £617 from interest and £46 from transfer and warrant fees. Four interim dividends were paid aggregating 60 per cent. against 55 per cent., and £4,882 is carried forward compared with £2,697 brought in. The ore exposed in both blocks at the end of the year was estimated at 23,429 tons in block No. 1 and 299,550 tons in block No. 2, a total of 322,979 tons. Shareholders should carefully consider the fol-

lowing important statement by the general manager:—"The future policy will be to increase the annual tonnage of main reef from 50,000 to 60,000 tons, provided this tonnage of payable main reef ore can be procured." On such a basis the mine should run for four years, he says, when it will be possible definitely to decide as to the possibility of running the mine entirely on main reef as a low grade concern, "and judging from the value of the main reef at present being milled the indications point to the probability of considerable blocks of payable ground on this reef." This hardly foreshadows the brightest prospects.

VILLAGE DEEP.—In reference to the notice recently published giving preliminary advice of a special general meeting of shareholders to be held in Johannesburg on the 25th prox., further particulars have now been issued in the form of a circular, together with a copy of the provisional agreement with the Booyesen's Estate, Limited, and the South Deeps, Limited, with a plan showing the claims to be acquired. The preliminary notice differed in two small particulars from the notice now referred to:—(a) The purchase of one claim for 1,455 fully-paid new shares is not covered by the provisional agreement; (b) the purchase not only of 33,7536 claims from Booyesen's Estate, Limited, but also of 1,3221 claims from the South Deeps, Limited, is conditional upon the ratification of a provisional agreement for the sale of 64,9347 claims by the South Deeps, Limited, to the Turf Mines, Limited.

VAN DYK PROPRIETARY MINES.—This new member of the A. Goerz group is now about eighteen months old, for it was formed in October, 1904. In this short time it has not been able to do anything brilliant, for the work carried out has been mainly boreholing, the assay results of which have given varying values. Altogether six boreholes have been sunk, the average thickness of the reef being 26.8 inches, and the value 20.5 dwts. per ton. According to the revenue and expenditure statement for the fourteen months to the end of December the sum of £9,208 was received from interest and rents, against which were charged the administration and other expenses, including £3,104 for preliminary and flotation costs, totalling £7,361, leaving the small credit balance of £1,847 to carry forward. And this is practically all the essential information in the first annual report. Cash and other liquid assets amount to £209,187.

LACE DIAMOND MINING COMPANY.—Failure still attends the mining operations of this company, which at one time, we were told, threatened to rival De Beers. In the twelve months ending December 31 last sufficient diamonds were recovered to realise £4,495, and as it cost £2,991 to get them the gross profit was £1,503. General charges, however, took £3,389, so the nett result was a loss of £1,886, which increases the debit to the substantial total of £27,531. In addition to this there is an overdraft of £23,345, after allowing for £1,747 cash in hand, so it would not surprise us to see reconstruction proposed any day. At any rate, diamond mining is not likely to relieve the company of its financial burdens.

SONS OF GWALIA.—This company has met with an experience similar to that of other leading West Australian companies. Its ore has deteriorated in quality, and in order to keep profits up the mine managers have not only reduced the working costs, but have crushed yearly a larger quantity of ore. Thus in 1905 the mill treated 121,443 tons against 108,808 tons, yielding 63,702 ozs. of fine gold, realising £270,376. The gross income was £271,716, an increase of about £5,000, and the nett profit £105,608, or some £10,000 lower than in 1904, though £8,000 less at £15,000 was written off for depreciation. Dividends again total 6s. per share, or 30 per cent., but the carry forward is increased from £1,137 to £8,245. The yield last year averaged 44s. 6d. per ton against 49s. per ton in 1904, whilst working costs, inclusive of development, increased from 22s. 1d. per ton to 22s. 9d. per ton; if, however, development be excluded, the figures were 17s. 4d. and 18s. 7d. respectively. An unpleasant result of the year's working is a fall in the quantity and quality of the ore reserves, despite a largely increased outlay on development, the estimates being 358,548 tons assaying 40s. 6d. per ton, against 362,865 tons, worth 47s. 4d. per ton at the end of 1904. For the first quarter of the current year the directors pay at the same rate as in 1905, but in view of the above facts, that is of the decrease in the estimates of the ore reserves, shareholders should not feel assured that the aggregate distribution will be the same. The financial position is strong enough, so they need not worry over that.

BROOMASSIE MINES.—The directors of this Jungle company announce that in order to take every possible advantage of the present greatly increased scope for development, not only in completing the blocking out of the rich ore bodies below the 235 feet level in the west and east reefs in the old mine, but also in opening up the Richards tunnel section, they have cabled to Mr. Currie that if it will facilitate operations he is to authorise a restriction of the output for the present. In any case, it is argued, it would obviously be a great advantage to have the developments further ahead than at present before running the new mill to its full capacity, so that a regular grade of ore may be milled, based upon the average value taken over a much larger tonnage than is now blocked out. Under the circumstances, the directors hope the shareholders will not allow any temporary reduction or variation in the monthly output to influence their opinion as to the value of the mine; notwithstanding which the price of the share has weakened.

FAMATINA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.—In their report for 1905 the directors assure shareholders that development work was pushed forward with great energy last year, the ore reserves being largely augmented. The additions to these have been approximately at the rate of 5,000 tons per month, and this is

expected to be accelerated as soon as further labour facilities become available. On the advice of Messrs. John Taylor and Sons, an outlying property under option, called the Ophir, has been abandoned, and the directors have ceased to make further payments thereon. The expenditure in the Argentine Republic amounted to £16,088 against £793 profit on stores; in London it was £3,371, with an income of £173 from transfer fees, whilst other outgoings totalled £6,122, and as £169 was received from deposit interest, the deficiency was £24,446, increasing the amount in the balance-sheet to £61,987. The International Copper Co., Limited, which was formed on July 7, 1905, has subscribed and paid for £19,800 income bonds of the Famatina, and has applied for £20,000 debentures, payable when required. It has also undertaken to provide £60,000 further against the security of ore from the mines when stored at Chilecito.

BRITISH BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY.—In the second half of 1905 the ore raised totalled 70,014 tons, which is the highest aggregate for a similar period. The mill treated 69,982 tons of ore of an average assay value of 10.3 ozs. of silver, 15.3 per cent. of lead, and 13.9 per cent. of zinc, and produced 11,535 tons of concentrates containing 335,681 ozs. of silver and 7,008 tons of lead. Concentrates sold realised £109,036, sale of dumps £5,000, ore sales £587, and ore raised and on hand £856, total £115,480, the gross working profit being £47,416. Adding £770 from interest, £154 from transfer fees, and £10 from exchange, and deducting administration expenses, the nett profit amounted to £42,694, the balance brought in increasing it to £48,060. The directors pay a dividend at the rate of 2s. 6d. per share, absorbing £37,500, leaving £10,560 to be carried forward. An estimate of the ore reserves at the end of December shows approximately 575,000 tons, of which 272,000 tons are available in Block 15 above the 600 ft. level and 303,000 tons in Block 16 above the 490 ft. level. This is an increase of 75,000 tons compared with the previous half-year.

SAN MIGUEL COPPER MINES.—The greater part of the year 1905 was devoted to preparatory and exploration work, in order to secure for the mine a steady output, and this meant a restriction of the production for quite nine months out of the twelve. The entire output was 41,996 tons, of which 7,000 tons of rich ore were shipped, the remainder being added to the heaps. Of the latter about 25,000 tons were shipped. The produce of fine copper amounted to 500 tons. Sales of ore realised £46,874, and the profit and loss account is credited with £49,800 for stock of ore on heaps, and with £8,703 for stock of ore sold awaiting shipment. Adding rent, interest, transfer fees, &c., the total income was £106,174 and the nett profit £29,312. Three interim dividends of 2s. per cent. per annum were paid and the final one is also 2s. per cent., and out of the surplus of £10,561 the directors are writing off the whole of the expenditure on mine development, £9,015, and the preliminary expenses, £688, leaving £857 to be carried forward. A good balance-sheet is issued.

TILT COVE COPPER COMPANY.—The Cape Copper Company's Tilt Cove establishment's accounts for the year ending December 31 last show that the mines made a gross profit of £64,759, whilst the nett profit was £57,554. The balance of profit has been dealt with as follows:—£28,777 has been retained by the Cape Copper Company and a like sum has been received by the Tilt Cove Company as its moiety of profit. Although a profit of £57,554 is shown in the establishment, this result is arrived at after the absorption of £324 profits spent on plant and machinery and additions to buildings, and £371 representing an increase in the amount retained for working capital, and the balance of £695 has been divided between capital expenditure and reserve for depreciation. Out of the available profit of £28,375 an interim dividend of 3s. per share was paid in December, and the committee pay a final dividend of 2s. 6d. per share, making a total of 5s. 6d. or 13¼ per cent. for the year, leaving £3,475 to be carried forward.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

UNION BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

No fault whatever can be found with the report and balance-sheet of this Scotch bank for the year ended April 2 last. Its gross profits are returned at £345,398 or £6,204 more than in the previous twelve months earned at an increased cost of £1,212 at £152,832, so that the nett credit is larger by £4,992 at £192,566. To that is added the £22,804 brought forward, making £215,370, and the directors again add £45,000 to the rest or reserve, and £5,000 to bank premises account. A dividend is then proposed at the rate of 13 per cent. per annum, payable in equal proportions, one on May 10, and the other on November 10 next, £6,500 is set aside for income-tax, and the balance carried forward is largely increased to £28,870. Rest account now amounts to £875,000, or within £125,000 of the paid-up capital. Changes in the balance-sheet items are not large or important, but they seem to be generally satisfactory. Deposit and current accounts show an increase of £210,447 at £12,740,030, current drafts on London are up by £90,356 to £131,324, and notes in circulation have expanded by £57,830 to £981,811. There is also a small increase in the bank's acceptances which now amount to £20,463. A slight decline is noticeable in the gold and silver coin, notes of other banks, and balance at Bank of England, which total £1,107,733 against £1,120,443, but cash balances due by correspondents, and cash vouchers in transit are

larger by £183,918 at £524,707. Consols and other British Government securities have scarcely varied, but are lower at £1,137,805, while other securities and investments show an increase of £28,804 to £1,795,609, and the money at call and short notice is up by £219,041 to £3,230,609. Other working assets, such as bills discounted £2,783,421, and advances on cash credits and current accounts £2,778,031 are greater by £241,018 and £141,872 respectively, but loans on stock and other securities have been reduced by £180,622 to £2,216,870. Bank premiums are again rather higher, despite the writing off, but London property is valued at £1,000 less, and the aggregate of the balance-sheet is £15,913,988 against £15,501,834.

YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK, LIMITED.

This ably conducted bank is a fine example of Japanese energy and enterprise. Its already large and profitable business showed considerable expansion during the half-year to December 31, and we know the excellent part it played in handling the Japanese loans. Gross profits are returned at 9,922,363 yen or 2,533,376 yen more than in the corresponding period of 1904, and there was a moderate increase to 609,720 yen in the sum brought forward, so that altogether the credit is 10,532,084 yen, against 7,915,088 yen. On the other hand, the expenses were up by only 1,207,902 yen to 7,213,968 yen, and notwithstanding the increased profits the directors have decided to keep the dividend at 12 per cent. per annum, absorbing 720,000 yen for the old shares, and 360,000 yen for the new. This enables them to place 360,000 yen or 160,000 yen more to the reserve fund, and twice as much at 200,000 yen to the silver funds, besides creating an entirely new special reserve fund with the fine sum of 1,000,000 yen. The balance carried forward is then increased from 529,922 yen to 678,115 yen. Ordinary reserve will now amount to 10,300,000 yen, the reserve for silver funds to 1,000,000 yen, and the special fund to a similar amount. In other directions the balance-sheet has some important changes. Current and fixed deposits, &c., show the enormous increase of 39,750,075 yen to 110,295,322 yen, but bills payable, bills rediscounted, acceptances, and other sums due by the bank are less by a still larger sum of 45,778,938 yen at 93,479,770 yen. On the other side the cash in hand and at bankers is greater by 8,745,731 yen at 24,672,527 yen, and bullion and foreign money has gone up by 1,809,453 yen to 2,199,964 yen. The principal changes on this side, however, are in bills discounted, loans, advances, &c., up by 25,305,913 yen to 80,783,562 yen, and bills receivable and other sums due to the bank down by 29,677,683 yen to 109,581,025 yen. Bank premises, properties, furniture, &c., appear at 1,732,119 yen against 1,820,401 yen, and against this item there is a reserve of 202,448 yen. Altogether a sound and healthy position on which directors and shareholders are alike to be congratulated.

COX AND COMPANY.

This bank's balance-sheet made up to April 9 last shows liabilities on current and deposit accounts of £3,360,036, or £151,783 more than at April 8 a year ago. Circular notes are somewhat higher at £650, and the capital and reserve remain at £400,000, or a balance-sheet total of £3,760,680 against £3,447,212. Against this the holding of Consols is still taken at 90% or £633,500, and Transvaal 3 per cent. at 99% or £29,850, but the £100,000 of War Loan has been reduced $\frac{1}{4}$ to 89%, so that it now stands at £98,750 against £99,000. In addition the bank has bought £100,000 of Exchequer bonds, which it values at £98,750, but the English railway debenture stocks have been slightly reduced to £90,795, and other high-class securities by £75,639 to £193,861, the aggregate of the investments being now £1,145,507 against £1,125,140. Cash at bankers and on hand is larger by £43,312 at £521,617, but the money at call and short notice has been reduced by £130,000 to £270,000 in consequence of a rise of £215,455 to £1,676,062 in the advances to customers. Bank premises have slightly increased to £147,500.

NITRATE RAILWAYS CO., LIMITED.

This undertaking did wonderfully well during the year ended December 31. It gathered the splendid revenue of £605,116 or £105,912 more than in the previous twelve months. Traffic in nitrate was 24,535,007 quintals against 21,918,971 quintals in 1904 and the revenue from this source went up from £283,170 to £341,299. Then the coal traffic gave £166,714, general cargo and luggage £32,825, passengers £46,984, sundries £17,153 and telegrams £141. On the other hand, the increase in working expenses was no more than £43,046 to £290,285, meaning a decline in the ratio of outgo to income from 49.52 per cent. to 47.97 per cent. The principal increase in expenditure was in locomotive expenses, which were up by £27,775 to £170,094. On the maintenance of way the outlay was £32,447, telegraph expenses were £3,095, traffic expenses £42,832 and general expenses £23,771. Then the London charges absorbed £9,759 and exchange account £8,286. Balance of nett revenue was £314,831 or £62,866 more, to which must be added the big sum of £191,079 brought forward, and interest, discount, transfer fees, &c., £3,396, making £509,306. Service of the debentures in the shape of interest and sinking fund requires £131,064, and income-tax, &c., £7,175. Then expenditure during the year on rolling stock and sidings, £17,876, is written off and £253,191 remains. Another £20,000 is required for renewal and increase of rolling stock, but the directors are still able to provide dividends aggregating 8 per cent. or $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more on the ordinary unconverted shares. That gives 7 per cent. to the preferred ordinary against $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and 1 per cent. to the deferred ordinary, the first payment on the latter since 1895, when $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was distributed. Moreover, the directors propose to add the big sum of £160,000 to reserve, increasing

the fund to £200,000, and to carry forward £60,711. This reserve is quite liquid, the cash, investments and bills receivable belonging to the company being no less than £374,726, and as an over-expenditure on capital account of £98,843 has been provided from revenue the financial position must be considered a good one. During the past year 12,850 preferred and deferred shares were reconverted into 12,850 ordinary unconverted shares, making a total of 34,797 reconverted up to December 31, 1905. Whether this process of reconversion will cease now that the directors have been able to resume deferred dividends it is hard to say, but it will be all to the good if the capital is restored to its former status and the nominal addition created on conversion disappears from the balance-sheet.

NATIONAL RAILROAD COMPANY OF MEXICO.

This company's gross earnings in the past year came to \$3,12,755,723 and the expenses to \$3,824,655, or almost 65 per cent. of the income. The nett earnings were thus \$3,447,1068, or in United States currency \$2,219,094. The company also received various other additions to its resources, including about \$516,000 as interest on balances, on bonds held, dividends, &c., so that its entire nett income was \$2,770,412, out of which the taxes, interest on bonds, notes and loans and other charges were met, leaving \$412,258 as surplus compared with \$71,620 for 1904.

MEXICAN INTERNATIONAL RAILROAD.

In 1905 this company's gross earnings were \$3,659,162 and the expenses \$3,328,207. The nett earnings thus came to \$3,260,955, and the company was able to meet its bonded debt interest, leaving a surplus of about \$605,000 United States currency. The proportion of expenses to earnings was 58.72 per cent.

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

The report of this venerable institution to be presented at its 144th annual general meeting is of the usual satisfactory kind. The new business done in the past year was not large, only 290 policies insuring £274,460 being issued, and deferred annuities amounting to £416 per annum sold. Of the policies issued £17,500 was reinsured, and the nett new premium income was thus reduced to £10,856, including £1,777 in single premiums. The society also sold immediate annuities of £1,143, for which it received £11,897. Claims by death arose under 114 policies in respect of 84 lives, and were unusually heavy. The original amounts insured under these policies were £151,940, and the bonus additions thereon reached £212,210, so that on the average every £1,000 of original insurance became £2,397, or considerably more than two and a third times the amount of the original policy. One reason why the death claims are so much in excess of those in recent years is found in a change in the method of book-keeping. Hitherto claims arising by death in the year, but not admitted owing to proof of death not having been furnished until after the close of the year, have been carried forward. For 1905 they are included, and as at the end of the year they were exceptionally large, £69,738, including bonuses, has in this way been added to the claims of the year. A quinquennial bonus was declared a year ago, and as usually happens at such times large amounts of bonus additions were surrendered for cash payments. In the past year the amount thus surrendered was £50,337, for which £32,443 in cash was paid. This large disbursement, together with the above-mentioned book excess in the claims taken into account, produced a diminution of £67,721 in the society's funds as on January 1 last, the total being then £4,846,732 against £4,914,453 the year before. This does not in any way imply that the Society is becoming weaker, but it does perhaps indicate that it might do more to bring its fine position before the public. It worked its business last year at a cost of only 8.75 per cent. of the premium income or 4.46 per cent. of the total income, and as it pays no commissions and has no agents it has to rely upon its members and friends for a steady flow of new business. In a table accompanying the report a complete list of the claims falling due in 1905 is furnished, and well deserves study. It is a table, in fact, that the Society might be well advised to widely advertise. The first claim in the list is on a policy taken out as long ago as 1821, insuring £400, and the amount actually paid when this old policy fell in was nearly £2,048, while the total premiums paid came to only £632. Splendid as this result is, we have no doubt it left the Society with a substantial profit, but there are very few life offices in existence that could make a display such as this table gives.

COMMERCIAL UNION ASSURANCE COMPANY.

This agglomerate of many forms of insurance business, for it does life, fire, marine and accident business, makes a good display for the past year. Its most important branch is the fire business, the premium income in which came last year to £2,074,789 or £107,077 more than in 1904. Losses paid or outstanding came to £937,920, or 45.2 per cent. of the premium income, and from the profits of this department £165,000 has been carried to profit and loss. After providing for outstanding losses the fire fund stands at £2,248,679, an increase of £255,675 on the figure of a year back. Expenses, it may be added, came to little more than 36 per cent. of the premium income in this department. The life business for the year produced £48,189 in new premiums, 1,672 policies for £1,140,251 having been issued. This is exclusive of 852 policies for £593,206 issued before the Hand-in-Hand amalgamation was completed on June 30 in respect of which new premiums of £15,831 were carried to the Hand-in-Hand fund. The total new business was thus 2,524 policies insuring £1,733,457. Claims by death, £152,958 were within the amount expected and at the end of the year the life funds were increased by £201,013 to a total of £2,977,562. The marine business gave £237,255 in nett premiums, and losses

paid came to £147,122, expenses reaching rather more than £46,000. Out of the surplus £20,000 was carried to profit and loss account, and after providing for outstanding loss the marine fund amounted to £594,693. In the accident branch the net premiums came to £170,778 and the losses to £83,003, the operation resulting in a surplus of £30,018 by which the accident fund was increased £122,229. It results from these various operations that the profit shown at the year's end was £201,500 out of which two dividends of 30s. per share each will be provided, leaving £51,500 to be carried forward. Including the interim dividend of 25s. paid in November last the 30s. now paid represents 55s. per share for 1905, and the other £75,000 is set aside to provide another dividend of 30s. per share to be paid on November 9 next. Besides the Hand-in-Hand, the Commercial Union owns the West of England Life Office, whose funds still amount to £689,000, but we have no space to carry the analysis further.

SCOTTISH UNION AND NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

Last year this company's life department issued 957 new policies, insuring £519,074, and yielding £33,690 in new premiums. Of this, however, £48,424 in capital was re-insured at a cost of £11,281 in premiums. Death claims absorbed £339,560, and at the year's end the life fund was increased by about £50,000 after allowing for £129,563, which was set aside to form a separate annuity fund, the Board of Trade suggesting that a distinct account should be opened for the company's annuity business. The expense of conducting the life business was nearly 14 per cent. of the premium income. In the fire department the premium revenue was £509,677, claims took £308,345, and commission and other expenses £202,680. Deducting these, there was left a surplus of £79,652 to be taken to the credit of profit and loss. Including a balance of £58,479 brought forward and the above-mentioned surplus on the fire account, together with £39,481 interest on the shareholders' capital and reserves, after making some minor adjustments, the free balance was £177,619, out of which the directors propose to pay a dividend at the rate of 17½ per cent., to transfer £20,000 to the credit of general account, and to carry forward £105,119 to the current year. The fire premium reserve and general reserve of the company was £600,000 at the date of the balance-sheet. Fire losses in the past year came to a little over 52 per cent. of the premium income, and commissions and expenses nearly 34½ per cent. The aggregate resources of the balance-sheet reaches the handsome total of almost £5,632,000.

LONDON COLISEUM, LIMITED.

This great West-End "show" has commenced its career in disastrous fashion. The report and accounts just issued covering the period from December 24, 1904, to December 31, 1905, reveal the company in the throes of a crisis. Owing to the cost of the building and equipment having exceeded the estimate by something like £80,000, the company is heavily in debt, and creditors are becoming pressing. We note from the balance-sheet that bank overdraft and loans amount to £51,207, and sundry creditors stand for £33,062, or over £84,000 in all. As far back as the early part of 1905 the extra building cost had landed the company in difficulties, and at the meeting held in April it was decided to create and issue preference shares in order to provide the necessary additional capital. Unhappily these were only taken up to the extent of £19,000, and the directors say frankly that unless the shareholders come to the rescue it will not be possible any longer to prevent creditors from resorting to extreme measures. About £2 5s. per share is wanted, that is to say, £98,000, and it appears that proprietors are offered either 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares, 6 per cent. second mortgage debentures or preferred ordinary shares. As the amount at present involved in the purchase of property, construction, furnishing, &c., is £375,095, it is not for us to tell the shareholders not to find the money, especially as the present entertainment is said to be a great success. In the period under review, however, the company did not perform very brilliantly, the profit on theatre account being only £11,546, and transfer fees £81 or £11,627 in all. From that mortgage debenture, bank and general interest required £7,872, and after providing sundry other charges the balance over is £1,432. Out of that the preference dividend absorbs £616, leaving £816, which the directors propose to carry forward.

NATAL LAND AND COLONIZATION CO., LIMITED.

A slight decline took place in this company's land sale profits during 1905, not because values showed any falling off, but owing to the fact that the properties stood in the books at comparatively high cost. Sales effected were 10,484 acres at a profit of £13,035 compared with £14,472 on 10,683 acres realised in 1904. At the end of 1904 the acreage owned was 265,108, which purchases and readjustment during the year raised to 272,817. Deducting the sales of 10,484 and the quantity still possessed is 262,333 acres, valued in the balance-sheet at £420,511 or £12,207 more than the larger amount at the close of 1904, meaning that the year's purchases must have been at rather high prices. The local committee, however, values this property at £722,705, showing a margin in the company's favour of over £300,000. In addition the company has £81,832 to come in over a series of years from purchasers of properties on which we gather there is a profit of £35,660, this sum meanwhile paying 6 per cent. interest. Other items on the credit side of the balance-sheet are not important until we come to a newly created suspense account of £5,920 arising out of a loan transaction in which the late manager was concerned. An

attempt to recover the debt, which amounted to £4,600, from the executors of the man to whom the money was advanced having failed, the directors are now bringing an action against the late manager, who granted the loan. The matter is still *sub judice*, but the company is well safeguarded, as a special reserve of £7,000 is held on account of the dispute. Company's debenture debt remains at £54,450, but the loan from bankers has been reduced from £9,000 to £7,000. The mortgage debenture bonds of the Natal Plantations Company, formerly standing at £19,900, have been further liquidated to the extent of £995, bringing them down to £1,834, by a 5 per cent. distribution made by the trustees in December last. Rents of land and town properties during the twelve months were £26,458, a very slight decline compared with the previous year, but interest, commission, transfer fees, &c., gave £5,432 only compared with £6,164, primarily due to the foreclosure of a bond and the taking over of a property mortgaged, from which rent is now received instead of interest on the loan. Adding to these items the land sale profits of £13,036 and the total revenue is £44,926 against £47,256. From this the total charges absorbed £13,337 leaving £31,589, to which is added £39,240 brought forward making £70,829, and after meeting the preference dividend of 8 per cent. the directors provide a dividend of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares—8 per cent. in all—carrying forward £39,640, of which £35,660 is the unrealised profit previously mentioned.

AUCKLAND ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS CO., LIMITED.

As the result of a further increase of 1,743,342 to 19,789,045 in the number of passengers carried the traffic receipts for the year ended December 31 rose by £11,306 to £121,879, and with miscellaneous receipts the gross revenue showed an improvement of £10,566. Expenses, on the other hand, were £4,438 up at £71,178, and after paying £2,684 or £163 more to the Auckland City Council for rent and percentage of profits and providing an extra £2,020 at £14,255 for depreciation, £13,950 was carried to depreciation account against £7,500 transferred and £4,658 written off a year ago in connection with the accident in December, 1903. Adding £3,098 or £775 more brought in, the nett balance was £24,018 compared with £21,098, so the dividend is raised to 7 per cent. against 6 and 4½ per cent. in the two preceding years, and £3,018 is carried forward. The old tramways still appear in the accounts for £12,684, and although this is not of great importance the balance-sheet would look better if the item were wiped out. Expenditure on electrical construction amounted to £13,414 making a total of £583,834, against which and the old tramways there is a reserve and depreciation fund of £32,000. If we deduct from this the value of the old tramways, it means that the allowance for depreciation on the new lines is only about 3.3 per cent., a figure so inadequate that the directors were by no means justified in increasing the dividend. Sundry creditors, including debenture interest accrued, were £3,741 down at £15,541, while sundry debtors were practically unaltered at £3,689, stores and materials are valued at £16,558 or £3,796 more and cash is £1,866 higher at £22,539.

LONDON TRUST CO., LIMITED.

There was some improvement in this company's revenue for the year 1905, which totalled £76,168, including dividends, interest, commissions, and trusteeship fees, &c. From this debenture and loan interest absorbed £35,114, and expenses £5,051, leaving £36,003, which is raised to £41,689 by the credit of £5,685 brought forward. The directors therefore provide £22,800 for the preferred dividend, and now propose a dividend of 2 per cent. on the deferred stock, the same as before, transferring £4,140 to reserve and depreciation account, and carrying forward £5,489. This sum of £4,140, in addition to a profit on sale of securities of £17,717, has been applied to writing down certain securities which are considered to have permanently depreciated in value, so that the reserve and depreciation account remains at £30,000. How far this goes to make good the difference in the actual value of the company's securities and the cost price we are not told, but the position is described as about the same as a year ago. Total investments, including loans on security of stocks, &c., and mortgage, reach £1,982,894, and stocks sold but not delivered are valued at £18,045. A list of the securities is not published.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Only a very small business passes on the London cargo market. Buyers show no pronounced disposition to trade, and holders maintain prices on the late figures, with the result that dealings are somewhat limited. The tendency, however, seems good, although the position in the North is not quite so strong. Early dealings there were at slightly lower levels, but towards the close quotations were disposed to rally on better American advices and reports of crop damage. Farmers' offerings, moreover, are comparatively light, and stocks at the chief ports are smaller than at the beginning of the year. This, however, is not surprising in view of the fact that our supplies from abroad during the cereal year have been much less than a year ago. New York markets opened with a steady appearance, unfavourable crop reports from some of the winter wheat sections inducing some "bear" covering. This, however, was followed by pretty liberal selling and the execution of some stop-loss orders for May. Recovery was also rendered difficult by foreign selling and good weather and crop advices from the interior. The visible supply was announced at 43,943,000 bushels against

46,148,000 bushels a week ago. The Chicago market, however, was distinctly harder on the variety of adverse circumstances, and the New York market sales generally became stronger on more damage reports, and Bradstreet's estimates, showing the quantity in sight East of the Rockies at only 10,923,000 bushels against 13,226,000 bushels a week ago, and 20,150,000 bushels last year. Small fluctuations followed, but the tone was pretty good at the last. Dornbusch estimates the quantity of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom at 4,145,000 qrs. against 4,080,000 qrs. a week ago, and to the Continent 2,030,000 qrs. against 2,040,000 qrs.

WOOL.—Business in all branches continues fairly active, and prices have shown a hardening tendency. A week ago some top-makers advanced the prices of crossbreds and merino tops, and others have lately followed their example. Many makers are disposed, too, to stand aside from the market pending further developments. The resistance to the upward movement becomes more and more futile, and conditions seem to combine to increase the scarcity of supplies. The new season's wool coming to hand consists almost entirely of very small lots, which command a ready sale at the higher values. The belief is likewise strong that prices will be maintained, and that a drop in the near future is most improbable. For new contracts prices are hardening also in the yarn market, and spinners are complaining of the narrow margin of profit. At the London Wool Exchange some 5,600 bales of low foreign wool were put up for auction, and attracted a goodly number of buyers both for home and the Continent. The arrivals to date for the third series of colonial wool auctions (commencing May 8), are as follows:—New South Wales, 25,365 bales; Queensland, 7,046; Victoria, 31,377; South Australia, 1,390; Western Australia, 3,457; Tasmania, 4,011; New Zealand, 93,647; Cape and Natal, 35,591; total, 201,884 bales, of which about 114,500 bales (40,500 Australian, 44,000 New Zealand, and 30,000 Cape) have been forwarded direct to the Continent, Yorkshire, &c. The week's imports total 20,530 bales, and comprise:—Sydney, 2,110 bales; Queensland, 860; Melbourne, 1,940; South Australia, 785; Albany, 1,020; Tasmania, 455; New Zealand, 10,200; Cape and Natal, 1,690; China, 370; Marseilles, 320; Antwerp, 310; Hamburg, 100; Calais, 180; Boulogne, 190 bales. A sale of low foreign wool will be held at the Wool Exchange on Wednesday, the catalogue aggregating about 5,000 bales, made up chiefly of Persian produce.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—Although a healthy feeling has prevailed in practically all sections of our market, yet the business arranged during the past week has been generally unimportant. Shippers of cotton piece goods have not been stimulated by their advices from abroad to operate freely, and the offers reported on the whole have hardly been based on current values. From India the inquiry for cloth is, speaking generally, encouraging, and sellers have been kept busy dealing with offers, but in several cases not much headway has been made in entering orders on the books. Bombay seems to have been the most prominent outlet, and a fair business has been done for China. Some sellers appear to have done much better than others. The transactions seem to have been confined almost entirely to fancy goods, although some shirting business has been arranged. Rather more inquiry has been reported from the outlets of South America and the Levant. It would seem that buyers for these outlets are desirous of obtaining goods at earlier delivery than most makers can undertake. Prices, too, are distinctly against buyers. Nothing particularly fresh has occurred with regard to Egypt. Stocks are reported to be heavy there. Quite a number of manufacturers have been indifferent as to further booking orders. Nearly all kinds of goods are deeply sold and firmly held at late rates. T-cloths and Mexicans have not been very active, the stiff attitude of makers apparently restricting business. Burnley and Glossop printing cloths, however, have moved off fairly well from day to day. The improved demand for sateens and coloured woven goods has been well maintained. The outlook for the home trade department continues healthy, and reports which come to hand denote an encouraging offtake in the country. A fair number of orders have again been placed this week. In American yarns for home use the turnover cannot be described as important. Some sellers, however, appear to have done much better than others. Ring beams are in active demand for early delivery, and good twists are also healthy. The production of some of the commoner kinds is not very easily cleared, but, on the whole, few stocks are to be found in first hands. Speaking generally, spinners have maintained their position, and the margin for most kinds and qualities is generally satisfactory. In shipping bundles no fresh feature of importance has shown itself. Producers have not received very much new business for any market. Shippers, however, have pressed spinners to keep up to contract time in deliveries. Cops for the Continent have been rather quiet. Bolton spinnings are not active at the present time, users for the most part restricting operations owing to the high rates quoted to-day.

The characteristic of the cotton market in New York has again been irregularity, though, taking it on the whole, the tendency has been towards a trifle more strength. It opened very steady and prices went higher, but subsequently quotations reacted. Later it fluctuated considerably, gains being lost on favourable weather reports and "bear" selling, but again there was a partial advance on covering. Closing prices were: April to June, 5.89d.; June to Aug., 5.90d.; Aug.-Sept., 5.86d.; Sept.-Oct., 5.74d.; Oct.-Nov., 5.66d.; Nov.-Dec., 5.65d.

COAL.—Business in the coal market is still well maintained. For the best qualities the demand has indeed been quite active,

and prices keep up. Since the pits resumed working the consumption of house coal, for London and the south, as well as for the Eastern counties, has been very good. The condition of the steam coal trade is likewise satisfactory. At Swansea there has been a better demand for anthracite, but it has not affected prices. The latest report on 'Change is:—Steam coal business steady; prices for the most part well maintained. Bunker coals holding up well, most of the collieries being well stemmed, and for free lots, for spot shipment, top prices are obtained. Latest prices are:—Best steam coal, 14s. 6d. to 15s. 6d.; seconds, 12s. 6d. to 13s.; bunkers, 11s. to 11s. 3d.

COPPER.—Until something is definitely known of the possible effects of the California disaster and the strike troubles in France it is not improbable that speculative operators in this metal will be inclined to act with a good deal of caution. Foreign politics in the shape of the Natal and Turco-Egyptian troubles are likewise unsettling influences. One of the features of the market just now is the strong demand from India, while Germany is said to be a fairly good buyer of electrolytic copper for June delivery. Moderate activity prevailed at the commencement of business this week, some buying being stimulated by the upward movement in other metals. The continued firmness of refined copper was also an influence in inducing "bears" to cover, and a certain amount of dealing for forward delivery was reported. The quotation for future metal, therefore, rose sharply, but cash seemed to be rather liberally offered, and spot prices only responded in feeble fashion. Subsequently, however, the tone improved all round only to give way to renewed dullness before the close, especially for forward delivery. Final figures were £85 2s. 6d. for cash and £83 12s. 6d. for three months.

TIN.—The heavy demand on American account and the shortness of supplies are the principal influences affecting this market, which remains in an exceedingly strong position. A slight weakening of Eastern prices had no effect, the market opening strong and developing great activity on sustained "bear" covering and fresh speculative support. Prices steadily advanced to new records so called. Large buying orders and higher prices from New York kept quotations on the move, and on more than one occasion the market became quite excited. Purchasers seemed to come from all quarters, and great pressure to cover sent quotations ahead in fine style. Strong Eastern advances were also a stimulant, and although there was some fluctuation before the end the week winds up with a further big advance at £182 10s. for cash and £177 for three months.

IRON AND STEEL.—Business is again in full swing, and buying after the holidays is more active. This has improved the position of the market, which is now cheerful and hopeful. Report says that the Continent has been buying Cleveland warrants with much freedom, and that the buying is legitimate. In fact, it is many years since Germany, France, and Belgium bought so largely of Cleveland pig-iron, and the prospect is that the demand will continue. In the hematite pig-iron branch the improvement is not so pronounced as was expected; in fact, prices are somewhat weaker. It is felt, however, that the demands that will arise from the effects of the earthquake at San Francisco will stimulate buying. As it is, makers of hematite are well supplied with orders. Producers of manufactured iron and steel have not booked many orders during the past two months, but this does not make them feel anxious, as they have contracts booked which will keep the mills going for some months ahead.

SUGAR.—The reaction which began a week ago has continued, principally owing to May realisations, which coincided with a cessation of the Magdeburg strike, with large Cuban receipts, followed by weakness in America. The proximity of the Budget, too, though the market does not expect any change in the duties, has also had some effect. Regarding sowings, says Mr. Czarnikow, nothing new has come to light. The weather has been favourable for field work, but it is rather cold again, and there is not much seed in the ground yet, therefore the season is still somewhat behind last year's. In America one large beet factory of Spreckels, in Salinas, near San Francisco, is reported destroyed by the earthquake, but seven new ones are building. In New York the market has been easier, caused doubtless by the more favourable weather in Cuba, with improving crop reports. Landings in the three ports were 66,000 tons, and meltings 35,000 tons, raising stocks to 325,000 tons.

TEA.—Dealers are hoping that the Chancellor of the Exchequer may be able to reduce the duty, and, with the Budget fixed for Monday next, business has naturally been small. At the Indian auction only 25,030 packages were offered, but buyers were far from keen, and prices dipped below even the low figures ruling before the holidays, the average being down to 6.64d. against 7.33d a fortnight ago, and 6.38d in 1905. Messrs. Gow, Wilson, and Stanton give the exports to the United Kingdom for the first half of April as 284,000 lbs. compared with 69,685 lbs., and the shipments from Southern India to all parts during March as 865,351 lbs. against 620,365 lbs. Ceylon teas were rather wanted for export, and medium leaf in particular met with a good sale at a slight advance. The quality generally, however, was not quite so good, and the average secured fell to 6.00d. per lb. compared with 7.00d. and 6.87d. Exports to the United Kingdom for the first half of the current month were 5,500,000 lbs., or 1,000,000 lbs. over the quantity for the same period last year.

BANK OF LIVERPOOL.—At a special general meeting of shareholders held on April 25, Mr. John Rankin, deputy-chairman, presiding, the resolutions passed at the previous meeting on the 6th inst. for the increase of the bank's capital and for sundry alterations in its deed of settlement were unanimously confirmed.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

ORIENTAL CAFES, LIMITED.

The first ordinary general meeting of the Oriental Cafés, Limited, was held on Monday at the Great Eastern Hotel, E.C., Mr. E. Cox, chairman of the company, presiding.

The secretary (Mr. E. Funnell) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, apologised for the lateness of the meeting, which was due to his illness, and proceeded to sketch the company's career from its inception in 1903. Since last year six additional depots had been opened, and all were places any company could be proud of. He then dealt at some length with the accounts, and went on to forecast the future, saying:—"We have commenced this year, I am glad to say, under very splendid circumstances. The weather has been very favourable to us, and in suburban places fine weather is everything. We have done a remarkable trade in all our establishments during Easter, and these fine week-ends are the very thing that we want. I am very much indebted to my brother directors for the interest they take in this company and the way in which they work at the various branches that we have under our control. Our Hampton Court depot on Easter Monday was literally swarming with customers, and there were a large number of people sitting on the staircases waiting their turns to occupy the tables; in fact, we had to close the door to keep people out, and they stood in a row to take their turn to go in. This is a small concern as compared with other catering companies, and I have seen and known of this being done in other similar concerns, but it is satisfactory to me and my brother directors to know that our company has made such a name that people will stand outside the place and wait their turn to come in. You will see in the balance-sheet presented a few blots, but we hope to try to remedy them in the course of the present year. For instance, there is a very big item for lighting. You can easily understand that, because in most of our establishments we do the bulk of our cooking by gas, and we rely upon the electric light in a large measure for illuminating purposes. Those of you who have any experience of catering know that that means a big bill, although we instruct our various managers to keep it down as much as possible. We are trying an experiment at our place at Richmond. We are fitting up there a new gas, which, I think, will be the means of saving a lot of money. Personally, I have confidence that it will be the means of effecting considerable economy, as I have seen it working, and I have reason to believe that we shall be able to get this gas at 6d. per 1,000 cubic feet, instead of 3s. 6d. and 3s. 11d. per 1,000 feet that we are now paying. If this turns out satisfactorily we are going to instal it in all our places instead of the electric light or the ordinary town gas. That is one item in which we think that we shall be able to make a big difference in our expenses in the ensuing year. As on previous occasions, I would urge our shareholders when they are in the districts where our establishments are situated to patronise them. I think the gentlemen might patronise our City places and the ladies our West End place at Westbourne Grove and also our suburban depots. I am sure that it would be very hard work for you to beat them as regards the quality of the food and the attendance you will receive at any of those establishments. When I have spoken on previous occasions I have referred to the staff which we employ, and the directors have again referred to this in the report circulated. I feel it a pleasurable duty to refer to it once more. As we state in the report, we appreciate the interest which the managers, manageresses, and staff generally take in this concern. Loyal co-operation seems to be their motto, and one and all appear to work upon that principle. They are always ready to help one another, and this applies particularly to the young ladies waiting at the tables in our various depots. Proof of the loyal co-operation which takes place all round is found in the fact that we very seldom find it necessary to make any changes in our staff, and I say without fear of contradiction that it would be impossible to find anywhere a better set of young lady waitresses than we have in our employ. They are well looked after by us; they are well paid and well fed, and we allow them a very reasonable time for rest. These are the points that should guide all who have to do with the employment of young lady waitresses. You will remember I mentioned at the last meeting that we were advised not to apply to the Stock Exchange for an official quotation for our shares until we had paid another dividend, and it was agreed that that was good advice. Accordingly, we have refrained from attempting to get a quotation from the Stock Exchange, but after this meeting it is our intention to make an application, so that if anybody wishes to sell his shares there will be a proper medium through which he may do so. I may add that if any shareholder who is desirous of selling his shares will kindly communicate with the office of the company in the first instance I have no doubt that a purchaser can readily be found. We have been able to do so in several cases, and there is no doubt we can do so again. After dealing with other matters, the Chairman concluded by formally moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

This was seconded by Mr. C. Knight, and carried unanimously.

An extraordinary general meeting was then held, at which the Chairman proposed: "That the capital of the company be increased to £100,000 by the creation of £50,000 new shares of £1 each, such new shares to rank *pari passu* with the existing shares of the company. He remarked that the board had re-

ceived communications upon this subject from shareholders, some approving the proposal, and others disapproving it. The position of the directors was strongly in favour of increasing the capital.

Dr. Williams seconded the motion.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors closed the proceedings.

BUENOS AYRES GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY.

The half-yearly general meeting of the shareholders of the Buenos Ayres Great Southern Railway Co., Limited, was held on Tuesday at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, E.C., Mr. Jason Rigby (deputy-chairman) presiding.

The London manager and secretary (Mr. H. C. Allen) read the notice convening the meeting.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, after feelingly alluding to the indisposition of Mr. Frank Parrish, said the financial and commercial condition of the Argentine were at the present moment most encouraging. Credit was good, the rate of discount was only about 5 per cent. for commercial paper, and the gold deposit at the Caja de Conversión had increased during the half-year from \$75,000,000 gold to \$93,000,000 gold on March 2, and it was now over \$190,000,000, or £20,000,000 sterling, while the Government had been able to convert their 6 per cent. stock into 5 per cent. stock, which was now quoted at 98. These statistics were evidence that the country was in a sounder financial condition to-day than it had ever enjoyed in the past. This strong credit and sound finance should naturally indicate prosperity in agriculture and commerce, and there was no doubt that this had been the happy position of the Argentine Republic during the past few years. Nature had been bountiful in her harvests, while live stock and wool had both contributed their share to the country's prosperity and development, with the natural result that money was plentiful, trade was good, and land and house property had considerably increased in value. He was now in a position to give the official figures for the grain crop of 1905 as compared with that of 1904. The exports of wheat for 1905 were 2,925,000 tons, against 2,342,000 tons in 1904, being an increase of 583,000 tons, or 25 per cent. Of this total 967,000 tons or 33 per cent., were exported from Bahia Blanca, as against 537,000 tons, or 23 per cent., in 1904, the exports at this port being no less than 80 per cent. greater in 1905 than they were in 1904. It was also interesting to point out that the shipments of maize from the whole Republic for 1905 were 2,256,000 tons, as against 2,447,000 tons in 1904. Linseed also showed a decrease, the tonnage being 670,000, as against 880,000. In wool there was, however, an increase from 163,000 tons in 1904 to 182,400 tons in 1905. This condition of affairs, although satisfactory, was not without its disadvantages, especially to big employers of labour, such as railway undertakings, or to those who had to cater for public comfort and convenience, inasmuch as the demand for increased pay on the one hand, and additional luxury and increased speed in transport on the other, considerably detracted from the profits that, under other conditions, would accrue to the railway from the increased business now offering. From the report now submitted shareholders would possibly have noted, with some disappointment, that while the traffic earnings during the past half-year were satisfactory, the increase in the cost of working had prejudicially affected the net revenue results; in other words, they had realised what they were anticipating six months ago—namely, that the future prosperity of any railway in the Argentine Republic was dependent upon its efficiently catering for increased business rather than in practising rigid, and possibly false, economy in its working expenditure. Fair and reasonable tariffs, as should not only develop existing business, but encourage the promotion of new industries, and thereby secure to the railway every ton of traffic which the country was capable of producing, coupled with an efficient permanent way and equipment, and a loyal and contented staff, were the main essentials for the profitable administration of such an enterprise as theirs; and they felt sure that although, at first sight, the results obtained for the working of the last half-year might appear to a certain extent unsatisfactory, a correct appreciation of the general condition of railway working at present existing in the Argentine Republic, and of the more specific requirements of the Great Southern Railway would, he thought, satisfy the most exigent shareholder that the policy now being carried out was sound, and constituted the only efficient means of meeting the sudden development which had recently taken place in the business of the company.

The motion for the adoption of the report and accounts was seconded, and carried unanimously.

GREAT WESTERN OF BRAZIL RAILWAY.

The ordinary general meeting of the Great Western of Brazil Railway Co., Limited, was held on Thursday at River Plate House, Mr. Jason Rigby, M.Inst.C.E. (the chairman), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. Tattam) read the formal notice and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, first of all gave an outline of the progress made during the past year towards carrying out the various improvements and extensions necessitated by the revised contract made with the Federal Government of Brazil on July 26, 1904. Passing on to the results of the year's working he went on to say: The first point of note is the large increase in the gross receipts amounting to £179,231, or 64.17 per cent. Had this increase been due solely to the development of the traffic it would indeed have been

a subject of congratulation, but, unfortunately, a comparatively small part of it arose from this source, and two other factors played a large part in it. In the first place the central section was worked throughout the whole year instead of only three months, which brought the average mileage worked up to 795, against 711, an increase of 84 miles, or nearly 12 per cent. This, of course, accounts for some of the increase, whilst the average rate of exchange rose from $12\frac{1}{2}$ d to $15\frac{1}{2}$ d, or $24\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and this accounts for a considerable part of the gross increase in sterling. Outside this, however, there was a satisfactory increase in the traffic results, and if we compare the receipts in currency per mile worked, thus eliminating the disturbing elements of greater length and rise in exchange, we find an improvement amounting to nearly 16 per cent., which, on the whole, cannot be considered bad, more especially as it does not represent the whole increase in business done, because under the sliding scale arrangement for every penny rise in the rate of exchange over 12 pence the tariffs are reduced 5 per cent., so that this increase of 16 per cent. in currency receipts per mile represents a very much larger increase in the traffic handled. In further remarks the chairman explained how the planters were adversely affected by the rise in exchange. He proceeded:—A glance at the table in the report, which gives the analysis of the yearly working for the last four years, will show how far the work done last year exceeds that in any previous period. The increase in the length of the line open for traffic was, as I have stated, about 12 per cent., but the growth of the traffic was in a far more rapid proportion. The number of passengers shows an increase of nearly 54 per cent. This is due in great part to the large suburban traffic on the Central section, and so the average distance travelled fell from 18.11 to 15.14. In goods the tonnage increased by over 241,000 tons, or nearly 53 per cent., and in this case the improvement was general over the whole system, and in every class of traffic, which is very encouraging. The working expenses have increased by £114,555, or 57.11 per cent., a large proportion, though not quite so great as the increase in the receipts. The greater length of the line worked accounts for some of this, about £40,000, as also the larger sum spent in renewals, £39,000, but the chief factor is the effect of the rise in exchange on the conversion of the currency expenses into sterling, a matter which is, of course, entirely beyond the control of the management. The result of last year's working is a net balance of £143,418, as compared with £78,741, or an increase of £64,676. After payment to the Brazilian Government in accordance with the revised contract of the percentages and fiscalisation charges and of the interest accrued on the various debenture stocks of the company there remained a balance of £92,955, of which the interim dividend of 3 per cent. on the paid up share capital of the company to June 30th last absorbed £21,000. Of £71,955, the balance remaining, the directors have placed £20,000 to reserve fund and recommend a final dividend of 3 per cent., making 6 per cent. for the year, increasing the carry forward from £10,358 to £21,955.

Mr. W. Parish seconded the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts, and after a little discussion it was carried unanimously, the dividend recommended was declared, the retiring directors and auditors were re-elected and votes of thanks to the chairman, directors, officials, and staff closed the meeting.

UNION BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED.

The seventy-sixth annual general meeting of the shareholders was held on Wednesday, April 25, at the head office of the bank, in Glasgow. In the absence of Sir Charles Tennant, Bart., chairman of the bank, Mr. William Hamilton Dunlop, of Doonside, presided.

On behalf of the shareholders, and on his own behalf, Mr. Dunlop expressed his deep regret that illness prevented Sir Charles' attendance, and his hope that he might soon be restored to health. After some years of dull trade there were now indications of activity. The Board of Trade Returns of our imports for the first three months of the year showed an increase in value of $10\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. In the matter of our exports of coal, iron and steel, machinery and cotton goods, business had been improving. The larger volume of trade had been easily financed by the banks, and there could not be said to be any monetary pressure during the last twelve months. The Bank of England rate had fluctuated between $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 4 per cent. There had been a good and healthy demand for banking credits, and bankers' resources had been equal to the calls upon them. Turning to the figures in the balance-sheet, the shareholders would be pleased to find an increase in the bank's deposits of £200,000. As regards the year's profits, they were highly satisfactory—the highest, indeed, declared for a long period of years. It was in good years like the present that the bank's position could be materially strengthened, and he felt confident that the shareholders would cordially approve of the transfer of £45,000 out of profits to the bank's rest account.

Sir Ludovic J. Grant, Bart., in seconding the adoption of the report, referred to the evidence of the bank's progressive prosperity over three quinquenniums. For the five years ending April 2, 1895, the average deposits were £11,052,000, for the next five years they were £11,787,000, and for the five years to 1905 £13,067,000. For the same quinquenniums the average profits were £131,000, £153,000 and £182,000, and for the year just closed the profits were £192,000. The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

Mr. William H. Hill, LL.D., proposed and Mr. Lewis Claperton, C.A., seconded the re-election of Sir Charles Tennant,

Bart., as chairman and Mr. John Y. Buchanan, F.R.S., as deputy-chairman, which was cordially approved.

On the motion of Mr. William G. Crum, Glasgow, seconded by Mr. R. C. Mackenzie, C.A., Mr. William H. Dunlop and Mr. James N. Graham were re-elected ordinary directors.

Mr. James T. Tullis, Glasgow, proposed, and Mr. John McNee, Crieff, seconded, the appointment of Mr. Andrew S. McClelland, C.A., Glasgow, and Mr. Herbert W. Haldane, C.A., Edinburgh, as auditors, which was approved.

A vote of thanks was awarded to the chairman, on the motion of Mr. Alexander Robertson, solicitor.

SAN MIGUEL COPPER MINES, LIMITED.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders in the San Miguel Copper Mines, Limited, was held yesterday at the offices, 3, Church Court, Old Jewry, London, Mr. A. C. Eberbach presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. G. Emdin) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—Owing to the illness of Mr. de Freitas, our esteemed chairman, you see me in the chair. I presume I may take the report and accounts as read, and, in moving their adoption, there are one or two items in the balance-sheet to which I should like to refer. The total assets shown by the accounts amount to £221,226, and we now have a reserve fund of £60,000, although at the date of the accounts it only stood at £30,000. This amount, however, has been increased by the issue during the current year of 20,000 shares at a premium of £1 10s. Deducting, then, the reserve fund from the assets, it leaves £161,226 at which our assets stand in our books. These are represented by ore on heaps, valued in the books at £49,800, but which, without having regard to its copper contents, is worth 6s. 4d. per ton. We have 350,000 tons, so that this asset alone is worth £112,000, apart from the estimated contents of 3,000 tons of copper, which, at the present prices, is worth to the company over £200,000. We have a stock of stores, coal, &c., amounting to £5,580 16s. 4d., which could, if necessary, be realised, at the least, at its book value. There is £5,425 due to the company from sundry debtors, and there is £10,939 cash at the bank and in hand. There is ore awaiting shipment at the various ports at Tamajusa, Huelva, and in transit to London, all of which has been sold for the sum of £8,703. When these items are deducted from our gross assets, it leaves a sum of £18,575 to represent the mine itself, and the machinery, railroad, and plant, so that I think you will see the company is in an exceptionally strong position. During the past year we have written off the whole expenditure on mine development, amounting to £9,015. The railway, which was completed just before the company took over the mine, cost £40,000, and there is in the mine itself ready for taking out 500,000 tons of ore, bearing on an average $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of copper. This ore is approximately worth 25s per ton. In addition to the ore now ready for extraction, there is ore in sight to the approximate amount of 1,000,000 tons. At the time the company took over the mine the mining engineers estimated 1,000,000 tons, so that you see their expectation has been very largely exceeded up to the present. In making this statement, I may say that I believe that all these estimates will be considerably exceeded. I have hitherto said nothing about the reservoir, which is another valuable asset—valuable intrinsically, and also as an aid to economic work, as it will render us independent of weather conditions. On portions of our property we have other mining claims, for which offers have been made to us; we have at present not entertained them, but these form another prospective profit. I now beg formally to move the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. C. C. Reeves seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved that a final dividend of 25 per cent. per annum for the last three months of 1905 be declared.

Mr. March seconded the motion, which was agreed to, the Chairman stating that the dividend was payable on May 15th.

The Chairman next moved that Mr. Joh. C. Andresen, M.E., Metallgesellschaft, Frankfurt-a-M., be appointed a director of the company.

Mr. Reeves seconded the motion, which was adopted.

On the motion of the same gentleman, Mr. De la Roi, manager of the Commerz and Disconto Bank of Hamburg, was also appointed a director.

The auditors were then re-appointed, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

GREAT FINGALL CONSOLIDATED, LIMITED.

The seventh ordinary general meeting of the Great Fingall Consolidated, Limited, was held on Tuesday at the Great Eastern Hotel, Bishopsgate Street, E.C., under the presidency of Mr. F. H. Hamilton, in the absence of Mr. C. A. Moreing in Australia.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, stated that during the past financial year the company treated 203,317 tons of ore, the gold from which realised £681,728, out of which the directors had been able to distribute in dividends the sum of £387,500 against £337,000 in the previous year. In addition to this they had spent a considerable amount in development work in excess of mill requirements for the year, and they had made such further extension of the machinery and plant that they were now able to treat 20,000 tons per month as against 15,000 tons last year. In giving some details of the development work during the year, he mentioned that they had

confined their explorations hitherto largely to the region of the main reef in which they had knowledge of ore, and had only proved the length along this main line of reef of about 1,700 ft.; very little work had been done on the other reefs. About two-thirds of the main reef had not been explored. Their engineers advised them that previous experience with quartz mines the world over led them to believe that such lenses as those they had been at work upon would recur elsewhere in this reef. They might find those lenses below the lenses on which they had been occupied or on one side, so that there was hardly ground for the view that the end of the mine was in sight. The ore reserves showed an increase over those of last year of 131,000 tons despite the fact that they had taken out 203,317 tons during the year. They now stood at 753,042 tons, which was a little under four years' supply at their present mill capacity. The ore reserves showed a diminution in values compared with last year. That the value of the surrounding development work had, however, been correctly given to the shareholders by the managers was proved by the fact that Mr. Rolker went independently to the mine and resampled the same development, and came practically to the same conclusions. On the other hand, the reef had proved wider than was anticipated, and a larger quantity of ore than was estimated as probable would be recovered. In any case an ore reserve of 750,000 tons from which they could secure a profit of over £1,000,000 was a creditable showing for any mine. By the expansion of the regrinding plant the quantity of hard quartz which they were now crushing per month, with 100 stamps, furnished the world's record on this class of ore. One result of this had been to increase the percentage of extraction of gold which they had obtained. There had been considerable economies effected in working the mine, but, on the other hand, the increased cost of fuel had counterbalanced this saving. In reference to the future policy of the board he proceeded to say:—It has been the policy of this company, from the beginning, to carry on as a permanent industrial concern, and before your present mine is exhausted we propose you should be in a position to attack another mine. It is for this purpose we think you should have the sinews of war at hand. You must recognise that the company has been very successfully conducted up to date. It started with an issued capital of £125,000, and has already paid over £1,250,000 in dividends, and we do not believe there is any necessity for a mining company to work out its one mine and then liquidate, but that we should continue your past policy and be prepared if the proper field becomes open to us, to undertake new business. We do not wish this reference to be understood as meaning that we are within easily measurable distance of the end of the Great Fingall mine. In the earlier portion of these remarks I pointed out that unless the analogy of other quartz mines in Western Australia and elsewhere is altogether misleading the chances are that, even assuming that we are nearing the bottom of the great lense of ore which has occupied us in the past, we shall encounter other lenses. I have endeavoured also to show you that a great deal of exploratory work has still to be undertaken on the Fingall mine, and it would be a grave error of judgment to assume that we anticipate that that work will be unsuccessful. At the same time we have always endeavoured to the best of our ability to put you in as good a position as we ourselves are to form a sound judgment of the prospects of the undertaking in which we are jointly interested, and to foreshadow, as far as possible, the future policy which we would recommend.

Mr. T. S. Horne seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Baker, seconded by Mr. Samuel James, a bonus of £1,500 was voted to the directors. Mr. Hamilton was re-elected a director, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

FAMATINA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, LIMITED.

The second ordinary general meeting of the members of the Famatina Development Corporation, Limited, was held on Wednesday at the Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Captain W. B. McTaggart, D.L., J.P. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. A. Dangerfield) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, gave a detailed account of the mining operations and development work of the past year. On the Upulungos lode four levels were being opened up. No. 2 was the most important of these, and it was the first level that had been driven entirely clear of, and below, the old workings. As the result of the extensive samplings which had been made, it was evident that the values of the ore body were unusually high. Since the date of the report an additional 27 ft. had been driven, and, in his latest cablegram, Mr. Thomas (the mines superintendent) said that the present value of the lode was £9 10s. per ton. After giving particulars of the assay results, running as high as £57 per ton, the Chairman said that they could not expect such high values to last for any great length of time, but he thought that Mr. Thomas had adopted a safe average in estimating the value of the rich portion of the lode at £15 per ton. Having called attention to the encouraging assay results obtained from the San Pedro lode, where four levels were also being driven, he said that the ore reserves of the two lodes now aggregated 58,095 tons. This amount was being rapidly increased, and by the end of the present year they would have about 100,000 tons of very rich ore available. He went on to say: The next thing that will occur to your consideration is the question of your smelting works. These have received very careful attention from your board. The mine has been opened up so well, and the development work has pro-

ceeded so rapidly, that we are able to take the smelting proposition in hand twelve months sooner than we had any reason to expect. Mr. Thomas is an expert smelter, and there is no commercial business in the world, I am told, that has made such great advances and such rapid strides as has the treatment of these complex ores. We were advised that if a smelting expert went away for a few weeks' holiday, by the time he came back he was considered quite out of date. So you see it was necessary for us to obtain the latest and most up-to-date information, and, acting on the advice of our consulting engineers, Messrs. John Taylor and Sons, we succeeded in obtaining the services of Mr. T. C. Cloud, a gentleman whose ability is well known, and whose opinion is reckoned second to none. He has proceeded to Chilecito to confer with Mr. Thomas as to the best site for the erection of our works, the best kind of furnaces, and the best method of getting a good extraction from our ores. This gentleman has arrived there, and we have heard by telegram to-day that already the site of the smelter has been fixed, and he will be home by the end of May. As soon as he comes he will be prepared to give us his plans and designs, and immediately he can do so the smelter itself will be put in order. I should like to be able to tell you that it will be ready for working by the end of the year, but I am afraid I cannot commit myself quite to that extent. I can, however, assure you that no exertions will be spared to get it ready by that time; I can confidently assert that within twelve months from to-day—that is before we meet again—the smelter will be in active operation turning out valuable blister copper ready for the market. The next thing that might occur to you is the question of finance, because this is as important as anything else. I can give you to-day a rough statement of exactly how we stand. We have now cash in hand, on deposit, and at short notice about £38,000. In addition to that, the International Copper Company, as you know, are bound to supply us with £60,000, as and when we require it, against the value of ores brought down to the smelter. That gives you an available amount of £98,000, and, in addition to that, which is by no means the end of your resources, there are 115,000 shares of the company still unissued. Of these, 45,000 are ear-marked to be exchanged by debenture-holders at par, if they so wish, before the end of the year. I have no doubt that all these options will be exercised, and although that will not bring in more cash, it will relieve you of a first charge against your property to that extent. There still remain 70,000 shares which are ear-marked to be called at par by the holders of the income bonds and others who advance money to the company. These options exist also to the end of the year, and I have very little or no doubt that they will also be exercised. If they are not exercised, so much the better for the company, because the shares can now be placed at a handsome premium. In any case, you can look forward before the end of the year to an addition to your cash resources of £70,000, making a total of £168,000, which is more than ample, and which is an exceptionally strong position. We heartily appreciate Mr. Thomas's services, and I, for one, wish here to-day, on behalf of the board, to repeat what we have said in the report in a most emphatic manner. Mr. Thomas has taken up his burden with the greatest assiduity, energy, intelligence, and skill, and the way he has worked in all the matters brought before his notice has been worthy of all praise, and we wish to thank him very much indeed for what he has done. (Hear, hear.) He has also been ably and loyally seconded by his staff, and we wish to thank them too. Our relations with the Argentine Government are of the most satisfactory nature, both as regards the Central Government and the Government of Rioja. You have got a group of mines second to none in the world.

Mr. Claude Lowther seconded the resolution, which, after some discussion, was carried unanimously.

Answers to Correspondents.

P. D. E.—(1) As a lock-up the shares should be well worth buying now. (2) Yes, under the circumstances, you might do fairly well by averaging if you can get in at the price named.

P. V. D.—It is hardly safe to conclude that the opposite view is necessarily correct, and in this case we fear the theory would not work satisfactorily. Frankly, we consider both the companies you mention as weak undertakings, and should be sorry to put our money into either of them.

B.—No. In the present state of the trade we should regard this as highly speculative. The paid-up capital is £109,000 in ordinary and £240,550 in preference shares and £250,000 in debenture stocks.

Arch. (Glasgow).—(1) The company's time extends to another three years. (2) Its position is not satisfactory, and we doubt very much whether it will be better at the end of the term than now. (3) In the circumstances we are disposed to think that the best course would be to accept the offer made and be done with it, especially as the original concern is also in a rather helpless and hopeless state.

Arkwright.—This seems to be a fairly good company, and provided prices are not too high the shares should form a suitable investment. Why not split the money over two or three stocks?

Nopir.—Under the circumstances it might be as well to realise. The guaranteeing company is in a rather bad way, and could hardly be relied upon should things go wrong. We have not the report you refer to, but do not think think this company is interested now.

Atbara.—We do not see the slightest reason for shifting your policy. The company is an old-established and very sound one, quite able to meet its obligations.

A PROSPECTUS IS BEING ISSUED BY

THE FORESTAL LAND, TIMBER & RAILWAYS COMPANY, LTD. (Argentina)

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900), which states, among other things, that the LIST of APPLICATIONS will CLOSE on or before TUESDAY, the 1st May, 1906.

SHARE CAPITAL - - - - - £1,000,000.**DIVIDED INTO**

500,000 PREFERENCE SHARES of £1 each, entitled to (1) A fixed cumulative dividend of Six per cent. per annum, and Twenty-five per cent. of the surplus profits of the Company available for dividend, and,	
(2) Upon a distribution of assets, priority over the Ordinary Shares in respect of capital, and Twenty-five per cent. of the surplus assets after repaying the capital paid up on the Preference and Ordinary Shares	£500,000
500,000 ORDINARY SHARES of £1 each, entitled to the remaining Seventy-five per cent. of the surplus profits, and, upon a distribution of assets, to the remaining 75 per cent. of the surplus assets of the Company	£500,000
	£1,000,000

AUTHORISED DEBENTURE ISSUE:**FIVE PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURES, £550,000,**
In Debentures of £100 and £50 each to Bearer.

50,000 Preference Shares and 500,000 Ordinary Shares, credited as fully paid up, will be allotted to the vendors in part payment of the purchase price and of the net profits for 1905.

Messrs EMILE ERLANGER and Co., London,
The BANK OF TARAPACA and ARGENTINA, Limited, London and Hamburg,
BANQUE DE REPORTS, DE FONDS-PUBLICS ET DE DEPOTS, Antwerp,Are AUTHORISED to RECEIVE SUBSCRIPTIONS for
£400,000 FIVE PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE DEBENTURES at the price of 98 PER CENT.,and
450,000 PREFERENCE SHARES at PAR.

Payable as follows:

DEBENTURES.	
£5 per cent. on Application.	} £98
£33 per cent. on Allotment.	
£30 per cent. on 5th June, 1906.	
£30 per cent. on 26th June, 1906.	} £1 0s 0d
PREFERENCE SHARES.	
1s 0d per Share on Application.	
4s 0d per Share on Allotment.	
7s 6d per Share on 5th June, 1906.	
7s 6d per Share on 26th June, 1906.	

Firm applications have been received for £105,400 of Debentures and 400,855 Preference Shares, which will be allotted in full. The applicants for the Preference Shares include some of the Directors and Shareholders of the Vendor Company.

Payment in full of Debentures may be made on allotment, or on the 5th June, 1906, under discount at 3 per cent. per annum.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE-HOLDERS.

Sir Robert Harvey.

Baron Frederic Alfred d'Erlanger.

DIRECTORS.

C. E. GUNTHER, 4 Lloyd's avenue, E.C., Merchant, Director of the Bank of Tarapacá and Argentina, Limited, and Chairman of Liebig's Extract of Meat Company, Limited.

H. EDMANN, 53 New Broad street, E.C. (Representative of Messrs Brown, Shipley, and Company), Director of the British and Foreign Marine Insurance Company, Limited.

C. C. BOWLBY, 20 Bishopsgate street Within, E.C. (Representative of Messrs Emile Erlanger and Co.), Director of the Alabama Coal, Iron, Land, and Colonisation Company, Limited.

DIRECTORS OF THE VENDOR COMPANY.

A. HARTENECK, Königs-Allee, 37 Grunewald, Berlin, Merchant.

F. PORTALIS, Grand Hotel, Paris, Merchant.

BANKERS.

The Bank of Tarapacá and Argentina, Limited.

SOLICITORS.

Slaughter and May, 18 Austin friars, E.C.

AUDITORS.

Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths, and Co., 5 London Wall buildings, E.C.

SECRETARY AND OFFICES.

J. G. Mills, F.C.I.S., 20 Bishopsgate street Within, E.C.

The Debentures will be secured by a Trust Deed and First Mortgage to Trustees upon the immovable property of the Company and by a floating charge upon its other assets. The Debentures will be redeemed within 15 years by semi-annual drawings at par, or, if the price be below par, by purchase in the open market. The redemption may at any time be accelerated, if the price be below par, by purchases in the open market. Interest will be payable on the 1st January and 1st July in each year, and will accrue from the dates of the respective instalments, but not before allotment. The first payment will be made on the 1st July, 1906.

OBJECT OF THE COMPANY.—The Company has been formed to acquire, as a going concern from 1st January, 1906, and to further develop the business of the Compañía Forestal del Chaco (the Vendor Company), which was formed in 1902.

The Properties acquired are situate in the Chaco District of the Argentine Republic, and comprise light railways, with their rolling-stock and equipment, extensive Quebracho forests, and two large factories. The business consists in exploiting the timber lands, Quebracho wood, as well as certain very valuable extracts derived from it being largely used in tanning. The forests also contain several other kinds of trees valuable for their timber.

Mr Leng, the valuer referred to below, states that Quebracho in the Argentine, as a profitable and workable industry, is of comparatively recent date, and that by far the richest district is in the Chaco de Santa Fé, practically between Calchaquí and Sabana, where the greater part of the Vendor Company's properties are situated, the wood giving an average of about 24 per cent. of extract, whilst from the Provinces of Santiago del Estero and Salta the yield is only about 17 per cent.

The business may be divided into two sections: that of manufacturing the extract from Quebracho wood, which is done at the factories, and that of preparing Quebracho logs for export.

RAILWAYS.—The Railways owned by the Company are light railways, about 107 miles in length, connecting the timber lands with the factories and with the river Paraná, by which a considerable portion of the timber and extracts are shipped. In addition to its own lines, the Company has the exclusive use of two branch lines, one of which connects the adjacent Timber Lands with the Calchaquí Factory and with the Santa Fé main line to the Port of Colastiné.

TIMBER LANDS.—The Timber Lands comprise 199½ leagues (equal to 498,232 hectares or 1,231,202 acres) of freehold, and, subject as mentioned below, 110 leagues of leasehold. The Company has, in addition, made arrangements for some time ahead, under which it receives in consignment the whole of the Quebracho logs and extract of an adjoining estate, about 80 leagues in extent, belonging to the Santa Fé Land Company.

The Company owns two large Extract Factories at Guillermina and Calchaquí.

FACTORIES, PRODUCTION OF EXTRACT, AND SALE OF TIMBER.—The Factory of Guillermina, which is built on an excellent site,

and is the largest and most up-to-date establishment in the Republic, was started in August, 1904, and during the last five months of that year produced some 5,000 tons of extract. For 1905, owing to unusually heavy floods in the early part of the year, its production amounted to only 10,553 tons of extract.

The output of the Calchaquí Factory, which was built in 1899 on an exceptionally advantageous spot near the Railway Station of Calchaquí, and was acquired by the Vendor Company in 1904, was 12,256 tons of extract in 1904, and 13,292 tons in 1905.

The total output in 1904 was consequently about 17,000 tons of extract from about 65,000 tons of timber, while in 1905 it amounted to 23,845 tons of extract from about 90,000 tons of timber. In 1906 the two factories are expected to yield 30,000 tons of extract.

Mr F. Portalis, a Director and lately Vice-President of the Vendor Company, states that the sale of Quebracho logs in 1905, including about 30,000 tons, received in consignment, amounted to about 180,000 tons, and that the whole of this year's output of extract, as well as some 90,000 tons of logs, have already been sold in advance.

Mr F. Portalis further states that, in order to husband its freehold timber lands, the Company has hitherto largely made use of timber cut on the leased properties, or of timber bought in the market; for instance, out of about 240,000 tons of timber used in 1905, only some 60,000 tons, representing the contents of about 3 leagues of land, were drawn from the forests owned by the Company.

LABOUR.—Mr Leng says that the labour question in the Argentine Chaco is to-day not a difficult one, that almost all the rough work is done by the natives of the State of Corrientes, and that these labourers are absolutely the strongest and most able-bodied men that he has seen.

INSURANCE.—The factories as well as the stocks of timber are insured with responsible companies.

ASSETS.—Acting on instructions from Messrs Emile Erlanger and Co., Mr H. H. Leng, of the firm of Messrs Gumpert and Leng, of Buenos Ayres, has made a valuation of the properties, and Mr T. Hutchison Smyth, Auditor and Accountant at Buenos Ayres, has revised the accounts of the Vendor Company for the years 1904 and 1905, the Balance-sheet at the 31st December, 1905, having been drawn under his supervision.

Mr Leng values the freehold Timber Lands at £473,799 (an average of £2,374 per league). He estimates the available supply of Quebracho wood upon the freehold lands at 3,580,000 tons, and that 600,000 tons will be obtained from 77½ leagues of the leasehold lands. (The probable yield from the remaining 33½ leagues of leasehold lands is not included in Mr Leng's figures, the reason being that they are held in part on monthly tenancy pending renewal of lease, and are in part in course of being acquired, the acquisition being guaranteed to the Company.) He is unable to put a specific value on the freehold lands when denuded of timber, but he suggests £1,000 to £1,500 per league as about their worth.

The estimate naturally does not take into consideration the further supplies of timber which may confidently be looked for from purchases, from fresh leases of timber lands, and from the extension of some, at any rate, of the leases now running.

Mr Leng writes that, following his invariable rule, he has made a low estimate of the value of land, railways, and factories, and he frankly acknowledges that it is below the current rates of to-day. He adds that he does not for a moment suggest that such lands could be bought to-day at his valuation; as, for instance, some sellers of land near Guillermina are asking £50,000 paper (about £4,365) a league—a price which he does not admit to be consistent with a conservative valuation such as his. His report concludes as follows:—

"In conclusion, with regard to the issue of the Debentures and Preference Shares, I have not the least hesitation in recommending it to you in the full confidence that both issues are fully guaranteed, and that whilst the whole issue of the Debentures will easily be redeemed within the next 15 years from results of wood sold without touching the Real Estate, the Preference Shares will have every probability of enjoying very handsome dividends."

Mr Leng reports that in his opinion the Freehold Timber Lands, Factories, Railways, Houses, Offices, &c., possess a value of £804,105, and Mr T. Hutchison Smyth certifies that the stock, Debtors, Cash, Furniture, Equipment, and Stores had a value at 31st December, 1905, of

	£20,021
Deducting the Liabilities (which the English Company assumes)	£1,324,126
	495,961
there is left a sum of	£828,165
to which may be added the estimated balance of cash which will remain out of the proceeds of the present issue of Debentures and Preference Shares	110,000

Total £938,165

The English Company will, under the terms of the Purchase Agreement, discharge a liability to the Vendor Company, in respect of the 1905 Profits, of £153,328 (including therein premium received on shares issued in 1905.)

GOODWILL AND LEASEHOLDS.—The price payable for goodwill is £405,163, no value having been attached to the Leasehold properties. It will be seen that the amount taken by the Vendor Company in Ordinary Shares, in part payment of the purchase price, exceeds the sum payable for goodwill.

PROFITS 1904 and 1905.—The net trading profits for the years 1904 and 1905, as adjusted and certified by Mr T. Hutchison Smyth, amounted respectively to £142,125 and £186,038, from which have been deducted for Depreciation and Reserves £36,472 for 1904 and £43,863 for 1905 (the exchange being taken at 44 cents gold per currency dollar and 5.04 gold dollars per pound sterling).

The preceding statements are based upon the Reports received from Mr H. H. Leng and Mr T. Hutchison Smyth, and a memorandum furnished by M. Frederic Portalis, a Director and lately Vice-President of the Compañía Forestal del Chaco.

ESTIMATE OF FUTURE DIVIDENDS.—Taking the gross profits of 1905 as a basis, although the business of the Company had not then reached its full development, the following estimate of dividend can be made:—

Gross Profits for the year 1905	£238,000
Less—Estimated General Expenses, including interest and Commissions on Bankers' Credits, London Expenses, remuneration of the Directors, and Depreciation	£69,500
Reserve Fund	22,500
	92,000

Deduct—5 per cent. Interest on £400,000 Debentures for first year £20,000
Amortisation of Debentures.....for first year 18,230

Total annual service of £400,000 Debentures 38,230
6 per cent. Dividend on 500,000 Preference Shares 30,000

Balance £77,770

Continued on page 556.

The African & European Investment Company, Limited.

BALANCE SHEET at 31st December, 1905.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.			PROPERTY AND ASSETS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Capital Authorised	1,500,000	0 0	By Properties, Farms, etc.	700,364	4 11
Less Unissued	125,000	0 0	Shares in other Companies at cost	468,894	6 10
			Loans (secured or at call)	246,629	9 0
Share Premium Account			Buildings and Stands—cost at date	46,252	19 8
Sundry Creditors			Prospecting Outfits, Livestock, etc.	545	9 8
Balance at Profit and Loss A/c			Office Furniture	1,184	0 2
			Sundry Debtors, including subscription paid in advance	2,734	2 3
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES.			Preliminary Expenses A/c	4,742	7 0
Uncalled Capital on Investments	£246	15 0	Cash at Bank and in hand	2,676	7 1
	£1,474,023	6 7		£1,474,023	6 7

I have examined the above Balance Sheet with the books and supporting accounts relating thereto in Johannesburg, and with the audited accounts received from the London Office. I have also verified the Securities held by the Company in Johannesburg; and certify that, in my opinion, the Balance Sheet contains the particulars required by the Articles of Association, and is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Company's affairs as shewn by the books of the Company.

JOHANNESBURG.
17th March, 1906.

F. W. DIAMOND, } Auditor.
Incorporated Accountant,
ISAAC LEWIS, Chairman, } Directors.
J. N. de JONGH, }
E. H. DUNNING, Managing Director.
G. D. MASSEY, Secretary.

PROFIT and LOSS ACCOUNT for the period ended 31st December, 1905.

	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Engineering, Prospecting and General Farm Expenditure, etc.	16,970	7 6	By Interest, Dividends and Commission	20,114	15 9
Office Expenses—Johannesburg, London, Paris	19,128	11 6	Profit on Sale of Investments	12,012	18 6
Preliminary Expenses (proportion of)	1,185	11 9	Farm Revenue, Rents, etc.	1,777	1 2
Balance carried to Balance Sheet	2,609	14 10	Secretarial, Agency and Transfer Fees	6,589	10 2
	£39,894	5 7		£39,894	5 7

JOHANNESBURG, 17th March, 1906.

Examined and found correct,
F. W. DIAMOND, } Auditor.
Incorporated Accountant,
ISAAC LEWIS, Chairman, } Directors.
J. N. de JONGH, }
E. H. DUNNING, Managing Director.
G. D. MASSEY, Secretary.

THE FORESTAL LAND, TIMBER AND RAILWAYS COMPANY, LIMITED (ARGENTINA).—Continued.

The amount available for final distribution would thus be about £77,800, which would permit of payment of (1) an additional dividend of nearly 4 per cent. (absorbing £19,440) on the Preference Shares, making a total distribution within a fraction of 10 per cent. for the year, and (2) a dividend of 1½ per cent. (absorbing £57,500) on the Ordinary Shares.

It will be seen that on the basis of the above estimate the net profits would suffice, before making provision for Reserve, to cover the service of the present issue of Debentures more than four times, and would leave a surplus equal to more than three and one-half times the amount required to pay the 6 per cent. dividend on the Preference Shares.

PURCHASE PRICE.—The purchase price payable by the Company to the Compañía Forestal del Chaco (the Vendor Company) for its business undertaking and all its assets and effects has been fixed at £1,080,000, plus the above-mentioned £153,328, and is payable as to £683,328 in cash, as to £50,000 in 50,000 Preference Shares, and as to £500,000 in 500,000 Ordinary Shares, credited as fully paid up. The Company will take over the debts and liabilities of the Vendor Company, and assume all subsisting contracts

and engagements entered into by the latter in the ordinary course of its business. The business will be taken over by the Company as a going concern as from the 1st day of January, 1906, and the Company will be entitled to all profits earned after that date.

Copies of the Prospectus, with Forms of Application, may be obtained from

Emile Erlanger and Co., 20 Bishopsgate street Within, London, E.C.
The Bank of Tarapacá and Argentina, Limited, 97-98 Bishopsgate street Within, London, E.C.
The Bank of Tarapacá and Argentina, Limited, 20 Rathhaus strasse, Hamburg.
Banque de Reports, de Fonds-Publics et de Dépôts, Antwerp, and at the Offices of the Company.

This notice is not an invitation to apply for shares or debentures, and applications will only be accepted on the terms of the Prospectus and on the forms accompanying the Prospectus.
25th April, 1906.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, APRIL 30.

Alliance Investment.—Winchester House, noon.
Anglo-Argentine Tramways.—Winchester House, noon.
British South African Explosives.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
British Aluminium.—Winchester House, noon.
Egyptian Markets.—Winchester House, noon.
Libiola Copper.—Winchester House, 11 a.m.
Mexican Southern Railway.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
Sons of Gwalia.—Winchester House, noon.
Waihi Gold Mining.—Winchester House, noon.

TUESDAY, MAY 1.

Auckland Electric Tramways.—Donington House, 11.30 a.m.
Bell Bros.—Middlesbrough, noon.
H.H. the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
Nitrate Railways.—Winchester House, noon.
West London and Provincial Electric.—Winchester House' 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2.

Arauco.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
British Broken Hill Proprietary.—Winchester Street, 12.15 p.m.
Northern Assurance.—Aberdeen, 1 p.m.
Quebec Central Railway.—5, Great Winchester House, noon.
Scottish Union and National Insurance.—Edinburgh, 2 p.m.
Tarapaca Waterworks.—Winchester House, noon.
Warner Estate.—30, Norfolk Street, 12.30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 3.

Buenos Ayres (New) Gas.—1, East India Avenue, 12.30 p.m.
Bombay Gas.—6, Drapers Garden, noon.

Charrier and Marbut Carvings.—Winchester Street, noon.
Equitable Life Assurance.—Mansion House Street, noon.
Mexican Railway.—River Plate House, 2.30 p.m.
San Jorge Nitrate.—Winchester House, noon.
Thomas Tilling.—Cannon Street Hotel, 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 4.

Alliance Tea of Ceylon.—9, Fenchurch Avenue, 3 p.m.
City of Cordoba Bondholders.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
Imperial Ceylon Tea Estates.—9, Fenchurch Avenue, 11.30 a.m.

EDINBURGH INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED.

During the year ended March 15 8,400 shares of £10 each were offered at a premium of 10s. per share, and these have since been divided into £50,400 preferred stock and £33,600 deferred stock ranking for dividend from March 15, 1906. Thanks, no doubt, to the employment of these additional funds the income from investments, including £13,235 or £128 less brought in, was £2,942 up at £56,412, and after providing for debenture interest and management expenses the balance available came to £2,132 more at £41,835. The dividend on the preferred stock having been paid, the deferred stock again receives 8 per cent. for the year and £4,089 is transferred to reserve against £2,927 a year ago, leaving £14,204 to be carried forward. In addition to the transfer from revenue the reserve receives £18,560 from profit on sale of securities and £4,851 from premiums on the new issue, raising it to £90,000. The investments, which number 262, now stand in the balance-sheet at £901,792, and are said to be taken at cost price less amounts written off—a statement which does not give shareholders any real information as to the position.

THE AFRICAN & EUROPEAN INVESTMENT CO., LIMITED.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

To be submitted to the Shareholders at the Second Ordinary General Meeting of the Company to be held at the Company's Offices, Lewis and Marks' Building, Johannesburg, on Thursday, 31st May, 1906, at 2.30 p.m.

JOHANNESBURG,
26th March, 1906.

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS,

Your Directors beg to submit their First Annual Report, together with Balance-sheet and Profit and Loss Account, for the period from the date of the incorporation of the Company to 31st December, 1905.

The Company was incorporated under the Laws of the Transvaal Colony, and was registered at Pretoria on the 27th August, 1904, and the Statutory Meeting was held on 22nd July, 1905.

CAPITAL.

The nominal capital of the Company is £1,500,000 in shares of £1 each, of which 1,000,000 were issued in payment for the freehold properties and the share and other assets originally acquired by the Company, and 375,000 shares were subscribed at 25s. per share, thus providing the Company with £468,750 working capital. 125,000 shares still remain in reserve.

PROPERTIES.

The land interests owned by the Company at 31st December last comprise 118 farms of a total area of 343,118 morgen 111 square rods (equal to 726,223 English acres). These properties are all freehold and, with the exception of three farms, have been surveyed.

The farms are situated in the following districts, viz. :—

No of Farms.	District	Mor.	Sq. Rds.
49	Marico	157,042	247
8	Pretoria	11,578	525
1	Middelburg	2,714	272
16	Rustenburg	44,990	251
10	Bloemhof	25,992	484
4	Wolmaranstad	9,425	165
6	Lichtenburg	15,732	150
2	Potchefstroom	5,093	187
4	Lydenburg	15,069	10
5	Waterberg	19,694	515
1	Ermelo	2,834	528
7	Zoutpansberg	17,123	440
5	Orange River Colony	15,825	537
118		343,118	111 = 726,223 acres.

During the period that has elapsed since the inception of the Company, transfer has been taken of all the properties purchased from the Vendors, with the exception of one in extent 1,546 morgen.

In addition to the above properties the Company has also acquired three Stands at the corner of President and Simmonds Streets, facing Market Square, Johannesburg, together with the block of buildings thereon, to be known in future as Lewis & Marks Building. These premises have been practically rebuilt since their acquisition, and a portion has been utilised for the Company's offices, the remainder being let to other parties on remunerative terms. The Company, owing to this purchase, is amply provided with office accommodation to enable it to carry on its present business efficiently, and to allow for expansion of its operations in the future in connection with the undertaking of secretarial duties on behalf of other Companies or otherwise.

Steps are now being taken by the Municipal authorities for the improvement of Market Square, which will greatly enhance the value of the Company's property there.

SHARE INTERESTS.

The Company has acquired large share holdings in several important estate, gold and coal mining companies in the Transvaal, and it has also, since its incorporation, taken a considerable financial interest in some of the leading industrial concerns in Johannesburg and Cape Town, from which increasing returns may be expected. Satisfactory dividends are being received on a considerable portion of the Company's investments in this class of security.

A share interest has been secured in a diamondiferous property in the Orange River Colony, on which a pipe has been located, and from which several hundreds of carats of diamonds have been obtained by washing on a small scale. A plant able to wash 750 to 1,000 loads a day is being erected and will be running in June next, from which good results may be confidently anticipated.

Your Directors have also acquired a considerable shareholding in one of the most important producing gold mines in Rhodesia.

The developments and results from this mine since the Company acquired its interest have been of a most satisfactory nature, and the Board anticipate a handsome return from this venture.

The share investments of the Company have been taken into the Balance Sheet at their cost price, namely, £468,894 6s. 10d. The depreciation in the market price of all South African shares at 31st December last was universal, and affected the market valuation of the Company's shareholdings no less than those of every other Company, but the Directors regard the depreciation as of a temporary character, which will entirely pass away with improving conditions.

EXAMINATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PROPERTIES.

A complete and exhaustive geological examination and reports and plans have been made of all the Company's farms in the Western Transvaal. The question of the development of such of these farms as may show promising prospects will receive the attention of your Directors in due course.

Prospecting work was started on three of your properties situated in the gold belt near Pietersburg, and, owing to other parties being interested, three Exploration Companies have been formed for their further development. The flotation of these companies has been accomplished since the commencement of the year 1906, and they are under our absolute control. The bulk of the shares in these subsidiaries are held by your Company.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.

The Company has had the advantage of the advice of Messrs. Lewis & Marks' Engineering Department on all matters relating to its mining interests, which has enabled your Directors to thoroughly investigate the many mining propositions which have been submitted to the Board during the year. In some of the most promising of these, interests have been taken.

The Board are fully alive to the importance of acquiring fresh interests in the mineral wealth of the country, as well as developing the resources of the Company's properties.

SECRETARIAL DEPARTMENT.

Your Company has undertaken the management and secretarial duties of the majority of the Companies in which it has large share interests, and from this source a profitable income is derived.

FARMING.

The Directors have been paying attention to the development of the agricultural resources of the large area of land owned, and are attracting settlers in every way possible.

A number of farms have been let to satisfactory tenants, but owing to the impoverished state of the country people, consequent on the war, stock disease, lack of rain and other contributory causes, agriculture and stock-raising made but slow progress; consequently tenants are being assisted in re-building homesteads, opening springs, making dams and fencing, as well as in reduced rentals.

The results from agriculture may be some time in coming, but, should ultimately prove a considerable source of income.

FINANCIAL POSITION.

The Company's financial position is a strong one. In addition to investments standing in the Balance-sheet at £468,894 6s. 10d., there is on loan, secured and at call, the sum of £246,629 9s., which with cash at Bank and in hand total a sum of £718,200 2s. 11d.

The Profit and Loss Account shows that after writing off £16,970 7s. 6d. for prospecting and engineering purposes, £19,128 11s. 6d. for administrative and office expenses in South Africa, London and Paris, and £1,185 11s. 9d. for a portion of the formation expenses, the balance of receipts over expenditure is £2,609 14s. 10d.

The task of organising a new business such as that of your Company has been a great one and has entailed an enormous amount of work and considerable expenditure. We have passed through a most difficult financial period, when many enterprises in South Africa have been completely paralysed, and your directors therefore consider that under the existing circumstances the Profit and Loss Account is a satisfactory one.

AUDITOR.

Mr. F. W. Diamond, the Auditor of the Company, retires, but being eligible, offers himself for re-election. You will be asked to fix the Auditor's remuneration for the ensuing audit.

By order of the Board,

G. D. MASSEY,
Secretary.

FIFTY-SECOND REPORT OF THE YOKOHAMA SPECIE BANK,

LIMITED
(YOKOHAMA SHOKIN GINKO),

PRESENTED TO THE SHAREHOLDERS
AT THE

Half-yearly Ordinary General Meeting,

HELD AT THE

HEAD OFFICE, YOKOHAMA,

On SATURDAY, 10th March, 1906.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED	-	-	Yen 24,000,000
CAPITAL PAID UP	-	-	Yen 18,000,000
RESERVE FUND	-	-	Yen 10,300,000
SPECIAL RESERVE FUND	-	-	Yen 1,000,000

DIRECTORS.

NAGATANE SOMA, Esq.
KAMENOSUKE MISAKI, Esq.

KOKICHI SONODA, Esq.
RIYEMON KIMURA, Esq.
YUKI YAMAKAWA, Esq.

ROKURO HARA, Esq.
IPPEI WAKAO, Esq.

PRESIDENT.—NAGATANE SOMA, Esq.

VICE-PRESIDENT.—KAMENOSUKE MISAKI, Esq.

BRANCH OFFICES:

KOBE.
NAGASAKI.
OSAKA.
TOKIO.
PEKING.

CHEFOO.
DALNY.
HONG KONG.
MUKDEN.
NEWCHWANG.
TIENTSIN.

NEW YORK.
SAN FRANCISCO.
HONOLULU.
SHANGHAI.
TIELING.

BOMBAY.

LONDON.

LYONS.

Head Office: YOKOHAMA.

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS.

GENTLEMEN,—

The Directors submit to you the annexed Statement of the Liabilities and Assets of the Bank, and Profit and Loss Account for the Half-year ending December 31st, 1905.

The Gross Profits of the Bank for the past Half-year, including yen 609,720.⁷⁰⁰ brought forward from last Accounts, amount to yen 10,532,084.⁰⁴⁸, of which yen 7,213,968.⁷¹⁰ have been deducted for Current Expenses, Interests, &c., leaving a balance of yen 3,318,115.⁸⁸⁸.

The Directors now propose that yen 360,000.⁰⁰⁰ be added to the Reserve Fund, raising it to yen 10,300,000.⁰⁰⁰, yen 1,000,000.⁰⁰⁰ be appropriated as Special Reserve Fund, newly created, and yen 200,000.⁰⁰⁰ be placed to the silver funds. From the remainder the Directors recommend a Dividend at the rate of Twelve per Cent. per Annum, which will absorb yen 720,000.⁰⁰⁰ on old shares and yen 360,000.⁰⁰⁰ on new shares, making a total of yen 1,080,000.⁰⁰⁰.

The Balance, yen 678,115.⁸⁸⁸, will be carried forward to the credit of next Account.

Head Office, Yokohama, 10th March, 1906.

NAGATANE SOMA, Chairman.

BALANCE-SHEET, 31st December, 1905.

LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
Capital paid up .. .. .	..	..	18,000,000. ⁰⁰⁰	Cash Account—	Y.	Y.	
Reserve Fund .. .. .	..	..	9,940,000. ⁰⁰⁰	In Hand	12,715,521. ⁷⁰⁰		
Reserve for Doubtful Debts .. .. .	..	..	76,907. ¹⁴⁰	At Bankers	11,957,005. ⁴²⁰	24,672,527. ¹²⁰	
Reserve for Depreciation of Bank's Premises, Properties, Furniture, etc. .. .. .	..	..	202,448. ⁷⁰⁰	Investments in Public Securities		17,149,156. ⁷⁹⁰	
Reserve for Silver Funds .. .. .	..	..	800,000. ⁰⁰⁰	Bills discounted, Loans, Advances, etc.		80,783,562. ⁷⁷⁰	
Deposits (Current, Fixed, etc.) .. .. .	..	..	110,295,322. ⁷³²	Bills receivable and other Sums due to the Bank		109,581,025. ⁰⁴⁰	
Bills Payable, Bills Rediscounted, Acceptances, and other Sums due by the Bank .. .. .	..	..	93,479,770. ⁰⁰⁰	Bullion and Foreign Money		2,199,964. ⁸⁴⁰	
Dividends Unclaimed .. .. .	..	..	5,791. ⁸²⁰	Bank's Premises, Properties, Furniture, etc.		1,732,119. ⁸⁴⁰	
Amount brought forward from last Account .. .. .	..	..	609,720. ⁷⁰⁰				
Net Profit for the past Half-year .. .. .	..	..	2,708,394. ⁰⁰⁰				
			Yen 236,118,356. ¹⁰⁰				Yen 236,118,356. ¹⁰⁰

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

To Current Expenses, Interests, etc. .. .. .	..	..	7,213,968. ⁷¹⁰	By Balance brought forward 30th June, 1905 .. .. .	..	609,720. ⁷⁰⁰	
To Reserve Fund .. .. .	..	..	360,000. ⁰⁰⁰	By Amount of Gross Profits for the Half-year ending 31st December, 1905 .. .. .	..	9,922,363. ⁸⁴⁰	
To Special Reserve Fund .. .. .	..	..	1,000,000. ⁰⁰⁰				
To Reserve for Silver Funds .. .. .	..	..	200,000. ⁰⁰⁰				
To Dividend—							
yen 6. ⁰⁰⁰ per Share for 120,000 Old Shares =							
yen 720,000. ⁰⁰⁰ ; and							
yen 3. ⁰⁰⁰ per Share for 120,000 New Shares =			1,080,000. ⁰⁰⁰				
yen 360,000. ⁰⁰⁰							
To Balance carried forward to next Account .. .. .	..	..	678,115. ⁸⁸⁸				
			Yen 10,532,084. ⁰⁴⁸				Yen 10,532,084. ⁰⁴⁸

We have examined the above accounts in detail, comparing them with the Books and Vouchers of the Bank and the Returns from the Branches and Agencies, and find them to be correct. We have further inspected the Securities, etc., of the Bank, and also those held on account of Loans, Advances, etc., and find them all to be in accordance with the Books and Accounts of the Bank.

NOBUO TAJIMA,
FUKUSABURO WATANABE, } Auditors.

The Investors' Review

EDITED BY A. J. WILSON AND SON.

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The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of *Company Meetings*, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

The Investors' Review.

A Good Budget—Next Year.

It is impossible to grow enthusiastic about Mr. Asquith's Budget speech, delivered last Monday afternoon. It was a commonplace, humdrum story, which, as Mr. Joseph Chamberlain remarked, brought out results worthy of the previous Ministry. That was the purport of his involved criticism, and it was true. "Our Budget," he claimed it to be. The Chancellor of the Exchequer's plea in extenuation is that he has not had time to revise the estimates, but had to accept those drawn up for the use of his predecessor. We cannot enthusiastically accept this plea, and regret that no effort has been made to inquire into the origin of the prodigious burdens now borne by the nation, burdens which are a permanent menace to the stability of the Empire and to the financial stability of the City. There was no absolute necessity to bring the Budget out by the end of April, and even if there had been, plenty of time has elapsed since the elections to have allowed a Select Committee of the House of Commons to overhaul the estimates, with a view to their reduction and to the cleansing of the figures from grab, "graft," and other waste. The present Ministry was not returned to power merely to accept in docility the estimates prepared by its predecessors.

This grumble made, we may go on to say that Mr. Asquith's presentment of the financial position of the nation was admirable, lucid to an unusual degree. So upon all that side of the subject we have nothing but congratulation to offer. He made the story so plain that the least instructed student of finance can follow it, although he may not always be able to grasp the drift and purport of the smooth sentences and nicely adjusted totals laid before him. Briefly put, Mr. Asquith showed that the realised surplus upon the year closed on March 31 last was £3,466,000, the whole of which goes, under the old sinking fund arrangements, to redeem debt. This surplus was produced by the combined action of an increase in the revenue of £1,524,000 beyond what Mr. Austen Chamberlain had estimated, and by a diminution of £1,520,000 in that expenditure. Add to the total thus produced Mr. Austen's estimated surplus, and we reach the aggregate as above. The figures for the current year, on the same basis of taxation, bring out the income at £144,860,000, and the expenditure, according to the Tory estimates taken over, will amount to £141,786,000, leaving a gross prospective surplus of £3,074,000, from which Mr. Asquith deducts £414,000 for contingencies unspecified, a proceeding which seems rather to encourage indulgence in the supplementary estimates vice. The balance of £2,660,000 is utilised thus: Reduction of debt, £500,000; repeal of the coal duty, £1,000,000; a penny off the tea duty, reducing it to 5d. per lb., £920,000; special grants to education, £135,000; and the present year's cost of postal liberalities, £105,000.

These are only the Imperial figures of income and outgo, the practice having been established of collecting imperially nearly £10,000,000 a year for the benefit of local taxation over and above these figures. Adding this in, for instance, the gross income of the past year was £151,788,000, and on the same basis in the current year the gross income before making allow-

ance for any reduction in taxation would be £151,621,000. Confining attention to the imperial portion of the revenue alone, and merely noting with satisfaction as we pass on Mr. Asquith's emphatic condemnation of this pernicious system under which imperial taxation is grabbed to further local extravagance, we may recapitulate the fact that the Army is to take £29,796,000, exclusive of the borrowings for Army works, and the Navy £31,869,000, the Army showing an increase of £946,000 and the Navy a decrease of £1,431,000 on the previous year's figures. Adding in, however, the £1,500,000 to be borrowed under the Military Works Act, the actual expenditure on the Army is raised to £31,296,000, while that upon the Navy, with the £3,200,000 to be borrowed under Naval Works Acts, is brought up to £35,069,000. Both totals are wholly unjustifiable and ominous of much trouble to come, representing, as they do, with the debt charges of about £31,000,000 added, a dead-weight load of over £97,000,000, borne by the taxpayer. The total outlay upon the Civil Services and the revenue-yielding departments of the Post Office and Savings Banks amounts in addition to £49,276,000, an increase of £1,720,000, but there are, mercifully, no supplementary borrowings to be added to this formidable total. Altogether the imperial expenditure of the current year is put at £141,786,000, and, as already explained, this gives a margin with which Mr. Asquith can play to a small extent by reducing taxation and by helping distressed local authorities by additional doles out of the National Treasury.

Nothing could exceed the emphasis with which Mr. Asquith handled the position of the unfunded debt, and we congratulate him for having resisted the temptation to create a new lump of terminable annuities based upon the revenue released by the expiry of sundry annuities in the present year—£684,000 in February and £2,324,516 in July. From this source he has, in addition to his Budget surplus, upwards of £2,500,000 free and available in the current fiscal year, and he has decided to employ this money, together with £500,000 of his estimated surplus, and another £500,000 drawn from the tainted Chinese indemnity, in reducing the floating debt, which, even putting aside the £10,000,000 of short term or short annuity Exchequer bonds issued last year by his predecessor, still amounts to about £56,000,000, exclusive, we presume, of the "Public Works" loans or short annuities. Last year the nett reduction in the capital indebtedness of the State, including the results of the operations of the terminable annuities, was about £7,750,000, and nobody knew anything about it, so much of it probably going into the hands of the departments that lend to the Treasury. This year the nett reduction is to be about £9,000,000. Of this, £3,650,000 will represent the capital included in the instalment of the remaining terminable annuities. Then there will be £3,466,000, the realised surplus of the past year, to buy stock with, and altogether Mr. Asquith estimates that from the various sources £12,500,000 will be available for debt redemption, against which about £6,500,000 of new capital liabilities, or £4,660,000 nett, after allowing for debt of the "Works" type redeemed, will be incurred, but by taking £500,000 of his estimated surplus and £500,000 of Chinese money, he concludes that altogether about £9,000,000 nett of debt redemption will take place. Might we venture, however, to ask why new borrowing is resorted to at all? What is the necessity for creating short term annuity debt for naval and military works and other purposes when there are moneys available in the shape of expired terminable annuities, realised and prospective surpluses, and so on, with which to meet the charge? We might even go further, and ask why the bulk of these capital expenditures are necessary this year in any form. The pernicious habit is to be abolished next year, or almost, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said, but why not now? Are any of the naval and military works now in hand of real utility to the nation? Would the stoppage of outlay altogether on some of them and a material

reduction of it on others produce harm in any direction? It seems to us that further information is required on this subject, especially as so much money has already been wasted.

ESTIMATED REVENUE.

The following are the details of the estimated revenue for 1906-7, on the basis of existing taxation, showing the increase or decrease over the actual receipts for 1905-6.

TAX REVENUE.		Compared with Receipts in 1905-6.	
		Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
Customs	34,230,000	—	245,000
Excise	30,200,000	—	30,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,200,000	230,000	—
Stamps	8,150,000	—	30,000
Land Tax	700,000	—	20,000
House Duty	1,950,000	—	—
Property and Income Tax	31,500,000	150,000	—
Total Tax Revenue	119,930,000	Net inc. 55,000	—

NON-TAX REVENUE.

	£	£	£
Post Office	17,500,000	620,000	—
Telegraph Service	4,350,000	220,000	—
Crown Lands	480,000	—	—
Suez Canal Shares, &c.	1,100,000	1,000	—
Miscellaneous	1,500,000	—	14,000
Total Non-Tax Revenue	24,930,000	827,000	—

GRAND TOTAL.

	£	£	£
Tax Revenue	119,930,000	55,000	—
Non-Tax Revenue	24,930,000	827,000	—
	144,860,000	882,000	—

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE.

		Compared with Actual Expenditure, 1905-6.	
		Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£
National Debt Services	28,000,000	—	25,000
Other Consolidated Fund Services	1,685,000	61,000	—
Payment to Local Taxation Accounts	1,160,000	3,000	—
Army	29,796,000	946,000	—
Navy	31,369,000	—	1,431,000
Civil Services (Miscellaneous)	29,317,000	887,000	—
Customs and Inland Revenue	3,212,000	64,000	—
Post Office Services	16,747,000	769,000	—
Total	141,786,000	1,274,000	—

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS.

	£
Estimated Revenue (on basis of existing taxation)	144,860,000
	141,786,000
Less provision for contingencies	3,074,000
	414,000
Available surplus	2,660,000
Surplus to be applied—	
Reduction of Debt	500,000
Repeal of Coal Duty	1,000,000
rd. off Tea	920,000
Special Education Grants	135,000
Post Office Reforms	105,000
	2,660,000

However, we are thankful that debt of sorts is to be redeemed, and yet again the satisfaction is tempered by regret that no greater progress has been made in the reduction of taxation. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer had utilised his terminable annuity money to knock twopence off the income-tax, that would have been more useful to the country in its present circumstances than the more rapid reduction of debt. He could have done this and still have been probably able to reckon upon some considerable reduction in the amount of the floating debt. That assigned £1,000,000 would have come automatically off the Exchequer bond debt, and there would have been the automatic reduction of debt already mentioned, due to the operation of still existing terminable annuities, while it might have been possible to have converted the bulk of the floating debt now in the form of Treasury bills, and in that form a danger to the market and to the solvency of the Exchequer, into a short term annuity at very little cost to the taxpayer, nay, at some saving. But we must be thankful for what we have got, and for the fact that Mr. Asquith throughout manifested the soundest conception of his duty as a Finance Minister. His sentiments were irreproachable.

We wish, though, he had done something more than merely appoint a committee to inquire into the best means of graduating the income-tax. Glad though we are that an opportunity has been found to employ the great talents of Sir Charles Dilke in ways useful to the State, we want a committee on the expenditure, or several such committees, far more than one, on the income-tax, and there ought to be enough zeal in the House and enough capacity to enable the Chancellor of the Exchequer to get efficient committees together and at work on all the great branches of the public expenditure. It seems a pity in the circumstances that devices for raising revenue should alone be under consideration. It may be useful some day that an attempt should be made to show us how to systematise, and, if possible, render more equitable, the incidence of the income-tax, but had it been brought down to rod, as a first step, we could have waited for the general revision. The income-tax is a tax which ought to be imposed upon everybody in substitution for a whole mass of pernicious indirect taxation. Only by so arranging the public burdens as to make every contributor thereto aware of what is being asked from him can we ever hope to form a public opinion which will be powerful and effective in checking extravagance and in bridling the passion for war, by which all nations are from time to time seized, as with fits of insanity. The small reductions in taxation made by Mr. Asquith are, therefore, in the right direction, in that they tend to diminish the proportion of revenue raised by indirect means. The export tax on coal, indeed, stood in a special category, being a mediæval impost, or an expedient of the kind we expect to see adopted by the doctrinaire bureaucrats of Simla or by semi-autocratic rulers of Central and South American Republics. It is a tax which ought never to have been imposed, and we are heartily glad that it has gone. So, too, the reduction in the tea duty—although a penny seems but a poor thing when the anticipated surplus was so large—is also in the right direction. May we, therefore, hope that Mr. Asquith has simply been holding his hand, and that the inherited great charge upon the nation is to be continued for one more year only, in order that the foundation may be laid for sweeping and permanent changes as well as important reductions in the public burdens next year? We shall contrive to nourish this hope, although with doubts, because Mr. Asquith is running considerable risks meanwhile. His Budget might be altogether upset were the present strain upon the world's money markets to develop into what might very well become a world's credit panic. In that event we should have to have another Budget this year, and many economies now apparently regarded as beyond practicability would have to be instituted, whether the services, our masters, liked it or not.

A. Goerz and Co.

During the past week or two we have dealt with several of the subsidiaries of A. Goerz and Co., and now we have the report and accounts of the parent company itself. Most of the subsidiaries are still in serious financial difficulties, and had it not been for their large borrowings from the controlling concern many attempts would probably have been made to reconstruct. But whilst the parent company has been lending its tens of thousands it, too, has been losing heavily, and its wealth has been disappearing, less like mist in the sun than like light in the gloom, for there is neither sunshine for the company nor for the shareholders. Nearly two years ago the capital was increased from £1,100,000 to £1,400,000 by the creation of 300,000 new £1 shares, of which 225,000 were issued at 50s. under the guarantee of a syndicate headed by the Deutsche Bank, which was granted an allowance of 1s. per share and an option to take up the remaining 75,000 shares at 50s. until June 22, 1905, the directors taking further powers to increase the capital from time to time to £1,500,000. Thus the

subscription of the 225,000 new shares gave the company the nett amount of £550,125, the premiums of £325,125 being transferred to the reserve. In this easy way the company got the money which it has been able to lend to its poverty-stricken subsidiaries; but, as already stated, the greater portion of it has already gone. The past year was a woeful time for this Deutsche-English company, for not only was it unable to earn a profit worth speaking of by speculating, but the depreciation in the values of its assets has been colossal. The profits on share selling amounted to the trifling sum of £4,838 against £284,765 a year before, but dividends and interest gave 50 per cent. more at £50,048, and with rent, commission and transfer fees the revenue totalled £59,408 compared with £320,427. Expenditure was approximately the same, so the nett profit fell from £236,775 to £1,027, and with the balance of £65,160 brought in the credit was raised to £66,187. "The directors regret to state," runs the report, "that it has become necessary, owing to the exceptional fall in the market value of the company's shareholdings, of which the assets largely consist, to write off £331,851 in respect of this depreciation. They have, moreover, considered it judicious to reduce the book values of the company's claims and land holdings, sundry participations and interests by £21,913, and to write off £13,910 in respect of sundry debtors." These various allowances have been met by appropriating £112,500 received in share premiums during the year—75,000 new shares having been issued, taken by the Deutsche Bank probably—by the transfer of £189,321 from reserve—also premium money—and by utilising the whole of the credit balance. In 1904 a dividend of 15 per cent. was paid, and in contrast this huge amount of capital has, we fear, been irrecoverably lost.

This, however, does not conclude the sorry tale. The advances the company has made to its subsidiaries aggregate no less than £401,000, and the directors themselves seem so doubtful whether the whole will ever be repaid that they have now set aside £130,000 as a special reserve against them. This is in accord with the fear we have expressed as to the possibility lest some of the companies may never do well enough to liquidate their loans, let alone pay dividends. But what is the parent company and its brood to do? The public will not subscribe the money, and if shareholders can depend upon the Deutsche Bank and Germans to keep them going they are not likely to complain. For probably they would prefer each company still to strive after profits in the hope of ultimate success, rather than give up the struggle in hopeless despair. The directors themselves candidly admit that "the results achieved by some of the companies concerned have unfortunately not come up to expectations." Hence the policy of providing for possible heavy losses in the way of bad debts. The causes of the past year's depression in Transvaal enterprise and in the share market are summarised by this company under two comprehensive headings, and they are interesting enough to chronicle. They are:—(1) The slow progress made in reducing working costs, the fall in which has not kept pace with the natural reduction in yield consequent upon the rational exploitation of the large and hitherto only imperfectly worked deposits of low-grade ores; and (2) the economic uncertainty into which the Rand mining industry and allied enterprises have been plunged by the withdrawal of permission to import Chinese labour and the threatened premature repatriation of the coolies already employed." These are not new and original theories, and we need not comment upon them at length, having already dealt with them *ad nauseam*. It is quite a far-fetched assumption to say the public will neither invest nor speculate in Kaffir shares, nor subscribe to fresh capital issues, because of the Government's attitude towards coolie labour. Some two or three years ago they did show a readiness to come in, but when they saw the bosses and insiders "bear" the market against them, they also saw plainly enough that neither cared a cent for them, but were intent on enriching themselves only. The policy

has failed, the Randlords have been hoist with their own petard, but their victims have no sympathy for them, only yearn to get a little of their own back, and it is this spirit of resentment, which no "labour policy" can soothe, that makes for depression.

Do the directors of A. Goerz think the recent Geduld scandal will be speedily forgotten? It is admitted that some of the original "samples" used therein were tampered with, but the recent commission was unable to detect the guilty person or persons. This being so, can shareholders feel confident that no similar incidents may happen elsewhere? This scandal, together with many others that came to light during the past twelve months, can only deepen the depression. How can the effect be otherwise? Will they encourage the public the more to put their money in Kaffir shares? It would be a revolution in human affairs if they did. Finally, we may say that, thanks to the increases in the capital, this particular company can still display some wealth. Cash amounts to £223,287, and contango loans total £344,691, debtors, including the subsidiaries, owe £501,518, and shares, debentures, and municipal and Government securities have a book value in the aggregate of £1,112,982. Against these assets the liabilities to sundry creditors, including £610,295 placed on deposit by affiliated companies, amount to £721,869, so it is no exaggeration to say the finances are critical enough to need a fresh increase of capital. The reserve is reduced to £110,803.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE "TIMES" BOOK CLUB AGAIN.

In kindly forwarding to us the appended circular issued by Messrs. Hooper and Jackson, otherwise the *Times* Book Club, a correspondent says "though it strikes me as rather cool, I have written accepting the offer of their catalogues," and, he adds, "you will notice that the concern seems to flourish despite your prognostications." This remark is in the nature of a challenge, and we must really protest. Nothing we have written indicated an expectation that the whole business would collapse within six months, which is about the time the Book Club has been in operation, but if it be true, as a writer says who evidently knows what he is talking about in the *Publisher and Bookseller* of February 17, that the outlay on the experiment up to the end of December last had cost from £80,000 to £100,000, then we can sit serene, perfectly assured that collapse can hardly be a question of years. What is the basis upon which this strenuous attempt to bring about a disastrous monopoly in the book publishing and selling trade rests? We know what libraries like Mudies and Smiths have for stand-by. They charge moderate subscription fees for the use of the books supplied to readers, and, in addition, make a certain revenue by a legitimate trade in new and second-hand books. Even on this sensible commercial basis we never have understood that the owners of either of these great public libraries made large fortunes thereby. How the nett revenue of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Sons' library may have panned out we have no means of knowing, and it is no business of ours to inquire, but it is well known in the trade that Mudies' Library has, to say the best of it, found it no easy matter always to pay 5 per cent. on the capital involved. Into a business thus restricted in scope for profits the American gentlemen who now appear to practically control the advertising business of the *Times* have plunged with an offer to give for nothing and carriage free any quantity of new books the subscribers to the *Times* may choose to ask for. Not only do they give the books free, three new books to each reader, for a constant supply of which Mudies charge at least 3s. 6d. per annum, but they deliver the volumes and take them away free of all charge to subscribers. Where does the revenue come from to

enable these enterprising American gentlemen to perform this wonderful feat? There are only two sources; first, the discount they obtain from the *Times* on its subscription money. That subscription money is £3 18s. per annum. For this the *Times* is sent either through the post or through any newsagent to those who pay the money. Is the *Times* allowing Messrs. Hooper and Jackson to deduct a guinea and a-half from each of its subscriptions towards the cost of the Book Club, and, if not, how is the revenue to carry it on provided? These gentlemen have also perhaps a discount or commission upon the advertisements procured. The same authority we have just quoted, obviously himself a publisher, tells us that the *Times* library people insist on publishers giving them advertisements for the *Times* newspaper to the amount of at least 15 per cent. of the order given by them for books, and they may have a commission from the *Times* on advertisement orders thus obtained and also perhaps on other and independent publishers' advertisement orders, but, even so, it does not appear to us that revenue sufficient can be forthcoming. It would be, as far as we can gather by inquiries amongst paper merchants and in other directions, an outside estimate to put the entire income available for the maintenance of this ambitious enterprise at £30,000 per annum. But it would not matter much were the income £300,000, because the bigger the revenue the heavier the dead weight outlay, the greater the number of subscribers to the *Times* to be supplied free. No revenue would suffice, even allowing for the fact that the supply of new books is not anything like so full and ready as it was when the club started.

A circular such as that printed below, and which indicates the second hoped-for source of revenue, really confirms us in the opinion already on more than one occasion expressed with emphasis in these columns. For what does it imply? It implies a desperate effort on the part of Messrs. Hooper and Jackson to establish at any cost a huge book-vending business in the hope of thereby making good the loss involved in working the library. If they succeed in this it is nothing to them should half the publishers be ruined, the other half enslaved, and the retail bookselling trade throughout the three kingdoms driven into the satchel, purse, or birthday card trade. Essentially a circular like this is on all fours with that of a bucket shop. Readers of THE INVESTORS' REVIEW know the kind of literature poured into them by every post from "share pushers" and outside dealers on margins, and many to their cost know what it means to give way to the blandishments of these effusions. It is precisely the same with this parade of extremely cheap books, and Messrs. Hooper and Jackson gave the public an excellent sample of the morality underlying their methods of business in that huge catalogue which they got up and sent broadcast to all *Times* subscribers soon after their library began its meteoric career. As we pointed out at the time, that catalogue was stuffed from beginning to end with scandalously over-priced "remainders." Books dead and in the dust heap were lugged out there and offered unblushingly at full prices to the unwary, just as the bucket-shop keeper mixes a few good shares with tons of rubbish. It must be so. On no honest supposition conceivable will it be possible for Messrs. Hooper and Jackson to give good bargains all round to those who go to them to buy books. They cannot get the bulk of the new books issued on better terms than the wholesale booksellers or even the large retail houses, and even if they did it would not be enough. To recoup excessive losses permanently accruing in one direction they must make excessive profits in another. What, therefore, they will in all probability do is to put a certain, a minimum, number of genuine bargains into their book lists as decoys, and under cover of these advertise generously their waste products so as to foist upon the public uncounted heaps of books for which excessive prices would be charged. This is precisely the bucket-shop method, and we refuse to believe that success of an

enduring kind can be attained by any business thus inspired and conducted. But what is the book trade going to do meanwhile? Sit still and allow the Americans to steal or throttle the trade, as the bucket shop is allowed by the supine Stock Exchange to steal away its business, or arise and defend itself?

[COPY.]

376-384, Oxford Street, W.

April 21, 1906.

DEAR SIR,—I have pleasure in informing you that, knowing you to be a book-buyer, we have included your name among the number of those for whom accounts have been opened at our Book Club (376-384, Oxford Street). If you buy your books from us, therefore, whether you do so in person or by letter, you will not need to pay cash for them nor to give any reference; you have only to ask that the books be charged to your account.

We sell books of every kind at the lowest prices charged by any discount bookseller in the kingdom, and since, owing to the great success of our Book Club, we have now become one of the largest retail book-buyers—perhaps the largest—in the world, the enormous scale on which our business is transacted with publishers often enables us to offer certain books upon terms more favourable than could be obtained elsewhere.

One feature of our business which has found great favour with book-lovers is the publication, at about monthly intervals, of a guide to books, including the most recent publications. I say "guide" rather than "catalogue," because this unique publication of ours gives not only the prices of books, but also descriptive notes of their style and contents. The want of exactly such a descriptive catalogue of current literature has long been felt, and if you would like to see our Guide you have only to write a postcard to this effect and I shall have pleasure in seeing that a copy is sent to you as each issue appears.

Yours faithfully,

THE MANAGER,
FOR THE "TIMES."

P.S.—To inaugurate the establishment of its Book Club and Book Shop in the new premises, the *Times* will shortly hold a *gigantic sale of books*. Whether for the number, variety and quality of the books to be sold, or for the low prices at which they will be offered, this sale will mark an epoch in the history of the book trade, and you will then, I am sure, if by that time you have not already made the experiment of purchasing your books from us, feel the convenience of having an account with the *Times*.

THE P.O. SAVINGS BANK DEFICIT.

Mr. Asquith had never a word to say about it, but in the debate on the Budget, Mr. Holden, member for the Heywood division, called attention to the liabilities of the Government in respect of the Savings Banks. Mr. Holden's position as the managing director of one of the largest banks in the country, the London City and Midland Bank, gives great weight to his remarks. As his speech was crowded out of the London dailies we give here a short summary of what he said on the occasion. He pointed out that a good deal was said about the danger of a large unfunded debt. But if there was this well-founded anxiety about the unfunded debt on account of the liability to repayment of some portion within short periods, should there not be increased anxiety about the £150,000,000 due to depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank, repayable on demand? The securities held against this enormous sum were depreciated by £11,000,000, the last Chancellor of the Exchequer got an Act passed relieving the Postmaster-General from the obligation of publishing a balance-sheet, on the plea that a balance-sheet is misleading. But it would not be misleading if the stocks were entered at the market value, the deficiency being shown in a separate item, and a sinking fund created in respect of the deficiency shown by the balance-sheet. Mr. Holden further contended that the Chancellor should allocate to the service of the Post Office Savings Bank a million annually, in order to create a gold reserve. If this were done, he would, at the end of ten years, be in possession of a bullion reserve of £10,000,000. As a matter of sound finance it was absolutely necessary that something like this should be held against liabilities of £150,000,000, repayable on demand. The yearly total of all our exchanges throughout the country amounted to 15 thousand millions, all finally resting on a gold basis. All financial experts were agreed that the actual gold reserve, say, £35,000,000, is too small. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer would adopt the suggestion he would render unnecessary the suppression of the balance-sheet, would

improve the financial position generally, and would thereby earn the gratitude of all financial men in the City of London and throughout the country. Here is all even the *Manchester Guardian* had room for upon a subject as important to the Treasury and the nation as the extinction of the visible interest-bearing floating debt:—

Mr. E. H. Holden described himself as somewhat of a pessimist in regard to the national finances. The actual revenue was only £600,000 more than last year, and of that a considerable amount was due to an increase in Post Office business, which again was due to the general election. The estimated expenditure this year was £246,000 less than the expenditure last year, but that was not an actual retrenchment, for a reference to the stores accounts showed that some of the stocks in hand had been considerably reduced. He impressed on the Chancellor the necessity of watching these stocks, and the desirability of having a general stocktaking, so that he might be all the more certain of his estimates. Mr. Holden also referred to the position of the savings banks account, and urged that if there was any deficiency owing to a depreciation in the market value of the securities the Chancellor should create a sinking fund of £1,000,000 a year in order to meet it. The right hon. gentleman would put the savings bank business on a sounder footing, and would at the same time improve the financial position of the country generally, if he would invest that £1,000,000 a year in gold until he had created a gold reserve of £10,000,000. Our present gold reserve was altogether too small for the necessities of the country.

CALLENDER'S CABLE AND CONSTRUCTION.

The year 1905 was again one of progress for this enterprising business, despite various influences of an adverse kind. Keen competition must, we suppose, always be encountered, but the directors are quite right to refer to the unusual difficulties brought about by the exceptional position of the metal market. In spite of all, however, the company increased its profit by £22,029, which comes on top of an improvement of over £4,000 shown for the year 1904. The state of trade throughout the country is described as somewhat more satisfactory than during the previous year, and a large business was done, especially in the closing months, when the general conditions became better than for some time past. Progress since then has not been so good, partly due to the high price of copper and partly to the hanging up of electric supply schemes until Parliament has time to properly consider this highly important question. Notwithstanding this, however, considerable contracts have been secured, and a very fair amount of work is anticipated during the current 12 months. We are glad to note the close attention paid to the development of the company's foreign trade. Work has been done or secured in China, Burmah, Australia, and South America, in addition to very important contracts carried out in India, and the directors seem to be fully justified in saying that the business has been consolidated and increased, and its position fully maintained during the past year. The complete reorganisation of the Anchor Works has been carried out, and the factory and business have been put into a satisfactory position, although the very high price of rubber has prevented the company from yet reaping the benefits which it should eventually obtain from this investment. The control of the Anchor business, however, has already proved of great service in many ways. After deducting all working charges the directors return the profits for the year at £124,541, from which £28,653 has to be allowed for general expenses, £250 for auditor's fee, and £2,500 for income-tax. Another £10,104 is absorbed in repairs and maintenance of plant and buildings, and samples, experiments, and advertising account for £3,940, so that the balance remaining is £79,095. For the previous year it was £57,066, the improvement being £22,029 as already mentioned. With £23,406 brought forward the total credit is £102,501, and the directors allow £13,014 for depreciation on property, £350 on the wharf, and £466 on office furniture. That leaves a balance of £88,672, and after providing £13,500 for debenture interest, and £10,000 for preference dividend, the directors are able to add a bonus of 5 per cent., or 2½ per cent. more, to the regular 10 per cent. dividend. The total return for the year will therefore, be 15 per cent. against 12½ per cent., and the

balance carried forward is raised by £15,515 to £38,922. Capital outlay on account of the works during the year was modest enough at £11,250, and if we deduct £13,014 for depreciation, and £1,710 transferred to Leigh, whatever that is, the balance-sheet value of the land, buildings, and machinery is brought down to £313,991. Shares and investments in other companies, however, have gone up nearly £19,000 to £76,796, and the interest on the Anchor Cable Company is a trifle larger at £87,308. Moreover, expenditure on contracts in course of execution and patterns show an increase of £15,715 to £113,966, money retained by corporations for due fulfilment of contracts is up £20,966 to £115,323, and cash and bills amount to £59,759 against £19,342. Stocks on hand are down from £115,400 to £100,705, but on balance the assets of the company have increased, and as no fresh capital came in we must look for an increase in floating liabilities. On bills payable the company owes £132,756, and to sundry creditors £95,348, together £228,105, or £66,568 more, but debtors alone owe £193,256, and the position generally is quite a good one. Goodwill and patents have been entirely written off some time ago, and the company still has a general reserve of £100,000, besides a machinery renewal account of £25,112.

GELDENHUIS DEEP.

This is one of the companies we included in our mining trust of a year ago, but it was impossible to foreknow at that time that there would be a serious falling off in the results for 1905. It appears, however, that 1904 was the best year the company has ever experienced, the yield of the ore showing a substantial improvement, simultaneously with a reduction in working costs. The conditions in 1905, however, were the reverse of this, and it seems almost incredible that so sudden and great a change could take place in the twinkling of a mine-boss's eye, yet here it is in all its grim nakedness. We would not for the world hint at any "design" in this, and are willing to see in it those vagaries of nature which so often bring to nought the caprices of man. In 1904 the company paid an aggregate dividend of 65 per cent., and the yield was good enough for any man, provided it could be maintained. Even the bosses themselves staked their reputation for honour and veracity upon the ability of the Chinaman, not only to work cheaply and efficiently, but in some weird fashion to keep up the richness of the mines. Hitherto, he has been impotent to do either, despite his alleged superhuman capacity, and actual experience of his inability is worth more to the investor than lashings and leavings of mine-boss theory. In the past twelve months there was a falling off in the rate of working profits to the extent of nearly 6s. per ton, of which over 2s. 4d. is due to a decline in the value of the ore, yet the general manager writes:—"The company has derived considerable benefit from the introduction of Chinese labourers, inasmuch as since their arrival milling has been carried on with the full number of stamps for the first time since the resumption of operations after the war. The Chinese labourers have shown constant improvement, and are proving themselves to be successful as mine labourers." If this substantial shrinkage in profits represents the "considerable benefit" the company enjoys, it is not the kind that puts more money into the pockets of the shareholders. It appears to be rather a perverted view to take of a serious fact. We learn, too, that together with this improvement in coolie labour, the full stamps were employed for the first time, yet the dividend fell by 15 per cent. And there are people who still declare that the prices of Kaffirs are not inflated after the slump. On the dividend paid last year, this share gives a paltry yield of 7 per cent., far too low a yield for a mine in which such grave risks have to be faced.

The total quantity of ore crushed was 281,785 tons, and the production of gold from all sources was 122,543 ozs., at the rate of a little over 8½ dwts. to the ton. In the previous year the tonnage was 265,619 tons, and

the output 122,857 ozs., the value of which in sterling was £517,387 in comparison with £515,092 in 1905, the averages per ton being equivalent to £1 18s. 11d. and £1 16s. 7d. respectively. Total working costs last year were £318,788, in comparison with £253,547 in 1904, or £1 2s. 7d. per ton against 19s. 1d. per ton, consequently the gross profit fell from £263,840 to £196,304, or from 19s. 10d. per ton to 13s. 11d. This is the explanation given by the general manager:—"The latter (the increased costs) is owing to the poorer results obtained from the rock drilling operations due to the stoping conditions of the year not having been as advantageous for breaking ore as in previous years, when, owing to the inadequate labour supply, resort was made to the most accessible localities for conducting stoping operations; it is further due to increased development work done, and to the employment of Chinese labour, which, during the early months of its introduction, was expensive owing to the labourers being unaccustomed to mining work." This is candid enough, but we are in doubt as to whether or not the readiness or temptation to go to "accessible localities" means that a little harmless eye-picking was indulged in. The naive phrase of the manager lends itself to this suspicion, and we should be delighted to learn if this inference is unfounded. Anyway, there can be little doubt that these difficulties, by compelling, let us say, the manager to go to accessible localities, had their advantages, seeing that they enabled the company to boast of a "record" year. Of course, the disadvantages come later, for even accessible localities are exhaustible, and profits fall off when localities of another kind have to be worked. Still, the directors are sanguine, for if miracles can happen once it is arguable that they can happen again. It is expected that working costs will be reduced, "as the labourers become more efficient," whilst "there is also considerable room," said the chairman, "for improvement underground in the handling of existing labour-saving appliances, and in the supervision of labour." But for the current year, it appears, there is but a slender hope of improvement. For the developments on the ninth level show a lower grade, but the effect of this depreciation "may be fully made up by a decrease in the working costs, through better results in extraction, and by an increase in the tonnage treated." If there be an increase in the tonnage crushed, this, it must not be overlooked, will exhaust the mine the more quickly, so the advantage in the long run may be insignificant. Further wonderful results are anticipated from the introduction of tube mills, three of which have been ordered. These are likely to be at work within the next few months, and it is estimated that they will increase the capacity of the reduction works by the equivalent of 50 stamps. But it will need an addition to the cyanide works, and the cost will be some £35,000. How is the company to get this money? The directors prefer to borrow it of the parent concern, the Rand Mines, Limited, rather than go to the shareholders, and the loan is to be repaid out of the "increased profits, thus avoiding any interference with the usual dividends." But what is the "usual" dividend? Is it the 65 per cent. paid in 1904, or the 50 per cent. paid last year? There is something here that calls for more explicit phrasing.

TRADE OF ALEXANDRIA.

With so many new undertakings for the development of Egypt seeking public support, Mr. Vice-Consul Freeman's report on the trade of Alexandria is especially interesting. Mr. Freeman naturally puts shipping in the first place as being the most important factor in building up the business of the port, and it is satisfactory to note not only that this continues to grow steadily, but that the United Kingdom is still far ahead of all competitors with 42 per cent. of the total. Of a total increase of 383,290 tons Great Britain contributed 181,440 tons, and although Germany followed with 140,935 tons, mainly through the institution of a new passenger service between Naples and Alexandria, this

only brought the percentage up to 7 per cent. Complaints are still made of the congested state of the harbour, but the port authorities seem to be doing what they can to improve the accommodation, and new quays for the storage of coal, with accommodation for ten ships outside the mole, as well as a harbour and breakwater at Mex for landing cattle, are in course of construction. Quays for the timber trade have also been commenced at Gabbari, which are expected to be ready by the end of 1908, and owing to the depth of water in the Boghaz Pass being insufficient for large vessels, dredging operations on a second channel nearly three-quarters of a mile long, 600 feet wide, and 35 feet deep at low water were commenced in June last. In addition to these works the existing outer breakwater and the cattle pier at Mex are to be lengthened in order to close the harbour to all south-westerly swell, improvements which should do much to encourage trade.

In spite of the seeming prosperity of the country all has not been plain sailing for merchants doing business there, and it is to be feared that the help in developing the country has been somewhat overdone. Money has been hard to come by, and failures have been more numerous, no less than 190 bankruptcies having been declared in Egypt generally against 126 in 1904, while private arrangements with creditors were greatly increased, and the compositions with creditors under the sanction of the court rose from 53 to 98. The principal causes of these failures Mr. Freeman believes to be the very much higher rents now charged for land and the impoverishment of the soil by over-cultivation, and he points out that the yield of cotton last year was somewhat indifferent in spite of the larger area under cultivation. Land in and around Alexandria is still rising in value at an abnormal rate, and prices in many instances have increased by 50 per cent. during the last twelve months, an advance which appears to be distinctly traceable to the operations of the new land companies.

With regard to the means to be adopted for increasing British trade, Mr. Freeman finds it necessary to reiterate the advice that manufacturers should study the market more closely, and, above all, should be careful not to handicap their representatives by insisting on too rigid an adherence to fixed designs. It is advice which is constantly given with reference to other markets than the Egyptian, but manufacturers have apparently not yet learned that it does them no good to supply the "nearest thing in stock" instead of the exact pattern ordered. Time and again we have heard of business going to Germany and America for that reason alone, manufacturers in those countries being willing to make the article specially rather than lose trade by substituting stock designs. Another suggestion is that more should be done in the way of advertising, and opportunities are now offered for doing so by the formation of a local bill-posting company. Posters, however, should be printed in French and Arabic, as well as English, and the trade mark and illustrations should be of a size to attract the attention of those who cannot read.

THE WESTRALIAN MINING INDUSTRY.

The work done by the Chamber of Mines of Western Australia is of great concern to shareholders in West Australian mines. Such an institution has a certain restricted power to alter legislative and economic conditions, and to make these as favourable as possible for the mining industry, but, on the other hand, it is impotent to alter the natural conditions of the mines. For a long time past it has attempted, amongst other things, to lower the wages of miners, in order to minimise the effects of the fall in yield which is the characteristic of the ore of so many mines. To this fact we have frequently called attention, but to induce workers voluntarily to accept lower wages in order that others might benefit is a formidable task indeed, and it is not amazing that the Chamber has hitherto met with equivocal success. Still, we must give all just

credit to Westralian management nowadays, for it has, mainly by scientific methods, substantially reduced working costs, so that shareholders have suffered but slightly from the deterioration in yield. The annual meeting of the Chamber was held at Kalgoorlie last month, and the mail brings us a summary of the president's address. Mr. Richard Hamilton, who is manager of the Great Boulder Proprietary—with whose annual report we dealt in our last issue—modestly enough sketched out the work done by this institution in the past five years, and it sets an example to that other Chamber in the Transvaal which might be beneficially copied. It has worked unostentatiously, its relations with the Government have been amicable, it has published very valuable technical information, and it has assisted greatly towards that progress in metallurgical science which has done more for Western Australia than coolie labour is ever likely to do for the Rand. Mr. Hamilton also gave an interesting exposition of the standpoint from which the Chamber regards the labour problem, and his observations are worth quoting:—"The Chamber has taken this stand, that as the grade of ore has become poorer and has made it more difficult to make mines pay, therefore, the inflation of wages, the high rents, and the high cost of living should be reduced, in order that the industry may be able to employ as many men as possible at a fair remuneration. In the Chamber's opinion it is better that the reduction should be a gradual one, so that the attendant hardships which are inevitable should be minimised as much as possible, and that a reduction might be made before many struggling mines were closed down, so that inducement would be given to prospect West Australia a few hundred feet deeper in order to prove whether beneath the present barren zone, which so many mines have reached, other payable zones exist. This has happened elsewhere, and it is very likely to happen in this State, but unless those who would risk their money or those who would risk their labour have some prospect of making a profit, it is hopeless to expect them to undertake the work. Now, to get the community to accept reduction of monetary return from their investment in houses or goods, and to give the mines a chance to survive the decrease in the grade of ore, what is the first and only practical step to be taken? It is to offer a lower rate of wage. If the offer is accepted the rents and cost of living will come down automatically. If the offer is not accepted it is tantamount to the community preferring to take the risk of the mines shutting down and those engaged in them moving to other parts to find work." These are doubtless cogent arguments, and will appeal to many, particularly to shareholders. Wealth is but a relative term, that is, it is an expression of the financial relationships between individuals. A general rise or fall in prices does not affect that relationship either beneficially or harmfully. But in this instance there would hardly be such a general lowering of wages and the costs of living as not to involve sacrifices on the part of some. As Mr. Hamilton says, however, this could be minimised by a gradual change. And, after all, landlords and tradesmen would probably suffer more in the long run by the stopping of a vast industry than by reducing rents and prices. Anyway, it is a big problem for local people to tackle.

THE "STANDARD" NEWSPAPERS.

The Protectionists never made a worse bargain than when they purchased the *Standard* newspaper through the agency of Mr. C. A. Pearson. The company formed to acquire the morning and evening *Standards* also took over the *St. James's Gazette* from Mr. Pearson, the whole being capitalised at £525,000 in shares and debenture stock. Happily the public is interested in the debenture stock and preference shares only amounting to £350,000, leaving the vendors with £100,000 in ordinary and £75,000 in deferred shares. But even the debenture stock and preference shares are anything but desirable investments as things are now, and we have the eloquent fact in mind that the

market quotations for the £100 stock and £10 shares are 94½ and 7 respectively. What the ordinary shares and after them the deferred would be valued at had they a market price can be left to the imagination. The first report and accounts covering the period of fourteen months to December 31 last are far worse than the most pessimistic mind could have anticipated. We are told of the great difficulties under which the business has been carried on, and the many changes necessary, and can quite believe that a very trying time has been experienced. It is stated that the amalgamation of the *St. James's Gazette* and *Evening Standard* has been attended with satisfactory results, but nothing is said about the morning *Standard*, and the chairman's studious avoidance of all figures at the meeting held on Tuesday last was remarkably significant. The report also seems to have been carefully kept away from other organs of the Press—indeed, we do not remember seeing it mentioned even in the *Standard* itself. Having regard to the troubles encountered and the fact that for only a comparatively small portion of the period covered by the accounts was the business carried on under normal conditions, the directors think the results shown are to be considered satisfactory. We doubt if the shareholders will be of the same opinion. The company brings out a profit on trading account of £20,480, and received £826 for interest on deposit and transfer fees, making £21,307. From that interest on purchase money and calls paid in advance took £3,910, interest on debenture stock required £7,055, and directors' and trustees' fees £1,105, leaving £9,236, which is sufficient to provide the preference dividend. Nothing, however, is paid on the vendor-held ordinary and deferred shares, and proprietors will be able to judge of the character of the profit when we have had a look at the balance-sheet. There we find an item which is worth giving in full: "Reorganisation and development expenses, including cost of establishing *Evening Standard* and *St. James's Gazette*, advertising, salaries paid in lieu of notice, special wages during reorganisation, &c., £39,854." What becomes of the so-called profit when it goes alongside an entry like that? The question answers itself. The auditors make the reservation that the balance-sheet is only full and fair subject to the fact that no provision has been made for depreciation of buildings, plant, and machinery, or for writing off any portion of these reorganisation and development expenses. Another £8,248 stands for preliminary expenses, and the balance-sheet valuation of the properties and goodwill is no less than £419,446. This is after deducting £3,553 for proceeds of sales of surplus plant and £2,200 estimated stocks at October 31. Plant and machinery purchased since the acquisition amounts to £26,983, of which £17,678 has been paid and £9,305 is owing. Fortunately the company has a fairly good cash balance of £48,306, but floating liabilities are pretty heavy at £37,188, and debtors owe no more than £24,688. Additions to various buildings have cost £6,335, and we note that the company intends to sell the St. Bride-street premises with the object of concentrating the commercial and advertising departments in the new Fleet Street building. Well, we wish it luck.

Passing Events.

A special meeting of Robert Stephenson and Co. was held on Monday to consider the directors' reorganisation proposal, details of which have already appeared in our columns. The reduction of capital has so long been recognised as inevitable that the proceedings were quite orderly, and criticisms of the scheme were made in a calm and business-like fashion. As usual, some of the ordinary shareholders thought the preference holders were not giving up enough, and the latter wanted to know why they should make a real sacrifice, while the ordinary shareholders made only a nominal one. There was a bit of a split over the

question of foregoing preference arrears, but generally the proposals seem to have had a better reception than they really deserve. Eventually a committee was appointed to see what modifications of the scheme could be usefully made, and later on the shareholders will have another opportunity of discussing the plan.

It is satisfactory to see that the London County Council has come to an arrangement with the Thames Steamboat Company, by which the wasteful competition on the river which distinguished last summer is put an end to. In virtue of this new compact the boats of the Thames Steamboat Company will supplement those of the County Council, a fuller, more frequent, and rapid service being thus secured, one also that will give a service much more extensive than the County Council alone was able to provide.

A conflict of opinion has arisen between the London County Council and the Water Board as to the future of London's water supply. Now, as always the County Council insists that a fresh source must be tapped, and its more ambitious spirits cling to the project of bringing a supply from Wales at a cost of, perhaps, £40,000,000, perhaps £50,000,000. This would indeed be intolerable, and we are not sorry the Water Board sticks to its own view, insisting that if proper storage were provided the Thames and the Lea, with the supplementary artesian wells, by which so much property has been upset in various districts around London, would continue to meet requirements. The true solution would have been the County Council one to begin with, but the water companies were much too powerful to allow it to have its way, and, therefore, we shall now have recurring agitations for the expenditure of this enormous sum in providing London with pure water. Nothing will really be done, however, until London is visited by an epidemic, which is what some of our medical friends endeavour to cheer us up by.

Belfast is going to borrow another loan of £200,000 in 3½ per cent. redeemable stock, and, apparently, expects to issue it at 101½. This seems rather dear in the circumstances, especially as the debt of Belfast is already sufficiently onerous. However, it is well to be in the fashion.

We hope the committee of the Stock Exchange will accede to the wishes expressed at a meeting of members dealing in the mining markets, and put an end to the special mining carry-over day. It ought not to have been necessary, and is undoubtedly a very considerable nuisance to the members of the Exchange as a body. As worked, the extra mining day means practically two days, as the brokers and jobbers interested go through a preliminary canter in the way of arranging the account the day before the regular mining contango day. Thus, when the account is a short one there is almost no interval between the end of one settlement and the beginning of another.

It is stated that the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company will probably absorb the Caledonian Insurance Company, that being another of the smaller offices whose losses in the San Francisco disaster are proving greater than it can bear. Its shares before that disaster were as high as £33, and in the interval they fell as low as £12, but on the rumour of the absorption of the company by the North British and Mercantile they rose again, the *Edinburgh correspondent* of the *Financial Times* says, to £15.

A new proposal for the settlement of the Buenos Ayres Cédulas controversy has been put forth by Señor Irigoyen, a well-known Argentine statesman, and the new Governor of the province. He says that it would be impossible for the next five years to pledge the province to a heavier charge than \$3,000,000 currency per annum, but that he would be prepared to pay that as interest on sterling bonds to be exchanged for cédulas. He also expressed his willingness to secure these bonds by a property tax and in every other way to render them an absolutely solid guarantee, interest to the amount of \$3,000,000 in currency to be payable in London in sterling at now current rates. He said even this offer would involve

increased taxation, and that will be borne with very considerable restlessness by the people of the province. Indeed, we are doubtful whether any settlement can be effected on these or similar terms.

What is behind the action of the Turk? He cannot have raised this disturbance about the boundary between his dominions in Egypt on his own initiative and out of a spirit of pure mischief. Who is behind him? Is the Government afraid to tell us? Are Russian intriguers egging the Sultan on, with the view to raise in an acute form the question of the destiny of the sick man and the succession to his dominions? Is it Germany that is raising the whirlwind—Germany, whose financiers, partly at the instigation of the Government, partly out of sheer ambition, have sunk, it is said, at least £400,000,000 in Asia Minor? A little while may elapse before we get light upon questions of this kind, but undoubtedly there seems to be something grave behind the determination with which Abdul Hamed resists the demands of the British Government that he should withdraw his troops. They are now said to be at the gates of El Arish, a place well within the Egyptian territory as marked by the boundary pillars which have been pulled down—"not by me," the Sultan says, but down they are, all the same.

In France there are, apparently, many people who think that the distinguished Minister of the Interior, M. Clemenceau, has been, in plain English, making a fool of himself, discovering plots where no plots existed, and massing troops in Paris to an extent which really provoked all manner of disturbances, and caused some wags to indulge in the practical joke of putting down sham bombs in various places, in order to bring the whole Ministerial policy into ridicule. We are not sure, without knowing much more than is now made public, if M. Clemenceau in any degree deserves this censure or ridicule. Paris is never to be counted on, and there has been such bitter passion displayed in the Pas de Calais amongst the miners there that it was not by any means improbable that sympathising workmen in Paris would do something in the way of property destroying to indicate their solidarity with the men who were burning and wrecking in and around Lens. Happily, the worst fears have not been justified. Still, there was considerable unrest in Paris on May Day, and there is no doubt ground for the assertion of the Government that a Royalist-Bonapartist-Clerical plot to make things lively for the Government before the elections on next Sunday had been held.

In giving notice of his intention to apply to the Board of Trade for his release, Mr. H. Brougham, Senior Official Receiver and Liquidator of the British America Corporation, has issued a report showing the position of affairs at the date of application. The assets were estimated in the accounts filed by the company's officials in 1901 to yield £1,244,928, but had realised £184,399 only. These assets were mainly investments in shares, £840,391; surplus from securities, £165,954; book debts, £214,576; and miscellaneous, £21,323. The shares were held in such concerns as the London and Globe Finance Corporation, the Standard Exploration, the Columbian Proprietary, East Le Roi, West Le Roi, Columbia Kootenay, Moorlort Goldfields, Loddon Valley Goldfields, Le Roi No. 2, and Rossland Kootenay. It appears that the nominal value of the shares was accepted by the directors as the realisable values. The 20,000 Loddon Valley and 80,000 Moorlort shares were alleged to have been sold at par by the London and Globe to the British America Corporation, immediately before the London and Globe failure, although it did not possess the shares, and was never in a position to deliver them. In these circumstances the validity of the transaction was questioned, and the matter was brought before the Court for decision, when it was held that no contract existed between the two companies for the sale and purchase of the shares. Accordingly, the book entries, recording the alleged transactions, were treated as void, and the British America Corporation lodged a claim against the London and Globe for the amount involved, viz., £500,000. This claim was admitted in pursuance of the order of

the Court, and in respect of it the British America Corporation has received dividends amounting to £35,496. In all, 47,864 shares were sold, and the total sum received by the Official Receiver, including dividends, was £108,226, out of which loans and claims were paid to the extent of £36,015, leaving a nett balance of £72,211.

In their disastrous report, analysed elsewhere, the directors of A. Goerz and Co. bewail the appalling depreciation in Kaffir prices in the past two years. Taking 163 representative gold and finance shares, they find the valuations of these fell from £276,000,000 to £170,000,000 in the 12 months ending December 31 last, a shrinkage of £106,000,000, gone like smoke. "This," they say, "is the effect of the attitude of the Liberal Government towards Chinese labour." But the Government did not come into power until the end of 1905, and how could this start that depreciation which has been going on from the moment the coolies were imported? "Ah! but it is, all the same," is their feminine, illogical method of argument. The bosses will not have it that the public have long been disgusted with their unscrupulous tactics, nor that the ore is showing an alarming deterioration in quality, nor that prices are even now too high.

As an example, take the report of the May Consolidated, a member of the Goerz group, whose annual report has been issued this week. We deal with it under "Mining Notes," and show, on official figures of life, that a purchase of the shares even at present low prices, would result in a big loss. Do the directors desire to push the price still higher, that the loss to a buyer may be still greater? Is there any honest consideration here for an investor? Yet 1905 was the best year in this company's history. It paid its highest dividend, and when the distributions were lower prices were higher. There is little room for a further reduction of costs, even with coolie labour, unless they can get slaves to work for their cabbage broth only. Nor can it be knocked into their heads that the public conscience is not opposed to Chinese labour merely because it is degrading servitude, but because it is Chinese and not white labour. The nation says it has been befooled; it has wasted treasure and spilt blood for yellow aliens. The magnates may repudiate "slavery," but they cannot deny that Chinese are employed. The public would object to such even were Ah Sjn housed in a palace and flooded with champagne. It was not for his benefit the nation fought and suffered.

A very successful function was the "festival dinner" of the Royal Blind Pension Society, whose president is Sir Philip Burne-Jones, and whose indefatigable honorary secretaries are the Messrs. Pocock. The dinner was presided over by Mr. Edgar Speyer, who made a sympathetic and excellent speech in which some interesting statistics were embraced illustrative of the work done in relieving the miseries of the indigent blind. Since 1896 the number of pensioners has risen from 926 to 1,165, and the sums annually distributed in pensions and gifts to the blind from £6,372 to £8,020. At the dinner subscriptions and donations to the amount of £2,670 were announced, including a hundred guineas from the chairman and a like sum from his firm, Messrs. Speyer Bros. We should like to quote Mr. Speyer's appeal, but have not space. Readers, however, may be sure that if we mention the subject here it is because we know the society to be doing much good in an unostentatious, inexpensive way, and therefore altogether worthy of the support of the charitable. How forlorn is the lot of the blind always, and when poverty is added the privation ensuing is often most cruel.

We are glad that Sir George Gibb has written to the papers to contradict the exaggerations and malignities current about the new rolling stock of the District Railway. It was time, for gossip had magnified a few breakdowns into "scores of axles broken." As a matter of fact, no coach axle at all has given way, or seems likely to do so, and the only occasion for the gossip has been the weakness of some of the motor

axles, which are now being replaced. As far as our experience goes, the service on the District Railway is steadily growing in efficiency, punctuality and comfort.

A correspondent has sent us a long letter on the Fanti Mines promotion together with illustrative documents. The subject is interesting, and we shall endeavour to deal with it next week, provided the writer, meanwhile, sends us, in confidence, his name and address. This he has, inadvertently doubtless, omitted to enclose with the papers sent.

We sympathise with the victims of that ex-Post Office Savings Bank official who have lost £35,000 of their savings at his hands, but can do nothing to practically help them. Nobody can do anything. As long as men will repose blind confidence in colleagues or "friends," and trust "directors" who enjoy the "honour" thrust upon them without performing their duty or accepting their responsibility as honest men in a position of trust, there will be victims of fraud and malversation. What was the good of forming an investment society without taking the trouble to arrange for an independent and continuous audit? The trustful victims by their supineness almost invited the man who has vanished with the money to act as he has done.

Since the publication of the first annual report of the London Coliseum disclosing a most disastrous position events have moved with dramatic swiftness. The ordinary general meeting was called for Thursday last, but before this was held the Cardiff shareholders had an independent meeting to consider the position. The upshot of some decidedly pointed criticisms was the appointment of a committee to wait on the directors with the object of ascertaining more definite details of the accounts. A separate report made by the auditor had not apparently been published. The next move, however, was much more startling than this. Creditors had come to the conclusion to wait no longer, execution had been levied and the sheriff was actually in possession. There was nothing for it, then, but an application to the Court for the appointment of a receiver and manager, and Mr. Oswald Stoll, the chairman and managing director, was directed to act. Under these circumstances the annual meeting was not a very harmonious affair, but the shareholders exercised a most commendable forbearance under very trying circumstances, and in appointing a committee of inspection probably adopted the best course possible. We hope the directors will meet the position in a generous spirit, because the shareholders have suffered severely, and have every cause for considering themselves very badly used.

We are very pleased to learn that the financial position of the Orient Steam Navigation Company is much better than we thought. The fact that on two recent occasions the balance of profit was not sufficient to provide the full 4 per cent. depreciation which the managers usually allow on the fleet led us to think that the writing off had not been adequate. It so happens, however, that in previous years the wastage allowance had been rather liberal, and it appears that instead of the fleet being overvalued, it is really worth about £100,000 more than the figure given in the balance-sheet. Of the five boats, the *Orontes* is valued at £307,074, the *Omrah* at £189,847, the *Ophir* at £115,994, and the *Ormuz* at £56,333. As to the *Orient* not only has its entire cost been written off, but there is a credit to account of the vessel of £6,235. We are glad to be able to say this, and hope that further accounts will in future prevent all danger of misapprehension in dealing with the business of the year.

Up to Thursday evening the aggregate estimated losses of British fire offices through the San Francisco disaster amounted to £4,815,850 divided thus:—Royal, £1,350,000; London and Lancashire Fire, £1,078,850; Liverpool and London and Globe, £867,000; Northern, £500,000; Scottish Union and National, £260,000; North British and Mercantile, £250,000; State Fire, £250,000; Caledonian,

£250,000; and Central, £10,000. It does not follow that the estimated amounts will all have to be paid, nor, on the other hand, is it certain that the full risks have been taken into account by some of these companies. As the figures stand, however, they are much more encouraging than recent gossip has led the public to suppose, and in the worst of these cases the charges will be met without any serious disturbance to the even flow of prosperity. Only weak offices will suffer.

Critical Index To New Investments.

CITY OF MANAOS.

An issue of £350,000 $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. sterling bonds of this city was offered through the London and Brazilian Bank for the purposes of paying off a floating debt of Rs. 17,00,000, or £106,250, and providing funds for public works and improvements. The price asked was 91 per cent., payable in instalments of 5 per cent. on application, 25 per cent. on allotment, 30 per cent. on June 7, and 31 per cent. on July 12, but a full six months' interest will be paid on November 1. The bonds are redeemable at par in 29 years by a cumulative sinking fund of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum, and as security for payment of the principal and interest the general bond, besides containing a general charge on the revenues of the municipality, specially charges the revenues derived from the public market and from the slaughter-house which are to be paid to the London and Brazilian Bank as collected. Manáos, which is the capital of the State of Amazonas, Brazil, has a population of over 48,000 inhabitants, and is a growing city with a large commercial movement. Complete statistics for 1905 are not yet available, but the imports are estimated at £2,000,000 and the exports at £7,750,000 compared with £1,220,447 and £6,239,175 respectively in 1904, and £1,020,297 and £5,710,606 in 1903.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

An issue of £1,570,000 $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. guaranteed bonds, forming part of an authorised total of £6,570,000, of which £2,500,000 can only be issued in exchange for outstanding bonds of a like amount, was offered for subscription at par through the National Bank of Egypt. The bonds are repayable on April 1, 1949, but may be redeemed on six months' notice after April 1, 1924, and payment of both principal and interest is unconditionally guaranteed by the Egyptian Government. Under the circumstances it has apparently not been thought necessary to enter into any particulars of the results obtained by the bank in the past, but the omission is not of much consequence, the Government guarantee making the issue a safe enough investment.

AMALGAMATED MOTOR 'BUS CO., LIMITED.

This scheme is apparently hatched by the British Electrical Engineering Company and the British Automobile Development Company to provide themselves with work under the plea of fighting what the promoters are pleased to describe as "pirate" 'buses. The new companies have dared to follow the example set in former days by the London Road Car Company, and to put their vehicles on the streets without recognising the old companies' somewhat impudent claim to a virtual monopoly, and for this omission they are to be driven out of business. Accordingly the new company starts by buying up 90 "Times" for £18,000, half in shares and half in cash, under an arrangement whereby 90 horse omnibuses are to be withdrawn and replaced by 60 motor 'buses, with the privilege of sharing in the pooled receipts of the various associations granting the "Times." The capital of the venture is £200,000, divided into 7 per cent. preference and ordinary shares of £1 each, and all the preference, with 75,000 ordinary shares, were offered for subscription, but the directors applied for upwards of 26,000 shares, and were quite willing to go to allotment if 50,000 were subscribed. Further "Times" are to be purchased

entitling the company to run 120 'buses, and the associations are to pay 11d. per mile run out of the aggregate receipts, besides providing the wages of conductors, inspectors, and timekeepers, and the tickets and clearing-house expenses. It is estimated that, allowing 20 per cent. for depreciation, which may or may not prove adequate, a nett profit of 3d. per 'bus mile should be earned, and that on a basis of 2d. per mile, with 100 'buses running 100 miles per day for 300 days, the profits should be £22,000 per annum. No underwriting commission was paid on the issue, but the British Automobile Company received for its services £15,000 in ordinary shares, or nearly as much as was paid for those "Times," and is to be repaid £3,000 for preliminary expenses. After all is said and done we cannot see that the arrangement is going to put the company in so much better a position than the new motor 'bus companies, as the "Times" on which so much stress is laid have no very tangible value, and the shares should certainly be left alone by all but the speculative investor.

BELSIZE MOTORS, LIMITED.

The Belsize Motor Car and Engineering Company of Clayton, Manchester, was established in 1896 as a private concern, and converted into a limited liability company in 1903, when the nominal capital was fixed at £30,000 in £1 shares, of which 29,608 were issued. In addition £20,000 4½ per cent. mortgage debentures were issued, but the business is said to have grown to such an extent that further capital is needed, and this new company has therefore been formed with a capital of £150,000 in £1 shares. Nett profits for the two years ended July 30, 1905, were certified at £1,469 and £2,811, and dividends of 5 and 6 per cent. have been paid, but for the eight months to March 24, 1906, the figures were £4,978, and with the balance brought forward are said to be sufficient to pay a dividend at the rate of 27 per cent. per annum. The leasehold land and buildings taken over are valued at £11,231, machinery, &c., at £19,236, and stock-in-trade, work in progress, &c., at £38,669, to which were added cash and book debts £11,733, and after deducting £38,371 for liabilities outstanding and taken over, £5,655 for undivided profits held out of the sale, and £90 paid for interest to debenture-holders in lieu of notice, the balance of assets was brought out at £36,753. Including £12,594 for goodwill, the purchase price was fixed at £49,347, payable mostly in shares, and 60,669 shares were offered for subscription, leaving 40,000 in reserve. The shares allotted will give holders in the vendor company five shares for every three held, and the directors and a number of these stockholders have between them underwritten 31,000 shares for a commission of 2½ per cent. No part of the price is payable in cash, and this fact is put forward as evidence of the shareholders' faith in the future of the business. We hope their faith may be justified, but it seems a big jump from £30,000, or £50,000 allowing for the loan capital, to £150,000.

SIMPLEX CONDUITS, LIMITED.

This is another instance of a small undertaking being converted into one with four times the capital on the plea that the expansion is justified by the growth of the business, although the results as set forth in the prospectus hardly seem to warrant the statement. The vendor company, which had a capital of £25,000 in £1 shares, deals in conduits for electric light and power wiring, and during the five years to December 31, 1904, earned profits ranging from £9,349 to £14,440. It, however, suffered a set-back in 1905, when the profits fell to £11,507, owing partly to the dislocation of business during the removal to a new factory and partly to the bad state of trade, and an average of £12,232 per annum is brought out before making provision for depreciation, directors' fees, or interest, so that there does not seem to have been such wonderful progress made. The new factory with the plant, machinery, &c., is valued at £27,185, and stock-in-trade, book

debts and bills receivable, less £7,688 for outstanding liabilities, bring the total assets up to £51,494, to which is added £25,000 for goodwill. Of the total of £76,494 thus produced, £40,000 is payable in shares and £36,494 in cash, out of which £18,000 goes to Messrs. H. and F. Huggins for the amount expended by them on the erection and equipment of the factory.

COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND LAND COMPANY OF EGYPT, LIMITED.

This company proposes to undertake the development of industrial and other undertakings in Egypt and the Soudan, and has a capital of £300,000 divided into 295,000 ordinary shares, entitled to a dividend of 7 per cent. and 60 per cent. of surplus profits, and 5,000 deferred shares. In order to make a beginning options have been purchased over sundry undertakings for £10,000 in ordinary shares and £4,000 in deferred shares, and 200,000 ordinary shares are offered for subscription to provide the necessary funds to carry out the transactions. The purchase price of some of the businesses has been fixed in Egyptian currency and of others in sterling, an unsatisfactory arrangement which is likely to confuse the average investor and prevent his forming any idea of the actual amount paid. Further, the directors give no particulars as to profits earned by the businesses acquired, alleging that these are not set out in the prospectus inasmuch as the businesses are under option only. They state that the owners have disclosed in confidence to the vendor company the figures of their average nett profits for the last seven years, and that these show a profit of 10 per cent., but the information is worse than useless, and the whole proposition savours very largely of bluff.

MEXICAN CONSOLIDATED ELECTRIC COMPANY.

On behalf of the owners the Bank of Scotland offers for sale \$7,500,000 general consolidated 50-year 5 per cent. gold bonds of this company at \$91 per cent., or £93 10s. per \$500 bond. The undertaking is a Canadian one, having a capital of \$8,000,000, which has been formed with the object of consolidating the tramway systems in the City of Mexico and the surrounding federal district, and has obtained a controlling interest in the capital of the Mexico Electric Tramways Company. The systems consist of about 160 miles of track, of which 90 miles are operated by electric traction, 13 miles by steam, and about 57 miles by animal traction. Gross earnings have risen from \$2,103,175 in 1901 to \$3,642,106 in 1905, and the nett profits from \$825,460 to \$1,465,731, while the revenue and profits for 1906 are estimated at \$4,024,000 and \$1,724,000 respectively. The president of the company, however, expects that when the steam power is replaced by the hydro-electric power the nett profits should amount to \$2,200,000 or £220,000, on which, after meeting underlying charges for interest on certain debenture issues of the District Railway and Tramway Companies outstanding, there would be a surplus of £164,000 available for interest on the present issue, depreciation, and dividend on the share capital, &c. These bonds form part of an authorised total of \$15,000,000, which are secured by a 1st mortgage in the share capital and debentures of the tramway company, and all other assets. They appear to be a very fair investment.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—London cargoes remain without change, and though holders are rather anxious to press sales on account of so many cargoes coming to hand, buyers will not be tempted even at slightly easier rates. The Liverpool market has been rather depressed through unsatisfactory cables, and any firmness that appeared was not maintained. Farmers' deliveries for the week were 42,438 qrs. averaging 29s. 6d., against 24,276 qrs. averaging 30s. 4½d. in the same week last year. Imports were 294,117 qrs., the total this year, 35 weeks, amounting to only 12,631,411 qrs. against 16,148,367 last season. The depression in American markets seems to have been pretty continuous throughout the week, but the decrease in Bradstreet's estimate of the quantities in sight east of the Rockies, 54,856,000 bushels against 59,629,000

last week, caused a certain rally, as did also unfavourable Argentine reports.

WOOL.—The consumption of wool continues on a large scale, and supplies are so scarce, particularly of home-grown produce, that spinners and manufacturers frequently find themselves stranded for want of the needful material. Sales at Antwerp this week show a big advance in prices, and indicate another stride forward at the sales here next week. Values have already gone higher than they were before Easter, some forties tops as much as $\frac{3}{4}$ d. Spinners still complain of their difficulty about adequate prices, but they are gradually getting more money for their contracts, and on the whole have nothing much to grumble at. The piece trade also is better, and Continental and colonial markets except South Africa are still active in their demands.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—Our market has continued firm in tone, but in most quarters a quiet feeling has prevailed, buyers not showing much activity for any market. The strong position of manufacturers, however, has been well maintained, and buyers have not easily obtained concessions, even when prepared to give long delivery. The inquiry in cloth for export has been fairly healthy for several markets, but offers on the whole are too low to be put through. Makers are not prepared to give way, and on the other hand, shippers are slow at raising limits. Inquiry is reported from different outlets of India, and a fair business has been done for Calcutta, principally in shirtings. Not much is being done at the present time in staple cloths for China, but here and there orders are placed in fancy goods. Buyers for the Levant and Egypt are open for goods of a miscellaneous character, where price and delivery can be arranged. For the outlets of South America a fair trade has been done in printing cloths. Buyers for the home trade have continued to give out orders of fair weight, but the weather at the present time is against the distributing establishments. Light fancy materials, however, suitable for spring wear, are moving well. Printing cloths of both Burnley and Cheshire makes have been steady, without very much new business. Makers of T-cloths and Mexicans have deep engagements, and hold firmly to quotations. Manufacturers of satens and coloured woven goods have rather improved their position during the last few weeks, order lists at the present time being somewhat more extensive than a month ago. Shippers are being put to some inconvenience, owing to manufacturers being late in delivery of orders booked some months ago. Quite a number of producers are indifferent as to further increasing their engagements. In home trade American yarns the turnover has not been large, but on the whole spinners have about cleared the production of the spindles. Sellers have been firm in quotation, and hardly any pressure has shown itself for new business. The better kinds continue to be sought after, and the poorer descriptions rather lag behind in demand. In export yarns buyers are not disposed to pay to-day's rates, and give such long time for delivery. A moderate turnover has taken place for the Continent, but shippers to the Far East have not given out many new orders. Reports have been current that yarn bought for Japan is being resold in Manchester. Egyptian yarns are dearer on the week, owing to the advance in Egyptian cotton. Users have only bought from hand to mouth, and order lists are not so extensive as a month ago.

At first the cotton market in New York recovered from the weakness at the close of the preceding week, but prices quickly fell back in sympathy with the collapse in Wall Street. The market tried to resist these adverse influences, but without any success. So it closes rather depressed, without much change in prices on balance. Closing prices are: May-June, 5.88d.; June to August, 5.89d.; August-September, 5.85d.; September-October, 5.73d.; October-November, 5.65d.; November-December, 5.64d.; December-January, 5.64d.; January-February, 5.65d.; February-March, 5.66d.

COAL.—The coal trade continues fairly active. Naturally enough, the abolition of the coal tax has been a great subject of controversy, and the feeling all round is one of satisfaction with the prospective abolition of the impost. It is the general opinion that business will now become more settled. The anticipation that the price of household coal would be reduced in the Sheffield district on May 1 has not been realised, the weather having been too cold, but should very warm weather set in there is little doubt that prices will come down. On the other hand, the steam coal industry has been very active. The attendance at the London market this week was thin, few buyers being present, but the continued cold weather keeps the demand at the depôts fairly firm. In Wales average shipments have been maintained at most of the ports. At Cardiff latest prices are: Best steam, 14s. 9d. to 15s. 3d.; best seconds, 14s. 3d. to 14s. 6d.; seconds, 13s. 6d. to 14s.; drys, 13s. 6d. to 14s.

COPPER.—The market soon steadied up after a rather sharp break at the end of last week, as it is known that the Amalgamated Company is sold right out up to the end of June, and a good part of the July and August production has also been disposed of. Firm American advices helped to keep quotations hard, but business was so exceedingly quiet that the tendency subsequently became rather easier, despite the "bullish" statistics. The upset in Wall Street was also a disturbing influence, and in the middle of the week values suffered a rather sharp set-back. The lower prices, however, induced a certain amount of speculative support, and a partial recovery set in, final figures being 78 7/8d. for cash and 78 1/8d. three months. Messrs. Henry R. Merton and Co. give the visible supply as 9,138 tons against 9,016 tons a month ago. Total supplies for April amounted to 28,533 tons, and the deliveries to 28,411 tons against 31,170 tons and 31,100 tons respectively

for March. The stocks in England and France total 5,338 tons against 4,816 tons at the end of March. Chile charters are 2,250 tons.

TIN.—Good speculative inquiries and bear covering caused this market to open firm and active. The consumptive demand continues extremely good, and although prices are now exceedingly high no material reaction is looked for unless the inquiry from consumers should suddenly fall off, of which there is no sign at present. Eastern advices again came strong, and America was buying freely, so that prices again close higher at £188 10s. for spot and £184 5s. for three months.

IRON AND STEEL.—The position all round shows signs of improvement. Inquiries for finished iron, for instance, have been more vigorous, and consumers are more readily closing their orders for prompt delivery. In the Midlands the works are running longer time in order to cope with the increased home demand, coupled with satisfactory foreign orders. Good business continues to be done in the steel trade, and pig-iron makers are disposing of the whole of their output. Steadiness has characterised the market in the north, and it would probably be exaggeration to describe trade as very active. Still, the position is better, and has been strengthened by excellent shipments, together with a decrease in the stocks of Cleveland warrants. Activity in the exports of pig-iron helps producers to keep up prices, and the future of the market is regarded as hopeful. The past month's exports of 131,339 tons was the largest tonnage ever shipped in April. In Scotland the outlook is also considered encouraging, for whilst in some departments fresh orders are not so plentiful as they have been elsewhere, there is a hopeful revival. Exports continue on an extensive scale, and new industries foreshadow fresh sources of consumption.

SUGAR.—A recovery of 1d. a week ago was followed by further realisations of the May account, which resulted in a decline of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. from the top and $\frac{1}{4}$ d. from last Thursday week. Cuban receipts have been larger than they were in the preceding week, viz., 52,000 tons, against 18,000 tons a year ago, which reduces the shortage to 24,000 tons only. This has also had a depressing effect. The probability now is, so Mr. Czarnikow thinks, that with fine weather, grinding will continue for the next few weeks, in which case we may see a total exceeding last year's. There are now 180 factories still at work, compared with 117. In the United States the market has shown more firmness, despite the improved weather in Cuba and the weakness in Europe. Landings in the three ports were 48,000 tons, and meltings 39,000 tons, raising stocks to 334,000 tons.

TEA.—The budget declaration of 1d. off the duty does not seem to have affected markets greatly this week. Bidding has been, if anything, more animated, and prices a little better, but there is a general feeling of disappointment that the whole of the war tax was not removed. Moreover, distributors, say Messrs. Gow, Wilson, and Stanton, Limited, may find some difficulty in apportioning the retail price to suit the consumers. At Indian auctions, which were postponed till Wednesday, 32,076 packages were offered, of which 24,930 sold at an average of 6.76d, against 6.64d. last week, and 6.57d. in the same week of 1905. In the Ceylon market competition was chiefly for medium and better grades, but all qualities sold well. 31,834 packages were brought forward, and averaged, on the quantity sold, 6.96d., against 6.99d. last week, and 7.06d. in 1905. Very little of the 2,845 packages of Java was withdrawn, and prices were fully up to last week's rates.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, MAY 7.

Caylloma Silver Mining.—Cannon Street Hotel, 3 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 8.

Cape Town Consolidated Tramways and Land.—Winchester House, 11 a.m.

Hotchkiss Ordnance.—Winchester House, noon.

Schultze Gunpowder.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.

Tara Tea.—1, Great Winchester Street, 3 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9.

Commercial Union Assurance.—24-6, Cornhill, noon.

Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph.—Electra House, 2 p.m.

Jules Rolez.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

THURSDAY, MAY 10.

Anglo-American Debenture Corporation.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.

British Dominion Insurance.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.

Industrial and General Trust.—Winchester House, noon.

King Insurance.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Puerto Cabello and Valencia Railway.—Finsbury Pavement House, 2.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 11.

British Tea Table.—Winchester House, noon.

Mines Development of Victoria.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.

Scottish Australian Mining.—Winchester House, noon.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

World's Work and Play for May. Edited by Henry Norman, M.P. (London: W. Heinemann, 21, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.) Price 1s.

Atlas of the World's Commerce, Part I. By J. G. Bartholomew, F.R.G.S., F.R.S.E. (London: Geo. Newnes, Limited, Southampton-street, W.C.) Price 6d.

MINING RETURNS.

Balaghat.—4,400 tons, 4,529 ozs.; 2,750 tons tailings (cyanide), 249 ozs.; total, 3,778 ozs.
 Battlefields (Rhodesia).—888 tons, 697 ozs.; cyanide 740 tons, 331 ozs.
 Bonanza.—Crushed 6,550 tons, 2,618 ozs.; cyanide and slimes 6,807 tons, 1,638 ozs.; total, 4,256 ozs.
 Broken Hill Proprietary Block 10.—11,014 tons crude ore, producing 1,570 tons concentrates, containing 973 tons 8 cwt. lead and 50,240 ozs. silver.
 Broken Hill Proprietary Block 14.—5,620 tons of ore, producing 650 tons concentrates, containing 425 tons of lead and 18,535 ozs. silver.
 Champion Reef.—14,166 tons, 10,508 ozs.; tailings cyanide, 16,547 tons, 2,345 ozs.; total, 12,853 ozs.
 Duff Development Co.—Gold recovered 113 ozs.
 Durban Navigation Collieries.—Output, 17,000 tons; sales, 17,600.
 Gaika.—Crushed 1,336 tons, 667 ozs.
 Hutti (Nizam's) Gold.—Crushed 2,050 tons, 873 ozs.; tailings, 1,850 tons, 220 ozs.
 Kelantan Gold Dredging.—Recovered 135 ozs.
 Koffyfontein.—2,450 carats of diamonds recovered.
 Komata Reefs Gold.—Crushed 1,620 tons; bullion, £3,150.
 Lachlan.—Crushed 710 tons, £1,420.
 "Lloyd" Copper.—4,750 tons stone for 78 tons copper.
 Maryborough Leviathan Gold.—11 ozs. from 200 tons crushed.
 Mount Lyell.—25,281 tons treated. In addition 1,467 tons of purchased ore and metal-bearing fluxes; converters produced 586 tons blister copper, containing copper, 580 tons; silver, 44,959 ozs.; gold, 1,415 ozs.
 Mysore.—12,500 tons, 14,480 ozs.; 13,000 tons tailings (cyanide), 1,585 ozs.; total, 16,065 ozs.
 Mysore West and Mysore-Wynaad.—165 ozs. from 1,731 tons crushed; 683 ozs. from 2,496 tons cyanided.
 New Vaal River Diamond.—Diamonds registered by diggers on the Vaal River Estate, £3,950.
 Nundydroog.—6,550 tons, 5,120 ozs.; 7,020 tons tailings produced 692 ozs.; total, 5,812 ozs.
 Ooregum.—10,047 tons, 4,705 ozs.; 10,135 tons tailings (cyanide), 879 ozs.; total, 5,584 ozs.
 Premier (Transvaal) Diamond.—Output, 256,420 loads treated, yielding 89,600 carats; percentage, '34.
 Spassky Copper.—Production, 6,000 poods copper, equals 96,77 tons.
 Sulphide.—13,181 tons of ore milled, producing 2,405 tons leady concentrates; also 2,343 tons middling and 5,848 tons tailings treated, producing 772 and 2,080 tons of zinc concentrates; 2,421 tons leady concentrates, 384 tons residues, and 3,934 tons purchased ores smelted, yielding 2,024 tons lead, containing 133,584 ozs. silver and 6,578 ozs. gold; also treated 279 tons zinc concentrates, producing 67 tons spelter.
 Tasmania Gold.—Crushed 4,472 tons, 2,026 ozs.; concentrates 521 tons, 572 ozs.; cyanide 2,198 tons, 257 ozs.; total, 2,855 ozs.
 Tasmanian Copper.—Shipments of ore 1,415 tons.
 Transvaal Gold.—Crushed 3,926 tons, 1,936 ozs.; central cyanide 3,810 tons, 809 ozs.; central slimes 2,820 tons, 452 ozs.; Kameel's cyanide 1,515 tons, 383 ozs. Kameel's slimes 630 tons, 157 ozs.; old slimes 600 tons, 150 ozs.; total, 3,887 ozs.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Argentine North-Eastern.—2½ per cent. on the ordinary stock for 1905.
 Pennsylvania.—At the rate of \$1.50 per share, payable May 31.
 Swedish Central.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £12,704.

INSURANCE.

King.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the second half of 1905.
 Sun.—Final for 1905 of 5s. 6d. per share.

BREWERIES.

Ansell's.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares and at the rate of 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended March 31.
 Cheltenham Original.—Interim at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended March 31.
 Wenlock.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the six months ended April 30.

MINES.

Great Laxey.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the priority shares for the year ended March 31.
 Hyderabad (Deccan).—3s. per share for 1905.
 Kinta Tin Mines.—Interim of 6d. per share.
 Mount Morgan Gold.—3d. per share, for April.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Argentine Land and Investment.—Balance of 2½ per cent. (2s. per share) for the year ended Dec. 31, and a further of 2½ per cent. on account of arrears, making 5 per cent., or 4s. per share, payable May 18.

Argyll Motors.—Interim on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended March 31 at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

Bolands.—6 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the past year placing £1,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £2,510.

Broxburn Oil.—15 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended April 4, carrying forward £3,933.

Buenos Ayres (New) Gas.—4 per cent., making 7 per cent. for 1905.

Clan Line Steamers.—Final of 5s. per share, making 5 per cent. for 1905, carrying forward £3,256.

Compania Sansinena de Carnis Congeladas.—10 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31.

Fletcher, Russell and Co.—Final of 5 per cent., together with a bonus of 2½ per cent., on the ordinary shares, making 12½ per cent. for the year ended Feb. 28.

Furness, Withy and Co.—Bonus of 10 per cent. on the ordinary share capital, making 15 per cent. for the year.

Globe Telegraph and Trust.—5s. per share on the ordinary shares, making 5½ per cent. for the year, carrying forward £4,400.

John C. McKellar.—At the rate of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the past year, carrying forward £844.

John Watson.—Balance of 12s. 9d. per share on the ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. for year ended March 31, and a bonus of 17s. per share, carrying forward £28,602.

Liverpool Nitrate.—Interim of 7s. 6d. per share and a bonus of 7s. 6d. per share.

National Bank of Australasia.—4 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, placing £10,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £6,100.

New Hudson Cycle.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the 6 per cent. cumulative preference shares, and at the rate of 7 per cent. on the "E" cumulative preference shares for the half-year ended Feb. 28.

Neuchatel Asphalte.—Final on the ordinary shares of 7s. per share, making 10s. per share for 1905.

Orders and Handford Steamship.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended April 30.

Second Edinburgh Investment Trust.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock for the half-year ended March 31.

Sir Elkanah Armitage and Sons.—Final of 5 per cent., making 8 per cent. for the year ended March 31; placing £10,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £2,693.

Smallman's.—10 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the past year, carrying forward £66.

Wetherall Steamship.—Interim at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the past half-year.

Wright and Greig.—Interim of 2 per cent.

Answers to Correspondents.

Olive.—There is no need to be alarmed about your holding. The reduction in price merely indicates that the dividend paid on the 26th has been deducted, and this dividend you should have received.

M. E. G.—Nos. 1 and 3 are, we think, the best in your list, and next we should put No. 5. (6) If you already have shares in this company you might keep them for the time being, but do not buy more.

B. W. Yorks.—A most undesirable purchase even as a speculation. The company has launched out so recklessly all over the country that it is badly hampered, and will have a hard struggle before it pulls through, if it ever does.

C. B. U.—(1) We believe the institution to be perfectly sound, and the recent absorption naturally adds considerably to its strength. (2) Of the companies given, "b" is, perhaps, the best. The other two paid high prices for their properties, and have done little or nothing in the way of forming a reserve or providing for depreciation. (3) The shares are good to hold, but if you prefer an immediate profit you might like to take it.

J. W.—This is not a very strong company, but it seems to be doing pretty well, and a few shares bought as a speculation might turn out all right.

MITHRA.—(1) We do not see much attraction in the bonds at this price. Dividends are still very small, and there is not much prospect of immediate improvement. (2) This company has undoubtedly improved its position lately, and should continue to do so in the present condition of the trade. The weak spot is the large quantity of intangible matter, but a few shares may give a profit later on. (3) We criticise the report on another page. Risky, but worth the chance to a small extent.

KATHAY.—We fear the company's chances of success are small. It appears to have been floated to take advantage of the boom, and the estimates of profit put forward are ridiculously high. The directorate includes no one of any importance in the commercial world. Do not buy.

MILLWALL DOCK COMPANY.—This company has issued a notice stating that on and from May 1 all imports will be subject to a discount of 25 per cent. off prime and rent charges on the following wood goods: deals, planks, battens, scantlings (soft wood), boards. The rent to commence from date of landing return if piled in open or under cover. Dues on vessels wholly wood-laden from European ports will be 6d. per nett register ton in lieu of the present rate of 1s. per ton.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for ten days ended April 30, \$3,399, increase \$1,169.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 16, \$13,672, decrease \$2,257; aggregate from January 1, \$183,942, decrease \$3,852.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 31, Rs. 73,249, increase Rs. 17,180; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 99,22,879, increase Rs. 1,01,655.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 21, \$73,249, increase \$17,180; total from July 1, \$922,879, increase \$101,665.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 31, Rs. 42,694, increase Rs. 15,052.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 15, £383, increase £44.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 3rd week of April, \$15,552, increase \$1,273; aggregate from January 1, \$246,750, increase \$47,684.

Robilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended March 31, Rs. 21,445, increase Rs. 6,693.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended April 14 amounted to \$14,000.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending April 28, £1,263, increase £12; aggregate from January 1, £20,916, increase £280.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending April 28, £813, decrease £51; aggregate from January 1, £12,394, increase £862.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for January, £4,263, decrease £267.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending April 28, £429, increase £136; aggregate from January 1, £7,487, increase £606.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 27, £1,269, decrease £296; aggregate from January 1, £23,459, increase £3,422.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 29, £6; decrease £18; aggregate from January 1, £142, increase £1.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 27, £4,533, decrease £1,181; aggregate from January 1, £81,888, increase £4,014.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending April 27, £27,484, decrease £3,945; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £471,413, increase £74,860; 437½ miles, against 418½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 28, £1,062, increase £35; aggregate from January 1, £18,962, increase £1,525.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 29, £144, decrease £10; aggregate from January 1, £1,769, decrease £17.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 27, £97, decrease £63; aggregate from January 1, £1,642, decrease £93.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 27, £4,818, decrease £843; aggregate from January 1, £77,434, increase £1,805.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 28, £4,600, decrease £160; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £78,201, increase £2,789.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 27, £172, decrease £131.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 26, £647.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 28, £379, decrease £340; aggregate from October 1, £8,475, decrease £689.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 21, £28,998, increase £4,466; aggregate from April 1, £83,410, increase £7,535. Miles 99½ against 100½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 28, £21,127, decrease £2,851; aggregate from January 1, £356,307, decrease £18,264.

London Motor Omnibus (Vanguard).—Traffic receipts for week ending April 28, £3,071, increase £2,728.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 28, £7,971, increase £80; aggregate from January 1, £125,109, increase £845.

Rosendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 27, £174, decrease £52; aggregate from January 1, £3,235, increase £101.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 29, £719, decrease £282; aggregate from January 1, £12,994, increase £2,929.

FOREIGN

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 29, £14,901, increase £1,368; aggregate from January 1, £254,590, increase £26,230.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of January, 1906, £11,016, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Nett earnings for March, \$26,091, increase \$2,444. Nett earnings from July 1 to March 31, \$387,468, increase \$108,356.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending April 29, £3,571, increase £67; aggregate from January 1, £60,393, increase £4,563.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 31, £1,420, increase £274; aggregate from January 1, £18,440, increase £4,063.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of March, \$320,200.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 28, Rs. 41,918, increase Rs. 6,980; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 7,54,232, increase Rs. 76,708.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of April, £4,898, increase £2,101. Total from January 1, £19,159, increase £7,820.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, \$407,865, increase \$56,745; aggregate from January 1, \$4,07,865, increase \$56,745. Nett traffic receipts, \$202,346, increase \$26,540; aggregate from January 1, \$2,02,346, increase \$26,540.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.		No. of Weeks	Gross Traffic for year to date.	
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.
Baker St. and Waterloo	Apr. 21	£ 1,523	—	6	£ 9,071	—
Brecon and Merthyr	" 29	1,905	+ 104	17	34,654	+ 2,324
Cambrian	" 29	6,104	— 730	17	86,393	— 1,05
Central London	" 28	6,661	— 13	17	115,991	— 4,025
City and South London	" 29	2,749	— 59	17	49,408	+ 135
Furness	" 29	10,436	+ 1,297	17	165,627	+ 21,317
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.)	" 29	69,625	+ 7,789	17	1,183,724	+ 51,216
Great Eastern	" 29	92,400	— 7,500	17	1,601,900	+ 10,200
Great Northern and City	" 28	1,779	+ 67	17	30,682	+ 1,140
Great Northern	" 28	108,500	+ 5,050	17	1,802,100	+ 44,539
Great Western	" 29	233,800	— 2,500	17	3,687,500	+ 29,900
Hull and Barnsley	" 29	11,193	+ 3,689	17	160,822	+ 10,57
Lancashire and Yorkshire	" 29	101,917	— 4,295	17	1,738,633	+ 49,340
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast	" 28	59,471	— 8,776	17	937,274	— 2,644
London & North Western	" 29	284,000	+ 14,000	17	4,512,000	+ 151,000
London & South Western	" 29	93,100	— 12,600	17	1,403,000	+ 8,100
Lon., Tilbury & Southend	" 29	8,611	— 1,386	17	146,611	+ 6,592
Metropolitan	" 29	15,197	— 2,773	17	280,862	— 10,700
Metropolitan District	" 29	7,746	+ 707	17	135,115	+ 7,500
Midland	" 28	222,081	+ 17,694	17	3,695,233	+ 110,734
North Eastern	" 28	162,483	— 10,297	17	2,921,906	+ 137,618
North London	" 29	9,010	— 212	17	153,327	— 3,449
North Staffordshire	" 29	16,084	— 1,448	17	300,516	+ 10,323
Rhymney	" 29	6,112	+ 574	17	102,164	+ 2,757
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover	" 28	86,101	— 4,638	17	1,350,681	+ 4,581
Taff Vale	" 29	18,781	+ 2,130	17	327,076	+ 12,643

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	Apr. 29	89,127	— 3,899	13	1,082,328	+ 19,083
Glasgow & South-Western	" 28	36,462	— 437	13	421,151	+ 13,039
Great North of Scotland	" 28	8,910	— 396	13	109,185	— 132
Highland	" 29	8,725	— 426	13	107,463	+ 242
North British	" 29	94,406	+ 323	13	1,142,836	+ 26,034

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down	Apr. 27	2,503	— 1,114	§	40,303	— 761
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast	" 27	1,755	— 76	§	25,494	+ 295
Great Northern	" 27	19,054	— 1,425	17	285,463	+ 3,746
Midland Great Western	" 27	12,653	— 869	||	167,740	— 7,053

§ From January 1.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, April 23.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, April 23.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
SOUTH AFRICAN.							
4 1/2	Angelo	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	May Consolidated	2 1/2	2 1/2
2	Anglo-French Ex.	2	2	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
6 1/2	Apex	6 1/2	6 1/2	7 1/2	Modderfontein	7 1/2	7 1/2
4 1/2	Aurora West	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Do. B.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bantjes	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	New Goch	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Block B.	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	City and Suburban, £4	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Nigel	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Comet (New)	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Cons. Goldfields	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Oreana Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Pref.	22 1/2	22 1/2	1 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
12 1/2	Crown Reef	12 1/2	12 1/2	6 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	6 1/2	6 1/2
12 1/2	Driefontein	12 1/2	12 1/2	1 1/2	Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	East Rand	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
18 1/2	East Rand Extension	18 1/2	18 1/2	1 1/2	Roadsfoot United	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Ferreira	19	19	1 1/2	Salisbury	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	French Rand	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2	Sheba (New)	7 1/2	7 1/2
2 1/2	Geduld	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Goldenhuis Estate	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	3 1/2	3 1/2
3 1/2	Ginsburg	3 1/2	3 1/2	13 1/2	Steyn Estate	13 1/2	13 1/2
1 1/2	Glencairn	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Development	1 1/2	1 1/2
8 1/2	Harmony Proprietary	7 1/2	7 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates	1 1/2	1 1/2
11 1/2	Henderson's Transvaal	11 1/2	11 1/2	1 1/2	Treasury	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Heriot	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Van Ryn	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Johannesburg Con. In.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Vereniging Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Jubilee	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Vogelstruis	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Jumpers	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Westgedacht	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Kleinfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	West Rand Consols	3 1/2	3 1/2
3 1/2	Knight's	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Wolworth, £4	3 1/2	3 1/2
2 1/2	Lancaster	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	Worcester	3 1/2	3 1/2
2 1/2	Langlaagte Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2				

DEEP LEVELS.

1 1/2	Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1	Rand Mines Deep	1	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bonanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Cinderella Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2	5	Robinson Deep (new)	5	5
32 1/2	Crown Deep	32 1/2	32 1/2	1 1/2	Roodepoort Cn. Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
7	Deep	7	7	4 1/2	South Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Goldenhuis Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Village Main Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Knight's Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Willatstrand Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2				

RHODESIANS.

1 1/2	Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2
13 1/2	Chartered B. S. A.	13 1/2	13 1/2	2 1/2	Rhodesia Exploration	2 1/2	2 1/2
13 1/2	Charter Trust and Agency	13 1/2	13 1/2	1 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Selukwe	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Lomagunda Development	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Tanganyika	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Wankie Coal	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 1/2	11 1/2	Willoughby	11 1/2	10 1/2
1 1/2		1 1/2	1 1/2		Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2

DIAMONDS.

8 1/2	De Beers Deferred	17 1/2	17 1/2	2 1/2	Koffyfontein	2 1/2	7 1/2
17 1/2	Do. Preferred	17 1/2	17 1/2	2 1/2	Lace Diamond	2 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	Eland's Drift Diamond	3 1/2	2 1/2	18	Oange Free State Diamond	18	18 1/2
1 1/2	Frank Smith Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2	Premier Diamond Def.	8 1/2	8 1/2
4 1/2	Jagersfontein Deferred	4 1/2	4 1/2	8 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	8 1/2	8 1/2
4 1/2	Do. Preferred	4 1/2	4 1/2				
1 1/2	Kamfersdam	1 1/2	1 1/2				

WEST AFRICAN.

1 1/2	Abbotiakoon	17 1/2	17 1/2	8 1/2	Gold Coast Agency, new	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Ankobra	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau)	5 1/2	5 1/2
3 1/2	Asbanti Consols, 2/- paid	3 1/2	3 1/2	12 1/2	Deep	12 1/2	12 1/2
12 1/2	Do. Goldfields	12 1/2	12 1/2	1 1/2	Himan Concessions	1 1/2	1 1/2
6 1/2	Sansu	6 1/2	6 1/2	1 1/2	Obbuassil Syndicate	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Prestea	6 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	British Gold Coast	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sekondi and Tarkwa	1 1/2	1 1/2
23 1/2	Broumasie	25 1/2	23 1/2	2 1/2	Taqua and Abosso	2 1/2	2 1/2
5 1/2	Effuanta (Wassau)	5 1/2	5 1/2	1 1/2	Wassau	1 1/2	1 1/2
13 1/2	Fanti Consolidated	13 1/2	13 1/2	1 1/2	W. A. Gold Trust	1 1/2	1 1/2

AUSTRALIAN.

1 1/2	Anglo-Aus. Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Ida H.	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Associated	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Ivanhoe, Gold Corp.	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ivanhoe South	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Bellevue Proprietary	2 1/2	2 1/2	9 1/2	Kalgurli	9 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Boulder Deep Levels	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 1/2
10 1/2	Brownhill Extended	10 1/2	10 1/2	1 1/2	Lancefield	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chaffers	1 1/2	1 1/2	11 1/2	London & W.A. Exploration	11 1/2	11 1/2
6 1/2	Cosmopol'n Pr'p'ty	6 1/2	6 1/2	3 1/2	Mount Boppy	3 1/2	3 1/2
5 1/2	Golden Horseshoe, New Shares	5 1/2	5 1/2	1 1/2	North Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Golden Links	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	2 1/2	2 1/2
10 1/2	Golden Pole	9 1/2	10 1/2	1 1/2	Peak Hill	1 1/2	1 1/2
24 1/2	Great Boulder, 2/-	23 1/2	23 1/2	1 1/2	South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
11 1/2	Do. Perseverance	11 1/2	11 1/2	1 1/2	Sons of Gwalla	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Great Fingall	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	W'str lia Mt Morgans	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2				
1 1/2	Hampton Plains	1 1/2	1 1/2				
1 1/2	Hannan's Star	1 1/2	1 1/2				

MISCELLANEOUS.

13 1/2	Anaconda, 25 dols.	13 1/2	12 1/2	3 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	3 1/2	3 1/2
30 1/2	Balaghat, full paid	30 1/2	30 1/2	45 1/2	Mount Lyell	45 1/2	45 1/2
9 1/2	Brilliant and St. George	8 1/2	6 1/2	3 1/2	M't. Morgan	3 1/2	3 1/2
3 1/2	Broken Hill, Prop.	3 1/2	3 1/2	6 1/2	Mysore, 10s.	6 1/2	6 1/2
24 1/2	Camp Bird	24 1/2	24 1/2	2 1/2	Mysore Goldfields, 15/6	2 1/2	2 1/2
5 1/2	Cape Copper, £2	5 1/2	5 1/2	9 1/2	Do. West, 19/	9 1/2	9 1/2
19 1/2	Champion Reef, 2/6	18 1/2	18 1/2	9 1/2	Do. Wynaad, 19/	9 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Con. Gold N.Z.	15 1/2	14 1/2	1 1/2	Namaqua, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Copiapu, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2	Nile Valley	7 1/2	7 1/2
2 1/2	Coromandel 19/6 pd.	2 1/2	2 1/2	26 1/2	N'ndydroog, 10/ shares	26 1/2	26 1/2
4 1/2	Esperanza	3 1/2	3 1/2	16 1/2	Oreogum	16 1/2	16 1/2
1 1/2	Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	12 1/2	Do. Pref.	12 1/2	12 1/2
10 1/2	Frontino and Bolivia	11 1/2	10 1/2	6 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	9 1/2	St. John del Rey	9 1/2	9 1/2
2 1/2	Do. (No. 2)	2 1/2	2 1/2	5 1/2	Tharsis	5 1/2	5 1/2
2 1/2	Libiola, £5	2 1/2	2 1/2	7 1/2	Waiki	7 1/2	7 1/2
4 1/2	Linares, £3	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Ymir	1 1/2	1 1/2

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.		Week ending	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.	
		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.
Alcoy and Gandia	April 28	Ps. 10,000	+ Ps. 3,000	**	Ps. 272,400	+ Ps. 20,400
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia	March *	\$90,750	+ \$25,052	**	\$243,858	+ \$60,124
Argentine Gt. Western	April 27	19,679	+ 1,022	**	574,508	+ 85,562
Algiciras (Gibraltar)	" 21	Ps. 27,951	- P. 6,153	**	P 1,320,540	- P 114,064
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	" 28	38,900	+ 5,940	**	1,438,295	+ 189,030
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o and Cen. Argentine	" 28	94,384	+ 17,676	**	1,489,432	+ 195,529
Buenos Ayres G. Stn.	" 29	92,620	+ 10,448	**	3,214,086	+ 481,352
Do. Western	" 29	43,552	+ 9,515	**	1,438,295	+ 189,030
Do. Ensenada	" 29	337	- 188	**	15,036	+ 270
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	" 28	9,331	+ 751	**	361,412	+ 11,565
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 28	2,647	+ 276	**	89,518	+ 1,182
Do. Northern Ex.	" 28	1,701	+ 187	**	51,077	+ 5,638
Do. Western Ex.	" 28	1,100	+ 107	**	51,690	+ 6,114
Cordoba Central	" 29	3,320	+ 465	**	53,875	+ 9,590
Do. Northern Ex.	" 29	7,290	+ 1,485	**	111,775	+ 25,680
Do. N. W. Arg'n. Ex.	" 29	1,875	+ 520	**	28,940	+ 9,770
Cordoba and Rosario	" 29	4,890	+ 410	**	183,385	+ 4,125
Costa Rica	" 7	5,172	+ 28	**	192,623	+ 6,408
Cuban Central	" 28	12,754	+ 5,399	**	322,006	+ 34,187
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 28	8,672	+ 1,303	**	183,161	+ 35,304
Entre Rios	" 28	4,135	+ 162	**	164,013	+ 9,246
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico	" 30	\$182,400	+ \$660	**	\$5,103,290	+ \$54,100
Leopoldina	" 28	26,330	+ 11,299	**	239,052	+ 3,352
Mexican	March *	\$593,400	+ \$28,200	**	\$1,731,900	+ \$123,900
Do. Southern	April 30	\$149,500	+ \$5,300	**	\$2,272,400	+ \$202,400
Do. Central	Feb.	\$31,860	+ \$3,205	**	\$2,513,513	+ \$17,913
Do. Do.	" *	\$635,795	+ \$8,668	**	\$181,854	+ \$142,073
Manila	April 28	\$39,241	+ \$4,785	**	\$620,117	+ \$20,984
Nitrato	" 30	22,017	+ 7,798	**	182,680	+ 9,503
Ottoman	" 28	4,367	+ 895	**	72,941	+ 10,788
Peruvian Corporation	" 28	\$644,000	+ \$120,725	**	\$6,490,350	+ \$1,052,575
San Paulo	" 22	19,142	+ 5,368	**	324,282	+ 8,429
Salvador	" 28	\$34,000	+ \$12,000	**	\$865,256	+ \$115,556
United of Havana	" 28	26,017	+ 12,376	**	647,934	+ 198,011
Villa Maria & Rufino	" 28	1,309	+ 100	**	23,186	+ 6,686
Western of Havana	" 28	4,075	+ 220	**	177,725	+ 4,912

* Month ended. † Fortnight ended. ‡ Nett

** From January 1, 1906.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

NAME	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.				GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.			
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.		
Bengal Nagpur ..	April 7	Rs. 5,70,782	+ R. 38,014	§	R. 80,50,642	+ R. 10,95,130		
Bengal & N.-W...	Mar. 31	Rs. 2,86,870	+ R. 40,640		Rs. 35,45,382	+ R. 2,47,348		
Bombay & Baroda	April 28	Rs. 4,57,000	+ R. 91,000		R. 69,28,000	+ R. 3,94,000		
Do. State Lines	" 28	Rs. 5,39,000	+ R. 56,000		R. 95,43,000	+ R. 2,15,000		
Burma	Mar. 31	Rs. 3,28,892	+ R. 7,863		R. 1,16,67,577	+ R. 35,188		
Delhi Umballa ..	April 28	Rs. 35,400	+ R. 2,729		Rs. 6,02,033	+ R. 32,832		
East Indian	" 28	Rs. 16,03,000	+ R. 46,000		R. 2,75,78,000	+ 16,49,000		
Gt. Indian Penin.	" 28	Rs. 13,25,100	+ R. 1,46,137		R. 2,41,98,763	+ R. 3,41,586		
Indian Midland	" 28	Rs. 2,16,200	+ R. 65,087		Rs. 38,16,397	+ R. 5,96,909		
Madras	" 28	£ 27,683	+ £ 4,396		£ 431,842	+ £ 38,074		
South Indian	Mar. 31	Rs. 2,67,105	+ Rs. 37,142		Rs. 31,00,866	+ R. 33,390		
South Behar	April 7	Rs. 11,044	+ Rs. 1,859		Rs. 1,61,323	+ Rs. 10,486		
S' thrn. Mahratta	" 7	Rs. 2,76,468	+ Rs. 46,393		Rs. 35,11,302	+ Rs. 16,216		
southern Punjab	" 21	Rs. 55,250	+ Rs. 5,912		Rs. 9,65,720	+ R. 12,281		

Established 1824.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Assets over 4 MILLIONS Sterling.

The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

THE SURPLUS DIVIDED WAS **£597,415.**

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15, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,
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Actuary.

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CHAIRMAN: WALTER CHAMBERLAIN, J.P.

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HUGH LEWIS, General Manager.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
on May 3.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

After being at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for just a month, the Bank of England rate has been lifted to 4 per cent., and people are talking about 5 per cent. as probably the next move at no distant date. We should not wonder, for the position of all money markets is at present more than ticklish. We ourselves have not by any means digested the enormous losses and waste of capital caused by the South African War, and on the top of that has come the still greater dissipation of wealth by the Russo-Japanese conflict. Along with these formidable capital-destroying events we have now to reap the fruits of prolonged over-speculation in various directions. To take ourselves again, first, there are the fruits of the Kaffir gamble, which began about a dozen years ago, and has consumed hundreds of millions, still to be gathered in. Germany has her share in the losses caused by this gamble, and, in addition, is compelled to finance an incalculable amount of her own unprofitable business, domestic and foreign. France, too, has not been without her troubles, and the amount lost by her in her African speculations, let alone her Russian ones, will have to be acknowledged and dealt with some day, altogether apart from her tremendous commitments in Russian Imperial finance by which already her sufferings would have been stupendous but for the issue of the new Russian loan. That has staved off some of the trouble, but only shifted

the burden after all. As for the United States, there must be an end coming there some day soon to the, to us, demented looking whirlwind of security multiplication and price hoisting, so that all over the world we are at a critical juncture, and the consequences may be such as to involve all markets in something much worse than an ordinary panic before we can look for a genuine and lasting credit peace, so to say.

This being briefly the position of the great credit markets it is not much use to speculate much whether 4 per cent. will now stop the export of gold from the Bank or not. Probably it will not, but we may be sure those who are now taking the gold will accept the hint which a recurrence to a 4 per cent. rate gives them, and do their very utmost to relieve the strain upon our market lest credit trouble should break out here and bring their own sky-scraping structures tumbling to the ground. Within the past three weeks the Bank has lost £3,296,000 of its gold, and its stock is now down to £32,505,000, a total to our thinking at least £6,000,000 below what it should be at this time of year if we are to avoid or avert a recurrence of stringency in the autumn. The present 4 per cent. rate must therefore do more than stop the exports of gold, it must attract gold. Should it be too weak to do this then the rate will have to go to 5 per cent., because it is impossible to believe that the Bank of England directors would sit down and wait for autumn dangers and foreign demands without meanwhile replenishing its slender bullion reserve. The reserve of the banking department itself, moreover, notes and coin included, is down to £21,892,000, and were a bank in this country to suspend payment, which is always a possibility to be taken into account, that reserve might be denuded in a week. On the whole, therefore, we think it probable that the Bank rate will have to go up still further, and cannot but regret that it ever came down. The market, however, insisted that it should come down, and as for a brief period the Bank seemed to have no control over outside short loan rates it was reduced on the 5th ult. to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Not much change occurred in outside rates when the decision of the directors was made public. Money had been 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., mostly $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. the day before, and it was still $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., tending, however, to rise to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. yesterday afternoon. More influence was exerted on the discount rate, and yet bill brokers had been preparing for the advance, doubting whether it was coming this week, but none the less getting ready for it should it do so. So on Wednesday they asked $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. to begin with on remitted bills of all usances, and when a state of affairs threatening a panic was seen to develop on Wall Street the day before, some of the brokers asked $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Yesterday, directly the Bank rate changed, the leading houses gave $3\frac{1}{2}$ -4 per cent. as their rate on bank bills of all dates. Continental competition, however, made the working rate finally $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

Considerable movements of banking credit occurred to-day in connection with the Consol settlement payments. Much more stock than usual had to be provided for because, for one thing, insurance offices were calling in money they had lent on this security. It had to be found elsewhere, and so the supply of credit was sometimes plentiful, sometimes scanty, in the open market, but it managed to pay off the small amount due at the Bank, and so had enough. The rate, too, for seven-day loans was never more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. with joint-stock banks and day-to-day money was also obtainable for the most part at that figure, although the Consol market bid up to 4 per cent. in the morning. Towards afternoon greater ease supervened.

Discount houses endeavoured this morning to make $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. their working rate, but did not always succeed. It was, however, easier to work at the figure to-day than yesterday, although fine three months' bills were still taken at $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. Joint-stock banks were buying a few short bills at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and there was again a little demand from the Continent at the same figure.

All the future hangs upon the bullion market. It was reported that Paris banks had allowed New York to

pick up £1,700,000 of the metal for shipment this week, but New York telegrams published this morning do not indicate that more than £800,000 has been secured in Paris. In any case, the demand is so urgent there that we may be quite sure whatever comes into our open market will be snapped up, and if the Bank can still supply eagles the probability seems to be that they will continue to go. This is the more probable because only about £415,000 altogether is due in from abroad next week, and of that £115,000 is from Egypt, probably sovereigns. There is thus little outside the bank with which to satisfy American demands next week. To-day Canada appeared as a buyer of gold at the Bank of England. We hope this does not presage a credit crisis in Montreal, but there has been much abandoned speculation in Canada, and we need not be surprised if it brings distress and failures in its wake.

SILVER.

Business in the silver market slackened off a little last Saturday, owing to the repurchases by the "bears" to cover their end of April engagements having been completed, and quotations relapsed $\frac{1}{8}$ d. and $\frac{1}{16}$ d. to $30\frac{1}{8}$ d. and $30\frac{1}{16}$ d. per oz. for spot and forward delivery respectively. With the turn of the month the demand from the Indian bazaars again became vigorous, and as there was no great increase in the amount of metal, available prices improved to $30\frac{1}{4}$ d. and $30\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. At the close of the day on Thursday the market was to all appearances firm, but to-day sellers were much more in evidence, with the result that final prices are $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and $\frac{1}{8}$ d. under these figures. Applications for the Rs.40,00,000 Council drafts on India on Wednesday amounted to Rs.3,48,30,000 in bills and Rs.66,00,000 in telegraphic transfers, of which Rs.36,97,000 in bills and Rs.3,03,000 in transfers were accepted, tenders at 1s. 4d. and 1s. 4 1-32d. receiving about 10 per cent. Next week another Rs.40,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, May 2, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued ..	£ 49,563,180	Government Debt ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	£ 7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	£ 31,113,180
		Silver Bullion ..	—
	£49,563,180		£49,563,180

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 15,977,281
Res ..	£ 3,238,419	Other Securities ..	£ 37,394,370
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	£ 8,328,908	Notes ..	£ 20,500,730
Other Deposits ..	£ 48,081,460	Gold and Silver Coin ..	£ 1,391,540
Seven Day and other Bills ..	£ 62,134		
	£74,263,921		£74,263,921

Dated May 3, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. May, 3.		April 26, 1906.	May 3, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£ 3,165,850	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
11,878,558	Rest ..	3,227,300	3,238,419	11,119	—
40,392,171	Pub. Deposits ..	9,536,515	8,328,908	—	1,207,607
95,871	Other do. ..	48,498,779	48,081,460	—	417,319
15,629,702	7 Day Bills ..	71,292	62,134	—	9,158
29,547,577	Assets.	£	£	Decrease.	Increase.
24,908,171	Gov. Securities ..	15,977,281	15,977,281	—	—
	Other do. ..	37,062,489	36,394,370	668,119	—
	Total Reserve ..	22,847,116	21,892,270	954,846	—
				1,634,084	1,634,084
				Increase.	Decrease.
£ 29,121,510	Note Circulation ..	£ 28,705,210	£ 29,062,450	£ 357,240	£ —
35,579,681	Coin and Bullion ..	33,102,326	32,504,720	—	597,606
47½ p.c.	Proportion ..	39½ p.c.	38½ p.c.	—	½ p.c.
2½ "	Bank Rate ..	3½ "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £406,000 out.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
1,800,000	6 months	June 1	3 2 6
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
1,200,000	—	—	—
1,000,000	6 months	June 29	2 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 12	2 10 8
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 26	2 13 8
1,500,000	6 months	Sept. 16	2 11 5
1,000,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 10 0
14,913,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1906.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Jan.	1,361,699,000	1,233,474,000	128,225,000	—
Week ending				
Feb. 7	231,817,000	206,614,000	25,203,000	—
" 14	271,821,000	259,450,000	12,371,000	—
" 21	213,118,000	199,865,000	13,253,000	—
" 28	290,477,000	301,252,000	—	10,775,000
Mar. 7	235,959,000	215,866,000	20,093,000	—
" 14	261,348,000	268,032,000	—	6,684,000
" 21	208,709,000	211,042,000	—	2,333,000
" 28	250,066,000	205,714,000	44,352,000	—
April 4	284,635,000	345,370,000	—	60,735,000
" 11	266,009,000	210,891,000	55,118,000	—
" 18	182,932,000	300,087,000	—	117,155,000
" 25	230,499,000	139,973,000	90,526,000	—
May 2	281,140,000	263,265,000	17,875,000	—
	4,570,229,000	4,360,895,000	209,334,000	—

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'16	25'15½	Antwerp	short	25'23½	25'24
Brussels	chqs.	25'22	25'23	Italy	sight	25'15	25'14½
Amsterdam	sight	12'14½	12'13½	Constantinople	3 mths	110'12	110'07
Berlin	chqs.	20'49	20'51½	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	15½d.	15½d.
Do.	3 mths	20'29½	20'32	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4	1/4½
Hamburg	chqs.	20'48	20'50½	Bombay	T.T.	1/4	1/4½
Frankfort	short	20'48½	20'49	Hong Kong	T.T.	2/0½	2/18
Vienna	sight	24'03½	24'04½	Shanghai	T.T.	2/10½	2/11
St. Petersburg.	3 mths	94'05	94'05	Singapore	T.T.	2/4½	2/4½
New York	60 dys	4'8½	4'80½	Yokohama	4 mths	2/0½	2/0½
Lisbon	sight	51	51½				
Madrid	sight	28'93	28'85				

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.			WITHDRAWALS.		
Saturday, Australia	..	£10,000	Saturday, U. S., Coin	..	£201,000
" France	..	9,000	Tuesday, S. America	..	203,000
			" S. America	..	8,000
			Wednesday, U. S., Coin	..	11,000
			Thursday, S. America	..	454,000
			" S. America	..	32,000
Net Efflux	..	1,069,000	Friday, Canada	..	179,000
Total	..	£1,088,000	Total	..	£1,088,000

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	May 5, 1906.	April 26, 1906.	April 19, 1906.	May 4, 1905.
Gold in hand ..	£ 119,542,760	£ 119,826,160	£ 118,218,520	£ 111,961,480
Silver in hand ..	42,295,160	42,185,440	42,008,520	44,121,960
Bills discounted ..	46,321,840	41,008,800	36,535,960	30,662,880
Advances ..	20,681,080	19,881,440	19,500,960	19,489,560
Note circulation ..	192,735,120	188,430,960	191,147,240	180,322,600
Public deposits ..	6,744,400	8,864,640	7,354,640	6,306,880
Private deposits ..	29,829,840	31,889,280	22,890,360	22,153,320

Proportion between bullion and circulation 84 per cent. against 83½ per cent. a week ago.

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.	
			Last Week.	Latest
Paris	3	May 25, 1906.	2½	2½-8/
Berlin	3½	December 11, 1905	3½	3½
Hamburg	5	December 11, 1905	3½	3½
Frankfort	5	December 11, 1905	3½	3½
Amsterdam .. .	3½	May, 1906	2½	4½
Brussels	4	October 30, 1905	3½	3½
Vienna	4½	October, 1905	4½	4½
Rome	5	September, 1904	4	8
St. Petersburg ..	7½	April 17, 1906	8	8
Madrid	4½	August 21, 1901	4	4
Lisbon	5½	January 11, 1899	5	5
Stockholm	5	January, 1906.	4½	4½
Copenhagen	5	October, 1905	4½	4½
Calcutta	7	May 3, 1906	—	—
Bombay	7	April 26, 1906	—	—
New York call money ..	3½	—	—	—

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	Apr. 30, 1906.	Apr. 23, 1906.	April 14, 1906.	Apr. 29, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Cash in hand ..	48,697,350	50,667,150	46,971,650	52,693,700
Bills discounted ..	44,770,000	40,882,200	43,983,750	43,408,850
Advances on stocks ..	6,147,450	2,910,050	3,084,800	4,171,950
Note circulation ..	69,814,200	66,667,300	69,370,750	67,454,250
Public deposits ..	30,061,000	32,459,950	29,579,050	35,061,400

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	Apr. 26, 1906.	Apr. 19, 1906.	Apr. 12, 1906.	Apr. 27, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Coin and bullion ..	4,847,760	5,555,320	4,861,560	4,682,040
Other securities ..	23,928,680	22,694,920	22,562,120	22,993,640
Note circulation ..	27,183,000	26,837,240	27,167,680	26,634,360
Deposits ..	4,128,680	2,733,800	2,652,880	2,894,360

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	April 30, 1906.	April 23, 1906.	April 14, 1906.	April 29, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Gold Reserve ..	46,256,708	46,356,125	46,111,625	47,607,625
Silver reserve ..	12,880,291	12,896,916	12,777,333	13,008,583
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	1,854,208	1,584,791	1,599,791	1,757,583
Note circulation ..	73,419,125	68,228,500	69,571,458	67,581,458
Bills discounted ..	19,817,875	15,994,875	16,820,458	13,854,416

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	Apr. 28, 1906.	Apr. 21, 1906.	Apr. 14, 1906.	Apr. 29, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Gold ..	15,111,320	15,101,053	15,095,869	14,780,186
Silver ..	24,133,321	23,883,568	23,708,704	21,221,823
Foreign Bills ..	3,239,210	3,240,540	3,240,889	1,673,241
Discount and Short Bills	22,153,799	22,566,224	22,697,180	50,198,599
Treasury Account ..	37,407,032	37,403,762	37,404,926	21,083,365
Notes in circulation ..	61,756,529	61,829,324	61,893,204	63,554,217
Current Account deposits	23,039,934	22,926,135	22,896,713	25,654,380
Dividends Interests ..	1,373,252	2,099,483	2,356,806	3,081,993
Government Securities	7,058,377	7,076,916	6,851,444	4,579,023

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Apr. 8/21, 1906.	Apr. 1/14, 1906.	Mar. 23/Apr. 5, 1906.	Apr. 8/21, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Gold ..	72,374,136	72,025,534	71,908,193	90,729,743
Silver and subsidiary coin ..	4,921,971	4,655,118	4,914,402	6,622,336
Advances and bills discounted ..	49,640,849	50,590,080	50,973,051	37,027,350
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	8,113,449	7,999,852	8,400,183	5,235,221
Notes in circulation ..	112,674,132	114,895,044	113,160,162	87,775,498
Deposits and current account ..	42,796,785	42,055,949	45,705,386	44,195,338
Treasury account ..	1,987,401	3,661,073	3,514,967	20,231,819

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	Apr. 28, 1906.	Apr. 21, 1906.	Apr. 14, 1906.	Apr. 29, 1905.
	£	£	£	£
Specie ..	37,346,000	37,930,000	34,540,000	43,544,000
Legal tenders ..	16,160,800	15,715,800	15,506,000	17,116,400
Loans and discounts ..	207,840,000	203,480,000	201,856,000	219,580,000
Circulation ..	10,227,600	10,296,200	10,290,000	8,829,800
Net deposits ..	205,749,000	201,500,000	196,372,000	229,300,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £2,071,800 against an excess last week of £3,270,800.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	April 24.	April 26.	May 1.	May 3.
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'3	12'3	12'3	12'3
Do. do.	3 months	12'3½	12'5½	12'5½	12'5½
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'4½	25'4½	25'4½	25'4½
Hamburg ..	3 months	20'70	20'70	20'70	20'72
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'70	20'70	20'70	20'72
Paris ..	cheques	25'12½	25'14½	25'16½	25'16½
Do. ..	3 months	25'35	25'36½	25'35	25'36½
Marseilles ..	3 months	25'35	25'36½	25'35	25'36½
Switzerland ..	3 months	25'46½	25'46½	25'45	25'46½
Austria ..	3 months	24'35	24'35	24'34	24'35
St. Petersburg ..	3 months	24'35	24'35	24½	24½
Moscow ..	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	24'46½	25'47½	25'47½	25'47½
New York ..	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	40½	40½	40½	40½
Lisbon ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen ..	3 months	18'44	18'44	18'44	18'44
Christiania ..	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'45	18'45
Stockholm ..	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'45	18'45

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3½-3½
Three months ..	3½-3½
Four months ..	3½-3½
Six months ..	3½-3½
Three months fine inland bills	4-4
Four months ..	4-4
Six months ..	4½-4½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent
Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
short loan rates	4½
Bankers' rate on deposits	2½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	3
" 7 and 14 days' notice	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans	3½
" for call loans	3½

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Day after day the cables from Wall Street tell us that the weakness is produced by "bear" raids, and as each decline is followed by a partial rally there is doubtless considerable truth in the assertion. "Bear" raids, however, do not take place with effect or success upon any stock market unless there is concealed weakness, and we fear there is something more involved than attacks upon copper securities led by Lawson, of Boston, or upon coal road shares by clique after clique. In all probability some banks, or group of banks, and finance houses are in trouble, and we should not be surprised to find that the almost superhuman cleverness of the people who control Standard Oil messes of finance companies, combines, and market over-reachings have come nearly to the end of their tether. It is odd that their principal bank in New York should be the leading importer of gold. Some say the gold is really going at the bidding of the Washington Government, but were that true it would not mend matters, because the Washington Government would not force gold into the country unless it knew of impending disasters which it was striving to avert. San Francisco, of course, gets the blame for the extreme necessity to import gold which has been shown since the earthquake took place, but after all San Francisco does not want all the gold immediately. As a shrewd City banker remarked to us, it will not spend within the next three months all the gold it is sucking in from Europe. More likely five years will elapse before the city has been rebuilt upon the contemplated scale. In any event the expenditure of money will only be gradual, so there must be other sources of weakness, and we need not attempt to guess what they are until we see what happens at the end of this liquidation. It plainly is not over yet, and in one respect it has been aggravated by the sales of American securities of the better class by insurance offices to put themselves in funds so as to be able to meet their losses. Our French banker friend says that it is now possible to pick up gilt-edged American securities at 1 or 2 per cent. decline—he might have said at 2 to 5 per cent. decline—which were not to be had at any price some weeks ago. That fact should be noted by investors, and instead of taking fright they might look about and see what they can pick up in this market. Even were the United States to have a banking crisis, and to lose the precious magnificence of the Rockefellers and their associates, there is still a population there capable of giving durable value to the better class of railroad bonds, and we should advise people to buy them when the strain of necessities among large holders is making them easier to come by.

Our Home markets are suffering from the same cause. Consols have been weak because the insurance offices have been calling in the money they have lent at excellent profit in the Consol market, and other trustee securities have gone down along with them. Therefore, here likewise there is the opportunity for the careful investor which he will find far more to his profit than the tips of the bucket-shop tout, good though these may be once in a blue moon or thereby. Do we then think the worst of the crisis over? No, we have no very definite opinion on that point, or if we have, think it unnecessary to insist upon it just at the present. It is no use shouting out to alarm people when the elements of distress, and it might be disruption, are making enough noise of themselves. What we do contend is that it cannot be a losing business to buy high-class securities when large holders, usually impregnable, are selling and thereby depressing the price. No matter how great the strain on the Money

market may be or how far-reaching the financial crisis with which the long-continued over-speculation will end up, the solidly based securities of the higher class in our markets, as in all markets, will recover when the storm is over. It may be well to wait a little before buying, but, on the other hand, it is perhaps, just as prudent to make a commencement when flat markets invite those who have money to come and invest it. That should be the true method of proceeding, not the usual one of rushing to buy when everybody else is helter-skelter after stocks at soaring prices. Keep calm and pick up things when necessity or fright, or both combined, are causing prices to tumble. Provided the securities bought are intrinsically good, and that nobody purchases more than can be easily held, there is never, taking the long view, danger in being a buyer when the pressure of sales is sending prices down and down day after day.

The Week's Stock Markets.

Not for some time has the Stock Exchange experienced such a depressing week as the one just closed. Practically all the trouble can be traced to America. There are other influences as well, such as the Natal and Turco-Egyptian troubles, but Wall Street is the seat of nearly all the mischief. Nothing could more strongly emphasise the unsatisfactory condition of the New York stock market than the almost unprecedented demand for gold on London and other centres. New York bankers are hurrying the metal to the other side with all possible speed in the hope of staving off a collapse. Whether they will quite succeed remains to be seen, but once or twice this week the market was very

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS (Last year's dividends are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
90½	89	Consols (2½ p.c. Money) ..	90½	89½
91	89½	Do. Account (June 1) ..	90½	90
89½	88	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	89	88½
100½	99½	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907 ..	100	100
92½	90½	Irish Land (2½) ..	91½	91½
100½	99	Local Loans (3) ..	99½	99½
99½	98	National War Loan (2½ p.c.) ..	98½	98½
99½	98½	Do. Account (June 1) ..	98½	98½
101½	98½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	99½	99½
300½	292½	Bk. of England Stck. (9 p.c.) ..	292½	292½
106½	104½	India 3½ p.c. Stck. red. 1913 ..	105½	104½
97½	96	Do. 3 p.c. Stck. red. 1918 ..	96½	96
82	79½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stck. red. 1926 ..	81½	80½
66½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	66½	66

near complete demoralisation. Some of the correspondents described it as almost panicky, and comparisons were made with the Northern Pacific smash in 1901. Matters were not quite so bad as that, perhaps, but when violent and altogether unjustifiable inflation is indulged in, the fruits have got to be gathered sooner or later. The San Francisco disaster precipitated a slump which was just about due, and the worst of it is that upheavals in New York are bound to find reflection elsewhere, especially here. Moreover we are also suffering severely on account of the earthquake calamity, because provision has to be made for the heavy losses incurred by our insurance companies, and altogether the spring of 1906 will not be readily forgotten. The continued heavy inroads on the Bank's stock of gold rendered necessary the restoration of the Bank rate to 4 per cent. on Thursday, and the money market is quite prepared for a further advance at an early date. Let us hope, however, that the present minimum will prove sufficient to check the export of gold, at any rate, for a time, because a 5 per cent. rate cannot be contemplated with equanimity. Its effect on the gilt-edged market is bound to be depressing. Consols were very flat, indeed, this week. The insurance companies were not only delivering stock sold to provide for losses, but were reducing the supply of money usually lent in this market for contango purposes. American arbitrageurs were also pressing stock for sale, it was said, and with one thing and another Mr. Asquith's satisfactory Budget statement regarding debt reduction had no effect at all. After starting at

about 3½ per cent., the charge for monthly loans rose steadily to 3¾ per cent., and even 4 per cent., and as the making-up price showed a difference of ½ against the "bulls," their position is not exactly enviable. On Monday the quotation was fairly steady, even hardening a fraction, but when the House reopened after the May-Day holiday, a tremendous slump set in, and the price finished nearly £1 down on the day. A slight recovery took place before the close, but the market does not look strong. Other British Funds naturally reacted with Consols, and with the exception of War Loan and Transvaal 3 per cent. kept depressed to the end. Home County and Corporation stocks were likewise dull, but Colonial Inscribed stocks showed no important change.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
103½	101½	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886 ..	102½	102½
101½	100	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	101½	101½
103½	100½	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	102½	102½
93½	89½	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	93	93
93	89½	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	89½	89½
92½	90	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	89½	89½
104½	101½	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	101½	101½
92½	86½	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	87½	87
102	97½	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	99½	99½
105½	103½	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	104	103½
91½	86½	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	89½	89
102½	99½	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	101½	102
96½	95	Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885 ..	96	96
97½	94	Do. 4½ p.c. 1886 ..	96	96
96	93½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1895 ..	94½	94½
101½	98½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	101	101
99	96½	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	100	97½xd
105½	103½	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	105	105
105½	102½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	103	103
101½	96½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	99	98½
105½	100½	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	103	102½
52½	51½	Costa Rica A ..	52½	52½
43½	42½	Do. B ..	42½	42
46½	43½	Colombian External ..	45½	46½
108½	105½	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	106	105½
106½	104½	Egypt Unified 4 p.c. ..	106	104½xd
102½	101½	Do. 3½ p.c. pref. ..	101	100½
105½	103½	Do. 4½ p.c. State Domain ..	105	105
88½	87½	German 3 p.c. ..	86½	86½
53½	50	Greek, 1884 ..	53½	53½
53½	50½	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	54	54
43½	39½	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	41½	41½
52½	49½	Do. Funding ..	52½	52½
98	94½	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	96½	96½
104½	103½	Italian 5 p.c. ..	104½	105
103½	102½	Japan 5 p.c. ..	102½	102½
104	100½	Do. 1901-2 ..	100½	100½
91½	88½	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	91	91
105	101½	Do. 6 p.c. ..	101½	101
105	101½	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	103½	103½
70½	68½	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	70½	70½
87	81½	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	82½	83
83	79½	Servian 4 p.c. ..	83	83
96	90½	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	93½	93½
103	101½	Turks 3½ p.c. Tribute ..	100½	100½
105	103½	Do. 4 p.c. Detenue ..	103	103
94½	90½	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	91½	92½
73½	70½	Uruguay 3½ p.c. ..	73½	72½xd
98½	94½	Do. 5 p.c. ..	95½	95
54½	50½	Venezuelan, Dip. (3) ..	52½	52

Nothing very striking happened in the Foreign bond market, which moved in irregular fashion in sympathy with other sections. Early quotations were steady to firm with considerable strength in the old Russian loans when the premium on the new 5 per cent. was rushed up to 2½. In Paris the premium rose to no less than 6, and on rumours that the allotment on this side would not be very liberal, a grand "bear" hunt set in. Later on, however, when it became known that applications up to £5,000 would receive in full with 80 per cent. given on larger amounts the premium quickly fell back to 1½. It rose again to 2½, but relapsed to the old figure on the definite statement that Count Witte had resigned. Russian 4 per cent. 1889 also weakened slightly, and with every other section much depressed prices generally showed a disposition to give way. Japanese were sold by the insurance companies, causing a moderate reaction, and Peruvian, Buenos Ayres Cédulas, Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese all suffered to some extent. Turkish were exceptionally harder on the proposed conversion of the priority loan, and later in the week the tendency for the better class stocks showed some improvement. Cédulas, however, continued to suffer from realisations by stale "bulls," and the Central American group was somewhat depressed.

Apart from the persistent realisation in Underground stocks, which has knocked Metropolitan and District down to the lowest points touched since 1901, the Home Railway market has been full of incident. Business was on a moderate scale throughout, and a steady dribble of selling went on by speculators who fear that carrying over facilities may be greatly curtailed at the next settlement owing to the withdrawal of funds by the fire insurance companies. At the same time, jobbers are exceedingly nervous regarding the outlook, and are therefore reluctant to put stocks on their books, with the result

Highest and Lowest this Year.		Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
141 ³ / ₄	133	135	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	135	135
157 ¹ / ₂	149 ¹ / ₂	152	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	153	153
130 ¹ / ₂	119	120 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	120 ¹ / ₂	119
120 ¹ / ₂	110	111	Caledonian Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	111	110
80	75 ¹ / ₂	75 ¹ / ₂	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	75 ¹ / ₂	75 ¹ / ₂
42 ¹ / ₂	35 ¹ / ₂	36 ¹ / ₂	Do! Def. (1 p.c.) ..	36 ¹ / ₂	35 ¹ / ₂
96 ¹ / ₂	91	90 ¹ / ₂	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	91	91
169	81 ¹ / ₂	81 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	81 ¹ / ₂	81 ¹ / ₂
144 ¹ / ₂	143 ¹ / ₂	152	Chatham Ordinary ..	152	15
44 ¹ / ₂	40 ¹ / ₂	42 ¹ / ₂	City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	42	42
69	63 ¹ / ₂	64	Furness (1½ p.c.) ..	64 ¹ / ₂	66 ¹ / ₂
40 ¹ / ₂	37 ¹ / ₂	39 ¹ / ₂	Great Central Pref. ..	39 ¹ / ₂	38
199 ¹ / ₂	17 ¹ / ₂	16	Do. Def. ..	18	17 ¹ / ₂
91 ¹ / ₂	82 ¹ / ₂	84	Great Eastern (3½ p.c.) ..	84	82 ¹ / ₂
105	100 ¹ / ₂	102	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	102	101 ¹ / ₂
47 ¹ / ₂	43 ¹ / ₂	45	Do. Def. (1½) ..	45 ¹ / ₂	44
144	134	135	Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	135	134
52	47 ¹ / ₂	—	Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	49 ¹ / ₂	49 ¹ / ₂
47 ¹ / ₂	42 ¹ / ₂	44	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	44 ¹ / ₂	44 ¹ / ₂
109 ¹ / ₂	104 ¹ / ₂	105	Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.) ..	105	104 ¹ / ₂
89 ¹ / ₂	79 ¹ / ₂	73	Metropolitan (2½ p.c.) ..	73 ¹ / ₂	70 ¹ / ₂
37 ¹ / ₂	24	26 ¹ / ₂	Metropolitan District ..	26 ¹ / ₂	24
70 ¹ / ₂	66 ¹ / ₂	66 ¹ / ₂	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	67	66 ¹ / ₂
74 ¹ / ₂	67	67 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	68	67
78 ¹ / ₂	75 ¹ / ₂	70 ¹ / ₂	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	76	75 ¹ / ₂
47 ¹ / ₂	43 ¹ / ₂	44 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	44 ¹ / ₂	43 ¹ / ₂
147 ¹ / ₂	139 ¹ / ₂	139 ¹ / ₂	North-Eastern (6½ p.c.) ..	140 ¹ / ₂	139 ¹ / ₂
103 ¹ / ₂	155	156	North-Western (6½ p.c.) ..	156 ¹ / ₂	155
90 ¹ / ₂	87	89	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	90	88
132	126	126 ¹ / ₂	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	127	126
55 ¹ / ₂	50 ¹ / ₂	53	Do. Def. ..	53 ¹ / ₂	52
164	153 ¹ / ₂	156	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	153 ¹ / ₂	153 ¹ / ₂
108 ¹ / ₂	104	104 ¹ / ₂	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	105	104
57 ¹ / ₂	51 ¹ / ₂	52 ¹ / ₂	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	52 ¹ / ₂	51 ¹ / ₂

that the realisations have had much more effect than the same volume of dealings would produce under normal conditions, and quotations with very few exceptions show fairly heavy losses. Traffic returns were good, and were even better than they looked, as the comparison is made with Easter week of a year ago,

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses).	Price last week.	Price this week.	
99½	89½	92½	Atchison Shares (4) ..	92½	90½
109½	104½	105	Do. Pref. (5) ..	105½	104½
120	110	113½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (5) ..	112	110½
101½	96	99	Do. Pref. (4) ..	98	97
63½	55½	59	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	58	56½
195½	163	175	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	172½	165
52½	38½	45½	Denver Shares ..	44½	40½
93½	89	90	Do. Pref. (5) ..	89	89
52½	40½	43	Erie Shares ..	42½	40½
85½	78½	78½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	79	78½
77	65½	68½	Do. and Pref. (4) ..	68½	66½
185	171	177	Illinois Central (7) ..	176	173½
160½	145½	150½	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	150	145½
41½	31½	34½	Missouri and Texas ..	34	31½
159½	135	143½	New York Central (5) ..	142	138
95½	87½	90½	Norfolk and Western (4) ..	90½	89½
90½	92	94	Do. Pref. (4) ..	94	94
57½	46½	49½	Ontario Shares (3) ..	50½	46½
75½	69½	71½	Pennsylvania (6) ..	71½	69½
85½	59½	64½	Reading Shares (1½) ..	64½	59½
47½	46	—	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	46	46
51½	48	—	Do. and Pref. (4) ..	48xd	48xd
74½	64½	66½	Southern Pacific ..	66½	65½
43½	36½	39½	Southern ..	38½	37½
105	101½	103	Do. Pref. (5) ..	103	102
164½	146½	154½	Union Pacific (5½) ..	153½	147
101½	98½	98	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99	99
26½	20	21½	Webash ..	21	20
53½	42½	47	Do. Pref. ..	45½	44
87	78	81	Do. Income Debs. ..	80	78
182½	161½	178	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	165½xr	163½
106½	104½	—	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	104½	105
109½	109	111½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	111½	111½
29½	25½	26½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	26½	26½
105½	101½	102	Do. Guar. (4) ..	102	102
119½	114½	118	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	118	118
110½	105½	108½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	108½	108½
70½	60½	64	Do. 3rd Pref. (2) ..	64½	64½
109½	107½	109	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109	109

but the figures passed almost unnoticed, and even the decision in favour of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway in the rating case failed to check the downward movement. Furness, however, was lifted a couple of pounds, and one or two of the Welsh stocks

also improved on the repeal of the coal tax, but these were the only favourable changes to put against a long list of declines. The rise in the Bank rate on Thursday encouraged a belief that the drain of gold would now be considerably reduced if not diverted elsewhere, and some investment demand for the "heavy" stocks was reported. It, however, did not go far enough to lift prices appreciably, and the best that can be said is that the market was not quite so flat at the close.

While Home Railway stocks have been interesting the Yankee market has provided excitement enough and to spare, as Wall Street has seemed on several occasions to be hovering on the verge of a total collapse. A serious break in prices in New York on Saturday was ascribed to heavy "bear" sales forcing out weak bulls, and the position was said to have been technically improved by the realisations. Some of the financial magnates, indeed, went so far as to talk of a rally being due and to describe certain stocks as being at "bargain prices." The optimism, however, was overdone, and although here and there a few buyers were tempted in by the assertions that bottom had now been reached and that the steady importations of gold would soon put the market on its feet once more, the recovery was transitory. On May 1, when our market was closed, a further heavy slump occurred owing to sales by insurance companies and others, and amongst

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last com- pleted year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
229½	211½	225	Antofagasta (10)	222	220
335	313	—	Do. Def. (15)	350	345
130½	125	122½	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	120 xd	120xd
132	128½	129½	Do. Prfd. (5)	128 xd	128
88	84½	85½	Bahia Blanca Prefd.	85½	85
144½	140	137½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	137	137
129½	127	125	Do. Prefce (5)	125	125
136½	132	131	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	128½ xd	129
120½	115½	119	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	119	119
110	107½	109½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	108 xd	108
120½	115	118	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	114 xd	114xd
119	109½	116	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	110 xd	110xd
170	165½	166½	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	162 xd	162xd
109	105½	105½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	106	106
138½	135½	131	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	131	130
92½	86½	85½	Central Uruguay (4½)	85	83
109½	106½	107½	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	108	103
96	92½	93½	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	94	94
75½	69½	71	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	71	71
59/4½	55/	57	Costa Rica	57	57
7	6½	6½	Cuban Central	7	7
11½	11	11½	Do. Pref. (5½)	11 xd	11xd
106	102½	—	Do. Deb. (4½)	103½	103½
93½	90	93½	East Argentine (4½)	94	93
97½	90	84	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	84	72
86½	78½	78½	Leopoldina (3)	79	79½
98½	95½	95½	Do. Deb. (4)	95	94
108	107½	—	Manila Bonds "A" (6)	109	109
105½	103½	—	Do. "B" (6)	107	107
28½	25	25½	Mexican Ord. Stk.	24	23½
130½	118½	128	Do. 1st Pref. (6½)	127	120½
59½	49½	55	Do. 2nd Pref.	53	52
68½	54½	62½	Mexican Southern (2½)	62	61
16½	14½	15½	Nitrate Ord. (8)	15½	16½
21½	19½	20½	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (5) ..	20	20
214½	203	209½	San Paulo Brazilian (12)	204xd	203xd
193	168½	180½	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	179	173

those helping to hammer down prices were the Gates clique, which on Saturday had been predicting a reaction. It was said that the banks, in addition to calling in loans, had been forced to sell stocks held as collateral security for loans to speculators who were unable to find the further margins demanded, and the market became completely disorganised. The demoralisation developed into something like a semi-panic when a report became current that President Roosevelt intended to recommend Congress to commence an investigation into the Standard Oil Company's methods. Renewed attempts to stop the rot by the old method of sending overnight orders for this market when it reopened on Wednesday seemed likely at first to be successful, and quotations rose about \$1 over parity, but the improvement brought a flood of sales from both Continental and local operators. As New York was unable to lend any effective support owing to an advance to 12 per cent. in loan rates there, the market was once more plunged into difficulties, and for a time certain stocks seemed absolutely unsaleable. Towards the afternoon money in Wall Street became easier, and it was asserted that \$10,000,000 worth of securities had been bought and paid for by foreign investors, but this was generally considered to mean

nothing more than that some large accounts had been transferred to this side on account of the high rates ruling for credit in New York. The imports of gold seemed on Thursday to be at last producing an effect, and the announcement that besides taking large sums from the Bank of England and the open bullion market £700,000 had been definitely secured in Paris, with the prospect of a further £1,000,000 on Saturday, made the market considerably calmer. Dealings both here and in New York dwindled to quite insignificant proportions. Operators bought and sold alternately throughout the day, but did not do enough one way or the other to influence prices appreciably.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
21	16	20	Allsopp Ordinary.. ..	20	19
51	44	—	City of London Ord. ..	46½	46½
551	536	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20)	540	540
192	168	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	17	17
51/3	41/1½	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	2½	2½
61/3	45/-	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20)	2½	2½
56	49½	50	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	50½	50½
99½	95	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	11	52
68	54½	52	Aerated Bread (32½)	6½	6½
78	67½	64½	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	7	7
68½	68	13½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½)	6½	6½
27/-	21/3	25/3	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	1½	1½
45/-	40/-	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2½	2½
7½	5½	—	Brunner Mond (35)	5½	5½
11½	11	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½)	11	11½
14/3	11/6	14/-	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½)	11	11½
58	52½	104/6	Coats Ordinary (20)	52	52
500	495	495	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	490	490
26/9	19/9	1½	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil)	1½	1½
25/6	22/9	24/6	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	1½	1½
64	62	64	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (5)	64	64
132	128	—	Henley's Telegraph (15)	13	13
89/1½	81/3	4½	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20)	4½	4½
27/6	26/-	1½	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½)	1½	1½
108½	107	—	Do. Debenture (42)	108	108
24/3	21/3	21/9	Lipton Ordinary (7)	1½	1½
63½	58½	58½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	58½	58½
34/-	27/-	22/9	Nelson James Ordinary (10)	1½	1½
15/6	10/7½	8	Russian Petroleum ..	7	7
7½	6½	—	Savoy Hotel (5)	7	7
18/-	13/9	16/9	Sweetmeat Automatic ..	15	15
16½	14½	—	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	15	15
12/6	10/6	12/-	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	12	12
19/-	17/3	18/6	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	18	18
103½	102½	103½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	103½	103½
91½	80½	88	Hudson's Bay Co. (58/-)	88½	84
54½	42½	50½	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½)	50	49½
110½	107½	105½	Do. Debentures (6)	105½	105½
92	9	—	National Discount (10)	9	9
138	118	—	Union Discount (11)	112	112
62	5	48	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	48	48
118	11	102	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	102	102
104½	98	—	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (48)	97½	96
133½	128	—	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½)	127	126
66/3	61/-	28½	Armstrong, Whitworth (15)	28½	3
85/-	75/-	4	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20)	4	3½ xd & b
28/6	26/-	18	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10)	18	18
31/9	30/9	—	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½)	1½	1½
14	12½	12½	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3)	12½	12½
47½	40½	43½	United States Steel Ordinary ..	43½	40
117	107½	110½	Do. Preference (7)	110½	108½
57/-	52/3	23½	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	2½	2½
14½	138	—	Cunard Steam ..	152	14½
24½	236	—	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13)	237½	236½
59	52	—	Royal Mail.. ..	59	59
9	7½	—	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5)	8½	8½
114½	109½	113	Anglo-American Telegraph—	114	114½
22½	16½	21½	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½)	22½	22½
150½	145½	145½	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	145½	144½
15½	14½	142	Eastern Extension (7)	142	142
113½	108½	110½	National Telephone Def. (5)	110½	109
148½	142½	142	Western Telegraph (7)	142	142
82	68	62	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	62	62
9½	8½	88	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)	8½	8½
117	85½	—	London General Omnibus (7)	84½	84½
92	84	—	London United Trams Pref. (5)	92	92

Along with its revenue statement for March the Grand Trunk Company issued a memorandum giving the arrears of taxation due to the State of Michigan as £108,000. This amount the directors propose to spread over a period of two years in monthly instalments of £2,650 for the Grand Trunk and £1,900 for the Grand Trunk Western, and the instalments for the first three months were included in the March figures. That meant that the actual gain in nett revenue before deducting the special charge was about £19,300, and as the market considered this satisfactory quotations were put up a fraction or two on the announcement, but the improvement was not held, and only the third preference showed a gain at the end. The Canadian Pacific monthly return was also liked, but Wall Street influences had more to do with the movements in the shares, and they fluctuated somewhat widely. A small improvement was secured after the return came out,

but it disappeared with the flurry in New York, and, notwithstanding a rally on Thursday, the final price is decidedly lower on the week.

The Foreign Railway market has been sluggish for the most part, with dealings confined to a very few of the leading stocks. A fair business was done in Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary from day to day, but buyers and sellers seemed about equally divided, and the price was not affected. Buenos Ayres and Pacific ordinary stock and shares were inclined to harden, but everything else in the Argentine group that moved at all was lower. Uruguay stocks, too, were heavy with Central ordinary particularly flat, but Brazilian issues moved irregularly, Leopoldina ordinary and Rio Claro debenture stock improving, while San Paulo ordinary went back. Considerable realisation went on in United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock, and it fell to 173, Antofagasta ordinary and deferred were marked down 2 and 5, and Mexican Railway stocks gave way ½ to 1, but Nitrate Railway shares were a trifle harder.

Leading counters in the Miscellaneous groups of securities sympathised in the general weakness, and mostly closed lower after rather violent fluctuations. Hudson's Bays were particularly depressed, and tumbled rapidly from 86 to 81. There was some recovery before the close, but the loss on the week is still severe. Other Land shares also went back rather sharply, but also pulled up to some extent. Anglo "A" likewise recovered from a rather important setback, and other Telegraph stocks were good. Insurance shares smartly rebounded in a good many instances, and as the true facts come to light it is evident that the losses over the San Francisco disaster, though large, are a long way off the alarmist and ridiculous figures published by the halfpenny "panic" Press. Docks stock were decidedly weak, but Shipping shares kept steady, and there was no great reaction in the regular investment securities. Water companies' debenture stocks, however, were rather flat. Catering companies' shares were helped by the reduction in the tea duty, and Mazawattees further improved. Textiles kept steady, and there was no particular movement in the Iron and Steel group. Nitrates continue to harden. Callender's Cable shares rose ½ on the increased bonus, and amongst Drapery shares Swan and Edgar went up and Hope Bros. preference down ¼. Breweries were easier in a number of instances. Meat shares were dull, and a sharp relapse took place in Bucknall ordinary shares. United Lankats were steady at 4½, but Bell's Asbestos keep somewhat heavy.

Consols dropped back to-day, thanks to the dislodgment of stock caused by the sales and shiftings of loans. Other markets kept steady, and there was considerable demand for the new Russian loan, which hardened towards the close to 2 premium. Home securities, however, were not buoyant, to say the best of them, and there was naturally an indisposition to enter into any kind of speculative business. Yankee Railroad shares wobbled.

American Business Notes.

Apparently frightened by the recent startling events in the money market, the committee of the United States House of Representatives on banking and currency has reported in favour of the passage of a Bill by Congress permitting Government funds to be deposited in the national banks without security at 2 per cent. interest. The committee opines that the sub-Treasuries, since their foundation, have been a disturbing influence in the business of the country, and have proved a curse to commerce. The Government is requested to either withdraw altogether from the banking business, which it is described as incompetent to carry on, or embark on it generally with full equipment. All of which sounds very wise, and should impress us not a little, but we think the committee prescribes a remedy for an evil which does not necessarily exist. The Yankee

system of locking up funds in the sub-Treasury when Wall Street wants the money to keep its gambles going is no doubt very annoying, but the shortage would not be nearly so acute if the speculation was kept within saner limits. Considering the orgies Wall Street indulges in without an adequate supply of credit, it is not difficult to foresee what might happen if money could be had for the asking. The sub-Treasury plan is not an ideal one, but it causes the gamblers to exercise a certain restraint, and should not be abandoned without real cause. We wonder how many Wall Street magnates were represented on that committee.

While on this subject we involuntarily turn to the report on the finances of the United States for the year to June 30 last. Mr. Walter Townley, Councillor of the British Embassy at Washington, submits it, and tells of the violent discussions on the currency question which are constantly taking place. Wall Street financiers lash themselves into fury because there is not enough cash to go round for gambling purposes, and execrate the Secretary to the Treasury up hill and down dale because he refused to come to their relief. Mr. Shaw's idea last autumn was to permit the issue of additional Government guaranteed currency, or notes, equal to 50 per cent. of the bond secured currency issued by the banks, the unsecured portion to be subject to a tax of 5 or 6 per cent. until redeemed by a deposit of a like amount in the Treasury. This is rather like the German plan, but the idea seems to have been rejected with scorn and contumely. Severe condemnation came from the Chamber of Commerce Committee on Currency and Finance which, whilst declaring that the American money circulation was as large, if not larger, than the country needs, put all the trouble down to the inelasticity of the currency, more especially of bank issues, and the fact that no means have been devised through prompt redemption by which the immense volume of "money" can be issued and redeemed, and issued again, in accordance with the demands of trade and commerce. Not speculation. Oh, dear no. It is recommended that the banks should be permitted to issue their currency at will, and the sub-Treasury is, of course, to hand round the revenues to the banks at a low rate of interest, taking them back when good rates of interest can no longer be earned. It is all so delightfully simple, and would, doubtless, produce a credit smash in an incredibly short space of time.

Meanwhile our sadly depleted stocks of gold continue to suffer almost daily at the hands of the Yankee depredators, helped by Mr. Shaw, and we cannot go on much longer at the present rate without running grave risks in our own credit market. The last return of the New York Associated Banks showed another violent increase in loans, accompanied by a big drop in the specie holdings, despite imports of gold to the amount of £1,780,000. The result is a drop in the surplus reserves to little more than half the figure of a week ago, whereas at this time of the year they ought to be steadily moving up. Under all the circumstances the Bank directors undoubtedly did wisely to put the Bank rate up this week. The advance may render the inevitable autumn upheaval less severe, but in any case we shall not be surprised to see a 6 per cent. Bank rate before the year is out.

The advance in the dividend lately declared by the Amalgamated Copper Company is said to be appreciated more because of the indication it affords of the prosperity of the copper trade than for any probable influence on the price of the shares. It is said that the company has improved its position in various ways lately, not the least important event being the settlement of the litigation so long carried on with the Heinze people. The physical upkeep of the property is also maintained at a high standard, and the recent enormous rise in the price of copper leaves the company with a large margin of profit. But only the smallest possible amount of information is allowed to see the light concerning the company's operations, and the shares should never be touched by the prudent. When the business got very near a collapse in 1901 the

dividend slumped from 8 per cent. to 2, and has only been very slowly raised since then. First the distribution improved to 4 per cent. per annum, then to 5 per cent., followed by two advances of 1 per cent., to the present basis of 7. The consumption of copper just now is on an enormous scale, but we have never been able to discover the real truth regarding the huge stocks of metal with which the copper magnates have so long been credited.

Pending the payment of subscriptions for the new issue of stock, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company has obtained \$9,000,000 from the National City Bank, of gold-importing fame, for a period of three months, to provide for the redemption of the \$8,915,000 $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. collateral trust notes due May 1 last. When this loan has been redeemed there will remain about \$16,000,000 from the new stock issue for additions and improvements.

The shareholders of the Southern Railway have just authorised the issue of \$200,000,000 50-year 4 per cent. bonds for various purposes, details of which have been already published.

The United States Railroad returns for the month of February make a wonderfully fine display. Favourable weather seems to have been experienced in all parts of the country, meaning that no important interruption to traffic occurred, and we suppose there is no doubt that trade in the States just now is vigorous and active. Last year's big crops are also bringing large traffics to the carrying companies, and western grain and live stock movements are much in excess of those for the corresponding period. The cotton traffic was likewise heavier, and we find that 101 roads earned a gross revenue of \$120,728,671, or \$25,102,733 more than in February, 1905. This was gathered at an increased cost of \$11,553,462 at \$87,242,037, so that the nett earnings expanded by \$13,549,271 at \$33,486,634, no less than \$67.96 per cent. Is it not an indication of the artificial condition of the share market that the slump in prices followed very closely the publication of these figures?

An interesting point in relation to the United States exports of bread-stuffs is brought out in the latest figures issued by the Washington Bureau of Commerce. A great falling off has taken place in the American exports of wheat, partly because the home consumption grows at such speed, but what is still more remarkable there is proportionately much less American flour exported, our home millers being evidently able to beat those of the States with the consequence that the exports of flour from the Union tend to diminish even when the surplus of wheat available for export is large as it undoubtedly was last year. In the seven months ended January 31, 1904, for instance, nearly 12,000,000 lbs. of wheat flour was exported from the United States, whereas in the same period of 1905-6 only 8,528,000 lbs. were exported. In 1904-5 both wheat and wheat flour left the Union in much smaller quantities because that was a bad harvest year. Whereas, however, exports of wheat rose from 4,073,000 bushels in 1904-5 to 24,434,000 bushels in 1905-6—that is to say, for the seven months, July to January inclusive—the exports of wheat flour rose from only 5,305,000 lbs. to 8,528,000 lbs.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

Frank and unbiassed answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

The Kaffir Prices has been plunged, or it has plunged itself, in gloom. Prices have fallen wholesale, not in a few particular instances, such as we have been accustomed to for a long time. The slump has spread to those out of the way things we seldom hear of, shares ignored by gambler and investor alike. All have tumbled as though the foundations of the market had suddenly collapsed, leaving no firm spot on which to place a foot. As for causes, they are not far to seek. Professionals will tell you it is the assistance given by the Government to repatriate the coolies, as though this were something new; also, that it is the effect of the still serious news from Natal. But these have operated for a considerable time, and are not bolts from the

blue presaging dire calamities. The Kaffir market is far too weak to stand immune from the disruption in the Yankee section. Here the deluge has been too tremendous and far-reaching not to embrace mines, where the swamp of liquidation has overflowed. To meet losses in other directions gamblers here and on the Continent have had no choice but to sell as fast as they can, and with no genuine buyers about, we see the simple working of an economic law. The coming week brings another settlement, and we fear it will be a dismal time indeed for the bulls, for it looks as if they will have to face very heavy differences.

Even Premier Diamonds, after their steady ascent, are sliding back with the others, diamond shares being as little favoured as gold and finance shares.

Though the decline has extended to Rhodesians, it does not seem seriously to have affected West Africans and West Australians. These are inclined to be weaker in many cases, but quite a number of quotations remain stationary. On the other hand, Anacondas have fallen headlong with other Yankee stuff, and in contrast with a relapse in Rio Tintos, other copper shares have been strong. Miscellaneous shares generally have been quite sluggish.

MAY CONSOLIDATED GOLD MINING COMPANY.—The figures of this outcrop company for 1905—it is one of the A. Goerz group—show that the ore depreciated very slightly in quality, nearly 4d. per ton, but against this the working costs were reduced by 10½d., so there was a nett gain of close on 7d. per ton. The whole of the battery of 100 stamps ran uninterruptedly, crushing 163,430 tons for a yield from all sources of 72,553 ozs., the value of which was £306,132, equal to 8.87 dwts., or £1 17s. 5d. per ton. Working expenses amounted to £166,390, or £1 0s. 4d. per ton milled, so the gross profits were £139,741, or 17s. 1d. per ton. To this are added receipts from other sources, and £3,298 brought in, making a total of £146,322. Two dividends aggregating 40 per cent. were paid, absorbing £115,500, the profits' tax took £10,029, and depreciation £7,550, leaving £13,243 to carry forward. The consulting engineer estimates that there are still in the mine some 1,044,140 tons of ore left in the various reefs, and taking the crushing capacity of the mill at 160,000 tons per annum, he estimates the life at 6½ years. Calculating the yield at 14½ per cent., the buyer of the share would get only £93 10s. back out of an investment of £100 at the end of the mine's life, and would lose even if he provided his own amortisation fund, which about equals the yield—£14 10s. at 3 per cent. compound interest.

DURBAN ROODEPORT DEEP.—In the 12 months ending December 31 last 114,430 tons of ore were crushed for a total yield of 51,099 fine ozs., averaging nearly 9 dwts. to the ton, a decrease on the previous year of .937 dwts. per ton. Total revenue from gold was £214,333, equal to £1 17s. 5d. per ton, a decline of 3s. 11d. per ton, whilst the working costs amounted to £166,725, or £1 9s. 1d. per ton, an increase of 1s. 8d. per ton above the cost of the preceding year, thus the experience of this company was similar to that of the Geldenhuis Deep—that is, the yield was poorer and the costs were higher. The reduction in yield is attributed to the poorer character of south reef worked, and to the larger tonnage mined from the main reef, whilst the rise in costs is officially admitted to be due "to the introduction of Chinese labour and extra development work done." The gross profit was £47,608, averaging only 8s. 3d. per ton, yet no less than £157,855 is carried forward. How is this achieved? By the simple process of issuing new shares and crediting the appropriation account with part of the proceeds. That is, the capital was increased from £350,000 to £450,000 by the creation of 100,000 new £1 shares and 90,000 of these, together with 20,000 reserve shares, were offered to the shareholders at £2 per share, the issue being guaranteed, and the net amount realised was £210,966. This capital was raised to liquidate current liabilities, and to provide funds for increasing the mill to 100 stamps, providing additional cyanide plant, three tube mills, and for sinking a new vertical shaft. The appropriation account gets £120,079, "for funds previously appropriated out of profits." So the company is wealthy again, cash resources amounting to £183,083.

CROWN DEEP.—The total quantity of ore crushed in 1905 was 331,667 tons, and the output of gold was 134,772 ozs., averaging a little over 8 dwts. to the ton, a decrease compared with 1904 of .729 dwts. per ton. From the mill the value of the gold was £337,821, and from the cyanide works £228,327, total £566,148, equal to £1 14s. 1d. per ton, a decline of 3s. 1d. per ton, whilst the working costs reached £319,792, at the rate of 19s. 3d. per ton, which shows a saving of nearly 11d. per ton, so, on the whole, the results of this company's working were a little better than those of others in the same group. Since June 1 the full mill of 200 stamps has been in operation, making an average of 190 stamps for the whole year, against 150 stamps for the preceding year, which increased profits. The working profit was £246,356, equivalent to 14s. 10d. per ton, a credit of £55,951 was brought in, £32,853 was received in dividends on the Robinson Central Deep shares held, and £3,118 from interest, making a total surplus of £338,279. Two dividends were paid of 30 and 40 per cent. each, 70 per cent. in all, taking £210,000, and after charging the appropriation account with £35,959 spent on capital account, providing for Government taxes, &c., the sum of £71,012 is taken to the credit of the current year. The financial position is strong enough, but no provision is made for depreciation, and nothing is put to reserve, but this is common to practically all the companies comprising the Wernher-Beit group. Ore reserves at the end of December were estimated at 1,106,120 tons. Three tube mills have been ordered, which, it

is calculated, will increase the crushing capacity of the mill by the equivalent of 50 stamps, and thus increase profits.

ROSE DEEP.—The total quantity of ore crushed in 1905 was 304,353 tons, and the yield of gold therefrom was 106,013 fine ozs., equal to 6.96 dwts. per ton, a decrease on the previous year of .59 dwts. Revenue from the gold won amounted to £445,090, equal to £1 9s. 3d. per ton, a falling off of 2s. 7d. per ton, whilst working costs totalled £304,693, or a trifle over £1 per ton, an increase of 2s. 10d. per ton. This gave a gross profit of £140,397, or a little over 9s. 2d. per ton. The general manager attributes the decrease in the yield to the thinner and poorer reefs encountered and the higher working costs, to narrower stoping widths, increased development work, and the introduction of Chinese labour. Interest gave £1,035, and £51,005 was brought in, making a total of £192,438. Two dividends were declared, aggregating 25 per cent., and £35,589 is left to take to the next balance-sheet.

ROODEPORT CENTRAL DEEP.—In the 12 months ending December 31 this member of the A. Goerz group milled 88,087 tons of ore, for a yield from all sources of 37,249 ozs., worth £157,660. Working costs totalled £127,680, averaging as high as over 28s. 11d. per ton, leaving a gross profit of £29,980, equal to a little over 6s. 9d. per ton. Compared with 1904, the recovery was about the same, 8.45 dwts. per ton, but the working costs were reduced by 4s. 10d. per ton, including 6s. for development redemption, which increased the profits by £23,013. With £2,450 brought in and £821 received from rents, the total credit was £33,251, and after deducting debenture and loans interest, depreciation, &c., £8,891 was left to carry forward. The company continues to be financed by A. Goerz and Co., the loan at the end of the year amounting to £60,951, for which 7 per cent. is charged. In consideration for the loan the parent company has an option on 15,610 unissued shares to May 31, 1906, at 32s. 6d. per share.

NEW HERIOT GOLD MINING COMPANY.—In the financial year ending with the calendar year the gold won by this company from the mill, cyanide works, and slimes totalled 44,724 fine ozs., of a value of £187,503. Sundry revenue of £1,089 raised it to £188,592, and as working costs took £148,748, the profit was £39,844. After providing for depreciation, a dividend of 20 per cent. is paid, and £40,021 is carried forward, against £31,938 brought in, so the directors are not dividing up to the hilt. They could comfortably have paid another 5 per cent., and still the financial position would have been strong. The manager estimates the life of this mine at about 18 years.

AFRICAN AND EUROPEAN INVESTMENT COMPANY.—This company was formed in August, 1904, as a kind of parent or controlling concern of the Lewis and Marks' group of mines, and the directors have now published their first report. They have very little to say, but admit that the depreciation in the market prices of all South African shares last year affected the company's holdings no less than those of similar concerns; nevertheless, they have entered the shares in the books at cost price—£468,894—for they regard the depreciation as temporary, "which will entirely pass away with improving conditions." This is enviable optimism, but is not universal. The income in 1905 amounted to £39,894, of which £20,115 came from interest, dividends, and commission, and that the interest portion was large is evident from the fact that contango loans amount to £246,629. After writing off £16,970 for prospecting and engineering purposes, £19,128 for administrative and office expenses, and £1,185 for a portion of the formation expenses, the nett profit was £2,610, which is carried forward, as it could not be divided over an issued capital of £1,375,000. We are told that the company has acquired large share holdings in several important estates, gold and coal mining companies in the Transvaal, and has taken a considerable financial interest in some of the leading industrial concerns in Johannesburg and Cape Town; also in a diamondiferous property in the Orange River Colony, and an important producing mine in Rhodesia.

PAARL CENTRAL GOLD MINING AND EXPLORATION COMPANY.—No attempt has yet been made to unwater this company's mine, and the consulting engineer has to report that owing to the idleness there is considerable deterioration in the general plant. In the 12 months ending December 31 the expenditure amounted to £3,113, against which the interest received was £907, so the deficit was £2,206, raising the aggregate debit to £105,773. Cash totals £20,093, and current liabilities are only £529.

TUDOR GOLD MINING COMPANY.—There is little of interest in the report of this company for the year ending December 31, interest giving £1,351 and rents £338, a total of £1,689. Expenditure absorbed £4,164, and the credit of £294 standing at the end of 1904 is converted into a debit of £2,181. Cash and other liquid assets make a showing of £25,472 against sundry creditors for £3,152. The company is still shaft sinking, but it was recently announced that owing to the impossibility of getting funds work is to be indefinitely suspended. Upon the decision of the directors we have commented in previous issues.

NORTH GEDULD GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This subsidiary of the Geduld Proprietary is conducting shaft sinking operations in company with its neighbour, the Central Geduld, and in the past 12 months a depth of 422 feet was reached by the No. 1 shaft and 1,700 feet by the No. 2 (joint) shaft. Interest received amounted to £3,086, and administration and other expenses totalled £3,836, so the credit balance was reduced from £4,328 to £3,578. Cash amounts to £97,739.

CENTRAL GEDULD GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This subsidiary of the Geduld Proprietary is also shaft sinking, so the revenue in the year ending December 31 consisted of £2,064 from interest, and £2,211 from rents, and as £1,506 was brought in,

the total credit was £5,781. Against this the administration and other expenses absorbed £4,176, so £1,604 is carried forward. Cash and liquid assets amount to £47,280, and current liabilities to £5,651.

AFRICAN GOLD DREDGING AND MINING CONCESSIONS.—The report and accounts cover the period from May 31, 1902, the date of incorporation, to December 31, 1905. Active operations did not commence until February 2, 1904, and the first twelve months were entirely taken up by the organisation of the staff and the designing, building, shipping, and erection of the dredger at the mouth of the Ankobra River. There is little income, therefore, from gold winning. General expenditure amounted to £1,303 and administration expenses to £1,644 against a little over £19 from transfer fees and £1,675 from gold recovered. Cash totals £1,182, and bullion in transit and on hand is valued at £1,282 against £1,331 owing to sundry creditors.

OTTO'S KORJE DIAMOND MINES (1903).—In a circular the directors announce that at a meeting of the debenture-holders on the 4th inst. it was resolved to extend the date of maturity of the debentures for a further period of five years, that is from January 1, 1907, to January 1, 1912. Colonel C. F. B. Wollaston has been appointed general manager of the company in South Africa with instructions to carry out the policy indicated in his report of November 27, 1905. Mr. M. Stewart has been appointed assistant manager in addition to his former position as local secretary, and this he will hold direct from the London board. We fear, however, that even these appointments cannot bring prosperity to such a poor property.

ESPERANZA, LIMITED.—This company holds practically the whole of the share capital of the American company, and the dividends received from the latter in the 14 months from November 1, 1904, to December 31, 1905, amounted to £387,674. Expenses on this side were but trifling, and the net profit was £384,143, to which the credit from the previous year of £2,122 falls to be added, making £386,265. Dividends declared aggregated 16s. 6d. per £1 share, or 82½ per cent., and after providing for income-tax, £7,305 is carried forward. The actual value of the bullion extracted was \$5,341,867, equal to £1,095,768. Prospects look fairly hopeful, the consulting engineers estimating that on December 31 there were 127,240 tons of ore reserves which should yield a profit of approximately £1,079,202. No estimate of the value of probable ore reserves has been made, but it is declared that recent developments point to the probability of opening up further extensive ore deposits, particularly in parts of the mine only partially explored. The balance-sheet, too, looks strong enough.

HANNAN'S PROPRIETARY.—This concern is a reconstruction of the Hannan's Proprietary Development Company, and the report and accounts of the new company are brought down to September 30 of last year. The management of the company's affairs in Western Australia has been placed in the hands of Messrs. Bewick, Moreing, and Co. According to the balance-sheet the expenditure amounted to £6,721 against which the directors take credit for £5,598, appreciation in value of share investments not yet realised. These interests are, however, held in such companies as the Hannan's Hidden Treasure and Ironsides North, which are now in liquidation, the Golden Pike and Lake View East Mines, the Oroya East, Berry United, Great Berry Consolidated, Moorlort Goldfields, Loddon Valley Goldfields, Option Blocks, Consolidated Deep Leads, and Victorian Deep Leads. This is far from an impressive list.

BRILLIANT AND ST. GEORGE UNITED GOLD MINING COMPANY.—For a week or so past the price of Brilliant and St. George United shares has been falling heavily, and this decline seems to be quite justified by the admissions in the directorial report for the half-year ending February 15. From 11,513 tons of ore raised the yield was 7,902 ozs., of a value of £27,839, whilst 18,000 tons of residues treated by the cyanide process gave 11,993 ozs. of bullion, worth £20,617, a total of £48,457, averaging £4 4s. 2d. per ton. Tributaries raised 288 tons for 258 ozs., worth £1,136, making the entire output from the mine 11,801 tons, for a return value of £49,593, the nett profit on which was £22,094. Dividends were maintained, but it is apparent that the main reef is practically exhausted, and the other veins do not so far compensate in values owing to their irregularity and size. It is pointed out that there is an important possibility for the deeper western ground, but it has to be recognised that, failing an unexpected development, the output and the profits must gradually but seriously diminish during the current half-year. Meanwhile negotiations are in progress for the purchase of the Hope gold mining lease, and it is probable it will be acquired at an early date.

GREAT BOULDER NO. 1.—The accounts for 1905 show a debit of £1,917, principally caused by the writing off of the cost of prospecting and exploration of the leases near to Southern Cross, an option on which was taken which the directors had reason to believe would be valuable. They have had to be abandoned, however. With regard to the company's own property, the drive north at the 1,200 ft. level from the Hamilton shaft will, it is believed, disclose values sufficiently satisfactory to warrant the directors taking in hand the continuation of that level; but it will be necessary to wait for the deeper sinking of the Hamilton shaft and the driving of a level north at a lower depth before substantial results can be obtained.

BROWNHILL EXTENDED.—The work done in the 12 months to November 30 was chiefly exploratory, but the directors report the results so far as encouraging. Shaft-sinking has proceeded, and as soon as it reaches the 800 ft. level steps are to be taken expeditiously to open up the No. 2 east lode by working on it at various levels simultaneously, when the question as to the

most suitable and efficient appliances for treating the ore will receive attention, from which the inference is that dividends are remote. Explorations in the north-west corner of the property have, it is declared, served to prove the existence of a fair quantity of payable ore. Proceeds of bullion received from trial crushings amounted to £1,135, interest brought in £1,091, and sundry receipts £24.

MOUNTAIN COPPER COMPANY.—In their report for 1905 the directors say that smelting operations at the Keswick works were discontinued in May last, and some of the machinery and plant was dismantled and removed to the new works at San Francisco. The smelting department of these works commenced operations at the end of the year and has been working regularly. The profit on the sales of produce was £159,333, the income being raised to £165,050, with the addition of £4,987 from interest, £663 from rents and other profits and £67 from transfer fees. Administration and general expenses in London absorbed £6,881 leaving a nett credit of £158,168. The outstanding debenture stock was reduced to £750,000 (and the shares in the stock from £4 to £3) in January of last year by the repayment of £1 per share of stock. Until, however, the financial requirements of the several businesses of the company have been fully ascertained it will be impracticable to forecast the date of the nett repayment of debenture stock. In a postscript, the directors say they felt anxiety lest the company's works had suffered from the earthquake. They had to wait for tidings, which have only just been received, announcing that no injury has been sustained either at the new works or at the mines, though the rented offices in San Francisco were destroyed. No member of the staff was, happily, injured, so directors and shareholders alike are to be congratulated on their escape from a possible disaster.

LIBIOLA COPPER MINING COMPANY.—Owing to the difficulties experienced in 1905 in Italy in procuring railway wagons for transport, the number placed at the disposal of this company was inadequate to meet the demands made by the buyers of pyrites, and the production was restricted to the quantity it was possible to send away. The total of copper ore was 4,175 tons, and of pyrites 24,213 tons, in all 28,388 tons, against 29,707 tons in 1904. The new crushing mill to replace the one destroyed by fire in February of last year has been completed and is now working in a satisfactory manner, but in consequence of this work less ground was opened up than in the previous year and the reserves of ore in sight show a decline from 114,520 tons to 91,880 tons. The nett profit earned was £8,335, a decline of £732, and as a balance of £1,753 less was brought in the total divisible was £11,335. A final dividend of 2s. 6d. per share is now paid, making 3s. 6d. per share for the year, leaving £2,515 to be carried forward. Exploration work is now being undertaken on the western portion of the Libiola Hill, where the surface indications are stated to be of a favourable character.

COLUMBIAN HYDRAULIC MINING COMPANY.—The returns of gold in 1905 amounted to 1,812 ozs., realising £6,397, and as the cost of winning it was £6,658 there was a loss of £261. In the first two months of the year there was delay in getting the new mills into proper working order, and in that short period a loss of £520 was made, which was reduced by the returns of the subsequent months. The directors feel assured, they say, that if a full supply of labour could be obtained, and the four mills, as originally planned, could be at work, good profits would result, even with a comparatively low grade of mineral, whilst at any moment a rich body of gravel may be met with. In his latest advices the superintendent says that labour is getting more abundant and the mineral improving in quality. The mine is now earning a small monthly profit.

SANSU MINE.—A circular from the secretary states that a cablegram has been received from the mines announcing that the reef has been cut in the No. 6 level (which is at a depth of 256 ft.) at a distance of 13 ft. from the main shaft. The lode is said to be well defined and assays at the point where the crosscut intersects the reef an average of 12.87 dwts. of fine gold per ton over a width of 8 ft. Driving will now be proceeded with on this level and will be pushed on as rapidly as possible in order to test the values and length. The directors emphasise the fact that this development is at the Sansu Mine proper and is distinct from the already reported discoveries of ore at the Sansu West.

INDIAN GLENROCK (WYNAAD) COMPANY.—The report and accounts of this still struggling company cover a period of 18 months to December 31, but no profit and loss account is yet issued. The nett deficiency, after allowing for small receipts from several sources, was £5,987, to be added to the previous debit of £12,962, making £18,949. Cash is only £351, against creditors of £671, and we still think dividend prospects are almost hopeless.

VICTORIAN GOLD YIELD.—The Agent-General for Victoria has received a cablegram announcing that the gold yield for the past quarter was 190,929 ozs., of the value of £763,716, an increase of 16,937 ozs. and £67,748 respectively over the corresponding period of 1905.

KLERKSODORP EXPLORATION, LAND AND ESTATE COMPANY.—Revenue in the financial year to December 31 totalled £698 only, spread over such sources as interest, rents, transfer fees, dividends, and licences, and as £11,028 was brought in, the total credit was £11,726. After charging the accounts with the usual expenditure, the directors allow £10,333 for depreciation on shares, which takes the entire surplus, and leaves only £72 to carry forward. That is to say, there was an ordinary loss of £622, and a much larger one in the shape of depreciation, making a total deficit of £10,955. There is a little cash in hand left amounting to £5,922, but the outlook is very dark.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

NEW YORK CENTRAL AND HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD COMPANY.

During the year ended December 31 this company worked 3,774 miles compared with 3,515 miles, and with an increase in all branches of traffic the year's receipts came to \$7,522,393 more at \$86,095,602. Of this increase \$5,380,077 came from freight traffic, a much heavier tonnage hauled having more than balanced a slight reduction in the average rate per ton due to the larger proportion of grain, anthracite and bituminous coal, and other low-class commodities carried. Passenger traffic gave \$1,587,353 more at \$25,761,387, long haul local and commutation business having been greater, express traffic was \$144,711 up, and mails \$301,109 better. Maintenance of equipment on the other hand rose by \$2,277,250 to \$13,238,124, cost of conducting transportation by \$2,262,771 to \$34,360,221, and with increases of \$496,754 and \$361,888 in maintenance of way and general charges the total operating expenses were \$5,398,663 larger at \$59,968,029. Deducting \$1,532,722 spent on betterments and additions to equipment, the net earnings came out at \$24,594,851 against \$22,450,823, and with dividends and interest receipts the gross income showed an improvement of \$2,198,790 at \$31,118,350. Prior charges absorbed \$22,242,502 or \$1,177,681 more, thanks to the additional issue of debentures in 1904 and to heavier charges on account of taxes, and after reserving \$150,000 for redemption of gold debentures of 1890 and paying four dividends, aggregating 5 per cent., the surplus for the year was \$1,171,109 up at \$2,113,348. Of this, however, \$1,500,000 was deducted for special improvement fund for new equipment and betterments, \$267,965 was written off for discount, commissions, &c., on bonds issued, and \$327,131 for sundry uncollectable charges and reduction in value of assets, leaving \$18,252 to be added to the balance of \$14,593,868 brought forward. No new capital stock was issued during the year, and the funded debt was only increased by the issue of \$3,500,000 4 per cent. gold debentures of 1904 and \$292,096 3½ per cent. gold mortgage bonds, but \$8,671,500 3½ per cent. bonds were issued in place of a similar amount of 4 per cent. securities, which matured on May 1 and June 1, 1905, and in November last a resolution was passed authorising the issue to the stockholders at par of \$17,192,500 capital stock, being 13 per cent. of their holdings, and this stock will rank for all dividends subsequent to that paid on January 15 last.

PITTSBURG, CINCINNATI, CHICAGO, AND ST. LOUIS RAILWAY.

This Pennsylvania railroad dependant earned last year \$26,833,428 at an expense of \$19,945,909, or 74.33 per cent. of the gross earnings, including taxes to the amount of \$895,396. The percentage is the lowest for the past four years, and after meeting all charges besides setting apart \$1,000,000 for extraordinary expenditure, the company is able to meet the 4 per cent. dividend on its preference stock and to pay 3 per cent. upon the common stock, leaving \$277,203 by way of surplus against a deficit of nearly \$55,000 a year ago. In fact, each year of the previous three showed small deficits, so that 1905 indicated considerable improvement. No addition was made to the share capital of the company in the past year, and the bonded debt was reduced by about \$200,000, its total being on December 31 last \$52,055,000.

THE VANDALIA RAILROAD.

This is a new name for lines that have been in existence for some considerable time, such as the Terre Haute and Indianapolis, St. Louis, Vandalia and Terre Haute, Terre Haute and Logansport, &c. Its earnings for the year 1905 amounted to \$7,845,233 and its expenses to \$6,150,054, so that after adding in \$34,271 received as dividend and interest the total net income was only \$1,729,440, a decrease of \$379,202 compared with 1904. However, 4 per cent. was paid on the capital stock after meeting all fixed charges, including the rental of the Terre Haute and Peoria company, putting aside \$325,000 for extraordinary expenditure, and \$96,184 still left to be carried forward.

H.H. THE NIZAM'S GUARANTEED STATE RAILWAYS CO., LIMITED.

A slight decline took place in the earnings of the broad gauge portion of the system during the second half of 1905 compared with the corresponding period of the previous year. Gross revenue was Rs.22,56,737, or a decrease of Rs.43,582, but the working expenses were reduced by Rs.28,531 to Rs.7,88,064, so that the reduction in nett earnings was only Rs.15,051 at Rs.14,68,673. Ratio between expenditure and income was 0.58 per cent. less at 34.92 per cent., a wonderfully low proportion. Coaching traffic showed an improvement of Rs.59,949, third-class passengers, luggage, parcels, and miscellaneous receipts all showing increases, but the goods business was smaller by the considerable sum of Rs.88,757. This was chiefly due to the smaller transport of oil seeds, which in the corresponding period of 1904 was exceptionally good. The receipts from coal increased slightly in response to a reduction of the rates to Bombay, and the saving in working expenses may be attributed to fewer repairs to rolling stock. After deducting £6,398 payable to the Government of India on account of the Bezwada extension, the nett earnings amount to £91,717, and as the sum required to meet interest and sinking fund on the debentures, together with 5 per cent. per annum on the capital stock, is £85,000, there

is a surplus of £6,717 divisible equally between the Government and the company. The company's share is added to reserve, increasing it to £83,004. On the metre gauge system the gross earnings increased by Rs.1,62,782 to Rs.11,46,434, and the nett earnings by Rs.1,60,818 to Rs.3,92,225, the working expenses being very slightly higher at Rs.7,54,209. That means a decline in the ratio to receipts of no less than 10.68 per cent. to 65.79 per cent., still, however, a heavy proportion, especially compared with the broad gauge system. The coaching traffic contributed freely to the improved revenue, with an advance of Rs.73,011, chiefly in second and third-class passengers, leaving Rs.93,394 as the gain in goods revenue, apart from some minor movements. Grain and pulse, oil cake, and cotton did best. Including £2,416 brought forward, the nett earnings of the two systems amount to £120,332. From that £58,518 is refunded to H.H. the Nizam, debenture interest absorbs £4,832, and £5,774 is added to reserve, being £3,358 on account of the broad gauge lines, as mentioned, and the sum brought forward. Balance still left is £51,208, and the directors propose a dividend of 5 per cent. per annum on the capital stock, carrying forward £1,208.

PUERTO CABELLO AND VALENCIA RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

This company's revenue for the 12 months ended December 31 last was £36,813, or a decline of £3,828 compared with 1904, mainly due to the poor coffee crop. The decrease in passenger business was less than £1,000, and sundries dropped £184, but in goods the shrinkage reached £2,662. Moreover, there was an advance in the working expenditure of the considerable sum of £2,315 to £27,121, due almost entirely to heavier outlay on the permanent way. This reached £8,130 or £2,060 more, the locomotive department cost an additional sum of £365, telegraph expenses increased £100, and there was a trifling rise in traffic expenses, despite the smaller business handled. London charges were also higher, but administration in Venezuela cost rather less. Decrease in nett revenue amounts to £6,142 at £9,692, and the alteration in the status of the company's debenture stock, whereby the interest was made partially contingent upon profits, has certainly been justified up to now. With the addition of other revenue, the sum for disposal is brought up to £10,279, from which the interest on the first charge coupon bonds absorbs £8,500, leaving £1,779. From that the directors propose a dividend on the second charge debenture stock of 1 per cent., requiring £1,700, and leaving £79 to be carried forward. During the year the sum received on account of the award of the Anglo-Venezuelan Mixed Commission was £35,343, making the total at credit of appropriation of award account £59,048. Of this £42,108 has been appropriated to pay the certificates on the award (80 per cent.), and expenses of rearrangement of debenture capital, leaving £16,940 at present undisposed of. Up to the end of 1905 the total amount received on account of the award was £155,779, and the balance of 20 per cent. remaining due upon the certificates of award was paid yesterday, May 4. A further sum of £74,927 has accumulated in respect of guarantees for the years 1903, 1904, and 1905, the claims being framed on the basis laid down by the umpire of the Anglo-Venezuelan Mixed Commission. These claims have been duly presented to the Venezuelan Government.

LA GUAYRA AND CARACAS RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

This Venezuelan company did not do so well during 1905 as in the previous 12 months, due, we suppose, to the poor coffee traffic. Gross revenue was £74,012 or £6,218 less, the principal decline being in goods, down £4,355. Passenger business showed a decrease of £1,252, special trains declined by £637, and sundries were lower by £204, but parcels and storage gave a slight increase. Unfortunately, expenditure could be reduced by the trifle of £24 only at £42,750, increases appearing under maintenance, locomotive expenses, and telegraphs, against declines in traffic expenses and general charges. The result is a nett balance of £31,261, or £6,195 less, and with the addition of interest, transfer fees, and £1,194 brought forward, the sum for disposal is £33,517. Debenture interest £18,500, loss on exchange £1,809, and sundry other charges reduced this to £12,259, and the dividend must be lowered from 4½ per cent. to 3, with an improvement in the credit to next account to £1,759. The financial position is fairly satisfactory, because the company has reserve and renewal accounts aggregating £52,202, represented by investments, cash, and bills, and it is good to note that traffics in the current year are picking up.

EASTERN EXTENSION, AUSTRALASIA, AND CHINA TELEGRAPH CO., LIMITED.

The termination of the Russo-Japanese war naturally had some effect on this company's revenues for the six months ended December 31, but the set-back was not nearly so serious as might have been expected, and, all things considered, the results obtained were excellent. Message and other receipts showed a decrease of £16,856 at £297,352—not much of a fall seeing that a year ago there was the substantial improvement of £80,207, and with £19,748 or £2,168 more from miscellaneous sources, the total income came to £317,100 against £331,788. Expenses at the same time were reduced by £14,438 to £135,597, but as debenture interest and income-tax rose by £2,678 to £17,520 the nett balance was £2,928 smaller at £163,983, and with only £42,081 brought forward the amount available dropped to £71,117. A year ago, however, an exceptionally large sum of £120,000 was put to reserve to make up for the omission to add anything to that fund in 1903, and by returning to the more normal provision of £50,000 the dividends and bonus can be maintained at 7 per cent., with a reduction of no more than

£1,117 to £21,064 in the surplus carried to the new account. The reserve fund is now brought up to £1,162,790, and with insurance and other funds the total accumulations stand at £1,522,545 against a capital outlay of £3,824,744. Of this amount £1,158,867 or £255,024 more is invested in good securities, of which a full list is appended to the report, £180,000 is represented by spare cable held for renewals, and £88,031 by the debt of the Imperial Chinese Telegraph Administration in respect of cables laid and supplied, now in course of collection. Trading accounts are still against the company, £262,922 being due to creditors against £202,002 to come in, while cash is down £7,217 to £112,690, bills payable are £1,800 lower at £59,800, and remittances in transit £2,700 up at £22,400.

GREAT NORTHERN TELEGRAPH CO., LIMITED, OF COPENHAGEN.

This is another company working in the Far East whose receipts might naturally have been expected to fall off sharply after the war, and the directors state that there was a considerable decrease due to this and to the revolutionary disturbances in Russia. Thanks, however, to the proceeds from the company's participation in other telegraph undertakings and to substantial gains in profit on exchange and sundry revenue, the total income for 1905 was actually £27,721 larger at £640,447. The improvement was neutralised by a rise of £29,534 in expenses, which was partly due to the increase in salaries and wages necessitated by the larger staff and the heavier cost of living in Russia and the Far East, and partly to an advance in rates and taxes, owing to the large receipts in 1904 and to the new taxation laws in Denmark. With £67,576 or £1,861 more brought in, the nett profits available were, therefore, much about the same at £549,509, out of which the directors for the fourth year in succession put £55,555 each to the reserve and dividend equalisation funds, add £8,333, or the same as a year ago, to the pension fund, and repeat the dividends and bonus of 24 per cent., leaving £67,625 to be carried forward. The reserve fund was also increased by £61,855 from interest and profit on drawn bonds and profit on cable sold, and after deducting £22,279 for extraordinary expenditure, including payments on account of Iceland cable and new office building at Shanghai, this fund stands at £1,991,032. Renewal fund for cable steamers is unaltered at £69,283, but the dividend equalisation fund received £9,826 from interest, and now amounts to £311,026, making the total accumulations £2,371,340, against £2,210,827 at the end of 1904. Investments on account of reserve stand at £1,581,763 or £61,245 more, loans on bank guarantees are £48,889 up at £333,333, and investments in other telegraph undertakings have been increased by £62,706 to £600,941. Sundry creditors are £8,507 down at £196,415, while debtors show a decrease of £5,625 at £125,765 and cash is £15,160 lower at £125,522, but none the less the position is excellent, and one which many English companies might well envy.

ORIENTAL TELEPHONE AND ELECTRIC CO., LIMITED.

Shareholders of this undertaking should be quite pleased with the report and accounts for the year ended December 31 last. Like all growing enterprises, it is spending a good deal of money, and in May last took authority for the issue of £200,000 4 per cent. debenture stock. One-half of this has already been placed, but the directors seem to be making admirable and profitable use of the proceeds, and it cannot be said that the concern is overburdened with capital yet. Besides its own business the company has an interest in four other near and far Eastern ventures, all of which are making good progress. The Bengal Telephone Company paid 5 per cent. last year, the Bombay Company 6 per cent., and the Telephone Company of Egypt 7½ per cent. The last-named continues to receive further Government contracts, and this company has provided some necessary funds by taking up 4,000 preferred shares of £5 each. Another company, the China and Japan Telephone and Electric, has not got its installation quite complete yet, but considerable headway has been made, and before long this concern should also be contributing to the company's revenues. The Oriental Company's interest in the debenture stock has been increased by £7,000. Altogether a sum of £151,258 is invested in these enterprises, and we note that the company's own capital expenditure amounts to £123,912, including expenses in connection with the issue of debenture stock £13,586, which we think should be placed to a separate account and written off out of profits. There is a reserve, however, of £25,500, partly kept away from the business, as the company has some Consols to the amount of £11,391. Sundry creditors are not at all heavy at £22,989, and the company is well in funds just now in consequence of the debenture issue. The directors have decided to create a sinking fund for the redemption of the share capital, and so far as we can see handle the company's affairs with considerable ability. In the twelve months to December 31 the nett profit was £26,206 or £4,720 more than in the preceding year, commission and interest gave £2,273, and transfer fees £52 or £28,531 in all. London expenses required £3,351, debenture interest £1,232, and Indian agency expenses £125, leaving £23,823 as the nett balance. Add £1,721 brought in and the sum for disposal is £25,544, which provides the preference dividend, sinking fund charge, income-tax, and a small sum for depreciation of office furniture. Balance of the expenses of preference share issue £1,300 is then written off, and after raising the ordinary dividend by ½ per cent to 7 the directors place £6,000 or £3,000 more to reserve and carry forward £1,738.

HOTCHKISS ORDNANCE CO., LIMITED.

The display made by this unfortunate enterprise for the year 1904 was much too good to last. It may be remembered that after steadily falling from £39,104 to £2,585 the profits for the period mentioned bounded up to £47,629, and people unacquainted with the usual performances of gun companies began to think that the business had taken a permanent turn for the better. This hope was encouraged by the fact that the company had launched into the automobile industry, apparently with the most satisfactory results, and it does not matter much where profits come from so long as they accrue. But the motor trade, like gun making, needs money for its development, and the directors have to tell the shareholders that the greatly increased demand for ordnance since the commencement of the present year and the development of automobile construction have necessitated the immediate provision of further working capital. The French company has, therefore, set aside out of the profits of the year the sum of £18,000, which has been placed to a special reserve for that purpose. Not only so, but a further sum of £3,572 has been provided out of the French company's profits for expenses in connection with automobile exploitation, with the result that the dividends which would otherwise have been declared by that enterprise have been reduced by £21,572. Dividendless shareholders, however, must not despair, because although the ordnance trade in 1905 was not so active as in the previous 12 months, since the close of the year the demand has greatly increased. In fact, the orders already in hand are considerably in excess of those received during the corresponding period for many years. Then the construction of automobile chassis at St. Denis has been successfully maintained, and the demand for the company's manufactures has materially increased. Additional buildings, plant, and machinery are, however, urgently needed to enable the company to increase its output to the fullest extent. Another company, called the American and British Manufacturing Company, in which the Hotchkiss has an interest of £17,080, valued in the books at £6,071, also seems to be making progress. A favourable report on the operations for 1905 has been received from America, and the outlook for the present year is described as satisfactory. All this, however, is in the future, and for the moment both preference and ordinary shareholders are without a dividend. Profit on sales, royalties, commission, and dividend from the French company only add up to £11,986, a decline of over £40,000, and after providing sundry expenses £4,250 and managing director's commission £300, the nett balance is no more than £8,075, including £638 for interest and transfer fees. That is a decline of £39,554, and even with £4,887 brought forward, the sum for disposal is no more than £12,092. From that debenture interest requires £5,670 and provision for redemption £1,500, leaving £5,791, which the directors wisely propose to carry forward. The preference shares are non-cumulative, so that the holders lose their year's interest. The balance-sheet does not call for much comment, but we may note that the American and British Manufacturing Company does not seem to be held in very high esteem, as in addition to holding £17,080 of stock at £6,071 the company has a reserve for depreciation of the shares to the amount of £5,000. Debenture debt now outstanding is £113,407, against which there is a reserve for redemption of £9,000, and the general reserve stands at £14,673. Goodwill, patents, and business stand at £253,632 and shares in the French company at £239,820, of which £39,800 are deposited to secure a loan of £20,000 granted to the French concern, and jointly guaranteed. Altogether £60,000 has been lent to this French company as working capital, apart from a current account of £25,996, including the dividend payable to the English business, with the result that the resources of the latter are rather severely strained. Its cash balance is less than £2,000, and trading accounts are decidedly adverse, although we may mention an investment in the company's own debenture stock, valued at £10,775.

THE NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

In their 96th annual report the directors of this company make only one allusion to the San Francisco disaster, but so far as the position of the fire department is concerned, it is obvious that they will be able to regard the whole subject with equanimity, because they think it necessary to set aside only £250,000 as a special suspense account against the company's probable loss. Last year the nett premium income in the fire branch was £1,940,195, which was just slightly above the figure for 1904, and after meeting all claims and paying all expenses the nett profit was £323,720, which added to the amount brought forward made the entire sum at the credit of profit and loss £919,939. In the period from December 31, 1900, to December 31, 1905, the entire premium income was £9,189,000 in round figures and the losses £5,278,000, or 57.43 per cent. of the premiums, while for the previous quinquennium the loss rate was 59.63 per cent. on the premium income. In the life branch the business done was large, 4,603 new policies having been issued insuring £2,190,444 and yielding £105,653 in new premiums. Some portion of this was reinsured, but the nett new premium income was still £83,553, and the entire income of the life branch including £950,055 in premiums and £408,770 in interest, amounted to £1,358,825. Claims paid and bonus additions came to £736,431, and at the end of the year the life funds were increased by £307,696 to a total of £10,697,341. This is exclusive of the annuity business or the sinking fund business, and, in fact, the aggregate funds of the company from all departments amount to £18,618,340, the annuity fund alone amounting to £3,139,000 and the funds of the fire department to £2,664,324. Last December completed the quinquennium in the life branch,

and the usual valuations having been made a surplus of £1,008,138 was disclosed, all but £24,703 of which has been or will be distributed. After deducting £128,044 paid during the quinquennium as prospective bonuses and bonuses on universal policies, the divisible amount is £1,111,479, of which one-tenth, or £111,148, falls to the shareholders. From the balance participating policyholders in the North British and Mercantile Company receive a bonus at the rate of £1 8s. per cent., those in the Scottish Provincial Company absorbed by the North British, at the rate of £1 3s. 10d. per cent., and those in the United Kingdom Company at the rate of £1 0s. 9d. per cent. Compared with five years before this is an increase of 5s. 6d. per cent. in the North British bonus, of 3s. 1d. per cent. in the Scottish Provincial bonus, and of 4s. 1d. per cent. in the United Kingdom bonus. The profit on the annuity branch was £29,556, and this added to the profit brought out by the quinquennial valuation on the life branch gave a total of £140,704 to be added to the profit brought out the fire department to the extent of one-fifth of the amount in each of the coming five years. Accordingly as at the end of December last the aggregate at credit of profit and loss was £919,939, there is £30,250 to be added to this raising it to £950,189, from which, as already mentioned, £250,000 has been set aside to a suspense account against the losses at San Francisco. Another £25,000 is taken off to be added to the superannuation fund, leaving £675,189 to be dealt with. Out of this the directors declare a dividend of £1 per share, payable half on the 15th inst., half on November 12 next, and a bonus of 10s. per share payable on the 15th inst., together with a further bonus of 5s. 6d. per share from the shareholders' life and annuity profits, also payable on the 15th inst. These together will absorb £195,250, leaving £479,938 to be carried forward.

THE LONDON LIFE ASSOCIATION.

In their report for the past year the directors of this hundred year old Mutual Life Assurance Society called to mind the fact that it was started on May 1, 1806. For this reason the ordinary meeting of members will be held at that date this year, and doubtless will be well attended. In the past year the Association did well, although it issued only 248 policies, insuring £302,189, giving £13,577 in renewal premiums and £2,754 in single premiums. Only a small amount of reinsurance was effected, so that the total income was not in this way much affected. By the death of 112 persons 172 policies became claims and involved the payment of £206,940 as against £320,832, the calculated amount of the life table used in the valuation. The income from interest was £190,540 and the total income from premiums and interest £554,729. At the end of the year the accumulated funds had increased by £88,615, the association having in hand £46 19s. 11d. for every £100 of policy engagements without taking into account any future premiums received. As is well known, this association reduces its premiums as the policies become older, thus relieving its members from their charges and giving them the benefit of the profits upon their investment during the currency of the policies. Thanks to the prosperity of the business, a prosperity in no small degree ensured by the fact that the working expenses were only £4 10s. 1d. per cent. of the premium income or £2 19s. 8d. per cent. of the entire income of the past year, the directors have been able to raise by two, for the year beginning July 1, 1906, the various rates of reduction of premium, and these rates for full participation will therefore range from the equivalent of 114 per cent., that is, no payment but some addition to the amount insured, to 49 per cent. This has necessitated an increase of £78,602 in the assurance fund. The total of the funds in hand at the end of the year came to £4,845,110 after meeting all claims, surrenders, expenses of management, no commissions being paid or dividends, providing income-tax and setting aside £310,445 as allowance in respect of reduction of premiums.

INDUSTRIAL AND GENERAL TRUST, LIMITED.

We gave details of the reorganisation and increase of this company's capital in December last, and need not pursue the matter further, except to say that the effect of the changes is seen for the first time in the report for the 12 months ended March 31 just issued. The past year was a good one for the company, which gathered dividends, interest, and commissions to the amount of £118,055 or £21,122 more than in 1904. This increase, however, is in a sense due to a windfall, as £11,000 was received in respect of arrears of previous years, while another £4,944 is accounted for by the fact that interest on reserve fund investments can now be brought into the revenue account, instead of being carried direct to the reserve fund. Then balance of profit on realisations, after providing for depreciation on certain investments and contingencies, was £43,236 or £27,047 more, so that with £90 for transfer fees the directors have no less than £161,381 at their disposal, an improvement of £48,189. Of this debenture interest requires £32,419 and general and other charges £11,674, leaving £117,288. To that is added £10,529 brought forward, making £127,816, and in accordance with the plan of reorganisation, the directors add £50,000 to the reserve fund raising it to £200,000. An interim dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the unified stock was paid for the half-year ended September 30, but the final dividends will be on the capital as newly constituted. On the preference stock the dividend will be at the fixed rate of 4½ per cent., and, as the board anticipated, a return at 6 per cent. per annum is possible on the ordinary shares. On the conversion shares the dividend is at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the instalments paid up to March 31, and the big sum of £28,911 is carried forward. On the whole a very

good display, and we are glad to note that the balance-sheet value of the investments is fully supported by actual worth. Their total is £2,090,592, apart from the reserve fund securities of £200,000 and a complete list is appended to the report. In addition securities sold but not yet delivered represent £15,267, loans and advances amount to £35,274, and, including £116,825 on short loan, the cash balances are £173,065.

ANGLO-AMERICAN DEBENTURE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

Including £36,665 from balance of profit on securities and commissions, the gross revenue for the 12 months to March 31 rose by £21,541 to £102,142, and after meeting debenture interest and all charges and writing off £2,666 for various expenses, compared with £1,469 off certain securities last year, the nett balance was £21,901 up at £69,103. Preference dividends having been paid, together with the usual 7 per cent. on the ordinary shares, £13,576 is transferred to reserve, and the ordinary shares receive a bonus of 3½ per cent., against 3 per cent. paid out of the special reserve, leaving £5,980 to be carried forward. The founders' shares have been extinguished by the allotment to them of 25,000 ordinary shares of £2 each, which were paid for by the transfer of £50,000 from the special reserve, bringing that fund down to £122,000. Investments are valued in the books at £1,278,910, and the directors state that 57 per cent. of the amount is in bonds and 13 per cent. in shares of American companies. They add that a valuation of the securities on March 31 shows that the value exceeded the book cost by an amount which is, in their opinion, considerably more than sufficient to cover any direct or indirect loss from the disaster in San Francisco. We hope this may prove to be the case, but there has been a very serious slump since then which must have altered the position very materially. Why do the directors not follow the example of other trust companies, and publish a complete list of the investments? In a time like the present such a list seems to be very much needed, and its publication would, at any rate, give shareholders the satisfaction of knowing just how the company stands.

UNITED STATES AND SOUTH AMERICAN INVESTMENT TRUST CO., LIMITED.

During the year to April 4 last the revenue of this improving trust company amounted to £54,770 or £3,113 more than in the previous twelve months. Deducting debenture interest and administration charges and the nett sum remaining is £37,606, an increase of just under £3,000. With £370 brought in the balance for disposal is £37,976, and after providing the preferred dividend the directors again increase the deferred dividend by 1 per cent. to 4, adding £5,000 or £1,000 less to reserve and carrying forward £914. In addition to the ordinary revenue the company made a profit on change of investments of the big sum of £35,178, raising the total of the reserve to £47,871. Of this, however, £24,339 is used to write down certain securities leaving the fund at £23,532 against £7,693 at the end of the previous year. Not only that, but we gather that after showing a more or less important depreciation for a great number of years the balance-sheet figures of the company's securities are now supported by actual value. Therefore the progress which has been made is of the solid, substantial sort, and although the trust cannot be put in the front rank yet, it is undoubtedly making headway. A list of the investments is furnished with the report, and the securities bought and sold during the year are also shown.

PACIFIC TRUST ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

The year ended December 31 was again a bad one for agricultural interests in California, but this company managed to do a little better, and with £1,075 or £13 more brought in was able to show an improvement of £431 at £12,433 in its gross income. At the same time a substantial saving was effected in expenses, so that the nett balance was £1,060 larger at £5,135, and as the profit on sales of property brought the real estate suspense account up to £2,345 the directors feel justified in taking £500 from that account to help to swell their divisible surplus. This gives a total of £5,635, out of which a dividend of 4½ per cent. is paid compared with 4 and 5 per cent. in the two previous years and £1,134 is carried forward. In addition to a share and debenture capital of £135,725 the company owes £1,225 to its bankers and £271 for fees, salaries, &c., against which the principal assets consist of £121,342 in mortgages and loans and £17,167 in real estate.

MUNICIPAL TRUST CO., LIMITED.

The revenue for the year ended February 28 showed a trifling improvement of £40 at £34,365, but expenses were rather heavier at £2,761, and after providing for debenture interest the nett income came to £14,342, or £110 less. With £593 brought in, the balance available was £14,935, and after payment of the dividend on the preferred stock the deferred stock again receives 2 per cent., and £746 is carried forward. The capital depreciation account was credited with £19,194 for profit on securities realised, and debited with a similar amount for loss on securities written off and sold, leaving the fund at the old figure of £56,837, but the value of the investments held is £9,067 up at £733,309, and the auditor is still expressing his doubt as to whether the allowance for depreciation is sufficient.

ALLIANCE TRUST CO., LIMITED.

The report and balance-sheet of this Scotch trust for the year ended January 31 disclose a very flourishing condition of affairs. Revenue from investments was £112,304 or £9,536 more than in the previous twelve months, transfer fees, &c., gave £163, and £3,122 was brought forward, making £115,589 in all. From

that the expenses of management at head office required £5,374, foreign expenses were £1,472, taxes £3,476, and expenses of debentures £872. Balance still left is £104,396, and after providing interest on debentures and loans the directors pay the preference dividend and 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares and "A" stock, carrying £22,610 to reserve and £1,961 to next account. Reserve will now be £370,000, the whole kept in separate investments, and as the other investments of £1,643,415 return such excellent revenues there can be no question of the soundness of the trust. In fact, the directors are contemplating a revision of the articles of association, partly with the object of dealing with the uncalled ordinary capital of £200,000. Should the directors' plans be agreed to this capital will be converted into preference stock, thus repeating previous operations of a like nature, and in the meanwhile any shareholder may pay up the uncalled balance on his shares, receiving interest at 4 per cent. per annum.

BRITISH AND AUSTRALASIAN TRUST AND LOAN CO., LIMITED.

Not a word is said by the directors in explanation of the causes of the decrease in revenue for the year ended December 31, although the colonial income fell off by £512 to £43,628 and the London income by £463 to £3,176. The shrinkage was reduced to £826 at £57,862 by the balance brought forward, but outgoings were a little larger and the nett amount available for distribution was £866 down at £27,192. Shareholders, however, are not allowed to suffer, but get their dividend and bonus of 7 per cent. as in 1904 at the expense of the reserve, which is increased by £2,000 instead of £3,000, leaving £11,192 to be carried forward. Loans in the colonies have increased by £21,738 to £896,921, but the contingent account provided to meet depreciation in securities is unaltered at £64,179, and we hope that it is sufficient for this purpose. Most of the extra funds have been raised by debentures, which are £15,740 higher at £651,439, but investments in London are £6,740 down at £85,460. Cash has gone up by £965 at £70,974 and accrued interest comes to £7,904 or £1,229 more.

PACIFIC LOAN AND INVESTMENT CO., LIMITED.

Including £3,761 brought forward, this company gathered a revenue of £50,395 during the year to December 31 last, against which debenture interest required £14,892, bank interest and discounts £865, and administration, income-tax, &c., £3,306. Another £7,775 went in agency expenses, taxes on mortgages absorbed £794, and real estate disbursements £5,441, leaving £18,186 as nett profit. From this the directors propose a dividend of 6 per cent. and a bonus of 1 per cent., making 7 per cent. in all, and leaving £5,061 to be carried forward. A nett gain of £3,572 from sale of properties has been credited to real estate suspense account, making it £5,232, against the real estate balance-sheet valuation of £71,977. Mortgages, loans, &c., stand at £542,601, investments in railroad bonds and other securities are valued at £54,118, and farm stock and produce are worth £3,540. Interest accrued, but not collected, is entered at £12,419, and agents are debtors to the extent of £27,810. Against all this the company has a reserve fund of £100,000, and must be counted in a pretty comfortable position. It appears that last year the interest on mortgages, &c., increased about £1,868, but the real estate holdings yielded about £1,411 less, owing to unfavourable weather conditions in California. At the meeting of the company on Monday the chairman said that it was in no way affected by the San Francisco disaster.

NORTH BRITISH CANADIAN INVESTMENT CO., LIMITED.

Without a word of explanation as to the reasons which influence their action the directors of this company propose a scheme of reconstruction. The undertaking is not in a bad way or anything of that sort, and so far as we can gather the idea must be to reduce the uncalled liability on the shares. We suppose the debenture holders agree or are not secured on the uncalled capital. At present the capital consists of 50,000 shares of £10 each, of which £2 has been called up, and it is now proposed to turn over the assets and liabilities to a new company to possess a capital of £250,000 only, divided into 50,000 £5 shares, these also to be credited as £2 paid and leaving a liability of £3 instead of £8 as at present. During the past year the debenture stock was reduced by £38,145 by payments and conversions into terminable debentures, the amounts now outstanding being £62,529 4 per cent. stock, £31,033 5 per cent., and £10,742 debentures, and we gather that the new 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. debentures will be exchanged into the new 4 per cent. issue. There is a reserve fund of £27,000, and a contingent fund of £3,183, and we find that the principal asset consists of loans on mortgages, including real estate £183,517; sundry investments represent a further sum of £11,370, and the cash balance is about £45,000. In the twelve months to December 31 the interest in Canada amounted to £12,432, and in Glasgow to £414 making, with £9 for transfer fees, a total of £12,855. Adding £2,649 brought in, and the sum for disposal is £15,504, from which interest and all other charges absorb £7,540, leaving £7,964. So the directors propose to pay a dividend of 3 per cent., adding £2,000 to contingent fund and carrying £2,964 to next account.

BUENOS AYRES (NEW) GAS COMPANY, LIMITED.

A strike at the works in the end of 1905 occasioned considerable loss to this company, and the revenue showed a further drop of £5,957 at £59,527, and as the amount brought in was only £871 larger at £17,394 the disposable balance was £5,086 less at £76,921. As usual under such circumstances the provision

for reserve is the first thing to be curtailed, and instead of putting £10,000 to that fund and £7,500 to renewal and contingency fund as was done a year ago, the directors content themselves with putting £2,258 for difference between cost of South Barracas Gas Company's shares and their face value to a capital reserve, and after again writing £2,112 off expenses of debenture issue pay the usual dividend of 7 per cent., and carry forward £20,550 or £3,156 more. A further sum of £36,763 was spent on the property, raising that item to £683,416, and the cost of service pipes, &c., has gone up by £1,546 to £119,900, while the holding of shares in the South Barracas Company, an undertaking formerly leased to this company, but now working as a separate undertaking, has been increased to £120,000. Against these heavy commitments there are a reserve of £80,000, a capital reserve of £2,258, a renewal and contingency fund of £9,500, and a public lamps redemption fund of £2,012, making £93,770 in all, or about 10 per cent. Sundry creditors come to £36,839, but there is also a suspense account in respect of services of £13,295, while sundry debtors, including £11,112 lent to the S. B. Company, stand at £34,806, and cash and bills amount to £15,315.

SOUTH BARRACAS (B. AYRES) GAS AND COKE CO., LIMITED.

Up to the end of 1904 this company's property was leased to the B. Ayres Gas Company, but for various reasons the arrangement has been cancelled, and the company practically reconstructed, with the view of extinguishing all its indebtedness to the B. Ayres Company, including the debentures. The works have been brought up to date and their capacity doubled, and as the result of the working for the year ended December 31 a nett profit of £6,162 was shown. Out of this the interest on the debentures up to the date of their cancellation took £1,338, and a dividend of 5 per cent. was paid on the shares, including the 8,300 allotted on October 26, leaving £2,223 to be carried forward. The property account stands at £122,685, against an issued capital of £120,000, and, in addition, £6,760 has been spent on public lamps and meters and £3,732 on stocks of coal, &c. Liabilities to sundry creditors are therefore large at £12,378, and as there is only £1,923 to come in from sundry debtors, while cash and bills come to no more than £2,102, the company is badly in need of funds, and the directors therefore propose to make an issue of 3,000 £10 shares at an early date.

BOMBAY GAS CO., LIMITED.

The price charged for gas was apparently further reduced during the year ended December 31, although the directors do not give any figure, as the reduction is blamed for a decrease in revenue to £38,313, notwithstanding a slight increase in the quantity sold. Sales of residuals rose by £1,000, but in spite of this the gross income was £607 less at £50,963, and as the cost of coal carbonised rose by £1,290, while other charges were also heavier, the total outgoings were £5,101 up at £34,354, leaving a nett revenue of £16,005 compared with £21,716. A considerably larger balance of £4,158, however, was brought in, so that the total available was only £1,595 down at £20,163, and the decrease has not deterred the directors from increasing the dividend from the 6½ per cent. paid for the previous five years to 7 per cent., although this step means that the reserve gets nothing against £2,000 transferred in 1904, and the balance forward is reduced to £3,363. It is a great pity that this course has been adopted, as the reserve fund, after forty-four years of the company's existence, amounts to only £22,003 against a construction account of £224,680 or less than 10 per cent., and even this is employed in the business. Sundry creditors show a small reduction of £138 at £1,627, and although sundry debtors are £3,834 up at £12,069, cash and bank bills in hand are down £575 and £2,500 respectively at £5,472 and £9,500.

SHAW, SAVILL, AND ALBION CO., LIMITED.

Business was decidedly brisker for this company during the year 1905 than in the previous 12 months, and the results displayed are much improved. After providing charges in London and Colony, together with depreciation, the balance of profit is £42,147 or £26,423 more, and the directors are able to put back the £12,500 they last year withdrew from the renewal, repair, and boiler fund in order that a dividend might be paid. Other charges were debenture interest £6,545, Glasgow agency £1,000, and directors' remuneration £2,000, so that with £1,267 brought in the balance available is £21,369. This provides a dividend of 5 per cent. on the preferred and ordinary shares, with £1,831 carried forward. Two sailing vessels were sold during the year for sums in excess of their book value, so that including the depreciation allowance, the value of the fleet and refrigerators has been reduced by £61,436 to £664,974. Against this the renewal, repair, and boiler fund now stands at £70,000, and there is a dividend equalising fund of £20,000, meaning a pretty comfortable position. Moreover, a large part of these savings seems to be kept away from the business, as the company has investments to the amount of £65,378. Details, however, are not given, and the investments may be merely in kindred companies. Floating liabilities are rather heavily adverse, as £81,453 is owing to sundry creditors and £14,149 on bills payable, against debtors £31,039, bills receivable £1,864, and cash £13,552.

THOMAS TILLING, LIMITED.

No information is given in the report for the year ended December 31 regarding either the number of motor-omnibuses employed or the results obtained from them, and the shareholders are only told that motor vehicles have been substituted

for horse-drawn omnibuses on the routes considered necessary in the interests of the business. The change, however, would appear to have been beneficial, as the gross income from all sources increased by £4,386 to £434,989, but expenses unfortunately were no less than £10,869 heavier at £398,716, owing chiefly to the relatively high price of forage, and the nett revenue, including £27,161 brought in, showed a reduction of £6,422 at £63,434. Out of this the usual £1,500 is added to reserve, but only £1,000 is put to a leases surrender account against £5,000 set aside for conversion of premises last year, and even then the dividend has to be cut down from 10 per cent. to 8 per cent., leaving £27,434 to be carried forward. With this addition the reserve fund stands at £17,500—not a very grand provision considering that goodwill and “times” are valued at no less than £117,001. Horse-drawn and motor vehicles are lumped together in one item at £37,288, and should have been stated separately if shareholders are to get any clear idea of the position, especially as the directors do not disclose their views as to what constitutes proper depreciation. Horse stock, although £17,883 down, still looks heavy at £23,057, and harness, stable sundries, &c., are valued at £22,719, but as no information is vouchsafed as to the number of omnibuses and other vehicles owned it is impossible to form any opinion with regard to these items. Trade creditors come to £32,518 against £56,154 to come in from sundry debtors, and as cash is up £6,123 to £30,390, while the company holds investments of £23,504 apart from the securities of £16,000 representing the reserve, the position is sound enough. Freehold properties are valued at £57,831 and leasehold properties less sinking fund at £45,982.

KALGOORLIE ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS, LIMITED (WESTERN AUSTRALIA).

This company made a certain amount of progress during the year to December 31 last. Number of passengers carried was 683,827, or 74,438 more than in the preceding 12 months, meaning an increase on the car mileage of 74,438 to 683,827. Total receipts, including car advertising, were £53,413 compared with £48,867, and the expenses in Kalgoorlie came to £35,045 against £32,139, so that the nett profit improves from £16,718 to £18,367. Earnings per car mile in 1905 worked out at 18.74d., a reduction of 0.50d. compared with 1904, but the expenses were less by 0.35d. at 12.30d., meaning a very slight decline in the ratio between expenditure and income to 65.61 per cent. During the latter portion of the year the company was assisted with a slight reduction in the price of power paid to the power company, and it is hoped that a satisfactory arrangement will be arrived at whereby this is still further reduced during the current period. Units consumed in 1905 numbered 909,597, costing £14,223, against 832,553 at a cost of £13,876 in 1904. From all sources the revenue was £53,512, and, including cost of London administration, the expenditure was £37,570, leaving the nett balance at £15,942. Out of this interest on “A” and “B” debenture stock and trustee’s fees required £11,150, leaving £4,792, which is carried forward as it would not suffice to pay even a 2 per cent. dividend on the share capital of £250,000. Moreover, no reserves are yet possessed, and they must be built up if the company is to grow strong, because capital expenditure is exceedingly heavy at £450,756. That includes £10,655 added during the year and nothing has been written off. Under these circumstances the dividend-paying stage can hardly be reached for some time yet, although it may be noted that the new arrangements made with the power company will mean a saving of something like £4,000 a year.

WARNER ESTATE, LIMITED.

No new houses were taken over during the year ended March 31, but this company appears to have met with greater success in letting its properties, and the income from rents rose by £3,006 to £63,654, but interest and dividends yielded rather less, so that the increase in the gross revenue was £2,787 at £65,210. Expenses and interest, however, were very much heavier, partly no doubt because it has been found necessary to borrow £100,000 on mortgage at 4 per cent. from the United Kingdom Temperance and General Provident Institution, and the nett revenue came to £24,856 against £25,100. The balance brought forward, too, was £790 smaller at £1,491, so that the amount available for distribution was £1,034 down at £26,347, but the dividend is maintained at 6 per cent., and after writing off £1,383 for expenses in connection with the mortgage £1,796 is put to reserve against £4,601 transferred a year ago, and £1,371 is carried forward. During the year £4,020 in preference shares and £2,616 in ordinary shares were issued, and the premiums received amounting, less expenses, to £204 were added to reserve, but even with this addition that fund comes to no more than £63,000, against properties valued at £585,608. Sundry creditors, including £4,997 for preference dividends, are £425 down at £5,780, and sundry debtors show an increase of £251 to £1,694, but cash has dropped £8,847 to £7,633. The company, however, holds investments at cost, valued at £31,567, and has £53,000 of the amount borrowed on mortgage in temporary investments.

SAN JORGE NITRATE CO., LIMITED.

A very severe decline to £28,708 took place in this company’s profits for the year 1905, but it must be remembered that the earnings for the preceding twelve months were exceptionally large. Adding £823 for interest and transfer fees, the total credit is £29,531, from which London expenses take £3,034 and income-tax and loss in exchange £2,607, leaving £23,889, which

is raised to £26,731 by the balance brought forward. An interim dividend of 2½ per cent. has been already paid, and the directors now propose a final payment of 5 per cent. making 7½ per cent. for the year, placing £2,500 to reserve and carrying forward fully £1,000 less at £1,731. The directors express satisfaction at the renewal of the restriction compact for a further period of three years, and their gratification is easily understandable, because unlimited production might have had a serious effect upon the company’s fortunes. Very trifling additions were made to the property account during the year, raising it to £292,444, but the depreciation allowance seems small, even though it does raise the total of the account to £50,000. Sundry creditors are not very heavy at £13,525, and a fair quantity of liquid assets are provided by cash £28,704, bills receivable £10,799, sundry debtors £4,099, stocks and stores £30,058, and nitrate sold but not shipped £7,063. The company is interested to the extent of £600 in a concern known as the Economic Fuel Syndicate, and it will be interesting to have some further details of this enterprise.

SAN DONATO NITRATE CO., LIMITED.

Including interest and transfer fees of £622, this company’s profits for the twelve months ended December 31 were £15,517 or £2,266 more than in 1904, and after providing “stoppage” expenses of £851 the nett balance is £14,666. Add to that the sum of £4,678 brought in, and the total for disposal is £19,344 against £17,677. The directors, however, do not propose an increase in the dividend, which will remain at 5 per cent., another £3,000 being allowed for depreciation and £2,000 added to the reserve fund. The balance carried forward is then largely increased to £6,344. By the way, we think the directors might submit their statement in clearer fashion. The jumbling up of last year’s allocations with those of the period under review leads to confusion, and is moreover a nuisance. Depreciation written off to date is £46,000, leaving the property valuation at £138,538, against which there is a reserve fund of £13,000. Otherwise the financial position can be described as only fair, because the rather considerable sum of £16,320 is owing to sundry creditors against debtors of £155. Stocks, however, are valued at £20,682, bills receivable are £4,404 and cash reaches £24,894, from which the final dividend has to be provided.

NUWARA ELIYA TEA ESTATES CO., LIMITED.

Although the crop for the year ended December 31 fell short of the estimated quantity and was even 94,512 lbs. under that of 1904 at 1,417,887 lbs. the decrease was partially neutralised by an advance of 0.63d. to 8.41d. in the average price obtained, and nett profits showed a small improvement of £476 at £19,931. To this was added £3,653 or £254 more brought in, giving an available total of £20,279 against £19,652, and after writing off the usual £2,000 for depreciation the dividend is maintained at the 7 per cent. to which it was raised in 1903 and £4,279 is carried forward. Expenditure on capital account amounted to £1,391, so that after deducting the £2,000 from revenue and £230 received as compensation for damage by Government railway construction the property account was only reduced by £839 to £233,760, representing a cost of £90 per cultivated acre, a figure which seems decidedly high even allowing for the fact that last year the profit per bearing acre worked out at £7 14s. 4d. Sundry creditors are £266 up at £4,492, against which stocks are down £1,711 at £5,338, but cash is £2,731 higher at £8,462 and sundry debtors have risen by £78 to £223. Coast advances have not increased to the same extent as last year, but are still £273 up at £7,890. Of the £23,000 6 per cent. debentures which matured on January 1 last £17,900 have been renewed for fifteen years at 5 per cent. and the remaining £5,100 have been paid off.

EASTERN PRODUCE AND ESTATES CO., LIMITED.

The crop of tea for the year ended December 31 showed a further large increase of 329,659 lbs. at 4,511,852 lbs., and at the same time there was a recovery of 0.21d. to 6.89d. per lb. in the average price. In addition 12,515 lbs. of rubber were secured, realising 6s. per lb., and, with the proceeds from cocoa, &c., the income was £16,072 up at £135,601, but a much smaller balance of £1,294 was brought forward, giving a total of £136,895, compared with £125,646. Of this £102,449, or £9,456 more, was spent on the estate, and London office charges took £8,551, but with an increase of £2,501 to £27,703 in the value of stocks on hand, the balance available was £2,750 up at £28,396. All the debentures having been cancelled during the previous year, the whole of this amount was available for distribution, and after meeting the preference dividend the dividend on the ordinary shares is raised by another 1½ per cent. to 6 per cent., and £5,000 is again put to reserve, leaving £2,501, or £1,207 more, to be carried forward. The company now has 555 acres planted with 106,000 rubber trees, as well as 125,000 trees interplanted throughout 1,084 acres of other products, and it is estimated that of these 12,000 will be available for tapping this year. Expenditure on the estates during the year was £1,673, making a total of £359,184, while the reserve, after 19 years, only comes to £35,000, or barely 10 per cent. A small reduction, however, is made on balance in the value of buildings and machinery, as against £3,601 spent £4,464 is written off for depreciation, bringing the item down to £18,952. Liabilities to sundry creditors and on bills payable have risen by £526 to £54,816, and sundry debtors are £765 down at £19,029, but stocks are £2,501 higher at £27,703, and cash is £1,553 larger at £7,819. Advances against produce show an increase of

£5,769 to £14,998, and coast advances come to £1,514 more at £9,206.

YATYANTOTA, CEYLON, TEA CO., LIMITED.

A more favourable season gave this company an increase of 115,490 lbs. to 1,603,619 lbs. in its own crop, while 11,101 lbs., or 7,220 lbs. more, were made from bought leaf, but one of the factories was destroyed by fire, and its contents totally lost, and this apparently had some bearing on the results obtained for the year, as, including the insurance recovery, the net average price for the tea came to 4.72d., compared with 4.86d. The rubber crop, including the insurance on 1,880 lbs. destroyed by fire, yielded an average of 5s. 3d. per lb. on a total of 8,212 lbs., and with this help the net profits were brought out at £8,125, or £1,398 more. Adding £2,368 from the previous account, the amount available was £825 up at £10,493, out of which £1,000 is written off for depreciation, and the shareholders receive 5 per cent., or 1 per cent. more, leaving £2,293 to be carried forward. Floating liabilities have gone up by £6,052 to £7,711, but produce on hand is £613 higher at £9,465. Cash stands at £4,563 more at £7,043, and there is £1,447 to come in from the insurance companies on working account, apart from the amount due on capital account, which has not yet been adjusted. Coast advances have risen by another £1,179, and now reach £6,621, a figure which seems far too heavy.

SUNNYGAMA (CEYLON) TEA ESTATES CO., LIMITED.

Including 16,530 lbs. of bought leaf, the output for 1905 was 15,164 lbs. larger at 1,177,878 lbs., all of which, with the exception of 155,296 lbs. of low-grade tea sold in Ceylon, was sent to London, where it realised an average of 5.43d. per lb. This meant a considerable reduction in net profits, which amounted to £4,058 only, compared with £5,885, and with £178 brought in and £44 from interest, &c., the total available of £4,279 was £1,775 less, so that, after providing for debenture interest and preference dividend the ordinary shares have to be content with 5 per cent., against 7 and 8 per cent. in the two preceding years, and £397 is carried forward. The directors are devoting more and more attention to rubber cultivation, and have purchased 445 acres of land adjoining the present estates, which are considered suitable for the growth of rubber, and 260 acres are to be planted during the current year, making 485 acres in rubber alone and 1,752 acres planted in the tea. It is estimated that the expenditure by the end of this year will be £8,500, of which £4,907 has been met out of the balance of capital and reserve over block, and it is now proposed to raise £5,000 by an issue of second charge debentures for that amount, redeemable in five years. The company appears to be contemplating giving up the cultivation of tea altogether in the near future, and obtained a report on the prospects from Mr. F. J. Holloway, of Kipitigalla. That gentleman speaks very favourably of the outlook, but insists that the choice must be made between tea and rubber, and points out that when worked on a large scale each rubber tree has given £1 per annum with rubber at 6s. per lb., which he argues is equal to a profit of 3 cents per lb. on an average of 500 lbs. of made tea per acre. That something will have to be done by this company is very evident, as the block account has never been written down at all, and stands at £72,490, apart from the Rs.4,632 spent on rubber account, while the reserve consists of a mere trifle of £2,000. Sundry creditors and bills payable are heavy at £8,813, against which debtors come to £1,353, and stocks on hand are valued at £4,962, while cash has been reduced to £2,386, and of this £1,700 is required for the dividends just declared.

PANAWAL TEA CO., LIMITED.

With 37,788 lbs. more at 310,030 lbs. in the crop for 1905, the gross receipts rose by £222 to £6,548, but freight and warehouse charges were £245 heavier at £722, so that the net revenue was £23 less at £5,826, and with a decrease in other receipts the total was only £5,895, compared with £5,930. Expenses in Ceylon and London both required more, and as the company had to pay out £16 for interest and commission, against £13 received a year ago, the disposable balance showed a drop of £143 at £952, and after meeting preference dividend and writing £106 off estates the dividend on the ordinary shares was again reduced by 1½ per cent. to 3 per cent., and £16 was carried forward, against £26 brought in. The overdraft at the bankers' has been reduced by £153 to £92, but sundry creditors are £69 higher at £538, while sundry debtors are £336 lower at £23, stocks are £553 down at £1,313, and cash comes to £184 more at £555. Conjointly with two other companies, 330 acres of Crown land in the Kelani Valley, about three miles from the estate, were acquired last year, of which 180 acres has been allotted to this company. Rubber cultivation is to be undertaken on this new land, and in order to provide for the capital outlay necessary £1,000 of the securities valued at £1,895, representing the reserve fund, has been realised.

STANDARD TEA COMPANY OF CEYLON, LIMITED.

An increase of 90,129 lbs. to 1,175,359 lbs. in the crop for 1905 was accompanied by an improvement to nearly 7½d. per lb. in the average price, and the net revenue was £2,284 up at £13,728. After meeting home charges, interest, &c., the balance including £970 or £271 less brought forward was £2,026 larger at £12,921, and the company is therefore able not only to repeat its dividend at 15 per cent. but to put £1,000 to reserve and £1,800 to depreciation against £1,000 written off a year ago and still carry forward £1,196. A further reduction of £1,000 to £10,000 has been effected in loans, and sundry creditors are down £1,844 to £6,548, while, on the other hand, stocks have

been reduced by £469 to £5,223, coast advances are £248 up at £1,667 and cash comes to £8,394.

CEYLON TEA PLANTATIONS CO., LIMITED.

This company has no less than 8,406 acres of tea bearing land, and last year secured the largest crop gathered since 1900, the output being 319,092 lbs. over that of the previous season at 4,068,269 lbs., but tea made from bought leaf and manufactured for others both fell off, so that the increase in the total output was 259,565 lbs. at 4,656,648 lbs. Although the average price obtained was only a trifle higher at 7.43d. the heavier crop gave an improvement of £10,450 at £122,852 in the revenue from sales, and as cocoanuts, in spite of a further shrinkage in the number gathered, yielded £9,732 or £815 more and commissions, &c., brought in £7,068 against £6,528 the total income, including £7,432 from the previous account, was £11,677 up at £147,084. Expenses absorbed £100,447 of this leaving a nett balance of £46,637 compared with £40,431, and after paying a dividend of 15 per cent. for the nineteenth consecutive year the directors are able to write off £4,000 or £1,500 more for depreciation and to resume their appropriation to reserve after a lapse of five years with £6,000 leaving £6,138 to be carried forward. This is certainly a better result than the shareholders have been accustomed to see of late, but it is nothing much to boast of, and the board would have been wiser if it had broken away from its cherished delusion that a high dividend spells prosperity and devoted more serious attention to putting the balance-sheet in order. Cost of tea estates stands at £275,869 and the cocoanut estates and mills forming part of the reserve investments stand at their original figure of £72,160, although for the past three years at least we have been told that the harvest has been dwindling. A sum of £4,591 has been spent on rubber lands cultivation, but this seems very reasonable, as the company now has 307,495 trees planted and last year secured a crop of 3,685 lbs. against 520 in 1904. Floating liabilities, however, continue to increase, and on December 31 amounted to £11,629 more at £107,730, against which debtors were £1,462 up at £26,286 and stocks were £7,715 larger at £36,578, while cash was comparatively trifling at £2,306. Advances to coolies are much too heavy at £14,667 or an increase of £2,585, and advances against shipments of produce also seem disproportionate at £18,261.

AIBHEEL TEA CO., LIMITED.

This Indian tea company did not obtain very satisfactory results from its estates during the year ended December 31, as although the crop was 17,335 lbs. larger at 366,989 lbs. the quality was inferior and the average price dropped from 5.35d. to 5.30d., while the cost of production rose by 0.06d. to 4.93d. The surplus on working was therefore only £33 up at £563, but £354 or £134 more was brought forward, giving a total available, after making sundry adjustments, of £926, compared with £774, out of which the preference dividend is paid, £200 is put to reserve and the ordinary shares receive 2½ per cent. leaving £6 to be carried forward. Nothing has been written off for depreciation, while the reserve with the present addition only comes to £3,000 against an outlay of £19,200, and even this is all in the business. Current liabilities have been reduced by £605 to £2,720 and sundry debtors are £393 up at £890, but stocks are £172 smaller at £2,687 and cash has shrunk from £2,100 to £680.

AUGUSTA TEA ESTATES CO., LIMITED.

This little company managed to gather 2,189 lbs. more at 130,722 lbs. during the year ended December 31, but it did not benefit by the larger crop as the average price fell from 5.84d. to 5.53d. per lb. and nett profits were £141 down at £299. Balance brought in, too, was £56 less at £27, giving a total of £326 against £524, and as debenture interest and other charges required £343 even the preference shares have to go without their dividend and a debit of £17 was carried forward. Sundry creditors have gone up by £311 to £532, to meet which the company can only show a very doubtful asset of £166 for coast advances outstanding.

RAGALLA TEA ESTATES, LIMITED.

Better fortune attended the working of this company's estates during the twelve months ended December 31, and along with an increase of 69,007 lbs. to 732,543 lbs. in the crop 7.29d. or 0.61d. per lb. more was secured, with the result that gross receipts were £3,809 higher at £23,021. After providing for all charges and writing off the usual £400 for depreciation the nett profits, including £563 brought forward, were £3,733 larger at £6,396, and the directors promptly restore the ordinary shares to the dividend-paying list with a distribution of 7 per cent. This does not absorb all the available balance, as the directors have learnt a little prudence and set aside £1,000 to form a reserve fund and carry forward £566, but they might nevertheless have been content to declare a more modest dividend until they had further strengthened the position. A sum of £794 was spent on capital account in 1905, apparently on rubber planting, so that in spite of the allowance for depreciation and £135 received from sale of land the cost of estates has gone up to £107,484 or over £66 10s. per cultivated acre, and the only reserve consists of the amount now set aside. Sundry creditors come to £2,803 less at £3,100, against which stocks are £449 lower at £3,154 and sundry debtors show a trifling increase at £336. Cash has risen by £551 to £2,223, but £1,738 is due for debenture interest and preference dividend and the dividend now declared will require £2,730. Coast advances, too, are heavy at £1,371, and we should like to be sure that they are all good.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

AUCKLAND ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS.

The eighth ordinary general meeting of the Auckland Electric Tramways, Limited, was held on Tuesday at the offices, Donington House, Norfolk Street, W.C., Mr. C. G. Tegetmeier (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. F. Herring) read the notice and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman: It is very gratifying to the directors to be able to place before the shareholders a statement of the year's operations which shows such very satisfactory results, and which points clearly to the continued progress and prosperity of the company—a prosperity which already more than realises the anticipations formed when the company was started. This is the first year that we have had a full year's working of our system as at present constructed, and the traffic receipts for the year show that we have taken a little over £6,500 per route mile. Our traffic receipts for the year amounted to £121,879, an increase of £11,305 over the previous year. We ran 109,181 more car miles and carried 1,743,342 more passengers. It is satisfactory to find that the increase in the car mileage run is accompanied by an increase in the average receipts per car mile and a decrease in the average expenses. The population of Auckland and suburbs is about 70,000 persons, and during the year we carried nearly 20,000,000 passengers; that is to say, we carried the whole population more than 280 times, and received in fares an amount equal approximately to £1 14s. per head of the men, women, and children in the community. I have referred on previous occasions to exceptional numbers of passengers carried on specific days. Last year supplies a fresh record in this direction, for on one special day, Christmas Eve, we carried no fewer than 109,017 passengers. These figures are altogether in excess of the results we are accustomed to or even hope for in this country, and the explanation may be sought in the very different social conditions that prevail in New Zealand. The profit and loss account shows that our nett profit for the year amounted to £20,919. This amount is arrived at after providing for debenture interest and all other expenses chargeable to revenue, including £2,683 for rental and percentage of profits payable to the Auckland City Council, and after setting aside £13,949 to meet depreciation, which will bring the reserve and depreciation account to £32,000. Including the £3,098 brought forward, we have a balance of £24,018 to deal with, and we propose to pay a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. on the share capital, which will absorb £21,000, and to carry forward £3,018. The proportion of expenses to receipts works out at 58 per cent., as compared with 60 per cent. for the previous year. Power and running expenses show an increase of £1,082, owing to the increased number of car miles run. The expenditure on repairs and maintenance, £17,554, is practically the same as in the previous year, and although last year's figures included expenditure on various exceptional items, I do not think we can expect to see much reduction, if any, in this amount in the future. It is only natural that the expenditure in this respect will tend to increase with the increased life of the undertaking. Our system is worked to a very high degree of its capacity. The 20,000,000 passengers carried last year were carried by an average of less than 50 cars in service, and each working car averaged throughout the year 150 miles per day. Under these conditions the wear and tear of the permanent way, rolling stock, and electrical equipment must be correspondingly great, and the cost of all materials and of labour used in repairs and maintenance is very much greater than in this country. With regard to the £13,949 set aside out of revenue to meet depreciation, I feel confident that the shareholders will agree with the wisdom of this step, and that they will endorse the policy that the directors propose to adopt of making annual provision for this purpose. Ordinary expenditure on repairs and maintenance to an extent necessary to keep the whole of the undertaking in first-class order and condition is provided out of current year's revenue, but there comes a time when extraordinary expenditure for renewals and reconstructions has to be incurred. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

This was seconded and carried unanimously.

EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

The annual general meeting of the Equitable Life Assurance Society was held on Thursday at the office in Mansion House Street, E.C., Sir Samuel Hoare, Bart. (the President), occupying the chair.

The Actuary and Secretary (Mr. George J. Lidstone, F.I.A.) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The President, after referring to the lamented death of Mr. Richard Twining, went on to say that the new business of the year consisted of 290 policies, assuring a total amount of £274,460, with deferred annuities amounting to £416 per annum. Reassurances were effected with other offices to the amount of £17,500, leaving the net new sums assured amounting to £256,960, and the net new premiums amounted to £10,855, including £1,777 in single premiums. The number of policies issued showed an increase of 12½ per cent. over the corresponding number for 1904, and the average sums assured, although slightly under the average for 1904, reached the satisfactory amount of £946. The new business of the year was larger both as regarded the number of policies issued and the total sums

assured than in any of the preceding five years. That was the more satisfactory when it was remembered that the first year of a new quinquennium was usually a comparatively lean one, because a number of proposals which would otherwise have been included in the year's business were completed at the end of the preceding year—that is, immediately before the declaration of bonus, thus benefiting the last year of one quinquennium at the expense of the first year of the next. While the new business was not large compared with that obtained by some of the largest commission-paying offices, it remained of that remarkable high quality which the Equitable had always been fortunate in securing. The board were satisfied that in the best interests of the members it was wiser to obtain a moderate amount of business of the highest class and at a very low cost rather than seek a large volume of business of a less select class and at a greatly increased expense. Nevertheless, the board would continue to take every opportunity of enlarging the operations of the society and of extending its advantages to as many newcomers as could be secured consistently with a due regard to the quality of the business and the economy of management, and they cordially invited the members to co-operate with them to that end. The new annuity business of the year consisted of 26 policies, securing £1,143 per annum, of which the total purchase money amounted to £11,897, an amount below the average of recent years. The directors resolved for the past year and in the future to bring all the claims into the accounts for the year in which death occurred, whether proof of death had been actually received or not at the end of the year. The result of bringing in this adjustment for the first time was to cause a considerable and abnormal increase in the year's claims, but the total claims, inclusive of the special adjustment of £69,738, were within the amount expected and provided for in the society's valuations. Referring to the revenue account, he said the premium income had been maintained, showing a slight increase over the amount for 1904. The interest received was at the rate of £3 15s. 4d. per cent. of the total funds of the society, and the nett interest received, after deduction of income-tax, was £3 11s. 6d. per cent. Those rates showed a slight improvement over those for the previous year, and they were about ¼ per cent. higher than the corresponding rate five years ago. The society, in common with other light offices, was heavily burdened by the present heavy rate of income-tax. The funds of the society amounted at the close of the year to £4,846,731, or £67,721 less than at the beginning of the year. This reduction was more than accounted for by the adjustment for claims "announced but not admitted"—brought into the accounts for the first time, as already explained—and by the payment of large amounts of cash bonuses (£32,443). Taking one year with another, the funds showed a very satisfactory increase, and during the past ten years the aggregate increase had been over £500,000. The funds in hand, after deducting the amount set against annuities, represented no less than 74 per cent. of the total original sums assured in force at the end of the year, or 58 per cent. of the total amount at risk at the end of the year, including bonus additions. In accordance with the practice introduced last year, the society's special reserve, amounting to £496,999, was now shown separately in the accounts. This reserve represented the surplus of assets over liabilities at the last valuation, after providing for the new bonus then declared. The annual income derived from this fund was in itself more than sufficient to pay their very moderate expenses of management, so that every penny of premium paid to the society was available for the benefit of the policy-holders. In conclusion, the Chairman formally moved the adoption of the report and accounts, which was carried unanimously.

THOMAS TILLING, LIMITED.

The ninth annual general meeting of Thomas Tilling, Limited, was held, on Thursday, at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr R. S. Tilling (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr C. Loveridge) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: I think that all things considered we may take it that the year's trading has been a very satisfactory one. (Hear, hear.) We have earned a smaller dividend, but the causes are easy to explain, and thoroughly easy to understand. They are two in number. One is that the cost of forage has been abnormally high, and the other is that we have had to exchange a certain portion of our horse business for motor traction. Taking the cost of forage to begin with, the extra amount we have had to pay is equal to 2 per cent. on our ordinary shares. As to the substitution of motor for horse traction, this, of course, to a certain extent, results in a loss; but we have made up our minds as far as possible to meet that loss out of current expenditure, and this we have done during the past

The Compañia Sansinena de Carnes Congeladas

GIVE NOTICE THAT

In conformity with the Resolution passed at the General Meeting held in Buenos Ayres on the 31st March last, a dividend of 10 per cent. for the year ended 31st December, 1905, will be paid at the Offices of the Company, 13-16, Long Lane, West Smithfield, E.C., on and after the 3rd instant, on presentation of Shares for endorsement of the dividend.

Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co. will remit dividend by Warrant to all Shareholders on their Register.

May 1st, 1906.

year. Of course, when you meet this out of current expenditure, you meet it out of the dividend on the ordinary shares, but as the ordinary shares are all held by the directors it is your directors who have to pay for it. Turning to the balance-sheet, and taking the debit side first, you will see that we owe our creditors £5,800 more, but we have £6,100 more in cash, which balances it. Our reserve fund stands at £16,000, all invested in securities outside the business, and if we add another £1,500, as we propose to do to-day, it will stand at £17,500, which will be similarly invested. You will find that on last year's balance-sheet we put aside a sum of £5,000 out of previous profits for premises conversion. We have to convert some of our premises to suit the new motor business, and we have spent about £2,000 of that amount. On the credit side you will find that the stock of forage and unissued stores is higher than it was in the previous year, because it includes unissued motor carriages which are built by ourselves for chassis not yet delivered, but which are on order. You will find that the amount credited to horses stands at a lower figure, in consequence of the conversion to motors. The amount standing to the credit of vehicles is, of course, higher, because of the motors in stock. This would have been much higher but for the fact that we have written them down very drastically, as we want to be on the safe side. You will also find that machinery stands at a higher amount, because, of course, we have had to provide a good many machines for our motor business. The value of freehold premises is higher, because we have built new freehold premises at Eltham in place of an old leasehold which we have had there for years. In building the new place we have adapted it for motors in case they should be wanted in that neighbourhood. The leasehold properties have also increased in value, because the place we had originally at Peckham, which was known as the Old Bull Yard, and which we had there over 60 years ago, we have now converted entirely into a motor place, and we have improved the value of it very much indeed. You may perhaps like an expression of opinion from the directors as to the future of horse and motor traction. In my opinion, there is now a very large field for the use of horses, and for that portion of the trade we mean to cater to the best of our ability. There is also a certain section of the horse trade which will be replaced by motor traction, and we intend to cater for that also. I do not think there is anything else that I can say that will interest you, except that you will find in the report that we propose to increase the number of directors from five to six. In our articles of association we provided for five directors. You will see that we have already filled up two places by the appointment of your late secretary, my eldest son, who has been working in the business ever since he left school, and also of his cousin, Mr Walter Wolsey, jun., who has also been working in the business. Both of them thoroughly understand it, and both have been employed really as managing directors. The alteration we propose will not make any difference in the expenses of management, but we have considered it right to define the position of these young men, who have been very instrumental in keeping us abreast of the times. (Hear, hear.) The Chairman concluded by formally moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

This was seconded by Mr. Walter Wolsey, and carried unanimously.

GLENCOE (NATAL) COLLIERIES.—In the 12 months to December 31 last the output of coal was 118,429 tons, compared with 75,575 tons in 1904, but the average price was lower. The profit, after deducting all ordinary outgoings, amounted to £26,802, an increase of £8,245. Out of this £6,334 is allowed for depreciation, and the balance of preliminary expenditure and development accounts, £3,164, is written off, leaving a nett profit of £14,188, a balance of £12,090 being brought from the previous accounts. A dividend of 5 per cent.—1s. per share—was paid on July 19, and £14,678 is taken to the next accounts. During the year the capital of the company was increased to £250,000 by the issue of the 10,000 reserve shares at par.

THE
MAZAWATTEE
Record
Tea Duty Cheque,
£85,862 8s. 8d.
Represented over
"ONE THOUSAND MILLION"
Cups of this
DELICIOUS TEA.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and April 28, 1906:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

		Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to Apr. 28, 1906.	into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to Apr. 29, 1905.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£	9,334,212	6,352,909
Bank of Ireland	—	1,117,275	1,077,369
		10,451,487	7,430,278
REVENUE.			
Customs	—	2,320,000	2,425,000
Excise	—	2,107,000	2,169,000
Estate, &c., Duties	—	1,068,000	1,202,000
Stamps	—	622,000	719,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	—	240,000	300,000
Property and Income Tax ..	—	2,968,000	3,203,000
Post Office	—	970,000	950,000
Telegraph Service	—	310,000	290,000
Crown Lands	—	50,000	50,000
Receipts from Suez Canal	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	—	253,874	254,272
*Revenue	—	10,908,874	11,623,272
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Total, including balance		21,360,361	19,053,550
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	—	50,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905	—	—	530,000
Total		21,360,361	19,633,550
*Revenue as above			
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	—	15,021	14,160
Excise	—	152,000	152,000
Estate, &c., Duties	—	343,000	343,000
Total		510,021	509,160
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation		11,418,895	12,132,432

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

		Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to Apr. 28, 1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to Apr. 29, 1905.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£	5,348,336	5,278,765
Other Consolidated Fund Services	—	228,058	223,571
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	—	90,000	90,000
Supply Services	—	6,807,719	8,513,821
Expenditure		12,474,113	14,106,157
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		450,000	—
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		45,000	45,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount)		2,000,000	—
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		—	13,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		25,000	35,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		112,965	—
		15,107,078	14,199,157
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	1906. Apr. 28. £	5,440,701	4,593,256
Bank of Ireland	1905. Apr. 29. £	812,582	841,157
		6,253,283	5,434,393
Total		21,360,361	19,633,550

Treasury, May 1, 1906.

RAWORTH'S TRACTION PATENTS, LIMITED.

This small company was formed in December, 1904, and now submits accounts for 14 months, made up to the close of last year. During the period the revenue was £4,428, and the expenses £2,523, so that after writing off £530 against experiments and development of business, £98 from preliminary expenses, and £9 off office furniture, the balance over is £1,269. This provides the dividend of 6 per cent. on the amounts paid up on the preferred ordinary shares and 4 per cent. on the deferred ordinary shares given to the vendor in part consideration of the purchase price. A balance of £273 remains to be carried forward. Patents and goodwill are valued in the balance-sheet at £18,687, against a paid-up capital of £22,667, and fairly substantial reserves will be necessary if the company is to grow strong and be ready for expansion when opportunity offers. Preliminary expenses have been reduced to £200, and the experiments and development of business to £400. Expenditure on work in progress amounts to £1,084, and against creditors of £1,111 debtors owe £1,662 and cash reaches £738.

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The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

The Investors' Review.

Lord Cromer's Latest Report on Egypt.

In an interesting article contributed to last Saturday's *Manchester Guardian*, Mr. Wilfrid Scawen Blunt says that Lord Cromer's Egyptian reports always remind him of the first chapter of Genesis, where we read "the Lord saw everything that he had made, and he saw that it was very good." But there is ample ground for Lord Cromer's optimism if we look merely at the economic progress of Egypt since English administrators took firm hold of it twenty-three years ago. In the matter of population alone the country has made remarkable progress. In ancient times the number of inhabitants, Lord Cromer says, is estimated to have amounted to about 8,000,000. Under the blight of Turkish domination the total fell to between 2,500,000 and 3,000,000. The census of 1882, however, showed a total population of 6,814,000, so that the blight notwithstanding, a marked tendency to increase had been exhibited before the administration of the country fell definitely into English hands. By 1897, however, the total had risen to 9,734,000, and it cannot be doubted that the census of 1907 will show a considerable further increase. Such increase could not take place if the country were in a state of unrest or its population harassed by the arbitrary exactions of Turkish pashas and native moneylenders.

As it is the country has not only grown in population, but in productiveness, until the exports have risen, to take the years tabulated in Lord Cromer's report alone, from £13,442,000 in 1896 to £20,360,000 in 1905. Still more remarkable is the expansion in imports which have risen within the same dates from £9,829,000 to £21,564,000. The increase in imports, in fact, amounts to about 119.39 per cent. within a period of ten years, whereas the increase in exports is only about 51.69 per cent., and the disproportionate expansion of imports is a matter which evidently gives Egyptian administrators considerable grounds for anxiety. How is it produced, and what will its consequences be? As Mr. L. G. Roussin points out in his interesting memorandum on the balance of trade appended to Lord Cromer's report, Egypt is a debtor country, and will continue so for generations to come. As a debtor country it must pay tribute in the form of exports for the interest due to its creditors, and although this movement may be concealed during the period of borrowing it must reappear in all its force when that borrowing falls off. Is Egypt, then, being over-developed at the present time by help of foreign capital? That is the question, and we fear no categorical answer can as yet be given to it, but the fact that the country's imports have swelled out until they, all allowance made for concealed offsets, sometimes exceed the value of the exports and re-exports together, is a warning to optimists not to be unmindful of the signs of coming changes in the direction of economic exhaustion or, at best, of pause in progress.

In the matter of revenue and expenditure the progress of Egypt under English rule has been even more remarkable than in the growth of foreign trade. There has been a continuous reduction in the burden of taxation during the past twenty-five years, and yet the revenue has risen from £9,000,000 to £14,800,000, which was the figure for 1905. At the same time, there

has been a steady nett decrease in the burden and bulk of the public debt. The maximum of that debt was reached in 1891 when the total was £106,802,000, the charge for interest and sinking fund being at that time £4,127,000 or £141,000 less than the total in 1883. At the end of last year the total of the debt had been reduced to £96,484,000, and the charge for interest and sinking fund to £3,709,000, these reductions having taken place partly through the readjustments of interest, the 5 per cent. privileged debt having been reduced in 1890 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., although that reduction was accompanied by an increase of £7,000,000 in the capital thereof. Other issues of new debt have also taken place, but the Domains Loan, which in 1883 amounted to £8,225,000, has been reduced mainly by the sale of property to £1,535,000 and the Daira loan has been entirely liquidated, knocking £9,900,000 off the capital of the national debt. These reductions, however, have been offset to a large extent by the capital provided to pay for the properties disposed of, and to that extent the burdens upon the people of Egypt have only been shifted, not removed. The charges met directly by the Government are less, but the aggregate load upon the Egyptian people is probably considerably more, and every year witnesses a further increase.

Take as an example the operations of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt, which had at the end of last year £5,914,000 lent out on mortgage to the Egyptian cultivators. This money may perhaps be regarded as capital employed to dislodge the usurious native moneylender, and it undoubtedly has been of immense value in this way to the cultivator, who is able to get a small amount of capital, loans of from £20 upwards, at a much more reasonable rate of interest than was formerly possible. But the interest he pays now goes to the foreign usurer instead of the native. In other directions, moreover, the obligations of Egypt have risen in a remarkable manner. The share and debenture capital and reserves of the mortgage banks have been swollen out from £7,263,000 in 1901 to £29,749,000 in 1905. In 1901 there were only two mortgage banks in Egypt, whereas there are now six. Some £8,000,000 of this increase is due to a financial operation between the Daira Sanieh Company and the Credit Foncier, by which the Credit Foncier took over the Daira Sanieh debts, but even so the growth is remarkable, and all the nett increase is probably foreign money poured into the country. A further illustration is found in the growth of the purely Egyptian deposit banks, whose liabilities have risen from £7,456,000 in 1901 to £19,604,000 in 1905, but this increase should perhaps be set down mainly to domestic savings, and taken as proof of the prosperity of the people under British rule. Of late years, however, foreign money has been invested in all sorts of enterprises within Egypt—light railways, hotels, river steamers, land reclamation, the unprofitable cultivation of sugar, and so on. Hence the stimulus given to the import trade, and a point must be reached at which it will cease to be profitable to pour European money in this fashion into the country. That point may still be a long way off, but it is none the less ominous of coming trouble that the foreign trade of the country should be so unhealthily stimulated at the present time.

And the apparent prosperity of Egypt is in other respects not quite so well established as we should like to see it. The people are spreading over the land more and more, and the small cultivators form an enormous majority of the working population, but they depend to an unwholesome extent upon one crop—cotton. In the past year, for example, cotton and cotton seed represented 86 per cent. of the total exports, and much of the prosperity of Egypt in the last few years has arisen through the high prices obtained for this cotton and cotton seed. These high prices may not continue, are almost certain not to continue, and in the meantime there is evidence of over-cropping in the diminished yield per area planted. The total crop for 1904-5, for instance, was smaller than that for the present year,

and smaller than the crop for 1901-2, in spite of an increased area planted. The Assouan dam or reservoir has been blamed for this decrease in the yield, but evidently without justice, for, as Sir William Garstin points out, the storage of the water in the reservoir does not commence until winter when the flood water has passed off, and is effected very gradually, only the surplus water being stored. At such a period the water contains no fertilising sediment. When the sediment is coming down during the flood season the water is allowed to flow through the sluices of the reservoir without hindrance. The decrease in the yield per acre of cotton is therefore in all probability to be ascribed to over-cropping. High prices have tempted the cultivators to disregard rotation of crops, and the land has not been given sufficient rest between one crop of cotton and another, the cotton plant being nearly as exhausting to the soil as tobacco. Result, smaller yield and a crop of lower quality. The plant is also afflicted with pests, and forced labour—paid for but still forced—has had to be organised to cope with the locust plague. The moral of all this is that the people of Egypt should be taught to rely upon a greater variety of products. That their soil is capable of yielding almost anything planted thereon is beyond question, and the country will only be unassailably and durably prosperous, able to face all accidents of markets, when it has a greater variety of commodities to offer to the outside world. Much money, for instance, has been spent in sugar cultivation and refining with disastrous results. We have not space now to go into the story of the Sucreries Company, which has been declared bankrupt in consequence of its involvement in the failure of Messrs. Henry Say and Cie, of France, but the story of sugar growing and manufacture in Egypt has been a discouraging one, and the Government has had to step in and buy the Daira Company's network of railways, that company having been absorbed by the now bankrupt sugar company. Whether sugar can be made to pay in Egypt is, therefore, a point still undetermined, and that it should be so after so many years is another argument for greater variety of crops.

About the finances of the Government it is unnecessary to say much, as the figures are always put before readers in summary when first published, but we may recapitulate the more salient figures. Thus the estimates for 1905 provided for a surplus of £500,000, and the actual surplus was £2,688,000, or within about £80,000 of the entire amount spent by the Government as "extraordinary" outlay during the year. It follows that the reserve fund, after deducting £3,050,000 paid over to the Caisse de la Dette at the beginning of the year, now amounts to £12,087,707, part of this being invested in the debt of the country. For the current year the estimates again provide for a surplus of £500,000, but no further increase in the revenue is reckoned on, so that in all probability, unless an unlooked-for setback occurs, there will again be a large surplus to be devoted to public works of all kinds continually in progress. Some further remissions of taxation, however, are also provided for, including the complete abolition of the salt monopoly, the rearrangement of the ferries so as practically to abolish the monopoly in that direction also. The land tax, however, is untouched, and also the taxes upon land sales.

The sum of it all, however, is that Egypt is at the present time remarkably prosperous, and appears likely to continue so for years to come. Whether the prosperity has made the people reconciled to our rule is a question in no sense dealt with by Lord Cromer, and it is partly against this omission that Mr. Blunt directs his criticism. From his point of view our Egyptian administration is in great measure a failure, because it is an alien administration, in which the people of Egypt are not permitted to take any important share. Sundry functionaries exist called Egyptian—a Council for example—but they are entirely under the control of Lord Cromer and his excel-

lent; but perhaps too oppressively "superior" European staff. It is contended by Mr. Blunt that the Mohammedan population has been much perturbed by the high-handed proceedings of the Anglo-Indian official who has been showing himself at his best under Lord Cromer in guiding the material destinies of the country. And there was some support lent to this view by an incidental observation in Monday's *Times*. The Egyptian correspondent of that paper stated that since the ultimatum to Turkey over the Sinai Peninsula boundary dispute had been delivered, a marked change had taken place in the language used by Mohammedan preachers towards the British overlords. They had ceased to fulminate. This admission indicates that there must be friction and probably that is inevitable. It does not, however, follow that any consequences of an upsetting kind are likely to ensue, for our hold upon the country, and the hold of the mortgagees of all descriptions who have entered it under our sway, tends to prevent anything like independent action on the part of either the shadowy government of the Khedive or the people at large. And are not the fellaheen a remnant of one of the spent races of mankind, or of a succession of spent races, whose necks have too long been used to the yoke to leave them the energy to raise their heads and say, "We will be free"?

The Beauties of Rand Management.

It is a great pity the mouths of the white men employed by the bosses "in veiled rebellion" on the Rand are closed, for the world would doubtless hear many stories of iniquities and futilities as appalling as Chinese atrocities. But these white slaves have perforce to be dumb, to suffer their serfdom with the submission enforced by hunger, to endure indignities and threats worse than stripes, because articulate protest might risk ruin and starvation. Others would speak if they could, but they have not the command of language that would appeal to the unimaginative and unfeeling, their voices would but feebly echo their trials, their sufferings and thoughts. The bosses know full well the helplessness of these folk, hence they will have no political liberty on the Rand, no facilities given to their white slaves to combine. When their masters wish them to sign a declaration or pass a resolution that Chinese labour will be their own salvation, will give them more work and less pay, will put more money into the pockets of compassionate shareholders at home, will appeal powerfully to the humanity of the average usurer, will stimulate the honest greed of the market gambler, they are commanded, under threats of pains and penalties, to go forth as a submissive army, and proclaim the lie to the world. From managers downwards, none are rich enough to be as independent as Mr. Creswell, who had the strength of mind and courage to tell the world what the magnates are. However, now and again one emerges from the multitude of the sweated with the ability to tell the truth. One such has penned an eloquent description of his and others' wrongs in a letter to one of the capitalists' own organs, to wit, the *Rand Daily Mail*, where it was published, the writer having to conceal his identity under a pseudonym. That he would be dismissed for writing such a letter, independence of utterance being a crime, cannot be doubted, but the fact that such an organ has accepted and published such a letter is a tacit confession that the allegations therein are true. He thus describes the condition of things on the mine on which he is himself employed:—

Our head office administration provides a consulting engineer, a general manager, a consulting mechanical engineer, a consulting surveyor, a consulting metallurgist, a consulting chemist, a consulting electrical engineer, a mine inspector and so on. In addition, there is a managing director—who, so far as I can judge, is more a managing director in name than anything else—and a host of minor supervising officials. The manager on the mine, upon whom the actual responsibility rests, is termed a resident manager.

The real power is in the hands of the general manager, who is a go-between for the board and the resident manager. All important appointments are made by the general manager.

Mine captains, surveyors, secretaries, time-keepers, store-keepers, samplers, assayers, cyanide managers, mill managers, etc., are removed or transferred to other mines of the same group and new ones sent out without, in nine cases out of ten, the resident manager even being consulted. By volumes of written instructions the resident manager is reduced to the level of a mere machine, and if he wishes to retain his position—uncertain at the best—he must prove a silent and obedient dummy who openly admires the genius of the general manager. He must be content to sink his own personality and opinions, and be prepared to accept full responsibility for all errors—whether his own or other people's—and acquiesce in the credit for good work being either hidden or else appropriated by the officials of the head office. There is an unwritten law at our mine, the transgression of which would lead to early dismissal—probably on some other pretext—that no information on any subject is to be imparted to any director without the sanction of the general manager.

The general manager having all appointments in his hands, his slightest wish is law. He controls the manner in which the accounts are to be presented, edits all reports, and supervises all returns and forecasts. The position of every man on the staff depends upon the goodwill of this one man, and if one man happens to be inexperienced in handling and judging other men—as may happen to be the case—the discontent which arises can easily be imagined. The abuses which result from the system are numerous.

Foremost, it kills the individuality of the actual manager. Girded at almost day and night by a superfluity of supervising officials, who frequently do not act in unison, he soon acquires a state of mind which destroys his will power and initiative. He is able to exercise but little control over the men who are nominally under his charge, with the inevitable result that there is loss of efficiency, waste and extravagance. Knowing that he will receive all the kicks and none of the ha'pence, he loses self-confidence and becomes an automaton. Nothing more effective could be devised to break a manager's heart than this central administration. What can you expect from such a manager?

A great deal has been written of the inefficiency of the mine employee. That this inefficiency exists nobody will deny, but to my mind it is enormously accentuated by the absence of real control, lack of esprit de corps and want of example in the head officials, the outcome of this pernicious system. How can efficiency be looked for in the staff when, as is usually the case, they owe their posts to outside managers and render no allegiance to their own manager, and further see that even their immediate bosses have no authority or go in them. Pride in work disappears and a regrettable slackness all round takes its place. The roving character of the miner is due more to the central administration than the heads of the houses would credit. Positions that are dependent upon the caprice of one man, who is not on the spot, are uncertain and breed unrest. Another evil which conduces to inefficiency and is a vigorous offspring of this so-called method of organisation, is the family party, otherwise known on the mines as the sisters', cousins' and aunts' combine.

Where the general manager is a Yank or an Australian, you will find most of the highly-paid staff appointments filled by their countrymen. These posts are largely given to friends, acquaintances, or relations. I have mined in many parts of the world—California, Mexico, and Australia—but what has surprised me as much as anything since I came to this country two years ago is the manner in which certain of my old chums, who previously held quite subordinate posts, have, since their arrival here, blossomed forth into great experts with big salaries under the fostering care of general managers of their own nationality. This is not only distinctly unfair to those who have served a long apprenticeship locally and are frequently more qualified, but from the point of view of the mine-owner is destructive of the much-sought-for efficiency. Every miner and every staff-man knows what is going on at his mine, even if the directors themselves are steeped in ignorance. He sees favouritism the order of the day; friends and relations pushed into lucrative posts, merit over-ridden, and just claims based on lengthy experience ignored. Is it surprising that you have a don't-care-a-damn unsettled mining population, who neither have the interests of their employers at heart nor sympathise with them in their political ambitions?

Sermons have been preached on the gain in having the coolie for three years, but do directors consider the advantage that would be reaped in both efficiency and economy in securing a contented white staff. To obtain this you must mete out justice to your men and take some interest in their work and doings. And this is not possible under the ban of central administration. Inquiry will elicit how surprisingly large are the family connections and friends of some of the head office officials on some of the mines. In fact, it would be instructive if at the next census the staff members on mines were required to state whether they are relations of any of the people in the town department. Then on the score of expense. The "South African Mines" complains of the excessive cost of supervising white labour. If it were not for fear of identification I could give some figures concerning the cost of head office supervision at our mine which would surprise that journal. The resident manager is under-paid, judging by the scale prevailing in other parts of the mining world. One hundred pounds per month is not sufficient for a man who carries such responsibilities on his

shoulders, and is compelled to be a certificated manager—which some of the general managers are not.

The general manager may never have managed a mine in his life, yet he receives a princely salary, and, as you say, spends most of his time in a motor-car. Over-centralisation not only leads to extravagance and inefficiency, but it is in itself costly. It means unnecessary duplication. What is the use of having a qualified mechanical engineer on the mine if you also have another mechanical engineer to overlook him? Why not extend the principle and engage a third mechanical engineer to check the second? Employ good men and pay them reasonable wages, and if they are incompetent chuck them out. The man who suddenly finds himself a general manager—the plum of the fields—with all his unlimited authority would not be human if he did not quickly contract a swollen head. He vies with the magnates themselves in his style of living, and becomes an expert in the deficiencies of various brands of motor-cars. He is more difficult to approach than even a lord of the industry, who occasionally has a kind word for us, especially when the elections draw near. And if the general manager still retains a flavour of his plebeian manners it is not because his command of language does not qualify him, in his own estimation, to direct mankind in general and managers in particular.

The letter then deals with the all-important question of the fall in the grade of the ore, a subject on which we have written very frequently for several months past. The writer's opinions are precisely our own. We have attributed this fall to the necessity of now working poorer ore in the mines, the rich ore having been exhausted before the war in order to advance prices to an inflated level. That is to say, "eye-picking" was the general policy pursued according to instruction all over the Rand in the nineties, and out of this the bosses have made their fortunes. Now that there is nothing left but poor ore the bosses cry out for "cheap labour," ostensibly in the interests of investors, but in reality in their own, for what intelligent man would maintain that eye-picking was to the ultimate advantage of shareholders? Are these not paying now for the dishonesty practised upon them in the past, and ignorant still of the true causes of their loss, so ignorant as to have nothing but curses for this JOURNAL when it tells them the truth, and points out the one and only remedy, intelligent and vigilant supervision of the business in which they are partners? But let us hear what this man behind the scenes says:—

Involved reasons have been given for the fall in grade which has taken place since the war. My opinion is—and it is strengthened by a number of my fellows—that it is due to causes other than those which are contained in directors' reports and presumably given by the general managers. The too rapid exhaustion of the richer stopes, due to pressure brought to bear on the mine staff to work up to other people's estimates, increasing the tonnage returned to show lower working costs, and misleading sorting and development figures account for a great deal.

Some mines have gigantic piles of beautiful machinery with not a penny in the bank, and underground work badly neglected. This letter has already run to such length that I must deal with my last topic briefly. It is the crass ignorance of directors about their mines. The boards of mining companies here appear to consist mainly of pioneer pensioners or clerks from the offices of the controlling houses. These directors rarely, if ever, visit the mines over which they are supposed to spread their guardian wings. I will be bound that many of them—the great majority of them—could not name a single official on the mine outside the resident manager. And it has been whispered when one, more enterprising than the rest, has plucked up courage to step on the shores of the golden land, he has been ordered off the property as a trespasser by his own men. These directors are entirely at the mercy of their general managers, and if that general manager is incompetent the whole fabric of management soon becomes rotten.

The great field-day for directors is when their chairman, after many groanings and wrestlings with technical reports, produces a wondrous written speech which he delivers to a few newspaper reporters and a gathering of his own clerks for the after edification of shareholders. And wonderful, indeed are some of these productions—they make men on the mines, like ourselves, open their eyes with astonishment. If the mine-owners wish to reduce working costs (by working costs I mean money actually spent, and not paper figures), they must make a clean sweep with this over-centralisation, which is undermining—no pun intended—many a good property to-day. Let them free their managers from the incubus of over-supervision, select experienced men instead of being led away by high-sounding titles assumed by imported experts, and engage capable business men to act as directors. Instead of vain cries about the labour supply and the inefficiency of the miner, let them look nearer home and they will find much to which they can lay their hands.

That the writer is not speaking for himself, but is giving utterance to the thoughts and feelings of

thousands who know as much as he, is evidenced in this other letter published in the same newspaper on the following day:—

The letter in to-day's issue of your paper over the signature "Organised to Death" is by far the best expression of the thoughts of the staffs on the mines of the Witwatersrand which has appeared in black and white; and it is greatly to be hoped that such trenchant and absolutely faultless criticism will be carefully digested by those directors of mining concerns and others who profess to have the future welfare of the industry and the country at heart.

One of the most pernicious faults of the present extreme central administration on the mines is that the carefully drawn veil of the general manager so obscures the vision of the directors that it is practically impossible for them to be aware of the grave discontent which exists to-day, and which is surely alienating every atom of sympathy and loyalty which the mining community once possessed towards the mining houses.

To those in authority who seriously wish to see a material reduction in working costs your correspondent's letter should be a pointer to be earnestly followed up; and I venture to think they will be immensely surprised to learn to what gross abuses central administrations have given rise.

Hoping to see this important question continue to receive the attention it deserves from your valuable paper.

In saying the same as these men have said for years past we have been accused of prejudice and bias. What have these employees to gain by speaking the truth? Not only do they run risks of being identified and dismissed, but how will they individually benefit by making shareholders at home disgusted and discontented? It would be better to endure their present iniquities than tell of their own hardships and of the losses investors suffer. Do they not hope that this revelation of the truth will in some way improve the existing conditions for the benefit of the worker and capitalist alike? We fear the hope of such improvement is a forlorn one, but that is no excuse for concealing facts or for attempting to beautify whitened sepulchres.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

OUR FOREIGN TRADE IN APRIL.

The first month of the second quarter of the year has maintained the reputation of the earlier ones. Imports were valued at £40,054,231, an increase of £3,771,405, or 8.7 per cent. upon the corresponding month of 1905. In exports also there was an increase of £2,893,838, or about 12 per cent., the total being £27,032,306. Most of this increase is in manufactured articles. Reshipments of foreign and colonial merchandise also show the fine increase of £1,028,209 or 16.3 per cent., the total being £7,332,686. Business would thus appear to be good all round, and we see no reason why it should not continue good as long as no interruption in the smooth working of the world's credit institutions takes place. That our foreign trade should be so elastic at a time when money markets everywhere are more or less strained by the enormous demands made upon them not only to sustain the legitimate commerce of the various countries, but also to provide for the losses inflicted by wars, and by unbridled speculation, is a remarkable testimony to the effects of peace. Poor humanity seems able to endure almost anything so long as it is allowed to pursue its ordinary avocations, to buy and sell and get gain. As we dealt so fully with the figures last month, it is unnecessary to enter into any lengthened analysis now, but it may be said that the country is not showing any marked increased dependence upon foreign supplies of food. The imports of cereals and flour were indeed £237,400 less last month than in April, 1905. We, however, imported almost £500,000 more meat, including animals brought in for food, and it is noticeable that the chief share in last month's increase of fresh mutton imported falls to New Zealand, which sent 250,666 cwt. This total, however, is less than that for the corresponding month of 1904, although about 46,000 cwt. larger than the importations for April, 1905. Our dependence

on foreign fruits continues on the whole to increase, although last month's imports of raw apples was about £54,000 worth smaller than in April a year ago.

IMPORTS.

	April.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as com- pared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
General merchandise	£ 45,181,763	£ 43,282,826	£ 47,054,231	+ 3,771,405
Gold	2,046,313	2,418,672	2,793,230	+ 374,558
Silver	840,834	918,509	1,136,889	+ 218,380
	48,068,910	46,620,007	50,984,350	+ 4,364,343

EXPORTS.

	April.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as com- pared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
Brit. & Irish Produce	£ 23,484,834	£ 24,138,468	£ 27,032,306	+ 2,893,838
For. and Col. M'dse.	6,754,370	6,301,377	7,332,086	+ 1,028,209
Gold	2,214,373	2,541,291	5,766,388	+ 3,225,097
Silver	1,013,944	691,949	1,292,066	+ 600,117
	33,468,121	33,675,585	41,422,846	+ 7,747,261

IMPORTS.

	Four months ended April 30.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as com- pared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
General merchandise	£ 184,071,560	£ 182,815,935	£ 201,281,116	+ 18,465,181
Gold	11,506,384	13,819,489	16,102,931	+ 2,283,442
Silver	4,534,140	4,329,068	7,145,508	+ 2,816,440
	200,112,084	200,964,492	224,529,555	+ 23,565,063

EXPORTS.

	Four months ended April 30.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as com- pared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
Brit. & Irish Produce	£ 95,714,808	£ 102,468,131	£ 118,229,402	+ 15,761,271
For. and Col. M'dse.	25,818,360	26,849,696	30,050,198	+ 3,200,502
Gold	10,430,478	8,475,363	12,732,964	+ 4,247,601
Silver	5,017,772	4,461,591	7,447,019	+ 2,986,028
	136,981,418	142,254,781	168,450,183	+ 26,195,402

VISIBLE BALANCE OF TRADE.

	April.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as com- pared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
Imports	£ 48,068,910	£ 46,620,007	£ 50,984,350	+ 4,364,343
Exports	33,468,121	33,675,585	41,422,846	+ 7,747,261
Excess value of im- ports over exports	14,600,789	12,944,422	9,561,504	— 3,382,978

	Four months ended April 30.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as com- pared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
Imports	£ 200,112,084	£ 200,964,492	£ 224,529,555	+ 23,565,063
Exports	136,981,418	142,254,781	168,450,183	+ 26,195,402
Excess value of im- ports over exports	63,130,666	58,709,711	56,079,372	— 2,630,339

The values of the imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.
The values of the exports represent the cost and charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

The prosperity of our metal trades is shown by an increase of about £135,000 in the iron ore, scrap iron, raw steel imported, and of £199,450 in the value of other metallic ores received from abroad. An increase is also shown of £321,774 in the value of raw cotton imported, but that is accompanied by a decrease of 164,241 cwt. in the weight, so that our cotton industry is still hampered by the enhanced cost of the raw material. It does not, however, seem to suffer, for our exports of cotton piece goods of all kinds, although

smaller for April last than for the same month in 1905, were still upwards of 50,000,000 yards greater than in April, 1904, in spite of the decreased exports to most European countries except Portugal, Italy, and Greece, and to China, British West Africa, Bombay, Madras, and Bengal. Our Australian colonies, however, took more, as also Canada and the British West Indies.

Altogether our exports of manufactures continue to afford the most convincing argument against any interference with the free course of the country's business. Leaving aside coal and coke, of which we sent nearly £415,000 worth more abroad than in April last year, as against an increase of 724,723 tons in the quantity, we exported £675,570 worth more of iron and steel, and the manufactures thereof, nearly £85,000 more of manufactures of brass, wrought and unwrought copper, lead and the manufactures thereof, unwrought tin, and other such commodities. Also we sent quite £48,000 worth more cutlery, hardware, and tools out of the country, but there was a decrease of over £169,000 in the value of the electrical goods and apparatus exported. This, however, was compensated by an increase of £441,000 in the value of the exports of machinery, although again a set-off is given by a decline of nearly £57,000 in the value of the new ships exported. But these accidental ups and downs, in no way affect the progressive character of the trade done. We exported £134,318 worth more of woollen goods, nearly £161,000 worth more of other textiles and yarns, jute, linen, and silk, this including nearly £16,000 worth more of haberdashery and millinery. The increased value of the exports of chemicals, drugs, dyes, and colours was almost £30,000, and we forwarded over £45,000 worth more leather goods, nearly £26,000 worth more of earthenware and glass goods, and £236,376 worth more of miscellaneous articles, including carriages, cycles, motors, cement, machinery belting, oilcloth, and stationery, so that altogether the story is a cheerful one. Long may it continue so.

A glance at our summary tables indicates that exports of gold have been heavy during the past month, amounting to no less than £5,776,388, an increase of £3,225,000 on the total for April, 1905. Including the figures for the previous quarter, we have this year imported £16,103,000 worth of gold, and exported £12,723,000 worth. For the whole period, therefore, we still seem to the good according to these figures, and yet the stock in the Bank of England has been steadily depleted. How to reconcile these facts we do not know, but probably the Custom House authorities are still unable to obtain reliable statistics of the movements of gold in and out.

LONDON'S BUDGET.

It looks ghastly enough from some points of view as unfolded with his usual limpidity of arrangement by Lord Welby, the chairman of the County Council Finance Committee. For the coming year the total expenditure will amount to £10,107,643, or an increase of £557,278 on the total for the year just expired. This includes an estimated deficiency upon the river steamboat service of upwards of £51,000, making, with the realised deficit thereon, upwards of £100,000 sunk at the ratepayers' expense in this service within two years. Surely the experiment will not be continued for a third year if this is to be the result. That, however, is the worst blot on the whole account, and in many respects the exhibit is not nearly so forbidding as these aggregates might lead people to infer. In actual administration the cost of London is not swelling to any appreciable extent. On administrative services alone the increase in the current year will only be £12,363, and the total expenditure is under £5,000,000, but on education the outlay is becoming altogether formidable and must be checked. The estimated educational receipts for the current year are £5,139,000 in round figures, or £361,310 more than in the past fiscal year. An additional rd. in the £ is accordingly clapped upon the rates, and that would not

have been enough, for it produces only £181,157, but another £137,285 is provided by the quinquennial revaluation of London property. The last rate levied by the London School Board in 1903-4 was a little over 1s. 3d. in the £, and the rate for the current year will be 1s. 6d. Obviously, this cannot go on much longer, and it appears to us that there might be a sensible reduction made in the case of primary schools were the attempt abandoned to cram the children with all sorts of useless knowledge, or better regulated. They are so miscellaneously crammed that they cannot learn anything well, and the results of their examinations appear mainly to afford material for the compilation of humorous paragraphs and stories by Dr. Macnamara and other gentlemen of a facetious turn.

In the matter of public works, Lord Welby utters a word of caution. They ought to "give their stock a little rest," he says, to borrow less, and he is no doubt wise, especially since it will become more difficult to borrow, as the amount of the debt grows and as the difficulties of the money market multiply. We have not nearly recovered yet from the losses inflicted upon the nation by that South African war, and are not likely to fully recover for many a year to come. Hence the ratepayers of London, of every borrowing community throughout the three kingdoms, are punished by having to pay higher rates of interest upon the money they are compelled to borrow for improvements. Yet the County Council cannot stop the work of converting its tramways into electrically propelled lines, nor can it put an end to the extensions demanded by the community. It is busy now electrifying the Northern system, which came into its hands only on April 1 last, and it will have to extend that system in many directions far beyond the limits reached by the North Metropolitan Tramways Company. Lines will have to go far out, the Finchley Road, for instance, and to get in touch with the rural tramway systems at many other points. The bridges must be crossed, too, and the systems linked. Therefore, money must be found, whatever it costs to carry on these improvements, and there is less reason for a slackening in this direction since the outlay is certain to pay. Lord Welby told the Council that the Southern system has already cost £3,141,319, and will want another £1,000,000, while the Northern system has so far cost £1,095,496 and will altogether require £4,595,469. Thus, on the entire tramway system of the London County Council as it stands nearly £9,000,000 will have to be laid out, and we may quite safely add on another £3,000,000 for extensions, linkings-up, and contingencies, raising the total to a round £12,000,000. But this outlay will pay. The Southern system is paying now, and the profits thereupon help sensibly to reduce the nett charge upon the ratepayer imposed by the non-remunerative Northern system whose charges are necessarily a burden until the transformation has been completed, and the whole of the lines brought into operation. Then it, too, will pay, so that although it would no doubt be well if the County Council could borrow less for the next few years, it cannot slacken off in this direction. It may, however, abstain from laying out £2,000,000 or so upon a new county hall, and in other directions hold its hand until the dead weight of debt now so onerous has been relieved by the profit accruing from revenue yielding public works, from the leasing of the Strand to Holborn sites, &c. At the present time the gross amount of the debt is £74,513,703. By various deductions, including loans advanced to local authorities, which are all a burden upon the ratepayer, principal moneys due by out-county authorities, surplus lands, &c., the nett debt is brought out at £45,234,198, or an increase of only £617,000 in the past year, but there is not much use in making this exercise in comparative arithmetic, the outstanding fact being that the debt grows steadily, and was £2,926,528 larger on March 31 last than a year before.

EXTRAVAGANT EXPENDITURE.

We are very glad that Mr. Vivian, the member for Birkenhead, raised a discussion upon this most im-

portant subject in the House of Commons on Wednesday evening. His speech and that of Mr. J. M. Robertson, the member for Tyneside, were much to the point, and full of instruction. We have had no doubt throughout that unless this Government is prepared to carry out the mandate of the electors, and severely cut down the expenditure, its life will not be long in the land. And we cannot help giving expression to the keen disappointment we have felt at the small efforts made thus far to meet the wishes of the nation. To be sure the difficulties are great, and the burden of empire cannot be shirked, but we are reluctant to believe that in this age of alleged enlightenment the history of our empire is to be merely a repetition of the dreary story of all the empires that have gone before it. As Mr. Robertson said, all the great empires that have fallen had been ruined by internal disease and economic decline in which senseless military expenditure had played a part, and he might have added, all devouring corruption. It is true also that we can make enormous reductions, and still maintain a two-power standard in our Navy. How widespread and keen the disappointment is that so little has been done—that Mr. Asquith's neat and lucid Budget speech should have been merely a sort of well got up brief for the spending departments—may be judged by the following extract which we quote from a letter recently received from a citizen of the United States. It is written by a native of this country who has not forgotten his nationality or lost his interest in the old land, although expatriated. He writes:—"I must say the Liberal Government is proving a great disappointment to me. I do not know what they were put in for if it was not to cut down the expenditure, and no Government ever had such a chance before, for in the good old days long ago, when a Liberal Chancellor got in, he could, perhaps, save £2,000,000 or £3,000,000, but the present man had the chance to cut down the military and naval expenditure alone by £20,000,000—the chance therefore to set every industry in the country booming, to find work for every man who wants work, and thus get rid of the socialistic alms-giving schemes such as old age pensions, feeding school-children, &c. More than this, I believe if the Government had the pluck to do this the country would be safer than it is to-day, for the handicap would be removed and foreign manufactures could not begin to compete with English goods as in the good days of old. We should then see all the manufacturing peoples of Europe rising like one man and insisting that their Government should go and do likewise to save them from starvation." Surely these are words of wisdom which the Government would do well to take to heart. It wrestles with all sorts of hydras, and meekly submits to be plundered by the man slayers, yields to the clamour of those who dream dreams of foreign invasion or of conquests and rapine in various parts of the world. "For my part," said Mr. Balfour in the debate, "the last thing I want to see is any extension of the British Empire. I want to see its strengthening and consolidation." Well, what is the best way to consolidate it if not the way of economy and thrift?

WELSBACH INCANDESCENT GAS LIGHT.

Competition in the Incandescent mantle trade becomes increasingly severe. There are a great variety of articles on the market at the present time, many of them, we have no doubt, infringements of the Welsbach patents, but the old plan of wasting the company's substance on prolonged and expensive lawsuits has long been abandoned. Reliance is now placed on efficient business methods, and the production of the best possible mantle at a comparatively cheap price. That the Welsbach mantle is the soundest article on the market at the present time probably admits of no question, but fierce rivalry has to be faced, and during the year 1905 the company lowered the price of its mantles by 25 per cent. This apparently led to a great increase in trade, but not sufficient to compensate for the im-

portant concession made, so that the profits of the year to March 31 show a material decline. Balance on trading account was £47,916 or £14,165 less than in the previous 12 months, which brings the shrinkage in two years up to the very disturbing sum of £22,422. Fortunately, on the present occasion, the revenue received from the holding of shares in the Austrian company was larger by £6,169 at £36,609, and if the trading profits have now reached bed rock, the company may have experienced the worst. Within the past year a further 10 shares in the Austrian company have been purchased, raising the holding in that company to 1,470 shares of 1,000 gulden (about £83 6s. 8d.) each, out of a total issued capital of 1,500 shares, meaning, of course, complete control. The point is, however, that the improvement in the position of this concern as indicated in the increased profits just referred to, which cover the year to March 31, 1905, has been fully maintained up to the present time, and a dividend of 30 per cent., representing about £36,750 on the Welsbach company's holding, will be declared and paid in the course of a few days. This dividend will come into the profits of the current year, and we hope the home trade will prevent the aggregate revenue from falling below that of the year under review. With £6,218 for interest and £217 for transfer fees, this revenue reached £90,960 or £9,212 less than in 1904-5. Out of that sum the directors allow £2,772 for repairs and depreciation, and provide £989 for sundry other charges, in addition to which the fees of the London and Austrian boards come to £2,300 leaving a nett balance of £84,899. Adding £10,576 brought forward, and the sum for disposal is £95,475, so that the directors provide the preference dividend, pay 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, being the same as before, and add another £15,000 to reserve, at the cost, however, of a drop in the carry forward to £7,321. No debenture interest had to be found on the present occasion against £2,409 in the preceding year, as the balance of the debenture stock issue created by the old board in connection with the purchase of the Sunlight business was called in and cancelled during the year 1904-5. Since the publication of the last report the Austrian Government has formally sanctioned the new articles of association of the Austrian company, which were necessary to give legal effect to the separation of the "A" (gas) and "B" (electric) undertakings. The new arrangements for the management of the Austrian company are working satisfactorily. With the addition made from the past year's revenue the general reserve amounts to £75,000, and the directors will set aside against the fund £15,300 Mersey Docks and Harbour Board 3½ per cent. debenture stock now held by the company so that the savings shall be quite apart from the general business. In all the company's investments are in the balance-sheet at £79,770, which is less than market value, and the cash on current account, in hand, and on deposit with bankers and corporations amounts to £94,210. Trading accounts are also in favour, and stock-in-trade reaches £60,379, so that the general financial position is fairly good. We dare not forget, however, that goodwill, patents, &c., figure for about £900,000 out of a total property valuation of £1,246,331, and while we hope for the best, the ordinary dividend must be considered somewhat precarious.

WEMMER GOLD MINING COMPANY.

The report for 1905 is the last the directors of the Wemmer Company will issue, for it has now become merged in the Village Main Reef, and Wemmers have been eliminated from the share list. We have already explained to readers the causes of a sudden and somewhat inglorious end of a brilliant career, for though the mine will still be worked, it has ceased to exist as a prosperous and independent concern. The unexpectedness of its collapse was dramatic, as unlooked for as the earthquake at San Francisco. Twelve months ago there were no indications of disaster; indeed, there

seemed every likelihood that the company would continue to pay colossal dividends until the last ton of ore was mined. In 1901 it distributed 150 per cent., in 1902 125 per cent., in 1903 100 per cent., and in 1904 125 per cent. Then came the announcement last summer that no dividend could be paid for the first half of 1905. In November 40 per cent. was declared, and this was all the shareholders received for the past twelve months. Labour had nothing to do with this. The change is due solely to a decline in the value of the ore, and probably to many it may be incomprehensible that the change from rich to poor ore should have been so sudden. We have no explanation to offer; neither do we know whether the directors were taken as much by surprise as the shareholders. Nature, of course, is very capricious; more capricious on the Rand probably than on many other gold fields, as though she might take a special delight in mystifying the bosses. Anyway, here is the fact that a flourishing company suddenly became poor without warning to those who have suffered thereby, and should shareholders in other companies fear that similar misfortunes may overtake them, who will call them unreasonable? And how can we instil a feeling of inviolable confidence? Bah, your victim never lacks that! The directors themselves admit that the decline in the yield of this particular mine cannot be counterbalanced by a reduction in working costs. In the twelve months the sixty stamps crushed 95,910 tons for a yield of 30,701 fine ozs., realising £129,419. Adding the returns from concentration and tailings, the total production was 46,553 ozs., worth £188,434, representing an extraction of 9.708 dwts., or 39s. 3d. per ton, which compares with 55s. 5d. per ton recovered in 1904. Working costs amounted to £141,442, equal to nearly 29s. 6d. per ton, and after adding other revenue the nett profit was only £52,704, equal to close on 11s. per ton of ore milled. As much as £113,274 was brought in, so on a capital of £80,000 the directors could easily have paid a considerably higher dividend, for no less than £92,071 is carried forward after distributing 40 per cent.; or sufficient to pay another 100 per cent. As we have already dealt with the amalgamation scheme with the Village Main Reef, we need not go over that ground again. It is too early yet to say to what extent Wemmer shareholders may ultimately benefit. Probably it was the best thing they could do under the distressing circumstances, for not only has the Wemmer ore fallen off greatly in value, but the mine is rapidly nearing its end. They are now shareholders in a mine with a much longer life, and this may greatly diminish their aggregate losses. But how high the working costs have been!

WITWATERSRAND GOLD MINING COMPANY.

This company, known otherwise as Knight's, met with a little more success last year than some other Rand mining companies. That is to say, the management succeeded in substantially reducing the working costs, and in paying a small dividend, but unless it can do much better in the future the price of the share is still too high. Altogether, the mill dealt with 287,740 tons, which produced 93,148 ozs. from all sources, equal to 6.47 dwts. per ton, the value of which was £391,936. Working expenses came to £330,762, and the gross profit was, in round figures, £61,000, averaging 23s. per ton, a reduction of over 6s. per ton in the course of the year. In addition, £13,057 was received from the estates, rents, &c., £281 from arrear licences, and £482 from interest and commission. The balance at the credit of the profit and loss account at the end of 1904 was £241,354, and after paying a dividend of only 15 per cent. as much as £250,220 is carried forward. Despite this quarter of a million, however, and the fact that the mine is earning profits, the directors actually raised further money by selling the 12,500 reserve shares at £5 per share, that is at a premium of £4; and charged depreciation not to revenue, but to the capital represented by the premiums. What is one to think of this kind of

finance? Is it to the interests of the shareholders? If the directors are in need of money why pay a dividend? And why issue shares at an inflated figure to provide for ordinary wear and tear? Do those who bought at £5 expect to resell the shares at that figure? For the price has heavily depreciated since, and prodigality of this kind is not to be made good by employing Chinese. This is the first dividend paid by the company since the war, but it would have been better to have postponed it than pay it with one hand and take it and more back with the other. The premium account still stands at £156,259, which, with the £250,000 credit balance is spread over the various assets, only a small portion being represented by cash. The following sentences from the chairman's address at the annual meeting are worth quoting:—"You will see that the amount of £42,090 standing to the debit of Chinese labour supply account at December 31, 1904, has been reduced to £27,907; these are still big figures, and they go to show what the introduction of Chinese has cost this company, and what it has generally cost the industry. There is no disputing the fact that Chinese labour is expensive labour, and it is beyond all reason or sense to say that the mines would have gone in for this class of labour at such enormous cost and sacrifice could native labour have been obtained." Why, then, were native wages reduced simultaneously with the end of the war? And how does the financial policy of the directors of this company square with the interests of the shareholders? They can make "pound ore" pay in California, where the minimum wage is 10s. a day, with free labour white and Chinese. Why not on the Rand?

THE BEIRA RAILWAY.

The debenture-holders' committee of the Beira Railways Company are still hammering away manfully at the directors, or rather at the Chartered Company, and have just issued their fifth interim report, in which they give a summary of their efforts to arrive at a settlement since they succeeded in forcing the directors to abandon the attempt to deprive the debenture-holders of their legal rights for nearly six years. Acting on a suggestion made by the directors, negotiations were opened up with Messrs. Carl Meyer and Robert Benson, the trustees for the debenture-holders, but have led to no satisfactory result, owing to the refusal of the Chartered Company to concede any reasonable security that the debenture-holders would receive any guarantee or other suitable protection if they gave up their rights for six years, and to the attitude taken up by the trustees who would appear to have considered the Chartered Company's interests before those of the unfortunate debenture-holders which they are supposed to safeguard. In view of the disappointing result of the negotiations, the committee endeavoured to secure the publication of the correspondence between the trustees and the committee, and between the trustees and the directors of the Chartered Company. Not only was this refused, but the committee was not even allowed to see part of this correspondence. Having failed in this direction, the committee asked the directors to go on with their scheme and call a fresh meeting, promising, if satisfactory amendments were made, to support it, but even that has come to nothing, and the committee has therefore fallen back upon its own proposals for settling the matter. Amongst other things, it is suggested that an immediate distribution be made to the debenture-holders of all transit dues, rent, and other revenues, not charged with the Mashonaland Company's rent charge, received by the Beira Company since the last payment of debenture interest on January 1, 1905, together with the immediate distribution of £11,000 or thereabouts, and any other sums received by, or due to, the trustees. Then the committee ask that the nett profits, after payment of the rent charge, should be distributed amongst the debenture-holders until their overdue and current coupons are fully discharged, and in this con-

nection the report points out that, as the nett takings of the past twelve months must have exceeded the whole of the arrears, there is no justification for the Chartered Company refusing any longer to honour the coupons. Fortunately, the committee adds, it seems now possible to obtain a legal redress for the grievances of the debenture-holders without capitalising the Mashonaland Company's rent charge. The initial success of the committee in the action against the Mashonaland Company on the working agreement has been followed up by a further success, as the directors of that company have, after repeated adjournments, decided to withdraw their motion to refer to a lay arbitrator the purely legal question of the meaning of the agreement. Under these circumstances the committee urge debenture-holders who have not yet given their support to do so at once, and the recommendation should certainly be adopted by all who are desirous of protecting their interests.

UNITED STATES TRADE IN 1905.

We fear it will be necessary to introduce a good many figures into this note in order to clearly demonstrate the expansion in the trade of the United States during the year 1905, but they shall be as few as possible. That the industrial progress of the American Union during the past 12 months was in many respects excellent admits of no doubt at all, and Mr. Bell, the British commercial agent in the States, writes most enthusiastically of the great activity in trade, industry and speculation. We should be inclined to lay particular stress on the last-named, and fancy a good many Wall Street bankers will find it difficult to follow Mr. Bell when he speaks of the abundance of money for industrial purposes. The language there is a little loose, and used without a proper knowledge of the actual facts. Nor are prodigious issues of stocks and bonds by the railway companies a sure sign of abounding wealth, but these little slips scarcely detract at all from the value of an otherwise excellent report. In any case we are not for the moment concerned with the finances of the United States during 1905, but with its trade, although the mind inevitably wanders to the financial conditions ruling on the other side at the present moment. The year was a splendid one for crops of all kinds, the aggregate yield of cereals, including rice, being 4,521 million bushels, valued at 2,123 million dollars, an improvement over the previous year of 145 million dollars. Such a bountiful yield from the earth naturally found reflection on other kinds of business, because it means a greatly enhanced purchasing power. All told the farm production of the States was estimated to be worth 6,415 million dollars, and if a lavish expenditure of money by railway and other corporations and on great building schemes means wealth, then, indeed, the United States should have a prosperous time before them. We need not for the moment concern ourselves with the other side of the picture depicting, say, the result of a crop failure. Let us here introduce a short table providing a really excellent survey of the position in 1905, and showing the improvement against the previous 12 months:—

	1905.	Change from 1904.
		%
Bank clearings..... dollars	143,000,000,000	+ 29
Imports, merchandise, estimated ..	1,175,000,000	+ 13
Exports, merchandise, estimated ..	1,600,000,000	+ 10
Total trade, estimated ..	2,775,000,000	+ 11
Railway earnings, 10 months	1,417,598,815	+ 7
Circulation, December 1	2,662,134,539	+ 3
Pig-iron output	23,000,000	+ 39
Iron ore shipments.....	34,100,000	+ 56
Steel rail production	3,000,000	+ 31
Anthracite coal output	62,000,000	+ 8
Shoe shipments	5,070,000	+ 7
Labour strikers	200,000	— 50
Immigration, total.....	1,000,000	+ 40

Protectionists in this country who fulminate against the introduction of manufactured articles so-called will be interested to learn that the increase in imports to the States was accounted for chiefly by the extra demand for materials to be used in manufactories. Imports for this purpose rose from \$469,660,209 in 1903 and \$477,618,563 in 1904 to \$564,425,245 in 1905, forming 47.61 per cent. of the total imports of the last-named year. Imports of articles in a crude condition which entered into the various processes of manufacture were \$404,310,605, and articles wholly or partially manufactured amounted to \$157,114,640. The two together make \$561,425,245, and it is most instructive to compare this total with the \$271,251,221 in 1895, \$192,066,294 in 1885, and \$141,233,551 in 1875. In other words, imports mean steadily increasing wealth, the power to create and foster great industries which lead to an ever-growing expansion in international trade, without which no nation can live and prosper, and to a vast dissemination of riches the world over. The United States also purchased a great quantity of food stuffs, despite its enormous home production, and there is no better test of a country's prosperity than in the importation of luxuries and articles which are outside the bare necessities of life. The United Kingdom stands supreme in this respect, and the United States has had a pleasant experience during the last year or so, the increase in 1905 over 1904 being about 16 per cent., but if we go back a little way we find that from 1890 to 1896 there was almost a continuous reduction in the importation of luxuries into the country culminating in the latter year in a demoralisation of trade. Great Britain has no reason at all to complain of her share in the increased import trade, 23 classifications of goods showing increases against only six declines, and whereas the latter range from 2 per cent. to 14½ per cent., the improvements run from a modest 1 per cent. up to about 90 per cent. We seem to have almost captured the foreign trade in cement, a decrease in the total quantity imported of 52 per cent. being accompanied by a rise in our trade of 89.7 per cent. We wonder why Germany can send in about 5½ million dollars' worth of knit-goods including hosiery, while our share is only \$100,000. A word now about exports. These reached the enormous figure of \$1,599,420,539, and while the great activity of trade is strongly emphasised by Mr. Bell let us take note of these significant words: "Enormous quantities of raw materials are being consumed, iron and coal mines are being worked to their utmost, and forests are being depleted. The country is living for the moment. In the race for wealth little consideration is being bestowed on those who are to follow." With the United States it is an ever increasing loss of substance and the products of labour, with us a huge margin of wealth constantly coming in. Agricultural products exported last year were \$895,659,755, or \$102,935,014 more, cotton touching its best figure with \$392,600,644. Export of manufactured articles rose from \$502,739,729 in 1904 to \$571,410,497 in 1905 chiefly in iron and steel, copper, cotton, cloths and leather. It is rather disappointing to find that we only bought an extra 3.1 per cent. at \$542,539,457, although all told the British Empire increased its purchases by 3.5 per cent. at \$761,457,012. Mr. Bell thinks the current year offers an exceptional opportunity to British shippers to increase their trade with the United States. There is undoubtedly a large business to be done, protective tariffs or none, and English steel and iron makers ought to play a big part in the rebuilding of San Francisco.

BURMAH OIL CO., LIMITED.

This company's business was a good deal affected during the year 1905 by the competition of the Asiatic Petroleum Company, a dependent of the giant Shell Transport and Trading Company. The import of oil into India by the Asiatic company continued until late in the year, when apparently the strain of the war of rates could no longer be tolerated, and at the end of

October an arrangement was concluded whereby the Burmah Company's prior right to market its kerosine oil in Burma and India was recognised. Since that time a gradual rise in price has been established, the arrangement has been working satisfactorily, and it is hoped that it will continue so to do, but the accounts now under review have, of course, received only small benefit from it. Trade in various products other than kerosine oil, however, seems to have been pretty good throughout the year, and the candle trade continues to expand in the most satisfactory manner. The result is a profit for the twelve months of £316,171, to which must be added interest and transfer fees of £713, making £324,663 in all, including £7,779 brought forward. From this the directors provide, among other charges, income-tax £14,089, depreciation on refineries £39,807, insurance fund £15,000, debenture stock redemption and premium £21,000, debenture interest £22,800, and expenses connected with the new capital issue £9,111. Balance still left is £194,341, and after meeting the dividend on the first and second preference shares—the latter a fresh charge—the directors pay 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, add £50,000 to reserve, and carry forward £10,591. The second preference shares created during the year raised the authorised share capital from £1,750,000 to £2,500,000, and of this £1,850,000 has been issued, consisting of £250,000 first preference shares, £500,000 second preference shares, and £1,100,000 ordinary shares. In addition, the debenture stock issued amounts to £460,000, but against that a redemption account of £40,000 has already been accumulated. The company also has an ordinary reserve of £240,000, an insurance fund of £60,000, and marine insurance funds of £22,902, besides such items as share premium account £135,805, and capital reserve £80,000. With these added, the aggregate reserves amount to £578,707, and there is no doubt at all that the undertaking is a strong and powerful one. Additions to the refineries, lands, buildings, &c., during the year were £77,080, and aggregate depreciation written off to date is £123,334, reducing the book value to £630,913. Oil wells, boring plant purchased, oil lands, tanks, buildings, stores, &c., stood at £732,880 on December 31, 1904, and now amount to £771,816 brought about in this wise: a sum of £37,167 is transferred to pipe lines account after making an allowance of £1,315 for depreciation, reducing the item on £695,714; it is then raised to £860,244 by the additions for the year, and once more brought down to £771,816 by the depreciation written off in respect of the twelve months under review. It appears that the policy of vigorously developing and exploiting the oil fields has been continued, and on the whole the work is said to have shown the most satisfactory results. The new territories have not turned out as well as was hoped, and work on several fields has been abandoned, the expenditure on them being written off in the year's accounts. This, no doubt, is responsible for the heavy sum of £88,428 applied to writing down, as already mentioned. On the other hand, boring and development in the older properties of the company have far more than compensated for these disappointments by definitely proving the richness of a very large area of hitherto untested land. Tankers and tank installations show an expenditure of £109,344 for the year, but nothing is provided for depreciation in view of the large amounts put by in previous years, and the item therefore appears at £451,358. Other assets consist of stocks and stores £553,728, stores, &c., afloat £40,528, investments at cost £112,309, sundry debtors £167,811, and cash £316,664, while sundry creditors are not at all excessive at £153,737. The company is largely interested in, and controls, the Concessions Syndicate, Limited, a company formed to test certain oil concessions in Persia. This interest accounts for the increase in the investments held. Prospects for the current year seem pretty good, and if present conditions are maintained the directors say they will be able to submit a satisfactory statement of accounts in their next report.

Passing Events.

Are we altogether certain that there is nothing to be said for the Sultan in regard to this dispute about the Sinai Peninsula boundary? We ought to be well satisfied of the justice of our position or of Egypt's position before proceeding to extremities, and it should not be forgotten that whatever his faults may be the Sultan has carried through, partly by his own money and altogether by his own initiative, the pilgrim railway across Syria to Mecca, and that Mohammedans everywhere will, as Mr. Blunt insists, regard a too drastic handling of the boundary question as something like an attempt to interfere with the Sultan's position as Commander of the Faithful, the supreme representative of their religion. Are the claims of Egypt to the Sinai Peninsula unquestionable? We do not ask questions like these in any carping spirit, but merely to suggest the wisdom of avoiding passion or haste in dealing with the present dispute. The musters of troops and fleets stir patriotic blood—and insure heavy bills which we have to pay, or go into pawn to meet.

China would seem to be prosperous, for the Customs revenue, the money collected by the Chinese Imperial Customs department, amounted to £5,281,280 in 1905, or an increase of £767,262 over 1904, which was the previous largest total. The *Times* Peking correspondent also says that the Chinese postal service is now financially independent of the Customs, and is doing a large business in spite of the suspension of communications in Manchuria. The total number of articles handled last year was 76,000,000, and there has been a continuous increase every year from 10,500,000 articles in 1901. Then 176 post offices only were open, and now there are 1,626. China moves, then, and grows.

Not only is the Chinese Government obtaining a large revenue from the Imperial Customs service, and beginning to work its Post Office service with success, but it is giving indications of a determination to be independent all round. The most significant of these is the Imperial edict just promulgated in virtue of which Tieh-liang, the President of the Board of Revenue, is appointed Superintendent of Customs Affairs. There has been much discussion in recent years as to who should be Sir Robert Hart's successor as Inspector-General of Customs. At one time it was thought that the German Government would succeed in putting in a nominee of its own, but the Chinese Government is evidently determined to settle the dispute in its own way, for not only has the President of the Board of Revenue been appointed, practically to the position hitherto held by Sir Robert Hart, but Tang-shao-ye, the junior Vice-President of Foreign Affairs, is appointed Associated Minister of Customs Affairs, and all the Chinese and foreigners employed at the various Customs offices are placed under their control. We wonder what this will lead to. The change will not be welcome to the foreign creditors of China, but none the less is it one which the Imperial Government is perfectly within its rights in making, and should the reforming spirit, the Westernising tendencies of Chinese statesmen, be manifested with the same consistency and acumen which have marked the development of Japan, the results may be good for China without being injurious to her creditors.

A great triumph would seem to have been secured at the polls by the present French Government. We gather from the Paris newspapers that this is more than M. Sarrien and his colleagues anticipated, and outside France there were many who were rendered doubtful of the result by the apparently high-handed proceedings of M. Clemenceau, the able Minister of the Interior. All doubts, however, have been set at rest by the latest returns, and it is reckoned by the *Petite République* that the supporters of the Government of all shades will number 410 against an Opposition of 178 made up also of reactionaries of various shades.

So Natal is proclaiming its impecuniosity by getting the Legislative Assembly to pass a Bill through all its stages in one day authorising a loan of £500,000 to pay for the suppression of the rebellion. Up to the end of April £150,000 had been expended in this business, and it is estimated that by the end of June next £350,000 will have been disbursed, leaving £150,000 of the loan, or enough for six weeks' further campaign, in hand. The proposal, it seems, was made to issue a loan for £1,000,000, repayable in twenty years, but the Government resisted that. It will very soon, however, be compelled to come into the market again, because the resources of the country as it stands are wholly inadequate to meet the charges one year with another imposed by the already existing debt. How long would the "war" go on, or the nigger hunt, if Natal could neither borrow nor count on British troops to step in and save it when it gets into difficulties?

The Tsar would seem to have made a false step in issuing what are called organic laws regulating the position and powers of the Duma just before its assembly. Apparently he himself, if we may trust a Petersburg correspondent of the *Times*, had no intention of adopting this course, and we believe he, as that correspondent says, sincerely and earnestly desires to gradually introduce free constitutional government. His fears, however, are so continually worked upon by the powerful bureaucrats around him that he is driven often against his better judgment to adopt measures calculated to maintain the supremacy of an irresponsible caste. It is said that much public feeling has been aroused by these organic laws, and that trouble may be expected when the Duma opens its session and gets to business. We hope this prediction will be falsified in spite of the blunder made, and that the representatives of the empire will accept the position and endeavour to make the best of it. Only by slow steps can Russia grow into the position of a great and consolidated constitutional State. For some time, perhaps for many years, we must expect to see the conflict go on between the nation strenuously endeavouring to obtain control of its own affairs and the irresponsible bureaucracy which has so long battered upon the people under the shield of the Tsar's autocracy. Murders, assassinations, retaliations on the part of the officials, social disorders of all kinds, are but too likely to continue for many a day, Duma or no Duma.

So the Rosario municipality is again in default, and Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son have the painful duty of announcing the fact. They received from the British Bank of South America a copy of the following telegram sent by its branch in Rosario, and repeating the deliverance of the municipality as follows:—"Find it impossible to continue as before present rate of interest. With the approval of the provincial government, a representative has been appointed to try to arrange better terms." The history of this municipality in all that relates to its treatment of its foreign creditors has been one long scandal.

Mr. Lionel Robinson, of the Stock Exchange, has returned from a visit to Australia full of optimism, and has given a representative of the *Financial Times* a glowing account of what he saw and found there. Everything is good, South Australia showing solid prosperity among all classes, prospects excellent not only in a general sense but in relation to the mining industries and the development of banking. Melbourne is prosperous, still holding the proud position of financial centre of the Commonwealth. New South Wales also flourishes, and Sydney is the largest commercial centre of the south. We do not quite see how finance and commerce are to be kept apart in this fashion, but there it is. One of the most interesting statements made by Mr. Robinson relates to the development of the Zinc Corporation's business. He declares that this company will occupy one of the most prominent places amongst the world's zinc producers. At present the average value of the concentrates produced by the acid process is 42 per cent. of zinc, and he is hopeful

that it will be raised to 45 per cent. Altogether the Barrier mining region is prosperous, and we trust Mr. Robinson's hopes will in no direction be falsified, for nothing would please us better than to see Australia overcome the mistakes of the past, and rise into an independent position wherein the Commonwealth would prove capable of gradually cancelling her terrific foreign debt, and in other ways setting an example to an age cursed by unbridled extravagance.

So the Joint Stock Trust and Finance Corporation is to be compulsorily wound up! Mr. Justice Buckley made an order to this effect on Tuesday, Horatio effusively consenting when better could not be. He and his counsel, however, pleaded hard for an adjournment. For, though Horatio assured His Lordship that it was his strong wish the Official Receiver should take the matter in hand, still he desired to consult his co-directors first. The judge, however, was not so simple-minded as the multitude of victims of the legislator-financier's schemes, and soon learnt that one director was at Brighton, another at Halifax, another in London, and Mr. Bottomley himself in court, whereupon he suggested the telephone as a means of communication. After much demur Horatio 'phoned his pals and actually saw some of them, with the result that they agreed to the compulsory order. Evidently they saw as clearly as His Lordship himself the futility of opposition, and that the best thing to do was to submit to the inevitable, with bold-as-brass courage. So the books of the corporation are to be handed over to the Official Receiver, who will, in due course, enlighten us on many perplexing mysteries; may even explain why Horatio has never issued an audited balance-sheet.

We sympathise with Mr. Walter Horncastle on the loss of his action against the Equitable Life Assurance Society of New York, but cannot help pointing out that if he had been a close student of his INVESTORS' REVIEW he would have known better than to bring any action at all. Neither this nor any Yankee office professing to do life insurance business on terms that suggest fabulous profits commits itself to expressions construable as binding contracts when the policy falls due. All is in the vague and indefinite, a compound, temptingly mixed, of the *suppressio veri* and the *suggestio falsi*. The victim cannot even say squarely that the agents by whom he has been tempted have been lying. In Mr. Horncastle's case a supposititious profit of about £2,400 was dangled before his eyes by the agents on a 15-year tontine policy for £5,000. He may be thankful that the addition actually made to his policy was £1,106, for that means the purchase of a painful experience rather cheaply, all the circumstances considered.

Is not £27,000 a large sum to lay out on an "official" history of the war in South Africa? What precedent can be quoted for this kind of draft upon taxpayers? Will the amount include the cost of re-writing the introduction of the causes that led up to the war, as the *Book Monthly* for April informed us had been done? There ought to be more information extracted from the War Office about this literary effort. Who are the writers—military men, journalists, permanent officials, or who? What is the remuneration per sheet, and how much does the general editor get?

Shareholders of the London Coliseum left the adjourned meeting, held in Cardiff on Thursday, in much less militant mood than they arrived in, despite the fact that voluntary liquidation had to be agreed upon, and that only the provision of a heavy sum of money can save the venture from foundering. We cannot acquit the directors of blame for the deplorable position in which the company finds itself, but we like to be fair, and are glad to admit that Mr. Stoll, the managing director and the Coliseum's moving spirit, has spared neither time, energy, nor money in an effort to lift the company out of its troubles. He is tremendously committed, to the extent of fully £100,000, and no one is more interested than he is

in making the show a success. It is still running at a loss, we fear, and may never pay properly on the present capital outlay, which is enormously heavier than any place of entertainment can bear. A rather unseemly dispute occurred at the meeting between Mr. Matcham, the architect who designed the place, and the directors, the idea being, of course, to shift the responsibility, but all must take their share of blame. The inquiry committee's report presented to the shareholders was refreshingly frank, and the investigation into the position seems to have been remarkably well done, considering the very short time available. Some rather disquieting points were brought out, such as share-dealing by a director, alleged misleading profit figures when an appeal was made for further capital, and a distinct economy of the truth on the question of directors' fees. But the shareholders accepted it all with philosophic resignation, notwithstanding that the total liabilities fixed and floating are in the neighbourhood of £212,000. There will have to be some important changes of management and directors, and shareholders will doubtless soon be put in possession of further facts.

Critical Index To New Investments.

WILLIAM DIXON, LIMITED.

This company takes over an iron and coal business established in the early part of last century, which was converted into a private company in 1873, and is now turned over to a public company on the plea that the share capital has, by the death of many of the original holders, passed to a large extent into the hands of trustees, making the reconstruction on a broader basis desirable. The company possess the Govan Iron Works, Glasgow, and the Calder Iron Works, Coatbridge, and has collieries and mineral fields of about 3,552 acres, estimated to contain not less than 16,400,000 tons of coal, at various places in the counties of Lanark, Renfrew, and Linlithgow. These are valued at £1,027,180, and in addition there are £60,000 for coke ovens and bye-product plant just erected at the Wilsontown works, £25,000 for railway wagons at book value, and £114,000 for stocks of iron and coal, stores, &c., making a total of £1,226,180, and for these the vendors take £1,225,000, payable as to £375,000 in cash, £100,000 in mortgage debenture stock, £100,000 in preference shares, and £650,000 in ordinary shares. The capital of the new concern is £1,000,000, divided into 30,000 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares, and 70,000 ordinary shares, all of £10 each, and 20,000 preference were offered for subscription, together with £200,000 4 per cent. mortgage debenture stock, out of a total of £300,000, redeemable at 103 per cent. by drawings on and after March 1, 1911, and at latest by March 1, 1926. Profits for the four years to August 31, 1905, were £91,664, £12,517, £96,348, and £99,241 respectively, while for the six months to February 28 they were £68,020, giving an annual average of £107,064 after providing for depreciation and management charges. Copies of the valuations made of the various properties by land valuers and mining engineers accompany the prospectus, and the issue seems a straightforward one.

BELFAST CORPORATION 3½ PER CENT. REDEEMABLE STOCK.

A further £200,000 of this stock was offered by the Union of London and Smiths Bank, and the Belfast Banking Company, nominally at the price of 101½ per cent., payable in instalments of 5 per cent. on application, 16½ per cent. on allotment, and 40 per cent. each on June 12 and July 5, but as a full three months' interest will be paid on July 5, the actual cost works out under 101. The stock is issued to provide for the construction and equipment of the tramways and generating station, the building of the new City Hall, Technical Institute, &c., and ranks *pari passu* with the £1,000,000 3½ per cent. stock issued in February, 1905. It is secured

on all the revenues of the Borough, and is redeemable at par on January 5, 1935, unless previously cancelled by purchase or by agreement with the holders. The rateable value of the city is stated to be £1,470,000, while the debt is £3,060,340, and it is estimated that the revenue to be derived from the tramways will be more than sufficient to pay the working expenses, the whole of the interest and sinking fund required, and the depreciation according to the Act.

PACIFIC PHOSPHATE CO., LIMITED.

This company is engaged in working deposits of guano and phosphate of lime in the Pacific Islands, and owns amongst other things licences from the British, German, and Mexican Governments giving it the exclusive right to extract the guano existing on certain islands. So far operations have been confined to Ocean Island, but the demand has increased at so rapid a rate that it has been found impossible to cope with it from that island alone, and the directors have decided to proceed with the development of Pleasant Island (Nauru). The share capital of £250,000 in 7 per cent. preference and ordinary shares has all been issued and fully paid up, and in order to provide for this extension a debenture debt of £100,000 has been authorised, of which £60,000 was offered for subscription at par in the form of 5 per cent. first mortgage debentures of £100 each, redeemable at 105 on January 1, 1916, or at any time after January 1, 1909, at the same price on six months' notice by means of a sinking fund of £5,000 per annum for 1907 and 1908, and £10,000 per annum thereafter. Profits for the eighteen months from June 30, 1902, to December 31, 1903, after deducting directors' remuneration, management expenses, and depreciation, were £50,838, and for the year 1904 £34,767, out of which dividends were paid on the ordinary shares of 25 per cent. for 1903 and 15 per cent. for 1904. The debentures have been underwritten, and all expenses of the issue guaranteed, including a brokerage of 10s. per cent., and the *ad valorem* stamp duty on the debentures, in consideration of a payment of £5,300.

ISSUES BY TENDER, &c.

SANTA FE LAND COMPANY.—The directors announce that the 154,000 new ordinary shares of £1 each authorised in April are offered to holders of the existing ordinary shares, at the price of 30s. per share, in the proportion of one new share for every four held. An instalment of 5s. per share must be paid on or before May 21, and the balance of 25s. per share on July 12, or the whole amount may be paid in full on acceptance of the shares under discount at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

INDIAN GOLD MINES.

An exceedingly poor return is that from the Indian gold mines for the month of April, in fact we have to go back to July, 1902, to find a smaller output. Therefore it is not due to the shorter month, and is partly the result of the drought which has visited the field. Hence the continued weakness in the share market, which has naturally enough alarmed shareholders as to the causes at work. Might we suggest that the directors of the leading companies should issue explanatory statements?

Name of Company.	Jan.		Feb.		Mar.		April.	
	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.
Bahaghat	4,400	3,818	14,200	3,643	4,400	3,774	4,400	3,778
Champion Reef ..	19,350	17,222	16,990	16,386	16,100	14,460	14,166	12,853
Coromandel								
Mysore	16,150	17,199	15,150	16,477	15,700	17,371	12,500	16,065
Mysore W. and Wynad	1,944	1,214	1,395	960	1,493	751	1,731	848
Nundydroog	6,900	5,898	6,200	5,543	6,800	5,953	6,550	5,812
Ooregum	10,229	5,528	9,696	4,529	10,267	5,626	10,047	5,584

The following table gives the total monthly returns from the Mysore Field alone, for 1906 and the previous five years:—

	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.
January ..	48,829	47,612	48,030	50,935	50,999	50,870
February ..	40,764	40,053	46,268	49,500	49,629	48,538
March ..	42,727	41,575	48,327	50,914	51,629	47,935
April ..	47,039	58,329	48,271	49,991	58,324	44,940
May ..	42,110	28,093	48,668	50,443	51,093	—
June ..	41,829	37,466	48,980	50,800	51,553	—
July ..	42,071	43,847	50,571	50,476	51,086	—
August ..	42,048	49,628	50,286	50,613	50,541	—
September ..	41,524	49,420	51,452	50,520	50,962	—
October ..	41,670	47,358	51,360	50,031	51,287	—
November ..	41,660	48,332	51,559	50,442	50,802	—
December ..	43,068	48,078	53,984	51,560	53,077	—
Total ..	504,348	514,291	597,786	606,233	615,561	192,283

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1905, and May 5, 1906:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.			
		Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to May 5, 1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1904, to May 6, 1905.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£	9,334,212	6,352,909
Bank of Ireland	—	1,117,275	1,077,369
		10,451,487	7,430,278
REVENUE.			
Customs	—	2,927,000	3,093,000
Excise	—	2,389,000	2,447,000
Estate, &c., Duties	—	1,527,000	1,505,000
Stamps	—	828,000	874,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	—	260,000	320,000
Property and Income Tax ..	—	3,283,000	3,384,000
Post Office	—	1,140,000	1,110,000
Telegraph Service	—	310,000	290,000
Crown Lands	—	50,000	50,000
Receipts from Suez Canal ..	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	—	253,874	254,272
*Revenue	—	12,967,874	13,327,272
Total, including balance		23,419,361	20,757,550
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	—	50,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905	—	—	3,409,000
Total		23,419,361	24,207,550
*Revenue as above	—	12,967,874	13,327,272
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	—	15,021	14,160
Excise	—	152,000	152,000
Estate, &c., Duties	—	478,000	398,000
Total	—	645,021	564,160
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	—	13,612,895	13,891,432

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.			
		Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to May 5, 1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1904, to May 6, 1905.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£	5,397,086	5,327,515
Other Consolidated Fund Services	—	228,058	223,571
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	—	90,000	90,000
Supply Services	—	9,181,719	10,413,821
Expenditure	—	14,896,863	16,054,907
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		450,000	—
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904		45,000	45,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount)		2,000,000	—
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904		150,000	150,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		—	13,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		25,000	35,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		112,965	—
		17,679,828	16,297,907
Balances in Exchequer:—	1905. May 5.	1906. May 6.	
Bank of England	4,954,955	7,028,506	
Bank of Ireland	7 4,382 1	881,137	
		5,739,533	7,909,643
Total		23,419,361	24,207,550
Treasury, May 8, 1906.			

CAPITAL AND COUNTIES BANK.—Liabilities on April 24 consisted of £32,322,964 on simple contracts and £835,311 on bills, and assets of £5,034,423 cash in hand and at Bank of England, £4,213,536 money at call and short notice, £5,006,245 Consols and other investments, and £19,570,872 bills of exchange, promissory notes and advances to customers.

LLOYDS BANK.—The balance-sheet for April shows liabilities consisting of current and deposit accounts £61,983,114, and bills accepted or endorsed £2,075,076, and assets of cash in hand and at Bank of England £9,822,520, cash at call and short notice £4,333,733, bills of exchange £6,542,405, Consols and other investments £12,473,973, and advances to customers and other securities £33,851,103.

LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK.—Liabilities on April 30 consisted of current accounts and deposits £24,128,422, acceptances and endorsements, £1,264,047, and other liabilities £698,891, against which there were cash in hand and at Bank of England £3,657,311, money at call and short notice £5,992,450, Imperial Government securities £3,885,000, bills discounted, loans, &c., £14,223,801, and other securities £1,268,751.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—The London cargo market is still apathetic in its movement, without change of attitude on the part of either buyer or seller. The business of the week generally has been slack, attendance at Mark Lane being only fair, trading only of moderate dimensions, and values sometimes tending in buyers' favour for foreign varieties. English wheat has been only in small supply here, and throughout the country, and has been held firmly, but without rise in price. At Liverpool, encouraging American cables have helped to keep the market steady, but here also trading has been dull and indifferent. Imports for the week were heavier, 529,643 qrs. against 294,117 qrs. the week before, but Dornbusch's estimate of the quantities on passage are a little smaller, 3,945,000 as against 4,245,000. Farmers' deliveries amounted to 48,176 qrs., averaging 29s. 10d., compared with 22,183 qrs., averaging 30s. 8d. a year ago. Some fears were entertained on the American market at the end of last week of a May corner, but they were not realised and the week has been quiet, with generally a firm tendency, based on reports of bad weather. The Government crop report was also considered bullish, Mr. Heinzer, of the New York Produce Exchange, estimating the yield of winter wheat at 15.3 bushels per acre, or a total yield of 453,232,000 bushels. His estimate of last month was 473,249,000 bushels.

WOOL.—Higher prices have again inaugurated the opening of the London sales, and as compared with the closing rates of March auctions, good merinos are from par to 5 per cent. dearer, medium crossbreds 5 per cent., and coarse from 5 to 7½ per cent. up. The quantities available for the series amount to 323,447 bales, and so far the attendance of buyers has been large and competition animated. Bradford market to a certain extent anticipated this rise, but has advanced 40's tops another ¼d. and are asking as much as ¾d. more. It is difficult to say when the rise will be checked, but experts are beginning to think that it has gone high enough for all practical purposes. All home-grown produce is dearer and very scarce. In the spinning, and manufacturing trade there is little to note. Spinners seem more cheerful on the whole, and are obtaining better value for their work and also good orders from abroad. Makers of cheaper woollens are running their machinery overtime.

LINEN.—The prosperity of the Belfast market continues from week to week unaltered. If yarn transactions have been rather fewer the last week or two it is not due to any lack of buyers, but because spinners grow more and more unwilling to increase their responsibilities, and with prices ever going upwards must cry a halt somewhere. Demand on the manufacturers' part is as great as ever, and though there is sometimes a little hesitancy at paying such high prices for their material, to refuse to do so would be foolish, as there is no sign of any pause in the rise of values. No special branch has been particularly active, except brown linens, which are largely required for dress purposes. Large demands for these goods are coming from abroad. Last week's exports of linens amounted to a record total for many months, being 1,813 tons against 1,472 tons in the corresponding week of 1905. Exports for the quarter ended March 31 were 13,799 tons against 12,834, while imports of flax amounted to 13,240 tons against 10,678 in the same period of 1905. The outlook for the new flax crop is not as favourable as could be wished. Heavy rains have hindered farmers in Ulster, and from France and Belgium come reports of frosts and rains also. In Russia conditions have been more favourable.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—Our market has presented few changes as compared with a week ago. Sellers in most quarters have been firm in quotation, but the business arranged has not been at all important. In cloth for export most of our markets abroad are well supplied, and with heavy stocks in merchants' hands on the other side, shippers here are not disposed to anticipate their requirements. A fair number of offers has been received from India, notably Calcutta, but buyers and sellers have had difficulty in getting to close quarters. Makers have continued firm, and for business to be done limits have had to be raised. The engagements of makers of fine goods are nothing like so extensive as several weeks ago. Prices are decidedly against buyers, and shippers cannot pay the rates now being asked. For China fancy cloths have been dealt in in odd lots, but most of the transactions have been of a sorting up character. The minor markets, on the whole, have been healthy. In printing cloths a fair number of orders has been given out. For the South American outlets there is still business to be done, but makers want earlier delivery than manufacturers can undertake. In home trade goods the finer fabrics have again been in demand. Although the weather is against an active consumption of spring materials, yet most of our wholesale establishments are doing much better than this time last year. T-cloths and Mexicans are too dear to-day for active purchasing, sellers not being at all easy to deal with. Both Burnley and Cheshire printing cloths continue well held, with a fair turnover from day to day. Home trade American yarns have somewhat hardened in quotation during the week, but spinners have not had a large amount of business offered to them. Users are understood to be well bought, and there seems to be very little disposition to purchase in advance. The better kinds continue to be sought after, and the poorer descriptions rather lag behind in demand. Nothing fresh has occurred with regard to coarse weft. Shipping bundles have not been dealt in to any large extent, but producers owing to their engagements have been firm in quotation. Cops for the Continent have been rather quiet. Egyptian yarns have not been active in demand, quotations here and there showing some slight irregularity. Occasionally spinners have pressed for business.

At first the price of cotton in New York receded, but the weakness was transient, a strong feeling subsequently asserting itself.

Quotations advanced, though the shorts attempted to depress them. At the close the market is not quite so firm. Closing prices are:—May-June, 5.98d.; June-July, 5.99d.; July-Aug., 6d.; Aug.-Sept., 5.96d.; Sept.-Oct., 5.85d.; Oct.-Nov., 5.78d.; Nov.-Dec., 5.76d.; Dec.-Jan., 5.75d.; Jan.-Feb., 5.76d.; and Feb.-March, 5.77d.

COAL.—The repeal of the coal tax, to take effect on November 1, has had an effect on the export trade of the north of England, as consumers abroad show an inclination to hold off till then. With the end of the French strike a decrease in the demand for coal to that region has resulted, and prices are a little easier. But steams can now be had at 11s. 6d. per ton f.o.b. Nor is the gas trade either in this district or further south as brisk as it was, but the steam trade to the Baltic and to the Hull and Grimsby ports for the steam trawlers is one of steady increase. Welsh trade shows signs of depression also, though only temporary, it is hoped, and the expected 16s. quotation for steams at Cardiff has not yet arrived. Swansea shows a better front and is doing heavy shipments to Canada and the Southern Pacific coast of America in anthracite coal.

COPPER.—The upset in Wall Street has had a rather disturbing effect on the copper market and prices opened with an irregular tendency, although business was on a fairly good scale. Later on, when advices from the other side were thought to be more reassuring, the tone became steadier and slight advances were brought about by bear covering. The demand from consumers is quiet for the moment, but producers are not inclined to make concessions in prices. They were assisted in this attitude by firmer American advices and talk of labour difficulties in America, and the market remained strong to the end, closing figures being £84.7s. 6d. for cash and £83.7s. 6d. three months.

TIN.—This market has again been in a very excited condition, and prices have once more gone ahead with great rapidity. The demand from consumers far outstrips the production, and large buying orders come forward from all quarters. Speculators are buying freely and with big Continental and American purchases the tone became exceedingly strong. Some irregularity followed the initial outbreak, the market being somewhat nervous when the price got up to the remarkable figure of £198 15s. per ton. Any reaction, however, was met by fresh buying, and final figures are £203 5s. for spot and £197 15s. for three months.

IRON AND STEEL.—There is little or no change to note in the condition of the iron and steel market. Business is still brisk all round and prospects continue to look very hopeful. In many places there is a steadier trade in new business, as consumers who have been waiting for easier terms are making the necessary concessions. Some sellers are easy, whilst others say the decline is unnecessary. The pig-iron market is very strong and active, increasing quantities being shipped to the Continent. Every circumstance that influences this particular industry is favourable, and sanguine views are held of its future. At the present moment the position has been considerably strengthened by the enormous export of iron from the Cleveland district. So far the rate of shipment this month has been the most active ever known. A very large demand from Germany for Cleveland pig-iron has had an excellent effect upon the market, the deliveries lately having been larger than at any preceding time. The demand for East Coast hematite pig-iron is not so strong as it is for Cleveland pig-iron, but makers nevertheless are well off for contracts and can afford to keep up quotations. Stocks are very sparse.

SUGAR.—The realisation of the May account has continued to weigh upon the market, says Mr. Czarnikow, especially as more favourable weather on the Continent, large Cuban receipts and disappointing figures of consumption here and in America render buyers rather indifferent. Cuban receipts are now a little ahead of last year, with 174 against 104 factories still at work; therefore estimates are for a crop of about 1,200,000 tons, which renders America for the moment sufficiently independent to allow Domingo and other foreign cane to be exported to Europe and elsewhere, in the expectation probably of buying Javas more cheaply later on. The United Kingdom consumption, as anticipated last week, barely exceeds the low corresponding figure of last year, and in Austria both exports and consumption do not come up to the March figures, though decidedly better than last year. Business with the trade has been affected by the stagnation in the general market, and refiners here have reduced their prices by 3d. The United States market has been irregular. Landings in the three ports for the week were 50,000 tons, and meltings 39,000 tons, raising stocks to 345,000 tons.

TEA.—The better tone noticeable in last week's auctions developed further, and this week's markets have been firm; with bidding well distributed. In Indian 30,931 packages were offered, of which 22,953 were sold averaging 7.07d. per lb. against 6.76d. last week, one or two of the finest grades showing a quotable advance and all except the commonest securing attention. Ceylon auctions were again heavy, 32,669 packages, and the quality showed some falling off; nevertheless quotations for the finest grades showed an advance. Diyanalakelli went to 11d. and Heafold and Tillicoultry to 10¼d., and demand was active for all but the cheapest sorts. 6.89d. was the average price for the whole sale, against 6.96d. last week and 6.81d. a year ago. Javas had a small auction of 2,567 packages, hardly any of which was withdrawn, and only the commonest leaf neglected. To get out of the difficulty of properly adjusting the 1d. reduction the chief blenders, according to Messrs. W. J. and H. Thompson's circular, have decided to improve the standard of quality to the consumer rather than lower the price of the canister, a resolve that seems feasible enough in view of the increasing desire of the public for better quality teas.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for ten days ended May 7, \$2,492, increase \$284.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 6, \$24,588, increase \$4,382; aggregate from January 1, \$245,018, decrease \$5,732.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 7, Rs. 73,407, increase Rs. 10,688; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 9,91,503, increase Rs. 1,10,561.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 21, \$73,249, increase \$17,180; total from July 1, \$922,879, increase \$101,665.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 17, Rs. 28,627, decrease Rs. 1,268.

Midland Uruguay.—Traffic receipts for month of April £4,255, decrease £1,370.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 15, £383, increase £44.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 4th week of April, \$20,776, increase \$2,141; aggregate from January 1, \$267,526, increase \$49,825.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 7, Rs. 23,984, increase Rs. 11,502.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended April 14 amounted to \$14,000.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending May 5, £1,282, increase £8; aggregate from January 1, £22,198, increase £288.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending May 5, £751, decrease £22; aggregate from January 1, £13,145, increase £840.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for January, £4,263, decrease £267.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending May 5, £433, increase £8; aggregate from January 1, £7,920, increase £614.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 4, £1,350, increase £212; aggregate from January 1, £24,809, increase £3,634.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 6, £11; aggregate from January 1, £153, increase £1.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 4, £4,678, increase £3; aggregate from January 1, £86,565, increase £4,017.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending May 4, £27,887, increase £3,733; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £499,300, increase £78,593; 438 miles, against 424½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 5, £1,162, increase £109; aggregate from January 1, £20,124, increase £1,634.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 6, £118, increase £1; aggregate from January 1, £1,887, decrease £16.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 4, £99, decrease £1; aggregate from January 1, £1,741, decrease £94.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 4, £4,859, increase £51; aggregate from January 1, £82,293, increase £1,855.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 5, £4,507, decrease £317; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £82,708, increase £2,472.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 4, £170, decrease £69.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 3, £610.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 5, £372, decrease £43; aggregate from October 1, £8,847, decrease £732.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 28, £24,291, increase £9,455; aggregate from April 1, £107,701, increase £52,990. Miles 98 against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 5, £22,386, decrease £2,240; aggregate from January 1, £378,693, decrease £20,505.

London Motor Omnibus (Vanguard).—Traffic receipts for week ending May 5, £3,118, increase £2704.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 5, £8,390, increase £146; aggregate from January 1, £133,500, increase £1,148.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 5, £193, increase £2; aggregate from January 1, £3,428, increase £103.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 6, £765, increase £93; aggregate from January 1, £13,760, increase £3,023.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 6, £15,692, increase £1,289; aggregate from January 1, £270,282, increase £27,519.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of January, 1906, £11,016, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Nett earnings for March, \$26,091, increase \$2,444. Nett earnings from July 1 to March 31, \$387,468, increase \$108,356.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending May 6, £3,763, decrease £50; aggregate from January 1, £64,156, increase £4,574.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 31, £1,420, increase £274; aggregate from January 1, £18,440, increase £4,063.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of April, \$311,600.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 5, Rs. 43,659, increase Rs. 5,154; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 7,97,889, increase Rs. 81,862.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of April, £4,898, increase £2,101. Total from January 1, £19,159, increase £7,820.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of March, \$418,249, increase \$56,518; aggregate from January 1, \$12,06,500, increase \$172,197. Nett traffic receipts, \$220,194, increase \$31,228; aggregate from January 1, \$6,14,082, increase \$98,140.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.		No. of Weeks.	Gross Traffic for year to date.	
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.
Baker St. and Waterloo ..	May 5	£ 1,414	+ 10	8	11,889	—
Brecon and Merthyr ..	" 6	2,045	+ 68	18	36,699	+ 2,392
Cambrian	" 6	6,333	— 115	18	92,726	— 1,165
Central London	" 5	6,830	— 66	18	122,821	+ 4,091
City and South London ..	" 6	2,686	— 68	18	52,094	+ 67
Furness	" 6	10,844	+ 1,513	18	176,471	+ 22,830
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 6	73,474	+ 4,371	18	1,257,198	+ 55,587
Great Eastern	" 6	101,200	+ 3,700	18	1,703,100	+ 13,900
Great Northern and City ..	" 5	1,783	+ 136	18	32,465	+ 1,276
Great Northern	" 5	112,000	+ 5,095	18	1,914,100	+ 49,634
Great Western	" 6	235,100	— 8,200	18	3,922,600	+ 21,700
Hull and Barnsley	" 6	11,971	+ 3,974	18	172,793	+ 14,544
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 6	110,015	+ 7,856	18	1,848,648	+ 57,196
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 5	64,129	+ 244	18	1,001,403	— 2,400
London & North Western ..	" 6	282,000	+ 12,000	18	4,794,000	+ 163,000
London & South Western ..	" 6	89,500	+ 3,700	18	1,492,500	+ 11,800
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 6	8,313	+ 386	18	148,924	+ 6,978
Metropolitan	" 6	15,712	— 2,117	18	296,574	— 12,817
Metropolitan District ..	" 6	8,071	+ 740	18	143,186	+ 8,240
Midland	" 5	230,842	+ 8,454	18	3,926,075	+ 119,188
North Eastern	" 5	194,034	+ 31,231	18	3,115,040	+ 168,849
North London	" 6	8,708	— 56	18	162,035	— 3,595
North Staffordshire	" 6	18,158	+ 1,236	18	318,674	+ 11,559
Rhymney	" 6	6,184	+ 85	18	108,349	+ 2,843
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 5	95,399	— 3,581	18	1,445,990	+ 1,000
Taff Vale	" 6	19,112	+ 231	18	346,188	+ 12,874

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	May 6	83,681	+ 2,501	14	1,166,009	+ 21,584
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 5	32,993	+ 1,039	14	454,144	+ 14,078
Great North of Scotland ..	" 5	9,240	— 160	14	118,425	— 392
Highland	" 6	8,617	— 92	14	116,080	+ 150
North British	" 6	92,700	+ 3,159	14	1,235,626	+ 24,193

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	May 4	2,383	— 464	§	42,686	— 1,225
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 4	1,785	— 99	§	27,279	+ 196
Great Northern	" 4	18,834	+ 662	18	304,297	+ 4,108
Midland Great Western ..	" 4	12,740	+ 353	§	180,480	— 6,700

§ From January 1.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, May 8.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, May 8.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
SOUTH AFRICAN.							
3 1/2	Angelo	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	May Consolidated	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Anglo-French Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Apex	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Modderfontein	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Aurora West	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. B.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bantjes	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	New Goch	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Block B.	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	City and Suburban, £4 ..	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	Comet (New)	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Cons. Goldfields	4 1/2	4 1/2	20 1/2	Ocean Consolidated	20 1/2	20 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Pref. 22/6	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
12 1/2	Crown Reef	12 1/2	12 1/2	6 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Driefontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	3 1/2	3 1/2	8 1/2	Robinson Gold, £1	8 1/2	8 1/2
4 1/2	East Rand	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	East Rand Extension	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Roodepoort United	1 1/2	1 1/2
19 1/2	Ferretia	19 1/2	19 1/2	1 1/2	Salisbury	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	French Rand	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Sheba (New)	6 1/2	6 1/2
2 1/2	Geduld	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1 ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Geldenhuis Estate	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Glenburg	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Steyn Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
6 1/2	Ginsclair	6 1/2	6 1/2	13 1/2	Transvaal Development ..	13 1/2	13 1/2
1 1/2	Harmony Proprietary	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Henderson's Transvaal ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Treasury	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Heriot	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Van Ryn	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Johannesburg Con. In.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Jubilee	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	Vogelstruis	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Jumpers	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Welgedacht	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Kleinfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	West Rand Consols	3 1/2	3 1/2
3 1/2	Knight's	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Wolthout, £4	3 1/2	3 1/2
2 1/2	Lancaster	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	Worcester	3 1/2	3 1/2
2 1/2	Langlaagte Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2				
DEEP LEVELS.							
1 1/2	Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Bonanza	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Cinderella Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Robinson Deep (new) ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
12 1/2	Crown Deep	12 1/2	12 1/2	1 1/2	Roodepoort Cn. Deep ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
6 1/2	Deep	6 1/2	6 1/2	1 1/2	South Rose Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Geldenhuis Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Village Main Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Knight's Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2				
RHODESIANS.							
1 1/2	Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Rhodesia Exploration ..	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Charter Trust and	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Selukwe	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Tanganyika	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Lomagunda Develop-	1 1/2	1 1/2	10 1/2	Willoughby	10 1/2	10 1/2
1 1/2	ment	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2				
1 1/2	Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 1/2				
DIAMONDS.							
17 1/2	De Beers Deferred	17 1/2	17 1/2	7 1/2	Koffyfontein	7 1/2	7 1/2
17 1/2	Do. Preferred	17 1/2	17 1/2	2 1/2	Lace Diamond	2 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	Eland's Drift Diamond ..	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Orange Free State	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Frank Smith Diamond ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2
8 1/2	Jagersfontein Deferred ..	8 1/2	8 1/2	18 1/2	Premier Diamond Def.	18 1/2	18 1/2
4 1/2	Do. Preferred	4 1/2	4 1/2	9	Do. do. Pref. 8 1/2	9	9
1 1/2	Kamlersdam	1 1/2	1 1/2				
WEST AFRICAN.							
16 1/2	Abbotiakoon	16 1/2	16 1/2	8 1/2	Gold Coast Agency, new ..	8 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Ankobra	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau) ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
3 1/2	Ashanti Consols, 2/- paid ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	5 1/2	Deep	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Goldfields	1 1/2	1 1/2	11 1/2	Himan Concessions	11 1/2	11 1/2
6 1/2	Sansu	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	Obbunasi Syndicate	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Prestea	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	British Gold Coast	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sekondi and Tarkwa	1 1/2	1 1/2
23 1/2	Broomassie	23 1/2	23 1/2	2 1/2	Taqua and Abosso	2 1/2	2 1/2
5 1/2	Efuenta (Wassau)	5 1/2	5 1/2	1 1/2	Wassau	1 1/2	1 1/2
12 1/2	Fanti Consolidated	12 1/2	12 1/2	1 1/2	W. A. Gold Trust	1 1/2	1 1/2
AUSTRALIAN.							
1 1/2	Anglo-Aus. Exploration ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Ida H.	6 1/2	6 1/2
2 1/2	Associated	2 1/2	2 1/2	6 1/2	Ivanhoe Gold Corp.	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	9 1/2	Ivanhoe South	9 1/2	9 1/2
2 1/2	Bellevue Proprietary	2 1/2	2 1/2	9 1/2	Kalgurli	9 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Boulder Deep Levels	1 1/2	1 1/2	10 1/2	Lake View Cons.	10 1/2	10 1/2
10 1/2	Brownhill Extended	10 1/2	10 1/2	16 1/2	Lancefield	16 1/2	16 1/2
1 1/2	Chaffers	1 1/2	1 1/2	11 1/2	London & W.A. Explor- ..	11 1/2	11 1/2
6 1/2	Cosmopol'n Pr'p'ty	6 1/2	6 1/2	5 1/2	ation	5 1/2	5 1/2
5 1/2	Golden Horseshoe, New ..	5 1/2	5 1/2	3 1/2	Mount Boppy	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Shares	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	North Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Golden Links	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	2 1/2	2 1/2
8 1/2	Golden Pole	8 1/2	8 1/2	1 1/2	Peak Hill	1 1/2	1 1/2
23 1/2	Great Boulder, 2/-	23 1/2	23 1/2	1 1/2	South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Perseverance	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sons of Gwalla	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Great Fingall	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	W'str lia Mt Morgans ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2				
1 1/2	Hampton Plains	1 1/2	1 1/2				
1 1/2	Hannan's Star	1 1/2	1 1/2				
MISCELLANEOUS.							
12 1/2	Anaconda, 25 dols.	12 1/2	12 1/2	3 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	3 1/2	3 1/2
29 1/2	Balaghat, full paid	29 1/2	29 1/2	45 1/2	Mount Lyell	45 1/2	45 1/2
7 1/2	Brilliant and St. George ..	7 1/2	7 1/2	3 1/2	M't. Morgan	3 1/2	3 1/2
2 1/2	Broken Hill, Prop.	2 1/2	2 1/2	6 1/2	Mysore, 10s.	6 1/2	6 1/2
24 1/2	Camp Bird	24 1/2	24 1/2	15 1/2	Mysore Goldfields, 15/6 ..	15 1/2	15 1/2
5 1/2	Cape Copper, £2	5 1/2	5 1/2	8 1/2	Do. West, 19/-	8 1/2	8 1/2
18 1/2	Champion Reef, 2/6	18 1/2	18 1/2	8 1/2	Do. Wynaad, 19/-	8 1/2	8 1/2
13 1/2	Con. Gold N.Z.	13 1/2	13 1/2	5 1/2	Nanauka, £2	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Copapo, £1	1 1/2	1 1/2	26 1/2	N'nydroog, 10/- shares ..	26 1/2	26 1/2
2 1/2	Coromandel 19/6 pd.	2 1/2	2 1/2	16 1/2	Ooregum	16 1/2	16 1/2
3 1/2	Esperanza	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5.	6 1/2	6 1/2
10 1/2	Frontino and Bolivia	10 1/2	10 1/2	9 1/2	St. John del Rey	9 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Tharsis	5 1/2	5 1/2
2 1/2	Do. (No. 2)	2 1/2	2 1/2	7 1/2	Waihi	7 1/2	7 1/2
2 1/2	Libiola, £5	2 1/2	2 1/2	6 1/2	Ymir	6 1/2	6 1/2
4 1/2	Linares £3	4 1/2	4 1/2				

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	
Alcoy and Gandia	May 5	Ps. £ 9,000	+ Ps. £ 1,000	** Ps. £ 281,400	+ Ps. £ 21,400	
Antofagasta (Chill) and Bolivia	March*	\$90,750	+ \$25,052	** \$243,858	+ \$60,124	
Argentine Gt. Western	May 4	18,372	+ 5,000	** 592,880	+ 90,562	
Algeciras (Gibraltar)	April 21	Ps. 27,951	- P. 6,151	** P 1,320,340	- P 114,064	
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	May 5	38,891	+ 7,621	** 1,349,834	+ 320,308	
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o and Cen. Argentine	" 5	91,232	+ 13,766	** 1,580,664	+ 212,295	
Buenos Ayres G. Sthn.	" 6	87,743	+ 10,863	** 3,301,829	+ 498,215	
Do. Western	" 6	46,872	+ 12,593	** 1,485,167	+ 202,223	
Do. Ensenada	" 6	367	+ 20	** 15,403	+ 290	
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	" 5	10,112	+ 1,245	** 371,524	+ 12,810	
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 5	2,736	+ 533	** 92,254	+ 1,715	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 5	1,490	+ 247	** 52,567	+ 5,391	
Do. Western Ex.	" 5	1,125	-	** 52,815	+ 6,109	
Cordoba Central	" 6	3,670	+ 915	** 57,545	+ 10,505	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 6	7,775	+ 2,190	** 119,550	+ 27,870	
Do. N. W. Arg'n. Ex.	" 6	1,835	+ 500	** 30,775	+ 10,270	
Cordoba and Rosario	" 6	3,930	- 110	** 187,315	+ 4,235	
Costa Rica	" 7	5,172	+ 28	** 192,623	+ 6,408	
Cuban Central	" 5	13,375	+ 4,479	** 335,581	+ 38,666	
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 5	8,040	+ 305	** 101,201	+ 35,509	
Entre Rios	" 5	4,069	+ 515	** 168,082	+ 8,731	
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico	" 7	\$122,900	+ \$11,400	** \$5,226,190	+ \$66,810	
Leopoldina	" 5	24,564	+ 11,909	** 263,616	+ 15,261	
Mexican	March*	\$93,400	+ \$28,200	** \$1,731,900	+ \$123,900	
Mexican	May 7	\$136,200	+ \$5,800	** \$2,408,600	+ \$208,600	
Do. Southern	" 7	\$23,272	+ \$1,857	** \$459,115	+ \$21,000	
Do. Central	Feb.	\$2,229,926	+ \$181,788	** \$18,542	+ \$142,073	
Do. Do.	"	\$635,795	+ \$8,660	** \$5,328,779	+ \$221,747	
Manila	May 5	\$39,564	+ \$3,578	** \$69,631	+ \$24,562	
Nitrate	April 30	22,017	+ 7,798	** 182,680	+ 9,503	
Ottoman	May 5	4,214	+ 308	** 77,155	+ 11,096	
Peruvian Corporation	April 29	\$64,090	+ \$120,725	** \$6,490,350	+ \$1,052,575	
San Paulo	" 5	21,353	+ 3,350	** 345,635	+ 11,779	
Salvador	May 5	\$23,500	+ \$6,000	** \$888,756	+ \$121,856	
United of Havana	" 5	26,505	+ 13,858	** 674,439	+ 211,869	
Villa Maria & Rufino	" 5	1,272	+ 176	** 24,458	+ 1,862	
Western of Havana	" 5	3,985	- 35	** 181,690	+ 4,877	

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The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on May 10.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

We have escaped an advance in the Bank rate this week. Is it, therefore, reasonable to hope that no such movement will occur before the autumn? We may hope, but cannot be sure. The Bank is weak, not quite so weak perhaps as people feared on Wednesday, but still weak enough to render the mandate for an advance imperative should gold continue to be withdrawn for export. How poor the open market is we cannot tell, because we do not know what amount of Japanese money is contained in the other deposits, but the total is probably not under £4,000,000, and may be upwards of £5,000,000. This money is no doubt lent out by the Japanese Government agents, or some considerable portion of it, but the open market is poor notwithstanding, and will be driven to the Bank for assistance on every occasion when any extra demand is made upon it. The reserve is also poor, down to £20,880,000, and the stock of bullion is only £31,242,000, both these amounts being insufficient for immediate wants, let alone for those of the coming summer and autumn.

Whether, therefore, the rate will go to 5 per cent. soon or not is still at best a question of gold exports, and we may be better able to form an estimate of the probabilities after another week has passed. Meanwhile, the open market is, as usual, letting rates slip away. We cannot blame it for doing this, because the high rates ruling on the Stock Exchange and in the discount market during the current week has tempted foreign bankers to transfer credits to London in very liberal amounts. Their competition has not only tended to keep contango rates down, but to depress discounts until, instead of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as a working rate on three months remitted paper, which could be got early in the week, yesterday and to-day bill brokers have had to take $3\frac{1}{2}$, and for fine parcels $3\frac{1}{4}$, and even $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. This morning they asked $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but had to take less, not so much because of foreign competition, which was small to-day, as because the market was not oppressed by the supply of bills and, owing to the changed aspect of the gold

market, in a mood to allow rates to slip back. Fine parcels of three and four months remitted bills, for instance, were discounted at $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., and six months bills arriving to-morrow for payment on Monday at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Short loans have also been easy in spite of the 5 per cent. asked on Wednesday from Stock Exchange people for loans to the end of May. Seven-day money never commanded more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., except, perhaps, in isolated instances, and the rate slipped back yesterday to $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Day-to-day money has sometimes been 4 per cent., but the market, as the Bank return shows, has been steadily paying the Bank off until other securities are £2,397,000 lower than they were a week ago, and still balances have been abundant enough to bring the call money rate down to 3 and $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Stock Exchange payments to-day sent the seven-day money rate up to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. sometimes, but the ruling quotation was $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. for call and notice money in the morning, and before the day closed call loans were offering at 2 per cent. over night. The credit dealers, moreover, were able to pay off the small amount due at the Bank, and still had enough to meet all the temporary requirements induced by Stock Exchange payments. The India Council, however, has been getting $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on loans and renewals for a month.

As our tables show, the Bank lost £1,117,000 nett in gold exported last week, and on balance about £146,000 would appear to have gone into circulation, that amount probably representing the balance of the sovereigns sent to Scotland over and above the amount returned from the English circulation. Hope, however, is again strong that the foreign demand for the metal is over. Both the New York and the Paris sight exchanges have recovered, and unless there are large unfulfilled orders on New York account given before the exchange rallied and still uncanceled, which though alleged is doubtful, we should be quit of both Continental and American demands upon us for some time. In that case, and as the price of bars has dropped back to 77s. 9½d. per oz., it looks probable that the Bank of England will begin again to secure part at least of the weekly imports of raw gold from the mines. Should it do this, confidence will be restored and rates forced down until the next squeeze comes along. To help the ease £500,000 in gold coin was released to-day by the Secretary of State for India in Council, transferred, that is, to the Bank's own reserve, and it looks this evening as if the Bank might easily secure all the bars available in the open market next week, amounting to about £500,000. Should that be so, and should the foreign demand at the same time subside, we may have a more cheerful tone in the City than two or three days ago looked probable. Only 40,000 sovereigns were withdrawn to-day for export to Malta, in connection probably with the naval demonstration against Turkey. Next week, however, calls to the amount of nearly £3,500,000 fall due, and there is a lump of Irish Land stock waiting to come on the market in addition to a variety of other new issues all tending to prevent the development of anything like healthy activity in the general investment market, let alone in speculative markets, as well as to keep money and discount rates mercurial.

SILVER.

Apparently, dealers in India are expecting a squeeze in silver at the June settlement, and, as the steamer leaving next week is the last by which shipments can be got out in time, the bazaar demand has been strong. Quotations, consequently, advanced steadily, with an occasional set-back when supplies became a trifle more abundant, until by Wednesday they were up to 31d. per oz. for cash and 30½d. for delivery two months forward, or the highest point touched for about ten years. After Thursday, however, the opportunity to purchase in the ordinary way for shipment next week was gone, but as buyers seemed in any case to have filled all their requirements, there was no necessity to make special arrangements, and prices dropped back to 30½d. and 30½d. per oz. respectively. Applications for the Rs.40,00,000 Council drafts

on India offered this week reached a total of Rs.2,50,00,000 in bills and Rs.143,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Of these, Rs.32,99,000 were accepted in bills and Rs.7,01,000 in transfers, tenders at is. 4 1-32d. an is. 4 1-8d. per rupee receiving about 17 per cent. Next Wednesday another Rs.40,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, May 9, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued ..	£ 48,362,530	Government Debt ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	29,912,530
		Silver Bullion ..	—
	£48,362,530		£48,362,530

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 15,977,281
Reserve ..	3,247,295	Other Securities ..	33,996,916
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	8,206,047	Notes ..	19,550,780
Other Deposits ..	44,788,616	Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,329,635
Seven Day and other Bills ..	58,754		
	£70,854,612		£70,854,612

Dated May 10, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year :—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. May, 10.		May 2, 1906.	May 9, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,170,789	Rest ..	3,238,419	3,247,295	8,876	—
12,147,711	Pub. Deposits ..	8,328,908	8,206,947	—	121,961
38,742,762	Other do. ..	48,081,460	44,788,616	—	3,292,844
98,016	7 Day Bills ..	62,134	58,754	—	3,380
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,749,522	Gov. Securities ..	15,977,281	15,977,281	—	—
27,360,801	Other do. ..	36,394,370	33,996,916	2,397,454	—
25,601,955	Total Reserve ..	21,892,270	20,880,415	1,011,855	—
				3,418,185	3,418,185
				Increase.	Decrease.
£ 28,853,475	Note Circulation	£ 29,062,450	£ 28,811,750	£ —	£ 250,700
36,035,430	Coin and Bullion	32,504,720	31,242,165	—	1,262,555
50 1/2 p.c.	Proportion ..	38 3/4 p.c.	39 3/8 p.c.	8 p.c.	—
2 1/2 ..	Bank Rate ..	4 ..	4 ..	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £1,117,000 out.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended May 5.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs ..	National Debt Services ..
Excise ..	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Charges ..
Stamps ..	Payments to Local Taxation ..
Land Tax and House Duty ..	Supply Services ..
Property and Income Tax ..	Bullion Advances ..
Post Office ..	Treasury Bills (nett amount)
Telegraphs ..	Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds ..
Crown Lands ..	Exchequer Bonds redeemed
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Uganda Railway ..
Treasury Bills (nett amount)	Military Works ..
Miscellaneous ..	Naval Works ..
Bullion advances repaid ..	Telegraph Acts ..
Uganda Railway ..	Land Registry (New Buildings) ..
Unclaimed Dividends Account ..	Public Buildings Expenses Act ..
Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds ..	Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act ..
Telegraph Acts ..	Suez Canal drawn Shares in reduction of debt ..
Naval Works Acts ..	Cunard Agreement ..
Military Works Acts ..	Surplus Revenue, 1904-5 ..
Land Registry Acts ..	Deficiency Advances repaid ..
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	Ways and Means Advances repaid ..
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Increase in Exchequer balances ..
Issue of Exchequer Bonds under Cunard Agreement Act	
Ways and Means ..	
Temporary Advances Deficiency ..	
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	
Transvaal and Orange River Colony. Repayment of Temporary Advance ..	
Adjustment of Local Taxation payments ..	
Decrease in Exchequer balances ..	
£2,572,750	£2,572,750

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
1,800,000	6 months	June 1	3 2
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
11,200,000	—	—	—
1,000,000	6 months	June 29	2 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 12	2 10 8
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 26	2 13 8
1,500,000	6 months	Sept. 16	2 11 5
1,000,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 10 0
14,913,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1906.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Jan.	1,361,699,000	1,233,474,000	128,225,000	—
Week ending				
Feb. 7	231,817,000	206,614,000	25,203,000	—
" 14	271,821,000	259,450,000	12,371,000	—
" 21	213,118,000	199,865,000	13,253,000	—
" 28	290,477,000	301,252,000	—	10,775,000
Mar. 7	235,959,000	215,866,000	20,093,000	—
" 14	261,348,000	268,032,000	—	6,684,000
" 21	268,709,000	211,042,000	—	2,333,000
" 28	250,066,000	205,714,000	44,352,000	—
April 4	284,635,000	345,370,000	—	60,735,000
" 11	266,009,000	210,891,000	55,118,000	—
" 18	182,932,000	300,087,000	—	117,155,000
" 25	230,499,000	139,973,000	90,526,000	—
May 2	261,140,000	263,265,000	17,875,000	—
" 9	231,902,000	210,041,000	21,861,000	—
	4,802,131,000	4,570,936,000	231,195,000	—

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25 1/2	25 1/2	Antwerp	short	25 2/4	25 2/4
Brussels	chqs.	25 2/3	25 2/3	Italy	sight	25 1/4	25 1/4
Amsterdam	sight	12 1/2	12 1/2	Constantinople ..	3 mths	110 0/7	110 0/5
Berlin	chqs.	20 5/8	20 5/2	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	15 1/4	15 1/4
Do.	3 mths	20 3/2	20 3/0	Calcutta	T.T.	1 1/4	1 1/4
Hamburg	chqs.	20 5/8	20 5/1	Bombay	T.T.	1 1/4	1 1/4
Frankfort	short	20 4/9	20 5/0	Hong Kong	T.T.	2 1/8	2 1/8
Vienna	sight	24 0/4	24 0/6	Shanghai	T.T.	2 1/1	2 1/1
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	94 0/5	94 0/5	Singapore	T.T.	2 1/4	2 1/4
New York	60 dys	4 80 1/2	4 82 1/2	Yokohama	4 mths	2 0 1/8	2 0 1/8
Lisbon	sight	5 1/8	5 1/8				
Madrid	sight	28 8/5	27 5/0				

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue,

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Friday, India Council .. £500,000	Saturday, U. S., Coin .. £201,000
	Tuesday, .. 201,000
	Wednesday, Constantinople 50,000
	Thursday, S. America .. 7,000
	Friday, Malta .. 40,000
	Net Influx 1,000
Total .. £500,000	Total .. £500,000

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	May 19, 1906.	May 5, 1906.	April 26, 1906.	May 11, 1905.
Gold in hand ..	£ 117,957,760	£ 119,542,760	£ 119,826,160	£ 114,123,800
Silver in hand ..	42,416,360	42,295,160	42,185,440	44,126,880
Bills discounted ..	35,242,600	46,321,840	41,008,800	22,016,400
Advances ..	20,443,360	20,681,080	19,881,440	18,814,560
Note circulation ..	187,668,280	192,735,120	188,430,960	174,977,280
Public deposits ..	6,284,600	6,744,400	8,864,640	7,439,080
Private deposits ..	27,846,720	29,829,840	31,889,280	22,259,480

Proportion between bullion and circulation 85 1/2 per cent. against 84 per cent. a week ago.

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris ..	3	May 25, 1900.	2 1/2 — 8/
Berlin ..	5	December 11, 1905	3 1/2
Hamburg ..	5	December 11, 1905	3 1/2
Frankfort ..	5	December 11, 1905	3 1/2
Amsterdam ..	4 1/2	May, 1906	4 1/2
Brussels ..	4	October 30, 1905	3 1/2
Vienna ..	4 1/2	October 30, 1905	4
Rome ..	5	September, 1904	4
St. Petersburg ..	7	April 17, 1906	8
Madrid ..	4 1/2	August 21, 1901	4
Lisbon ..	5 1/2	January 11, 1899	5
Stockholm ..	5	January, 1906	4 1/2
Copenhagen ..	5	October, 1905	4 1/2
Calcutta ..	6	May 3, 1906	—
Bombay ..	7	April 26, 1906	—
New York call money ..	3 1/2		—

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	April 20, 1906.	April 10, 1906.	March 31, 1906.	April 20, 1905.
Reserve	£ 32,445,560	£ 32,406,520	£ 32,342,200	£ 27,372,280
State notes and small changed	52,250	52,720	529,720	565,880
Discount and loans ..	12,901,760	13,206,720	13,889,840	10,090,560
Public stock and State loans..	8,300,600	8,307,120	8,320,800	9,296,600
Credits	5,394,080	5,235,800	5,692,600	5,981,960
Note Circulation	38,860,400	39,321,600	39,622,920	34,522,120
Current account	2,679,880	2,569,720	2,432,200	4,057,000
Deposits	4,199,520	4,184,960	4,368,080	3,373,680

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	May 7, 1906.	Apr. 30, 1906.	Apr. 23, 1906.	May 6, 1905.
Cash in hand	£ 48,788,050	£ 48,697,350	£ 50,667,150	£ 52,035,650
Bills discounted	42,042,550	44,770,000	40,882,200	43,532,850
Advances on stocks ..	3,799,050	6,147,450	2,910,050	3,069,800
Note circulation	68,139,100	69,814,200	66,667,300	66,118,050
Public deposits	25,961,900	30,061,000	32,459,950	30,427,400

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	May 3, 1906.	Apr. 26, 1906.	Apr. 19, 1906.	May 5, 1905.
Coin and bullion	£ 5,070,040	£ 4,847,760	£ 5,555,320	£ 4,903,160
Other securities	23,902,840	23,028,680	22,694,920	23,592,240
Note circulation	27,114,720	27,183,000	26,837,240	26,356,300
Deposits	4,479,840	4,128,680	3,733,800	3,750,120

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	May 7, 1906.	April 30, 1906.	April 23, 1906.	May 6, 1905.
Gold Reserve	£ 46,301,125	£ 46,256,708	£ 46,356,125	£ 47,743,625
Silver reserve	12,788,958	12,880,291	12,896,916	13,011,666
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	1,847,875	1,854,208	1,584,791	1,732,791
Note circulation	71,839,041	73,419,125	68,228,500	66,205,375
Bills discounted	18,840,500	19,817,875	15,994,875	13,338,333

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	May 5, 1906.	Apr. 28, 1906.	Apr. 21, 1906.	May 6, 1905.
Gold	£ 15,116,637	£ 15,111,320	£ 15,101,053	£ 14,773,717
Silver	24,014,741	24,133,321	23,883,568	21,362,405
Foreign Bills	3,255,644	3,239,210	3,240,540	1,674,060
Discount and Short Bills	22,759,149	22,153,799	22,566,224	46,968,562
Treasury Account	37,408,627	37,407,032	37,403,762	21,077,496
Notes in circulation ..	61,931,191	61,756,529	61,829,342	63,694,019
Current Account deposits	22,478,618	23,039,934	22,029,135	22,822,841
Dividends Interests ..	1,178,638	1,373,252	2,099,483	2,776,550
Government Securities ..	7,940,546	7,058,377	7,076,916	3,420,259

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Apr. 16/29, 1906.	Apr. 8/21 1906.	Apr. 1/14, 1906.	Apr. 16/29, 1905.
Gold	£ 73,360,175	£ 72,374,136	£ 72,025,534	£ 88,911,387
Silver and subsidiary coin ..	5,299,565	4,921,971	4,655,118	6,018,985
Advances and bills discounted ..	47,626,218	49,640,849	50,590,080	37,132,411
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	8,076,368	8,113,449	7,999,852	5,607,576
Notes in circulation ..	111,855,778	112,674,132	114,895,044	91,556,821
Deposits and current account ..	45,630,301	42,796,785	42,055,949	42,882,937
Treasury account	1,130,403	1,987,401	3,661,073	19,179,378

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	May 5, 1906.	Apr. 28 1906.	Apr. 21, 1906.	May 6, 1905.
Specie	£ 36,630,000	£ 37,346,000	£ 37,930,000	£ 44,060,000
Legal tenders	15,914,200	16,160,800	15,715,800	16,880,000
Loans and discounts ..	208,420,000	207,840,000	203,480,000	218,420,000
Circulation	10,168,800	10,227,600	10,296,200	8,907,600
Net deposits	205,460,000	205,740,000	201,500,000	228,780,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £1,179,200 against an excess last week of £2,071,800.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	May 1	May 3	May 8	May 10
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'3	12'3	12'2½	12'2½
Do. do.	3 months	12'5½	12'5½	12'5½	12'5½
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'40½	25'47½	25'48½	25'50
Hamburg	3 months	20'70	20'72	20'73	20'72
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'70	20'72	20'73	20'72
Paris	cheque	25'10½	25'10½	25'18½	25'20
Do. do.	3 months	25'35	25'6½	25'37½	25'38½
Marseilles	3 months	25'35	25'6½	25'38½	25'38½
Switzerland	3 months	25'45	25'40½	25'47½	25'48½
Austria	3 months	24'34	24'35	24'35	24'36
St. Petersburg	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'47½	25'47½	25'50	25'51½
New York	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	40½	40½	42½	42½
Lisbon	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen	3 months	18'44	18'44	18'45	18'45
Christiania	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'46	18'46
Stockholm	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'46	18'46

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

Per cent.

Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	... .. .	3½-4
Three months .. .. .	... .. .	3½-4
Four months .. .. .	... .. .	3½-4
Six months .. .. .	... .. .	3½-4
Three months fine inland bills	... .. .	3½-4
Four months .. .. .	... .. .	3½-4
Six months .. .. .	... .. .	4-4½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

Per cent

Bank of England minimum discount rate	... .. .	4
" " short loan rates	... .. .	4½
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	... .. .	2½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	... .. .	3
" 7 and 14 days' notice	... .. .	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans	... .. .	3½-3¾
" for call loans ..	... .. .	3-3½

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

Although a grave crisis in money and Stock Exchange affairs seems to have been averted for the present, it has not as yet made the City much more comfortable. We never knew it drearier than it is just now; everybody grumbling, losses of all descriptions coming to light or at least forcing accounts to be closed behind the scenes with loss to those who had opened them, and a lack of investment business as great as any experienced for years back, if not the very worst we have had since the blight of the African war began. For one thing the fire insurance offices are not continually in the market buying parcels of stock. On the contrary, they are selling, or have been, and business is therefore unusually wretched. We are very sorry for the Stock Exchange, but it deliberately made its own bed and has now got to lie upon it. No nation, not even the richest nation in the world, can indulge in extravagance with both hands, lavish and unbridled, without paying for it, and the want of business on the Stock Exchange is one of the methods of payment, thoroughly disagreeable doubtless, but inevitable and likely to endure for a long time to come. Behold the misery of the Consol market, and say how it is to be alleviated.

The worst point about Stock markets at present is the incalculable mass of unplaced Yankee securities, principally Railroad, pawned here. We cannot attempt to estimate the amount, it would be entirely misleading to give any figures. We can only repeat the general impression that never before have British banks and financiers been so loaded up with this class of paper, and unless people capable of paying for what they buy enter the market to take the pawned stock off the hands of the banks and financiers in whose custody it now is, we must inevitably see a renewal of the recent market apprehension, probably in an aggravated form, towards the autumn. This being so the utmost circumspection is necessary in conducting Stock Exchange business, and nobody should be in haste to invest until some of the dead weight now pressing markets down everywhere has been removed. Avoid Yankee wares like poison.

Unhappily political affairs are not shaping well for good business on the Stock Exchange or anywhere else. We do not like this Turkish dispute, true though it may be that the Sultan will yield when brought face to face with the alternative of instant coercion; but the episode will leave a bad impression, and may well increase the restlessness of the Mohammedan population not only of the Sultan's dominions, but of ours, which is to us even more important. Then this Natal conflict with the blacks seems to be rapidly developing into an immense black rebellion, as we have all along dreaded. For a brief space we thought that reason, moderation and common sense were going to prevail in the councils of the white Natalese, but that hope had soon to be abandoned, and the latest information is of the most sinister kind. We wish we had a Colonial Secretary possessed of the high qualities of statesmanship which would enable him to take and maintain a fearless, manly and consistent line in dealing with this black canker, but we obviously have not got such a Secretary, and therefore we must take the consequences, which, to go no further afield, promise to be anything but good for Stock markets. Members of

the Exchange often break out in wild denunciation of the bucket-shop for taking away their business. Perhaps much of the bad business is intercepted by this form of competition and a modicum of the good business as well, but there would be plenty to do in the "House" did not politics, extravagance public and private, and the harvest of past profligacy in expenditure combine to well-nigh destroy the capacity of the nation at large to buy or sell public securities. "But trade is good." Yes, and that for a time makes Stock Exchange business bad. The floating capital of the country is engaged elsewhere.

The Week's Stock Markets.

The attention of the Stock Exchange this week has been almost entirely absorbed in the carry over. The state of unrest which existed during the account concluded on Tuesday, accompanied by a severe fall in prices of the leading speculative securities, roused fears that the adjustment would not be accomplished without a good deal of trouble, resulting, probably, in open defaults of a serious kind. That a good many speculators are in Queer Street admits of no doubt, and our own difficulties are much accentuated by the upset in Wall Street. In more than one direction this week forced closing of accounts has taken place, attributed first to this speculator and then to that, and prices have often been severely depressed. The native rising in Natal and the Turco-Egyptian differences were additional adverse influences, and the state of the money market led to doubts of our ability to comfortably finance the huge speculative account now being carried on behalf of New York. It is said that this was increased by as much as £6,000,000 during the fortnight, and the unhappy speculators obliged to carry over were threatened with terrorising charges for loans. As things turned out the continuation was managed with much greater ease than the most sanguine could have anticipated, thanks to the timely release of a good deal of Japanese credit and the fact that foreign moneylenders were tempted into the market by the prospect of high rates. Nevertheless, bankers were able to secure 5 per cent. without much difficulty on all the money they lent, and some of the discount houses got $5\frac{1}{2}$ and $5\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Under these circumstances rates in the House were pretty stiff, and

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS (Last year's dividends are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91	89	—	—	—
91½	89½	90	89½	89½
90	88	89	88½	88½
100½	99½	—	100	100
93½	90½	91½	91½	91
100½	99	99½	99½	99
100½	98	—	98½	98½
99½	98½	98½	98½	98½
101½	98½	99½	99½	99
301	291	—	292½	291
106½	104½	105	104½	104½
93½	95½	96½	96	96
82	79½	81½	80½	80
66½	65½	65½	66	65½

"bulls" of Americans usually paid 6 to $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for accommodation, although the tendency was undoubtedly towards ease after the first hour or so on contango day. No important failures were expected, but the account was not concluded until today (Friday), and details of the final adjustment will be found in the paragraph concluding these notes. When markets opened on Monday dealers were inclined to take a most dismal view of the outlook, but later a story went round that the Bank of France was lending further assistance in meeting the New York gold demand, and an attempt was made to put things better. Bears seemed to be busy covering, and Home Railways rallied sharply on the sudden stoppage of the forced liquidation which has been keeping this market depressed for some time. This little spurt was soon followed by a reaction which the absence of a rise in the Bank rate did nothing to check. Consols, indeed, went particularly flat under persistent realisation, sup-

posed to be connected with the speculations of certain aristocratic individuals, and close well down on the week after unusually wide fluctuations. Rumours that a big issue of Irish Land stock was about to be launched helped the depression, and this security was also substantially lower along with the majority of other British Funds. Home County and Corporation and Colonial Inscribed stocks also showed dulness, and in the Colonial and Foreign Corporation list a violent slump took place in City of Rosario issues on the virtual repudiation of the last settlement agreement.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
103½	101½	102½	102½	102½
101½	100	101½	101½	101½
103½	100½	102½	102½	102½
93½	89½	93	93	93
93	89½	89½	89½	89½
92½	90	89½	89½	89½
104½	101½	101½	101½	101½
92½	86½	88½	87	88½
102½	97½	99	99½	99
106	103½	103½	103½	103½
91½	86½	89½	89	89½
102½	99½	102½	102	102½
96½	95	—	96	95½
97½	94	96½	96	96½
96½	93½	94	94½	94
101	98½	101	101	101
100½	96½	97½	97½	97½
105½	103½	105	105	105
105½	102½	102½	103	102½
101½	96½	98½	98½	98½
105½	100½	102½	102½	102½
53½	50½	52	52½	52
43½	41½	42	42	42
47½	45½	45½	46½	45½
108½	105½	105½	105½	105½
106½	104½	104	104½	104½
102½	101½	100½	100½	100½
105½	103½	104	105	105
88½	87½	86½	86½	86½
53½	50	53½	53½	53½
53½	50½	54	54	54
43	39½	41½	41½	41½
52½	49½	—	52½	52½
98	94½	96½	96½	96½
104½	103½	104½	105	105
103½	100½	102½	102½	102½
104	100½	100½	100½	100½
91½	88½	91	91	91
105	101½	101½	101	101
105	101½	103½	103½	103½
71	68½	70½	70½	70½
87	81	82	82	82
83	79½	—	83	83
96½	90½	94½	93½	95
103	101½	100½	100½	100½
105½	103½	103	103	103
94½	90½	92½	92½	93
74	70½	71½	72½	71½
98½	94½	94½	95	94½
54½	50½	51½	52	51½

The Foreign bond market was very quiet, but prices were fairly well maintained and closed without important movement either way. Turkish issues were not in the least affected by the Tabah trouble, and actually show a slight gain on the week. Spanish were also good, and it is pretty obvious that the squabble is not expected to have any serious result. On the other hand, Russians lost ground on the recurrence of the internal disturbances, and were not much helped by the Czar's utterances at the opening of the Duma. In the South American group Brazilians were bought from Paris and sharply improved, and Buenos Ayres Cédulas were given a lift, but Argentines were inclined to ease off on the Rosario default. Costa Ricas, Uruguays and Venezuelans also displayed a reactionary tendency and Brazilians lost a little of their early rise. Japanese were steady to firm, and Chinese easily kept previous prices. On the general run of stocks in this section rates were not appreciably higher, 4-6 per cent. again covering Argentines, Brazilians, Chilians, Chinese, several Japanese and Peruvian debentures. On the Central American group, however, the charges rose to 6-7 per cent., and Peruvians could not be continued under 5-7 per cent. On one or two Japanese the rate was as low as 2-4 per cent., and a similar charge prevailed upon Spanish and Uruguay $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but on Turkish it rose to 4-5 per cent. Movements in the making-up list were irregular and not generally important. Argentines, Brazilians and Chilians showed small changes either way except

Brazilians, 1889, which were $1\frac{1}{2}$ up, and the 1903 loan, which was affected by the dividend deduction. Egyptian Unified was down 2, also on account of dividend, Costa Rica "B." and Guatemalan lost 1, Honduras $1\frac{1}{2}$, Russian Nicolas Railway and San Paulo .5 per cent. 1, and Uruguays $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$. Peruvian preference was down $1\frac{1}{2}$ and the ordinary $\frac{3}{4}$, but Spanish showed a rise of $1\frac{1}{2}$, Turkish rose $1\frac{1}{2}$ and Russians series I. and II. were up $\frac{3}{4}$.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
141 $\frac{1}{2}$	133	Brighton Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	135	135
157 $\frac{1}{2}$	149 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	153	153
130 $\frac{1}{2}$	119	Do. Def. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	119	119
120 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	Caledonian Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	110	110 $\frac{1}{2}$
80	75	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1 p.c.) ..	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	91	89
89	81	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$
16 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chatham Ordinary ..	15	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
44 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	City and South London (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	42	41
69	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	Furness (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$
40 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Central Pref. ..	38	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
190	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. ..	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Eastern (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	82 $\frac{1}{2}$	83
105	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	44	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
144	133 $\frac{1}{2}$	Great Western (5 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	134	135
52	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	Highland (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hull and Barnsley (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lanc. and Yorks. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
80 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$
37 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	Metropolitan District ..	24	24
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	Midland Pref. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	67
74 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	67	67 $\frac{1}{2}$
76 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	44
147 $\frac{1}{2}$	139 $\frac{1}{2}$	North-Eastern (6 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	139 $\frac{1}{2}$	141 $\frac{1}{2}$
163 $\frac{1}{2}$	154 $\frac{1}{2}$	North-Western (6 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	155	156
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	87	South-Eastern Ord. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	88	87
132	125 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	126	124
55 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. ..	52	52
164	152 $\frac{1}{2}$	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	153 $\frac{1}{2}$	152 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	104	104
57 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$

The reason for the pronounced flatness which has characterised the Home Railway market since the holidays became apparent this week, when it was allowed to leak out that a large "stale bull" account had been in course of liquidation. Many small accounts had also been closed, owing to the steady decline in prices, but the selling came to an end just before the settlement, and with these out of the way, dealers were encouraged to come in and bid for stocks, with the result that a more or less general rally took place. The fine Board of Trade figures for April helped the recovery, and as traffic returns, with the exception of the Great Western and Metropolitan, were satisfactory the market became much more cheerful. Metropolitan takings continue to feel the loss of the Great Central and Great Western traffic through the opening of the new joint line, and showed a decrease of £2,100, but in spite of that a sharp advance was recorded, and although still down on the week, the closing price was well above the lowest. Great Western, Great Eastern, and North-Eastern all improved by substantial amounts, and the only serious declines were in Central London and City and South London. Considering the higher rates charged by bankers for money, and the fact that the new account is a twenty-day one, it cannot be said that contangos on Wednesday were excessive at 6 per cent. as a general thing. Making-up prices show improvements on the account of $\frac{1}{2}$ in North-Eastern, $\frac{1}{2}$ in Hull and Barnsley, and 2 in Furness, but these were the only favourable changes, and on the other hand, Metropolitan fell 5, and the Surplus Lands stock 2, District was 3 lower, and Central London 1 to 2 down. Great Central preferred declined 2, Great Eastern $1\frac{1}{2}$, Lancashire and Yorkshire 1, Brighton issues 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$, South Eastern stocks and Chatham preferences $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$, and South Western ordinary and deferred 2 and $1\frac{1}{2}$, while Great Northern deferred, Great Western, and North-Western dropped $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$. Caledonian ordinary declined $1\frac{1}{2}$, and the deferred 1, and North British preferred $1\frac{1}{2}$.

It was generally expected that very stiff rates would be exacted for carrying over the enormous masses of American Railroad shares which have been transferred to this side, and negotiations for accommodation were

commenced long before the settlement. One operator was reported to have arranged a fixed loan for three months on one share which has recently been a favourite with the bulls, paying $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the money, and it was thought that contangos would rule about 7 per cent. Dealers consequently were inclined to await events, and on two occasions prices actually opened below parity, the first time such a thing has happened for weeks. President Roosevelt's message to Congress regarding Standard Oil methods proved a much more milk-and-watery document than anticipated, and was even regarded as a bull point for the railways, owing to the suggestion that these could combine for the maintenance of rates. Prices were lifted on Saturday after its publication, and the market seemed strong enough to resist the pressure of a little profit-taking, but the feeling was less cheerful at the opening of the current week. For one thing, it was unsettled by the reported failure of an American insurance company, and for another the dread of the settlement overhung everything like a cloud. Union Pacific shares continued to be the barometer by which the strength or weakness of the market was chiefly measured, and these were sent flying up or down by two or three dollars daily, but Reading came temporarily to the front on the decision of the anthracite miners against a strike. Milwaukee also received a fair amount of attention. An improvement in the position of our money market, and the report that the

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Atchison Shares (4) ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	93
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5) ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
120	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (5) ..	110 $\frac{1}{2}$	112
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	Do. Pref. (4) ..	97	97
63 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 $\frac{1}{2}$
195 $\frac{1}{2}$	162 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	165	172 $\frac{1}{2}$
52 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	Denver Shares ..	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	89	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
52 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	Erie Shares ..	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	44
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	78	Do. Pref. (4) ..	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	80
77	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$
185	171	Illinois Central (7) ..	173 $\frac{1}{2}$	176 $\frac{1}{2}$
160 $\frac{1}{2}$	143 $\frac{1}{2}$	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	143 $\frac{1}{2}$	148
41 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	Missouri and Texas ..	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	32 $\frac{1}{2}$
159 $\frac{1}{2}$	137 $\frac{1}{2}$	New York Central (5) ..	138	143
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Norfolk and Western (4) ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	92	Do. Pref. (4) ..	94	94
57 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ontario Shares (3) ..	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$
75 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pennsylvania (6) ..	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	71
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	Reading Shares (1 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	40	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	40	—
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	48	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
74 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern Pacific ..	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	67
43 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern ..	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5) ..	102	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
161 $\frac{1}{2}$	145 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union Pacific (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	147	152 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99	99
26 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	Wabash ..	20	21
53 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. ..	44	45 $\frac{1}{2}$
87	78	Do. Income Debts ..	78	79
182 $\frac{1}{2}$	161 $\frac{1}{2}$	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	163 $\frac{1}{2}$	164 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	105	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	109	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	111 $\frac{1}{2}$	111 $\frac{1}{2}$
297 $\frac{1}{2}$	255 $\frac{1}{2}$	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	261 $\frac{1}{2}$	261 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Guar. (4) ..	102	102
120	114 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	118	118
110 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	108
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3rd Pref. (2) ..	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	109	108

Bank of France had released £2,000,000 in eagles for export to the United States put a little heart into Wall Street, and with the settlement in view, an effort was made to bring about some recovery. The improvement was held until making-up prices had been fixed, when New York became a seller, but changes on the week nevertheless are mostly favourable. Atchison were notably firm for the new account on a tip to buy which had its origin in Wall Street. In spite of the enormous amount of stock to be carried—and it was said that as much as £6,000,000 had been shipped from New York during the account—no such great difficulty was experienced in arranging the account on Wednesday. Bankers began by asking 6 to $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and contangos inside the House occasionally rose to 7 per cent. at first, but Continental bankers had poured such floods of credit into this market to take advantage of the expected high rates, that supplies proved ample and the charge dropped back to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Except for declines of 21 in Great Northern and 17 in Northern Pacific, stocks of very little interest to our market, changes on the fortnight

were comparatively unimportant, the largest being losses of 3 each, in Milwaukee, Denver, and Louisville, and a gain of that amount in Reading. Union Pacific fell $2\frac{1}{2}$, Baltimore ordinary and preference, Missouri and Kansas, and Southern common 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$, and New York Central and Pennsylvania $\frac{1}{2}$ each, while Erie common were $\frac{1}{2}$ up, and the first and second preference $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 higher and Southern Pacific preference gained 1.

Nothing of importance emerged amongst Canadian railways, but Canadian Pacific shares as usual have followed the fortunes of Yankees and finish with a small gain, while Grand Trunk stocks are either unaltered or a trifle lower on the week. Movements during the account were equally insignificant, and making-up prices only show declines of $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ in Grand Trunk first and second preferences against a rise of $\frac{3}{8}$ in the thirds. Canadian Pacific shares, however, thanks to the deduction of "rights," are nominally $13\frac{1}{2}$ down. Money on speculative issues in this section cost from 7 to 8 per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
229 $\frac{1}{2}$	211 $\frac{1}{2}$	223	220	223
350	313	—	—	345
130 $\frac{1}{2}$	119	120	120xd	120xd
132	127	128 $\frac{1}{2}$	128	129xd
88	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	85	85	85
144 $\frac{1}{2}$	136 $\frac{1}{2}$	136 $\frac{1}{2}$	137	137
120 $\frac{1}{2}$	124 $\frac{1}{2}$	125 $\frac{1}{2}$	125	126
136 $\frac{1}{2}$	128	129	129	129xd
110	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	108	108xd
120 $\frac{1}{2}$	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	116	114xd	115xd
119	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	111	110xd	111xd
170	160 $\frac{1}{2}$	164	164xd	164xd
109	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	105	105	105
138 $\frac{1}{2}$	129 $\frac{1}{2}$	132	132	132
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	83	83	83	83
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	107	107	107
96	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	94	94	94
25 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$
59 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
111 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	11	11xd	11xd
308	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	104
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	90	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	93	93
92	6	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
86 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	94	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
108	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	109	109
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	107	107
28 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
130 $\frac{1}{2}$	118 $\frac{1}{2}$	127 $\frac{1}{2}$	126 $\frac{1}{2}$	128 $\frac{1}{2}$
59 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	52	53
68 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	60	61	60
16 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	16	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	16
21 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	20	20
214 $\frac{1}{2}$	202 $\frac{1}{2}$	203	203xd	203xd
193	168 $\frac{1}{2}$	177 $\frac{1}{2}$	173	177
		Antofagasta (10)..	220	223
		Do. Def. (15) ..	345	345
		Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	120xd	120xd
		Do. Prfd. (5) ..	128	129xd
		Bahia Blanca Prfd. ..	85	85
		B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	137	137
		Do. Pref. (5) ..	125	126
		B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	129	129xd
		Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	119	119
		Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	108	108xd
		B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	114xd	115xd
		Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	110xd	111xd
		Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	164xd	164xd
		Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	105	105
		B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	130	132
		Central Uruguay (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	83	83
		Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	103	107
		Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	94	94
		Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	71	70 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Costa Rica ..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Cuban Central ..	7	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Do. Pref. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	11xd	11xd
		Do. Deb. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	104
		East Argentine (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	93	93
		Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Leopoldina (4) ..	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Do. Deb. (4) ..	94	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	109	109
		Do. "B" (6) ..	107	107
		Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Do. 1st Pref. (6 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	126 $\frac{1}{2}$	128 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Do. 2nd Pref. ..	52	53
		Mexican Southern (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	61	60
		Nitrate Ord. (8) ..	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	16
		Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (5) ..	20	20
		San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	203xd	203xd
		United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	173	177

Except in Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary and Buenos Ayres Western ordinary, which were both bought pretty freely, business in the Argentine group was at no time brisk, and even the good traffic figures failed to infuse any life into the market. Quotations on the whole, however, displayed an upward tendency, and the only serious relapses were in Cordoba and Rosario ordinary and Cordoba and North-Western debentures. Brazilian railways were steady without much change in any of them, and Uruguay stocks were inclined to harden. A demand sprang up for the stocks of the old Mexican company, lifting them by a pound or two all round, while United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock was also rather sought after, and the price at one time touched 183. Carrying-over charges ranged from 6 to 7 per cent. on most South American things, but were decidedly stiffer on Mexican railway stocks and occasionally touched as much as 10 per cent. On the account Buenos Ayres and Rosario deferred lost 5 and the ordinary and preferred 2 and $2\frac{1}{2}$, Argentine Great Western was also $2\frac{1}{2}$ down, Cordoba and Rosario first preference declined $4\frac{1}{2}$, Buenos Ayres and Pacific ordinary and second preference 2 each, and Argentine North-Eastern preferred stock and ordinary debentures and East Argentine 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$, while the only favourable movement worth noting was a gain of 1 in Buenos Ayres Western ordinary. Central Uruguay fell $2\frac{1}{2}$, Uruguay Northern preferred and debenture stock 2 and $2\frac{1}{2}$ and Midland Uruguay debenture stock 4. San Paulo ordinary fell $6\frac{1}{2}$, Paraguay Central debenture stock $4\frac{1}{2}$, Guayaquil and Quito rail-

way bonds 3 and Antofagasta 2. Mexican Railway ordinary and second preference dropped $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$, Mexican Southern ordinary was $2\frac{1}{2}$ down and United Railways of the Havana 3 lower.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
21	16	19	Allsopp Ordinary ..	19
51	44	—	City of London Ord. ..	46 $\frac{1}{2}$
55 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	540
19 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40) ..	17
51 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22) ..	22
61 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	22
56 $\frac{1}{2}$	48	48	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4) ..	50 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4) ..	52
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Aerated Bread (32 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	Apollinaris Ord. (5) ..	7
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
27 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	12	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7) ..	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Brunner Mond (35) ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
11 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Calico Printers Ordinary (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Coats Ordinary (20) ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
500	482 $\frac{1}{2}$	495	Do. Pref. Ord. (20) ..	490
26 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nll) ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
25 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4) ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	5	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
13 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Henley's Telegraph (15) ..	13
89 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
27 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	108	Do. Debenture (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	108
24 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lipton Ordinary (7) ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	Lyons, J. & Co. (30) ..	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
34 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
15 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	Russian Petroleum ..	8
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Savoy Hotel (5) ..	7
18 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	Sweetmeat Automatic ..	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
12 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	12	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10) ..	15
19 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. Stock (6) ..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4) ..	84
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	49	Hudson's Bay Co. (58 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	49 $\frac{1}{2}$
110 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	49 $\frac{1}{2}$
9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	—	Do. Debentures (6) ..	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
13 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	National Discount (10) ..	9
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union Discount (11) ..	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
11 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8) ..	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	City of London Elect. Ord. (6) ..	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
133 $\frac{1}{2}$	125 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	96
66 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	126
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	3
28 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
31 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Brown, J. & Co. Ordinary (10) ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
14	12	12 $\frac{1}{2}$	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	42	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
117	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	110 $\frac{1}{2}$	United States Steel Ordinary ..	40
57 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Preference (7) ..	108 $\frac{1}{2}$
15 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Vickers Ordinary (12 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
24 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Cunard Steam ..	14xd
59 $\frac{1}{2}$	57	—	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13) ..	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
9	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Royal Mail ..	59
115 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	114 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5) ..	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
23 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	Anglo-American Telegraph—	114 $\frac{1}{2}$
150 $\frac{1}{2}$	143	143 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pref. Ord. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	114 $\frac{1}{2}$
15 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Def. Ord. ..	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
113 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7) ..	144 $\frac{1}{2}$
14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Eastern Extension (7) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	109
8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Western Telegraph (7) ..	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
9 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6) ..	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
117	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8) ..	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
10	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	London General Omnibus (7) ..	84 $\frac{1}{2}$
			London United Trams Pref. (5) ..	9 $\frac{1}{2}$

Miscellaneous markets were generally idle, but presented a few features of interest. Hudson's Bays fluctuated, with Americans falling at one time to 81 $\frac{1}{2}$, but closing well above the worst. Anglo-American Telegraph deferred stock continued very strong, and touched 25 $\frac{1}{2}$, which must be considered a somewhat remarkable price. Eastern Telegraph ordinary was also better, but other issues in this group showed no important movement. London Docks stocks, after showing renewed dulness, braced up, but Surrey Commercial ordinary kept flat to the end on the threatened attack on the company's virtual wood business monopoly. P. and O. deferred stock was lower in the shipping division, but Trusts were good, and no further important decline took place in Insurance shares, although the tendency was still dull. London General Omnibus and Road Car shares were steady, and London Motor Omnibus slightly improved. Nitrate shares were comparatively quiet with the principal movements adverse, and California Oilfields, after a further decline, rallied to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$. Iron and steel shares were steady to firm at the opening, but subsequently eased off in a few instances. Catering things had no important movements, but amongst Meat shares Eastmans were a distinctly hard market. Nelsons, however, were still inclined to ease off. Sweetmeats were better on the big increase in the receipts for April. Gordon Hotels

and Savoy Hotel showed weakness, and amongst Textiles Coats were steadier, after their recent fall. Other things were irregular without notable change. Brewery issues continue to go back, Van den Berghs rallied slightly, and United Langkats kept steady at previous figures. Carry-over rates in this section were naturally higher, owing to the heavier bankers' charges and the longer duration of the account. They may be called about 1 per cent. up all round. In the making-up list declines preponderated, the principal losses including $\frac{3}{8}$ in Anglo-Malay Rubber, $\frac{5}{16}$ in Bell's Asbestos, $\frac{5}{8}$ in California Oilfields, $\frac{1}{2}$ in Gordon Hotels, $\frac{1}{16}$ in Hope Bros. ordinary, $\frac{3}{8}$ in Metropolitan Electric, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ in Underground Electric profit-sharing notes. Allsopp stocks were down 1 to $5\frac{1}{2}$, Bieckert's ordinary dropped 12, Watney, Combe preferred and preference 2, Hudson's Bays $4\frac{1}{2}$, Pekin Syndicate $\frac{3}{4}$, and the deferred 10, Eastern Telegraph ordinary 2, Great Northern Telegraph ordinary $2\frac{1}{2}$, and National Telephone deferred 2. Standard Bank of South Africa shares were down 4, and Tarapaca Water lost $3\frac{5}{8}$. On the other hand, Portland Cement ordinary and preference each rose $\frac{1}{2}$, Mazawattee ordinary 1s. 6d., and the preference $\frac{1}{2}$. Argentine Southern Land added $\frac{1}{16}$, Anglo-American Telegraph stocks advanced 1 to $2\frac{3}{8}$, and Imperial Ottoman Bank were up $\frac{3}{4}$.

Markets have been good to-day, and all the clouds have for the moment passed away. "Everything booming but no business" is the description we get. Russian scrip, which was yesterday under 2 premium, is to-day $2\frac{3}{16}$. De Beers have rallied, and all Kaffir shares are harder, some of them because of "bear" closing, others on sentiment. Bourses abroad, too, are harder, and the mood may, if it lasts, bring some business next week. That a fortnightly settlement of such gravity as that finished to-day should have gone through without failures, great or small, is itself a remarkable fact, and will be taken as a strong "bull" point. There have been liquidations, and more than one member is said to have lost his all, but there has been no "hammering" on pay day.

American Business Notes.

The able New York financial correspondent of the *Observer*, Mr. Noyes, financial editor of the *New York Evening Post*, states that the gold imports into the United States during the month of April exceeded those of any similar period in American history, and amounted to \$50,000,000, against \$41,000,000, which was the former "record" in the panic year 1893, when 4 per cent. premium was bid on Wall Street for gold. These figures do not correspond with those given by the *New York Commercial Chronicle*, but its \$14,103,000 as the total imports since the present movement began must be much too low. We shall probably have to wait a little before we get complete statistics, but it is plain enough now that the demand for gold has been both urgent and phenomenal beyond precedent. The catastrophe at San Francisco is blamed for the urgency, but gold imports had begun before that occurred, and after all San Francisco's wants were only incidental, the true cause of the urgency being the unwholesome inflation of credit and prices for securities on New York markets. It is always when credit has become distended and unwholesome that gold becomes the one medicine capable of curing the gorged or flatulent patient, and we shall be interested to see how long United States financiers may be able to keep the gold they have bought or borrowed at such cost. It was not through their great surplus wealth in merchandise that they attained control of the European bullion markets, but by an unprecedented pawning of their securities, marketable and unmarketable. These have been poured into London, above all, in quantities almost unmanageable until credit dealers in the City have grown nervous lest some accident might happen, and precipitate such a

a crisis as could not occur without involving some of our own banks in serious difficulties.

Meantime the return of the New York Associated Banks is not particularly reassuring. Last week's figures, in fact, disappointed everybody, especially the financiers interested in bolstering markets on the other side of the Atlantic. The total reserve had fallen back by £962,000, of which £716,000 was in specie, and its excess above the legal minimum of 25 per cent. of the liabilities on deposits was only £1,181,000, against £2,072,000 the week before. That this should be the position after such enormous quantities of gold had been imported is sufficiently disquieting, and we do not see how any lasting or reliable improvement can take place until there has been a much more thorough liquidation of over-distended speculative positions. The last available detailed return of the New York Associated Banks for the week ended April 21 indicates that 21 of their number at that date still held reserves below the legal minimum, and 21 out of 52 is a large proportion. They are better, however, on the whole, than they were when we last examined their detailed statements, as only one bank held less than 20 per cent., and that is the Bowery Bank, quite a small affair. Very few of them, however, hold any appreciable amount in excess of the legal minimum, and until they are all brought into line, the strain cannot really be materially relieved. One cause of the poverty is said to be the new law of New York State in virtue of which the financial trust companies are compelled to hold a cash reserve, and doubtless that has had some influence, but if the whole credit organisation of the Union had not been overstrained and overcommitted to speculative adventures of every description, there need not have been the urgency to get gold which we see.

A brief Reuter's message announces that suits both civil and criminal have been instituted in the Congress of the State of Ohio against the Standard Oil Company. We wish them success, for the disclosures made by Mr. Garfield in his report upon the operations of this octopus of finance should, imperfect though they may be, create such a storm of public indignation as would suffice to sweep it out of existence. It may not be more infamous in its business methods than the all-powerful Beef Trust, but it has been the most stealthily unscrupulous combination of financial cracksmen the United States have ever suffered from.

It is stated that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will require about \$8,000,000 to enable it to subscribe for its share of the new stock of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, the Pennsylvania being the principal controlling power behind this reorganised and now seemingly prosperous road. It is further reported by the *New York Sun* that the Pennsylvania Railroad Company has decided to issue between \$35,000,000 and \$50,000,000 of short term 5 per cent. notes to pay for the cost of constructing the New York City extension, and for improvements on the main line between New York and Philadelphia. A qualified denial, however, was given to this report, but it was admitted that the company must raise a large amount of money, the sums recently obtained being insufficient to complete the enormous improvements under way. The only consolation, as an apologist of the aggressiveness of this the most powerful railroad organisation in the world says, is that it serves the greatest traffic-producing territory in the world, and that when the improvements now in hand are perfected it will be in an impregnable position. We trust it may be so.

The steel monopolists are said to have decided not to raise the price of steel rails for 1907, notwithstanding the enormous demand. The present cost is \$28, or, say, £7 5s. per ton, a sufficiently high figure, but it might have been advanced, the contention is, because of the enormous demand. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company, for instance, is said to have ordered 150,000 tons of rails for delivery next year, of which two-thirds falls to the United States Steel Trust, the Carnegie agglomerate. However, the price of \$28 per

tion is graciously deemed to be a fair one under existing conditions, and will be adhered to.

New plant to the value of \$75,000,000 is required by the Indiana Steel Company, which is a subsidiary of the Carnegie Trust. A small army of men will be employed for two years in the construction of this plant, which, when completed, will give employment to about 15,000 men. How is the money to be found? Does it imply a fresh issue of capital by the over-shadowing trust, or will the Indiana Company itself put out bonds or stock?

An Electric Securities Corporation or Trust is said to be in contemplation. It will have a capital of several million dollars, and will own all the stock of Westinghouse, Church, Kerr and Co., besides making investments in other corporations involving the use of electricity. Does this mean distress amongst the electric plant manufacturers in the United States, and is it the first step towards a consolidation which would mean monopoly? We must wait to see.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

Frank and unbiassed answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

Oh, that sickening Kaffir Circus, we wish it had never been invented. The magnates give no support, because it will not assist their political follies, and the public prefer to sell rather than buy, so prices have to go on falling, and the ore goes on growing poorer, and the caught ones must continue to clamour against the wrong people for the wrong remedies.

Tuesday was carry-over day, and owing to the general dearth of money rates were a little stiffer than a fortnight ago. The fact, too, that the preliminary contango day has been done away with gave less time to the "bulls" to look round, and takers-in naturally enough made the most of their advantages. The open position presumably must have lessened during the account, so the stiffening up of rates was mainly due to the monetary position and the twenty-day account to come. On such specialties as Gold Fields, East Rands, Modderfonteins, Rand Mines, and Randfonteins, the charge was $5\frac{1}{2}$ —6½ per cent., against $4\frac{1}{2}$ —5½ per cent., on Johnnies it was $5\frac{1}{2}$ —6½ per cent., compared with 5—6 per cent., and on T. C. L. it hardened from $4\frac{1}{2}$ —5½ per cent. to 5—6 per cent. On the majority of the shares the contango was 6—8 per cent., on De Beers and Jagers it was ½ per cent. higher at 4—5 per cent., and equally as stiffer on Premier Diamonds at 5—6 per cent. Rhodesians were also carried over at 6—8 per cent., with two or three exceptions, such as 6½ per cent. on Chartered, 6—7 per cent. on Bankets, and $6\frac{1}{2}$ —7½ per cent. on Explorations, Lomagundas, Scottish Mashonaland, and Rice Hamiltons. The general rate on Egyptians and West Africans was 6—8 per cent. On many Westralian shares there were givers of 6 per cent., but on some of the leading counters the rate was less. At first Great Fingalls were continued at 4—6 per cent., but at the finish there were borrowers of the shares. Great Boulders were done at 4—6 per cent., and Horseshoes and Oroayas at 3—5 per cent. Associated opened at 5—7 per cent., but went off to "even."

The making-up list was a sad sight to speculators for the rise, the array of heavy losses being striking, such as $\frac{3}{4}$ in S. A. Gold Mines, $\frac{1}{2}$ in De Beers deferred, and $\frac{1}{4}$ in the preferred and Modderfonteins, $\frac{1}{2}$ in Crown Reefs and Welgedachts, $\frac{3}{4}$ in Angelos, Casons, Cinderella Deeps, Jumpers Deeps, Rose Deeps, Village Deeps, and Jagersfontein, $\frac{1}{4}$ in Gold Fields, Anglo-French Exploration, East Rand Proprietary, Apex, and Knight's Central, 9-32 in Rand Mines and Knights, whilst falls of $\frac{1}{4}$ were numerous. Premier Diamond deferred stood out most conspicuously with the substantial gain of $2\frac{3}{4}$, whilst Ferreiras advanced $\frac{1}{4}$. The changes in the West African and Egyptian sections were also mostly to a lower level, and relapses were likewise general amongst Westralians. Great Fingalls lost $\frac{1}{2}$, which was by much the heaviest fall in the group. Amongst coppers Anacondas and Rio Tintos shed $\frac{1}{2}$ each.

For the new account no solid business whatever seems to be passing, and in the absence of support quotations have continued to give way. The French have shown a disposition to throw stock on the market. Dealers are as ready as ever with their theories as to the causes of this stagnation, imagining them to be the ever-present labour trouble, the state of affairs in Natal, the Egyptian question, the monetary position, and other crosses, but were all these removed who could feel hopeful that the public would come in and buy?

There is, however, one active share, and this is Premier Diamond deferred, but the excitement is the effect of the continued struggle between the "bulls" and the "bears," sometimes the one party prevailing, sometimes the other. De Beers and Jagers are very dull in comparison.

The only other shares in the whole of the mining market which are interesting are Anacondas and Rio Tintos, the movements in which are still erratic. The first mentioned generally move up and down with the trend of things in the Yankee department, whilst Rio Tintos follow their own irregular course, sometimes

strong when Anacondas are weak, and sometimes weak when their companions are strong. On balance, however, both shares show improvements.

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT.—The Transvaal Chamber of Mines cables that the gold output for the whole Transvaal amounted to 439,243 ozs. during April, the value of which was £1,865,785, the Rand itself contributing 420,467 ozs. and the outside districts 18,776 ozs. These figures show a decrease in weight of 4,480 ozs. and of £19,030 in value compared with the March return, but as the output per diem was 14,641 ozs. against 14,313 ozs. there is an actual improvement of 328 ozs. daily, or over 9,800 ozs. on the month. For the first time for some months there was an increase in the native labour supply, but only of 439, the number at work at the end of April being 78,915.

ROBINSON GOLD MINING COMPANY.—The great Robinson Gold Mining Company, with the flooded capital, was more fortunate last year than many of its neighbours in the Wernher-Beit group. Owing mainly to a greater labour force available the profit earned substantially increased. On an average 200 stamps were kept at work, 328,230 tons being milled, and the value of the gold recovered was £913,304, equal to 55s. 7.8d. per ton. Compared with 1904 the quantity crushed was 53,773 tons more, the sum earned £194,690 greater, and the recovery value per ton 3s. 3.4d. higher. This improvement is attributed to the fact that the stopes, especially in the South Reef, were carried narrower, and that 18.8 per cent. was discarded as waste, against 12.7 per cent. The revenue per ton was also increased by 9.4d. through extended treatment of accumulated slimes. Working costs amounted to £370,769, or 22s. 7.1d. per ton, a slight reduction upon those of the preceding year, so the gross profit was £542,534, equal to 33s. 0.6d. per ton. Adding sundry revenue the profit at the mine is shown at £547,236, the balance brought in was £328,395, £3,507 was received as dividends on Robinson Central Deep shares and £3,920 represents interest earned, making a total of £883,059. Two dividends aggregating 17 per cent. were paid, absorbing £467,500, £42,414 has been allowed for depreciation, £246,902 has been "transferred to profits reinvested in the undertaking," and after allowing for profits' tax, etc., £75,322 is carried forward. The sums written off for depreciation and the above transfer from profits are merely book entries. That is, a considerable portion of the profits has been spent from time to time on capital account, and the directors have considered it advisable to reduce the credit balance. Total ore reserves at the end of last year, exclusive of any main reef, are estimated at 1,433,000 tons, an increase of 444,450 tons during the year. The company is wealthy enough, but as there is so much water in the capital the dividend is tiny for a company of its magnitude. But this does not concern those who made colossal fortunes in the past by the multiplication of the shares and inflation of the price. The losses of those who come after do not excite their compassion. Why should they?

Ferreira Gold Mining Company.—Throughout the past financial year the management has endeavoured to work the Ferreira mine in such a manner that the value of the ore extracted will be maintained throughout the remainder of the mine's life. The gold recovered from all sources showed a decrease in grade of .342 dwt. per ton, but working costs were reduced by 1s. 9d. per ton, and as extra tonnage was dealt with the monthly profit was raised from £23,600 in January to over £28,400 in December. Altogether 237,500 tons were crushed for a total output of 141,464 ozs., equal to nearly 12 dwts. per ton, the value of which was £594,685, or £2 10s. per ton. Working costs totalled £281,858, so the working profit was £312,826, an increase of £34,690 over 1904. To this has to be added £12,091 in respect of rents, &c., whilst as much as £157,837 was brought in. Two dividends were paid of 12½ per cent. and 137½ per cent., making 262½ per cent., absorbing £249,375, and there is left £196,928 to carry forward. This great company is very rich, for it has no less than £242,981 in cash, but out of this has to be paid the final dividend, £130,625, whilst creditors are owed £43,894. A special meeting was held in November to consider a provisional agreement for the purchase of the freehold rights of the company of such of its claim property as is situated on the Farm Turfontein, for £80,000. Notwithstanding the large tonnage mined and milled the developed ore reserves were increased by 89,000 tons.

APEX MINES.—This company has not yet succeeded, after long years of working, in earning a shilling from gold winning, although it is from gold the directors ultimately hope to justify the inflated value of the shares. The profits still come from coal mining, and during the past financial year 245,737 tons were disposed of at a profit of £40,684, compared with 213,090 tons in 1904 and £36,324 respectively. Twelve months ago two boreholes were being sunk, called "M" and "N." The first has reached a depth of 2,775 ft. At 1,200 ft. the bore passed through the amygdaloidal diabase overlying the Bird Reef series, and intersected the Main Reef series from 2,456 ft. to 2,458 ft., giving an average value of 8.63 dwts. over 27 in. Borehole "N" was sunk to 1,600 ft., at which it was stopped, the Main Reef series being intersected from 1,368 ft. to 1,369 ft., giving a value of 9.5 dwts. over 6 in. With the completion of these boreholes the policy of diamond drill exploitation was concluded, and the directors have started sinking a shaft on the north-east portion of the farm. Owing to labour difficulties sinking had to be stopped when a depth of 48 ft. was reached. It is to be resumed, however, as soon as the air compressor is erected and ready to work. As money is wanted for development work the directors sold 16,838 fully-paid shares in the Kleinfontein Deep and 48,000 Van Ryn Deep shares for a profit of £71,420, which has been carried to a reserve fund. A dividend of 22½ per cent. has been paid, and £8,721 is carried forward.

TRANSVAAL CONSOLIDATED LAND AND EXPLORATION COMPANY.—This is the company whose shares recently flew upwards with mysterious suddenness because rumour said tin had been discovered on the property, but it will need something even more valuable than tin to bring it prosperity. In the financial year to December 31 the revenue amounted to £71,607, and the expenditure absorbed £33,748, so the nett profit was £37,859, raising the credit balance to £86,135. This cannot be divided because the company dare not part with cash, and because the issued capital is no less than £970,814. If we exclude "property" valued in the books at £685,497, the two principal assets are shares in the Braamfontein company, £191,172, and mortgage bonds and other advances, £263,045, and as cash is only £15,219, it is clear that the profits and premium money of £137,422 are invested in these assets, which are not of a purely liquid quality. Some curious incidents are recorded in the report. Two farms have been lost as the result of a Government survey, which returned them as non-existent, and £3,169 had to be written off; prospecting operations in the district of the Kunana Options, Limited, having failed to yield satisfactory results, that company has been liquidated, resulting in a loss to the Transvaal Consolidated Land of £4,890. Then operations on a mine called the Mount Morgan have been discontinued, and £12,598 has been written off, and the directors hope to be able to dispose of the property and machinery. This is not making express speed towards dividends.

SELECTED GOLD MINES OF AUSTRALIA.—Mr. H. Brougham, the Senior Official Receiver and liquidator of the Selected Gold Mines of Australia, has issued a report to the creditors and shareholders. The statement of affairs filed by Mr. G. F. Fenings, the late secretary, shows unsecured debts, £857, a fully secured debt, £505, and loans on debenture bonds, £156,097, against assets valued at £209,745, or sufficient to provide a surplus of £52,787, after meeting all liabilities. The account with the contributories discloses a deficiency of £7,612. In his report the Official Receiver traces the history of the company back to the formation of the Joint Stock Institute, Limited, in February, 1894, since when there have been various reconstructions. In December, 1903, Mr. H. F. G. Weber instituted a debenture action against the Associated Financial Corporation, in which Mr. W. O. Clough was appointed receiver, and entered into the agreement of February 4, 1904, whereby two new companies were to be formed, of which the first was to take over certain "selected" assets from Horatio Bottomley's Corporations, and to allot the whole of its debenture issue to the corporation's debenture holders. It was also to allot one £1 share to two persons who were to represent the interests of the debenture holders, and to have a number of votes corresponding to the amount in pounds of the existing debenture issue. The second company was to acquire the remaining assets, registered in 1904, under the name of the Joint Stock Trust and Finance Corporation, Limited, with a nominal capital of £10,000, subsequently increased to £500,000 in 2,000,000 shares of 5s. each, credited 3s. 6d. paid. The capital of the Selected Gold Mines was raised from £50,000 to £61,000, and the Joint Stock Trust applied for and was allotted 30,000 shares, and two further blocks of 19,992 and 10,000 shares respectively. To secure payment for these, the calls on the issued capital of the Joint Stock Trust were duly mortgaged to the Selected company, and the proceeds were from time to time paid into a joint account, but advances were, on the other hand, made by the Selected company to the Joint Stock Trust in order that the latter might pay the liabilities of the Associated Financial Corporation. Discouraging reports were sent from Australia, and the directors resolved to stop all unnecessary expenditure, and to let the mines on tribute. They then conferred with Mr. Bottomley, representing the Joint Stock Trust, as to a proposed sale of the company's assets to Hannan's Trust, Limited, of which Mr. Tanqueray Todd was managing director, who purchased from Mr. Weber debentures in the Selected company of the value of £30,000 for £12,000 in cash, and certain shares and debentures in Hannan's Trust. A compulsory winding-up order was made against the latter concern in June, 1905. On June 13 of the same year Mr. Alfred Locke Cox took his seat as a director of the Selected show for the first time, and joined, with Mr. Erlan, in advancing £4,350 to the Joint Stock Trust, making its indebtedness £22,056. At the same time these directors signed an agreement whereby the Selected company purchased from the Joint Stock Trust a number of interests and shares in West Australian gold mining leases and companies for £25,000, the effect of which was to cancel the liability of the Trust and make it a creditor of the Selected for £2,944. The claim was settled on August 23, 1905, by the transfer to a nominee of the Joint Stock Trust of debentures in the Selected Company for £12,800, the bonds being taken at the value of £23 per £100 debenture. During 1904 the Joint Stock Trust invited its shareholders to subscribe to certain "stock operations." Those who subscribed received in October and December of that year and January, 1905, copies of certificates by a chartered accountant, Mr. Dalton Easum, announcing that the first three operations had consisted in the acquisition of debentures in the Selected company, and the exchange of such debentures for shares, and that the debentures had cost £37 on an average. The subscribers, however, did not at the time receive any shares, but were supplied with contract notes, in which the Trust undertook to deliver the shares upon a special settlement being obtained, the contracts being based on the calculation that shares of the nominal value of £100 would be delivered for every £50 subscribed. This price of £50 is stated by Mr. Bottomley to have been agreed upon at a meeting of the subscribers. No special settlement was ever obtained, and no debentures had either been regis-

tered as acquired by the Trust, or been exchanged for shares. The Joint Stock Trust had no shares except the 59,992 for which it had applied, and which it was bound by agreement not to deal with until the whole of its indebtedness to the Selected had been paid. Meanwhile, some of the subscribers were pressing for delivery of the shares for which they held contracts. The agreement made it possible for the Trust to part with these shares, and the minute of July 4, 1905, by which transfers were dispensed with, concealed the fact that the shares had not been obtained in exchange for debentures, but Mr. Bottomley states that this fact was communicated to the subscribers. Some of the latter, who are returned as shareholders in the statement of affairs, have repudiated the position, and have brought actions against the Joint Stock Trust. In September, 1905, three debenture actions were commenced against the company, with the result that Mr. F. S. Salaman, chartered accountant, was appointed receiver for the debenture holders, and has since been administering the estate. Having regard to the nature of the properties sold to the company under the agreement, and to the circumstances under which it was executed, the question of its validity will have to be considered, and it may be that a claim will have to be made against the Joint Stock Trust. After the winding-up order was made against the Selected company meetings of shareholders of the Joint Stock Trust were held, at which resolutions were passed for voluntary liquidation, and the appointment of Mr. Dalton Easum as liquidator. Mr. Salaman has informed the Official Receiver that the properties will probably not fetch more than £4,000 or £5,000. Mr. Bottomley states that the Lady Bountiful and Princess Murchison properties are of very considerable value, but there is some doubt both as to whether the company should claim them and as to whether it could now obtain possession of them without further expense.

What an edifying story! And, in the comic vein, how it smacks of Whitaker Wright finance! Yet, what is the use of it all if the law is so impotent that such transactions can be carried through with impunity?

CORNISH MINING.—During the week the price of tin has again been strong, and in consequence there has been more than usual activity in Cornish tin shares. It is announced that the Wheal Grenville, the most important of the remaining cost book companies, has decided to adopt limited liability. In the present company there are about 6,000 shares, on each of which £18 12s. 6d. has been paid, whilst the dividends have equalled nearly £22 per share. The market price is about £11 10s. The new company is to be called the "Grenville United Mines, Limited," with a nominal capital of £100,000 in £1 shares. Shareholders will be entitled to an allotment of ten fully-paid shares for every share held in the present company, conditional on his taking in the new company five £1 shares, credited with 5s. paid-up, for every share held by him. The meeting is convened on the mine on the 16th inst., when the preliminary resolution will be submitted. Quotations of the present limited companies are:—Basset Mines, 4s. 3d.; Carn Brea and Tincroft, 7s. 6d.; Clitters United, 18s. 6d.; Cornish Consolidated, ¾ premium; Dolcoath Mine, 22s. 6d.; Wheal Merth, 1½.

HYDERABAD (DECCAN) COMPANY.—The output of the Singareni collieries last year exceeded that of the previous year, but the reduction in the price of coal makes the gross value of the sales very little less than that for 1904. On the other hand, the working expenditure has been reduced, so the profit from the working of the collieries is £53,518, compared with £48,492. The Hutti (Nizam's) Gold Mines, Limited, paid a dividend of 20 per cent., and the Hyderabad received £2,000. After providing £10,000 for depreciation and £2,000 for reserve, the accounts show a credit of £41,904, out of which the directors are paying a dividend of 3s. per share, absorbing £33,600, and leaving £8,304 to be carried forward. In July last a company called the Deccan Gold Fields Development Company was formed to acquire an option over the company's mining rights in the Raichor Doab gold field, and prospecting is now being carried out. The adjourned arbitration between the company and H. H. the Nizam's Government will shortly be proceeded with, this course being necessary as the negotiations for a compromise have had no result.

GOLDEN POLE GOLD MINES.—The bullion won in the half-year ending January 31 realised £41,046, and the gross profit was £23,883, out of which £5,963 is allowed for depreciation. With £20,491 brought in the disposable balance of £38,411 is shown, and the two dividends aggregate 75 per cent. on the capital of £20,000 in 2s. shares, and even then £23,411 is carried forward. So the company continues to do well. Working costs have been reduced, but the manager says there is really no possibility of cutting them down further. It would appear, however, that well as the mine has done so far, the outlook is somewhat uncertain, for the directors say they regret the anticipations formed last July as to the future have not been realised, but at the same time desire to state "that the situation does not justify undue despondency, as the general character of developments since the installation of the new management has been more reassuring."

MOUNT LYEAL MINING AND RAILWAY COMPANY.—A cable from Melbourne states that in the half-year ending March 31, 202,520 tons of ore were treated, and that the operations gave a nett profit of £255,648, inclusive of profits from the superphosphate business, which the directors consider satisfactory. This gives the company a credit balance of £414,289, out of which a dividend of 1s. 3d. per share, and a bonus of 1s. 3d. are paid.

VICTORIA CORNISH GOLD MINES.—A report has been issued by the directors embracing the period from the date of registration,

February, 1903, to December 30, 1905, and it is said that accounts accompany it, but they did not reach us with the report. The mines have been idle for ten years, and over 20 shafts have had to be unwatered, occupying 19 months. So regular crushings did not commence until October, 1904, and up to the end of 1905 14,380 tons were milled for a yield of 11,409 ozs., realising £45,904. The costs of unwatering and prospecting, and 50 per cent. of the sum spent on development have been charged to revenue, but what the nett profit is we cannot guess without seeing the accounts. Anyway, a dividend of 1s. per share has been paid, and the directors practically promise larger ones in the future.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

LEOPOLDINA RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

This company has a rather satisfactory report to present for the year to December 31 last. Gross receipts were £1,126,167, or £326,135 more than in the preceding 12 months, against which the working expenses rose £181,992 to £732,845, so that the improvement in nett receipts reached £144,143 at £393,322. Ratio between expenditure and income was 65.07 per cent. against 68.85 per cent. The increase in the gross receipts in currency was only Rs.10,55,000 at Rs.1,67,65,000, but the conversion into sterling was at a much improved rate, so that the equivalent in English money is decidedly higher. The working expenses, however, are affected in the same way. The movement in passengers increased generally over the whole system, although the receipts did not rise in the same proportion, due in part to the reduced fares established to further promote long distance travel and in part to the bulk of the increase in number being confined to the suburban districts with the corresponding diminished earnings per journey. Under all heads the number of passengers carried increased by 267,987 to 2,211,434, with an improvement in receipts of £45,310, parcels and luggage rose £10,784 to £49,779, and although the tonnage of goods traffic advanced no more than 32,891 to 484,730, the revenue was larger by £265,879 at £854,266. Of this increase, the coffee traffic produced no less than £181,227, and much lower down comes a rise under general goods of £44,982. Sugar likewise did pretty well in a more modest fashion, and increases also appeared in flour, timber, and alcohol. In rice, maize, and other cereals there was a falling off due to the lower prices which induced growers to dispose of their products locally instead of consigning to the Rio markets, and this, coupled with the heavier taxation on similar articles of foreign production, tended to counteract the importation of cereals from other sources and so diminished traffics. A point for protectionist railway shareholders in this country. The improvement in timber is traceable to the extraordinary amount of building now going on in Rio, and the result of the coffee crop fulfilled expectations. Moreover, the company's officials are led to believe that the exceptionally wet summer will still further benefit the plantations, so that the railway may hope to secure an equally large quantity during the current year. On the other hand, the rains have seriously damaged the cereal and sugar cane plantations, and a falling off in the export of these products must be anticipated. Another adverse point is the serious interruption to traffic caused by landslips, floods, and wash-outs, which occurred during the months of December, February, and January last, resulting in a considerable falling off in receipts, which is only now being picked up. In connection with this, it has been considered desirable to place £35,000 from revenue to a separate fund to meet the heavy renewal charges entailed. To the nett revenue of £393,322 must be added sum brought forward, £93,716, Federal and State Government guarantees £50,229, and interest and transfer fees £4,639, making a total of £541,905. From this debenture interest absorbs £142,423, £50,000 is set aside to reserve for ultimate redemption of debenture stock, £35,000 is allowed for repairs as mentioned, and interest and discount take £721, leaving £313,761. The board, therefore, declares a dividend of 4 per cent., or 1 per cent. more, carrying forward £90,933. The directors state that there is no important change in the position of the law suits still undecided, including that affecting the Juiz de Fora section. Capital expenditure during the year was £242,139, and further outlay to an important extent must be contemplated, as two new concessions have been obtained from the Minas Government, representing a probable addition of 125 miles, which will be undertaken at the earliest possible moment.

INDIA GENERAL NAVIGATION AND RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

In their report for the year ended December 31, 1905, the directors of this company again complain of low freights and State-aided railway competition. The vessels, however, seem to have been pretty fully employed, and the total income on freight and charter accounts amounts to Rs.16,65,979 against Rs.16,16,912. Rents produced a further amount of Rs.5,618, unappropriated commissions gave Rs.30,526, or Rs.6,256 less, the railway net earnings were a shade better at Rs.1,18,728, and Indian interest amounted to Rs.4,868, making a total income of Rs.18,25,720 compared with Rs.17,83,858. As usual, debenture interest and bank charges for keeping the accounts amounted to Rs.1,70,800, compensation claims and salvage amounted to Rs.32,990, contribution to provident fund was Rs.15,000, Indian income-tax

took Rs.15,795, and managing agents' commission amounted to Rs.40,924. These charges met, and the nett balance was Rs.15,50,211, or a slight improvement compared with the preceding 12 months. This is converted into sterling at 1s. 4d. per rupee, yielding £103,347, to which must be added transfer fees and exchange adjustments, making £103,653. From this home charges, legal expenses, and interest, discount and commission require £4,362, English income-tax amounts to £2,187, and £59,603 is allowed for depreciation. With £9,626 brought in the directors then have £47,036 for disposal, and after meeting preference dividend they propose to repeat the 4 per cent. distribution on the ordinary shares, adding £5,000 to reserve, writing off £2,759 from goodwill account, and carrying forward £7,409. According to the report the fleet has been well maintained during the year, and three more large despatch steamers have been laid down. One of them is now running, and the other two are nearing completion. In addition the three flats referred to in the last report left for service early in 1905, and six more flats are being added, three of which are almost ready. Serious accidents have unfortunately been above the average. Two flats were "snagged," and another two damaged by fire, but no actual loss occurred, and all the vessels have been or are being repaired. The Sylhet Lime Company, in which the company is interested to the amount of £1,279, made further progress during the past year, and increased its profit by Rs.9,452. With the addition proposed the reserve fund will be increased to £20,000, and the sum of £2,759 written off the goodwill account will reduce it to £8,000. The reserve is still very slender, considering the magnitude of the balance-sheet items, but the depreciation allowance seems fair.

SOUTH BEHAR RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

During the half-year ended December 31 the gross revenue of this undertaking was Rs. 2,72,866 or Rs. 3,356 less than in the corresponding period, and after deducting working expenses at 45 per cent. or Rs. 1,22,790 the nett balance is down by Rs. 1,846 to Rs. 1,50,476. To that is added rebate allowed by the East Indian Railway Rs. 88,503, making Rs. 2,38,579, out of which Rs. 13,317 is payable to the Indian Government as interest on advances, and Indian income tax requires Rs. 3,644, leaving Rs. 2,21,618. In sterling this produced £14,816, and the directors have paid debenture interest and administration charges, and now have £15,370 to dispose of, including £6,204 brought forward. They therefore propose a dividend of 2 per cent., requiring £7,591, and leaving £7,778 to be carried forward. As already announced, the Indian Government has leased the line from the company for the sum of £30,000 per annum for the remainder of the contract, so that the present dividend is quite the least that proprietors may in future look forward to. The lease takes place from January 1 last, and the directors will henceforth close the annual accounts on December 31 instead of June 30. Half-yearly statements will be submitted, and an interim dividend will be paid in the month of July each year, the final payment to be declared at the ordinary general meeting, which the board hopes it will be practicable to hold in January.

QUEBEC CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY.

This company's revenue for the year 1905 was \$789,205, or \$10,236 more than in the previous 12 months, and the working expenses were about \$12,000 less at \$528,380, so that the nett earnings show an improvement of \$22,229 to \$260,825. This is increased to \$261,301 by interest on balances and \$10,679 was brought forward, making \$271,980. From that interest on the prior lien bonds and 4 per cent. debenture stock absorbs \$90,609, and \$15,000 has been provided for alterations, additions, and improvements to stations. Sum still left is \$166,371, and after paying interest on the 3 per cent. debenture stock, the directors distribute interest at the rate of 5½ per cent. on the 7 per cent. income bonds, allow \$15,000 for betterments to bridges, and carry forward \$11,553. The increase in gross receipts was entirely due to the passenger traffic, which gave \$18,035 more as freight, mails, express, and miscellaneous all showed small decreases. Tons of freight hauled numbered 485,988, or a decline of 15,292. On the expenditure side there was a decrease of \$8,610 under conducting transportation or traffic expenses, as we should say, and maintenance of cars cost nearly \$3,000 more, but locomotive expenditure was less by \$8,486, maintenance of way declined \$3,949, and miscellaneous showed a drop of \$9,309. Ratio of working expenditure to gross receipts was 66.95 per cent., against 69.37 per cent. Up to the end of 1905 the company had issued \$283,137 4 per cent. debenture stock, of which \$199,500 had been used in retiring a similar amount of prior lien bonds, and \$83,637 to provide a portion of the requisite additional capital expenditure authorised by the Act of 1899. Prior lien bonds still outstanding amount to \$150,500. The company has obtained amendments to its charter authorising sundry extensions, with the right to connect with the Temiscouata Railway, and the reconstruction and diversion of the line between Beauce Junction and Beauceville. Spring inundations and floods in the Chaudiere Valley have greatly interfered with the proper working of the railway, and as the alteration appears to be necessary proprietors will no doubt readily assent to the proposed new works. The connection with the Temiscouata Railway ought to benefit both companies.

EMU BAY RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

This unfortunate undertaking managed to improve its position a little during the year to December 31 last. Revenue for the 12 months was £50,829, or £8,464 more than in 1904, against which the ordinary working expenditure was £24,731. Rates

and taxes were £553 and law costs £65, leaving £25,480. This sum provides rent of leased lines, &c., £10,370, interest £10,000, rolling stock additions £1,282, and £1,000 written off preliminary expenses, with a balance over of £2,828, which goes in reduction of the heavy debit to profit and loss of £41,571, reducing it to £38,743. A year ago there was a loss of several thousands of pounds, and although there is no dividend yet for the shareholders, fairly substantial progress was made. Arrears of dividend on the preference shares now amount to £23,207, and the company owes £15,750 for deferred interest and rent. At the end of 1904 the rolling stock renewal fund stood at £2,503, and the £1,282 added from last year's revenue raised it to £3,786. On the other hand, £2,980 was spent on a new engine and tender, so that the credit to the account is now £806. This is the only reserve the company possesses, and the preliminary expenses still stand at £37,125. The manager describes the outlook for 1906 as promising. Mining on the West Coast appears more settled, he says, metal prices are keeping up, new mines are being opened, and the old ones show plenty of ore in sight.

ALCOY AND GANDIA RAILWAY AND HARBOUR CO., LIMITED.

The directors of this company have fewer complaints to make of the buffings of fate during the year 1905, but the improvement in its fortunes was after all very slight. In the first half of the year the general depression of trade in Alcoy and neighbourhood caused a falling off in receipts which was not quite made good in the second six months, but thanks to a rise in the exchange, gross receipts in sterling from the railway and harbour were £851 up, and with a gain of £216 in exchange, the total revenue showed an increase of £1,007 at £21,189. Railway expenses, on the other hand, were £1,003 heavier at £10,543, but harbour charges fell £433 to £3,073, and as nothing was spent on repairs to breakwater, &c., against £960 in 1904, the nett balance, after providing interest on prior lien bonds and writing off the usual £500 for depreciation, came to £1,533 more at £4,690. Balance brought in, however, was £843 smaller at £367, giving £5,057 available against £4,367, and in order to pay an extra $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. or $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. on the 4 per cent. first mortgage bonds the amount carried forward is reduced to £57. The directors state that they have constantly under their consideration the adoption of some measure of diminishing the annual charge of dredging, and have determined on the early removal of a large sandbank outside the harbour channel. This work will be commenced at once, and the cost, together with that of additions now being made to the northern breakwater, will apparently be charged to capital.

LONDON BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

In representing their report for the 12 months ended December 31 the directors of this institution say that Australia has had another good year, with an abundant harvest and a largely increased production of wool. The price of the latter commodity has been more than maintained, and as recently rain has fallen abundantly in almost every district, prospects are favourable for another good season. Money, however, is very plentiful, thanks to the large sums received for crops and the wool clip, and the natural corollary of low rates is not favourable to banking profits. Last year the bank earned a gross revenue of £159,407, or a slight decline compared with 1904, and there was a drop of £2,755 to £11,561 in the sum from previous account, so that the total credit is £170,969 against £174,147. On the other hand salaries and general charges in Australia rose £1,292 to £61,856, and in London by a few pounds to £9,380. Taxes, however, were slightly less at £2,389, and interest on transferable deposit receipts was reduced from £71,364 to £62,587, thanks to the repayment of 10 per cent. on June 1 last. In the current year the interest will again be less because a further instalment of 10 per cent. was paid on the 1st inst. This will leave only the instalment due in 1917 to be dealt with, and the directors are to be congratulated on the progress made in realising the assets of the old bank. Balance of nett profit still left is £34,755 a gain of £4,545, and after providing the preference dividend, the directors pay a dividend of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the ordinary shares, the same as last year, and increase the carry forward to £16,107. At the date of the balance-sheet the transferable deposits amounted to £1,258,090 against £1,586,366, but are now appreciably less, thanks to the repayment mentioned. Other deposits and current accounts amount to £2,935,600 or £343,397 more, and bills payable show an increase of £105,066 at £667,663. Notes in circulation £106,144 are moderately lower. Changes on the assets side are of some importance. Coin, bullion, and other cash balances amount to £901,130 or £210,126 more, but the investments £658,467 are down by £252,221. Bills discounted advances and other assets have been increased £145,622 to £3,522,296 and bank premises are rather higher at £383,187, so that the total of the balance-sheet is £5,550,081 against £5,439,662.

WESTERN TELEGRAPH CO., LIMITED.

There was a remarkable increase of £46,675 to £273,981 in the message revenue of this excellent company for the half-year ended December 31, compared with the corresponding period of 1904. Interest, dividends, &c., raised this to £296,664 against £248,265 and after providing £22,459 more at £128,006 for expenses, together with debenture charges £14,163, and income-tax £4,970, the balance over is £149,517, a gain of £25,686. Sum brought forward was £1,131, making £152,648, from which two interim dividends of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. each absorb £62,379. The directors then add £80,000 or £20,000 more to the general reserve fund, and increase the allocation to maintenance ship's

reserve by £3,000 to £5,000, carrying forward £5,269 against £3,892. It is hardly necessary to repeat that the financial position is very strong. Including shares in other companies, cable ships, &c., the capital expenditure is £2,928,548, against which the reserve funds are no less than £1,216,839, taking into account the debenture sinking fund of £59,417. Investments representing these reserves amount to £806,416, traffic accounts are a long way favourable, and the company has other readily available resources in the shape of cash, bills receivable, and remittances in transit amounting to £133,011.

WEST COAST OF AMERICA TELEGRAPH CO., LIMITED.

This company again increased its revenue by a substantial sum during the year to December 31 last. The total from all sources was £50,809, or £8,472 more than in the preceding 12 months earned at an additional cost of £3,000 at £31,114. Balance of nett revenue is £19,694 against £14,219, and after adding £767 brought in the total credit is £20,461. From this the debenture and income bond interest absorbs £6,800, and the directors now place £10,000, or £4,000 more, to reserve, and increase the allocation to maintenance ships' reserve by £250 to £2,000, carrying forward the substantially larger sum of £1,661. Reserve funds are now creeping up, the present total being £26,185 against a capital outlay of £268,481, but they will probably have to be much further increased before the dividend stage can be reached.

GLOBE TELEGRAPH AND TRUST CO., LIMITED.

This important company did rather well in the year to April 30, and reports a total revenue of £210,943, or £6,683 more than in the preceding 12 months. General and other expenses were slightly higher at £5,224 leaving £205,718, which enables the directors to provide the preference dividend and increase the distribution on the ordinary stock by $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. to $\frac{5}{8}$, with an advance in the carry forward from £1,643 to £4,500. The balance-sheet is rather a striking one, because it contains an item called "differences on securities realised and deficiency on capital issued for acquisition of securities, £427,624." This we take to be a loss of some kind, rather nominal, perhaps, and has probably arisen through the exchange of this company's securities for those of other undertakings. Actual investments held are entered at the cost price of £3,194,673, and the issued capital amounts to £3,622,540. The company has a considerable cash balance of £53,234, such sum, together with the dividends declared but not yet received, being in excess of the revenue account balance of £75,592.

SUBMARINE CABLES TRUST.

There was a slight improvement from £24,288 to £25,058 in the revenue of this small trust for the year ended April 15 compared with the preceding twelve months. From this expenses absorbed £1,153, leaving £23,905, to which must be added £93 brought forward, making £23,997. This sum provides the interest coupons of £3 each paid in October and April last, with £4,921 for the redemption fund and £115 carried forward. During the period under review 41 certificates have been redeemed by purchase in the open market, costing the above-named sum of £4,921, bringing the total redemption to date to 1,074 certificates for £118,397.

INVESTMENT TRUST CORPORATION, LIMITED.

The revenue gathered by this first-class trust during the year ended May 1 was £139,960 or £2,943 less than in the preceding twelve months, a quite unimportant decline measured against the steady progress made by the undertaking in recent years. After providing £49,400 for debenture interest, £7,750 for administration, £3,520 for income-tax, and £160 for sundry other charges, the balance over is £79,130. To that is added £10,778 brought forward, making £89,908, from which interim dividends requiring £32,110 have been already paid. The directors now propose to complete the preferred dividend and to make a distribution at 10 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock, bringing the total return for the year to $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. or $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. more. A sum of £5,713 is then transferred to reserve and £12,565 is carried forward. The reserve also got the benefit of a profit of £34,287 made on change of investments, making the total of the account £230,000, and the position of the trust is undoubtedly a good one. The directors say that, taking the quoted securities at middle price and those unquoted at a conservative valuation, the company's assets, after allowing for outstanding balances, exceed the share and debenture capital and reserve by more than £290,000. That is an improvement on the year of £40,000, and gives the company a margin of £520,000 over the capital held by the public.

CASSTNER-KELLNER ALKALI CO., LIMITED.

The report and balance-sheet of this business may afford some little compensation to Mr. Balfour, and his good brother Mr. Gerald, for their recent treatment at the hands of Fate. Mr. Balfour holds quite a lot of shares in the enterprise, and his brother must keep a certain number because he has resumed his position as a director, having so few other calls on his time. The company did a good deal better last year, but not sufficiently well we suppose to induce Mr. Gerald Balfour to give up the pension he now draws as an ex-Cabinet Minister, vice Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, or, rather Lord St. Aldwyn, who generously gave up the £1,200 or so he used to draw. Balance of trading account for the 12 months to March 31 was £75,421, and transfer fees gave £130, or £75,560 in all, from which administration required £3,591, and commission on profits £1,121, leaving £68,847. That is an improvement compared with the

preceding 12 months of £16,489, so that after deducting debenture and other interest £10,097, and adding (the increased sum of £12,798 brought forward the disposable balance is £71,548. It is therefore possible to increase the dividend by 2 per cent. to 6, besides adding twice as much at £30,000 to the depreciation reserve, and raising the carry forward to £14,548. In addition the usual payment of £5,000 has been made to the trustees for the debenture holders in reduction of the debenture debt. The directors say it has been found necessary to increase a part of the company's plant, and they have obtained suitable premises at Wallsend-on-Tyne, where the necessary electric power will be obtained on advantageous terms. Land, buildings, plant, and machinery have therefore been increased by £18,001 to £436,459, and it is well the directors made the extra depreciation allowance because nothing is written off the purchase price of the aluminium company, which still remains at £201,177. The depreciation reserve will now reach £115,000, and may be considered fair, although we must not overlook the fact that patents account stands at the considerable sum of £115,000. A suspense account on the credit side of the balance sheet has been reduced from £7,907 to £5,052, but in what manner is not mentioned. Amount due to creditors is £23,772 against debtors of £28,725, but the cash balance of £15,679 is very small, compared with the undivided profit of £62,548. Stocks represent a further sum of £18,659, bills receivable amount to £873, and there are some unspecified investments of £11,385.

BRITISH TEA TABLE CO. (1897), LIMITED.

We suppose it is well known that Mr. John Pearce, the founder of this business, and a master in the art of cheap catering, no longer has anything to do with its direction. After the upheaval at the annual meeting of the company a year ago, matters seem to have settled down much quicker and better than might have been expected. It will be remembered that with the aid of Lord Iveagh's proxies the directors were able to ignore the expressed opinion of the shareholders, not only rejecting a motion to elect Mr. John Pearce to the board, but putting on two nominees of Lord Iveagh. One of them is a chartered accountant, and the other the chairman of a sheep farming business in New Zealand, so that each should be expert in the catering trade. However, the directors now proceed to remind shareholders how the profits fell from £23,120 to £13,861 in a single year, bringing down the dividend from 11 per cent. to 4, and tell us how things must have gone from bad to worse except for the apparently wonderful reforms instituted. We are not very much impressed with this, and are rather tired of hearing how much better matters would have turned out if circumstances had been different. Of course the improvements carried out were not immediately effective, they never are, and we find sundry other points advanced such as high price of food-stuffs, trade depression, keen competition, and the mild winter. None of these things ever happened in Mr. Pearce's day, and the exceptional expenditure beyond the control of the board crops up as a matter of course. This will not recur, shareholders are told, and the hint is more than half conveyed that if the directors had had their freedom for a longer time—Mr. Pearce's engagement as managing director did not close until July—a much better exhibit would have been made. However, the fact remains that the nett profit is down just on another £1,000 to £12,891. Gross income was £26,659 against £27,797, and interest and transfer fees gave £706, making £27,305 in all, a drop of £836. Depreciation is allowed on a rather larger scale at £8,028, general charges, including auditors' fees and legal charges, come to £3,188, and directors' fees run up to £1,405. Income-tax requires a further sum of £557, and debenture interest £1,296, leaving the nett balance of £12,891. It is raised to £13,938 by the balance brought forward, and after providing the dividend on the preference shares the directors again propose a distribution of 4 per cent. on the ordinary capital, placing £2,000 to reserve, but carrying forward the reduced sum of £688. Reserve will now be £7,000, which is a pretty poor set-off to the goodwill of £130,411, and there is no doubt that in the past the dividends paid were far higher than the position justified. Furniture and fittings have been increased by £2,112, and written down by £7,311, leaving them at £105,444, and the depreciation allowed on leases is £717, reducing the item to £7,837. The fairly large sum of £15,384 is owing to sundry creditors, but cash stands at £29,830, an investment at cost is valued at £9,120, and stocks stand at £16,182. The directors have tried the experiment of opening a few of the West-End Tea Table depots on Sundays, but some of the shareholders object, and the question of the continuance of the new departure is to be decided by ballot.

THE LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE INSURANCE CO.

In its fire department, which is the most important branch of its business, this powerful company last year received £2,199,100 nett in premiums and paid losses to the amount of £1,066,852. After meeting expenses of all kinds and paying nearly £65,000 in foreign State taxes, there was £393,705 left as nett profit, exclusive of the interest income, losses having amounted to about 48.52 per cent. of the premium income and expenses to 30.65 per cent. The directors state that the aggregate amount of their losses by the earthquake and fire in San Francisco is £867,000, but even were the whole of this lost, the company could pay the dividend declared and this sum without touching the reserve or fire insurance funds. The probability is that the actual claims to be met will not reach so large a total, and the position is thus eminently satisfactory. In the life department the business was small for so great a company, a company with 40

offices, including the head office, scattered throughout the United Kingdom, in the United States and Canada, in Paris, and Hamburg, and in various places in South Africa as well as in Australia and New Zealand. The number of life policies issued was 792 insuring £481,933, of which £79,500 was reinsured. The nett claims paid and outstanding, including bonuses, were £312,616, and the entire premium income was £243,808, besides which there was an income of about £135,000 from interest and dividends with other minor items. At the end of the year the amount added to the life funds was only about £47,000, the total being then £3,719,234. The company also does a small annuity business, having received £61,101 nett last year for annuities sold. This fund was depleted during the year by fully £88,000, but it amounted at the end of the year to £1,607,167. The profit and loss makes a most appetising exhibit. In addition to the above-mentioned sum carried to the credit of profit and loss from the fire department, £18,423 was received from the members' share of the life profit, and with various other small items added the balance, including £820,989 brought forward, was £1,418,114. Out of this, after meeting the Globe 6 per cent. perpetual annuity charge and income-tax, dividends aggregating 90 per cent. upon the par value of the shares have been declared, being 33s. from the fire and 3s. from the life profits, or 36s. per each £2 of stock. After meeting this the balance left at credit of profit and loss will be £1,010,022. Of the dividends 14s. were paid in last November, and the remaining 22s. will be distributed on the 22nd inst.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE.

This is another great fire insurance company whose nett premium income for the past year amounted to £1,319,330, or £13,150 more than in the previous year. Losses took £605,390 of this, or 45.88 per cent. of the premium income, while expenses of management, including all working charges, came to £465,024, or 35.24 per cent. of the premium income. Besides this there was an income of £97,244 from investments. After setting aside the usual 40 per cent. of the premiums to cover liabilities under current policies, the balance of £340,900 remains as profit, out of which £4,000 has been carried to pension fund and £114,000 devoted to the payment of dividends for the past year, these dividends amounting to 9s. 6d. per 10s. share, the amount paid up. The dividend is therefore 95 per cent. upon the par value of the shares. After making these distributions the amount left to be carried forward will be £343,672 as compared with £243,941 brought in. The directors are unable to state the amount of the losses inflicted by the San Francisco disaster, but say that information received indicates that the possible liability of the office cannot materially exceed the balance thus carried forward after payment of dividends and the actual losses will certainly fall short of that amount, therefore no special provision to meet the calamity is necessary, all which is eminently satisfactory.

THE CENTRAL INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

This fire office last year earned £342,004 gross in premiums against £211,053 in 1904, or after deducting reinsurances an increase of £101,247. The total income from all sources was £344,447, and as nett losses came to only 48.9 per cent. of the premium income, and working expenses and commissions to another 40.8 per cent. of the nett premium income, it follows that, including £17,733 brought forward, the available balance at credit of nett revenue was £34,542, out of which the directors are able to pay a tax-free dividend of 2½ per cent. and to carry £15,000 to the general reserve, raising it to £35,000. This leaves £17,336 to be carried forward. As already intimated, the directors say that the probable loss of the company from the San Francisco fire will not exceed £10,000. The company has entered the "ring," as it may be called, and has now become one of the "tariff" fire offices, so that in both its home and foreign departments its charges and methods of business will be entirely regulated by the Fire Offices Committee. This will probably be good for its future profits. Much of its business continues to be reinsured, and last year the amount paid away for reinsurances was 55 per cent. of the total premium income as against 52 per cent. in 1904. At the end of the year its cash in hand amounted to £27,150 and its investments to £73,345.

BRITISH HOMES ASSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

An increase of £4,374 to £23,123 was shown in the premium income of the life department for the year ended December 31, but the company is most extravagantly managed, and no less than £14,590 or 63.10 per cent. of this revenue was absorbed by commission expenses. Claims, however, only amounted to £3,409, and with £1,351 from interest and £3,460 transferred from the endowment certificate fund, the funds of this branch were increased by £9,936 to £35,676. In the endowment certificates branch the premiums rose by £12,852 to £110,986, and with £11,035 from interest, &c., the total revenue was £122,021, of which claims and amounts credited in reduction of mortgages took £16,580. Commission and expenses took £35,651, representing 32.12 per cent. of the premiums, or, if we add in extension and new business expenses of £18,756, the proportion works out at 49.02 per cent. In spite of these heavy charges the directors are again able to write £2,000 off purchase of business account, and after paying a dividend of 5 per cent. on the preferred shares to add £41,849 to the funds making them £217,173, so that it is very evident that the assured are paying far too dear for the benefits they receive.

CALCUTTA ELECTRIC SUPPLY CORPORATION, LIMITED.

During 1905 this company sold 3,548,229 units of electric energy compared with 2,760,457 in the preceding 12 months, an

increase of 28½%. That is very good progress indeed. The number of houses now being supplied is 2,451, or an advance of 637, and the equivalent of 215,018 8-candle power lamps are now connected, being an improvement in the 12 months of 51,165. From all sources the gross revenue was £72,591 or £12,348 more, against which the increase in working expenses was £8,127 to £38,871. Just about half this rise was due to the allowance of £15,000, or £4,000 more, for repairs, and we are glad the directors are keeping a watchful eye on this part of the business. It is all too frequently neglected. Balance of net revenue is £33,720, showing a gain of £4,311, to which is added £4,694 brought in, making £38,414 in all. From this an interim dividend absorbing £11,596 has been already paid, and after providing for interest on loans, directors' extra remuneration, and income-tax, the sum remaining is £24,984. The directors therefore propose a final dividend at the rate of 10½ per cent. per annum, making 8½ per cent., or ½ per cent. more for the year, and leaving £4,649 to be carried forward. During the year the company made a further issue of 20,000 £5 shares, at a premium of £1 10s. per share, the latter going to the reserve fund, raising it to £84,592. All the authorised capital has now been placed, the receipts on capital account during the year being £95,547, including the share premiums of £29,850. On the other hand the capital expenditure in the 12 months was £73,774, raising the total to £498,278, or £49,100 more than the actual capital issued, but £25,750 less than the capital and premiums combined. Balance brought forward on account of the revenue fund was £21,815, revenue contributed £15,000, and dividends on investments £881, making £37,696. On the other hand the amount actually expended in repairs, renewals, and purchase of spare parts in the 12 months was £5,478, and £628 went in the renewal of fans and depreciation, so that the credit to the account is £31,591. Investments on account of reserve fund, which consists entirely of share premiums, amount to £31,147, and although trading balances are largely adverse, the company has a pretty good cash balance either in hand or on loan.

ELMORE'S GERMAN AND AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN METAL CO., LIMITED.

This unfortunate enterprise went through its second reorganisation during the year 1905, and the capital account grows steadily and beautifully less. We gave details of the plan in November last, and need now only repeat that by writing off 15s. from each ordinary share, and writing up the value of the shares held in the German Metall Company, the directors had £72,025 to play with. Of that £11,052 went to extinguish the debit of profit and loss account, and £60,972 was applied in reducing the patent account to £23,279. The resumption of dividends does not result from this scaling down, but then no one expected it would. However, the German Metall Company produced the best profit ever reached, £26,041, and after providing all charges the sum remaining for dividend and the reserve is £6,320. A dividend of 11 per cent. has therefore been declared, leaving 16,600 marks to be added to reserve, raising it to 30,163 marks. Although good, the profit is not regarded as entirely satisfactory by the directors, but reference is made to extraordinary expenditures incurred which will not recur and to the fact that considerable economies in production have been effected during the past year, the full benefit of which is only now being felt. There is a continuance in the supply of orders, especially for the company's specialities, for which good prices are being obtained, so that in the current year results may be a little better. In addition to £5,366 on account of dividend the English company received £3,049 as interest on loan to the German concern, and £2 for transfer fees, making £8,417 in all. This provides debenture interest, general interest and commission, and all other charges, with a balance over of £176, although it should be mentioned that the directors again waived £275 of fees.

ARAUOCO CO., LIMITED.

The directors of this company submit the second annual report since their appointment under the sanction of the Court of Chancery. A fair amount of progress seems to have been made in putting the company on a more stable footing, and the board can report a considerable increase in the railway earnings as well as in the profit arising from the sale of coal from the mines. The output of coal was 124,053 tons, and 122,176 tons were sold during the year, while the railway has been maintained in a state of efficiency. The rolling stock has been increased so far as possible, though large additions will still be desirable in the near future. Net earnings of the railway were £24,647, and of mines £12,305, making, with £412 for interest and transfer fees, a total of £37,364. From that London expenditure was £2,730, and there was a loss on exchange of £4,133, leaving £30,501, which is insufficient by £307 to provide the interest on the 5 per cent. and 6 per cent. debenture stocks. The debit to revenue account is therefore increased to £31,250. At the end of 1904 it was £39,175, but under the scheme of arrangement, a sum of £8,232 was provided for second debenture stock redemption fund, to be treated as a contingent liability repayable out of future profits. Latest advices concerning the coal mines are described as most favourable, and suggest a distinct improvement in the profits of the present financial year.

SAN LORENZO NITRATE CO., LIMITED.

This company did not do nearly so well in the year 1905 as in the previous 12 months. After providing £5,144 for value of raw material consumed during the year, the gross profit is returned at £35,870 or £12,654 less, so that with £156 for interest and transfer fees, the total income is £36,026 against

£48,532. General expenses, directors' fees, income-tax, and cost of electric light installation altogether absorbed £3,946, leaving £32,083, to which is added £15,312 brought in making £47,395. From this an interim dividend of 7½ per cent. has been already paid, and the directors now propose another dividend of similar amount, making 15 per cent. in all, the same as before, placing £10,000 to reserve, writing off £4,172 from depreciation of plant, and carrying forward £24,223. Reserve fund now reaches £25,000, and the provision for exhaustion of raw material is £17,406, and as the unwrought raw material, that is the worth of the property, has a balance-sheet value of £80,000 only, the position is rather good. Other capital assets consist of machinery and plant, &c., £29,413, and premises, &c., £2,914, the former being well written down. Floating liabilities, all told, are no more than £20,401, and the company has a good supply of liquid assets, as stocks come to £14,006, bills receivable amount to £44,469, debtors owe £2,715, and cash stands at £25,704.

TEXAS LAND AND MORTGAGE CO., LIMITED.

There is very little to be said about this undertaking, chiefly because its position is so good that no criticism is called for. The directors say that marked activity in business throughout the United States continues, and the company's funds have been well employed during the year 1905. Not only so, but the only property in foreclosure account has been sold on satisfactory terms, and there are no foreclosed securities on the books at the present time. All that is highly satisfactory, especially as it accompanies an increase in the total income of £1,356 to £45,337, including the rather smaller sum of £2,326 brought forward. Loan and debenture interest and expenses on issue of debentures absorbs £15,190 of this, and after providing management expenses and other charges, the nett balance is £21,167. Before referring to the dividend, it should be mentioned that the directors have relinquished, at any rate for the present, the idea of attempting to extinguish the uncalled liability on the company's shares. They probably recognise the extreme difficulty of this in view of the heavy debenture liability of £371,677 against the paid-up capital of £125,000. Shareholders, however, are to be recompensed as far as possible, as the directors have decided to add a 2½ per cent. bonus to the regular 10 per cent. dividend. A sum of £3,000 is then added to reserve, and £5,542 is carried forward against £2,326 brought in. Reserve fund will now reach £106,000, of which £83,477 is invested in Consols and other high-class securities. Sundry debtors, £247, are very small compared with creditors, £25,627, but cash and interest accrued amount to £34,193. Loans or mortgage on real estate in Texas stand at £517,772 and short loans at £9,349.

IMPERIAL CEYLON TEA ESTATES, LIMITED.

The results for year ended December 31 were decidedly better than those for 1904, and the total crop gathered showed an improvement of 79,204 lbs. at 782,972 lbs., but the average price was a trifle less at 6.29d. per lb. Both the Nonpareil and Nottingham estates yielded a surplus on this occasion against deficits of £310 and £78 respectively, and nett profits, including £1,076 or £57 more brought in, were £958 larger at £5,234. The directors have wisely decided that it was better to write off a special expenditure of £1,432 on the extension of the factory at Edinburgh and the installation of water power at Nottingham, and therefore appropriate £2,000 for depreciation, compared with £500 a year ago, although this step means that the dividend must again be at the lower rate of 3 per cent. and that the amount carried forward must be cut down to £534. The financial position is not altogether satisfactory, as sundry creditors and bills payable are £855 up at £5,487, and although stocks are £992 higher at £2,613 and cash comes to £499 more at £1,290, sundry debtors have shrunk by £381 to £335, and we have to include the doubtful asset of £2,915 for coast advances to bring free resources within measurable distance of balancing the floating liabilities.

ALLIANCE TEA COMPANY OF CEYLON, LIMITED.

The Aberdeen estate belonging to this company does not seem a very satisfactory property, and in spite of a yield of 1,028 lbs. of rubber, the year again ended with a deficit. That shortage, however, was only £17 compared with £260 in 1904, and as the other estates did well, the tea crop showed an increase of 159,061 lbs. at 1,269,724, but the average price realised was slightly lower at 6.86d., and nett profits came to £2,302 more at £7,713. With a much smaller balance of £226 brought forward, the amount available was £1,797 up at £7,939, and after writing off another £1,000 for depreciation and setting aside £2,000 against £1,000 for debenture redemption, the dividend is raised by 1 per cent. to 7 per cent., leaving £371 to be carried to the new account. Capital expenditure during the 12 months came to £617, making the nett reduction in this item no more than £383 at £113,247, against which the reserve fund remains at the old figure of £4,632, accumulated out of premiums on shares and debentures, and even this is all in the property. Liabilities on bills payable and to sundry creditors have been reduced by £2,573 to £6,281, thanks to decreases of £2,250 to £1,394 in cash and £663 to £189 in the amount due by sundry debtors, but stocks are £1,713 larger at £8,242, and coast advances have further increased to £2,983.

SCOTTISH CEYLON TEA CO., LIMITED.

The directors much regret that the accounts for 1905 are not of a more satisfactory character, but put forward as the reason for the further shrinkage in profits the poor flushing season in the Lower Dikoya district where four of the estates are situated.

A crop of 793,000 lbs. had been expected according to the estimates at the beginning of the season, but so far from that figure being reached, the output was 23,819 lbs. short of the previous year at 760,899 lbs., and although the average price improved from 5.56d. to 5.64d., gross profits were £341 lower at £3,845. Including £246 brought forward, the amount available came to £2,673 compared with £2,926, and the directors have again ignored the need for reserve or depreciation, but even then have to reduce the dividend by another $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., carrying forward £198. Floating liabilities have increased by £449 to £9,381, against which stocks are £738 higher at £3,958, and cash comes to £2,368 or £82 less, but the company none the less is hard up. There are, of course, the investments, valued at £6,999, representing the reserve of £7,000, and coast advances amount to £2,457, but the last-named hardly come under the head of free assets.

Answers to Correspondents.

C. B. V.—(1) On general grounds you should keep away from that market altogether at present until the outlook becomes clearer, but even under ordinary circumstances we should not regard the stock you ask about as a particularly attractive purchase. (2) "B" seems to be the less speculative share of the two. We do not like the way in which dividends fluctuate on "A," but both shares are fully priced. (3) Yes, they look a promising speculative purchase at present prices.

Cautious.—(1) The plan you enclose is a most insidious one, designed to encourage people to gamble beyond their means. To make it pay you would have to go for securities yielding a high return, and the scheme carefully ignores the probability of a big drop in the price of such. (2) The business is that of a bucket shop, and one which we do not trust. You would be much safer to entrust your investments to a member of the Stock Exchange.

L. G. R.—The undertaking is very far from being in a sound condition, and although interest on the securities you mention is "guaranteed" for about another nine years, we do not consider them worth even their present price as an investment.

A. B. C.—No, there is no serious reason. All securities have been a good deal depressed of late, and a speculative issue like these bonds could hardly be expected to escape. They will pick up again if the outlook improves.

H. D. R.—(1) We do not believe that sustained prosperity is possible for this company because of its excessive capitalisation. Better realise. (2) Any further rise in these does not seem probable, at any rate for the present, and you might make good the loss on No. 1 by taking the profit here. Letter No. 2.—(1) We assume you mean the gold bonds. They ought to be fairly safe, but are only second-class, and may quite probably be obtained at a cheaper price later on. We should say decidedly not, and cannot recommend a purchase of anything in this market at the present juncture.

D. H. C. (Bedford).—The company may eventually do well, but the immediate outlook is certainly not encouraging, and we fear the price will fall considerably lower before that happy time arrives. Your second question we will answer by another. If regular brokers could deal at middle prices, how could the jobbers make a living or a genuine market price be fixed? The advertisements you see mean top prices as a rule, and you may generally rely upon your agent, if a member of the Stock Exchange, doing his best for you. Thanks for the report, which we have returned as requested. The company did not send us a copy, but it is so long since it came out that we are unable to deal with it in our columns now.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Bengal Nagpur.—A surplus dividend of 20s. for 1905, in addition to the usual guaranteed interest.

Bombay, Baroda, and Central India.—On the old stock of £1 per cent.

Interoceanic of Mexico (Acapulco to Vera Cruz).—Interim out of the revenue for the year ending June 30 next, at the rate of £2 5s per £100 stock, to holders of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. second debenture stock.

BREWERIES.

Gartsides (Brookside).—Final of 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 6 per cent. for the year ended March 31.

Nalder and Collyers.—Further on the ordinary shares at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended March 25, and in addition a bonus of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., making $22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year, placing £10,000 to reserve for the equalisation of dividends, providing £3,000 for extra taxation re New Licensing Act, and carrying forward £8,893.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Baltic Mercantile and Shipping Exchange.—5 per cent., carrying forward £227.

Brilliant and St. George United.—Dividend of 6d. per share, payable on 26th inst.

Colorado Nitrate.—Interim of 10 per cent., or 10s., per share.

Dalgety and Co.—Interim for the half-year ended Dec. 31 of 3s. per share, being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable May 16.

Gordon and Blair.—5 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended March 31, placing £750 to special reserve, and carrying forward £1,449.

H. H. and S. Budgett and Co.—10 per cent., carrying forward £526.

James Hinks and Son.—Final at the rate of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum for the half-year ended March, making 10 per cent. for the year.

John Wilson's Hide and Skin Co.— $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., placing £200 to reserve, and carrying forward £138.

Kellner-Partington Paper Pulp.—Interim at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended April 30.

Land and Mortgage of Egypt.—5 per cent. for the six months ended March 31, making 10 per cent. for the year.

Land Bank of Egypt.—7s. 6d. per share on 95,000 ordinary shares (first issue) for the year ended March 31, payable 15th inst. Interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the instalments of capital up to March 31 last amounting to 1s. 5d. per share on 100,000 new shares payable at the same time.

Lascelles, Tickner, and Co.—Final at the rate of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 6 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £2,924.

Nedem Tea.—Final of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the preference shares for 1905, payable 31st inst.

Norwich and London Accident Insurance.—Interim of 6s. per share, being at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, payable 31st inst.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.—Dividend of 5 per cent. per annum on preference stock, the undivided original shares receiving an amount equivalent to that to which they would have been entitled in respect of the preference portion of the capital had they already been converted into stock, the dividends in each case being calculated from the due dates for payment of the instalments.

South African Lighting.—Final of 6 per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year 1905, placing £1,500 to reserve, carrying forward £2,500.

Union Castle Mail Steamship.—Dividend of 6s. per share, making 10s. per share on the ordinary shares for 1905.

Union Steamship of New Zealand.—Interim at the rate of 8s. per share for the six months ended March 31, payable 30th inst.

Welsbach Incandescent Gas Light.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, placing £15,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £7,321.

West India and Panama Telegraph.—4s. per share on account of arrears of dividend on the first preference shares.

MINING RETURNS.

Abbontiakoon Block I.—Treated 5,000 tons, 2,935 ozs.

Abosso Gold.—Crushed, 3,360 tons, 2,126 ozs.; cyanide, 3,123 tons tailings, 920 ozs.; total 3,046 ozs.

African Gold Dredging and Mining Concessions.—301 ozs., value £1,204.

Akrokerri (Ashanti).—Crushed 1,980 tons, 2,328 ozs. amalgamation; assay of tailings, 4 dwts.; 1,200 tons sands by cyanide, 119 oz.; total 2,447 oz.

Angelo Gold.—Tons milled 19,044, ozs. 6,838; tons sands 10,693, ozs. 2,327; tons slimes 4,454, ozs. 655; by-products, 160; total 9,680 ozs.

Ankobra (Taquah and Abosso) Development.—No. 1 dredger, 202 ozs.; No. 2 dredger, 70 ozs.

Anterior (Matabele).—Crushed 1,338 tons, 799 ozs.; cyanide, 736 tons, 166 ozs.

Ashanti Goldfields.—Obuasi mill, 3,070 tons crushed, 2,750 ozs.

Associated of Western Australia.—8,668 tons of ore, treated 4,317 tons slimes, yield £20,237 sterling.

Associated Northern Blocks.—Milled 3,274 tons, 372 tons slimes, yield £15,077 sterling.

Ayrshire Gold.—1,840 ozs. from 7,954 tons crushed; 500 ozs. from 6,072 tons cyanided; 395 tons reserve tailings cyanided.

Barrett.—381 ozs. gold, value £1,400.

Bibiani Gold Fields.—Crushed 3,015 tons, 1,832 ozs.; 2,860 tons tailings by cyanide £2,861.

Brilliant Extended.—Crushed 3,600 tons, value £8,371; cyanide £913; total, £9,646.

Briseis Tin.—Black tin cleaned up, 86 tons 10 cwt., in addition to New Brothers Home No. 1, 38 tons. Briseis proportion total output 108 tons 11 cwt.

British Broken Hill Proprietary.—Crushed 3,592 tons, producing 577 tons concentrates, containing 352 tons lead and 15,579 ozs. silver.

Broomassie.—Crushed 920 tons, 1,076 ozs.; 10 tons concentrates, of an assay value of £34 3s. per ton.

Burma Ruby.—131,000 loads washed, producing rubies valued at Rs. 107,000. Royalties for the month, Rs. 28,000.

Cape Copper.—Ookiep 962 tons, 17 per cent., equal to 163 tons fine copper; Nababeep, 4,191 tons 5 per cent., equal to 209 tons fine copper.

Carrington Lion.—Crushed, 300 tons, value £730.

Chillagoe.—Chillagoe 2,243 tons copper ore; Mungana, 1,514 tons copper ore; purchased, 152 tons copper ore; total 3,909 tons copper ore, producing 203 tons copper matte, containing 160 tons copper and 21,212 ozs. silver in the following proportions:—Chillagoe, 69 tons copper and 4,879 ozs. silver; Mungana, 56 tons copper and 11,667 ozs. silver; purchased, 11 tons copper and 1,069 ozs. silver; totals 136 tons copper and 17,609 ozs. silver.

Chinese Engineering and Mining.—Output of coal 22,000 tons, sales 19,000 tons, consumption 1,300 tons.

City and Suburban.—Ozs. 9,339, tons crushed 24,800.

Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand.—Progress Mines of New Zealand: Caused 4,995 tons; value, £7,754. Wealth of Nations: Crushed 1,020 tons; value, £2,123. Profits: Progress. £3,624; Wealth of Nations, £1,235; total, £4,859.

Consolidated Main Reef.—Tons crushed 17,141, 3,605 ozs.; tons sands and concentrates by cyanide 17,141, 2,517 ozs.; total 6,122 ozs.

Crown Deep.—Tons crushed 27,076, 7,711 ozs.; tons sands and concentrates by cyanide 16,225, 2,989 ozs.; tons slimes 8,265, 642 ozs.; total 11,342 ozs.

Crown Reef.—Crushed, 20,375 tons, from mill 5,162 ozs.; yield from sands and concentrates 3,458 ozs.; yield from slimes (current and accumulated) 1,690 ozs.; yield from dump 418 oz.; total 10,728 ozs.

Day Dawn Block and Wyndham.—Treated 1,350 tons, value £3,500.

Driefontein.—Tons milled 17,539, ozs. 3,440; tons sands treated 13,481, ozs. 1,953; tons slimes 3,267, ozs. 429; by-products, 171; total 5,993 ozs.

Durban-Roodepoort.—Quartz milled 10,080 tons, 3,361 ozs.; tailings 6,945 tons, 610 ozs.; slimes 3,115 tons, 228 ozs.; total 4,199 ozs.

Durban-Roodepoort Deep.—Tons crushed 10,080, 2,786 ozs.; tons sands and concentrates by cyanide 6,878, 716 ozs.; tons slimes 3,166, 207 ozs.; total 3,709 ozs.

Durham Prospect Gold.—Mill crushed 1,640 tons, 600 ozs.

Elandslaagte Gold.—Milled 1,900 tons, total 374 ozs.

East Gwanda.—East Gwanda, crushed 4,590 tons, 1,390 ozs.; concentrates 156 tons, 429 ozs. Geelong.—Cyanide, 3,700 tons, 165 ozs.; total all sources 1,984 ozs.

Ferreira.—Crushed 20,950 tons, 9,287 ozs.; sand 14,000 tons, 2,590 ozs.; slimes 7,641 tons, 838 ozs.; total 12,715 ozs.

Ferreira Deep.—Tons crushed 20,426, 9,116 ozs.; tons sands and concentrates by cyanide, 12,400, 2,470 ozs.; tons slimes 6,896, 693 ozs.; total yield 12,279 ozs.

French Rand.—Tons crushed 17,600, 3,964 ozs.; tons tailings 17,995, 1,856 ozs.; total 5,820 ozs.

Geldenhuis Deep.—Tons crushed 21,240, 5,406 ozs.; tons sands and concentrates by cyanide 13,995, 3,465 ozs.; tons slimes 6,684, 522 ozs.; total 9,393 ozs.

Geldenhuis Estate.—Crushed 16,593 tons, from mill 4,339 ozs.; obtained from tailings by cyanide, 2,018 ozs.; obtained from slimes 639 ozs.; total 6,996 ozs.

Giant of Rhodesia.—4,518 tons, 2,084 ozs.; slimes 4,518 tons, 288 ozs.; total ozs. 2,372.

Glen Deep.—Tons crushed 15,860, 3,758 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates by cyanide 10,040, 1,942 ozs.; tons slimes 5,416, 436 ozs.; total 6,136 ozs.

Glencoe (Natal) Collieries.—Output 8,341 tons.

Globe and Phoenix.—Crushed 6,193 tons, 3,122 ozs.; cyanide, 4,000 tons, 560 ozs.; total 3,890 ozs.

Glynn's Lydenburg.—Crushed 2,140 tons, 557 ozs.; cyanide, 1,540 tons, 551 ozs.; slimes, 600 tons, 252 ozs.; total 1,360 ozs.

Golden Horse Shoe.—Ore treated 19,272 tons, 12,910 oz.

Golden Pole.—Crushed 1,190 tons, 663 ozs.; 1,271 tons sands, 383 ozs.; 12 tons concentrates, 24 ozs.; 885 tons slimes, 123 ozs.; total yield 1,193 ozs.

Great Boulder Perseverance.—12,693 tons for 5,672 ozs. gold and 690 ozs. fine silver.

Great Boulder Proprietary.—Tons treated 12,530, 12,188 ozs.; tailings (old), 1,898 tons, 250 ozs.; total 12,438 ozs.

Great Fingall.—Tons of ore 19,806, 5,907 ozs.; tons of tailing 21,055, 3,116 ozs.; tons concentrates 290, 1,600 ozs.; total 10,623 ozs.

Hainault Gold.—Crushed 4,667 tons, 1,771 ozs.

Hannan's Reward and Mount Charlotte.—Tons crushed 1,430, 355 ozs.; royalties from tributors £205.

Hyderabad (Deccan).—Output of coal from the Singareni Collieries 42,652 tons.

Ivanhoe Gold.—16,690 tons, 3,507 ozs.; 8,380 tons sands, 1,808 ozs.; 7,070 tons slimes, 2,669 ozs.; 1,240 tons concentrates, 2,071 ozs.; totals 16,690 tons (2,000 lbs.), yielded 10,055 ozs.

Johannesburg Consolidated Investment.—Buffelsdoorn Estate: 332 ozs. from 2,300 tons of slimes. Consolidated Langlaagte: 5,609 ozs., 17,696 tons. Ginsberg: 2,949 ozs., 7,909 tons. Glencairn Main Reef: 3,836 ozs., 13,400 tons. New Primrose: 6,738 ozs., 16,124 tons. New Rietfontein: 5,033 ozs., 8,436 tons.

New Unified Main Reef: 2,405 ozs., 8,334 tons. Witwatersrand Gold: 9,236 ozs., 30,310 tons.

Jubilee.—Mill, 1,168 ozs. from 5,563 tons crushed; cyanide, 585 ozs. from 4,048 tons.

Jumpers.—Crushed 10,650 tons, from mill 3,001 ozs.; from tailings by cyanide 1,397 ozs.; total 4,398 ozs.

Jumpers Deep.—Tons crushed 15,143, 3,841 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates by cyanide 8,940, 1,197 ozs.; tons slimes 5,613, 293 ozs.; total yield 5,331 ozs.

Kalgurli Gold.—10,039 short tons, 7,399 ozs.

Kelantan Dredging.—Recovered 102 ozs.

Killarney Hibernia.—Crushed 4,275 tons, 1,575 ozs.

Knight's Deep.—Tons 20,902, 7,620 ozs.

Lake View Consols.—10,826 tons, 3,042 ozs.; 3,250 tons old tailings, 572 ozs.; total 3,614 ozs.

Langlaagte Deep.—Tons crushed 19,448, 4,588 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates by cyanide 12,606, 1,873 ozs.; tons of slimes 4,922, 233 ozs.; total 6,694 ozs.

Langlaagte Estate.—Ore crushed 27,960 tons, 5,530 ozs.; concentrates, cyanide, 585 tons, 880 ozs.; tailings, cyanide, 17,550 tons, 1,640 ozs.; slimes, 13,475 tons, 1,200 ozs.; total, 9,250 ozs.

Lancaster.—Crushed 13,600 tons, 2,898 ozs.; cyanide, 9,478 tons, 1,332 ozs.; total output 4,230 ozs.

Lancaster West.—Crushed 6,341 tons, 1,370 ozs.; cyanide, 4,998 tons, 741 ozs.; total output 2,111 ozs.

Le Roi Mining.—Shipments 10,860, containing 4,350 ozs. gold, 6,400 ozs. silver, 233,700 lbs. copper.

Le Roi No. 2.—Shipped April, 2,100 tons; net receipts \$54,181, being payment of 2,225 tons shipped and \$1,456, being payment for 44 tons concentrates shipped; in all \$55,637.

Matabele Reefs.—Crushed 1,945 tons, 929 ozs.

May.—Results for April: Crushed 13,820 tons, 3,671 ozs.; cyanide, 9,635 tons, 1,944 ozs.; slimes, 4,004 tons, 291 ozs.; total output, 5,906 ozs.

Meyer and Charlton.—2,299 ozs. from 10,050 tons crushed; 2,554 ozs. cyanide; 4,853 ozs. all sources.

Mills' Day Dawn.—Crushed 1,396 tons, value £4,200.

Mitterberg Copper.—Output 63.85 tons copper.

Morven (Rhodesia).—Crushed 1,048 tons, 706 ozs.; 1,403 tons tailings by cyanide, 154 ozs.

Mount Boppy.—Clean-up from 5,700 tons gave 1,090 ozs.; cyanide, 3,378 tons, 1,177 ozs.; slimes, 1,016 ozs.; concentrates, tonnage 30, 230 ozs.; total 3,513 ozs.

Mount Lyell Blocks.—5,364 tons of crude ore for 60 tons 8 cwt. 25 lbs. fine copper.

Mount Morgan (Queensland).—Tons chlorinated 18,400, and 8,728 tons tailings, gold returned 11,308 ozs.

Mount Zeehan (Tasmania) Silver-Lead.—390 tons silver-lead ore, containing 234 tons lead and 24,250 ozs. silver.

Mungana (Chillagoe).—Crushed 1,742 tons, containing 70 tons copper, 17,964 ozs. silver, and 161 tons lead; shipped to smelting works.

New Comet.—Milled 18,077 tons, 3,679 ozs.; sands, 13,758 tons, 2,763 ozs.; by-products, 149; total output, 6,596 ozs.

New Modderfontein.—Crushed 11,299 tons, 3,010 ozs.; tailings, 7,292 tons, 1,174 ozs.; total, 4,157 ozs.

New Goch.—2,473 ozs. from 15,805 tons crushed; 3,427 ozs. from cyanide—5,900 ozs. all sources.

New Hillgrove.—Crushed 193 tons, including 55 tons screenings from the sorting floor—yielding 584 ozs. bullion and 2.5 tons concentrates, value 11 ozs.; tailings, 1 dwt. 18 grs. per ton; cyanide, 243 tons, 52 ozs.

New Kleinfontein.—Milled 31,102 tons, 7,476 ozs.; sands, 31,325 tons, 3,022 ozs.; slimes, 9,110 tons, 605 ozs.; total, 11,103 ozs.

New Rhodesia.—Crushed 447 tons, 327 ozs.

New Zealand Crown.—Crushed 1,801 tons, value £3,622.

Nigel.—Crushed 7,450 tons, 3,678 ozs.

Nigel Deep.—3,255 tons, 2,122 ozs.

North Randfontein.—Crushed 14,951 tons, 3,862 ozs.; concentrates: cyanide, 1,410 tons, 478 ozs.; tailings: cyanide, 8,695 tons, 1,627 ozs.; slimes: 4,795 tons, 533 ozs.; total, 6,000 ozs.

North White Feather.—Crushed 1,600 tons, 840 ozs.; cyanide, 1,472 tons, 110 ozs.; total, 950 ozs.

Nourse.—Crushed 26,730 tons, 7,748 ozs.; sands and concentrates: cyanide, 16,885 tons, 2,908 ozs.; slimes, 8,707 tons, 668 ozs.; total, 11,324 ozs.

Oroya Brownhill.—Crushed 10,735 tons, 12,569 ozs.

Penhalonga Proprietary.—Crushed 6,400 tons ore, 870 ozs.; 105 tons concentrates, 487 ozs.; total, 1,357 ozs.

Porges Randfontein.—Crushed 13,400 tons ore, 4,164 ozs.; concentrates: cyanide, 1,336 tons, 385 ozs.; tailings: cyanide, 8,064 tons, 1,102 ozs.; slimes, 3,877 tons, 349 ozs.; total, 6,000 ozs.

Princess Estate.—Crushed 6,108 tons, 1,930 ozs.; cyanide, 4,401 tons, 1,024 ozs.; total output, 2,954 ozs.

Queensland Copper.—Treated 1,245 tons ore; 217 tons matte, containing 124 tons fine copper; shipment, 252 tons matte.

Red Hill, Westralia.—Crushed 1,820 tons, 707 ozs.

Rezende.—2,900 tons, 727 ozs.; 1,950 tons of sands, 158 ozs.; 20 tons of concentrates recovered, 100 ozs.; total, 985 ozs.

Rhodesia Consolidated.—Nelly, crushed 1,700 tons, 867 ozs.; by cyanide, 1,104 tons, 319 ozs.; total, 1,186 ozs.

Rhodesia Goldfields.—Crushed 1,660 tons, 293 ozs.; cyanide, 980 tons, 180 ozs.

Rhodesia Matabele Development.—Crushed 128 tons, 87 ozs.

Robinson Central Deep.—Crushed 16,155 tons, 7,652 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 10,400 tons, 2,525 ozs.; slimes, 5,242 tons, 533 ozs.; total, 10,710 ozs.

Robinson Deep.—28,239 tons, 15,251 ozs.

Robinson Gold.—Crushed 30,148 tons; from-mill, 13,261 ozs.; from tailings (cyanide), 4,920 ozs.; from slimes, 1,530 ozs.; total, 19,711 ozs.

Robinson Randfontein.—Ore crushed, 14,341 tons, 3,164 ozs.; concentrates (cyanide), 1,360 tons, 489 ozs.; tailings (cyanide), 7,980 tons, 1,612 ozs.; slimes, 4,909 tons, 485 ozs.; total, 5,750 ozs.

Roodepoort Central Deep.—Crushed 6,835 tons, 1,957 ozs.; cyanide, 4,304 tons, 740 ozs.; total 2,697 ozs.

Roodepoort United.—Crushed 3,756 tons, 2,860 ozs.; cyanide, 1,496 ozs.; from all sources, 4,356 ozs.

Rose Deep.—Crushed 21,300 tons, 5,594 ozs.; sands and concentrates (cyanide), 14,037 tons, 2,207 ozs.; slimes, 7,816 tons, 552 ozs.; total, 8,353 ozs.

St. David's.—Crushed 1,294 tons, 107 ozs.

St. John Del Rey.—Gold produce, £18,950; yield per ton, .52 of an ounce troy.

San Francisco del Oro.—660 tons shipped; value, £1,750.

Selukwe.—Crushed 6,154 tons, 1,460 ozs.; cyanide, 4,272 tons, 576 ozs.; total, 2,036 ozs.

Sheba.—Output, 3,268 ozs.

Simmer and Jack.—51,900 tons, 19,814 ozs.

Simmer and Jack East.—15,532 tons, 5,677 ozs.

Sons of Gwalla.—Crushed 10,898 tons ore, 3,640 ozs.; tailing,

by cyanide, 6,380 tons, 927 ozs.; concentrates, 210 tons, 637 ozs.; total, 5,204 ozs.

South Kalgurli.—Crushed 8,012 short tons, 3,330 ozs.

South Randfontein.—Ore crushed 14,022 tons, 3,785 ozs.; concentrates, cyanide, 1,260 tons, 383 ozs.; tailings, cyanide, 7,760 tons, 1,280 ozs.; slimes 4,602, 552 ozs.; total, 6,000 ozs.

Surprise.—Crushed 3,000 tons, 1,030 ozs.; cyanide 595 ozs. from 3,490 tons.

Talisman Consolidated.—Ore 3,890 tons, value £12,041.

Tasmanian Smelting.—Silver-lead bullion shipped contained 780 tons lead, 130,000 ozs. silver, 277 ozs. gold.

Tomboy.—Crushed 7,600 tons, value \$52,000; concentrates shipped 390 tons, value \$29,500.

Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Investment.—Output 26,910 tons.

Treasury.—Crushed 7,500 tons, 1,383 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 7,479 tons, 859 ozs.; total, 2,242 ozs.

Tyee Copper.—Smelted, Tyee ore, 1,717 tons; Customs ore 709 tons; total, 2,426 tons; matte produced from same, 255 tons; \$34,723.

Um Rus of Egypt.—719 tons of ore, 345 ozs.

Van Ryn.—Crushed 21,710 tons, 6,205 ozs.; cyanide 21,110 tons of tailings, 2,315 ozs.

Village Deep.—Crushed 21,838 tons, 3,931 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 14,850 tons, 2,370 ozs.; slimes 5,757 tons, 505 ozs.; total, 6,806 ozs.

Village Main Reef.—Crushed 32,088 tons, 9,314 ozs.; cyanide 21,640 tons sands and concentrates, 3,578 ozs.; slimes 9,789 tons, 552 ozs.; total, 13,444 ozs.

Vivien Gold.—1,606 tons, 382 ozs.; 990 tons tailings, 78 ozs.; 260 tons current slimes, 24 ozs.

Vogelstruis.—Quartz milled 5,300 tons, 1,554 ozs.; tailings 3,860 tons, 341 ozs.; total, 1,895 ozs.

Waihi Gold.—25,196 tons, yielding £63,102.

Wanderer (Selukwe) Gold.—Cyanide 16,368 tons, 2,171 ozs.

West Rand Central Gold.—Crushed 2,475 tons, 530 ozs. bullion; 1,940 tons by cyanide, 570 ozs.

Willoughby's.—Crushed 1,272 tons, 978 ozs., equivalent to 15.38 dwts. per ton.

Windsor.—Crushed 5,174 tons, 730 ozs.; cyanide 4,038 tons, 744 ozs.; total, 1,474 ozs.

Witwatersrand Deep.—Crushed 27,270 tons, 7,947 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 26,484 tons.

Wolhuter.—Crushed 18,150 tons; sands and slimes 18,150 tons; from mill 3,289 ozs.; from sands 2,439 ozs.; total 5,728 ozs.

Worcester.—966 ozs.

Zeehan Montana.—435 tons silver-lead ore, containing 305 tons lead and 34,600 ozs. silver.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, MAY 14.

Condé d'Eu Railway.—Winchester House, noon.
Castner-Kellner Alkali.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.
General Ceylon Tea Estates.—4, Lloyd's Avenue, 2.30 p.m.
London Bank of Australasia.—Winchester House, noon.
Land Securities Assets.—Winchester House, noon.
South Behar Railway.—46, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W., 1 p.m.
Slough Creek Gravel Gold.—Winchester House, 11 a.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 15.

Globe Telegraph and Trust.—Electra House, 12.45 p.m.
Hyderabad (Deccan).—Winchester House, noon.
Leopoldina Railway.—River Plate House, noon.
Theta Gold Mining.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
West Coast of America.—Electra House, 11.30 a.m.
Welsbach Incandescent Gas Light.—Winchester House, noon.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16.

House Property and Investment.—Cannon Street Hotel, 11 a.m.
Golden Grain Bread.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Investment Trust Corporation.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.
Morris Aiming Tube and Ammunition.—17, Charing Cross Road, noon.
Stephenson (Robert).—Newcastle-on-Tyne, 11 a.m.
San Lorenzo Nitrate.—Liverpool, noon.

THURSDAY, MAY 17.

Argentine Land and Investment.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
Central Insurance.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Trust and Agency of Australasia.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
United Excelsior Mines.—Winchester House, noon.

FRIDAY, MAY 18.

Bankers' Investment Trust.—Winchester House, noon.
Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Porto Alegre and New Hamburg Brazilian Railway.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

London and County Banking Company.—A branch has been opened at No. 36, St. James's Street, S.W., the management under of Mr. R. Lemon.

The Bank of British North America is now prepared to undertake ordinary banking transactions with San Francisco, including the issue of cable transfers for moderate amounts, and subject to unavoidable delays in transmission. The agency of the bank has been established in temporary premises, the leasehold premises occupied by the agency in Sansome Street having been destroyed by fire.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

EASTERN EXTENSION, AUSTRALASIA AND CHINA TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.

The sixty-fifth half-yearly ordinary general meeting of this company was held on Wednesday, under the presidency of Sir John Wolfe Barry, K.C.B.

The general manager and secretary (Mr. F. E. Hesse) read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman then said: Gentlemen,—Before entering on the subject of the report, I should like to say how much grieved we all are at the recent death of one of the pioneers in cable enterprise. I allude to our old friend Mr. W. S. Andrews, who for so many years was chairman of the Indo-European and Western Telegraph Companies, filling those posts with conspicuous success to the shareholders, with marked advantages to the telegraphing public, and with unfailing courtesy and consideration for the members of the boards which he directed. Mr. Andrews was for 55 years connected with telegraphic work, and possessed complete knowledge of all its principles and details, and it seems fitting that on this, the day of his funeral—which our vice-chairman, Sir John Denison Pender, is attending on behalf of the board—we should, while expressing our lament at his decease and sympathy with his family, put on record our high appreciation of his public and private virtues. Turning to the affairs of the company, the gross revenue for the half-year under review amounted in round figures to £317,000, against £332,000 for the corresponding period of 1904, showing a decrease of £15,000. This result, I am glad to say, is not due to any falling off in traffic receipts, which, as a matter of fact, show an increase, but is owing to the revenue in 1904 having been exceptionally augmented by contract work and other special sources. With respect to the expenditure, the working and other expenses amounted in round figures to £135,000, against £150,000 in the corresponding period of 1904, showing a decrease of £15,000, or a similar amount to the reduction in the revenue, and the one is thus a set-off against the other. The reduction in expenditure is principally due to the repairs to our cables having been exceptionally few and unimportant during the past half-year, and to the credits for charter work in connection with the maintenance of cables for other telegraph administrations having been somewhat larger than usual. Comparing the figures of receipts and expenditure for the whole of the year 1905, the result is as follows: The gross receipts amounted to £666,000, against £632,000 in 1904, showing an increase of £34,000. The ordinary expenditure for the year was £271,000, against £291,000 in 1904, or a decrease of £20,000, due to the causes already mentioned. Consequently the company's financial position for 1905 shows an actual improvement over the previous year to the extent of £54,000. The net profit for the past half-year was £163,982, and after adding to it the credit balance of £42,081 brought forward from the previous half-year, there remained an available balance of £206,063. The usual quarterly interim dividends of 2s. 6d. per share were paid during the past year, and it is now proposed to distribute a final dividend for the year of like amount, making a total dividend of 5 per cent. In addition a bonus of 4s. per share will be paid, making a total distribution for 1905 of 7 per cent. We have also been able out of the profits for the past year to place £150,000 to the general reserve fund (£100,000 for the June half-year and £50,000 for the December half-year) and to carry forward £21,000. The whole of our extensive cable system is in good working order, except the two cables between New Zealand and Australia, which at present are both interrupted, the duplicate cable possibly having been damaged by volcanic action. This has necessitated the transmission by the British Pacific cable of the traffic between New Zealand and Australia. Our cable ship *Recorder* has been despatched from Singapore to effect repairs, and it is expected that communication will be restored by the end of next week. Since I last had the pleasure of addressing the shareholders statements have appeared in the newspapers in reference to a pooling agreement between the Pacific Cable Board and this company, and to other important negotiations in connection with the company's position in Australia. As the statements were somewhat meagre and obscure, I propose to supplement them by giving the shareholders a little additional information on the subject. It will probably be remembered that shortly before Federation was established in Australia the company entered into agreements with certain of the State Governments by which, in consideration of most important additions, both physically and otherwise, to the telegraphic facilities of Australasia, we secured the right, practically in perpetuity, to collect and deliver telegrams direct from and to the public in Adelaide, Sydney, Perth and Hobart, and to transmit such telegrams in Australia without the intermediary of the Government offices. This principle has long been recognised in this country as being of importance to the full development of cable telegraphy, and is applied to foreign as well as to British telegraph companies. The same arrangement was agreed to by the Victorian Government, but the agreement had not been signed when the Pacific Cable was opened for traffic. Serious opposition was raised on behalf of the British Pacific Cable representatives to our exercising these rights in Melbourne, and soon after the Commonwealth was established the Prime Minister (Sir Edmund Barton) entered into negotiations with us which resulted in an agreement being signed in 1903 enabling the Government under certain conditions to give notice after 10 years for determining them in the four State capitals, and at the

same time extending the principle of direct dealings with the public to Melbourne and Brisbane, so as to put all the State capitals of Australia on the same footing. The agreement was made subject to approval by the Federal Parliament, pending which approval the company was allowed to tentatively open public offices in Melbourne and given the use of a special wire on the Government line between Adelaide and Melbourne, and this arrangement has been in operation for the last three years. The agreement was promptly approved by the Federal House of Representatives without a division, but the Senate delayed coming to a decision in order that a conference of the Pacific Cable partners might first be held to consider certain questions which had been raised in connection with the company's agreements with the State Governments. After several postponements the conference was eventually held last summer, and its conclusions were embodied in a Parliamentary paper issued shortly afterwards. One of the conclusions favoured an arrangement being come to between the rival interests, and the basis of a pooling agreement was subsequently discussed and practically arranged between the Pacific Cable board and the company, but it was not favourably entertained by all the Governments concerned, and the proposal has apparently fallen through. In December last the Senate again considered the agreement of 1903 negotiated by Sir Edmund Barton, and approved it, subject, however, to the company accepting an amendment which, in the opinion of your directors, most materially altered the intentions of the parties; consequently the company had no alternative but to reject the amendment, and thus terminate the agreement. The Government have now put an end to the tentative arrangement by closing our public offices in Melbourne, thus debarring the mercantile community in that city from the advantages enjoyed by the telegraphing public of Sydney, Adelaide, and Perth, where our direct dealings with the public continue, in accordance with our agreements, and are much appreciated. I am glad, however, to say that most of the Melbourne merchants are marking their telegrams "*via* Eastern," and they are, therefore, in accordance with the rules of the International Telegraph Convention, loyally handed over by the Government to our Adelaide office for transmission by our route, and no delays are apparently being experienced. I believe, however, that the Melbourne merchants are not pleased at being placed in a less favourable position than that occupied by the mercantile firms of Adelaide, Sydney, and Perth, as most business men prefer to deal directly with a commercial organisation such as ours rather than with a department of Government, however enlightened and efficient it may be. I do not think I have much more to say in addition to what I have already intimated except that, so far as we can see, the traffic is passing satisfactorily between Melbourne and this country and between this country and Melbourne, and your directors do not anticipate any loss of revenue. I am sorry that the arrangements have not gone through in the way that we anticipated, but still we are favourably placed at the other capitals of Australia, and I venture to hope that the interests of the company will not in the long run suffer. If any shareholder wishes to ask any question, I shall be delighted to try to answer him. I will conclude by proposing: "That the report and accounts of the directors now submitted be received and adopted, and that a dividend be now declared of 2s. 6d. per share, together with a bonus of 4s. per share, both free of income-tax, payable on 10th inst., making with the previous distributions a total payment of 7 per cent. for the year 1905."

The Marquess of Tweeddale, K.T., seconded the resolution, which was at once unanimously agreed to without discussion.

The retiring directors, the Hon. George Peel and the Marquess of Tweeddale, were re-elected, and the retiring auditors, Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths, and Co. and Messrs. Welton, Jones, and Co., were reappointed.

A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman and directors having been passed unanimously, after a few remarks in reply from the chairman the proceedings terminated.

INDUSTRIAL AND GENERAL TRUST, LIMITED.

The eighteenth ordinary general meeting of the Industrial and General Trust, Limited, was held on Thursday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. Alexander Young (Chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. Sandford Poole) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman congratulated the stockholders on the report for the past year, which in his opinion was the best the directors had ever had the pleasure of submitting. The profit and loss account showed that dividends, interest and commissions received amounted to £118,054. This amount included arrears of previous years amounting to about £11,000. The principle on which the accounts were made up was to exclude everything but hard cash. There was also included in the £118,054 £4,942 of interest on reserve fund investments. According to the articles of association in past years they had to add the interest arising upon these investments to the fund itself, but as soon as they had reached the sum fixed—namely, £150,000—it was no longer necessary to do that; consequently this interest could now be treated as part of the general income of the trust. Deducting these two items, amounting together to £15,942, they had a revenue of £102,111, which compared with £96,932 last year, showing that there was a clear increase of £5,179 in the ordinary income of the company. That was in addition to the profit which was made last year by the realisation of certain securities referred to as "Profit balance on realisations." This year it amounted to £43,235, as against £16,188 last year, showing an

increase of £27,046. The amount had been arrived at after providing for depreciation on certain investments where the board believed depreciation of a more or less permanent character had occurred, and for contingencies. The gross profits amounted to £161,380, as compared with £113,192 last year, showing an increase of £48,188. The whole of that profit had been made with the addition of only £200 or £300 to the expenses of the trust. (Hear, hear.) Turning to the balance-sheet, last year the capital figured as unified stock £975,000. In February last, in accordance with the resolutions passed by the stockholders, this stock was split as to 40 per cent. into 4½ per cent. cumulative preference stock £390,000, and as to 60 per cent. into ordinary stock £585,000, and 55,000 conversion shares of £5 each were offered, *pro rata*, to the stockholders at the price of £5 5s. per share. Of these, 45,279 shares were taken up by the shareholders in the terms of the letters of rights, and the balance were sold. The 55,000 conversion shares, as stated in the balance-sheet, amounted to £275,000, making a total issued capital of £1,250,000. When the £275,000 of conversion shares were converted into two-fifths of preference stock and three-fifths of ordinary stock, and the remaining £250,000 of 4½ per cent. cumulative preference shares were issued, they would have a total capital of £1,500,000, half of which would be in 4½ per cent. preference shares and the other half in ordinary stock. When the proper time came for issuing £525,000 of debenture stock they would have £1,500,000 debenture capital, making, with £1,500,000 share capital, £3,000,000 capital. The instalment of £165,000 which became payable on the shares on March 20 was all paid up at the date of the balance-sheet with the exception of £2,104, and this had since been paid. The reserve at March 31, 1904, amounted to £125,000, and to this they added at March 31, 1905, £25,000, making it up to £150,000. They were adding this year £50,000, making the reserve fund up to £200,000. Turning to the appropriation account, the balance from profit and loss account for the year amounted to £117,287, and adding the £20,528 from the previous year they had a total of £127,816. The interim dividend paid in November absorbed £23,156; the appropriations to reserve fund, already referred to, absorbed £50,000, and the proposed dividends would absorb £98,905, leaving to be carried forward to the next account £28,911, being £18,382 in excess of the amounts brought in. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Messrs. Alexander Young, Frederick Walker and Walter Henty, the retiring directors, were unanimously re-elected, and Messrs. Whinney, Smith and Whinney and Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths and Co. were appointed auditors for the ensuing year.

On the motion of Mr. Daniel Stock, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman, and the proceedings terminated.

CALLENDER'S CABLE AND CONSTRUCTION CO., LIMITED.

The tenth ordinary general meeting of Callender's Cable and Construction Co., Limited, was held on Thursday at Hamilton House, Victoria Embankment, E.C., under the presidency of Mr. Henry Drake (the chairman).

The secretary (Mr. H. E. Harrison) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—When I had the pleasure of meeting you at this time last year I mentioned that the business was much more prosperous than in the previous year, and I think the accounts we submit to you to-day fully bear out what I then said. As a matter of fact, the profits are £22,000 more than they were in the previous year. (Applause.) If you will refer to the balance-sheet you will see that the share capital, debenture stock, reserve and machinery renewal account remain just as they were. Bills payable are £132,756, as against £87,448; trade creditors and other liabilities are £95,348, against £74,089, showing that a much larger business is being done. The profit and loss account is £65,171, against £45,281. On the other side of the balance-sheet we have the property at Erith—after allowing £13,000 for depreciation and transferring £1,709 worth of plant to Leigh—standing at £313,991, as per the certificate of Messrs. Bramwell and Harris. I need hardly enlarge upon the immense value to us of that certificate, because Messrs. Bramwell and Harris are engineers of the highest standing, and it secures us as shareholders from any mistake from over-estimate, which in our own interests we very much wish to avoid. Goodwill and patents stand at nil, as heretofore. That means that all sums which have been paid—and they have been many—for patents have been charged to profits; and although this item stands at nil in the accounts, it does not diminish its actual value. The stock in hand at Erith is £109,705, as compared with £115,480. It is very satisfactory to know that, although we are doing more business, we have managed to keep down the stock. Expenditure on contracts in course of execution, and patterns, stand at £113,966 as against £98,251. Sundry debtors are £193,256 as against £184,909. The money retained by corporations for due fulfilment of contracts is £115,323 against £94,356. This is a sore subject for us, because we get no interest on this money. At the same time we should not get the work if we did not lock it up, and the only satisfaction to us is that we can afford to do it. Cash at bank and in hand and bills receivable amount to £59,759 as against £19,342, which is very satisfactory, because it shows that the accounts have been better looked after. Shares and investments in other companies amount to £76,796 as against £57,913. That is a fluctuating quantity, but we are obliged to take shares in payment for some of our work. The Anchor Cable Company stands at £87,308 as against £86,137. The profit and loss account shows that the profit for the year, after deducting all charges

on manufacturing accounts and contracts, amounts to £124,541, as compared with £94,163. The general expenses amount to £28,652, and other items on that side of the account bring that figure up to £45,446, leaving a balance to carry down of £79,094. Adding the amount brought from 1904 we have a total of £102,501, and, after writing off the depreciation items mentioned, interest on debenture stock, and preference dividend, there is a balance of £65,171. We propose out of this to pay a dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, being 10s. per share—of which 5s. was paid on November 1, 1905, and 5s. will be paid on May 31, 1906—and to pay a bonus of 5s. per share on May 31, 1906, leaving £38,921 to be carried forward. This, I may add, is the most satisfactory year we have had since the company was first constituted. I now beg to move the adoption of the report and accounts.

Sir Fortescue Flannery, Bart., seconded the motion.

Mr. H. Holliday asked for an explanation of the increase of 20 per cent. in the general expenses.

Mr. T. O. Callender (managing director), in reply, said the shareholders were to be congratulated upon the company having been able to do a very largely increased business with an increased expenditure of only £4,000. He maintained that the charges under this heading were small in the extreme considering the work which had been done and the very heavy obligations which were thrown on the company. Proceeding, he said that the company's business in Great Britain improved considerably in the latter part of last year; but the copper market had been distinctly against the company, as, owing to the unprecedented rise in the price of metal, customeris were very shy in placing their orders, believing that a fall would soon take place, and that they would once again be able to purchase on a lower basis. He was afraid, however, that the indications did not tend that way, and that they must look for a continuance for some time to come of the present high prices of copper and lead. These would certainly restrict the company's business to some extent, but, in spite of the feeling on the part of would-be purchasers, there was a large amount of business pending in Great Britain—a considerable number of mains which must be laid in any circumstances—and he hoped that this company would get a very fair share of that business. In the present year, so far as it had gone, after having looked into the accounts, he was quite satisfied with the results which had attended the company's operations. In spite of difficulties of one kind and another, the trade, although not overflowing, had been good and satisfactory, and he thought they could look forward with a reasonable amount of hope to the current year being a good one. They had pushed very extensively for work abroad. India had always been a field to which they had given great attention. In the latter part of last year the assistant manager was over there for some time looking after the company's interests, and the result of the close attention which they had given to India had been that the company held the premier position there by a long way, all the important orders which had hitherto been carried out for heavy underground mains having, almost without exception, been placed in their hands. They were now negotiating for various other contracts which they hoped to secure.

The motion for the adoption of the report and accounts was carried unanimously.

The formal business having been transacted, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, officials, and staff.

VICTORIAN CORNISH GOLD MINES, LIMITED.

The second ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the Victorian Cornish Gold Mines, Limited, was held on Thursday at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moor-gate Place, E.C., Mr A. Goddard (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. P. B. Tod) having read the notices convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, after some preliminary observations, said:—I would remind you that, whilst the expenditure covers a period of 34 months, we have for 15 months only been in the position to produce gold, and thus obtain a revenue. Now, we have on the receipts side, gold won, &c., £46,074 9s.; on the other side of the account we have expenses connected with the treatment of the ore, £17,073 17s. 7d. You will further see that we have written off the whole of the cost of unwatering and mine prospecting, £5,556 10s. 2d. Mine development amounts to £8,660 os. 1d., of which we have written off 50 per cent.—namely, £4,330—and in doing this we think we may readily claim the approval of our shareholders. Cleaning out dam and road-making, £237 18s. 6d., are items which, although they reduce our net revenue, are of such an apparent nature that they require no explanation. Expenses of Mr. T. Lees Field's two visits to Australia and management there, £1,560 os. 5d., speaks for itself as explained in the accounts. This item will not be a recurring one. Expenses in Australia, £5,136 9s. 2d., give an average, approximately, of £1,812 per annum. Expenses in London, £2,851 8s. 6d., show an average of under £1,000 per annum, and, I think you will agree, this is extremely reasonable. The duty on increased capital requires no explanation. Depreciation will, of course, be a yearly charge. I have come to the final item of the revenue account—namely, the balance carried to balance-sheet, £7,380 17s. 3d. This I think you will regard as most satisfactory in view of the large expenditure which has been charged against revenue in respect of unwatering, mine prospecting and the important development work which has been carried out. Person-

ally, I consider the result highly satisfactory, and this opinion is entirely shared by my co-directors. After explaining items in the balance-sheet, he proceeded to say:—As soon as the shafts were clear of water and put into order, the management decided that before continuing the deeper sinking of any of them it would be advisable to go into the upper workings, and thus be able to form a clear opinion as to whether or not the working of the property in the past by the old holders had exhausted the payable ore bodies. This they considered very advisable in view of the fact that as work progressed strong evidence of bad management and a want of knowledge of proper mining methods on their part became more and more apparent every day. The first work that was therefore undertaken was to extend a cross-cut to the Crown lode at the 702 ft. level from Bonnard's shaft, and then drive both north and south on the lode at this point; the result of this work was that satisfactory crushings were obtained from it. Shortly afterwards the 725 ft. level south from the same shaft was cleared out and extended, and cross-cuts and rises put in therefrom into the Cornish lode channel. This work soon led to the discovery of highly payable ore bodies which have been missed by the old holders in consequence of their having failed to do that amount of crosscutting which is now recognised as a most essential factor to the proper working and development of mines having such large ore bodies and lode channels as are found upon your company's property. As the work at the 725 ft. level led on to the discovery of large bodies of payable ore, the work on the Crown lode at the 702 ft. level was temporarily discontinued, only, however, with the view to its renewed prosecution at a later period. Regular crushings from the Cornish lode channel at the 725 ft. level commenced in October, 1904, and the length and permanency of the chute of gold met with was clearly established by the continuation of the drive south and by a series of rises and cross-cuts which were put in as the drive was prosecuted. It then became apparent that another piece of good work to do would be the clearing out and retimbering of the old Cornish shaft down to the 525 ft. level, so as to effect a connection between that level and the rises going up to it from the 725 ft. level from Bonnard's shaft. This was successfully accomplished, and the strain put upon Bonnard's shaft, through which the whole of the work was being conducted, was in some measure relieved, whilst in addition good ventilation was obtained. The clearing out of an old drive north at the 966 ft. level from Bonnard's shaft was also undertaken with a view to its continuation, so as to effect a connection with the Fearnot and Field's shafts, situated some 1,300 ft. to the north. As work progressed in these directions it became apparent that Bonnard's shaft was being worked to its full capacity, and that it would be quite unable to cope with the work that would be put upon it of raising, as development work progressed, an increased quantity of ore; therefore a new main working shaft became an absolute necessity. As the big chute of ore was pitching away to the south it was deemed advisable to utilise the old Collier's shaft, which had been sunk to a depth of 330 ft., and which lay 850 ft. to the south, and 400 ft. to the west of Bonnard's shaft, and it was ultimately decided to cut this shaft down and continue its sinking, and thus make it—at any rate for the present—the main working shaft on the property, and not only to do this, but to do it in such a manner as to give it a capacity of hauling at least three times the amount of stone which Bonnard's shaft was capable of hauling. By doing this it would leave Bonnard's shaft free to proceed with the development of the Crown lode at the 702 ft. and other levels, and also more speedily continue the drive at the 966 ft. level, so as to connect it with the Fearnot and Field's shafts to the north and develop the Cornish lode channel to the north of Bonnard's shaft. These facts, I think, will go far to show you that very large and serious development work is being undertaken, and has been, and is being, successfully accomplished, and that it will not only enable us to bring about a largely increased output, but also to deal very much more economically with the ore raised than we have been able to do in the past, and thus sensibly reduce the cost of production, which obviously means a considerable increase in our profits. After further observations the Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. G. R. Bonnard (managing director) seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously without discussion.

A vote of thanks was afterwards passed to the officers and staff at the mine in recognition of the services rendered by them to the company.

PANAWATTE TEA AND RUBBER ESTATES, LIMITED.

For the six months ended December 31 the output of tea, exclusive of 3,002 lbs. from purchased leaf, was 266,679 lbs., which was sold at an average of 4.66d. per lb., against a cost of 3.87d. per lb. Net profits, after providing for directors' fees and general charges, amounted to £707, and of this £345 is written off preliminary expenses and £250 off buildings and machinery, leaving £112 to be carried forward. Capital expenditure in the half-year was £2,902, of which £640 represented the purchase of a further 145 acres purchased, and the balance was spent on the upkeep of 276 acres tea not yet in bearing and 237 acres rubber planted before the promotion of the company, the planting of 106 acres of rubber, and the clearing of another 500 acres. This brings the total outlay on the estates up to £42,902, and in November last the remaining 3,000 £5 shares of the authorised capital were issued to provide much-needed additional working capital. Floating liabilities amount to £6,397, against tea in hand valued at £3,638, and cash £790. Coast advances at £4,332 are much too heavy for comfort, and should be brought down to more reasonable limits as speedily as possible.

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The Investors' Review.

Mr. Haldeman's Latest Move.

It is one of revolt, and, we are sorry to have to say it, of betrayal. Mr. Haldeman has practically sold a list of the policyholders of the office, whose servant he till lately was, to a rival. Monday's newspapers contained a circular, obviously from his pen, since it was drawn up in the best style of the adroit American advertiser, announcing that an agreement had been entered into by this gentleman, until lately the manager of the British portion of the New York Mutual Life Insurance Company's business, in virtue of which he has undertaken to make an attempt to transfer that business to the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company, rightly described as one of the oldest and most substantial amongst British offices. How would the North British managers like a servant of theirs to play them a like stroke of vengeance? It was further intimated that a policyholders' protection committee had agreed to the terms offered by the North British company, and that in virtue thereof over 12,000 policyholders, whose policies represent £9,000,000, could at once join the North British company because the policies are entitled to receive full surrender value from the Mutual of New York. Other and presumably older policyholders representing £6,000,000 of insurance, it was candidly stated, cannot without loss at once surrender their Mutual Life policies, but to these the North British will, we were told, make fair and liberal proposals, not specified. Mr. Haldeman gives various reasons for the step he has taken, into which we need not now enter, the personal aspect of that dispute being the least pleasant of all. Putting that aside, there are two other points of view from which this proposed transaction may be examined in a preliminary fashion.

The first is, what will the North British and Mercantile Company be likely to gain by this step? To the mere man in the street it does not seem a profitable speculation on its part, since the Mutual Office is by no means disposed to part with its business, and may even have the power to suspend payment of surrender values on its old policies. The transfer cannot in any event be effected upon a friendly basis. All that is open to the North British and Mercantile Company to do is to obtain assignments of policies dating from 1898 onwards whose surrender values form part of the contract, and having got these to claim from the Mutual of New York the surrender values tabulated upon the back of each policy. This means the abandonment of all the accumulated bonuses which might be counted upon were the policy allowed to mature in the Mutual Office itself. It is no doubt true that neither the endowment nor the old tontine policies have been on the average so profitable to the clients of the New York Mutual as they were led to believe; but, as we have for many years insisted, this unprofitableness is to be ascribed not to the insolvency of the Mutual company or other American life company, or to the inadequacy of the premiums charged, but solely to the extravagance of the management. What should have been handsome accumulated bonuses payable to surviving policyholders at the end of the fixed terms of 10, 15 or 20 years as the case might be, or large windfalls in the case of tontine policies have in great measure been consumed in the manner so vividly brought before the public by the investigations of the

New York State Senate committee last year. And as regards the older policies the position appears to us to be dubious indeed both for the North British and Mercantile Company and for the older policyholders of the Mutual. As far as the present light allows us to go, we should distinctly object to the proposed transfer of these older policies. We have never in all our attacks upon the Mutual of New York declared it to be insolvent. It has been shamefully extravagant, and consequently its promises have been cruelly delusive, but its scale of premiums has been high, and it is wealthy enough now to meet the actual amounts of the policies in full. Possibly also, now that some reforms have been introduced, it may even be able to pay better bonuses than its clients have received in the past. What can the North British and Mercantile do to benefit these older policies? Its only advantage is in the lower scale of working expenditure. As against an average of 28 to 30 per cent. of the premium income disbursed by the Mutual of New York, the North British and Mercantile spends on an average from 13 to 14 per cent. On new policies this would tell with great advantage to the holders, especially as the Mutual scale of premiums is higher than the North British, but endowment policies that have only from five to seven or eight years to run could not possibly receive for the surrender of all their bonus rights compensation from the North British and Mercantile Company on the same scale as the Mutual is easily able to pay if its controllers choose.

Another aspect of the transaction is indicated by the threats already beginning to come from New York that retaliation will be resorted to. Mr. McClintock, the present vice-president of the New York Mutual Company, says he is coming over to this country soon, and will try to find a way by which a counterstroke may be delivered. That can only mean the beginning of a system of premium cutting which would inevitably injure life business in many ways. If we are to have a system of vengeful attack adopted by these powerful American corporations, and they are very powerful each one of the three known here, we may see no small amount of confusion introduced into purely British life insurance business, with consequences hurtful to the good fame if not to the stability of the very best among our offices. This is not a pleasant prospect from any point of view, and we cannot therefore profess to be in any degree stimulated to enthusiasm by Mr. Haldeman's masterstroke. No life offices in the world, take them altogether, are so stable, so economically managed, so wealthy according to their liabilities, as British life offices, and we should be inexpressibly sorry were the high standing and impregnable strength of these offices to be in any measure broken in upon by attacks from outside. It would have been better to our thinking if the British Government had attempted to do something to protect in the future the interests of holders of policies in these American offices. Had it passed a law, for example, compelling them to maintain reserves in this country proportionate to the risks they had written here, and obliging them to issue clearer accounts, they might have come into line with our high-grade home offices. This may be called paternal government, but there are occasions when it is the duty of a Government to intervene for the protection of the ignorant to prevent them from being preyed upon. Probably enough if a premium war does break out between institutions doing life business here the Government will be compelled to intervene in the interests of policyholders of all categories and in ways much more drastic than we now suggest.

But we must suspend final judgment upon this latest clever move of Mr. Haldeman's, if not over nice, waiting for the publication of the terms which the North British and Mercantile Company is going to offer, not only to the younger policyholders of the Mutual of New York whose contracts date since 1898, but to those of older date most of whose policies are more nearly matured. Until this information is given so that it may be discussed, and until we see something of the character of the new position created, our advice to

the holders of old date Mutual policies, at all events, is—"stick to your present contract. It will probably pay you better than any substitute."

The Finlay-Muir Companies.

We look always for some indications of improvement in the position of these leading companies in this unfortunate group, and look in vain. The truth is their over-capitalisation is so excessive that nothing can lift them into a position of genuine prosperity. Probably it is because the real state of affairs is so disastrous that the accounts from year to year presented are of so imperfect a character. When one finds the capitalised cost of the cultivated area of properties of this kind ranging from about £60 to £64 per acre, one does not need to be an expert to understand how waterlogged the position is, and when the fact is added that the total debts of the three companies now to be dealt with aggregate nearly £1,600,000 over and above their share capitalisation, it will be seen that the chance of genuine improvement is remote indeed. Something may be gained by the cultivation of Para rubber, and experiments are obviously being made in various other directions, but the dead weight of capital will in the long run ruin the undertakings, whatever happens. Let us now deal with the reports in detail:—

THE CONSOLIDATED TEA AND LANDS CO., LIMITED.

In the year ended November 30 last this company reaped a crop of 13,949,419 lbs. of tea, or an increase of 94,663 lbs. on the crop of 1904. A better price was also secured, the average being .36d. per lb. higher than in 1904 at 6.56d. per lb. Somewhat larger crops of cocoanuts and Para rubber were also secured, but at the best they do not amount to very much. A balance of £121,681 is shown at the credit of profit and loss, but that is before deducting interest on the £550,000 of 4½ per cent. debenture stock, which took £24,750, interest and discount of bills which took £9,320, and commission on profits to estate managers, managing agents and secretaries which absorbed £6,201. These deductions made the balance remaining is £81,410, out of which the directors have placed £10,000 to the general reserve account, raising it, they say, to £100,000, but the total in the balance-sheet is only £80,000, and we do not understand how £10,000 can be turned into £20,000, except by lumping in the insurance fund. Passing that by the directors further propose to pay 7 per cent. on the 5 per cent. cumulative first preference shares, being 2½ per cent., the balance of the dividend on these shares due for the year ended November 30, 1903, and 4½ per cent. on account of the 5 per cent. dividend for the year ended November 30, 1904. This leaves ½ per cent. still due for that year, together with the whole of the dividend for the past year, and the second preference stock, amounting to £400,000, together with £600,000 of ordinary share capital, both go dividendless, as usual. After making these assignments and payments, the balance left will be £1,410. The area now under cultivation is 28,955 acres, of which 26,788 acres are under tea, 1,677 acres under cocoanuts, 472 acres under Para rubber and 18 acres under sisal hemp. A further extension of 300 acres of rubber and 240 acres of sisal are now in progress, and the increase in the rubber acreage or the past year was 272.

It seems hardly necessary to go over the ground of our annual criticisms, now become a beaten track, but a few figures may be recited. Sundry investments at cost figure at £761,263, the same as a year ago, but sundry debtors have risen by £37,000 to £81,782, while cash at bankers has fallen off by £2,525 to a tiny £1,335. Cash at gardens, however, is up by £369 to £10,232. Working expenses appear to amount to nearly 81 per cent. of the actual gross yield of the produce sold, and at the date of the balance-sheet, out of a total tea crop valued at £378,770, £222,374 worth was unsold, the whole of this being pledged, we suppose, against advances, deposits, and bills payable of nearly £229,000 at the given date.

No mention is made in the current account called "profit and loss" of the proceeds either of the cocoanut or the rubber plantations, the only produce dealt with being tea. Are we to infer that nothing at all comes from these other cultivated parts of the estates, and if something does come, where is the money wrapped up? In other respects the accounts are lamentably imperfect. For example, the suspense account, which even a year back amounted to £8,392, has now disappeared altogether from the accounts. How has it been liquidated? Is it added in amongst sundry creditors or how? No reliance whatever can be placed upon statements drawn up in this elusive fashion. It is noticeable, however, that the "Block account" which represents the cost of the properties still increases, £2,820 having been pent on the tramway last year. Amongst current expenditure also the sum of £19,376 is set down for buildings, bridges, roads and machinery. Glasgow directors' and auditors' fees together with the office expenses take £3,610, and the London agency £2,179, in addition to which, after setting down £35,649 as the cost of European and native establishments at the estates, we find £5,781 set down for hospital and medical charges, £4,544 for general charges in connection with the estates and £4,485 for the cost of the Calcutta and Colombo agencies. These seem to be excessive amounts, and help to explain the extreme poverty of the shareholders. The managing agents, however, continue to do very well by the business, and only the dividends and interest on investments, shares in bonded warehouses, &c., yielded £17,071, or nearly 2½ per cent., upon the above-mentioned sundry investments at cost.

THE AMALGAMATED TEA ESTATES CO., LIMITED.

An even less pleasant story is told by Messrs. James Finlay and Co., the secretaries, managing agents, &c., &c., of these companies, about this company than about the Consolidated. Last year's crop of tea was 3,317,197 lbs. a decrease of 54,299 lbs., but the average price was up .88d. over last year at 9.33d. per lb. We are also told that the cocoanut estates yielded 975,803 nuts and the rubber trees 800 lbs. of rubber, but what becomes of these articles of produce the accounts are careful to avoid indicating. Therefore, a balance of £37,613 brought out to the credit of profit and loss is immediately reduced to £24,536 by £1,142 deducted for commission on profits paid to the estate managers and £11,679 chargeable as interest, discount on bills, &c., besides £256 paid as income-tax. There is, by the way, no mention at all of income-tax being paid on the profits of the Consolidated Tea and Lands Company, but presumably it did not escape the Inland Revenue Department, and we should like to know where the figures are hidden. Out of the final balance of profit, no less than £11,000 has been placed to reserve, £1,000 of it to the insurance fund, and then enough is left to pay 3 per cent. on the cumulative 5 per cent. preference shares for the year ended November 30, 1903. All this done, £936 would be left to carry forward. Thus there is more than two years' preference dividend in arrear, and holders of the ordinary capital of £487,000 are left to shoot the moon. But we cannot be sure that there is any real profit at all; what is plain is the deadly blight of over-capitalisation and debt. Thus, in addition to a paid-up capital of £888,462, the greater part of which is quite without dividend, the company owes £298,525 to depositors for advances made by shareholders and by James Finlay and Company, and in addition £136,079 is due to bankers and others and on bills payable. The entire value of the tea crop is put at £128,664, of which £50,907 worth was presumably in pawn at the date of the balance-sheet, November 30 last. The entire amount sunk by this company in sundry investments at cost—that is to say, in other undertakings of the Finlay-Muir group—is put at £490,406, on which the dividends and interest received last year amounted to less than 1½ per cent., the total income being £7,492. Here also expenses are of a

crushing magnitude, no less than £14,628 being set down against the European and native establishments on the estates, and in addition £2,601 figures for hospital and medical charges, £2,315 as general charges in connection with the estates, £597 is put as the cost of the London agency, and was one-half the usual amount, the other half having been returned by the agents. Directors' and auditors' fees have also been cut down to £875 through the generosity of the board, and all this is exclusive of £32,281, the cost of cultivation, and £27,376 crop expenses, so that altogether the gross produce of the estate seems to have cost about 90 per cent. to harvest. We have not seen the report of the Anglo-American Tea Company, in which such companies as this is deeply interested, but the secretaries, James Finlay and Co., graciously afford information that on November 30 last this company, in separate clearings, interplanted through tea in Ceylon no less than 199,335 rubber trees, of from one to nine years old, and it is arranging to plant 400 acres of forest land with rubber and to interplant another 200 acres of tea with this tree. But what becomes of the rubber, for the Anglo-American company obviously yields no profit to its shareholders? It is useless to ask. All we can note is that the auditors, Messrs. Alexander Sloan and Company, appear to be quite satisfied with the accounts of the Amalgamated as presented, and if the shareholders are likewise satisfied, what business is it of ours to grumble?

THE KANAN DEVAN HILL PRODUCE CO., LIMITED.

This is the last of the companies whose balance-sheets are allowed to reach our hands, and it, too, makes the usual melancholy exhibit. The tea crop last year came to 5,601,459 lbs. or 588,900 lbs. more than the outturn of the previous year, but 365,341 lbs. less than the estimate; a decline due to the protracted drought in Travancore. However, at 6.89d. per lb. the average price realised was .38d. more than that secured on the previous season's crop, and accordingly the directors are proudly able to declare a dividend of 6 per cent. for the past year on the £250,000 of preference share capital, together with a dividend of 1 per cent. on the ordinary shares, leaving £947 to be carried forward. To enable it to do this great feat the secretaries, Messrs. James Finlay and Company, graciously allowed a rebate on interest on the money advanced by them, so that the total amount absorbed by commission on profits to estate managers, managing agents and secretaries was only £1,434. Interest and discount on bills, however, took £13,603, and the final nett profit brought out was only £23,447, all of which was distributed except the few hundreds just mentioned. This company does not seem to require anything in the shape of reserves, which, perhaps, is just as well, seeing that these entries may serve to beguile shareholders into hope, but cannot otherwise add appreciable strength to the undertaking. The company, however, is in one respect better situated than the two others, because its sundry investments at cost amount to barely £251,200, and on this the dividends, &c., received last year seem actually to have amounted to something like 4½ per cent., no less than £11,320 being set down as received as interest on investments, dividends on shares in bonded warehouses, &c. Working expenses in this case also are, so far as we can judge, monstrous, in spite of the generosity of the managing secretaries. We work them out at upwards of 96½ per cent. of the entire value of the produce brought into the accounts, which is put at little more than £161,000, and, as in the case of the other companies, a number of items are spread in a disguising style which only serves to magnify the appalling nature of the demands made upon current resources. Establishments, European and native, at the estates took £19,574, besides which £34,719 was spent on cultivation account, £44,874 on crop account, £2,099 on hospital and medical charges, £2,840 on general charges, £2,298 on the Calcutta agency, £851, half the amount chargeable, on the London agency, and £1,752 on the Glasgow office, directors' and auditors' fees. The debt of this company to

bankers and others was about £228,000 at the date of the balance-sheet, November 30 last, and in addition it owed £135,000 to shareholders and others. The cost of the cultivated area per acre works out at about £62. And nothing more need be said now. We can afford to wait patiently for the *dénouement*.

Rand Mines, Limited.

The effect of the depression in the Kaffir market throughout 1905 is clearly seen in the profit and loss account of the Rand Mines, Limited, the mighty Wernher-Beit controlling and hatching concern. For its revenue it relies still mainly upon speculating and contangoing, but the opportunities of lightening pockets were so few last year that the income from these sources fell from £500,509 to £177,485. Some years ago it was officially announced that dividends would be distributed solely out of the dividends received on the shareholdings in the subsidiaries, but these have been so tiny that the policy has not been unswervingly adhered to. When the war was over the bosses saw wonderful visions of colossal profits earned with the help of Chinese, dreams never realised, and not likely to be. They also imagined the development of booms upon booms, which would give them and their finance companies glorious opportunities of selling to a credulous public heaps of shares at fancy prices. These pictures have likewise been illusions, for the public have had the sense to sell, not to buy; hence the collapse of the schemes of self-aggrandisement and self-enrichment of the great chiefs of the cosmopolitan Kaffir market tribe. The costliness of coolie labour and the steady deterioration in the value of the ore were never calculated upon, at any rate not openly and publicly, though the great ones must surely have had private foreknowledge of the woes to come. So, neither have the profits been earned nor the booms come which were to transfer millions of the trustful public into the pockets of the Helots. At the present hour the Kaffir Circus is wrathful and sulky, snappish as a bear with a sore head, seeing no hope anywhere, putting all their sorrows down to "C.-B." and "Churchill." The income this parent concern received from dividends was only £55,000 more at £484,483, a trifling increase, indeed, in twelve months, considering that this revenue comes from the pick of the deep-level mines on the Rand. The dividends declared were: Glen Deep, 10 per cent.; Rose Deep, 25 per cent.; Geldenhuis Deep, 50 per cent.; Nourse Deep, 15 per cent.; Ferreira Deep, 30 per cent.; Crown Deep, 70 per cent.; Village Main Reef, 40 per cent.; and Robinson Central Deep, 40 per cent. With a slightly increased revenue from the Natal and Booysen's Spruit, the aggregate income in the twelve months was £695,227, which compares with £955,980 in 1904, a drop of £260,750, and as there was little change in the outgoings at £27,428, the nett profit fell from £929,826 to £667,799.

No less than £3,146,613 was brought from the previous year's accounts, making a total at credit of profit and loss £3,814,412—stupendous wealth, if realisable! What a magnificent dividend might be paid out of this if the company could afford it! But it cannot. It has to look at every penny it spends, but, having paid a dividend of 100 per cent. for 1904, the directors could not very well refuse to pay another, by hook or by crook, for 1905, or worse calamities might befall them. So they plucked up courage, and again declared 100 per cent. This was called an interim dividend for the first half of the year, so the inference is that it would have been supplemented by a final distribution had such a miracle happened as the outbreak of a sustained boom in the Kaffir market later in the year. It did not break out, the market has simply gone from bad to worse, and the directors dared not give the shareholders a shilling more than they have given with evident reluctance. The 100 per cent. absorbs £448,989, leaving still a substantial book credit. By a deft stroke of finance, however, only £1,203,870 is

carried forward, the directors sweeping away £2,161,553 by describing it as expenditure on investments in excess of working capital provided, so if shareholders ever dreamed of getting a cent of it, here is the grim reality. Over two millions is made to disappear with a suddenness more startling than any conjuring legerdemain seen in a London music-hall, and it is as likely as not that next year another million of the balance left may go as easily. If it does nothing else, this device relieves the balance-sheet of ponderous book credits, which might embarrass the directors when they have perforce to acknowledge the real extreme poverty of the company.

We extract from the report the usual table given therein of the shareholdings and changes in them as they stood at the end of the years 1904 and 1905:—

Subsidiary Companies.	Shares.	Capital Issued.	Rand Mines Holding		Rand Mines Percent- age of Holding.
			Dec. 31, 1904.	Dec. 31, 1905.	
Glen Deep, Ltd.	1	600,000	251,520	251,520	41.920
Rose Deep, Ltd.	1	425,000	154,232	154,232	36.289
Geldenhuis Deep, Ltd.	1	300,000	122,558	122,558	40.852
Jumpers Deep, Ltd.	1	523,895	301,980	301,980	57.641
Nourse Deep, Ltd.	1	450,000	287,413	287,413	63.869
South Nourse, Ltd.	1	523,908	181,846	184,211	35.160
Ferreira Deep, Ltd.	1	910,000	454,283	454,283	49.921
Crown Deep, Ltd.	1	300,000	201,860	187,760	62.586
Langlaagte Deep, Ltd.	1	800,000	657,417	657,417	82.177
Durban Roodepoort Deep, Ltd.	1	440,000	59,000	73,666	17.878
Other Companies.					
South Rand Gold Mfg. Co., Ltd.	1	300,000	180,150	180,150	60.050
Simmer and Jack West, Ltd.	1	360,000	5,875	5,875	1.631
Wolhuter Gold Mines, Ltd.	4	860,000	25,330	25,330	11.781
Wolhuter Deep, Ltd.	1	392,500	189,109	189,109	48.180
City Deep, Ltd.	1	450,000	30,229	30,229	0.717
Village Main Reef G.M.Co., Ltd.	1	400,000	5,199	52,199	13.040
Village Deep, Ltd.	1	471,927	68,391	68,391	14.491
Robinson Central Deep, Ltd.	1	440,000	69,464	69,464	15.787
Paarl Central G.M. & Ex. Co., Ltd.	1	550,000	140,669	150,569	27.376
South Crown, Ltd.	1	500	403	403	—
South Langlaagte, Ltd.	1	500	403	403	—
Rand Mutual Assur. Co., Ltd.	10	8,124	11	11	—

It will be seen from the above that the following quantities of shares were acquired in the twelve months:—South Nourse, 2,375; Durban Roodepoort, 19,666; and Paarl Central, 9,900 shares. The increase in the company's holding in the Durban Roodepoort Deep represents shares taken up in a new issue made by that company during the year. The only shares realised were 15,100 Crown Deeps, which, if sold at about £12 per share, would realise £181,200. What has been done with this money is not disclosed. In the books the shares have been written off at cost, £33,085.

Turning to the balance-sheet, shareholders will discover a few notable changes. A new item on the debit side is the aforesaid £2,161,553 spent on investments, a splitting up of the accumulated credit balance. There is no change in the issued share capital of £448,989, but the debenture debt has been reduced from £666,650 to £583,300, and the contingent liability on shares from £188,248 to £102,251. The sum owing to sundry creditors is about £6,500 less at £17,187, and, as already stated, the unappropriated surplus is now £1,203,870. On the other side the book value of the shares held shows a slight increase—£3,127,564 against £3,111,704—and whilst cash is £3,000 less at £16,017, deposits have risen from £446,984 to £1,066,091, money the company will probably want in the future to finance its subsidiaries, for the public will not finance them. Twelve months ago the subsidiaries owed £186,750, of which £183,200 was a loan to the Langlaagte Deep. This has evidently all been repaid out of a new issue of 50,000 shares, for the composite debt is only £27,142. A further asset is £62,127 owed by sundry persons for proceeds of shares sold, and current accounts, whilst dividends to be received are estimated at £142,844 in comparison with £131,200. The total of the balance-sheet is £4,714,946, compared with £4,668,586 at the end of 1904.

Looking at the achievements of the subsidiaries in the past 12 months the tonnage milled aggregated 2,023,239, an increase of 311,491 tons, but owing to a decline in the grade of the ore and to higher working costs the working profit was less than for 1904. We have dealt individually with the companies of the group

in recent issues of the REVIEW, and have commented upon this fall in the quality of the ore which is undoubtedly a serious matter for shareholders. To make matters worse the costs have been rising, and this is attributed mainly to the introduction of Chinese, which we were always told was to reduce expenses considerably. However, says the general manager, "the prospects for an increase of dividends on share holdings for the coming year are promising, as most of the companies in which shares are held will have tube mills in operation for the greater part of the year, which it is confidently expected will materially increase the stamping capacity to a considerable extent." If it increases the stamping capacity it will correspondingly shorten the lives of the mines. It cannot increase the quantity of ore in a mine by one pound, and in the aggregate shareholders will not receive one penny more. If profits and dividends are thereby raised it only means they will be paid over a shorter time. If a mine, for instance, can ordinarily pay 40 per cent. for 10 years, or 400 per cent. in all, what difference will it make if dividends are doubled and the life shortened by 50 per cent.? The aggregate will in either case be 400 per cent.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE "MUTUAL OF NEW YORK" AND "NORTH BRITISH" DEAL.

Undoubtedly the most important event that has ruffled the surface in life insurance matters in recent times is the "deal" between the North British and Mercantile and the policyholders of the Mutual of New York. The transaction has many aspects, and we have elsewhere discussed the merits of the bargain from a commercial standpoint, and have endeavoured to advise the policyholders of the Mutual of New York how best to act in the present emergency. The object of this article is different. Here we propose merely to consider the arrangement as an item of insurance practice. Now, it will scarcely be disputed by anyone that the "deal" in question is a complete departure from precedent. Hitherto the annals of life insurance contain no instance of one company making a bid to attract and dislodge the policyholders of another. And it is obvious, on reflection, that the rule so generally observed of respecting other companies' business and connections is based on sound reasoning. Compete as they may among one another for the opening up of new ground, and the acquisition of new customers, our life offices have so many interests in common, that their sense of fair play, as well as their fear of reprisals alike lead to the prudent and dignified course which their actions have followed in this respect. Now, for the first time, we see a prominent company like the North British and Mercantile endeavouring to buy over the whole British business of the Mutual of New York by a direct application to each and every individual policyholder in the latter concern. We may pass over the means by which they have been able to secure the names and addresses of these people as being foreign to our present purpose, though they may well deserve separate examination. And, further, no one will accuse us of being partisans of the American companies or the methods they have adopted to secure, or entrap, our insuring classes. We are, therefore, in a peculiarly favourable position to adjudicate upon the merits of the present arrangement.

We have accordingly looked at the matter in a judicial spirit, and have come to the conclusion that the action of the North British and Mercantile is to be deplored and reprobated as introducing into the practice of life insurance as carried on in these isles an element of unfairness and a lower standard of commercial and professional conduct. It is not to be denied that several of our pushing companies do only moderately well for their policyholders, owing to a weakness of reserves or extravagance of administration, and that

the leading offices could tempt over their policyholders on terms that would benefit both the companies making the offer and the assured accepting it. Yet, surely that would be considered a most unfair and improper thing to do. A company may by stress of circumstances find it necessary to pass its bonus altogether at one valuation; but would another office, able to declare a large bonus, be justified in making a bid for the whole of the business of that company? Coming nearer home, would the North British and Mercantile consider it right and proper for the "old Equitable" or the London Life to send a circular to all its policyholders asking them to transfer their policies on the ground that they could do as well (or no doubt better) for them than the North British? Certainly not. The right feeling of all insurance men would be that any such action would deserve the strongest censure, as being unfair and tending to degrade life insurance business to an undignified scramble for other people's property. And if it is admittedly undesirable and improper in the cases we have cited for illustration, it is difficult to appreciate the reasoning that would justify it in the case of the North British and the Mutual of New York. In fine, it is a step that will probably cost the North British no slight loss of reputation, and we should be glad to see the practice and precedent strongly disavowed in the highest insurance circles.

NEW KLEINFONTEIN COMPANY.

This company seems to have recovered completely from the tremendous damage done by the Boers to the plant, the whole of the mill being destroyed in the course of the war. In 1902 it was amalgamated with the Kleinfontein Central, when the capital was increased to £800,000. This, however, was soon discovered to be insufficient, and last year another 100,000 shares were issued, guaranteed at 42s. 6d. each. This gave the company the sum of £201,875, employed in erecting a slimes plant and paying off all the liabilities, with the exception of the debenture debt, which now stands at £36,500, to be liquidated by yearly drawings of £12,500 each. Accordingly, the directors feel themselves in a position to say that henceforth profits will be available for distribution, but what the distributions actually will be must be left for time to disclose. In the financial year ending December 31 the quantity milled was 286,372 tons, the total yield from which was 97,704 ozs., equal to only 6.82 dwts. per ton, rather a low value. The gold won realised £415,653. Working costs were very heavy, amounting to £333,306, an average of £1 3s. 3d. per ton, so the profit was as small as 5s. 9d. per ton. Adding other revenue, the nett profit was £84,297, and after deducting the preceding year's debit balance, interest, &c., £79,809 is left to be carried to the appropriation account. This is swollen, however, by writing back to the profit and loss account the sum of £20,146, previously allowed for loss of plant, but found to be in excess of the actual damage done. Only £20,146 is allowed for depreciation, and this is charged, not to ordinary revenue, but to premium account. Being in a prodigious hurry to pay a dividend, the directors declare 7½ per cent., which requires £67,500, and after providing for the profits' tax and the balance of the directors' remuneration, only £8,316 is left to take to the credit of the current year. Future profits and dividends must largely depend upon economy in working, but such economy is very difficult to achieve with Chinese labour. This is officially admitted in the following statement made by the chairman himself at the annual meeting:—"As the present year proceeds the board have every hope that the cost of mining underground will continue to show a steady decrease, until the management achieve their aim of reducing the total working costs to £1 or under. At present every effort is being made to reduce the cost of mining, the increase in which, as I have previously stated, is entirely due to the company having employed a class of labour totally new to mining work. Naturally, it takes a long time, even longer than we thought, before this new labour reaches a proper efficiency." It is the same story we hear from all over the Rand, every

company being affected by the dearness of the coolie and by the long delay in teaching him to do his work. The consulting engineer estimated the ore reserves at December 31 at 852,666 tons, of an average assay value of 8.36 dwts., compared with 809,037 tons, worth 9.16 dwts. in 1904. The reason given for this drop in the grade is that an unusual amount of development has been done in the western or lower-grade section of the mine. Formerly this was considered unpayable, but the lower levels are now said to show an improvement compared with the higher levels. On the dividend paid last year the yield is a little over $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the share is far too dear at the current price.

JOHN I. THORNYCROFT AND CO.

The directors of this famous torpedo boat business again have a rather unsatisfactory statement to lay before their shareholders. It is, of course, quite well known that the undertaking now includes Mordey Carney, of Southampton, and the Thornycroft Steam Wagon Company, these acquisitions having been made about a couple of years ago. To a certain extent the transference of the main business from Chiswick to Southampton again caused confusion and duplication of departments, but the directors hope to provide for the transfer of the whole of the large shipbuilding work to Southampton before the end of this year. No doubt this disturbance helped to increase the year's expenditure, and we also find the directors complaining of the unprofitable results given by the motor department owing to the large sum spent upon experimental work, the whole of which came off profits. Fortunately they think the outcome of these experiments is the production of a satisfactory vehicle. Furthermore, it appears that considerable difficulties were raised by the decision of the Admiralty to adopt turbine machinery and oil fuel for the boats in the new programme, and work was not commenced on the vessels until late in the autumn of last year. This delay is held responsible for a considerable reduction in the profits for the past year. It must also be pointed out that the alteration in the design involving the manufacture of turbine machinery called for a further large expenditure on buildings, plant, and tools, which was not anticipated, and the taking out of a licence from the Parsons Marine Steam Turbine Company. Again, the directors think there are great possibilities in connection with gas producer plants as applied to marine propulsion, and have taken up a licence to manufacture the Capitaine Marine Gas Plant in conjunction with Wm. Beardmore and Co. This also involved a large expenditure on experiments, and the company does not seem to have really had a fair chance during the year. The two torpedo-boat destroyers for the Admiralty referred to in the directors' report for 1904, and on which we inferred there was little or no profit, if not an actual loss, were completed early in 1905. A torpedo-boat destroyer was also finished and delivered to the Swedish Government by September, and 10 steamers for the London County Council, a steam yacht, and some smaller vessels have all been handed over within the 12 months. The repair work at Southampton has shown satisfactory results, but the turnover was not so large as in some previous years. Nett result is a trading profit of £35,503, or £8,124 more than in 1904, but depreciation requires an additional £2,679 at £12,621, and the directors' fees are larger by £320 at £1,200. The sum still left is £21,681, but the credit brought forward is no more than £494 against £4,146, so that the total for disposal is £22,175 against £21,703, a very slight increase. Not only that, but a greatly increased sum of £8,000 has to be provided for debenture interest, and the directors can do no more than meet the preference dividend with a balance over of £2,295, subject, as usual, to the payment of management expenses and contingencies. Nothing can be paid on the ordinary shares against 3 per cent. for 1904, and $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year before that. Capital expenditure is now becoming very heavy, the additions for the year being £57,983, raising the total to £266,482 against which £12,621 is deducted

for depreciation out of the revenue for 1905, and £1,000 written off patents in 1904. Stocks, loose plant, and work in progress represent a further sum of £213,539, and besides increasing the debenture debt from £128,000 to £160,000, it has been necessary to raise a bank loan of £42,500. Sum due to creditors is £86,709 against debtors £57,627 and cash £20,845, so that the company has its resources closely locked up and must find a means of issuing more capital at a favourable opportunity. Goodwill is very heavy at £86,672, and unliquidated share and debenture issue expenses amount to £7,269, against which there are no reserves of any kind, if we except the premiums of £4,523 paid on debenture redemption policies. The company has about £500,000 worth of work on hand.

BRITISH COTTON AND WOOL DYERS.

The year which ended on March 31 last was an epoch-making period for this textile association. Knowing the history of the thing from its promotion and inception in 1900, it is very hard to believe that the dividend stage has been reached, and we can imagine the surprise of the directors when the accounts showing this remarkable and almost inexplicable result were placed before them. In fact the company's achievements seem to have thrown the board a little off its balance, and it proceeds to explain the phenomenon in the following, to us, most confusing terms:—"The above result bears out the remarks as to the rise and fall in trade, and the probable outlook given in the chairman's speech at the annual meeting last year. The conditions of trade during the year have not been entirely favourable to this association, as the activity in the grey trade referred to in the last report has not extended to coloured goods to the same extent, and the home trade has not been by any means vigorous during the greater portion of the period. In view of all the conditions at present existing your directors feel justified in recommending the payment of a dividend." These remarks follow a recital of the result of operations in figures, and it seems to us that with a little effort something more intelligible might have been managed. What the directors apparently mean to imply is that trade last 12 months, although better, was not so good as anticipated, but in view of the fairly hopeful outlook shareholders can be favoured with their first dividend. After charging £1,568 for specific depreciation and £22,569 for repairs and renewals, the trading profit is returned at £90,533, and it may be useful to note that for the three previous years, reckoning backward, the similar income was £56,059, £79,112, and £115,000 respectively, so that the business has not yet regained the comparatively high estate of 1902-3. Revenue from investments, bank interest, &c., gave £4,922, or £1,149 more, and transfer fees were £305, so that altogether the credit is £95,760. From this we have first to deduct a considerable number of charges, the chief of which are administration £11,105, interest on bankers' and vendors' loans £3,509, debenture interest £28,616, and depreciation fund £25,000. Balance of nett profit still left is £26,546, which compares with a loss of £10,428 for 1904-5, and profits of £11,837 and £44,792 in the two years previous to that. Moreover, the fact that up to last year the directors dared not declare a dividend caused the accumulation of a fairly large credit balance. After the loss for the year 1904-5 was deducted this amounted to £68,714, and, added to the profit of the period under review, makes up a total of £95,260. The directors, therefore, proceed to pay a first dividend of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., absorbing £31,792, to make a first contribution of £30,000 to the reserve fund, and to carry forward £33,468. It will be obvious without any undue emphasis that neither the contribution to the reserve nor the full dividend proposed came from the year's profits, and we hope trade conditions at the present time are really flourishing enough to justify this encroachment on past earnings.

We have on previous occasions referred in detail to the excellent report furnished by Mr. Wm. Martello Gray, the auditor, and now propose to touch only the

salient points because the financial position of the association is very little changed. In other words it is still extremely poor. Nett additions to properties for the year were £12,705, and after deducting the specific depreciation of £1,568, the balance-sheet value amounts to £1,973,627. Against that the depreciation fund accumulated to date is £152,660, but in one sense the real sum available for depreciation is only two or three thousand pounds, because the big capital item includes £149,378 for closed works, that is certain works purchased when the company was in the making, and forming part of the combine, but since shut up and earning nothing. We may also remember that goodwill is only a trifle less than £1,000,000, and as we have said, the present reserve contribution of £30,000 is the first. On the whole a mighty slender thread on which to hang a dividend. Total sum due to creditors, including special loans of £72,500 and vendors' loans of £5,409, including interest, is £129,193, against which debtors owe £150,861 and cash and bills come to £61,298. Stock-in-trade is worth a further sum of £105,790, investments at cost are down for £64,417, and assets in America are entered at £3,804. This is exclusive of a further interest of £14,403 included amongst the investments, and we should like to know if these items produce any revenue. Our impression is that they do not, and have no right to be in the balance-sheet at anything near existing values.

THE CHINESE PLAGUE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

An earnest and temperately worded article appeared in Tuesday's *Morning Leader* from the pen of Mr. Mackarness, dealing with this painful subject. We agree fully with the spirit animating this deliverance, and every day that passes confirms the opinion we have all along and consistently held about this experiment in what amounts to serf labour. It is not labour profitable to the mine shareholders, and never will be. It is full of peril to the white inhabitants of the Transvaal, as the impassioned remonstrance of General Botha, published in Wednesday's newspapers, indicates, and the peril grows in magnitude. Why, then, does the Government hesitate to repatriate the whole mass of the Chinese without further delay, as Mr. Mackarness insists it will before long be compelled to do? It probably hesitates for several reasons, and we must do it the justice to emphasise some of these. In the first place, the whole organisation of the mine controllers, the cosmopolites of the Rand and Park Lane, with scarcely an exception, is engaged in misleading public opinion both in the colony and here as to the true character of this yellow labour. That kind of thing might be overcome, although it must not be overlooked that people of all classes in this country have been drawn into the Kaffir share gamble, and have allowed their minds to become prepossessed with the carefully instilled notion that only by this kind of labour can the mines be rendered productive and their dividend yielding capacity maintained or increased. There is no getting that idea out of the heads of the unfortunate people who have allowed themselves to be victimised by these nondescript millionaires, who gathered in South Africa from all parts of Europe, and who have no interest in the welfare of England or in anything except the expedients by which their own wealth may be increased. The trustfulness with which the mass of mine shareholders in this country has accepted the dictum of these unauthenticated persons has its pathetic side, and there can be no doubt at all that, were the Government to act in a way that seemed impulsive, to proceed in any high-handed fashion, something like a revolt would arise against its authority even at home. The Stock Exchange is dead against it even now, and with its usual purlblindness ascribes all its miseries to the action of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's Ministry.

Even this might be surmounted, a little time given, but behind all this lies the incalculable financial involvements of many credit institutions in the fortunes of mine shareholders. Mine controllers, in virtue of the commitments of the public—here principally, in

France also to a large extent—are really in a position to dictate terms to our Government, at least to a large extent because they can threaten to bring about that financial crisis which has long been looming over our market in consequence primarily of our extravagant expenditure and the appalling cost of that war by the waging of which the importation of Chinese coolies became possible. Now, no Government dare risk provoking a financial cataclysm in British money markets. It must go cautiously and feel its feet sure at each step before moving on to the next one. We have no doubt whatever that the mining industry will be decreasingly profitable to shareholders while the coolie remains in South Africa; no doubt either that arms will have to be served out to the farmers not only around Johannesburg, but all over the Transvaal, and probably the northern portions of Orangia, as a consequence of the desertions of the Chinese and the outrages the unhappy pariahs are committing. There is one thing, however, which the Government surely might do, and that is enforce the terms of the Ordinance under which the Chinese were imported. As Tuesday's *Manchester Guardian* pointed out, Section 18 of that Ordinance says: "Labourers shall reside on the premises on which they are employed, and shall be in charge of a manager appointed by the importer." And the next Section goes on to say: "No labourer shall leave the premises without a permit to be signed by some authorised person, and to be valid for no more than 48 hours." A fine of £10 or a month's imprisonment is prescribed as penalty for the infringement of this Section. Has any mine superintendent been brought under this law and made to pay the fine or go to gaol? Have any of the capitalists been brought under it? We have not heard of one, and we should like to know why the Ordinance is a dead letter in this direction. What lies at the root of the apparent impotence of Lord Selborne and his administrators rendering them incapable of in any degree coping with this growing evil? Perhaps Mr. Mackarness will devote his great knowledge of African affairs and luminous mind to the solution of this puzzle. If many hundreds of Chinese coolies are at large and playing marauder, many whites must be liable for severe fines. Why are they left undisturbed?

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE LOSSES.

The aggregate losses which are estimated to be likely to fall upon fire insurance offices as a consequence of the San Francisco earthquake and fire are put by the Insurance Department of the State of New York at about £22,700,000. Of this total about £10,000,000 falls upon foreign companies, principally but not wholly British, and another £9,000,000 will have to be borne by what we might call provincial United States companies, in addition to which the losses of New York companies amount to nearly £4,000,000. This is interesting information, and probably not far from the truth, but it does not follow that because the gross estimated losses of European offices, mostly British, aggregate £10,000,000, anything like that sum will ultimately have to be paid. We should doubt if the fire will ultimately cost our offices much more than £5,000,000, and even if it costs £6,000,000 or £7,000,000, which are surely outside figures, years will probably elapse before the whole of the money has to be provided. The immediate prospect, indeed, is one of prolonged investigation, and probably litigation also. It is not simply a question of damage by fire we must never forget, which has to be determined. Earthquake comes in as the original cause of the conflagration, and no office will accept its liability arising through fire without an effort to inquire how far earthquake caused that fire, liabilities being reducible in proportion as the origin of the fire can be directly ascribed to the action of nature. Hence there is no ground whatever for alarm about the stability of our fire offices, less still any ground for fear lest the life businesses of British offices should be hurt by the calamity. Life funds are invariably distinct from fire funds, and cannot possibly be touched by any loss the fire departments may incur.

American Business Notes.

The basis upon which a renewed upward movement has been started upon the New York Stock Exchange is not a very broad one, if we may judge by the improvement that has taken place in the position of the New York Associated Banks at the end of last week. This shows that the total reserve had increased by only £762,000, of which £658,000 was due to specie. The surplus reserve, however, has risen by more than £1,400,000 to £2,578,000, against £3,343,000 a year ago. This improvement has been brought about primarily by a decrease of £3,292,000 in the loans and discounts, which, as invariably happens, correspondingly lowered the deposit liabilities of the banks by about £2,400,000. It is, thanks to this decrease in the liabilities, that the proportion of the reserve thereto is so much higher, but it is still sensibly below the figures of a year ago, and in the meantime the commitments of the New York market are again steadily expanding, the Pennsylvania Railroad having just issued £10,000,000 of 18 months' $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. bonds, which the market had had to take up. Moreover, the development of a new gamble for the rise on the Wall Street Stock Exchange will again draw severely upon the resources of the banks, and the withdrawals of specie for San Francisco have been renewed. Above all, the resources of the banks have been kept comparatively adequate to the necessities of the day by the unprecedented transfer of American securities, principally to the London market. We are still unable to get at any approximate figure representing the total amount of American securities now pawned here, but we do know that its magnitude is great enough to keep bankers in a state of suspense and uneasiness lest some sudden calamity should force a disastrous liquidation and reveal weaknesses at present barely suspected even in the best informed quarters.

An interesting point affecting the stability of American fire offices was mentioned in the New York Senate the other day by Mr. Dawson, actuary for the Armstrong Insurance Investigation Committee of the State of New York. He said that there is no fire insurance company in America that knows whether it will be solvent or not when it pays its San Francisco losses, and he went on to point out that the Chicago fire put most American offices out of the business, while not one British company failed. He does not ascribe the weakness of the American offices to their want of funds, but to the law which compels them to hold a reserve of 50 per cent. of their capital—he meant, we infer, their liabilities on policies—while British companies, he says, require to hold only 30 per cent. We scarcely think this statement in accordance with facts, so far as British offices go, at any rate. Most of them state in their reports each year that they hold 40 per cent. of the premiums of the previous year as reserve for unexpired risks, and some of them probably hold more. And there is no limit to the amount of their reserves.

The foreign trade of the United States appears to be brisk, according to the figures issued by the Bureau of Statistics at Washington. These show that during April imports increased by \$12,217,000, and the exports by \$15,917,000, compared with last year. If this proportion went on steadily at the end of the year the people of the United States would only be giving about 125 cents for every 100 cents worth of goods brought in from abroad. That would, indeed, be progress.

For the first time since 1898 the directors of the Anaconda Company have been pleased to issue a report. Naturally it is a good one, else we should not have seen it. It shows total receipts amounting to \$23,734,000 for the year, and a profit of \$5,719,000, with a surplus of \$7,241,000. No wonder that copper stocks resist every attempt to bang them, and bound up again when the "bears" get tired or frightened. The report indeed shows that 19 per cent. has been earned on the stock. How much is going to be distributed?

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company is not at the end of its borrowing with that issue of \$50,000,000 of

$4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. 18 months notes, all of which, we are told, have been absorbed. Its bankers report that another loan will be made later, in order to enable the company to finance the instalment of the waterworks system and other expenses, but they do not tell us how much it amounts to. All in good time.

The yearly statement for 1905 of 100 American insurance companies, including four Canadian, viz., the Canada Life, the Manufacturers' Life, the North American, and the Sun Life of Canada, has just been issued in tabular form, and exhibits an almost stupendous amount of insurance in force at the end of the past year. The number of policies in force was 22,664,259, for the sum of \$13,664,624,336, and assets, liabilities, and surpluses to policyholders were put down at \$2,785,221,982, \$2,442,888,012, and \$342,333,970 respectively, with a ratio of assets to liabilities of 114. The new business done during the year was 5,629,994 policies for \$2,636,140,792. The premium income in 1905 was \$528,666,582, and the total income \$657,006,680. The disbursements to policyholders were, on account of death, \$152,985,494, and endowments and annuities \$35,574,206, making a total of \$271,577,109, and expenses of management, exclusive of taxes, were \$135,680,513, making the total disbursements \$427,767,129. Expense of management, exclusive of taxes, showed an average ratio of 20.65 per cent. to income; and the value of the death claims paid to the mean amount of insurance in force was 1.15 per cent. These expenses, however, varied greatly, being 80.37 per cent. and 80.45 per cent. in the cases of the American National of Galveston, Texas, and the Guaranty Mutual, of Davenport, Iowa, two small companies, and only 8.44 per cent. in the case of the Presbyterian Ministers of Philadelphia. Those of four companies, the Connecticut Mutual, of Hartford; the Hartford Life, of Hartford, Conn.; the Mutual Benefit, of Newark, N.J.; and the Provident Loan and Trust, of Philadelphia, were 12.25, 12.42, 12.87, and 12.16 per cent. respectively. Altogether 36 of the 100 companies whose business is tabulated showed expenses of management below 25 per cent. The oldest company is the Presbyterian Ministers of Philadelphia, and the newest are the American National of Galveston; the Capital Life, of Denver; the Commonwealth, of Louisville; the Greensboro' Life, of Greensboro', N.C.; the Lafayette Life, of Lafayette, Ind.; the Life Insurance Club, of New York; the Lincoln National, of Fort Wayne, Ind.; the Reliable, of Indianapolis; and the Scandia Life, of Chicago, all founded and began business in 1905. The New York Life headed the list of companies having the largest amount of insurance in force, the figure being \$2,061,593,886 on 1,001,269 policies.

It would seem by despatches from Washington that President Roosevelt has been betrayed into a surrender to the railway interests by his acceptance of an amendment to the Railway Rate Bill that has been the cause of so much conflict in the Senate, and heated discussion throughout the country, providing that the Bill shall not pass the Senate until there has been inserted in it a measure of the broadest court review. This exactly suits the opponents of any restriction of the rights of railway companies to fix rates, grant rebates, or, in other ways, transgress the spirit of the law regulating their powers. The acceptance of this amendment throws everything into confusion, as it promotes litigation, and if it becomes law, nobody will know until the Supreme Court has passed its opinion upon it how it will be interpreted, or what degree of supervision the inferior courts will assume in reviewing the decisions of the Interstate Commerce Commission. It is understood at Washington that many of the Senators who have followed Mr. Roosevelt with loyalty throughout this entire railway episode, are much disappointed. They say that while the amendment provides for the broadest review, there is no limit placed to the narrowness of the views that may be taken when public rights conflict with railway interests.

The development of Mexico by means of railways is going on at an extraordinary rate. Heretofore, the existing railways confined themselves to handling the business between points in Mexico and the United States, and from the interior to the ports of Tampico and Vera Cruz. Now the companies are giving their attention to the building of branch lines into regions where heavy traffic can be assured through the extension of mining and agricultural enterprises, and the erection of factories, largely with American capital. Some months ago, Mr. E. H. Harriman and his associates obtained a concession for the extension of the Mexican International Railroad to Mazatlan, and to prolong the Sonora line down the Pacific coast from Guaymas to connect with the Mazatlan extension, which will meet the Mexican Central at Guadalajara. Altogether the plans now made in connection with these enterprises, which include the development of the San Marcial coalfields, call for the construction of about two thousand miles of railway, of which it is expected to have eight hundred completed by the end of the present year. A British company is said to have been organised to build a line from the Gulf of Mexico to Navidad, on the Pacific, some six hundred miles in length; and the Parral and Durango railway which was owned in Pittsburg is reported to have been bought by the Anglo-French Industrial Syndicate, of Paris, which will extend it into the rich mining regions of Durango and Chihuahua. Another line of importance is the extension of the Mexican Central to Manzanilla, on the Pacific, which will give direct trans-continental connection between that port and Tampico on the Gulf of Mexico. Topolabampo, a place where some 20 years ago it was proposed to found a communist settlement, is, it appears, likely to become an important Pacific seaport, as, besides being a station on the coast line now building, it will be the terminus of a line from the interior connecting with the United States railway system.

A certain opposition to the J. J. Hill group of American capitalists who are pushing their railways into Western Canada, having developed on the part of other Canadian railway interests, the Laurier Government found it necessary to explain its attitude in the matter. On May 2 a declaration on its behalf was made before the Railway Committee of the House of Commons at Ottawa by the Hon. Mr. Templeman, in which he stated that, far from desiring to put any obstacle in the way of the construction of railways in Canada by Mr. Hill and his friends, the Government was only too willing to see them build as many lines as they thought would be profitable, without regard to who might furnish the funds required. Mr. Hill, said the Minister of Revenue, is the only man who has constructed a railway in Canada without asking subsidies from the Government or municipalities, and the western provinces have the same right to be opened up by railways running into the United States as the east, without its constituting a national peril.

The Canadian Government has found it expedient to end a scandal with which it was threatened through its association with an enterprise known as the North Atlantic Trading Company, by cancelling the contract between it and the company under which the latter received a premium of five dollars a head for every immigrant of the domestic and agricultural class brought into Canada. Somehow it got about that the North Atlantic Trading Company was composed of persons in the service of or members of the Canadian Government in some capacity, and, therefore, legally culpable of malfeasance. The matter was taken up by the opposition Press, and their names called for, but the Government decided that it was not in the public interest to divulge the names of the principals in the company, and Lord Strathcona, who presided at all the negotiations between the company and the Government, so much favoured the policy of concealment that he expressly recommended in one of his reports relating to it, that the new arrangement should be regarded as very confidential, and should not in any way be

given to the public. Whatever the reasons for this secrecy were, the Government has terminated the contract from November 30 next, on the plea that the company was not carrying out its contract, and its organs are unsparing of their denunciations of Mr. Foster and other members of Parliament who brought the matter up for discussion at Ottawa, and were defeated in their demand on the Government by 115 votes to 61. The North Atlantic Trading Company is said to be incorporated in the island of Jersey.

Passing Events.

Canada appears to be justifying her great efforts to increase her inhabitants by immigration, for the *Tribune's* Ottawa correspondent tells us that the foreign trade of the Dominion for the ten months ending with April 1 shows an increase of \$63,801,543 over the corresponding ten months of the previous fiscal year, the total being \$435,742,955. Imports alone rose by \$25,280,000, and the increase in domestic exports was \$35,815,754. Of the total value of the exports which amounted to about \$190,000,000, no less than \$174,800,000 represented sales of farm products which, therefore, show an increase of \$21,956,000 on the corresponding period.

The dispute with Turkey has ended as everybody expected it would in the surrender of the Sultan. We must not, however, hold our heads too high over this victory, because we cannot yet say what the consequences may be so far as the loyalty of the Mohammedan subjects of England are concerned. It is, however, a matter for profound satisfaction that our great display of naval force in Turkish waters should not have gone further than display, for if guns had gone off there is no knowing what might have ensued. All Europe might have been ablaze before the conflagration could have been stayed. And it seems a pity that, now the Sultan is in a yielding mood, something could not be done by us to settle the Balkan difficulty. Are the fragments of races inhabiting that beautiful but desolate land to be left for ever, to cut each other's throats or to be a prey to the rapacity of Turkish officials and their cruelty?

Dr. Figueroa Alcorta, the new President of the Argentine Confederation, had a pleasant story to tell the Congress at its assembling on Saturday last. Some time must elapse before we get the full account of the Republic's financial position, but Dr. Alcorta told the members that the conversion fund has now reached a total of £2,921,400, the £2,200,000 withdrawn from it in 1901, owing to fears of war with Chili, having been all paid back. This fund was to be increased by the successive payments which the Government would make, and the President hoped that it would enable it to reinforce the coinage law of 1881, he declaring himself in favour of the maintenance of the present gold dollar instead of creating a new monetary unit. In other respects Argentina shows abundant signs of prosperity, although the floating debt now amounts to almost £11,000,000, and the total foreign debt to upwards of £73,000,000, but the population has risen to a total of 6,000,000, and there is room for ten times as many without overcrowding. The only point in the message we do not much relish is where Dr. Alcorta speaks of a scheme to be laid before Parliament for extensions and improvements in Buenos Ayres harbour. Perhaps this is inevitable in the circumstances, but the time cannot be very far distant when Buenos Ayres will be an inland city.

The Wellington correspondent of the *Times* states that the losses of New Zealand insurance companies in the San Francisco fire amount to £400,000 gross, of which £80,000 is reinsured. We should imagine the offices concerned will have no great difficulty in meeting this liability.

New South Wales is in the happy position of exhibiting expanding trade. In the first four months of this year the imports have increased by about £805,000 in value, while the exports have gone up £3,170,000. The nett earnings of the railways, moreover, for the first nine months of the fiscal year show an expansion of

30 per cent. over the figures of the previous year, part of which is doubtless due to the large increase in mileage. That increase, however, has not as yet materially affected the working expenses which have risen only 3 per cent. Meanwhile splendid rains have fallen throughout the State, greatly benefiting agricultural and pastoral districts.

In the Governor-General of India's latest telegram covering the week ending May 5 it is stated that 483,000 people were on the relief works in the various provinces, 173,000 of them in the United Provinces and 119,000 in Central India, Ajmer and Rajputana coming next with 93,000, and Bombay having now risen to 78,000. In some respects the position seems to be improving as rain has fallen. Prices are said to be lower in 17 districts of the Central Provinces, and to be falling generally in the Punjab, where the scarcity of fodder has practically disappeared. In Rajputana the condition of the cattle is poor in many places, and water insufficient, while in Central India there has been no mitigation of the calamity. The condition of the cattle is also deteriorating in Bombay, in spite of useful rain in some of the affected districts.

No surprise will be felt by any student of railway statistics at the news that the "benefit fund" of the Great Northern Railway shows a deficiency of about £500,000. Probably when investigation is made similar funds in all the companies will be found to be short. Nothing else could be expected from the lump-it and let-it-slide methods of our railway management. They have the habit of going at things in a slap-bang, oracular style which has already landed them in many a mess, and is bound in time to produce many more. What are the directors of the Great Northern going to do about their deficit? Make the men pay for the mistakes of the superior officials by cutting down future benefits, or will they raise capital to make good the loan? They would look sharper after affairs if they had to pay for blunders of this sort out of their own pockets.

It will strike a plain man, or even the man in the street, as a droll method of financial economy that the gross reduction of the National Debt should have been £11,852,132 in the past fiscal year, of which no less than £5,920,000 was knocked off the floating debt, while at the same time new capital liabilities amounting to £4,105,828, contracted chiefly to meet the extravagant and wasteful demands of naval and military works, should have been added to the public burdens. This cannot be called wise finance, or in any sense clever. Surely if the Exchequer had such splendid surpluses in hand it would have been wiser to have devoted some portion of these surpluses to what the Indian bureaucrats call "avoidance of debt." How much more did the new debt contracted cost the taxpayer than the old debt cancelled? The same process is going on in the current year, and forms the ground for one of our strongest complaints against Mr. Asquith. Why should not a man of his ability rise above the wasteful traditions of the Treasury, and insist that the surplus should first of all be devoted to covering the cost of voted expenditure on public works, and only when this is met be devoted to the redemption of old debt?

This point raises another. It is announced this week that £2,000,000 of Treasury bills falling due on the 27th inst. are to be renewed. Why is this done? Cannot the Chancellor of the Exchequer use some of the surplus left over from last year's accounts to redeem this issue? As a mere stroke of astute finance that would surely be the best course to follow, since it would help materially to smooth the way for that impending issue of Irish Land stock. At the present moment the money market is working very creakily, and has no surplus means. If the Irish Land stock is issued when conditions of this sort prevail it will not fetch the price it might do were short credits abundant and cheap in the market. Here again we have routine at work, the routine which implies absence of intelligent supervision and business-like vigilance in the management of the nation's finances.

We sympathise with South African traders in their fight against the shipping ring, and those rebates by which traders are kept much better under control than the Chinese coolies on the Witwatersrand. Therefore, it is satisfactory to learn that the Government is going to inquire into the grievance, with a view to its redress. But for the power of the shipping ring freights ought to be very much lower than they are to and from our South African possessions, and possibly an investigation into the facts may lead to some beneficial change. Private competition can do nothing effective, because as soon as a competitor of the ring nears exhaustion, absorption takes place, and the last state of the trader becomes worse than the first.

The directors of the Argentine Transandine Railway have just submitted a proposal to the holders of the "B" debenture stock for a permanent reduction of their interest from 6 per cent. to 4. On the face of it, the suggestion does not seem quite fair. The company has an issue of "A" debenture stock to the amount of £310,250 guaranteed as to principal and interest by the Buenos Ayres and Pacific and Argentine Great Western companies so long as the latter continues to work the system. Following comes the "B" debenture stock to a similar amount, whose interest it is now proposed to reduce. It constitutes a second floating charge on the undertaking, but the interest of 6 per cent., which has been paid by realisation of Rescission bonds, ceases on June 30 next, and is henceforth dependent upon nett earnings only after the payment of the interest on the "A" debenture stock. It is not, however, strictly accurate to say, as the circular explaining the proposal does, that the "B" interest is non-cumulative. It is only that until the interest has been paid for three consecutive years when it becomes cumulative, a very important difference. The works connected with the communication to the Chilian side of the Andes are not expected to be finished until 1911, and up to that time it may be assumed that the "B" holders will receive no interest. Instead of that the company proposes to pay them 4 per cent. for all the time in consideration of a permanent reduction in interest to that level. Where the money is to come from is not mentioned, but is it quite fair to force a proposal like this on those holders prepared to wait and take their chance? It must be assumed that when the line is finished the company will not have much difficulty in earning the £30,000 odd necessary to provide 4 per cent. on the "A" and 6 per cent. on the "B" debenture stock, and it seems a big sacrifice to give up 2 per cent. for all time in order to get 20 per cent. spread over the next five years. We must, however, not forget that these bonds are redeemable and good times will mean their extinction.

For many years past the printers and publishers of the "Official Intelligence" annual volume issued by the Committee of the Stock Exchange have sent it to us for review, and latterly an advertisement order has also been given. So far as we editorially know, neither the one nor the other was asked for when the practice began, but the advertisement agent of the paper has no doubt done his duty in canvassing for the order in his department ever since. Books for review we never ask for under any circumstances. This year the paper has been struck off, and at first we feared some heated politician on the Stock Exchange Committee had interfered to "punish" us. But there was no ground for that fear. We have ascertained that neither the Committee nor the ever-courteous officials of the Share and Loan Department had anything whatever to do with the incident. It seems, therefore, to be a mere matter of pique or partisan zeal on Messrs. Spottiswoode's part.

We are glad to see that the board of the London Electrobus Company has bowed to the logic of facts and intimated that all subscribers to its share capital who so desire can have their money returned. An interesting history of this promotion will be found in yesterday's *Financial Times*. In the letter of the board, published at the same time, it is admitted that the "patents" relied on by the promoters are of no

value in granting it a monopoly of the particular kind of vehicle it was proposed to place on the streets. It has been altogether a most unpleasant business, not least so in the effort made to rush the allotment.

Notes on Books.

The World of To-day. A Survey of the Lands and Peoples of the Globe as seen in Travel and Commerce. By A. R. Hope Moncrieff. Vol. 4. (London: The Gresham Publishing Company.)

If all the volumes of this book are like this one, which is the only one we have seen, it ought to have a large circulation, for its educative value is by no means small. Mr. Moncrieff writes in a style which is clear and very easy to read, and conveys his carefully gathered and well-digested information in a manner so pleasant as to make the book sure of popularity. This volume deals principally with our Australian colonies, although it opens with Madagascar and the adjacent archipelago. From Australia it passes on to New Guinea, Melanesia, the Fijian Archipelago, and Polynesia, winding up with Hawaii and the Antarctic Ocean. About all these regions Mr. Moncrieff has diligently collected information of a reliable and instructive kind. We especially like his clear description of the resources of Australia and his observations upon the tendency of these settlements to rely upon borrowed money as a principal element in their progress. They do not possess a country of the highest quality either for agricultural or shepherding, but in spite of the drawbacks of droughts, one of which recently lasted for quite seven years, they may be said to make progress in everything except population, which, unfortunately, increases far too slowly for their liabilities. At the end of the book there is a geographical and commercial survey packed with statistics useful for reference and illustrated by diagrams of a kind which has become popular in recent years, but which we are too old-fashioned to be able to learn much by.

Atlas of the World's Commerce. By J. G. Bartholomew, F.R.G.S., F.R.S.E. Part I. (London: George Newnes.) Price 6d. nett.

The idea of this publication is excellent, and so far as we know original. There exists a French atlas which sets forth the characteristics of the various countries of the globe, but it does so by printing across the maps the dominant products of each region, while in this atlas, edited by Mr. J. G. Bartholomew, the various portions of the earth are coloured in different tints. We have a map here, for instance, showing the wheat growing countries, and these are coloured in different shades of red according as wheat is a dominant or a minor and occasional crop. Along with this we have in green a similarly tinted exhibit of the wheat importing countries, so that one may at a glance see not only where the grain is produced, but where it goes. Another map gives the same outlines of information about coffee. Altogether a most promising production.

ANOTHER RHODESIAN RECONSTRUCTION.

The directors of the Red and White Rose Gold Mining Company have at last recognised the inevitable, and are acting accordingly. It by no means follows, however, that the shareholders would be acting in their own interests to accept and support the board's proposal. We believe such action would be foolish; the more profitable policy would be to end the company's extravagant career and spend no more money on a worthless mine. This, we recognise, would simultaneously end the directors' fees, which in these penurious times might hasten tragedies, but in this case the majority would gain, and is not this a highly important consideration? We condemned the Red and White Rose Mine two years ago, and we have been amply justified by subsequent developments. There needed no exceptional divination to foresee that shareholders would receive no dividends from such a company, for in November, 1903, the manager wrote as follows:—"To put it shortly, practically the whole of the ore of payable grade so far developed has been milled, and there now remains in the mine only ore which, if treated, could only be handled at a considerable loss," and, in view of this, the consulting engineer recommended that mill-

ing operations be suspended until further development work be accomplished. The general manager supplemented this by saying:—"Whether ore of sufficiently high grade will be encountered at the fourth or fifth levels, or when, it is, of course, impossible to say, and, therefore, in the event of the mill being shut down, it is impossible to determine definitely the date when crushing operations on payable ore can be resumed." The report now issued by the directors is brought up to June 30, 1905, and it looks as if they feared publishing it at an earlier date. It informs us, amongst other distressing revelations, that the consulting engineer resigned his position in January, 1905, and we are not surprised at the news. During the period reviewed the mine was worked by tributors, and 7,874 ozs. of gold were recovered, yielding to the company by royalty the sum of £1,235. In December of last year it was decided to let the mill on lease at a monthly rental of £175. The directors endeavoured to raise, on reasonable terms, the funds required to carry on the development, but without success, so they now propose reconstruction. They have every reason to believe, runs their argument, that they are fully justified in carrying out the work recommended by the late and the newly-appointed consulting engineers, but we cannot see the justification. On the contrary, the argument is much stronger for the abandonment of the mine, even though it has produced in the course of years 38,593 ozs. of gold. It doesn't logically follow that there is plenty of payable gold behind. The nominal capital of the new company is to be £200,000 in £1 shares, credited with 16s. paid up, so the assessment will be 4s. per share. It is calculated this will suffice to give cash sufficient to complete the crosscut to the reef at the fifth level, and prove the mine below the poor zone. Though there is no encouragement to the shareholders to put any more of their capital in the mine, and thus run the risk of increasing their losses, there is every likelihood they will act imprudently. A few may have the sense to cut their losses, but the directors may be relied upon to make a strenuous fight for their fees. They are but human, after all.

RHODESIAN MINING RETURNS.

For the month of April the return of gold for Rhodesia totalled 42,423 ozs., a decrease of 2,251 ozs., against March, which contained one more day than April, notwithstanding which there is a real falling off. The output of other minerals was:—Silver, 9,141 ozs.; lead, 52 tons, coal, 5,334 tons.

Name of Company.	Dec. Tons.	Dec. Ozs.	Jan. Tons.	Jan. Ozs.	Feb. Tons.	Feb. Ozs.	March Tons.	March Ozs.	April Tons.	April Ozs.
Anterior (Matabela)	1,260	985	1,370	1,067	1,130	904	1,230	852	1,338	965
Ayrshire	10,008	3,063	10,050	3,091	8,722	2,903	9,257	2,842	7,954	2,340
Battlefields	—	—	820	1,180	682	840	—	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	1,824	318	2,300	342	1,640	600
Prospect	—	—	—	—	—	1,213	4,514	1,672	—	1,084
East Gwanda	4,425	2,024	5,287	2,140	4,571	606	1,619	691	1,336	667
Gaika	1,326	620	1,389	650	1,254	2,111	4,699	2,545	4,518	2,372
Giant	—	—	4,335	2,207	4,051	3,639	6,245	3,799	6,193	3,890
Globe and Phoenix	6,410	4,045	6,435	4,010	5,653	703	1,120	673	1,040	598
Golden Valley	—	—	1,050	713	1,060	—	—	—	—	—
Killarney	—	—	—	—	—	1,551	3,914	1,555	4,196	1,561
Hibernia	3,400	1,363	3,938	1,551	3,914	658	1,455	579	1,048	706
Morven	1,015	700	2,101	805	1,430	1,000	6,600	1,365	6,400	1,357
Penhalonga	4,850	991	4,950	991	4,600	—	3,100	1,033	2,900	985
Rezende	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rhodesia Consolidated	2,169	1,316	2,497	1,445	1,970	1,290	2,307	1,764	1,700	1,186
Rhodesia Mines	575	297	722	313	640	349	—	—	447	327
Selukwe	6,530	2,384	6,322	2,271	5,844	2,026	6,781	2,077	6,154	2,036
Surprise	3,082	1,611	3,002	1,086	2,743	1,807	3,050	1,633	3,000	1,625
Theta	1,260	873	1,475	885	1,205	1,042	—	—	1,456	1,073
Wanderer	13,020	2,347	16,182	2,597	14,322	2,015	17,112	2,794	16,368	2,371
Willoughby's	1,402	538	1,307	717	1,376	900	1,574	674	1,272	978

The following table gives the total monthly return since the commencement of crushing:—

	1902. Ozs.	1903. Ozs.	1904. Ozs.	1905. Ozs.	1906. Ozs.
January	15,955	16,245	19,459	32,531	42,950
February	13,204	17,090	18,673	30,131	38,037
March	16,891	19,626	17,756	34,927	44,574
April	17,559	20,727	17,662	33,268	42,423
May	19,698	22,137	19,444	31,332	—
June	15,842	22,166	20,402	35,256	—
July	15,226	23,571	24,339	34,693	—
August	15,747	19,187	24,669	35,765	—
September	15,164	18,741	26,029	35,785	—
October	16,849	17,918	24,919	33,383	—
November	15,923	15,714	26,183	32,861	—
December	16,210	18,750	23,100	37,116	—
Total	194,268	231,872	267,715	407,048	168,084

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—The trade of the week has again been dull and quiet, demand more or less indifferent in most of the markets, but without change in prices. English wheat has been in small supply, particularly at the London markets, and reds were held for 34s., whites for 34s. 6d. Farmers' deliveries for the week amounted to 47,299 qrs. averaging 30s. against 25,600 qrs. averaging 30s. 8d. last year in the same week. From abroad we received 652,376 qrs. against 529,643 qrs. the week before, but supplies of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom show a decrease of 105,000 qrs. over last week's estimate; the total now afloat amounting to 3,840,000 qrs. American markets were dull also earlier in the week, but roused to some activity later. The decrease in Bradstreet's estimates of the quantities in sight east of the Rockies, 47,770,000 bushels against 51,264,000

bushels last week, helped to give a bullish tone, and continued news of damage to crops together with heavy foreign buying added to their strength and activity.

WOOL.—No further rise having taken place at the London Colonial sales, markets seem to be steadying a little and Bradford top-makers cannot bring prices at their market quite up to the London level as yet. The idea seems spreading that any further rise would be dangerous to trade and not justified in view of the increasing supplies which in a month or two will be available. The new clip of homegrown wools will also be to hand shortly, and already there are difficulties in the way of doing business, sellers asking from 2s. to 3s. per 28 lbs. more than buyers are willing to give. A very fair number of orders are coming to hand in yarns, though spinners have again put up their prices.

LINEN.—General conditions remain unchanged, the only difference being that all markets grow more and more difficult to deal in. With Continental spinners, says the *Belfast Linen Market*, it is quite impossible to do business, and with home spinners not much less so, the selection open to buyers becoming very limited. Barnsley home trade for medium and better goods shows a decided improvement, and a freer trade is passing on foreign account also. In Belfast the chief activity during the week has been in hollands and brown power-loom linens, drills and housekeeping goods both being quieter. There seems some slight difference of opinion as to the satisfactory state of the home trade in finished goods, but none with regard to colonial and foreign. Canada's imports of piece goods from the United Kingdom in April were 30 per cent. over those of April, 1905, and Australia's totalled 33 per cent. more.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—During the week under review the market has been firm, with a tendency towards the close for prices to harden. Both spinners and manufacturers are in a strong position, and very few concessions have been made to buyers. The total volume of trade has not been very heavy, but this notwithstanding, sellers have held for full rates, and some producers have been quite indifferent as to further extending their engagements. The raw material in Liverpool has gradually risen in quotation, and we are now on the same range of values as the highest point of the year. In cloth for export a miscellaneous inquiry is coming through for several markets, but on the whole it has not been extensive. Buyers for India have business to place in fine goods, but prices are decidedly against operations. However, order lists in this class of goods are running down, and there is some little irregularity here and there. In medium shirtings, occasional transactions have been reported for our Dependency. For China not much has been done this week. A few orders have been placed in fancy goods, but shippers are not disposed to further purchase staple cloths. For the Levant and Egypt a moderate demand has shown itself. The question of delivery, however, is an obstacle not easily overcome for these markets. In goods of a miscellaneous character, buyers for the outlets of South America have been open to do business. All kinds of cloth are firmly held, with a tendency for prices to harden. Manufacturers state that spinners are more difficult to deal with, and therefore the tendency is for prices to be raised. Printing cloths of Cheshire and Burnley makes have been steady, but it cannot be said that producers have received many new orders. T-cloths and Mexicans remain firm, but on the whole the transactions recorded have not been important. Sateens and coloured woven goods show no particular alteration. In American yarns for home use spinners have not met with a large amount of new business, but order lists for the most part are healthy, and in the better kinds there is no difficulty in holding firmly to late rates. In fact, on the whole sellers have wanted rather more money towards the close of the week. The production of the spindles in most kinds and qualities is taken off by the looms. In shipping bundles a fair Continental trade has been done, but the demand for the Far East has been quiet. In Egyptian yarns no particular change has taken place, but order lists of producers show a tendency to run down, and here and there there is some little irregularity in quotation.

Considerable irregularity continues to characterise the American cotton market. It opened with a steady tendency, and advanced on better cables and covering by shorts, but later it eased off on freer country offerings. There was a further rally on "bear" covering, followed by another reaction on realising by shorts. "Bradstreet's" statement gives a decrease in visible supplies east of the Rockies on the week of 1,540,000 bushels. Closing prices are: May-Aug., 6.03d.; Aug.-Sept., 5.95d.; Sept.-Oct., 5.83d.; Oct.-Nov., 5.70d.; Nov.-Feb., 5.74d.; Feb.-March 5.75d.; March-April, 5.76d.

COAL.—Trade in the North of England continues rather slack, both on home account and foreign, and prices are considerably easier. Best steams can be had at 11s. f.o.b., seconds at 10s. 6d. and smalls, for which a short time ago 8s. and 8s. 6d. was given, can now be had at 6s. Orders from the Baltic have proved disappointing, most of the requirements for these ports going to the Yorkshire collieries, where activity in steams is steadily increasing. Welsh trade also is recovering itself a little, and prices are steadier again for all but small steams. Cardiff Change quotes bests from 15s. 3d. to 15s. 9d., seconds 14s. 6d. to 15s., Swansea prices coming just behind them, 14s. 6d. to 15s. 6d., for anthracites, in which much improvement is noticeable, 17s. 6d. to 18s. 6d. is being given. Shipments for the week from Scottish ports have been heavy, 301,895 tons against 292,816 last week, the total increase of shipments to date amounting to 614,244 tons.

COPPER.—This market has again become exceedingly strong, thanks to the more settled condition of Wall Street, and the

general ease in monetary conditions. Consumers are still big buyers, absorbing large quantities of refined metal, the chief demand coming from Germany, where the electrical industry appears to be exceedingly active. France and Russia are also in the market, and at the opening a good business was reported at steadily advancing prices. Bears were busy covering, and a good support of a speculative kind was also forthcoming. Forward metal appeared to be in chief demand, spot positions being somewhat neglected, and towards the close the early strength gave place to weakness on profit-taking and bear operations, so that the final figures were well below the best at 85½ for cash and 84½ for three months forward. Messrs. Henry R. Merton and Co., Limited, give the visible supply as 9,583 tons, against 9,138 tons at the end of April. The supply for the fortnight was 11,413 tons, and the deliveries 10,968 tons, making the stocks in England and France 5,183 tons, against 5,338 tons on April 30. The Chile charters for the first half of May total 800 tons.

TIN.—Intense excitement has prevailed in this market. In response to strong advices from the East, bear covering and big orders from consumers, the opening was very firm. Prices went up almost pounds at a time, and reached the enormous figures of £215 for cash and £203 for three months forward. The position in America is said to be very bullish, but after the initial outburst on this side quotations displayed a reactionary tendency. A lull in the speculative demand and some profit-taking knocked the cash price back £3, and futures £1. On this, however, big buying for forward delivery ensued, and a recovery set in only to be followed by renewed selling of such an aggressive type that prices went back with a rush, falling to £195 for spot and £190 for three months, being declines of £20 and £13 respectively from the highest points. The market was so wild and erratic that it became almost impossible to follow the fluctuations, and great difficulty was experienced in obtaining accurate quotations. Final figures were about £193 10s. for spot and 188½ for futures, some recovery from the low levels having taken place. The Straits shipments for the first half of May were 2,733 tons, of which 1,950 tons are for London, 373 tons for America, and 410 tons for the Continent.

IRON AND STEEL.—The conditions prevailing in the iron and steel industries are similar to those reported a week ago. Shipments of pig-iron, both coastwise and abroad, have again been good, and with the continued withdrawals from the warrant stores there is a better feeling generally, though it is evident that strong holders are still able to influence prices. Though Germany has been buying with more freedom recently it is considered probable that the lock-out of the metal workers there may seriously interfere with the exports of pig-iron to that country. Business is a little better, and prices are firmer for several descriptions of finished iron. Steel is firmer, and there is less foreign competition apparent. In Scotland pig-iron warrants are stronger on better German reports and local trade conditions also show an occasional improvement. As yet no inquiries for structural iron and steel for San Francisco have been received in the north of England.

SUGAR.—The downward tendency of the past few weeks has continued, realisations of near and distant positions causing a further decline of 2d. Yet the sowings in convention countries were slightly less than were expected by the majority of the trade, although in some quarters a somewhat larger decrease was anticipated, especially for all Europe, including non-convention countries. At the present level, Mr. Czarnikow points out, it is probably a question of weather in beet countries whether holders and producers will press sales or only offer as much as the market can absorb. Generally in all movements when prices are adapting themselves to the altered position the pendulum swings too far, and it is therefore not easy to read the future, but it does seem that at about 8s. for the summer months there should be less anxiety. The New York market has been easier under the influence of European weakness. Landings in the three ports for the week were 41,000 tons, and meltings 39,000 tons, leaving stocks at 346,000 tons.

TEA.—Markets have shown a distinct improvement this week, the better and medium teas especially benefiting by the reduced duty. Indian offerings amounted to 35,794 packages, and all except the commonest sorts sold at an advance in price, autumn flavoured parcels in particular. "Jaipur" averaged 1s. 1½d. and "Pabbojan T. Co. Dheed." 1s. 2d., the average for the entire sale of 26,975 packages amounting to 7.30d. against 7.07d. last week and 6.64d. a year ago. Ceylon auctions showed the same points, an improved demand for useful and good liquoring teas; common kinds difficult to move. 21,624 packages were brought forward, and averaged 6.90d. against 6.89d. last week and 6.89d. last year. 3,222 packages of Java went well, particularly better sorts.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

INSURANCE.

Marine Insurance.—Usual of £2 per share, of which 10s. per share was paid on Jan. 10 last, and £1 10s. per share will be payable on July 10, placing £25,000 to reserve.

Trustees' Executors' and Securities Insurance.—At the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum for the half-year to May 31, 1906, on the preference stocks and shares calculated on the amounts for the time being called up thereon respectively.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Acadia Sugar Refining.—Interim of 3 per cent. on the preference shares.

Barry Graving Dock and Engineering.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares and at the rate

of 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended March 31.

Brahmapootra Tea.—Final of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying £24,617 forward.

Broken Hill Proprietary Block 14.—1s. per share on the ordinary and preference share alike, also 3s. 6d. per share on the preference shares, being 10 per cent. interest from Oct. 1, 1905, to March 31 last, both payable June 15.

Brunner Mond and Co.—On the ordinary shares for the year ended March 31 at the rate of 35 per cent. per annum, placing £190,718 to reserve, and £63,000 forward.

Ceylon Proprietary Tea Estates.—For 1905 of 2 per cent. on the ordinary shares, payable May 21.

Claudius Ash, Sons, and Company (1905).—On the ordinary shares at the rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum for the half-year ended Dec. 31.

Coburg Hotel.—Further at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, making 10 per cent. for the year.

"E.C." Powder.—Final of 4s. per share and a bonus of 1s. per share, making 7s. per share for the year ended March 31.

Fine Cotton Spinners and Doublers.—Final at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum (making 6 per cent. for the year), placing £40,000 to reserve, and carrying £15,507 forward.

Gokak Water Power and Manufacturing.—8 per cent. on the "A" shares.

Imperial Ottoman Bank.—16s. per share, being at the rate of 8 per cent. for 1905.

Liebig's Extract of Meat.—Final on the ordinary shares for 1905 of 10 per cent., together with a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share, payable June 15, making $22\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year.

Lloyd's Packing Warehouses.—Interim of 4s. per share on the ordinary shares, being at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended March 31.

New Paccha and Jazpampa Nitrate.—Balance of 20 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 30 per cent. for 1905; also a balance of 46 per cent. on the preference shares, making 70 per cent. for 1905.

Newport Dry Dock, Wood, and Iron Shipbuilding.—At the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum for the half-year ended March 31, carrying £256 forward.

P. Phipps and Co.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended March 31.

Pacific Steam Navigation.—25s. per share, carrying forward £22,804.

Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock, and an interim at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the deferred stock for the half-year ended March 31.

Portman Estate Mansions.—3 per cent. on the preference shares, carrying £1,277 forward.

Ruston Proctor.— $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended March 31.

S. Bottomley and Brothers.—3 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended March 31, carrying £6,097 forward.

Star Paper Mill.—5s. per share on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended April 30, carrying £8,643 forward.

Trust and Agency of Australasia.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying £1,701 forward.

Answers to Correspondents.

PARSIVAL.—The stock is only a second-class security, but should be safe enough to hold. If, however, you feel uneasy about it you might do better to sell, especially as you have a fair profit.

CANPURUS.—We do not see much prospect of any substantial advance in the near future, and, in view of the heavy liability on the shares, we think it would be better to sell rather than borrow.

INQUIRER (Exmouth).—It would be as well for you to sell out of such a speculative mining share as you mention, but the industrial share is almost as speculative, and should be avoided.

C. B. V.—(1) Fairly good. Quite one of the best companies of its class. (2) Any except "b" in the order given by you. (3) No. There is too much risk of a rate war attached to these shares.

P. D. E.—The original business may have been as old as you say, but the present firm only took it over a few years ago, and we do not like the people behind it. We know of nothing against the publications you name.

HOLT.—The scheme has much to commend it theoretically, but you evidently know the man's reputation. The other matter to which you refer must not be taken to imply approval of the concern itself or anything else beyond a statement of an event. Quite honest business is possible, though, in this line.

H. W. A.—(1) The shares are, of course, a speculative purchase, but the company appears to be doing a splendid business, and we think you might add to your holding without very much risk. (2) We did not care much for this concern when it came out. The working capital is small, and it seems extremely doubtful whether results will ever justify the prospectus estimates. If you can get out without loss it would be better to do so.

A. G.—We have really no idea what will happen in the case of this railway until something definite is known regarding the dispute with the Government. There is some misunderstanding

regarding the interpretation of the contract, and from recent actions of the Brazilian Government we should say the company is in the right. Doubtless an arrangement of some kind will be fixed up before redemption day arrives. This with the letter leaves a balance of 1s. which we hold to your credit.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1906, and May 12, 1906:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

		Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1906, to May 12, 1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to May 13, 1905.
Balances, April 1:			
Bank of England	£	9,334,212	6,352,909
Bank of Ireland	£	1,117,275	1,077,369
REVENUE.		10,451,487	7,430,278
Customs	£	3,789,000	3,808,000
Excise	£	2,882,000	2,959,000
Estate, &c., Duties	£	1,959,000	1,835,000
Stamps	£	964,000	1,048,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	£	280,000	340,000
Property and Income Tax ..	£	3,416,000	3,511,000
Post Office	£	1,240,000	1,340,000
Telegraph Service	£	440,000	410,000
Crown Lands	£	80,000	50,000
Receipts from Suez Canal Shares and Sundry Loans ..	£	—	—
Miscellaneous	£	253,945	254,272
*Revenue	£	15,303,945	15,555,272
Total, including balance		25,755,432	22,985,550
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	£	—	50,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	£	—	100,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..	£	—	191,592
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..	£	—	160,408
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900	£	—	13,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	£	—	35,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905	£	—	3,425,000
Total		25,755,432	26,960,550
*Revenue as above		15,303,945	15,555,272
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	£	28,699	26,228
Excise	£	152,000	152,000
Estate, &c., Duties	£	487,000	478,000
Total		667,699	656,228
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation		15,971,644	16,211,500

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

		Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1906, to May 12, 1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to May 13, 1905.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£	5,653,145	5,583,574
Other Consolidated Fund Services	£	228,058	223,571
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	£	90,000	90,000
Supply Services	£	10,528,569	11,912,255
Expenditure	£	16,499,772	17,809,400
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	£	450,000	—
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	£	45,000	45,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount)	£	2,000,000	2,000,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	£	150,000	150,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	£	—	13,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	£	25,000	35,000
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..	£	112,965	—
		19,282,737	20,052,400
Balances in Exchequer:—			
Bank of England	£	5,559,113	5,922,013
Bank of Ireland	£	922,582	986,137
		6,472,695	6,908,150
Total		25,755,432	26,960,550

Treasury, May 15, 1906.

Agricultural Bank of Egypt.—Allotments letters for the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. guaranteed bonds can be exchanged for scrip at the office of the London Agency of the National Bank of Egypt.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for ten days ended May 14, \$2,676, increase \$94.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 13, \$19,309, increase \$1,760; aggregate from January 1, \$264,328, decrease \$3,971.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 14, Rs. 62,456, increase Rs. 6,214; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 10,56,789, increase Rs. 1,19,605.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 14, \$130,500, increase \$50,100; total from July 1, \$4,625,700, increase \$1,339,600.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 14, Rs. 28,530, increase Rs. 2,644.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 15, £383, increase £44.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 2nd week of May, \$14,311, increase \$2,531; aggregate from January 1, \$294,988, increase \$53,690.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 14, Rs. 19,786, increase Rs. 4,637.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended May 7 amounted to \$17,500.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending May 12, £1,257, increase £10; aggregate from January 1, £23,455, increase £298.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending May 12, £704, decrease £83; aggregate from January 1, £13,849, increase £757.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for January, £4,263, decrease £267.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending May 12, £456, increase £46; aggregate from January 1, £8,376, increase £660.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 11, £1,340, increase £82; aggregate from January 1, £26,149, increase £3,716.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 13, £11, decrease £1; aggregate from January 1, £164.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 11, £4,935, decrease £57; aggregate from January 1, £91,501, increase £3,960.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending May 11, £29,149, increase £3,042; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £528,450, increase £81,634; 438 miles, against 424½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 12, £1,143, increase £25; aggregate from January 1, £21,267, increase £1,659.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 13, £123, decrease £15; aggregate from January 1, £2,009, decrease £31.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 11, £115, decrease £2; aggregate from January 1, £1,856, decrease £96.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 11, £5,205, increase £205; aggregate from January 1, £87,499, increase £2,000.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 12, £5,045, increase £99; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £87,754, increase £2,571.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 11, £167, decrease £117.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 10, £684.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 12, £402, decrease £76; aggregate from October 1, £9,249, decrease £808.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 5, £25,075, increase £11,307; aggregate from April 1, £132,776, increase £64,297. Miles 98 against 468.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 12, £23,842, decrease £2,708; aggregate from January 1, £402,535, decrease £23,212.

London Motor Omnibus (Vanguard).—Traffic receipts for week ending May 12, £3,456, increase £2,967.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 12, £9,049, increase £136; aggregate from January 1, £142,549, increase £1,213.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 12, £201, increase £8; aggregate from January 1, £3,629, increase £111.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 13, £841, increase £159; aggregate from January 1, £14,601, increase £3,181.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 13, £16,105, increase £2,196; aggregate from January 1, £286,387, increase £29,715.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of January, 1906, £11,016, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Nett earnings for March, \$26,091, increase \$2,444. Nett earnings from July 1 to March 31, \$387,468, increase \$108,356.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending May 13, £3,780, increase £228; aggregate from January 1, £67,936, increase £4,713.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending March 31, £1,420, increase £274; aggregate from January 1, £18,440, increase £4,063.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of April, \$311,600.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 12, Rs. 42,959, increase Rs. 6,266; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 8,40,859, increase Rs. 88,128.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of April, £4,898, increase £2,101. Total from January 1, £19,159, increase £7,820.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of March, \$418,249, increase \$56,518; aggregate from January 1, \$12,06,500, increase \$172,197. Nett traffic receipts, \$220,194, increase \$31,228; aggregate from January 1, \$6,14,082, increase \$98,140.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	
Baker St. and Waterloo	May 12	£ 1,341	—	73	£ 13,230	—	
Brecon and Merthyr	" 13	1,984	+	4	38,683	+	2,395
Cambrian	" 13	6,143	—	240	98,869	—	1,405
Central London	" 12	6,503	—	256	129,324	—	4,347
City and South London	" 13	2,498	—	57	54,592	+	10
Furness	" 13	10,433	+	1,122	186,904	+	23,952
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.)	" 13	71,923	+	2,914	1,329,121	+	58,501
Great Eastern	" 13	96,600	+	2,700	1,799,700	+	16,600
Great Northern and City	" 12	1,725	—	138	34,190	—	1,414
Great Northern	" 12	109,100	+	1,083	2,023,200	+	50,717
Great Western	" 13	243,300	+	1,100	4,165,900	+	22,800
Hull and Barnsley	" 13	12,046	+	2,681	184,839	+	17,225
Lancashire and Yorkshire	" 13	107,331	+	3,696	1,955,979	+	60,892
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast	" 12	56,090	—	1,093	1,057,493	—	3,493
London & North Western	" 13	283,000	+	7,000	5,077,000	+	170,000
London & South Western	" 13	94,800	+	2,200	1,587,300	+	14,000
Lon., Tilbury & Southend	" 13	8,609	+	347	157,533	+	7,325
Metropolitan	" 13	15,432	—	2,180	312,006	—	14,997
Metropolitan District	" 13	8,010	+	704	151,196	+	8,944
Midland	" 12	220,737	+	4,323	4,146,812	+	123,511
North Eastern	" 12	184,315	+	13,022	3,300,255	+	181,871
North London	" 13	8,574	—	370	170,609	—	3,875
North Staffordshire	" 13	18,548	+	1,338	337,222	+	12,897
Rhymney	" 13	6,245	+	48	114,593	+	2,891
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover	" 12	85,273	—	645	1,531,263	+	355
Taff Vale	" 13	19,277	+	266	365,465	+	23,14

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	May 13	84,329	+	2,319	15	1,250,338	+	23,903
Glasgow & South-Western	" 12	32,544	+	942	15	486,688	+	15,020
Great North of Scotland	" 12	10,150	+	1,010	15	128,575	+	718
Highland	" 13	9,320	+	245	15	125,400	+	395
North British	" 13	91,480	+	3,672	15	1,327,106	+	32,865

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down	May 11	2,582	—	365	8	45,268	—	1,590
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast	" 11	1,604	—	167	8	28,883	+	29
Great Northern	" 11	17,574	—	839	19	321,871	+	3,569
Midland Great Western	" 11	10,766	+	310	11	191,246	—	6,390

§ From January 1.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

NAME.	Making Up Price, May 8.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	NAME.	Making Up Price, May 8.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
SOUTH AFRICAN.							
Angelo	3 1/2	4	2 1/2	May Consolidated	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Anglo-French Ex.	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Apex	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Modderfontein	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Aurora West	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. B.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Bantjes	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	New Coch	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Block B.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
City and Suburban	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Comet (New)	2	2	2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Cons. Goldfields	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	19 1/2	19 1/2	19 1/2
Do. Pref.	22 1/2	22 1/2	22 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Crown Reef	11 1/2	10 1/2	6	Rand Mines (New)	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Driefontein	2	2	1 1/2	Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Durban Roodepoort	3 1/2	3 1/2	8	Robinson Gold, £4	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
East Rand	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
East Rand Extension	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Randfontein United	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Ferreira	18 1/2	18 1/2	1	Saibury	1	1	1
French Rand	1	1 1/2	6 1/2	Sheba (New)	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Geduld	2 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Goldenhuis Estate	3 1/2	3 1/2	3	S.A. Gold Trust	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Ginsburg	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Steyn Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Glencairn	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Development	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2
Harmony Proprietary	7 1/2	7 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Henderson's Transvaal	10 1/2	10 1/2	1 1/2	Treasury	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Heriot	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Van Ryn	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Johannesburg Con. In.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Jubilee	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	Vogelstruis	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Lumpers	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Welgedacht	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Kleinfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	West Rand Consols	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Knight's	3	3 1/2	3 1/2	Wolhuter, £4	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Lancaster	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Worcester	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Langlaagte Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2				

DEEP LEVELS.

Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Bonanza	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Cinderella Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Robinson Deep (new)	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Crown Deep	12	12	12	Randfontein Cn. Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Durban Roodepoort	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Rose Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	South Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Goldenhuis Deep	6 1/2	6 1/2	4 1/2	Village Main Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Knight's Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2				

RHODESIAS.

Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Rhodesia Exploration	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Charter Trust and Agency	13 1/2	13 1/2	5 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Selukwe	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Lomagunda Development	1 1/2	1 1/2	10 1/2	Tanganyika	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Willoughby	10 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
Mayo (Rhodesia)	2	2	1 1/2	Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2

DIAMONDS.

De Beers Deferred	17 1/2	17 1/2	2 1/2	Koffyfontein	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Do. Preferred	16 1/2	16 1/2	2 1/2	Lace Diamond	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Eland's Drift Diamond	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Orange Free State	19 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2
Frank Smith Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Diamond	19 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2
Jagersfontein Deferred	8 1/2	8 1/2	18 1/2	Premier Diamond Def.	9	8 1/2	8 1/2
Do. Preferred	4 1/2	4 1/2	9	Do. do. Pref.	9	8 1/2	8 1/2
Kamlersdam	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2				

WEST AFRICAN.

Abbotlakoon	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2	Gold Coast Agency, new	3 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Ankobra	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau)	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Ashanti Consols, 2/- paid	3 1/2	3 1/2	11 1/2	Deep	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Do. Goldfields	3 1/2	3 1/2	11 1/2	Himan Concessions	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
Sansu	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	Obbussai Syndicate	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Obbussai Syndicate	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
British Gold Coast	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Sekondi and Tarkwa	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Bromassie	22 1/2	23 1/2	2 1/2	Taquah and Abosso	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Effuente (Wassau)	5 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Wassau	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Fanti Consolidated	5 1/2	5 1/2	1 1/2	W. A. Gold Trust	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2

AUSTRALIAN.

Anglo-Aus. Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Ida H.	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Associated	2 1/2	2 1/2	6 1/2	Ivanhoe, Gold Corp.	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Ivanhoe South	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Bellevue Proprietary	2 1/2	2 1/2	9 1/2	Kalgurli	9 1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2
Boulder Deep Levels	1 1/2	1 1/2	19 1/2	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Brownhill Extended	10 1/2	10 1/2	16 1/2	Lancefield	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Chaffers	4 1/2	4 1/2	11 1/2	London & W.A. Exploration	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
Cosmopol'n Pr'pr'ty	5 1/2	5 1/2	11 1/2	Mount Boppy	11 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
Golden Horseshoe, New Shares	5 1/2	5 1/2	1 1/2	North Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Golden Links	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Golden Pole	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Peak Hill	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Great Boulder, 2/-	23 1/2	24 1/2	1 1/2	South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do. Perseverance	11 1/2	11 1/2	1 1/2	Sons of Gwalia	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Great Fingall	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	W'strlia Mt Morgans	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2				
Hampton Plains	10 1/2	10 1/2	1 1/2				
Hannan's Star	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2				

MISCELLANEOUS.

Anacondas, 25 dols.	13 1/2	13 1/2	3 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Balahat, full paid	29 1/2	30 1/2	45 1/2	Mount Lyell	45 1/2	47 1/2	47 1/2
Brilliant and St. George	7 1/2	7 1/2	3 1/2	M't Morgan	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Broken Hill, Prop.	3 1/2	3 1/2	6 1/2	Mysore, ros.	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Camp Bird	22 1/2	22 1/2	2 1/2	Mysore Goldfields, 15/-	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Cape Copper, £2	5 1/2	5 1/2	8 1/2	Do. West, 1/-	8 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2
Champion Reef, 2/-	18 1/2	18 1/2	8 1/2	Do. Wynaad, 1/-	8 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
Cob. Gold N.Z.	13 1/2	13 1/2	5 1/2	Namaqua, £2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Copiapu, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	26 1/2	N'ndydroog, 10/- shares	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
Coromandel 19/- pd.	2 1/2	2 1/2	16 1/2	Oo egum	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Esperanza	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Do Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Frontino and Bolivia	10 1/2	10 1/2	9 1/2	St. John del Rey	9 1/2	9 1/2	9 1/2
Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Tharsis	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2
Do. (No. 2)	2 1/2	2 1/2	7 1/2	Waihi	7 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2
Libiola, £5	2 1/2	2 1/2	6 1/2	Ymlr	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Linares £3	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2				

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.				GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.			
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.		
Alcoy and Gandia	May 12	Ps. 10,000	+ Ps. 3,000	**	Ps. 291,400	+ P. 24,400		
Antofagasta (Chill) and Bolivia	April *	\$86,417	+ \$19,710	**	\$330,275	+ \$79,834		
Argentine Gt. Western	May 11	17,889	- 3,109		610,769	+ 93,671		
Algeiras (Gibraltar)	" 5	Ps. 35,990	+ P. 775	**	P1,386,616	- P113,268		
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	" 12	38,054	+ 7,768	**	1,387,883	+ 328,076		
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o	" 12	90,597	+ 13,163	**	1,671,261	+ 225,458		
and Cen. Argentine	" 13	86,186	+ 17,993	**	3,388,015	+ 516,118		
Buenos Ayres G. Sthn.	" 13	42,152	+ 6,421	**	1,527,319	+ 208,644		
Do. Western	" 13	420	+ 99	**	15,823	+ 389		
Do. Ensenada	" 13	9,247	+ 1,327	**	380,771	+ 14,137		
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	" 12	2,731	+ 629	**	94,985	+ 2,344		
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 12	1,400	+ 64	**	53,967	+ 5,327		
Do. Northern Ex.	" 12	1,123	+ 91	**	51,938	+ 6,018		
Do. Western Ex.	" 13	3,905	+ 705	**	61,450	+ 11,210		
Corloba Central	" 13	7,035	+ 1,360	**	126,585	+ 29,230		
Do. Northern Ex.	" 13	2,100	+ 815	**	32,875	+ 11,085		
Do. N. W. Arg'n. Ex.	" 13	4,280	+ 155	**	191,595	+ 4,390		
Corloba and Rosario	" 13	5,172	+ 28	**	192,623	+ 6,408		
Costa Rica	" 12	12,463	+ 5,017	**	347,814	+ 43,683		
Cuban Central	" 12	6,211	+ 1,109	**	197,412	+ 34,400		
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 12	4,136	+ 693	**	172,218	+ 8,038		
Entre Rios	" 14	\$140,700	+ \$22,160	**	\$5,444,584	+ \$166,660		
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico	" 12	25,202	+ 12,709	**	288,318	+ 27,970		
Leopoldina	March *	\$591,400	+ \$28,200	**	\$1,731,900	+ \$123,900		
Mexican	May 14	\$127,800	+ \$8,400	**	\$2,536,400	+ \$217,000		
Mexican	" 14	\$23,986	+ \$1,218	**	\$474,101	+ \$19,888		
Do. Southern	" 12	\$2,229,926	+ \$181,788	**	\$18,854,222	+ \$142,073		
Do. Central	Feb. *	\$635,795	+ \$8,660	**	\$5,328,789	+ \$221,747		
Do. Do.	May 12	\$37,331	+ \$6,251	**	\$697,012	+ \$30,813		
Manila	" 12	23,906	+ 6,631	**	206,377	+ 16,134		
Nitrate	" 12	3,908	+ 2,143	**	81,063	+ 13,239		
Ottoman	" 12	\$644,090	+ \$120,725	**	\$6,490,350	+ \$1,052,575		
Peruvian Corporation	April *	16,494	+ 927	**	302,129	+ 9,852		
San Paulo	May 6	\$30,595	+ \$12,500	**	\$919,351	+ \$134,356		
Salvador	" 12	24,990	+ 13,776	**	699,435	+ 225,635		
United of Havana	" 12	1,220	+ 200	**	25,678	+ 2,062		
Villa Maria & Rufino	" 12	4,030	+ 125	**	185,720	+ 5,002		
Western of Havana	" 12							

Established 1824.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Assets over 4 MILLIONS Sterling.

The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

THE SURPLUS DIVIDED WAS **£597,415.**

Chief Office:

15, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,
LONDON, S.W.W. J. H. WHITTALL,
Actuary.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

TOTAL FUNDS NEARLY **£6,000,000**FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE
MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Please apply for particulars to

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
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ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE.

INCORPORATED A.D. 1720.

FIRE, LIFE, SEA, ANNUITIES. ACCIDENTS & EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY.

The Corporation is prepared to act as
EXECUTOR OF WILLS, TRUSTEE OF WILLS AND SETTLEMENTS.

SPECIAL TERMS TO ANNUITANTS WHEN HEALTH IS IMPAIRED.

FUNDS IN HAND EXCEED **£5,250,000.**

Apply for full Prospectus to the Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE: ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON, E.C.

The Central Insurance Company, Ltd.

CHAIRMAN: WALTER CHAMBERLAIN, J.P.

Total Security to Policy-Holders over **£1,000,000.**

FIRE. ACCIDENT. BURGLARY.

SHORT AND UP-TO-DATE CONDITIONS.

Head Office: 12-13, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.

HUGH LEWIS, General Manager.

INDIA £3 PER CENT. STOCK.

Not Redeemable before 5th October, 1948.

Trustees are empowered to invest in this Stock, unless expressly forbidden by
the instrument creating the Trust. (See the Trustee Act, 1893.)ISSUE OF **£2,000,000;**

which will be consolidated with the existing India £3 per Cent. Stock.

Minimum Price of Issue, **£94 : 10s. per Cent.**The First Dividend, being Three Months' Interest, will be payable on the
5th October, 1906.THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND give
notice that they are authorized to receive tenders for this Loan.This Issue is made under the provisions of the East India Loans (Railways)
Act, 1905, in order to provide funds for the Construction, &c. of Railways in
India through the Agency of Companies, and for the discharge of £749,900
Debentures of the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Company,
falling due in the financial year, 1906-7.This Stock will bear interest at the rate of £3 per cent. per annum, payable
quarterly at the Bank of England, on the 5th January, the 5th April, the
5th July, and the 5th October in each year, the first Dividend (a full quarter's
Dividend) being payable on the 5th October next; and will be consolidated
after the 1st June, 1906, with the India £3 per cent. Stock now existing, which
is not redeemable until the 5th October, 1948, but will be redeemable at par on or
after that day, upon one year's previous notice having been given in "The
London Gazette" by the Secretary of State for India in Council.The Books of the Stock are kept at the Bank of England, and at the Bank of
Ireland, where all assignments and Transfers are made. All Transfers and
Stock Certificates are free of Stamp Duty.Tenders must be delivered at the Chief Cashier's Office, Bank of England,
before Two o'clock on Wednesday, the 23rd May, 1906, and a deposit of £5 per
cent. on the nominal amount of the Stock tendered for must be paid at the
time of the delivery of the tender. The deposit must not be enclosed in the
tender.Tenders may be for the whole or any part of the Stock in multiples of £100.
Each tender must state what amount of money will be given for every £100 of
Stock; and the amount of Stock applied for must be written on the outside of
the tender. Tenders at different prices must be on separate forms. The
minimum price, below which no tender will be accepted, has been fixed at
£94 : 10s. for every £100 of Stock. All tenders must be at prices which are
multiples of sixpence.In the event of the receipt of tenders, at or above the minimum price, for a
larger amount of Stock than that proposed to be issued, the tenders at the
lowest price accepted will be subject to a pro rata diminution.Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned, and in the case of
partial allotment the balance of the deposit will be applied towards the first
instalment. Should there be a surplus after making that payment, such surplus
will be refunded by cheque.

The dates on which the further payments will be required are as follows:—

On Tuesday, the 5th June, 1906, { so much as, when added to the
deposit, will leave Seventy-five
Pounds (Sterling) to be paid for
each hundred pounds of Stock.

On Thursday, the 5th July, 1906, £25 per cent.

On Friday, the 3rd August, 1906, £25 per cent.

On Friday, the 7th September, 1906, £25 per cent.

The instalments may be paid in full on, or after, the 5th June, 1906, under
discount at the rate of £3 per cent. per annum.In case of default in the payment of any instalment at its proper date, the
deposit and the instalments previously paid will be liable to forfeiture.Scrip Certificates to bearer, with Coupon attached for the dividend payable
the 5th October, 1906, will be issued in exchange for the provisional receipts.As soon as these Scrip Certificates to bearer have been paid in full, they can
be inscribed (i.e., converted into Stock), or they can be exchanged for Stock
Certificates to bearer in denominations of £100, £500 and £1,000, without pay-
ment of any fee, provided such exchange is effected not later than the 3rd
December, 1906.

Such Certificates to bearer will have quarterly Coupons attached.

Stock may be converted into Stock Certificates to bearer, and Stock
Certificates may be converted into Stock, at any time, on payment of the
usual fees.Tenders must be on printed forms, which may be obtained at the Bank of
England, or at any of its Branches; at the Bank of Ireland; of Mr. Horace H.
Scott, the Broker to the Secretary of State for India in Council (Messrs.
R. Nivison and Co.), 75, Cornhill, London, E.C.; or of Messrs. Mullens,
Marshall and Co., 13, George Street, Mansion House, London, E.C.Bank of England,
18th May, 1906.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from 3½ per cent.
on May 10.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Officials of the Bank of England deny, we believe, that they sent the Bank's broker to warn the discount houses not to allow their rates to decline. That the broker took this step on his own initiative is not for a moment to be supposed, and therefore we must infer that he acted on the instructions of the Governor direct. The step has been subjected to a good deal of criticism, especially on the ground that were the hint taken it might keep our brokers and bankers out of the bill market to the advantage of the under-cutting foreigner. On the other hand, there were bitter complaints against the Bank some little time ago for suddenly sweeping away balances from the market by borrowing them from the joint-stock banks without warning. At least, therefore, the market now knows that if it is driven or reduced to work at rates so fine as to again threaten our stock of gold it will only have itself to thank if the Bank has to step in and relieve it of floating credits to an extent which will compel rates to harden.

Money has been by no means abundant this week. Joint-stock banks have generally lent for seven days at 3 per cent., and call money has rarely advanced beyond 3½ per cent., and has often been down to 2½ per cent., but the demand was small. We can see from the Bank return how money must be in poor supply, for other deposits are shown therein to be less by £2,691,000 than they were the week before, and part of the total of £42,097,000 belongs to the Japanese Government, which may lend or temporarily invest it so that the market has the use of it, but which is not directly under the market's own control. Therefore the joint-stock banks are probably working upon low balances, and would be quite unable to render any assistance to dealers in credit were they suddenly called upon for extra resources. This means that when the settlement of the 20-day Stock Exchange account comes on at the end of this month there will again be a shortage of supplies leading to a sharp advance in account to account rates. It may be said that the inflow of gold between now and then will perhaps prevent that, but really the Bank is not getting much gold. Within the past Bank week its nett receipts have been £723,000, but £500,000 of this has been contributed out of the reservoir kept here by the Simla Government out of the proceeds of its thus-far successful efforts to flood India with a debased silver currency. If the Bank continues to get supplies of gold coming from

the mines week by week it will doubtless gradually become stronger, and also in the next two or three weeks its return may show that the Scotch gold has come back, but even so it will not be strong for its total reserve now is only about £21,000,000, and its total stock of bullion on Wednesday night was only £31,602,000, which is at least £5,000,000 below what it ought to be at this time if autumn demands are to be encountered with equanimity. Meanwhile gold still dribbles away at times, principally to South America but to other places as well, and the Bank remains in a comparatively impoverished position, which should keep the market on its guard against any decline in its discount quotations.

Before the Bank broker gave a hint to bill brokers to be careful the rate on three months' remitted paper had slipped back below $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and people were talking of $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. as a figure which would probably soon be reached. After the visit of the broker, however, the leading houses raised their quotation to $3\frac{9}{16}$ per cent. as a minimum, and held it there both yesterday and the day before. They did not always get it, because fine parcels were still discounted at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and on four and six months remitted paper the rate was never better than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Still, the market was kept up, and as neither the joint-stock banks nor foreign banks were ready buyers of bills of medium usance below $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. there was not sufficient effective competition to destroy what might be called the London market combination to maintain rates.

Perhaps a slightly weaker tendency became noticeable in the market this morning. That is to say, it was possible for the billholder to dispose of three months' paper at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but that figure was not common, and some houses held out for $3\frac{9}{16}$ per cent. as their working minimum. Long dated bills also were steadier, so that we may give $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as the lowest working rate for paper up to four months. Six months' bills, however, were done at $3\frac{7}{16}$ per cent., and in quarters where the finest bills are dealt in it was claimed that mixed parcels of three, four, and six months' paper were discounted at $3\frac{7}{16}$ per cent. On short bills, however, the rate was $3\frac{9}{16}$ — $\frac{5}{16}$ per cent., even in what may be called cutting quarters, and the market was more inclined this afternoon to hold out than it was in the morning. Of floating balances, there was just about enough to go round. The Bank only got in £30,000 in bar gold to-day against which 10,000 sovereigns were withdrawn for South Africa. The India Council has been renewing and lending freely at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for a month, thanks to the transfer of £1,000,000 in all from its gold store to its current account. Next week's calls aggregate rather less than £1,800,000, and none of them is of great importance except the £1,014,000 due on the Canadian Pacific ordinary shares next Friday. A call of 20 per cent. is also due the same day on the new issue of Baltimore and Ohio stock, which amounts to \$27,750,000, but we do not know how much of that will fall on the London market. The only other amount of any weight is £375,000 due on the London Corporation issue next Wednesday.

SILVER.

When it was no longer possible to secure silver for shipment to India in time for the June settlement the inquiry from the bazaars naturally ceased, and prices were allowed to slip back until they were down to $30\frac{1}{4}$ d. per oz. for spot and $30\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz. for delivery two months forward. At these levels speculative support was forthcoming, and as the Indian demand has since revived the market has gradually hardened again, and closes firm at $31\frac{1}{4}$ d. and $30\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz. respectively. For the Rs.40,00,000 India Council drafts offered on Wednesday applications amounted to Rs.2,32,30,000 in bills and Rs.99,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs.31,78,000 were accepted in bills and Rs.8,22,000 in transfers, tenders at rs. 4 1-32d. and rs. 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. receiving about 13 per cent. Next week another Rs.40,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, May 16, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 48,684,920	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	30,234,920
		Silver Bullion	—
	£48,684,920		£48,684,920

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 15,977,281
Res	3,273,021	Other Securities	32,043,530
Public Deposits (including		Notes	20,020,480
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,366,805
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	9,415,014		
Other Deposits	42,097,378		
Seven Day and other Bills	69,683		
	£69,408,096		£69,408,096

Dated May 17, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. May, 17.		May 9, 1906.	May 16, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,186,742	Rest	3,247,295	3,273,021	25,726	—
10,946,060	Pub. Deposits ..	8,206,947	9,415,014	1,208,067	—
41,622,355	Other do. .. .	44,788,616	42,097,378	—	2,691,238
114,900	7 Day Bills ..	58,754	69,683	10,929	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,749,522	Gov. Securities ..	15,977,281	15,977,281	—	—
28,439,533	Other do. .. .	33,996,916	32,043,530	1,953,386	—
26,234,002	Total Reserve ..	20,880,415	21,387,285	—	506,870
				3,198,108	3,198,108
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
28,795,790	Coin and Bullion ..	28,811,750	28,664,440	—	147,310
36,579,792	Proportion .. .	31,242,105	31,601,725	359,560	—
49 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	Bank Rate .. .	39 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.	4 $\frac{1}{4}$ p.c.	2 $\frac{1}{4}$ p.c.	—
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "		4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £723,000 in.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended May 12.)

REVENUE.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£		£
Customs	862,000	National Debt Services ..	256,059
Excise	493,000	Other Consolidated Fund	—
Estate, &c., Duties ..	432,000	Charges	—
Stamps	136,000	Payments to Local Taxa-	—
Land Tax and House Duty	20,000	tion	—
Property and Income Tax..	133,000	Supply Services	1,346,850
Post Office	100,000	Bullion Advances	—
Telegraphs	130,000	Treasury Bills (nett amount)	—
Crown Lands	30,000	Advances for Interest on	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—	Exchequer Bonds	—
Treasury Bills (nett amount)	—	Exchequer Bonds redeemed	—
Miscellaneous	71	Uganda Railway	—
Bullion advances repaid ..	—	Military Works	—
Uganda Railway	—	Naval Works	—
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	—	Telegraph Acts	—
count	—	Land Registry (New Build-	—
Advances for Interest on Ex-	—	ings)	—
chequer Bonds	—	Public Buildings Expenses	—
Telegraph Acts	—	Act	—
Naval Works Acts	—	Public Offices Site (Dublin)	—
Military Works Acts	—	Act	—
Land Registry Acts	—	Suez Canal drawn Shares	—
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	—	in reduction of debt ..	—
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	—	Conard Agreement	—
Issue of Exchequer Bonds	—	Surplus Revenue, 1904-5 ..	—
under Conard Agreement Act	—	Deficiency Advances re-	—
ways and Means	—	paid	—
Temporary Advances Defi-	—	ways and Means Advances	—
ciency	—	repaid	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—	Increase in Exchequer	—
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	—	balances	733,162
Transvaal and Orange River	—		
Colony. Repayment of	—		
Temporary Advance	—		
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	—		
tion payments	—		
Decrease in Exchequer	—		
balances	—		
	£2,336,071		£2,336,071

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.		
Saturday, Australia	£14,000	Saturday, S. America	£100,000
Monday, Bars	£128,000	Tuesday, Chili	£8,000
Tuesday, Bars	£101,000	Wednesday, S. America ..	£25,000
Wednesday, Bars	£160,000	Friday, S. Africa	£40,000
Thursday, Bars	£105,000		
Thursday, India Council ..	£300,000		
Friday, Bars	£30,000	Net Influx	£895,000
Total	£1,038,000	Total	£1,038,000

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders will be received at the Bank of England on the 21st inst. for Treasury bills to the amount of £2,000,000 in replacement of bills falling due on the 27th inst. The bills will be dated the 26th inst. and will be payable at six months after date.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
2,000,000	12 months	May 27	2 11 10
1,800,000	6 months	June 1	3 2 6
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 6
1,200,000	—	—	—
1,000,000	6 months	June 29	2 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 12	2 10 8
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 26	2 13 8
1,500,000	6 months	Sept. 16	2 11 5
1,000,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 10 0
14,913,000			

† Issued privately to the India Council.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1906.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Jan. Week ending	1,361,699,000	1,233,474,000	128,225,000	—
Feb. 7	231,817,000	206,614,000	25,203,000	—
" 14	271,821,000	259,450,000	12,371,000	—
" 21	213,118,000	199,865,000	13,253,000	—
" 28	290,477,000	301,252,000	—	10,775,000
Mar. 7	235,959,000	215,866,000	20,093,000	—
" 14	261,348,000	268,032,000	—	6,684,000
" 21	268,709,000	211,042,000	—	2,333,000
" 28	250,066,000	205,714,000	44,352,000	—
April 4	284,635,000	345,370,000	—	60,735,000
" 11	266,009,000	210,891,000	55,118,000	—
" 18	182,932,000	300,087,000	—	117,155,000
" 25	230,499,000	139,973,000	90,526,000	—
May 2	281,140,000	263,265,000	17,875,000	—
" 9	231,902,000	210,041,000	21,861,000	—
" 16	293,489,000	269,214,000	24,275,000	—
	5,095,620,000	4,840,150,000	255,470,000	—

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris.....	chqs	25'19	25'18½	Antwerp.....	short	25'25½	25'25
Brussels.....	chqs.	25'24½	25'23½	Italy.....	sight	25'18½	25'15
Amsterdam.....	sight	12'14½	12'14½	Constantinople.....	3 mths	110'05	110'05
Berlin.....	chqs.	20'52	20'48½	Rio de Janeiro.....	90 dys	15½qd.	15½qd.
Do.....	3 mths	20'30	20'29	Calcutta.....	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Hamburg.....	chqs.	20'51	20'47½	Bombay.....	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Frankfort.....	short	20'50	20'47½	Hong Kong.....	T.T.	2/18	2/18
Vienna.....	sight	24'06	24'07½	Shanghai.....	T.T.	2/11½	2/11½
St. Petersburg.....	3 mths	94'05	93'95	Singapore.....	T.T.	2/4½	2/4½
New York.....	60 dys	4'82½	4'82	Yokohama.....	4 mths	2/0½	2/0½
Lisbon.....	sight	51	51				
Madrid.....	sight	27'50	26'80				

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	May 17, 1906.	May 10, 1906.	May 3, 1906.	May 18, 1905.
Gold in hand ..	£117,771,600	£117,957,760	£119,542,760	£114,711,560
Silver in hand ..	42,400,640	42,416,360	42,295,160	44,273,480
Bills discounted ..	33,493,080	35,242,600	46,321,840	21,318,880
Advances ..	19,922,480	20,443,360	20,681,080	18,733,160
Note circulation ..	186,073,400	187,668,280	192,735,120	175,930,720
Public deposits ..	7,245,680	6,283,600	6,714,400	9,100,960
Private deposits ..	25,073,200	27,846,720	29,829,840	21,487,160

Proportion between bullion and circulation 86½ per cent. against 85½ per cent. a week ago.

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris ..	3	May 25, 1900.	2½
Berlin ..	5	December 11, 1905	3½
Hamburg ..	5	December 11, 1905	3½
Frankfort ..	5	December 11, 1905	3½
Amsterdam ..	4½	May, 1906	3½
Brussels ..	3½	May 15, 1906	3½
Vienna ..	4½	October, 1905	3½
Rome ..	5	September, 1904	4
St. Petersburg ..	7½	April 17, 1906	8
Madrid ..	4½	August 21, 1901	4
Lisbon ..	5½	January 11, 1899	5
Stockholm ..	5	January, 1906.	4½
Copenhagen ..	5	October, 1905	4½
Calcutta ..	7	May 17, 1906	—
Bombay ..	7	April 26, 1906	—
New York call money ..	3	—	—

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	May 15, 1906.	May 7, 1906.	Apr. 30, 1906.	May 15, 1905.
Cash in hand ..	£50,753,750	£48,788,050	£48,697,350	£53,716,600
Bills discounted ..	49,712,750	42,042,550	44,770,000	41,342,450
Advances on stocks ..	3,151,450	3,799,050	6,147,450	3,719,400
Note circulation ..	65,827,350	63,139,100	69,314,200	63,350,600
Public deposits ..	28,171,800	28,661,000	30,061,000	31,293,750

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	May 10, 1906.	May 3, 1906.	Apr. 26, 1906.	May 13, 1905.
Coin and bullion ..	£4,838,720	£5,070,040	£4,847,760	£4,746,120
Other securities ..	23,132,200	23,092,840	23,928,680	22,400,240
Note circulation ..	27,455,440	27,114,720	27,183,000	26,688,800
Deposits ..	4,053,520	4,470,840	4,120,680	2,407,280

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	May 12, 1906.	May 5, 1906.	Apr. 28, 1906.	May 13, 1905.
Gold ..	£15,123,323	£15,116,637	£15,111,320	£14,781,469
Silver ..	24,094,856	24,014,741	24,133,321	21,557,301
Foreign Bills ..	3,392,254	3,255,644	3,239,210	1,694,324
Discount and Short Bills ..	22,364,089	22,759,149	22,153,799	47,078,908
Treasury Account ..	37,429,023	37,408,627	37,403,627	21,055,043
Notes in circulation ..	61,182,150	61,931,191	61,756,589	63,459,877
Current Account deposits ..	23,228,419	22,472,618	23,039,934	21,055,043
Dividends Interest ..	1,061,780	1,178,638	1,371,252	3,095,585
Government Securities ..	6,868,734	7,940,546	7,058,377	3,469,368

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	Apr. 23/May 6, 1906.	Apr. 16/29, 1906.	Apr. 8/21, 1906.	Apr. 23/May 6, 1905.
Gold ..	£74,041,506	£73,360,175	£72,374,136	£88,834,313
Silver and subsidiary coin ..	5,477,085	5,299,565	4,921,971	6,226,626
Advances and bills discounted ..	46,611,350	47,626,218	49,640,849	36,371,330
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	8,434,046	8,076,368	8,113,449	5,661,102
Notes in circulation ..	113,099,012	111,855,778	112,674,132	90,239,495
Deposits and current account ..	47,878,623	45,630,301	42,796,785	42,146,433
Treasury account ..	2,389,498	1,130,403	1,987,401	17,658,713

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	May 12, 1906.	May 5, 1906.	Apr. 28, 1906.	May 13, 1905.
Specie ..	£37,288,000	£36,630,000	£37,346,000	£43,978,000
Legal tenders ..	16,018,000	15,914,200	16,160,800	16,875,800
Loans and discounts ..	205,140,000	208,420,000	207,840,000	219,940,000
Circulation ..	10,075,800	10,168,800	10,227,600	8,839,800
Net deposits ..	202,920,000	205,460,000	205,740,000	230,040,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of nett deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £2,576,000 against an excess last week of £1,179,200.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	May 8	May 10	May 15	May 17
Amsterdam and Rotterdam ..	short	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½
Do. do. ..	3 months	12'5½	12'5½	12'5½	12'5½
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'48½	25'50	25'40½	25'40½
Hamburg ..	3 months	20'73	20'72	20'71	20'71
Berlin & German B. Places ..	3 months	20'73	20'72	20'71	20'71
Paris ..	cheques	25'18½	25'20	25'18½	25'18½
Do. ..	3 months	25'37½	25'38½	25'37½	25'37½
Marseilles ..	3 months	25'38½	25'38½	25'37½	25'37½
Switzerland ..	3 months	25'47½	25'48½	25'47½	25'47½
Austria ..	3 months	24'35	24'36	24'36	24'37
St. Petersburg ..	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow ..	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'50	25'51½	25'46½	25'47½
New York ..	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P. ..	3 months	42½	42½	43½	44½
Lisbon ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen ..	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'45	18'44
Christiania ..	3 months	18'46	18'46	18'46	18'45
Stockholm ..	3 months	18'46	18'46	18'46	18'45

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills ..	3½—3½
Three months ..	3½—3½
Four months ..	3½—3½
Six months ..	3½—3½
Three months fine inland bills ..	3½—4
Four months ..	3½—4
Six months ..	4—4½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate ..	4
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	4½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call) ..	5
" 7 and 14 days' notice ..	5½
Current rates for 7 day loans ..	5
" for call loans ..	2½—3

Stock Market Notes and Comments

In spite of a fairly good investment business passing daily through the Stock Exchange the markets, as a whole, are in a very unsatisfactory condition. Most days their aspect resembles what we are accustomed to see after a destructive crisis has swept over the City. In a sense this is to be expected, since we have just escaped what might have been a very formidable crisis indeed; if that can be called an escape which is probably only a postponement. For the worst of the

present position is that we cannot see where a genuine and far-reaching return of prosperity is to come from. Nothing whatever is solved regarding the state of the market, the amount of credit locked up in unrealisable securities, the degree to which credit inflation and mis-use has destroyed capital, when we have only skilfully surmounted critical situations to guide us. How near was the Yankee market to a complete submergence beneath the ruins of a credit smash? How far are our joint-stock banks committed to the fortunes of New York financiers and Wall Street operators? To what extent has the unbearable loss inflicted upon British speculative investors of all degrees and classes by the South African gamble and its consequences touched the stability of any of our credit institutions? How far are some of our banks committed to the losses or locks up incurred by underwriters of new issues, and to what extent are private firms who affect this perilous kind of business tied up so as to be unable to meet their engagements were they compelled to liquidate? These are among the problems which the recent unpleasant experience of money and stock markets alike has left us wholly without the means to solve.

At present what looks probable is a dragging along market with fitful rallies succeeded by unremitting but usually far from successful efforts to throw off the over-burden; otherwise torpor, a deathly stagnation indicative of an underlying condition of more or less widespread insolvency. The Yankee market is by no means out of its troubles, and the return of the New York Associated Banks for this week must be worse than last week's, because upwards of £400,000 more in gold has been taken for San Francisco, while the withdrawal of currency by the sub-Treasury has so far this week amounted to £900,000. Uneasiness has accordingly again developed in the Wall Street Stock Exchange, and unless further violent remedies are applied at great cost it will spread here. At best, therefore, we cannot regard the crisis as more than deferred because the unknown millions of credit created for the purpose of utilising the resources of our market to keep Wall Street from foundering will have to be paid off or renewed within two or three months at most. Meanwhile the political aspect of affairs at home is disquieting to the timid and often narrow-minded financier, and abroad hardly a day passes without something happening which creates anxiety in one way or another. The latest of these difficulties has arisen in China over the threatened independence of the foreign control of the Chinese Maritime Customs service. China is said to wish to take that into her own hands, and to be backed in this intention by German support. It is ominous news, even without German intervention, and unless the Pekin Government can be persuaded to draw back will inevitably cause selling of Chinese bonds, which are only held in this country in Europe, because the foreign control of the revenue of treaty ports has been accepted as a guarantee that all obligations would be met. And finally there is that avalanche of new issues which has hung over the market for months, and the first bits of which are now daily dropping into it.

The Week's Stock Markets.

A more cheerful feeling has prevailed on the Stock Exchange this week, largely due, of course, to the improved monetary outlook and the removal of fears that the Bank rate will have to be further advanced immediately. The settlement of the dispute with Turkey also contributed to the better tendency, although dealers have never believed that the differences between this country and the Sultan would be attended with serious results. Unhappily the change of mood has not been accompanied by an increase of business, and after opening with some display of strength prices subsequently became dull. A final rally, however, was brought about by the announcement that the Irish Land stock issue which has been expected almost every day for some weeks past has been indefinitely postponed. Consols led the recovery, and existing

Irish Land stock followed with a good rise. Other British Funds, however, did not readily respond, and mostly show losses on the week, although small in extent. Home County and Corporation stocks were neglected and mostly unchanged, but some inquiry for Colonial Inscribed issues caused a fair number of improvements in active stocks.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS (Last year's dividends are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91 89	—	Consols (2½ p.c. Money)	89½	89½
91½ 89½	90	Do. Account (June 1)	89½	89½
90 88	89	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	88½	88½
100½ 99½	—	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907 ..	100	100
93½ 90½	91½	Irish Land (2½) ..	91	90½
100½ 99½	99½	Local Loans (3) ..	99	99½
100½ 98	—	National War Loan (2½ p.c.) ..	98½	98½
99½ 98½	98½	Do. Account (June 1) ..	98½	98½
101½ 98½	99½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	99	98½
30½ 29½	—	Bk. of England Stk. (9 p.c.) ..	29½	29½
106½ 104½	105	India 3½ p.c. Stk. red. 1931 ..	104½	104½
97½ 95½	96½	Do. 3 p.c. Stk. red. 1948 ..	96	96½
82 79½	81½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stk. red. 1926 ..	80	80
66½ 65½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	65½	65½

The Foreign bond market was without any pronounced character, and prices showed a tendency to ease off towards the end, after being fairly strong. A quiet investment demand is still experienced for Japanese issues, which are as steady as any stocks in the list. Chinese also maintain a good tendency, but in the Continental group Russians continue heavy on the news of the May Day disturbances now coming through from the various provinces. Turkish were still on the up grade for the first day or so, but subsequently reacted along with Spanish, while Hungarian maintained a good rise to the end. Movements were exceedingly small amongst South American bonds, which were rather irregular, but in the Central American group Honduras had a big rise of about 1½. The whole of the advance was not retained to the end, but other issues kept previous prices, and Venezuela marked a small advance. Buenos Ayres Cédulas were inclined to go back, but Peruvians opened strong and kept pretty steady.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
103½ 101½	102½	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886 ..	102½	102½
101½ 100	101½	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	101½	101½
103½ 100½	102½	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	102½	102½
93½ 89½	93	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	93	93½
93 89½	89½	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	89½	89½
92½ 90	89½	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	89½	89½
104½ 101½	101½	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	101½	101½
92½ 86½	88½	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	88½	89½
102½ 97½	99	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	99	99½
106 103½	103½	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	103½	103½
91½ 86½	89½	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	89½	90½
102½ 99½	102½	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	102½	102½
96½ 95	—	Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885 ..	95½	95½
97½ 94	96½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1886 ..	96½	96½
96½ 93½	94	Do. 4½ p.c. 1895 ..	94	94
101½ 98½	101	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	101	101
100½ 96½	97½	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	97½	97½
105½ 103½	105	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	105	105
105½ 102½	102½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	102½	102½
101½ 96½	98½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	98½	98½
105½ 100½	102½	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	102½	102½
53½ 50½	52	Costa Rica A ..	52	52
43½ 41½	45	Do. B ..	42	42
47½ 43½	45½	Colombian External ..	45½	46
105½ 103½	105	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	105½	105½
106½ 104½	104	Egypt Unified 4 p.c. ..	104	104
102½ 101½	100½	Do. 3½ p.c. pref. ..	100½	100½
102½ 103½	104	Do. 4½ p.c. State Domain ..	105	105
88½ 87½	86½	German 3 p.c. ..	86½	86½
53½ 50½	53	Greek, 1884 ..	53	53½
53½ 50½	54	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	54	54
43 39½	41½	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	41½	41½
52½ 49	—	Do. Funding ..	52½	52½
98 94½	96½	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	96½	97
104½ 103	104½	Italian 5 p.c. ..	105	105
103½ 100½	102½	Japan 5 p.c. ..	102½	103
104 100½	100½	Do. 1901-2 ..	100½	101
92½ 88½	91	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	91	92
100½ 100½	101½	Do. 6 p.c. ..	101	101½
105½ 101½	103½	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	103½	103½
71½ 68½	70½	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	70½	71½
87 81	82	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	82	82½
83 79½	—	Servian 4 p.c. ..	83	83
97½ 90½	94½	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	95	96½
100½ 100	100½	Turks 3½ p.c. Tribute ..	100½	100½
105½ 102½	103	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	103	103
94½ 90½	92½	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	93	93½
74 70½	71½	Uruguay 3½ p.c. ..	71½	72
98½ 94½	94½	Do. 5 p.c. ..	94½	94½
54½ 50½	51½	Venezuelan, Dip. (3) ..	51½	52½

After standing aloof for a very long time the public this week seemed disposed to come into the Home Rail-

way market, and a larger investment business was done than has been the case for many weeks. North-Western and Midland deferred attracted most attention, but Great Northern deferred received a good deal of support, and South-Western and South-Eastern stocks were also bought freely. The report that the disputes between the North-Eastern and its men had not yet been settled prevented this stock from sharing in the general improvement, and, indeed, for a time the prices seemed inclined to give way, but the selling was never important enough to cause any relapse worth noting. Amongst underground issues District recovered sharply, and Metropolitan, after fluctuating within narrow limits, closed fractionally better, but Central London deferred and City and South London were both lower. Furness was in some request, and the market is said to be predicting a dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum for the current half-year. By the middle of the week the spurt of activity was exhausted, and the market relapsed into its old condition of idleness and dwindling quotations, the only stock to resist the general tendency being North-Western.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
142½	132½	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	135	136
157½	149½	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	153	153
130½	111½	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	119	120
120½	108½	Caledonian Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	110½	110½
42½	34½	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	75½	76
96½	88½	Do. Def. (1 p.c.) ..	35½	35½
89	77½	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	89	89
16½	14½	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	79½	78½
44½	39	Chatham Ordinary ..	158	158
69	63½	City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	41	40
40½	37½	Furness (1½ p.c.) ..	66½	68½
19½	17½	Great Central Pref. ..	35½	38½
91½	81½	Do. Def. ..	17½	17½
105	100½	Great Eastern (3½ p.c.) ..	83	83½
47½	43½	Gr. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	101½	102½
144	133½	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	44½	45½
52	47½	Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	135	135
47½	42½	Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	49½	49½
109½	101½	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	44½	46
89½	67½	Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.) ..	104½	105
37½	22½	Metropolitan (2½ p.c.) ..	69½	70
70½	66	Metropolitan District ..	24	26½
74½	66½	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	67	67½
78½	74	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	67½	68½
47½	43	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	75½	76
147½	138½	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	44	44
163½	151½	North-Eastern (6½ p.c.) ..	141½	141½
90½	86½	North-Western (6½ p.c.) ..	156	157½
132	123½	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	87	88
55½	50½	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	124	125
164	151½	Do. Def. ..	52	52½
108½	103½	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	152½	154½
57½	50½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	104	104
		Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	51½	51½

Fears of trouble in the American insurance world hang over Wall Street like a cloud, and one expert is reported to have expressed the opinion that there will hardly be one company solvent after the San Francisco claims have been settled. Rumours were rife on Tuesday and Wednesday that one leading company had actually failed, and although there was no confirmation of the story, it caused a sharp relapse in prices. New York made one or two attempts at first to carry still further the improvement secured last week, but profit-taking speedily followed any advance, and towards the end business died down in all but a very few of the favourites. Union Pacific, Erie, and Missouri were the principal stocks selected by the professionals, and these were bid up in the usual style, but the rest of the list was for the most part left alone. Pennsylvania was heavy before the issue of \$50,000,000 4½ per cent. 18 months' notes, but rallied on the announcement that the entire issue had been sold to bankers in New York and Europe at the price of 99½ and interest.

Canadian Pacific shares were shifted up or down by a few fractions of a dollar from day to day without very much interest being shown in them at any time. Grand Trunk ordinary and third preference stocks, on the other hand, have been exceptionally strong owing to a considerable amount of option buying, and it was said that 2 per cent. had been paid for the call of £400,000 ordinary stock at 29 to the end of October. Prices flinched a little after the traffic return came out, as the figures were not quite up to expectations, but

the loss was speedily recovered, and both issues finished with substantial gains on the week.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
99½	89½	Atchison Shares (4) ..	93	92½
109½	104½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	105½	106½
120	109½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (5) ..	112	111
101½	96	Do. Pref. (4) ..	97	98
63½	55½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	59½	61
195½	162½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	172½	173
52½	38½	Denver Shares ..	42½	44½
93½	88½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	89½	90
52½	40½	Erie Shares ..	44	45½
85½	78	Do. Pref. (4) ..	80	80½
77	65½	Do. and Pref. (4) ..	70½	71
185	171	Illinois Central (7) ..	176½	178
160½	143½	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	148	148½
41½	34½	Missouri and Texas ..	32½	35½
159½	137½	New York Central (5) ..	143	145½
95½	87½	Norfolk and Western (4) ..	96½	93½
96½	92	Do. Pref. (4) ..	94	94
57½	46½	Ontario Shares (3) ..	53	53
75½	69½	Pennsylvania (6) ..	71	69½
85½	59½	Reading Shares (1½) ..	66½	67½
47½	46	Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	—	—
51½	48	Do. 2nd Pref. (4) ..	—	—
74½	64½	Southern Pacific ..	67	68½
43½	36½	Southern ..	38½	39½
105	101½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	102½	103
164½	145½	Union Pacific (5½) ..	152½	155½
101½	92½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	99	98
26½	20	Wabash ..	21	21½
53½	42½	Do. Pref. ..	45½	48
87	78	Do. Income Debs. ..	79	83
184½	161½	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	162½	165½
106½	104	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	104½	104½
109½	109	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	111½	111½
29½	25½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	26½	27½
105½	101½	Do. Guar. (4) ..	102	102
120	114½	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	118	118
110½	105½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	106	108½
70½	60½	Do. 3rd Pref. (2) ..	64½	66½
109½	107½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	108	108½

Business revived a little in Argentine Railways, and prices, where they moved at all, were mostly higher on the week, but, with the exception of North-Eastern preferred, which came into prominence and jumped several pounds, the changes were not important. Argentine Transandine "B" debenture stock was apparently bought to a moderate extent on the board's proposal with regard to the interest and touched 80,

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
231	211½	Antofagasta (10½) ..	223	231
360	313	Do. Def. (15) ..	345	360
130½	119	Argentine Ct. West. (6) ..	120 xd	119
132	127	Do. Pref. (5) ..	120 xd	128
88	84½	Bahia Blanca Pref. ..	85	85½
144½	136½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	137	137½
129½	124½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	126	126
136½	128	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	129 xd	130
120½	115½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	119	119
110	107½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	108 xd	109
120½	113½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	115½ xd	116½
119	109½	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	114 xd	111½
170	160½	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	164 xd	166
109	104½	R. Ay. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	105	105
138½	129½	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	132	133
92½	83	Central Uruguay (4½) ..	83	84
102½	100½	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	107	104 xd
96	91½	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	94	94
75½	69½	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	70½	73
59½	52½	Costa Rica ..	52	52
78	68	Cuban Central ..	74	78
114½	104½	Do. Pref. (5½) ..	11 xd	11
108	103½	Do. Deb. (4½) ..	104	109
93½	90	East Argentine (4½) ..	93	93
94	6	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	71	85
86½	78½	Leopoldina (4) ..	79½	80½
98½	94½	Do. Deb. (4) ..	96½	97
108	107½	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	109	109
105½	103½	Do. "B" (6) ..	107	107
28½	23½	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	24½	24½
130½	118½	Do. 1st Pref. (6½) ..	128½	127 xd
59½	49½	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	53	53½
68½	54½	Mexican Southern (2½) ..	60	61 xd
16½	14½	Nitrate Ord. (8) ..	16	15½
21½	19½	Ottoman (Suayra to Aidin) (5) ..	20	20½
214½	202½	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	203 xd	203
193	168½	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	177	181

but Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary and other stocks usually taken as the index to this group were hardly altered. Antofagasta undivided ordinary and deferred stocks went up with a big jump, and although there was a little set-back on the issue of the prospectus dealt with elsewhere, the nett gain was substantial enough. Leopoldina stock was a trifle harder, but other Brazilian issues were mostly left as before, while Paraguay Central debenture stock was marked up 3. The preference stocks of the old Mexican company gained a fraction or two, Mexican Southern ordinary and second mortgage debenture

ANGLO-FRENCH HERALD MOTOR CO., LIMITED.

The motor manufacturing business acquired by this company was established in Paris in 1901, and owns sundry patents which experts appear to think very highly of, but nothing is said of its success from a financial point of view and the information that the company has taken upwards of 20 prizes seems a flimsy basis for the proposed increase in capital. According to a valuation made by Mr. F. R. Goodwin, the factories, apart from stock-in-trade, are worth £62,500, while another report puts them at £60,000, yet the original vendors were quite satisfied to accept £38,000 in shares. The promoters, however, are less modest, and out of a total capital of £120,000 ask £67,000, payable as to £45,000 in shares and £22,000 in cash or shares, of which they give 5,000 shares to an intermediary, and in addition they take £5,000 for preliminary expenses and £5,300 for underwriting 53,000 out of the 75,000 shares offered for subscription. If no particulars are given as to past profits the estimates of future results do not err on the side of conservatism as the directors calculate that the minimum profit on a turnover of £120,000 should be 25 per cent., or £30,000, of which general expenses would absorb £8,000, leaving £22,000 available for dividends, &c., and this, they say, may be "reasonably expected to considerably increase each year." It may, but if the potentialities of the business be so great, why have the owners parted with it for such a trifle as £38,000, and why was it necessary to pay 10 per cent. for underwriting?

ELECTRICAL AND GENERAL ASSURANCE, LIMITED.

Originally founded in 1903 with a capital of £10,000 in £1 shares, the directors obtained authority at the end of twelve months to increase this to £100,000, and the whole of the new shares were offered for subscription at a premium of 2s. 6d. per share. Only 20,000, however, were taken up, and as it is claimed that the growth of the business renders further capital advisable, 45,000 shares are again offered at the same premium, of which the chairman and managing director has taken 5,000 on condition that he is given a call on the 25,000 shares held in reserve. It is claimed that the operations have from the start been attended with remarkable success, the nett profits for the first year having been £2,682 and for the second year £5,802. In addition to a reserve of £3,750 mainly built up out of premiums, a balance of £5,795 was carried forward on December 31, 1905, after paying a 10 per cent. dividend, but the directors state that with the improved standing derived from the increase in the subscribed capital the necessity for the reinvestment of profits will disappear, and the dividends paid in future will be in closer relation to the actual profits earned. The business is still in its infancy, and we can only hope that it will continue to grow sufficiently to justify the present increase.

ANTOFAGASTA (CHILI) AND BOLIVIA RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co. having bought the remaining £500,000 of the £1,000,000 4½ per cent. debenture stock of this company created in 1904 offer it for subscription at 105 per cent. This brings the issued share and debenture capital up to £4,200,000, but the company, which owns about 600 miles of railway, is now busy constructing branches and making a large extension of its system of water-works, and the money has been well spent. Its whole history is one of prosperity, and within the last five years the nett revenue has risen from £228,900 to £366,000. After deducting the amount required for interest on the 4 per cent. debenture stock, which ranks before this issue, the nett income for 1905 shows a surplus of about £326,000, while the interest on the 4½ per cent. stock will only require about £45,000. The stock is redeemable at 105 on January 1, 1940, but may be repaid earlier by purchase or tender, and seems a first-class investment.

INDIA 3 PER CENT. STOCK.

The Governor and Company of the Bank of England announce the issue of £2,000,000 of this stock in accordance with the arrangements announced in the Indian Budget of last March. Unfortunately for the general broker the stock is offered for tender, and the minimum price fixed is 94½ per cent. It will be consolidated with existing India 3 per cents. when fully paid up, and the proceeds are to be devoted to the construction of railways in India, all but about £750,000 which will be employed to pay off the debentures of the Bombay and Baroda Railway falling due within the current financial year. Tenders must be delivered at the Chief Cashier's office before two o'clock next Wednesday under the usual arrangements, and the whole amount is to be paid up by September 7 next, the final instalments being three of £25 each, due July 5, August 3 and September 7, but the stock may be paid up in full under 3 per cent. discount on or after June 5, at which date enough must be paid up to leave just £75 to be paid as indicated. Other particulars will be found in the prospectus.

ANGLO-JAPANESE BANK, LIMITED.

After a long period of preliminary negotiations the promoters have at last succeeded in launching this much talked of bank with a capital of £2,000,000 in £10 shares. Half of the shares were offered for subscription, on which £5 per share is to be paid up and the remainder is to constitute a liability to be called up in the event of liquidation only, and of these 10,000 were taken firm by the members of the local board and their friends in Japan. All descriptions of banking business are to be carried on in Japan, its dependencies, Korea, and the Far East, and the directors point to the success of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, and other foreign banks as evidence of what can be done in this line. The very fact, however, that these powerful institutions with the Yokohama Specie Bank and the Industrial Bank of Japan hold the field would seem to us to tell against the chances of the new undertaking rather than in its favour, and we are exceedingly doubtful of the wisdom of entering into competition. Of the present issue 60,000 shares, including the 10,000 above mentioned, were underwritten by the British and Eastern Syndicate for £22,000, and that syndicate also received £18,000 to defray all expenses incurred up to the first general allotment of shares.

ALLIANCE MOTOR 'BUS CO., LIMITED.

Certain gentlemen have calculated that there are still 3,500 horse omnibuses running in London, and the discovery has apparently so horrified them that they have formed this company with a capital of £200,000 in £1 shares in order to take part in bringing about a better state of matters. It seems a poor reason, but is the only one we can discover from the prospectus unless the creation of a billet for a Mr. S. K. Albright has also had some influence. That gentleman secured sundry contracts, including one for the sale of six and the option to purchase a further 100 Herald Motor chassis, and transferred them to Motor Enterprises, Limited, for £200 and half of the purchase consideration in cash and shares, together with a call on 25,000 shares at 21s. each. Motor Enterprises in turn hands over these and undertakes to pay preliminary expenses other than stamps, registration fees, brokerage, and underwriting commissions in return for £7,000 in cash and £7,000 in shares, and an option on 50,000 shares at 21s. per share for a period of 18 months from the general allotment. Mr. Albright further benefits by being engaged as managing director for five years at a salary of £600 per annum, and 5 per cent. on the nett profits, while the other directors get £200 each and 7½ per cent. of the surplus after paying a dividend of 10 per cent. A motor 'bus prospectus would not be complete without an estimate of profits by Mr. W. Worby Beau-

mont, and accordingly we find him predicting that on the routes proposed a profit of 2d. per 'bus mile can be expected with confidence. On the strength of this and of the report of one of the earliest London motor 'bus companies, the directors bring out a profit on the working of 100 'buses of £26,523 after providing for all outgoings and expenses and for depreciation at a rate sufficient to provide new 'buses in less than three years. It looks very satisfactory on paper, no doubt, but we fear it will not work out quite so smoothly in practice, notwithstanding the alliance with another company "to meet unfair competition."

KENT COUNTY GAS LIGHT AND COKE CO., LIMITED.

In spite of its pretentious name, this concern is a puny affair, with a capital of £50,000 in 6,000 6 per cent. preference and 4,000 ordinary shares of £5 each, formed to acquire a gas works at Goudhurst. The business is said to be an old-established one with a good connection, but intending applicants are expected to take the promoters' word for that, as no hint is given of profits earned in the past. Instead the prospectus is filled with particulars of results achieved by other Kentish undertakings, and the promoters do not disdain to quote statistics relating to gas companies in London as if they could be taken as a guide. Having devoted a good deal of space to this extraneous and irrelevant matter, they give an estimate of probable sales "at a modest computation" of 50,000,000 cubic feet of gas per annum, made by Mr. G. T. Harrap, and on this flight of imagination a chartered accountant has been found complacent enough to work out a pretty little sum showing nett profits of £6,853. No independent valuation has been made of the property, but the vendors ask £21,800, which they will take in cash if they can get it, or failing that, will accept 20 per cent. in cash and the balance in cash or preference or ordinary shares. The finishing touch to this piece of impudence is supplied by the vendors' guarantee of the preference dividend and of 8 per cent. on the ordinary shares for one year in order to show their confidence in the company's future.

WHEAL VOR, LIMITED.

This company has been formed to work a Cornish tin mine, celebrated in past years, called the Wheal Vor Mining sett. The capital is rather modest at £60,000, divided into 120,000 shares of 10s. each, which may or may not suffice to enable the mine to work with vigour and take profitable advantage of the high price of tin. It was in the past worked to a depth of 295 fathoms, and is said to have yielded, at one period, one-fifth of the entire tin produce of the world, making a profit of over half a million sterling when the price of black tin was between £30 and £40 per ton. As the present price is three times as high and looks as if it will be maintained at a high figure for some time to come, the company should stand the chance of again earning considerable profits, especially as modern machinery will enable the mine to be worked more expeditiously and economically than half a century ago. Well known experts speak highly of its richness in tin, and certain recommendations made by the late Captain Josiah Thomas are to be carried out. The directors are issuing 96,000 shares, and they look rather a promising speculation.

ARGENTINE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

Applications are invited through the London Joint Stock Bank for 162,500 shares of £10 each at a premium of 15s. per share to provide funds for the construction programme given below, and for purchase of additional locomotives and rolling-stock and the extension of siding accommodation, &c. The price is payable in instalments of £1 on application, £2 each on October 20, 1907, February 20, June 20 and October 19, 1907, and £1 15s. on December 20, 1907, the last instalment including the premium. As soon as practicable after payment of the interim dividend on the preferred and ordinary stocks in April, 1908, these

shares will be divided into preferred and ordinary shares of £5 each, and from January 1, 1908, will rank *pari passu* with the existing stocks, but until that date the shares will be entitled to a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the amounts for the time being paid up.

Gross receipts for the three years ended June 30, 1905, were £522,805, £578,772 and £618,569, and for the 45 weeks of the current year the estimated receipts show an increase of £93,671 over the corresponding period of 1905. The company is building an important extension from Guadales on the San Rafael branch to Buena Esperanza on the Buenos Ayres and Pacific system, and lines to Caucete, in San Juan Province, and to San Carlos, in Mendoza Province, as well as various short feeders to the main system, all of which should prove profitable. Holders of preferred and ordinary stocks are entitled to a preferential allotment of 105,000 shares, this being as nearly as possible in the proportion of 40 per cent. of their holdings, and as the company has paid 6 per cent. on both classes of stock since June, 1900, the opportunity to add to their holdings will no doubt be readily accepted.

KYNOCH, LIMITED.

An issue of £100,000 in 4 per cent. debentures is made by this well-known and now prosperous company at par, payable £5 on application, £45 on allotment, and £50 within two months after allotment. There is really some slight discount on this issue, as the full half-year's interest will be paid on September 30. Security for the debts is a floating charge on the whole of the company's assets subject to some trivial mortgages on a portion of the property. There is already £300,000 of this form of capital in existence, and these debentures will be merged therewith when fully paid up, and with this money added the capital issued, share and debenture, will be brought up to £1,870,370. The company's sales for 1905 were up to that date the largest in its history, and those for the year ended March 31 last were 10 per cent. above that high-water mark. The security should therefore be good enough.

DELHI ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS AND LIGHTING CO., LIMITED.

The idea of an electric tramway running round the grounds of the "Jumma Masjid," the most beautiful building in India, might shock sentimentalists, but this company appears to have a promising business in hand. Its share capital is to be £170,000 in £1 shares, of which 140,000 will be classed as 6 per cent. preferred and participating shares, the balance of 30,000 being deferred shares entitled to 6 per cent. after the demands of the preferred are satisfied, and to one-fifth of the surplus profits, the other four-fifths going to the preferred shares. Full particulars are given in the prospectus of the scheme, and a very clear map shows the routes that the proposed lines will follow. Delhi is a busy city, with a population of over 200,000 and seven lines of railway terminate in or pass through it. The nett revenue is worked out to show enough to provide a 7 per cent. dividend on the preferred shares with something over, and the venture seems to promise fairly.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

Frank and unbiassed answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

The balloon which insiders in the Kaffir Circus so dilligently inflated in the end of the preceding week and the beginning of this has suddenly collapsed, as it was bound to do. The environment was not favourable to soaring quotations; the atmosphere could not buoy them up, could not withstand the pressure certain to come. From the apparently easy manner in which prices went up it looked as if there were some vital force behind them, something sustaining, but this could delude the inexperienced only. Without genuine business, real cash buying on the part of outsiders, the gamblers cannot play, or make play, amongst them.

selves for many hours together. For the selling which brought prices down with headlong rush the French have been blamed, they having sold, it is declared, because they misinterpreted Lord Elgin's statement in the House of Lords, on Monday evening. He said that some 1,900 odd coolies had been repatriated, meaning that this was the number sent to China in the aggregate, since their advent, not since the repatriation notices were posted up. Whether or not the French actually did misunderstand his lordship, and were seized with some kind of fright, or whether it was a plea to cover profit-snatching cannot be told for certain. The French Press did not misinterpret it. The rise must have looked irresistibly tempting to impetuous speculators, and it is not astounding if they seized the opportunity of making a pound or two. For they know full well how precarious such inflation is, the public being so indifferent to this market, and how many such efforts have hitherto failed to draw them in. So the Kafir Circus is again sorrowful. Oh, if only the public would buy how happy it would be!

Rhodesians have been as dull as Kaffirs, and naturally have not been helped by the gold return for April, which is only 42,423 ozs. compared with 44,574 ozs. for March. Most of the shares in this forlorn group have weakened.

Diamond shares, on the other hand, have been a little exciting, for they have fluttered in quite bewildering fashion. The "bulls" and "bears" have had another vigorous contest, and for once the "bears" have prevailed. Premiers have been attacked with greater energy than De Beers and Jagersfontein, and so have fallen more heavily, these being shares no outsider should meddle with, they are too much the sport and playthings of unscrupulous manipulators.

There is nothing to say about such dead markets as the West African and Egyptian, for here the movements have been so sluggish and unimportant as to interest no one.

Irregularity continues to characterise West Australians, amongst which Golden Horseshoes have been the most conspicuous share. The changes in them have been too violent to indicate other than inside tactics, for the real cause of the rise is not apparent. Indians have improved on the news from the Colar field that rains have fallen, giving signs of an ending of the drought.

Copper shares are better on the rise in the price of the metal, particularly Rio Tintos, but Anacondas have moved more in company with other American specialities.

Activity continues to characterise the Cornish tin share market, and prices at Redruth have risen substantially.

The latest prices of the Cornish tin mines are:—Basset Mines, 8s. 6d.; Carn Brea and Tincroft, 9s.; Clitters United, 20s. 6d.; Cornish Consolidated, $\frac{7}{8}$ premium; Dolcoath, 25s.; Wheal Merth, $1\frac{5}{8}$; East Pool, $10\frac{1}{2}$; Levant, $15\frac{3}{4}$; South Crofty, $2\frac{1}{4}$; West Kitty, 6; and Wheal Grenville, 12.

GELDENHUIS ESTATE AND GOLD MINING COMPANY.—In the past twelve months the manager of this company was able to increase the number of stamps at work; in fact, during the latter half the entire battery of 120 stamps was employed. Consequently, the number of tons milled increased from 144,350 to 195,608 tons, giving a total output of 84,354 ozs. of fine gold, equal to 8.62 dwts. per ton. Compared with 1904 there was a trifling drop in the yield of .07 dwt., but the working costs were reduced by 3s. 1.16d. per ton. The gold realised £355,112 and the mine expenses absorbed £171,482, so the working profit was £183,630, raised to £253,407 with £64,799 brought in, £3,218 from the estate, £1,294 from interest and discount, £444 from sundry revenue, and £21 from fees. Two dividends were paid—of 35 and 40 per cent. respectively—75 per cent. in all against 50 per cent.—and after allowing for other outgoings £59,947 is left to take to the credit of the current year. On the present price of the shares the yield is about 19 per cent. This looks high, but the life of the mine is short. The general manager says the mine is now fully developed, and that the ore reserves, as far as they can be measured, amount to £723,902 tons. At the present rate of crushing these would last about four years or less, but it is declared there is a considerable tonnage which exists chiefly in the footwall of old Main Reef stopes. Anyway, if we give the mine a life of six years it will be seen that the share is amply priced on the dividend of 75 per cent., for it is most unlikely that this payment will be exceeded on the average during the remainder of the mine's life. The financial position of the company is strong, but this does not make the share a more desirable investment on the mine prospects.

ROBINSON CENTRAL DEEP.—This company, a member of the Wernher-Beit group, distinguished itself last year by paying its first and second dividends, and shareholders can certainly say this is better than weary waiting. An average of 85 stamps at work crushed 149,130 tons, which yielded gold worth £398,797, or 53s. 5.8d. per ton, an increase of 2s. 11d. per ton over the value obtained in the previous year. Working costs amounted to £150,150, or 20s. 1.6d. per ton, a decrease of 1s. 7.7d. per ton, due in a great measure to the larger quantity treated. Thus the working profit was £248,647, equal to 33s. 4.1d. per ton, against 28s. 9d. in 1904. In addition £2,151 was received from interest and other sources. After providing for the profits tax of £22,367, the nett profit was £228,431, out of which the dividends paid were 15 and 25 per cent. respectively, a total of 40 per cent., and a balance of £55,570 is carried forward. It is officially claimed that the results of the development work are extremely satisfactory. On the Main Reef Leader 147,223 tons were developed, and on the South Reef 111,232 tons, a total of 258,455 tons, the value of which is about the same as that of the ore crushed last year. The ore reserves on December 31 are estimated at 325,185 tons. In the past twelve months this company had two tube mills at work and the results are said to have

exceeded the expectations of the management. The directors are considering the advisability of increasing the plant. In the event of an extension being decided on a temporary loan will be arranged, to be repaid out of the improved profits to be earned when the equipment is available. So the directors are rather optimistic.

FRENCH RAND GOLD MINING COMPANY.—An average of 105 stamps was kept at work by this company last year, and these milled 180,550 tons against 96,520 tons treated in 1904. From this tonnage gold to the value of £255,601 was extracted, but as there was a considerable decline in the value per ton—of 4s.—the recovery fell from 32s. 3.9d. per ton to 28s. 3.7d., but this was partly off-set by a saving of 3s. per ton in the working costs, which aggregated £237,239, thus leaving a gross profit of £18,363, equal to only 2s. per ton. Sundry revenue added £2,399, whilst debenture interest and French fiscal taxes took £7,049, reducing the profit to £13,712 nett. With £9,235 brought in a surplus of £22,947 is taken to the balance-sheet, in which there is a goodly display of cash and other liquid resources.

SOUTH ROSE DEEP.—This member of the Consolidated Gold Fields group is shaft sinking and carrying out development work, also piling up its debts. During the year ending December 31 the sum of £35,739 was spent on debenture interest, maintenance, and administration, against which £16,234 was received from all sorts of sources, leaving a loss of £19,505, which raises the debit balance to the colossal total of £152,258. Liabilities, too, are heavy, amounting to nearly £73,000, and philanthropists are needed. The chairman has intimated that the company will require further financing before it can venture on the expenditure necessary for the erection and completion of its reduction plant. "It is also apparent," he confessed, "in the existing condition of markets in London, or elsewhere, that it would be useless to think of attempting to raise money on anything like satisfactory terms, and we are therefore compelled to wait for more propitious times before entering into any further financial operations." Cannot the Gold Fields Company lend some of its contango money? In addition to its issued share capital of £514,300 this South Rose Deep Company has two 6 per cent. debenture debts aggregating £405,000. There was a balance of £45,000 outstanding at June 30, 1905, on account of a loan of £75,000, and as the company was not at that time in a position to repay it, arrangements were made by which the period of repayment was extended for another year. This loan was repaid in January last, and as consideration an option of purchase at 45s. over 25,000 of the company's reserve shares was granted for one year to June 30, the previous option over 35,000 shares in connection with the £75,000 loan not having been exercised.

SOUTH GELDENHUIS DEEP.—This is another member of the Consolidated Gold Fields group, but it is now in a more comfortable position than it was twelve months ago, for it has raised £500,000 by means of debentures. During the past financial year the Main Reef series was encountered on the property in the Milner shaft at a depth of 2,900 ft., and development work has now been commenced. Expenditure in the twelve months amounted to £32,891 against a revenue of £7,777 from interest and other sources, the deficiency of £25,114 raising the debit balance to £85,615. Out of the money received from the debenture issue the directors repaid the advance of £84,000 from the South African Gold Trust, but the option granted to this company on the 33,000 reserve shares remains in force until June 30 next.

VILLAGE DEEP.—This new crushing member of the Wernher-Beit group commenced milling operations on January 2, 1905, with 40 stamps, which were gradually increased throughout the year, until in December as many as 120 stamps—the full battery—were running. The erection of an additional 80 stamps has been completed, and the necessary additions to the cyanide plant are now nearly finished. A total of 159,687 tons was crushed and the gold produced therefrom realised £240,916, equal to 7.1 dwts., or 30s. 2d. per ton. On this the profit was £43,788, or 5s. 5.8d. per ton milled. After deducting interest on loans, amounting to £14,733, the nett profit was £29,055. The balance-sheet shows considerable changes. At the end of last year the total liabilities, excluding sundry creditors for £12,891, amounted to £269,169, due to the fact that £103,589 was spent on capital account, £40,521 on an additional 80 stamps and cyanide plant, and £18,860 on the compound and hospital. On the other side of the balance-sheet cash is only £23, but sundry debtors owe £20,026, and there is a gold consignment account of £14,002.

LACE DIAMOND MINING COMPANY.—The cable announcing that the provisional agreement recently made with the General Mining and Finance Corporation, the terms of which were published in our issue of April 7, has now been withdrawn, should come as a warning to shareholders. Why it has been withdrawn we know not as yet, the London office not having vouchsafed particulars. The Corporation agreed to advance up to £75,000 at 6 per cent. for two years and three months, in consideration for which it was to receive an option on 50,000 new shares at 30s. each, with the right to appoint two directors. Now we learn that an agreement has been entered into with a Mr. Cornelis Rissik, whereby he will at once take 25,000 shares at £2 on condition that he has the option of taking a further 25,000 shares in one lot at £2, at any time within one year, and a seat on the board of directors.

RAND VICTORIA EAST.—This is a member of the Consolidated Gold Fields group, and it has just commenced shaft sinking. An arrangement has recently been entered into with the Rand Mines Deep under which the latter shares in the expense of sinking a joint shaft, which, it is claimed, will mean consider-

able economy to both companies. In the financial year ending December 31 income amounted to £8,870, and came from interest, commission, rents, dividends, &c., and as outgoings amounted to £3,621, a profit of £5,249 was shown, so the balance-sheet now exhibits a credit of £25,678. The company owes a comparatively small sum, and as contango loans total £191,537, it is still fairly wealthy. But all the money it can get will be wanted for shaft sinking.

SIMMER AND JACK WEST.—This is likewise one of the Consolidated Gold Fields' brood, and is still shaft sinking. Revenue came to £6,766 in the past financial year, and the nett profit was £2,196, but as a year ago the accounts carried a debit of £1,997, this is converted into a credit of £198. Cash is only £1,807, but there are contango loans of £139,019.

AVINO MINES OF MEXICO.—In sending to the shareholders Mr. Ralph Nichols' full report on this company's mine, the directors say this expert has accepted the position of consulting engineer, and will direct and control future operations with the assistance of a resident manager. The company has ample funds in hand, they add, and the necessary arrangements for the vigorous development of the mine both laterally and in depth will be made as quickly as possible. Instructions have been sent to the local auditors to complete their audit of the mine accounts to June 30 next, in order that the accounts for the two years ending that date may be submitted to a general meeting about the end of October. Mr. Nichols, in his report, writes that after making a careful study of the property, he is of opinion it will turn out a valuable mine if systematically developed. It is, he points out, essentially a low-grade one, but when the length of the ore chutes is considered, also the width of lode and the evidences of permanency, he feels there is every reason to believe in the mine's future when properly developed in depth.

PENA COPPER MINES.—Despite the strength of the metal market last year, the report of this copper company for 1905 is not so good as that for 1904. The total output of ore from the mine was 172,781 tons, and exceeded that of the preceding year by 13,600 tons, and it is anticipated that with the new main shaft in regular work the production will be maintained. But the yield of copper precipitate was greatly hindered in the twelve months by the prolonged drought in the South of Spain, and as a result the total quantity of fine copper in precipitate produced shows a decrease of 222 tons compared with the previous year. It is explained that this does not represent a loss of copper, but only delay in process of extraction. Profit on sales of produce, &c., after charging £4,183 for depreciation, amounted to £36,543, whilst the nett profit was £17,293, allowing for debenture interest, London administration charges, &c. This compares with £24,509, but though £6,570 was brought in against £2,061, the dividend is reduced from 5 per cent. to 4 per cent., leaving £3,280 to be carried forward. The conversion scheme authorised by the shareholders in January, 1905, has been carried out, £100,000 of the debentures having been surrendered in exchange for an equivalent value in shares. In addition 14,600 shares have been issued during the year, bringing the share capital to £514,600.

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY BLOCK 14.—According to a cable from Melbourne, operations for the half-year to March 31 resulted in a nett profit of £17,800. In the six months 17,806 tons of ore were milled, producing 2,336 tons of concentrates, containing 1,549 tons of lead and 66,370 ozs. of silver; 3,540 tons of carbonate ore were also sold. The credit balance now amounts to £32,900. Very considerable additions and improvements have been made to the surface plant and general equipment, by which it is anticipated that material reductions in the working costs will be effected. Development of the mine is stated to be satisfactory; it is intended to sink the shaft to a depth of 900 ft.

SCOTTISH AUSTRALASIAN MINING COMPANY.—This company has had another distressful experience in the half-year ending December 31, though the sales of coal were 160,492 tons, a large increase on the output of the corresponding period. There was no improvement in prices, however, and competition was still very keen. This made it impossible to earn a reasonable profit on the operations, though the debit balance was reduced slightly from £8,285 to £8,263. In January last a movement was started amongst the principal collieries of the northern district to improve the conditions of the coal trade by regulating the output, in order to bring it more into harmony with demand. It appears that an understanding has now been arrived at, with the result that prices for screened coal have been raised to 9s. per ton.

KELLY'S QUEEN BLOCK GOLD MINING COMPANY.—In the half-year ending February 16, 428 tons were crushed, the yield of gold from which realised £2,668, and the various tribute parties treated 456 tons, for gross proceeds of £1,355, the company netting in royalty £241. The loss on the half-year was £2,310, raising the debit balance to £10,822.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOLD YIELD.—The gold yield of New South Wales in the month of April amounted to 30,502 ozs., valued at £107,831, compared with 7,788 ozs., worth £29,231, in the corresponding month of 1905. For the past four months the output reaches 125,995 ozs., of the value of £456,336, compared with 92,164 ozs. and £26,156.

QUEENSLAND GOLD OUTPUT.—The Queensland gold returns for the month of April are:—Charters Towers, 15,700 ozs.; Croydon, 2,500 ozs.; Gympie, 9,000 ozs.; Mount Morgan, 10,600 ozs.; Ravenswood, 3,000 ozs.; other fields, 2,500 ozs.; alluvial, 1,000 ozs.; total, 44,300 ozs.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

BENGAL DOOARS RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

During the twelve months ended December 31 the original line and extensions of this company earned a gross revenue of Rs.8,82,686, or Rs.1,21,220 more than in the previous year, against which the working expenses rose Rs.49,139 to Rs.4,35,264, leaving the nett earnings better by Rs.82,082 at Rs.4,47,422. Percentage of working expenses to gross earnings was 2.72 per cent. less at 49.31 per cent. Number of passengers carried was 644,564, against 519,334 in 1904, and the total coaching income came to Rs.2,07,630, or Rs.42,667 more. In goods traffic the gain was Rs.95,061. Only a small increase was derived from tea, but the rates for the carriage of this commodity from certain stations have been reduced to meet the competition by carting and by river, and it is hoped that a large increase in the receipts will be obtained in the coming season. Jute traffic went up from Rs.29,815 to Rs.38,759, and we assume that other movements were not important, as they are not specially mentioned. In view of the additional earnings and the heavy renewal of sleepers, the directors consider the increase in the working expenses satisfactory, and are glad to report that the line was kept open throughout the rainy season, the bridges, on the whole, withstanding the floods well. Including £10,660 brought forward and £343 for exchange adjustments, the total nett revenue is £40,054, from which the dividends paid for the first half of the year absorbed £12,128, and interest on loans and deposits £118, leaving £27,808. The directors now propose to complete the preference dividend and to declare a final dividend of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary capital, making 4 per cent. for the year, or ½ per cent. more, carrying forward £10,668. A reply to the board's letter proposing terms for handing over the working of the line to the agency of the Eastern Bengal State Railway has now been received from the Secretary of State, and the directors hope that this matter may soon be satisfactorily settled. The main condition for working the line is that the Eastern Bengal should retain 40 per cent. of the gross earnings to meet operating expenses.

WEST INDIA AND PANAMA TELEGRAPH CO., LIMITED.

The income from messages for the six months ended December 31 showed an improvement of £900, and with £19 from transfer fees the total revenue came to £896 more at £28,032. Working expenses were only slightly heavier, but maintenance of cables rose by £2,348 to £8,722, as, although the amount actually spent was £1,703 smaller, there were no receipts from charter of the repairing ship to set off against the outlay, and the nett result therefore was a decrease of £914 in the profits. Interest on the investments yielded £103 less at £1,735, and the amount brought forward was £158 down at £1,425, making a total shrinkage in the available balance of £1,175 at £7,960. Out of this 2s. per share was paid on the first preference shares for balance of arrears to June 30, 1905, and 2s. per share on account of the six months under review, leaving £1,047 or £553 more to be carried forward. This payment brings the arrears on the first preference shares down to £6,913, but there is £15,408 outstanding on the second preference, and the outlook is not particularly encouraging, as the annual subsidy of £400 paid by St. Vincent expired on March 31 and has not been renewed, while the subsidy from Grenada has been reduced from £1,000 to £600 per annum from April 1. In addition to the payments out of revenue for cable repairs £1,173 for spare cable used has been charged to reserve, reducing that fund to £111,779, against which investments are held valued at £101,762. Capital expenditure on cables, stations, land lines, concessions, &c., still stand at £1,314,756, notwithstanding the loss of sundry subsidies, and, of course, nothing in the shape of a general reserve has been provided. In other respects the position of the company is rather less satisfactory than it was a year ago, sundry creditors having risen by £2,076 to £7,424, while an increase of £1,786 to £5,756 in sundry debtors is more than neutralised by decreases of £2,540 to £5,375 in bills receivable and remittances in transit, and £6,987 to £8,277 in cash. The current half-year does not promise to turn out very profitably, as in the early part several interruptions of the cables occurred, which were probably caused by earthquakes, and in order to overtake the exceptionally heavy work of restoring the broken cables another steamer had to be chartered.

MEXICO ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS, LIMITED.

During the twelve months ended December 31 this company gathered a traffic income of \$3,592,259 and miscellaneous revenue of \$42,726, besides bank and other interest of \$7,121, making \$3,642,106 in all. Against this the operating expenses came to \$2,286,141, and \$600,000 is absorbed in providing interest on the first and second mortgage bonds of the Mexican company. Then a dividend of 3½ per cent., requiring \$175,000, is provided on the share capital of the same concern, in accordance with a clause of the lease, and the balance of profit \$580,964 is transferred to London. At the now fixed exchange of 2s. per dollar this realised £58,096, and as the English company owns debentures in the Mexican company to the amount of \$4,000,000, on which 6 per cent. interest is paid, a sum of £24,000 came from this source and a further £17,500 from the dividend paid on the share capital of the Mexican concern, as the whole of this is held by the English undertaking. Transfer

fees gave another £4, making a total income of £99,601, from which general administration and other charges absorbed £5,027, leaving £94,574. Out of this the directors have provided £30,000 for interest on the first charge and "B" debentures and £30,000 for the dividend on the preference shares. They now propose to transfer £35,000 to reserve account, including provision for depreciation, and to carry forward £14,200, against £14,625 brought in. In addition to this contribution from revenue the reserve receives £15,000 formerly standing to the credit of depreciation account, making a total of £50,000, which includes the wastage allowance. This goes against a capital outlay of £1,724,779, and as we cannot trace that the Mexican company makes any separate provision for depreciation, it is obvious that the dividend stage for the £500,000 of ordinary capital cannot be reached for some time yet. The total capital of the English company is £1,600,000, and as the outlay is in excess of this sum, not only is the reserve involved in the business, but the company has heavy floating liabilities against a very small sum to come in from debtors. Cash balance too is very small at £7,900, considering that dividend and interest payments still to be provided come to the big sum of £47,097. Stocks and stores are valued at £66,523. The company has fixed up an advantageous contract with the Mexican Light and Power Company for the supply of power to this company, and reports progress with several extensions to the system in and around Mexico. The new installation to carry out the provisions under the new power contract will entail an expenditure of £50,000, and is expected to come into operation towards the end of this year. Dr. Rutherford Harris has resigned his seat on the board. We leave shareholders to make their own comment.

ALIANZA CO., LIMITED.

The lawsuit in which this important nitrate company is engaged still drags on. An appeal against the verdict of the Court of Appeal was entirely successful, the action being sent back for re-trial. It is not yet clear before which Court the re-trial will take place, but there will doubtless be a fresh hearing of the appeal by the company's opponents against the judgment in the company's favour delivered by the Court of First Instance on October 27, 1902. That is almost four years ago, and shareholders must be getting heartily tired of the whole business, because it is standing in the way of a full division of profits. A year ago the directors kept in hand £79,972, and now propose to hold £144,995, as certain nitrate grounds which it is desirable the company should be in a position to purchase will shortly be offered, and the directors think it might be difficult to issue debentures until the lawsuit is at an end and the property is vested in the company's name. After deducting £26,442 for cost of raw material consumed and depreciation of plant, together with legal expenses in Chili, the balance of profit is £130,109 against £140,802 in the previous year, when, however, the deduction was only £7,174. Administration in London requires £3,721, debenture interest £18,048, and income-tax £6,566, while £350 is reserved for costs in income-tax appeal, £5,001 is absorbed in the statutory contribution to reserve, and £600 goes to the insurance reserve. Balance still left is £95,023, which the sum of £79,972 brought forward raises to £174,995. Out of that the directors have distributed £30,000 in a dividend of 6 per cent. paid November last, and keep the rest in hand for the purposes already stated. Original cost of the nitrate ground was £999,756, of which £270,772 has been written off against exhaustion, leaving the balance-sheet valuation at £728,984. Buildings, plant, and machinery represent a further sum of £145,335, after deducting the statutory reserve of £13,947, and the value of the Oficina Slavonia has been brought down to £22,863 by credits aggregating £38,235 in respect of nitrate sold in 1904 and 1905. Stocks and stores of various kinds are entered at £80,523, and sundry debtors owe £227,566, against creditors £20,705, but bills receivable amount to only £5,523, whereas the sum owing on bills payable is £177,566. Cash is very small at £7,058, considering the big undivided profit, but debentures to the amount of £50,000 were cancelled during the year, in anticipation of the redemption corresponding to 1905 and 1906, and the company also purchased £100,000 nominal of the National War Loan at a cost of £95,233. The debenture debt is now down to £417,800, and the company has a general reserve of £30,000 contributed from the 1903 profits and an insurance reserve of £4,800.

SALAR DEL CARMEN NITRATE SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

The nitrate industry is in a wonderfully flourishing condition just now. During 1905 this company gathered a profit of £56,376, or £9,216 more than in the preceding year, and after providing London expenses £2,211, reserve for income-tax £2,176, and depreciation £3,000, a balance of £48,989 is left. That is sufficient to provide the shareholders with a dividend of 30 per cent., or 10 per cent. more, adding £16,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £2,020, against £1,881 brought in. Reserve will now be £64,000, and since the valuation of the property, plant and machinery is no more than £71,241, the company's financial position is quite wonderful. Floating liabilities, all told, come to £59,565, against debtors of only £1,481, but stocks of various kinds, which are as good as cash with a company like this, are valued at £107,047, investments at market values stand at £61,689, and cash reaches £11,970. No wonder the £5 shares are worth £14½ in the market.

NITRATE PRODUCERS' STEAMSHIP CO., LIMITED.

The revenue from nett freights during the year ended April 30 again showed a serious shrinkage of £29,265 at £106,614, but

with a further saving in working expenses the decrease in profits was reduced to £2,063 at £24,631. General charges and interest also took less, and with £605 from rebate on income-tax and £1,063 brought forward, the amount available came to £18,802 compared with £20,063, so the directors by putting £10,000 to depreciation against £11,500 are able to repeat the dividend of 7½ per cent. and carry forward £239 more at £1,302. Sundry creditors, including cash advances, have risen by £4,401 to £42,841, trade bills payable are £1,189 up at £2,765, and the balance due to shipbuilders for the *Anglo Peruvian* amounts to £40,000. On the other hand, sundry debtors are down £1,081 to £18,724, disbursements on pending voyages exceed receipts by £12,029, and cash is only £1,742 higher at £7,034, so that the current position is none too good. The value of the fleet has been steadily written down until it is now £154,033 or the very reasonable figure of about £3 10s. per ton on six vessels, the oldest of which was built in 1897. Since the closing of the accounts the company has had the misfortune to lose its newest steamer, added only last year, by a collision with an iceberg in the North Atlantic, but the directors hope to be able in the near future to replace her at a figure that will show but a trifling loss owing to the decline in the price of new tonnage.

RHODESIA COLD STORAGE AND TRADING CO., LIMITED.

Celerity and despatch were never characteristic of Rhodesian companies of any kind, and there was no particular reason why this undertaking should depart from established custom. On the contrary, in fact, as we always find that the worse accounts are the greater the delay in presenting them. And assuredly it would be difficult to find anything much more disheartening than the statement of this venture for the year ended March 31, 1905. But you never found a Rhodesian board without an excuse of some kind, and shareholders are not expected to be at all displeased with the delay, because they can have with the report the result of Mr. D. N. Shaw's visit of inspection to Cape Town, Rhodesia, and Beira. Mr. Shaw was chairman of the committee which reported to the last general meeting, and who then joined the board. He now submits a long rigmarole of a very unconvincing character, so far as the trading of the company is concerned, although it was an achievement to induce the Bank of Africa to lend the company £50,000. The directors' report itself is of a more instructive nature. It does tell us what has actually happened to the business, and it is just as well to know this, even though the information is distressing to a degree. One thing, however, is pretty certain. The recital will prevent a single one of the shareholders ever putting another halfpenny into a Rhodesian company of any kind. We have not the space to give it in detail, but, of course, "depression," "commercial crisis," and "alarming shrinkage in purchasing power of the whole community" are played for all they are worth. Apart from the general trading, the company has apparently come to a dead stop. The cold storage business has gone or is to go, and that nice little plan for settling people on the land with stock supplied from the company's Australian estates has gone the way of most such schemes. In connection with all this there will have to be a tidy readjustment of the capital account, to be partly met by shares transferred to trustees for cancellation, and partly, we suppose, by the shareholders. Things are better now, we are told, big reductions in trade expenses having been effected, while Mr. Shaw produces a few figures to show the increase that has taken place in sales during the year to March 31 last. The gain is £9,300, and as great economies have also been effected, the past twelve months' accounts should be better. They need be, because in the year to March 31, 1905, there was a total deficiency of £23,649, including £4,791 written off preliminary expenses. That brings the total debit to date to £42,717, and although up to the close of the accounts the bank had advanced £29,520, the cash balance was only £4,023. Preliminary expenses are still in for £23,954, and Beira Cold Storage suspense account £36,215 would hardly realise a fortune. The Austral Rhodesian Steamship Company £23,020 is another asset we should feel somewhat doubtful about, and the pastoral lease of the Napier Broome Estate, which has now been given up, is entered at £53,996. Goodwill too is down for the tidy sum of £55,739, and if the clearing up is properly done some of these items will be frightfully attenuated. How much do the vendors intend to give up?

NOBEL-DYNAMITE TRUST CO., LIMITED.

This powerful holding company continues to gather an excellent revenue, notwithstanding the continued existence of many adverse influences, and during the year to April 30 last received £305,617 as dividends on shares held in dynamite and explosives companies. That is an increase of £30,536 against the previous year, which itself showed an improvement of £83,002, and the directors attribute the fine result to the big war demands and reduced cost of production. Interest produced a further sum of £37,374, and other revenue was £1,161, making a total of £344,153. From this general expenses required £8,878, directors' remuneration £6,000, and some smaller charges £594, leaving £328,681. Add £4,678 brought in, and the sum for disposal is £333,359, and after meeting the preference dividend the directors propose a dividend of 8 per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent. on the ordinary shares, the same as before, adding £74,264 to reserve, and carrying forward £5,555. Reserve fund will now be £270,000, but £195,736 of this consists of share premiums, and only two contributions, last year's £50,000 and this year's £74,264, have been made from profits. Holdings in other companies, including £634 added during the year, are valued at £2,295,046, in addition to which the company has made loans to these subsidiaries to the amount of

£661,500. Floating balances are a little adverse, but that is not of the least consequence, because the company has the splendid cash balance of £402,489.

NATIONAL EXPLOSIVES CO., LIMITED.

Shareholders of this unfortunate company will not find much consolation in the fact that it did a little better last year than in the previous one, as this only means that the loss was less. Competition in the blasting trade and for Government orders has been more severe than ever. After providing £6,082 for debenture interest, the loss is reported at £6,721, against £16,631 in 1904. That, however, is only the disclosed deficiency, which is really greater, because the auditors point out that no depreciation has been written off property account standing in the balance-sheet at £222,994, additions of £4,702 for the year included. Twelve months ago the directors transferred £20,000 from the reserve in order to meet the deficiency and leave a little over, and now take a further amount of £6,000. This, with £1,330 brought forward, will make good the debit, and leave a credit of £610, while the reserve now stands at £6,500. There is some dispute on the question of the proper provision for the debenture sinking fund, and the company may have to provide another £1,200 in respect of the past year. Floating liabilities are very light at £4,564, and on the other side there are debtors £45,629 and stocks £58,273, but cash is small at £3,657.

ROSS, LIMITED.

A very good exhibit is that made by the board of this company for the past year. The profits amounted to £12,107, exclusive of £1,198 brought forward, and this is arrived at after deducting £3,581 written off for depreciation. As the addition to the cost of the property, however, was £4,407 it follows that the total value of the leasehold property, plant, and machinery, &c., including patents and goodwill, was £71,478 at the end of the year compared with £70,652 at the beginning, but this increase appears to be amply justified by the great developments in the company's manufacturing, wholesale and export departments, and by the Government and other important contracts now on hand. The retail department of the business is, the directors say, less progressive, but that is probably only a passing recoil, for the company's products stand second to none. As the entire profits, including the balance brought forward, amount to £13,305, the board is able not only to pay the preference dividend, but to distribute a 10 per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares together with a bonus of 2½ per cent., both tax free, and even then will have £3,055 left to carry forward as against £1,198 brought in. We may thus reasonably conclude that the troubles which now and then overtook the company in its earlier years, and the losses caused by the dishonesty of an employee have now been altogether surmounted.

HOVIS-BREAD FLOUR CO., LIMITED.

This company's profits recovered in splendid fashion during the year ended March 31, so much so that the best revenue in the company's history was gathered. Sales again showed a satisfactory increase, and the directors report a nett profit on trading of £33,074, or £8,748 more than in the preceding twelve months. Balance brought forward was £594, and dividends and transfer fees gave £421, making £34,090 in all. From this management expenses, including directors' and auditors' remuneration, absorbed £1,678, and £9,077 or nearly £4,000 more, was allowed for depreciation, leaving £23,334. This is only £740 more than in the preceding year, due to the fact that the sum brought in on the present occasion was a good £4,000 less, therefore to a large extent neutralising the extra profit. So after providing the preference dividend the directors repeat the 10 per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares, adding another £4,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £324. The company is putting up a new mill at Manchester, which should be fully equipped and in working order within the next six months, so that the capital outlay for the year was £32,012, raising the value of the mills, plant, machinery, and goodwill to £238,620. Deducting the depreciation allowance, and the balance-sheet figure is £229,543, against which there is a reserve of £24,000 and a goodwill depreciation account of £5,000. Trading accounts are a long way in favour of the company, which also has investments in Consols on account of reserve £15,000, cash £3,897, and stock £24,308. Since the issue of the last report arrangements have been made for milling Hovis flour in South Africa at Cape Town and in New South Wales at Sydney. In Cape Town flour has been produced since the beginning of 1906, and the prospects are described as hopeful.

METERS, LIMITED, MANCHESTER.

During the year ended March 31 this company earned a gross profit of £35,007, or a falling off of about £3,000 compared with the preceding twelve months, no reason for which is given in the report. Indeed, the directors do not even favour us with a profit and loss account. After providing for debenture interest, general management expenses, directors' fees, expenses on patents' depreciation, and sundry other charges, the nett balance is £23,274. Adding £3,066 brought forward, and the sum for disposal is £26,340 against £29,960, but the preference dividend having been met, the directors again provide a dividend of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, adding £7,000, or £3,000 less, to the reserve fund, and carrying forward the rather smaller balance of £2,798. Reserve fund is now £52,000, and as the company has investments of £50,204, worth £50,441 at the date of the balance-sheet, we suppose this fund can be considered as kept away from the business. In a sense the company has another

reserve, because of the ordinary shares issued to the number 199,898 the trustees hold 30,000 for the benefit of the company, but as these have not been dealt with they are not treated as an asset in the present accounts. Are dividends paid on these 30,000 shares and brought into the revenue account? Land, buildings, machinery, plant, office furniture, patents, and goodwill were valued at £423,324 in 1898, when the company was formed, and the additions since have reached £17,482, making £440,806. On the other hand, the depreciation allowed in eight years is £36,359, and if this is sufficient the patents and goodwill, which have had nothing written off, must be in for a good round sum. Floating liabilities are exceedingly small at £5,527, and on the other side the company has debtors £25,920, stock-in-trade £46,017, and cash £14,542, meaning a fairly good position, take it altogether.

MONTEVIDEO GAS CO., LIMITED.

A year ago this company suffered severely through the revolution, and the accounts for the twelve months ended December 31 show that it has not yet recovered appreciably from the effects of that disturbance. The directors state that the reduction in the price which took effect on April 1, 1905, resulted in a substantial increase in the quantity of gas sold and in the number of meters fixed, but notwithstanding this the revenue from sales of gas, residuary products, meter rents, &c., was only £1,492 up at £60,880. At the same time receipts from the dock, workshops, tug, &c., fell back by £13,310 to £15,831, partly because of a strike of the mechanics, and with £25 from transfer fees the total income was £11,808 smaller at £76,736. A saving of £8,105 at £50,311 in the expenditure at Montevideo and a decrease of £121 to £1,895 in London office charges left nett profits £3,582 down at £24,530, and the decline was further reduced to £1,669 at £36,584 by miscellaneous receipts including £280 of directors' fees again waived, and the larger balance of £10,130 brought forward. After providing for debenture interest, £3,863 or £316 more is written off capital accounts, but the allowance for bad debts is £320 less at £565, and the reserve for renewals gets only half last year's amount at £500, while nothing is put to contingency account against £1,500, so the directors are able to repeat the dividend of 3½ per cent., and raise the carry forward by £548 to £10,687. The contingency fund now stands at £16,520 and the insurance fund at £12,500, but the reserve has been reduced by £5,360 to £23,760 through the repayment of debentures to that amount. The whole of the 1890 issue of debentures has now been disposed of, £50,240 having been redeemed and the balance of £7,840 exchanged for debenture stock, and the debenture redemption account of £50,240 would consequently appear to form an additional reserve, of which £45,257 is represented by investments. Sundry creditors are £538 down at £5,042, but on the other hand debtors show a decrease of £6,867 at £13,710, and bills receivable are £4,000 lower at £14,000, while cash remains practically the same at £8,279.

BRAMPTON BREWERY CO., LIMITED.

A recovery of £928 to £34,699 in the trading profits for the twelve months ended March 31 affords the directors an opportunity for jubilation, and although the nett balance did not differ materially from that of the previous year, they claim that the results justify the outlay on the new brewery and plant. With £13 from transfer fees, or the same as a year ago, the total income was £34,712, but debenture and general interest took £410 more at £7,266, and on this occasion £577 has to be allowed for compensation fund charge for six months, so that after providing for administration charges and income-tax the surplus available was a mere £10 up at £24,338. To this was added £7,763 or £37 less brought forward, making a total of £32,102 compared with £32,120, out of which the usual dividend of 12½ per cent. is paid, and £6,000 is written off cost of the old brewery against £5,000 put to reserve and £1,500 set aside for property improvement, leaving £7,651 to be carried forward. The freehold and copyhold properties have been reduced by £1,500 to £402,165 out of the premiums on the new shares, and leasehold properties are £1,077 down at £17,209, but £2,519 was spent on the new brewery, &c., and plant and machinery stands at £11,404, making a total capital outlay of £451,426, against which the general reserve comes to £50,000, all in the business. In spite of all the new money put into the concern, the company has still to rely very largely on borrowed money, and loans on mortgage have risen by £15,066 to £46,000. Trading balances, however, are more favourable, sundry creditors and bills payable being £4,230 lower at £14,737, while sundry debtors are £3,494 up at £16,472 in addition to £1,125 to come in from rents, but cash has shrunk by £305 to £5,775, and against this £8,875 has to be found for the proportion of preference and ordinary dividends now payable.

CITY OF DUBLIN STEAM PACKET COMPANY.

The services between Dublin and Liverpool and Dublin and Belfast have been carried on satisfactorily during the half-year ended December 31, the directors say, and receipts from goods traffic on both lines were well maintained, but receipts from live stock fell off and the total income was £1,582 lower at £132,060. A considerable saving, however, was effected in expenses at £97,692, so that the nett revenue was £4,277 larger at £34,368, and after providing for debenture interest, charter money to the Dublin and Liverpool Steamship Building Company, and the guarantee to the City of Dublin Junction Railways, the balance available including £5,098 brought forward came to £15,858. Of this £4,000 is written off cost of old steamers against nothing a year ago, £4,600 is again transferred to the renewal fund of

the new cargo steamers, and the dividend at the rate of a per cent. per annum is repeated, leaving £1,399 or £543 more to be carried forward. In addition to the £4,000 written off the cost of old steamers sold out of the service, the directors, acting on legal advice, have transferred the £126,962 at the credit of the Dublin and Liverpool Steamship Building Company to that account, reducing the amount outstanding to £101,729. Even that figure, however, is unsatisfactory, and until it is entirely wiped out of the balance-sheet the accounts cannot be considered really healthy. Against the £411,901 at which the trading vessels, land, buildings, &c., are valued and £399,163 for cost of new mail steamers, the company has a sinking fund of £177,883, invested in £119,711 India 3 per cent. stock, £54,213 Guaranteed Land stock, and £3,959 of its own debentures, and a general repairs and renewal fund of £111,681, represented by £112,418 in unspecified securities. Trading accounts are favourable enough as liabilities amount to £24,649 and sundry debtors to £33,060, while there is £16,333 to come in from the Post Office contract.

NETHERLANDS BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA.

The directors of this small bank, which has its head office in Amsterdam, report that owing to the continued depression in South Africa the profits for the year 1905 have shown a further decrease. Moreover, in dealing with the profits they have felt obliged to exercise great caution. In view of the general uncertainty which exists at present it is considered desirable to further strengthen the position of the bank by again making a large addition to the special reserves. The sum set aside is £15,000, and raises the total of the reserve funds to £59,331 against a paid-up capital of £400,000. Gross profit, after deducting rebate, interest on deposits, and depreciation on premises and furniture, is returned at £62,560, from which the total expenditure absorbs £35,151, leaving £27,409. Of this £15,000 goes to reserve as mentioned, and after providing a dividend of 3 per cent. a sum of £409 remains to be carried forward. The bank has a note circulation of £24,044, and the current accounts, deposits, acceptances, &c., stand at £511,150. Bills for collection amount to £54,779, and on the assets side the principal item is the bills discounted and purchased, loans, advances, &c., £734,967. Cash on hand, with bankers, and at call amounts to £178,550, and investments and securities are £53,630. Bank premises are valued at £37,448, and the safe deposit, furniture, and stationery to £4,339, while the per contra entry to bills held for collection completes the balance-sheet total of £1,063,714.

CITY AND WEST-END PROPERTIES, LIMITED.

Gross receipts for the year ended March 25 fell off by £896 to £151,132, while, on the other hand, ground rents, rates, insurance, and housekeeping charges, &c., were only £77 lower at £90,303, but a saving of £780 was effected in cost of upkeep. Nett profits, therefore, after writing off another £1,114 for improvements and providing for general charges, were £538 larger at £48,530, and interest, dividends, and transfer fees brought the total available up to £49,805, or £729 more. Of this debenture interest and premiums on policies for redemption of debenture stock and preference capital took the usual £26,532, and preference dividend £15,356, leaving a balance of £7,916, of which £3,958 was put to reserve compared with £3,594, and the ordinary shares once more receive a modest 2½ per cent., the balance carried forward being increased by £171 to £489. Trading accounts are in favour of the company, £24,527 being due to creditors against £40,118 to come in, and cash was £1,797 higher at £5,503, but debenture interest and preference dividend accrued required £8,476, and the ordinary dividend now declared will take £3,787, so that the surplus is not so very large. With the present addition the reserve stands at £30,031, of which £26,073 is represented by investments, and other securities held, including £4,000 of the company's own debentures, are valued at £10,602.

HOUSE PROPERTY AND INVESTMENT CO., LIMITED.

After writing off £1,371 for bad debts and providing for empties the gross revenue for the year ended March 31, apart from profit on properties sold, was again down by £2,003 at £82,596, of which £1,380 was accounted for by a falling off in gross rentals due to the sales of property, and £1,202 by empties and bad debts less £574 additional interest received. Outgoings, thanks chiefly to a saving in repairs of £1,354, dropped by £1,028, notwithstanding an increase of £541 in rates and with £1,756 or £885 less brought in, the nett balance came to £27,283 compared with £28,179. As the question of reducing the dividend below the modest 4 per cent. paid in past years is not one which could be entertained for a moment, the reserve fund once more suffers, and only £500 is transferred to that fund against £1,000 and £2,500 in the two preceding years, while the balance carried out is reduced by £396 to £1,360. A profit of £1,003 earned on properties sold has been transferred to special depreciation, together with £3,500 from revenue, and the estates, including advances and mortgages, show a reduction of £8,182 at £934,374, on which the reserve of £42,000 represents no more than 4½ per cent., and the company is still leaning heavily on credit, the amount due on deposits and mortgages being £222,628. Current liabilities are £380 smaller at £1,306, and outstanding interest comes to about the same at £1,827, but rents and sundry debtors have risen by £521 to £7,602, and cash is £4,786 up at £8,831, so that present needs seem well enough provided for.

A. W. GAMAGE, LIMITED.

This general outfitting business seems to be expanding at a great speed, we hope not too fast. Some wonderful building schemes are being carried out in Holborn, and last year the company spent a nett sum of £43,261, bringing the total outlay to date to £117,907. In addition, leases, fixtures, fittings, motor vans, &c., were increased by £15,132 to £51,141, and the disclosed depreciation on the whole lot is £604, written off short leases, patents, and motor vans, apart from something written off boilers. That is not very brilliant, but we hasten to say that no interest on capital expenditure has been charged to building account, and also that the directors provide the considerable sum of £4,136 from the year's revenue, in order to extinguish the balance of formation and issue expenses. Two sums of £1,000 also go to the special and general reserve funds, making them £6,000 and £4,500 respectively, so that altogether a pretty fair sum is saved. Goodwill is valued at £43,300. Last year the debenture debt was reduced by another £1,000, making £5,000 extinguished to date, and the directors announce their intention of paying off the remainder, in order to clear the way for another issue. Amount now outstanding is £20,209, but the fresh emission will doubtless be for more than that, because the company clearly needs some working capital. No less than £99,795 of the company's resources are represented by stock, with the result that, including deposits of £11,901, the floating liabilities add up to £79,221. On the other side debtors owe no more than £13,261, and cash amounts to £9,723. Profits for the 12 months to January 31 are returned at £21,846, and £6,010 was brought forward, making £27,856. From this debenture interest takes £1,141 and preference dividend £6,324, so that, after making the appropriations mentioned, the directors provide 8 per cent. for the ordinary shares and carry forward £6,654.

MORRIS AIMING TUBE AND AMMUNITION CO., LIMITED.

During the year ended December 31 the total sales were about £6,000 larger than in 1904, but the gross trading profits, nevertheless, fell off by about £1,200 to £12,889, owing, the directors say, to the price of metals having risen after important tenders had been made for Government supplies. The Morris-Hawkins Electrical Company, although doing a steadily increasing business, has not yet reached the profit-earning stage, so that nothing came in from the company's holdings in that undertaking, and with transfer fees and rent from Ilford Range, the total income was £13,006. Expenses and debenture interest having been met, the nett profit including £448 brought in came to £5,954, out of which £1,750 is written off for depreciation and a dividend of 8 per cent., or 2 per cent. less, is paid, leaving £204 to be carried forward. So far from the Morris-Hawkins company having contributed to the revenue it has been found necessary to provide it with further funds, and its indebtedness now stands at £7,477. This could not be supplied out of the parent company's own resources, so that the open loan account has risen to £18,500, of which £6,000 is due to the bankers and £12,500 to the estate of the late Mr. W. C. Watson. In order to liquidate this debt and provide further funds, the directors propose to create a further £25,000 of 5 per cent. first mortgage debentures, of which half will be allotted to Mr. Watson's executors and the balance will be offered for subscription. In addition to this indebtedness, the liabilities to sundry creditors amount to £4,947 against £6,226 due from sundry debtors and £2,729 in cash, so that the new money now to be brought in should make the position fairly comfortable. Patents and goodwill, however, represent £20,000 out of a total share capital of £50,000, and it seems time that something was done towards writing off this item.

FULLER'S EARTH UNION, LIMITED.

The year ended March 31 was a satisfactory one in all respects, as, in addition to trade being good, the improvements carried out during the past few years enabled the company to effect a further saving in the cost of production. As there has been a large increase in the output of earth since the annual provision for depreciation was fixed at £500, this amount has now been doubled, but even after writing off the larger sum, the nett profits are £1,215 higher at £9,021. With £498 brought forward, the amount available was £855 up at £9,519, and the ordinary shares, therefore, are given 11 per cent. compared with 7 and 5 per cent. for the two preceding years, but only £1,000, or half the amount for 1904-5, is put to reserve, and after paying directors' fees £777 is carried to the new account. Expenditure on improvements during the twelve months was £1,432, leaving about £800 to be spent to complete the scheme then adopted, and this apparently has come out of the reserve, as that fund with the present transfer from revenue only stands at £2,568. The directors are continuing their policy of effecting improvements to the plant, &c., out of revenue, and propose to spend about £3,400 on the duplication of an important part of the plant in order to meet the increasing trade, to provide against the contingency of a breakdown of the machinery, and to effect further economy in production. Notice has been given for the redemption of £5,000, or one-third of the debenture issue, on September 30, so that in various ways the position of the company is being strengthened. Liabilities to sundry creditors are light at £1,312, and although stocks are small at £592, liquid assets are substantial enough, as, in addition to £4,640 due from sundry debtors, there is £4,884 in cash and £10,000 is invested in Consols and other securities and £5,712 in land.

BROXBURN OIL CO., LIMITED.

The report for the twelve months ended April 4 states that almost without exception prices of products were considerably lower than in the previous year, but against this may be put the economies effected by the renewal work carried out during the past few years. After paying all current charges the nett profits, including £3,122 brought forward, reached the satisfactory figure of £76,171, of which the usual allowance of 5 per cent. on the nett balance of capital expenditure as at March 29, 1905, took £12,677. Preference dividend having been paid, the ordinary shares receive 15 per cent. for the year and £23,000 is written off retort renewal account leaving £3,033 to be carried forward. Expenditure on the properties during the year was £34,860, but so steadily has the question of depreciation been kept to the front that these, together with the mineral fields and leases, stand at no more than £275,714, although the directors state that the original mineral and other leases which would expire in 1916 have been extended to Martinmas, 1946, by a new arrangement with the Earl of Buchan. The retort renewal account has been written down to £23,416, and against these two items there is a reserve fund of £50,430, represented by £49,830 in Consols taken at cost. In addition to £33,050 due on loans raised the company owes £44,955 on open accounts, but, on the other hand, stocks stand at £69,586, sundry debtors come to £38,190, and cash and bills receivable to £11,942.

TINGRI TEA CO., LIMITED.

The year ended December 31 was not a very good one for growth of leaf, and the crop gathered was further reduced by the greater care exercised in plucking with the result that the crop was 73,567 lbs. smaller at 545,533 lbs. This policy, however, had its reward in the better price obtained as the average rose by no less than 2.32d. to 10.68d., and the total income showed an increase of £2,739 at £24,282. At the same time expenses, including £1,171 for loss on exchange, were £1,758 down at £18,345, and after paying manager's commission and debenture interest and making sundry adjustments, the nett profits came to £4,827 against £1,106. Deducting from this the debit balance of £1,581 brought forward, the surplus available was £3,246, out of which £1,000 is set aside to form a reserve fund, and the shareholders receive a dividend of 3 per cent., leaving £551 to be carried to the new account. A reduction of £400 to £7,200 in the amount due on bills payable is counterbalanced by an advance of £395 to £1,839 in sundry creditors, and although the loan from the bankers is £828 up at £1,440 the company has managed to pay off its indebtedness of £1,336 to Messrs. Williamson, while on the other hand, a decrease of £1,721 to £7,904 in stocks is accompanied by an increase of £1,487 to £3,681 in sundry debtors, but cash remains poor at £114.

BORDUBI TEA CO., LIMITED.

Owing to the short rainfall the output for the 12 months ended December 31 was considerably below the estimate, and showed an increase of 11,525 lbs. only over 1904 at 356,057 lbs. On this estate also, however, great care was exercised in the plucking, and as part of the crop was of exceptionally fine quality, the average price went up from 9.43d. to 11.69d. Gross receipts amounted to £17,353, and expenses, including £55 for manager's commission, were £16,315, giving a surplus of £1,038, which was increased to £1,068 by the balance brought in, and out of this a dividend of 2½ per cent. is paid, leaving £68 to be carried forward. Trading balances are decidedly adverse, £6,350 being due on bills payable and £1,656 to sundry creditors against £5,159 held in tea and £2,666 to come in from sundry debtors, and in spite of an overdraft of £975 at the bank, cash stands at no more than £167. The company has not had a very prosperous career since its formation in 1900, and it is perhaps unnecessary therefore to state that nothing has been done in the way of forming a reserve or of providing for depreciation, although the estates, including £620 for permanent machinery are valued at £40,093, or about £40 per cultivated acre, a figure which seems out of all proportion to its earning capacity.

KACHARIGAN TEA CO., LIMITED.

This is a comparatively new undertaking which only really entered the ranks of the producing companies last year with a crop of 227,836 lbs. against 70,216 lbs. in 1904, and with an improvement in quality an average price of 8d. per lb. was realised compared with 6.53d. Gross proceeds amounted to £7,604 at a cost, including £80 for manager's commission, of £6,884, leaving a surplus of £720, but against this £493 was written off for preliminary expenses, and £459 for depreciation on machinery and building, so that there was a debit balance of £232 to be carried forward. With a paid-up capital of £31,270 the company has spent £30,890 on its estates, and £642 on machinery for 1906 account, this being apparently the cost of the Paragon dryer and rapid roller sent out in December in order to enable the manager to maintain a higher standard of quality during the heavy yielding months of the season. This outlay means that the company is very short of working capital, and is leaning heavily on credit, £2,550 being due on bills payable and £2,693 to sundry creditors, against £2,973 represented by stocks of tea, £872 to come in from sundry debtors, and £128 in cash.

FUTTICKCHERRIE TEA CO., LIMITED.

The crop of tea for the year ended December 31 amounted to 251,167 lbs., but the managing agents state that the quality was very disappointing, and the average price dropped to 5.20d.

against 5.93d. in 1904 and 6.80d. in 1903. Gross receipts were £5,541, of which expenditure took £3,136 and after providing for manager's commission the nett profits were £377. Including the balance brought forward, the amount available was £1,054, but the directors again content themselves with paying a dividend of 2½ per cent. and carry £654 to the next account. This balance is small enough considering that nothing has been written off the estates, valued at £14,000, and that no attempt has ever been made to accumulate a reserve of any kind, but otherwise the company is comfortably enough off. Sundry creditors, including wages unpaid, are moderate at £423, while cash comes to £637, sundry debtors to £102, and the agents have £1,586 in hand apparently on account of working capital.

IMPERIAL TEA CO., LIMITED.

A big increase in yield in the Assam and Dooars gardens of this company was to some extent counterbalanced by smaller outputs on the Cachar and Sylhet estates, but the total crop none the less was 384,714 lbs. larger at 4,744,406 lbs. The average prices, too, were a shade better at 4.947 annas in Calcutta and 6.729d. in London, and after providing for debenture interest and preference dividend the nett profits were £9,907 up at £20,925, but £2,712 less at £1,324 was brought in, and adjustments on account of 1904 gave only £122 against £619, so that the balance available was £6,698 up at £22,370. Of this £2,400 is written off debenture issue expenses, £2,000 is allowed for depreciation and £50 reserved for doubtful advances at gardens, leaving £17,920 to be dealt with, out of which a dividend of 4 per cent. is paid against 1 per cent. a year ago, and £3,201 is carried forward. The company is still leaning far too much on credit to be comfortable, and before increasing its distribution should have given a good deal more attention to strengthening its resources. With a paid-up capital of £487,060 and a debenture debt of £71,500, the expenditure on block account stands at £600,447, so that heavy borrowing has therefore been necessary, and although the position shows some improvement it is still far from satisfactory. Liabilities on bills payable, including £41,400 raised on the security of £48,100 6 per cent. debentures, are £2,400 down at £56,400, sundry creditors are £7,390 lower at £10,882, and the overdraft of £11,594 has apparently been paid off, but stocks, on the other hand, have been reduced by £6,377 to £29,097, and sundry debtors are £2,471 up at £2,510, while cash has risen by £2,942 to £9,958 but against this there are interest and dividends outstanding to the tune of £4,942. Debenture issue expenses still to be paid off amount to £3,000, and advances at gardens, after deducting reserve, come to £2,891.

ROMAI TEA CO., LIMITED.

An increase of 5,124 lbs. to 259,711 lbs. in the crop for the year ended December 31 was accompanied by an improvement of 1.44d. to 8.64d. in the price obtained, and the gross income was therefore £1,744 larger at £9,385. After meeting all expenses, the nett profits were £1,033 up at £2,004, and with £47 brought forward gave £2,851 to be dealt with against £971, but the dividend is maintained at 5 per cent., and as preliminary expenses were wiped out in 1904 the directors put £500 to reserve and carry £750 to the new account. The company is only a small one, with a capital of £16,007, but it has made a very good beginning. Sundry creditors are £169 down at £355, and liability and deposit account stands at £177, but sundry debtors, including £1,741 or £446 more due from Messrs. G. Williamson and Co., are £385 up at £1,787, and cash comes to £299.

MONTGOMERIE AND CO., LIMITED.

The directors state that the turnover for the year ended April 30 was the largest in the history of the company, and apparently the taste for Bermaline bread, which is its speciality, is steadily growing. Trading profits for the twelve months, including transfer fees and interest, were £18,670, and after providing for general charges the nett balance with £296 brought forward was £10,403. Debenture interest and preference dividend having been met, the ordinary shares receive 6 per cent., £485 is written off plant and machinery and £1,611 off advertising stock, and £2,000 is put to reserve, leaving £1,337 to be carried forward. During the year £1,000 was paid off the debentures, leaving £3,000 outstanding, and the company is in the happy position of having no trade creditors, while stocks, including the advertising matter now written off, are valued at £8,882, sundry debtors owe £16,877, and cash stands at £4,332.

EASTERN ASSAM CO., LIMITED.

A poor flushing season reduced the crop of tea in 1905 by 92,896 lbs. to 835,714 lbs., but some compensation for the shortage in the yield was found in the better quality, and the price realised rose by 1.16d. to 9.33d. per lb., compared with an average increase for Assam teas of ¾d. per lb. This, however, did not help the company very much as, owing to the inclusion of special expenditure on the water service at Balijan and the writing off of new coolie and machinery accounts, the cost of production was 1.17d. higher at 8d. per lb. and the nett profits came to £512 less at £4,773. With a larger balance of £7,167 brought in the amount available was £312 up at £11,947, and after paying the usual dividend of 6s. per share, the directors would have had £276 more to carry forward had it not been that holders of £1,450 5½ per cent. debentures out of the £10,000 which fell due on December 31 would not renew and were paid off, reducing the surplus to

£5,993. The remaining £8,550 debentures were renewed for a further period of 10 years on the old terms, but the directors hope that opportunities will occur for gradually paying these off, and there is much need for something of the sort being done, as reserves or depreciation allowances are things unknown. Floating liabilities are £5,405 higher at £8,524, but sundry debtors, on the other hand, have risen by £4,398 to £17,015, while cash comes to £1,713 more at £4,679, and so far as current affairs go the position is comfortable enough.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, MAY 21.

Hermann, H.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Matabele Central Estates.—3, Copthall Buildings, noon.
Rimai Tea.—138, Leadenhall Street, noon.
Salvador Railway.—7 and 8, Idol Lane, 2.30 p.m.
Thomas Brown and Sons, Winchester House, noon.

TUESDAY, MAY 22.

Eastern Assam.—4, Great St. Helens, noon.
John I. Thornycroft.—Winchester House, noon.
Montgomerie.—Glasgow, 3 p.m.
Pena Copper Mines.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.
United Electric Tramways of Monte Video.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23.

British Cotton and Wool Dyers' Association.—Manchester, 11 a.m.
British Assam Tea.—10 and 11, Lime Street, noon.
Brampton Brewery.—Chesterfield, 12.30 p.m.
Chubwa Tea.—34, Leadenhall Street, noon.
Delhi Umballa Kalka Railway.—Winchester House, noon.
General Life Assurance.—103, Cannon Street, 1 p.m.
Hovis Bread Flour.—Caxton Hall, noon.
Imperial Tea.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
India General Navigation and Railway.—Winchester House, noon.
London, Gloucester, and North Hants Dairy.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.
Mexico Electric Tramways.—1, London Wall Buildings, noon.
Otago and Southland Investment.—5, Adams Court, noon.
West African Gold Trust.—Winchester House, 11 a.m.
West India and Panama Telegraph.—Winchester House, noon.
Welsbach Light of Australasia.—Winchester House, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 24.

Alianza.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
Brisbane Electric Trams.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Bengal-Dooars Railway.—Winchester House, noon.
Esperanza Copper and Sulphur.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
Land Corporation of Canada.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Midland Coal, Coke, and Iron.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Monte Video Gas.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
Neuchatel Asphalte.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Nalder and Collyer's Brewery.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
New Paccha and Jazpampa Nitrate.—Winchester House, noon.
Salar del Carmen Nitrate.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
Sierra Buttes Gold Mining.—57, Gracechurch Street, 2.30 p.m.
Santa Rosa Nitrate, Winchester House, 3 p.m.
Transvaal Mortgage.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 25.

British Uralite.—Cannon Street Hotel, 3 p.m.
Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association, Manchester, 11 a.m.
National Explosives.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Scottish Australian Investment.—Winchester House, noon.
Wickens Pease.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

CENTRAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The fifth annual general meeting of the Central Insurance Company, Limited, was held on Thursday at the Cannon Street Hotel, Mr Walter Chamberlain (the chairman) presiding.

The Chairman, in his address, said the past year indicated the continuous and satisfactory progress of the company. The premium income rose from £211,053 to £342,001, and after deducting re-insurances there was a net premium income of £155,745 against £101,247. Roughly there was an increase of 50 per cent. The losses were 48.9 per cent. of the net premium income, which was some increase on the previous year, but, he thought, not excessive, especially if they took into account the fact that the general average of losses of the principal insurance companies taken together was about 58 per cent. Against the practically inevitable rises in the loss ratio there could be set a steady and well-sustained decrease in the expense ratio. The directors had been very careful to limit the company's liability by re-insurance. It was proposed to pay a dividend of 2½ per cent., free of income-tax, to place £15,000 to reserve and to carry forward £17,355. The last-mentioned amount, together with the reserve, constituted the reserve against unexpired risks. Some of the shareholders would have been very glad if the board, taking into account the satisfactory nature of the report, had seen their way to increase the distribution, but the San Francisco disaster gave them an object-lesson, and although the accounts justified a higher rate, they decided to take a conservative course and to refrain from increasing the dividend. The company was now a member of the Association of Tariff Offices, and the general manager was a member of the Fire Offices Committee, both home and foreign. For a considerable time, owing to special circumstances, they had been associated with the Tariff Offices in their foreign department. That association had worked well for both the parties concerned, and he had no doubt it prevented a very ruinous rate competition abroad. But, as was foreseen from the first, difficulties arose through a partial association, and it became evident that the company must either accept full association with the Tariff Offices or stand apart again altogether. The Tariff Offices recognised the company's claim to protect all their engagements, moral as well as legal. That the board's action in the matter had been fully endorsed by the shareholders and by the public was evidenced by private correspondence, by the rise in the market value of their shares, and by the ease with which they had been able subsequently to place fresh capital. With regard to the San Francisco disaster the Chairman said: Our losses are not likely to exceed £10,000; that is, under the circumstances, a very moderate sum—it is 6½ per cent. on our premium income. All things considered, therefore, we have come out extremely well from a fire which is the greatest known in our generation, and which was of the most extraordinary character. I may say also in this connection we can afford to take this philosophically, because up to the date and including the San Francisco loss our total losses are barely in excess, if at all, of what they were up to this time last year. (Applause.) I hope also we may feel pretty sure, as most of our competitors do, that we shall see this loss back again in a very reasonable time, and perhaps more to boot. Well now, in conclusion, I would congratulate the shareholders, myself among the number, as being the possessors of a very sound and progressive business. In an insurance company ample reserves should give confidence to the policyholders, and are absolutely necessary. It is very slow work piling up these reserves in the first instance. I am quite sure you will not, in the long run, regret your moderation. Of course, it is built up out of profits, and the doing so necessarily interferes with the payment of dividends; but if you, gentlemen, will support us in our present cautious policy—it is none too pleasant even for ourselves to hold back the dividends—I am quite sure you will not, in the long run, regret your moderation. I beg to move that the report, as submitted, and the audited accounts of the company be received, approved and adopted.

Mr. Arthur G. Hooper, M.P., seconded the motion for the adoption of the report and accounts.

The motion of the Chairman being adopted, the retiring directors and auditors were re-elected, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

LONDON BANK OF AUSTRALIA, LIMITED.

The ordinary general meeting of the London Bank of Australia, Limited, was held on Monday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, Mr. David Finlayson (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary read the notice calling the meeting and the auditors' certificate.

The Chairman said: The directors are glad to be able to meet the shareholders with a somewhat better statement of affairs than that presented to them at the last meeting. The gross profit shown for the year is almost the same as for the previous year, but on the other side of the profit and loss account it will be seen that we have paid less interest by £8,777 on our transferable deposits, which, but for the fact that it is necessary to show separately the amount payable on these deposits, would have gone to increase the amount shown as gross profits. The net result is an available balance of profit of £34,755, against £30,210, an increase of £4,545, but as there were included in the 1904 profit £14,316 carried forward from 1903, and in that for 1905 only £11,561 from 1904, the actual profit for 1905 is £7,300 above that of 1904. The directors have decided to recom-

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ment to the shareholders the payment of 2½ per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares, as in the preceding year. The question of commencing to build up a general reserve fund they hope to be in a position shortly to deal with. Salaries and general expenses are increased by £1,322, which is due to opening of the new branches referred to in the report. Your directors have ventured, for the first time for many years, to extend the bank's operations into certain new districts for which they were advised there was a promising future for business, and though, of course, there is no immediate return to be expected, but on the contrary—for a little expenses will exceed income—our managers at the new branches are confident of being able to make them in a short time contributors to our general profits. We propose to proceed with caution in the opening of new branches, but we hope to be able to take advantage from time to time of the new opportunities for business which will present themselves as the country is opened up. We have said in the report that money is very plentiful in Australia and rates low, which for the present is not favourable to banking profits. This condition still prevails, and naturally there is keen competition for business at reduced margins, with little prospect at present of any change, for which we must wait on the expanding enterprise which will follow the prosperity now being enjoyed by the country. This has come so quickly and so abundantly that there has been no time in which to consider how best to turn it to account for future progress. The exchange question, to which I referred last year, remains in the same unsatisfactory condition, involving material curtailment of legitimate banking profit. Returns from station properties are, however, much improved, and we have assurance from the very favourable weather conditions prevailing and the continued good prices for wool that the current year's operations will show enhanced results. There are, I am glad to say, indications that the demand for such properties, so long absent, is beginning to revive. The Chairman then explained in detail several of the items in the balance-sheet, and after foreshadowing brighter prospects for Australia, closed his remarks by formally moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Sir James F. Garrick, K.C.M.G., K.C., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The following resolution was then unanimously passed:—"That a dividend of 5½ per cent. be paid on the preference shares for the year ended December 31, 1905, and that a dividend of 2½ per cent. be declared on the ordinary shares for the same period, both dividends, less income-tax, to be payable on and after Thursday, May 17, 1906."

Mr. David Q. Henriques proposed the re-election of the retiring director, Mr. Robert Rome.

Mr. Andrew Cunningham seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The auditors, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse, and Co., were also reappointed, a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman and directors closing the proceedings.

NITRATE PRODUCERS' STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Nitrate Producers' Steamship Company, Limited, was held yesterday at the offices, 20, Billiter Buildings, E.C., Mr. John Latta, chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. James A. Walker) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said:—When I had the pleasure of presiding at our general meeting last year, I gave it as my opinion that there was no immediate prospect of an improvement in freights, and I regret events have proved its truth. Our steamers did slightly better in the autumn home from the States, but in other departments they have had to contend with more adverse conditions than we have experienced during any period of the company's history. You will recollect I mentioned last year that we suffered considerably from labour troubles on the West Coast of South America. These difficulties have been more pronounced during the past twelve months, with the result that not only have our expenses on the Coast been higher, but delays discharging and loading have increased considerably. In no trade is quick despatch so essential to profit earning as in the West Coast trade, as steamers lying there foul rapidly, and in consequence make long passages home, thereby consuming greater quantities of fuel, and, with bunkers costing 28s. per ton at Monte Video, you can readily see how profits are quickly eaten away. Of the nine round voyages which our steamers performed during the twelve months ending April, 1905, the average time each boat occupied discharging and loading worked out 49½ days. This year the average for the same number of voyages works out 66 days, roughly speaking, 148 days worse than the preceding year, which represents a loss in the shape of exceptional delay of rather more than £4,000. A continuance of such a state of things would make the trade impossible, but I am pleased to be able to tell you that while there is no immediate prospect of the labour difficulty being overcome, our agents—Messrs. Geo. C. Kenrick and Co., of Valparaiso—have been successful in getting a special concession for our company from the Chilean Government. In terms of this concession, our steamers can load and discharge on Sundays, feast days, and holidays, and can also start loading instantly they arrive, thereby saving from half a day to a day at each port, and as it is customary for the steamers to call at as many as a dozen ports, it makes a very great saving. Considering the difficulties with which we have had to contend, I think you will regard the

figures now put forward as satisfactory; the gross earnings are £2,000 less than last year, but the nett profit is only £1,000 less. If you refer to the deadweight capacity of the various steamers, you will notice there is a considerable increase over last year, accountable to the reduced freeboard granted by the Board of Trade. It represents an additional carrying capacity of 1,850 tons, which at £6 per deadweight ton, and our steamers cost much over that, gives an increased capital value of over £11,000. I do not know when congratulating you on this increase of earning capacity, whether we can well overlook the loss we have sustained through this privilege being deferred so long. In other words, it has been proved that these steamers could have carried with perfect safety this extra quantity of cargo all these years, which would have meant increased profits of nothing under £20,000. Your directors see the necessity of maintaining the character of your fleet, and as shipbuilding prices are declining, they hope to be able to make a contract to replace the *Anglo-Peruvian* on favourable terms. The freight market at present is not in a condition to justify building, if that were the only consideration. We have, however, to maintain our trade, which necessitates our keeping our fleet thoroughly up to date, and, having lost the *Peruvian*, we have not built a steamer for over five years. The present depression, I think, is largely, or almost entirely I should say, due to over building, as the quantity of cargo available all over the world has never been larger, and had shipowners generally followed our policy of not over building, freights would to-day have been much better than they are. I have now the pleasure to propose that a dividend at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, for the last six months, be paid, and that £10,000 be placed to the reserve account for depreciation, &c., and that the sum of £1,301 11s. 6d. be carried forward to next year's account.

Sir Theodore Fry seconded the resolution.

The retiring directors were reappointed, and a sum of £800 was voted to the directors for their services.

WESTERN TELEGRAPH CO., LIMITED.

The ordinary general meeting of the Western Telegraph Co., Limited, was held on Wednesday at Electra House, Finsbury Pavement, E.C., under the presidency of Sir John Wolfe Barry.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts. He was in the happy position, he said, of being able to congratulate the shareholders on the satisfactory statement issued by the directors. The message revenue for the six months to the end of December 31 amounted to nearly £47,000 more than in the corresponding period of 1904. The most pleasing feature of the improvement was that it was general, all the countries of South America having contributed to the increased receipts. He was glad to state that these were maintained up to the present moment, and that the company was now sharing in the general prosperity of South America, which in the past had gone through critical periods seriously affecting trade and commerce, and they must not forget that circumstances of a less satisfactory nature than those which at present existed might arise, although he did not wish to prophesy that that would be the case. The general expenses in London had been £322 more and at the stations the expenditure also showed the somewhat large nett increase of £7,575, the most important item being salaries and wages. The increased traffic, of course, entailed the engagement of extra staff, but more than half the enhanced expenditure under this head was due to the higher value of the Brazilian currency, the average rate for the half-year under review having been 16½d. per milrei, against 12½d. in the latter half of 1904. The greater part of the increase in rent, taxes, house allowance, fuel, and light was also owing to the higher rate of exchange. The expenses attending the maintenance of the cables showed a nett increase of £15,502. The repairing vessel *Norseman* had been engaged in effecting some extensive repairs to the older sections, and the cable used for this purpose cost over £13,000 more than in the corresponding period of the previous year. Similar repairs and renewals of weak parts were being continued, but the money was well spent, and a marked improvement has ensued in the condition of several of the cables in shallow water. The nett result was that after providing £14,162 for debenture stock and debenture interest and sinking fund, and £4,978 for income-tax, there remained a balance of £149,516, which was increased by the amount brought forward to £152,648. First and second interim dividends amounting to £62,379 had been paid, and after transferring £80,000 to the general reserve fund and £5,000 to the maintenance ships' reserve fund, a balance remained of £53,269, which was carried forward. The shareholders were aware that the capital expenditure exceeded the issued capital by nearly £223,000, and that the company's reserves and debenture sinking funds were under-invested by over £410,000, the difference being accounted for by balances due to the company, the value of spare cable and stores, remittances in transit, bills receivable, and cash in hand. As they had further capital expenditure in view, in the shape of a new cable to St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands, *via* the Azores, which would enable the company to cope better with the increased traffic, the directors last month offered the share and debenture holders the then unissued balance of 4 per cent. debenture stock, amounting to £230,620, with the gratifying result that the whole amount was taken up. A considerable portion of the sums paid upon application and allotment had already been invested in high-class securities, yielding a satisfactory rate of interest. Having expressed great regret at the death of their late colleague, Mr.

Andrews, he stated that, as Mr. St. John Brodrick was no longer in the Ministry, the directors had elected him to the seat at the board which he formerly occupied with so much advantage to the company. In conclusion, the Chairman formally moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Sir J. Denison-Pender (deputy-chairman) seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

MINING RETURNS.

Ashanti Goldfields Auxiliary.—Recovered 194 ozs., value £776.
Broken Hill Proprietary.—Fine gold 1,130 ozs., fine silver 333,605 ozs., soft lead 4,598 tons, antimonial lead 48 tons.
Burbank's Birthday Gift Gold.—Crushed 1,167 tons, 1,041 ozs.
Clitters United.—Ore treated 1,433 tons, mineral sold or in hand value £2,011.

Copiapo Mining.—Production from Dulcinea Mine 600 tons copper ores, averaging 11 per cent.

De Lamar.—Crushed 1,074 tons, yielding \$9,050; miscellaneous, \$700.

Durban-Roodepoort.—Quartz milled 10,080 tons, 3,361 ozs.; tailings 6,945 tons, 610 ozs.; slimes and slags 3,115 tons, 228 ozs.; total, 4,199 ozs.

Eaglehawk Consolidated.—Crushed 960 tons, 343 ozs.; 148 ozs. from cyanide.

El Oro Mining and Railway.—Crushed 22,186 tons of ore, producing U.S. \$192,599.

Forbes Rhodesia Syndicate.—Dumbleton: 1,200 tons, 124 ozs.; Veracity: crushed 572 tons, 274 ozs.

Kelantan Gold Dredging (No. 1).—Recovered 117 ozs. gold.

Maryborough Leviathan Gold.—17 ozs. gold from 97 tons crushed.

Mitchell's Creek.—Crushed 657 tons, 317 ozs.; concentrates 24 tons; £230.

Mount Roudny.—Ore crushed 3,190 tons, 340 ozs.; concentrates produced 106 tons, 247 ozs.; tailings (cyanide) 1,738 tons, 36 ozs.; total yield, 623 ozs.

New Heriot.—Crushed 9,200 tons, 3,756 ozs.

New Queen.—Cyanide, £490 from 1,152 tons.

New Ravenswood.—Crushed 717 tons of ore, value £2,500; 99 tons concentrates, value £870; tailings plant 82 tons concentrates, value, £1,190.

No. 1 Gold Mines (Queensland).—Crushed 657 tons, 3,130 ozs.

Palmarejo and Mexican (Zapote).—Crushed 2,984 tons; treated 2,600 tons, producing \$14,260 gold, \$42,390 silver.

Peña Copper.—Output of ore 14,190 tons; shipments of ore 8,917 tons; about 81 tons of fine copper in precipitate.

Rice Hamilton.—Sabiwa: Crushed 4,716 tons, 1,045 ozs.; 2,481 tons by cyanide, 658 ozs.; slimes 2,235 tons stored.

Salisbury.—Crushed 5,200 tons, 1,520 ozs.

Tasmanian Copper.—Treated 3,207 tons, producing 195 tons of matte, assaying 95 per cent. copper.

Theta.—Crushed 1,456 tons, 927 ozs.; 453 tons by cyanide, 146 ozs.; total, 1,073 ozs.

Weardale lead.—Ore raised 312 tons, pig lead smelted 239 tons; price for lead sold, £15 16s. 10d., per ton nett, including slag and fume lead.

CHUBWA TEA CO., LIMITED.

During the twelve months ended November 30 this company gathered a crop of 1,804,284 lbs., or 33,217 lbs. more than for the previous season, and as the average price was 1.04d. better at 8d., the gross revenue rose by £8,829 to £60,169. At the same time the cost of production was 0.48d. higher at 6.64d., and with £241 brought in the nett profits showed an improvement of £4,397 at £10,468, which the directors promptly proceed to dissipate by paying a dividend of 10 per cent., compared with 1½ per cent. a year ago, carrying forward £1,458. Considering that the property stands in the balance-sheet at the original figure of £106,000 and that, owing to adverse circumstances, the reserve fund has been left at £10,000 for several years and is all in the business, the interests of the company would have been better served if less hurry to increase the distribution had been shown. The current position, however, seems fairly favourable as against £20,000 or £2,000 more outstanding on bills payable and an increase of £555 to £2,452 in sundry creditors, stocks of tea were £6,716 up at £28,863, and cash was £3,059 higher at £7,055.

BRITISH ASSAM TEA CO., LIMITED.

The twelve months ended December 31 were much more satisfactory for this company than the preceding year, as in addition to securing 46,863 lbs. more at 588,448 lbs., the average price obtained was 0.92d. better at 7.57d., and the gross income rose by £5,249 to £18,643. At the same time expenses, notwithstanding the larger yield, were slightly reduced, so that after providing for debenture interest and writing £57 off debenture issue expenses the directors were able to wipe out the debit balance of £3,903, leaving a surplus of £346, out of which the balance of the debenture issue expenses are written off and £231 is carried forward. This is a decided improvement, and as the balance-sheet looks cleaner and healthier the outlook for the company is much more promising. The overdraft of £2,870 at the bank has disappeared, sundry creditors are £1,103 down at £1,638, and bills payable, including £3,500 obtained against security, have only risen by £250 to £8,500. Against these a decrease of £750 to £6,375 in stocks is accompanied by an advance of £1,480 to £1,852 in cash, and £1,000 has been invested in shares of the Tezpur-Balipara Railway.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will CLOSE on or before WEDNESDAY, the 23rd MAY, 1906.

THE ANTOFAGASTA (CHILI) AND BOLIVIA RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1886.

OFFER OF £500,000 4½ PER CENT. DEBENTURE STOCK AT £105 PER CENT.

Being the remainder of the £1,000,000 4½ per cent. Debenture Stock created under the authority of a resolution of the Company of the 26th May, 1904.

The Stock will be secured by a charge upon the entire Undertaking, with the £500,000 similar Stock already issued, and subject only to that existing in favour of £1,000,000 4 per cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock, and will be repayable at £105 per £100 on the 1st January, 1940, but the Company reserves power to redeem before this date, by purchase in the open market or by public tender. In the event of liquidation for re-construction or amalgamation, the Stock will not be repayable at less than £105 per £100.

Trustees for the 4½ per cent. Debenture Stock Holders:—

BARON BRUNO SCHRÖDER. WALPOLE GREENWELL, Esq.
Solicitors to the Trustees:
MESSRS. HOLLAMS, SONS, COWARD & HAWKSLEY.

Messrs. J. Henry Schröder & Co., having acquired the above-mentioned £500,000 4½ per cent. Debenture Stock, beg to offer the same to the holders of the existing Ordinary, Preferred, Deferred and Debenture Stocks of the Company for subscription at £105 per £100 Stock, payable as follows (holders of Capital Stock of the Company having priority in allotment in proportion to the amount held by them):—

£ 5 per cent. on Application.	
25	on Allotment.
25	on 20th July.
25	on 27th August.
25	on 11th October.

Total £105

The Stock will be transferable in multiples of £1.

The instalments carry interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum from their due dates till 31st October next, and Scrip to bearer carrying a Coupon for £1 ls. 0d. per £100 will be issued after Allotment.

The Scrip will be exchangeable on and after 1st November next free of expense for Certificates of the Stock in the names of the scrip holders, who will be entitled to the interest accruing from the 1st November next. Interest will thenceforth be payable half-yearly on the 1st May and 1st November.

Allottees will have the option of paying up in full on Allotment, or on the date of any subsequent instalment, under discount at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum.

The failure to pay any instalment when due, renders all previous payments liable to forfeiture.

Where the amount allotted is less than that applied for, the surplus will be applied towards the amount payable on Allotment. If no Allotment is made, the deposit will be returned without deduction.

The Company, which was formed in the year 1888, has a paid-up Capital Stock of £2,200,000, a 4 per cent. Perpetual Debenture Debt of £1,000,000, and a 4½ per cent. Debenture Debt, repayable on the 1st January, 1940, of £500,000 part of the £1,000,000 4½ per cent. Debenture Stock authorised on the 25th of May, 1904, the remainder of which forms the amount now offered for sale.

The lines of the Company consist of about 600 miles of railway which will be augmented by the construction of branches, including one to Boquete and another to the Port of Mejillones, for which purpose, among others, the Company has now obtained the consent of the Trustees to issue this Debenture Stock. In addition to the construction of the above branches, a large extension of the Company's system of Waterworks is being carried out.

The net revenue of the Company for the last five years has been as follows:—

1901	£228,900	Including the half share of
1902	£216,688	surplus profits received by
1903	£209,249	the Huanchaca Company.
1904	£326,858	
1905	about £366,800*	

* The final accounts for the year are not yet to hand.

After deducting the amount required to provide interest on the 4 per cent. Debenture Stock from the net revenue for 1905, as stated above, there remains a balance of about £326,000, while the amount required for interest upon the whole of the 4½ per cent. Debenture Stock, including the present issue, will be £445,000.

For the first three months of the present year the gross receipts have been approximately £243,800, showing an increase over the corresponding period of 1905 of about £60,100.

The Boquete Branch commences at km. 36 on the main line and will run in a south-easterly direction to Boquete, a distance of about 110 km.

The Mejillones Branch commences at km. 59 on the main line and will run in a north-westerly direction to the Port of Mejillones, a distance of about 77 km., where important pier and harbour works are in course of construction by the Company.

From reports furnished to the Company, it appears that the former branch will open up an extensive Nitrate district. The latter branch will, when completed, solve the present difficulties arising out of the fact that the shipping facilities at the Port of Antofagasta are now hardly adequate to cope with the greatly increased and ever-growing traffic of the Company.

The extension to Conchiza is now completed and open for traffic, while the works on the Collahuasi Branch are well advanced.

In consequence of the increased demand for water, a new pipe line is being laid from S. Pedro to Cerillos, a distance of about 200 km., which it is believed will increase the water supply sufficiently to meet present and future requirements.

A Contract dated the 10th May, 1906, has been made between the Company and Messrs J. Henry Schröder & Co., for the acquisition from the Company of the Debenture Stock now offered.

The Trust Deed for securing the Debenture Stock, together with the form of Debenture Stock Certificate and the above-mentioned Contract, can be inspected at the Office of Messrs. Hollams, Sons, Coward & Hawksley, 30, Mining Lane, E.C.

Applications should be made on the Forms accompanying this offer, and forwarded with the amount of Deposit payable on application.

Forms of Application can be obtained from Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co., 145, Leadenhall Street, E.C., and from Messrs. W. Greenwell and Co., 2, Finch Lane, E.C.

THE ANTOFAGASTA (CHILI) AND BOLIVIA RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1886.)

AUTHORISED CAPITAL	£2,200,000
of which £2,200,000 have been issued.	
4½ per cent. Perpetual Debenture Stock issued	£1,000,000
4½ per cent. Debenture Stock issued	£500,000

* This amount will be increased to £1,000,000 by the 4½ per cent. Debenture Stock now offered.

The Investors' Review

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CLEMENT WILSON,

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Investment Queries.

Questions about Public Securities will be answered each week in the **Investors' Review** on the following terms:—

For each question thus answered the charge will be **One Shilling**. Where more than One Question is put they should be numbered, and a copy kept. No Security is ever named in the Answers Printed.

Private Letters giving fuller answers can be had if desired. The minimum charge for such letters is **Ten Shillings** each; but for that Three Questions will be answered. For all additions beyond three the charge will be **Half-a-Crown** per query.

Lists of Investments furnished by correspondents will be annotated, or new sets of suggested investments will be supplied on the same terms, viz.:—**10s.** for the First Three, and **2s. 6d.** for each Additional one. But no group of securities forming a trust calculated to yield a given income will be supplied for less than **One Pound**.

The charge for Wires about New Issues appearing on days that prevent timely criticism in the **Investors' Review** will also be **2s. 6d.**, plus a prepaid telegram form.

The Editors cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

Letters from correspondents must, in every case, be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

The Investors' Review.

Argentine Railway Affairs.

In dealing with the progress of Argentine railways during the past few years, we have had so frequently to express admiration for the bountiful and prosperous conditions prevailing that our vocabulary of praise is almost exhausted. Six months ago we gathered together figures covering a period of five years, just to show what wonderful strides had been made, and then hazarded the opinion that despite the irresistible truth that the forward march must come to an end some day, to be followed possibly by some set-back, no fears need be entertained that the wave of prosperity had yet run its course. Such prediction has been fully borne out so far as the past half-year is concerned. Four companies only publish reports at the present time, the Buenos Ayres Great Southern, Buenos Ayres Western, and Entre Rios covering six months, while the Buenos Ayres and Rosario submits full annual accounts. But whether the period be six months or 12 the same tale of flourishing business, increased wealth, greater enterprise and improved conditions all round has to be told. All the companies mentioned show increased receipts ranging from the modest £16,027 of the Entre Rios company to the £319,034 of the Great Southern, the latter improvement being the result of a single half-year's operations. The Rosario company's advance was £235,398, and that of the Western company £141,465. As usual, the passenger traffic contributed largely to the improved income, because the increased business passing led to a greater movement of population, and more money was available for pleasure. That explains the increase in a general way, but minor considerations naturally influenced the traffic as well. In reality they are not less important than the main reasons, and we find the Rosario company laying stress on the fact that the crowded condition of Buenos Ayres is causing a heavy exodus of families who are migrating to the suburbs served by the railway, thus building up a valuable short distance traffic.

Equally good in its smaller way was the income from express parcels and luggage due to the development of the rapidly growing dairy produce and market garden industries, and this takes us to the question of the goods traffic. That is expanding at such a tremendous rate that the companies are experiencing the utmost difficulty in handling the immense consignments of merchandise and cereals sent for carriage on the railways. The area of land put into cultivation becomes greater every year, and there is practically no limit to the expansion possible, because the needs of the world are for ever growing greater as population increases and the standard of living steadily improves. But it is easier to sow a field with wheat or maize than it is to provide railway facilities for its transport. Let us note the advance in goods traffic made prominent in the reports lately issued. In round numbers the Great Southern company showed an increase of 333,000 tons, the Rosario improved 182,000, the Western 100,000, and the Entre Rios 27,000 tons. An enormous increase took place in the wheat traffic of the Great Southern company, but maize showed a big decline, and both wheat and linseed were very considerably less on the Rosario system, owing to unseasonable weather while the crops were being harvested. On the other hand, the general goods business on the Rosario lines went

up no less than 283,000 tons. This class of traffic was also satisfactory with the Western railway, which had an important increase in wheat traffic, but a falling off in maize owing to a partial failure of the crop referred to in the general manager's report for the last financial year. Cereal and flour mill traffics were decidedly encouraging on the Entre Rios.

What have the railway companies done in order to prepare their undertakings for the present and prospective increase in the volume of business? Everything possible, so far as we can see. Take the Great Southern company as an example. We are told that the working of the period under review does not admit of a practical comparison with any previous period. From 1899 to 1904 the traffic of the railway increased steadily from year to year, the sowing of wheat in the southern district, which made its first real start in 1899, when the railway carried 354,216 tons, increasing more or less evenly to 922,967 tons in 1904. In the winter of the latter year a much larger area was sown, weather conditions were in every way favourable, and grain produced abundantly and of good quality. One of the immediate results to the railway was that in the whole year to December, 1905, the wheat traffic reached 1,667,843 tons, nearly double the previous year. With the big wheat harvest of 1904-5 set in a period of greatly increased activity, and the estimates of what the railway would require in the way of additional equipment and new and enlarged installations proved to be inadequate. No time was lost in placing the system in a position to meet the new conditions with sufficient in hand for further expansion. A large number of new engines and rolling stock of all kinds were ordered for the earliest delivery, and before the end of the year the first deliveries of engines and wagons were in service. Single lines had to be doubled; new passing sidings at intermediate points, and the enlargement of several stations for the better working of the traffic were found to be required. The provision of a larger immediate outlet at the Bahia Blanca port also became an urgent necessity, and its permanent extension on a larger scale than had been hitherto entertained called for decision. A large number of relief works have already been carried out. The new barge dock, which was commenced in August last, is now approaching completion, and the directors will shortly be in a position to put into service the new flotilla of pontoon elevators and barges.

Moreover, the company has recently obtained the approval of the Government to the construction of additional moles for both deep and shallow draught vessels. Contracts have already been placed for the building of the first section of these new works, which will make provision for the double berthing of eight ocean-going ships. The mole will be equipped with two large grain elevators, each having accommodation for 8,000 tons of grain in bulk and for 5,000 tons in bags, and these will have a loading or discharging capacity of 1,500 tons per hour. An additional draught mole to be fitted with electric bucket elevators for effecting the rapid transfer of grain from wagons to barges is also being constructed. Take note also of the recent additions to the rolling stock. Since the issue of the last report 118 locomotives, three steam motor coaches, 15 sleeping saloons, 931 bogie flat wagons, 662 covered wagons, 300 bogie cattle wagons, and 50 goods wagons have been shipped to Buenos Ayres, the bulk of which are now in service. Six 800-ton, three 500-ton, three 300-ton barges, two pontoon elevators, and two steam tugs have been shipped to Bahia Blanca, and are now being used in connection with the shallow draught grain dock there for loading vessels that cannot be berthed at the existing moles. In addition to all this there are still on order 120 locomotives, 25 sleeping saloons, 14 dining cars, 142 day saloons, 15 brake vans, 238 40-ton goods wagons, and 79 bogie flat wagons, all to be shipped during the current year, and which will therefore be available for traffic next produce season. We might continue this story of enlargement, addition, and improvement a good deal further, but enough has been said to show

that a genuine effort has been, and is being, made to cope with present day requirements.

Much the same can be said of the Buenos Ayres Western and Rosario companies, and we find that the latter has given orders for 500 40-ton covered wagons, 50 hopper wagons, five shunting engines, 20 coupled goods engines, 22 mixed goods train engines, 12 sleeping coaches, 10 dining saloons, 10 first-class coaches, 15 composite coaches, 12 passenger brake vans, and 12 first and five second-class coaches for local service. It is also proposed to construct 15 second-class, an additional 12 sleeping coaches, and 1,000 42-ton wagons, and a project for further increasing the locomotive power and standardising it has been forwarded to the board for its consideration. It is, perhaps, needless to say that, thanks to the enormous increase in the demand for labour, and the inevitable corollary of a big increase in wages, the cost of new extensions and works is far heavier than it used to be, and we find the Western company pointing out that, whereas the cost of the extension from the Trenque Lauquen to Toay, built in 1896-7, was about £2,150 per mile, that now under construction west of Rancul will cost more than £4,250 per mile. This heavy outlay has its compensating advantages in acting as a deterrent to possible competitors because so much of the company's system has been constructed cheaply that no new undertaking could hope to build lines at present cost and compete successfully with the existing undertaking. None the less are the capital commitments of the railways inclined to give us pause, and there is no disguising the fact that the Stock Exchange was anything but pleased when it learnt that the Rosario company proposed to increase its capital by yet another £3,000,000, raising it to £25,635,230. That is a formidable sum, and must bear severely on the enterprise should a period of poor harvests and general reaction be encountered.

We may now revert to the operations of the past half-year, as there is something to be said on the question of working expenditure. In two striking instances this has risen in much greater proportion than the gross revenue. The Great Southern company shows a ratio of 56.50 per cent. against 50.71 per cent., and the Western brings out its proportion at 55.99 per cent., as compared with 48.03 per cent. These are very exceptional increases, and, most people will think, must be due to some special causes. In a sense they are, but the circumstances that have brought about the advance are likely to be of a permanent character. The whole position may almost be summed up in the one word "wages." We have had a good deal to say on this question during the last few years, finding it necessary to protest against the reasons usually advanced for the higher scale of pay that now apparently rules throughout Argentina. It is all the work of the Socialists and labour agitators, the local officials say, making absolutely no allowance for the enormous demand for labour now prevalent or for the fact that those who help to create and maintain the prosperity of the railways are entitled to share it. Moreover, the chairman of the Great Southern company's local committee rather gives the game away when he admits that: "It is no exaggeration at all to say that, generally speaking, the ordinary necessities of life have gone up over 50 per cent. in the last few years." It must also be borne in mind that the greatly increased traffic means a much heavier expenditure on repairs and renewals, and that as new extensions, which can hardly be expected to pay their way at first, are brought into use, the ratio of revenue outlay to gross income must inevitably tend upwards. The Rosario company reports a slight decrease in its ratio, and the Entre Rios company is happy to report the lowest proportion in its history.

Now for a word about prospects. They can still be considered good, because most of the companies continue to show increased gross revenues, and although the wheat and maize crops may not yield so well per acre the quantity to be carried will hardly be less owing to the increased acreage sown. We must not, however, forget that the terribly dreaded locusts have made

their appearance in certain districts; and while no disastrous or even serious consequences are anticipated, a period of anxiety will be experienced until these all-devouring insects have disappeared. Various new industries are reported to be springing up, and the long succession of favourable crops have made farmers and others fairly prosperous, so that the railways will doubtless continue to benefit from the big movement of passengers and general merchandise which usually takes place when trade is good and a community flourishes.

The Life Insurance War.

An old subscriber writes to us as follows, with reference to the step taken by the North British and Mercantile Company to entice over the British business of the Mutual Life Company of New York. "I have read with great interest your two articles on the insurance event, and agree with them entirely. I had hoped that American life insurance business in this country was at an end, at least until they showed they had really mended their ways, but I fear this action of the North British and Mercantile will bring about a reaction in favour of the American offices; also, I fear that the move will not turn out to be profitable to the North British Company. On several occasions I have ventured to express my dissatisfaction with the progress of this company in the course of recent years, and I have now decided to sell my shares." Without going so far as this correspondent in judging the consequences to the raiding company, we must again express regret that the North British Company should have fallen under the charm of Mr. D. C. Haldeman's fascinating personality. We can hardly, however, believe that the directors and old managers of the North British Company have neglected to make a fairly good bargain for themselves, a bargain that will warrant them in giving Mr. Haldeman a salary of £5,000 per annum, and a handsome retiring allowance when he quits work. Probably the business of the company will now be considerably extended, but it may also have to be conducted on methods more or less American, and this all upholders of the high and honourable position occupied by British life offices will regret.

What American methods are the action of the new manager appointed to the British department of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York already illustrates. We last week received from him a circular letter dated May 14, the concluding paragraph of which runs thus:—"Meanwhile I desire to reiterate and emphasise the fact which has been vouched for after prolonged and detailed examination by the well-known English accountants, Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths, and Co., that the entire solvency of the Mutual Life is beyond question, and that there need not be in the mind of any policyholder a moment's doubt as to its ability to carry out all its obligations to the letter." This is a sufficiently sweeping statement, and at the same time one so entirely contrary to the facts that the manager had, on the following day, to issue a correction, doubtless at the instance of the firm of accountants whose honourable standing could not permit it to be saddled with opinions and a responsibility totally foreign to its province. In his second circular letter Mr. J. H. Harrison Hogge says, "Referring to the last paragraph of my letter of yesterday's date, I inadvertently stated that Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths, and Co. vouched 'that the entire solvency of the Mutual is beyond question.' Messrs. Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths, and Co., and Messrs. Haskins and Sells, in their interim report, which is in the hands of the policyholders, deal only with the assets of the company as at December 31, 1905. The verification of the liabilities involves actuarial questions, and is outside the province of the accountants."

What are we to think of statements like these? Are we to put down the sweeping declaration in Mr. Harrison Hogge's first circular to ignorance, or shall we take it as one more example of that reckless disregard or travesty of the truth which has been so marked a

characteristic of American life insurance touting throughout, in the United Kingdom at all events? If we assume that until the position was explained to him Mr. Harrison Hogge was ignorant of the province of an accountant, and did not know the difference between the certification of the assets and an actuarial valuation of liabilities, we can hardly congratulate the new management of the Mutual of New York in their appointment. If, on the other hand, Mr. Harrison Hogge knew the difference, and yet put forth this statement, it can scarcely have been by what he calls inadvertence; he was merely servile to an ingrained bad habit. The point is important not only on this ground, but because it appears to indicate a fixed resolve on the part of the present controllers of the New York Mutual Company to disregard the demands made by policyholders in this country, and again and again formulated in our columns that the whole business of the company should be overhauled, and its true condition actuarially reported upon by British actuaries selected on this side. If the present management of the New York Mutual Life will not assent to an examination of the kind it ought not to receive any further countenance in this country. This is the very least our citizens contemplating insurance should require before entertaining any proposals made by this or any similar alien organisation.

We have faith still that the Mutual of New York is solvent, but if one thing more than another is calculated to destroy this faith, it is the persistence with which a parade is made of the great magnitude of the company's assets, the stunning total of its investments, while nothing at all is said about the position of the liabilities measured by actuarial tests. The assets might multiply to twice their present amount, but if the contracts based on them were made extravagantly, if the expenditure continues dishonestly excessive, and if lives are recklessly taken into the pool, so to say, the company might be insolvent. And there are items in its assets which are obviously of a kind difficult to value. Some documents have reached us from the company amongst which we find a summary of liabilities and assets as on December 31 last. The total figures up to £96,686,071, but we learn nothing from the exhibit as to how the company really stands. What, however, we do find is that the company owns real estate to the nett book value of £6,368,554. That alone is a suspicious item, a most excessive lock up, and when we find that £1,026,694 had last year to be written off the book value of this real estate it does not require extraordinary acumen to attain an attitude of suspicion that other items in the balance-sheet may be at least equally hollow. For example, there is £22,540,280 sunk in bonds and mortgages, presumably all first lien. How are these valued? Again, investments in railroad, banking institution, and other stocks, of the par value of £6,511,417 are set out in the balance-sheet as worth £15,171,314. Obviously this is a misleading entry, and one which no careful accountant would tolerate for a moment. This item alone indeed shows that the "contingent guarantee fund out of which future dividends on policies now in force will be payable as they become due by the terms of the policies," an amount put at £15,486,162, is in great measure the produce of mere book-keeping inflation. Deduct the £8,660,000 by which the above-mentioned investments have been written up, and the real amount of this guarantee fund, as measured by the cost of these investments, would be brought down to rather less than £7,000,000. For all we can tell other sections of the assets may also be taken into the accounts at a more or less corresponding excess valuation, and there is one other item which cannot be regarded as a marketable asset, viz., loans to policyholders on the company's own policies, the aggregate of which is £5,790,201. The investments in Government, railroad, and other bonds at £39,305,456 are apparently taken into the books at a moderate valuation since the par value is about £311,000 in excess of this figure. But what is meant by "par value"? Did the company pay par for the securities? If not

may not this entry also be misleading? We raise this question because it really is necessary to keep before the British public the unscrupulous dodginess by means of which these American life offices still seek to beguile our citizens into taking contracts for life or endowment policies with them on delusive promises of great benefits to come.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

AN ACTUARY ON THE NORTH BRITISH "DEAL."

A circular of the *qui s'excuse s'accuse* order has been issued by the managers in London of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company, the essential portion of which runs as follows:—"The action taken by the North British and Mercantile was taken after it had become a matter of public knowledge that a section at least of the British policyholders proposed to break away from the Mutual. In its present action the North British and Mercantile is simply endeavouring to avail itself in a legitimate and open manner of an opportunity of extending its business—an opportunity which some other British companies are likewise striving to embrace. The offer of the North British referred mainly to the large number of Mutual policies of relatively short duration possessing certain guaranteed surrender values, and it was indicated that in other cases the assured in transferring his insurance might have to make some sacrifice. The North British has throughout recognised that in a number of cases the policyholder cannot transfer his insurance without appreciable loss, and has not hesitated so to advise him."

This may be taken as the best these gentlemen can say in reply to the criticisms offered in last week's INVESTORS' REVIEW. It does not alter the facts; no gloss can. How inadequate the excuse is readers may judge by what an actuary of distinction says in a letter we have received from him this week. His words are so much more weighty than anything we could say would be, and he is, from his position and circumstances, so disinterested and impartial in his point of view, that his judgment may be accepted as about the last word to be said whether on the business or the professional etiquette side of a most disquieting episode. The suggestion with which the letter winds up as to the way the law-makers might help in purifying the business of life insurance is also pertinent to the debate, and well worth the attention of our own Government, once it has worked clear of the sects. In New York State the legislature has attempted too much and will probably accomplish nothing:—

"I do not wish to mingle my name in this Halde-man-business, but I must write and say how entirely I approve all you say about it last Saturday. The way I have regarded the question is as follows:—First, *We* actuaries have known all along that the American companies' methods of getting business were extravagant and bad, and corrupting our own cleaner methods. Secondly, *you* have been telling us all along of the financial wrongdoing in New York. If, notwithstanding all this, we have tacitly accepted the position, and even allowed friendly relations to grow up (as we all have) with the three great companies, what language can be applied to the un-British practice of 'hitting them when they are down'? And not only down, but, owing to the arising of a strong, righteous indignation in America, likely to arise again under conditions enabling them to do really well for their assured, just as so many other American offices (such as the Connecticut Mutual and the Provident) have always done. It all seems to me so insensate, not only unpleasant from the ethical standpoint, but calculated to call in question either (1) the *bona fides*, or (2) the common business capacity of the gentlemen who are rushing in with these various offers. Either is a sufficiently nasty alternative. And what can be said

of the so-called 'policyholders' committee,' which, without taking expert and independent advice, has lent itself to this proceeding? Obviously, it seems to me, if only guarantees can be obtained for the future limitation of new business and of expenditure (in addition, of course, to financial purity) the policyholders would be wisest to follow your advice and stay where they are. And this leads me to throw out the suggestion in conclusion:—Would not a legislative limit to expenses and new business do all that is required in future, instead of all the appalling restrictions now being talked of in New York? It should be arranged like our gas companies' sliding scales—the greater the new business transacted, the smaller should be the maximum expense ratio. I fancy that would automatically cure nine-tenths of the diseases from which the life assurance body in America has been suffering."

THE CANADIAN BUDGET.

Mr. Fielding, the Dominion Minister of Finance, unfolded his Budget in the Lower House at Ottawa on Tuesday last, and had a story of continued prosperity to tell. We have only the *Times* correspondent's summary to go by, but the figures he gives are eloquent. The surplus for the past fiscal year was £1,572,618, and for the current year a surplus of £2,500,000 is estimated for, "one of the largest in the history of Canada." With such a fine result and with a prospect so encouraging, one might hope for some reduction in the deadly wall of tariff exactions by which the Dominion, in imitation of the United States, is now surrounded, but no hope of that kind was held out to the Canadian people. Next year, perhaps, there may be some changes, but the Government does not intend even then to do anything great, and meanwhile all it proposes is to exempt from duty beet sugar machinery, and also machinery for alluvial gold mining in order to encourage the industry in Yukon. The beet sugar machinery will be allowed to enter duty free, in order that a beet growing and sugar manufacturing monopoly may be established in Canada to the injury of the citizens and of Canadian foreign trade. Another proposal is that steel rails made in Canada might be sent to the United States to be re-rolled, and admitted again upon payment of 25 per cent. on the amount expended upon labour in the United States. Surely that is about as contemptible an expedient as men of intelligence could well hit upon. Why are workmen in the United States to be considered antagonistic to those in Canada, and who can benefit by a citizen-robbing expedient of this kind, except a few monopolising capitalists and financiers, who appear to hold the Government of the Dominion as completely in their grasp as do the monopolists over the border that of Washington? A point mentioned in the speech was that during the current year loans to the amount of £2,500,000 mature, and that this kind of falling in of old debts will go on continuously until 1910. During this interval seven other loans, making a total of £27,718,218 are due to be paid off. Does the Government intend to pay them off? Apparently not. Whenever the market warranted, the Finance Minister said, "a public loan would be issued in the usual way." This looks rather like the conduct of the spendthrift, and does not augur well for the fortunes of the Canadian people when days of adversity come upon them, as come they surely will.

UNION-CASTLE MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

We are not yet able to report a substantial improvement in the revenue of this important shipping company, serving the South African colonies. During the two years which ended with 1904 the profits went down in a most alarming fashion, falling, indeed, from round £463,000 to about £72,000. During the past 12 months there has been a recovery of £81,971, but the advance is not sufficient to admit of the resumption of reserve contributions, although it does not become necessary to again dip into the insurance fund in order to keep up the dividend. The profit is arrived at after

providing for depreciation, an addition of £10,000 to the provident fund, and the transfer of £69,446 to the insurance fund, being the nett premiums credited in 1905 on the risks taken by the company, after deducting claims and returns for lying up. To the nett profit is added £15,442 brought forward, making £97,413, from which preference dividend takes £10,800, and interim ordinary dividend of 2 per cent. £28,368. The directors now propose a final distribution of 3 per cent. from the profits, making 5 per cent. in all, carrying forward £15,693. A year ago the revenue provided 4 per cent. of the 5 per cent. dividend, and the balance of 1 per cent. came from the insurance fund. We are glad this has not been further depleted, even though no important accidents occurred during the year, and the directors say that, in view of a possible extension of the company's liability under the Employers' Liability Bill now before Parliament, it is advisable to maintain an adequate balance at the credit of the fund to cover possible contingencies. Its total is £1,133,878, a splendid figure, against a fleet valuation of £3,445,255, or well under £13 per ton, and as, in addition, there are the reserve fund, £360,000, and the repairs and renewal fund £187,292, the position looks sound and strong, despite the fact that no contributions to the savings were possible from last year's profits. The company still pursues the policy of weeding out its more or less antiquated vessels, and during the period under review disposed of the *Scot* and the *Arundel Castle*. Proceeds of these sales, together with the amounts realised for steamers last year and lighters and plant sold, have been invested in Government securities. Since the close of the accounts the *Greek* has also been sold, and we are not told of any actual additions made or contemplated except that a new tender named the *Stork* has been sent out to East London to replace the *Midge*, as greater facilities were required for landing and embarking passengers. Apart from the fleet the company has property and plant in England and South Africa valued at £302,957, or £4,489 less, and the total investments, including £341,982 in British Government securities, are entered at £444,343 against £201,600. Other principal assets are general stores £65,979, disbursements on account of current voyages £286,422, debtors £122,973, bills receivable £10,538, and cash £347,060. Floating liabilities, however, are also big, sundry outstanding accounts or debts owing by the company reaching £335,074, and current voyages receipts amounting to £300,245. The small sum of £20,000 last year owing to bankers has been paid off. The contract for the mail steamers to call at Durban which was entered into with the Government of Natal and referred to in the last report, terminated on March 31 last, but has been extended, with certain modifications, to meet the views of the Government.

FINE COTTON SPINNERS AND DOUBLERS ASSOCIATION.

It was only to be expected that this huge textile trust would share the better trade conditions prevalent last year, but the results give no cause for undue enthusiasm. The profits earned for the 12 months to March 31 mark a great advance on those for the preceding year, but they are still short of the 1902-3 achievement, and fall a long way below the best year closing in 1901. However, the company last year earned a nett revenue of £402,442, or £160,994 more than in 1904-5, but this improvement is slightly neutralised by the shrinkage of £31,561 at £8,065 in the credit brought forward. Sum for disposal, therefore, is £410,507 against £281,074, and after again providing £110,000 for debenture interest, £300,507 is left. Preference dividend requires a little more at £125,000, and the directors think it wise to replace the £40,000 last year withdrawn from reserve in order that shareholders might have a 4 per cent. dividend instead of 2 per cent. or less which was earned. This contribution reduces the balance available for the ordinary shareholders to £135,507, and the distribution will, therefore, be 6 per cent., with a balance carried forward of £15,507. This

is a moderately good display, and the directors are pleased to record that the statement contained in their last annual report to the shareholders "that the state of trade is gradually improving, and the outlook more encouraging" has proved to be correct. This improvement is maintained at the present time, but we hope the directors will keep the ordinary dividend to its present rate instead of striving after the 8 or 9 per cent. formerly paid, and which strained the resources so severely. If we allow that this year's contribution to reserve merely replaces last year's withdrawal, no addition from profits has been made to the fund for three years, and we know quite well that the main item of the accounts needs to be powerfully fortified. Its total at the date of the last balance-sheet was £5,153,861, and additions for the year were £67,762, making £5,221,624. From this we must deduct the aggregate depreciation to date of £428,526, and it is well to note that although the directors boast of allowing £140,000 for depreciation, the sum actually written off is only £46,665, because from the £140,000 is deducted £93,335 spent on renewals. Spread over eight years, the sum of £428,526 mentioned above appears somewhat slender. There is, of course, the reserve accumulation as well, now reaching £700,459, but of that only £380,075 came from profits, the balance consisting of share premiums or capital. Total floating indebtedness, including loans to the amount of £119,961, is £876,737, against which trade debtors are only £576,634, and the cash balance of £121,867 is not sufficient for the final dividends. The company, however, has over 1½ million in stocks, and the total seems heavy even for a concern of this magnitude. Whether the reserve fund can be considered invested outside the business it is hard to say, because no one except the company's officials knows the real composition of the sundry investments, loans and shares in subsidiary companies standing at £1,693,734. In what proportion these items stand, how much sundry investments, how much loans, and how much shares in subsidiary companies, we have never been told. Profits of subsidiary companies not yet distributed £99,913 does not give much help, although it seems to show that nearly all this money has been put into dependent companies. If that is so the reserve fund must be held locked up and troubles might result if it had suddenly to be realised.

YEARS ENDED MARCH 31.

	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Net profit.....	£ 364,009	£ 416,749	£ 384,267	£ 241,448	£ 402,442
Balance brought forward	61,179	13,990	18,739	39,626	8,065
	425,188	430,739	403,006	281,074	410,507
Debenture interest..	109,123	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
Balance	316,065	320,739	293,006	171,074	300,507
Preference dividend	100,000	100,000	100,000	123,009	125,000
Ordinary dividend..	152,000	152,000	152,000	80,000	120,000
	(8 p.c.)	(8 p.c.)	(8 p.c.)	(4 p.c.)	(6 p.c.)
Reserve fund addition	50,075	50,000	nil.	nil.	40,000
Reserve fund withdrawal	—	—	—	40,000	—
Written off new issue expenses	—	—	1,380	—	—
Carried forward....	13,990	18,739	39,626	8,065	15,507

WILLOUGHBY'S CONSOLIDATED.

One cannot feel jubilant and enthusiastic over the position and prospects of Willoughby's Consolidated as disclosed in the directorial report for the year 1905. The position is no whit the better than it was twelve months ago, although the directors manage this time to show a tiny profit instead of a big loss—those colossal losses in the shape of depreciation they again conveniently ignore. Twelve months ago we warned shareholders that sooner or later they would have to provide further cash, and we still fail to see how this can be avoided. True, a cable was, by a marvellous co-

incidence, issued simultaneously with the report of Willoughby's, announcing a discovery of diamonds on the property of the South African Option Syndicate, but even this miracle is not likely to save the pockets of the shareholders. Sir John and his co-directors may think it will lessen their disappointment, and even cheer them a little, for he probably knows what average human nature is, but even should this "find" be as wonderful as the indefinite particulars would have us conceive, how many years will it be before the diamonds become marketable? "That's not it," Sir John might reply. "Our company holds ever so many shares in the Option Syndicate, and if we can substantially improve the market value of these, just imagine how our share assets will appreciate. It may even cover the losses on the other stuff we hold." Quite so, but this will not furnish the company with money it actually needs, nor justify the directors in putting into the balance-sheet rubbishy shares at inflated prices. Further claims owned by the company have had to be abandoned—70 in the course of the twelve months—while ten have been pegged, the losses on the thousands of claims given up as worthless during the past few years having been colossal. This gives further testimony to the extreme poverty of the country. By including £3,200 nett revenue which really belonged to 1904 the income from rents, royalties, licences, &c., totalled £21,000, and after meeting expenses, debenture interest, and depreciation, the nett profit is £685, against a loss of £12,322 in the previous year. As a credit of £45,127 was brought forward, the directors take £45,812 to the next balance-sheet, and, of course, dare not divide a penny of it. Creditors have been reduced from £37,744 to £14,302, and debtors from £123,522 to £101,749, but of this no less than £99,000 is owing by subsidiaries. These can only repay it by raising fresh capital, and this they propose to do, although many of them have been absolute failures. We deal with them in our mining notes, and who would say there is the slightest hope of the Bonsor, North Bonsor, and Surprise becoming profitable mines? These shares and others described as "investments" are valued at £500,235 against £498,453, the market value at the end of the year being only £204,000, inclusive of £53,000 for shares which have no market quotation, as the auditors point out. That portion of the company's area known as the Queen's mine, which has been let on tribute for 3½ years from November, 1904, is said to have yielded fair results, but the tributors of the Broad Arrow Reef ceased milling in February, 1905. How can such a company hope to earn dividends? Shareholders will be called upon to wipe out the losses of the subsidiaries and provide further capital, and if this enables them to pay their debts to the parent concern it may continue to exist comfortably for some years. But this alone will not make the company remunerative.

RUSSIAN PETROLEUM AND LIQUID FUEL CO.

The annual report of this undertaking, made up to January 13 (December 31 o/s) is bad; that much cannot be disguised, but it is certainly no worse than we expected. Indeed, considering the company's horrible experiences during the period, the shareholders can thank their stars that, with reasonable luck, the fortunes of the enterprise should soon be retrieved. There is no denying the fact that a terrible amount of damage has been done, mere wanton destruction most of it, and without in any way attempting to condone the actions of the Russian Government during the past year, this much must be remembered, that it was not always engaged in slaughtering the peasantry, whose only crime was a demand for liberty. In the Baku district the authorities were called upon to quell the fanatical outbreaks of lawless gangs of Tartars and Armenians bent upon mutual destruction and on doing as much damage and mischief to property as could be conveniently managed. No part of Russia suffered more severely than the oil fields, and after that awful

time of massacre and incendiarism in August it seemed that the industry must be paralysed almost for years. Take this company's property alone. Out of a total of 58 wells, the derricks of 46 were completely destroyed, the damage done to the plant and machinery varying from absolute loss to a possibility of partial repair. The destruction also involved the building and contents of tube works, materials and instrument stores and dwelling houses, large ambar, capable of holding 800,000 poods of naphtha, iron reservoir and two covered receiving ambars, electric wires and cables, and steam, water, and other pipe lines. The wreckage is described as appalling, and only after many weeks of continuous labour was the property cleared sufficiently to permit reinstatement to be begun. Even then the damage done to the wells was so enormous that from August until the end of the year the production of crude oil was barely sufficient to provide the company with fuel. The air lift tubes in nearly all the compressor wells dropped down the casings, and much time was lost in recovering them. There were also many other difficulties to contend against, traceable to past mismanagement, with the result that the total production for the year was only 13,845,789 poods, compared with 29,205,803 poods in 1904. With such a heavy drop in output and a big demand for mazout in the interior of Russia, the tendency of prices was naturally upward. Naphtha steadily rose from 14 copecks per pood in January to 27 copecks in October, that is, towards the close of the navigation season. After this the price commenced to recede again, falling to 20 copecks in November and 17 in December, owing to the fact that after the close of navigation the buying of mazout temporarily ceases. As for kerosene, there was no demand of any consequence throughout the year, and after falling from 18½ copecks to 14 the quotation rallied again to about 20, with no business done. Sea kerosene, however, which is chiefly supplied to Russia, was a much brisker market, and the price went up from 14½ copecks in March to no less than 40 copecks per pood in September, just after the fires. A reaction which followed sent the quotation back to 28 copecks. The improvement in Baku affected prices in the interior of Russia. About 18 copecks is being realised for mazout and 30 copecks for kerosene, but the final kerosene accounts are not yet to hand. Distribution will in future take place by Messrs. Nobels Bros. and Co. and the Mazout Co., and as this will mean a weakening of competition, satisfactory returns are considered certain.

Gross profit on trading is returned at £26,889, compared with £186,413 in the preceding year, an appalling drop. Transfer fees gave £172, and by adding on £44,004 brought forward the directors have a credit of £71,065. From that the total expenses were £11,429, interest, &c., took £32,560, taxes in England and Russia £9,673, and some other charges £2,636. This means an aggregate outgo of £55,498, against an actual revenue of £27,061, but, thanks to the sum brought in, these charges can be provided with a balance over of £15,567. That is added to the depreciation account, but does not nearly meet the full sum required. We must now have something to say on the questions of depreciation and losses. Last year the company possessed a reserve fund of £100,000, and can now credit it with £15,000 appropriated for doubtful debts since received, making £115,000. From that £103,945 is written off for loss of property, £7,815 for materials destroyed, and £16,900 cost of clearing property after the fire. That means a total of £128,660, but we have to deduct £42,456 as the depreciation reserve standing in the accounts on the property destroyed, bringing the actual deduction to £86,204, and leaving the general reserve at £28,796. Additions to property account during the year were £72,207, making an aggregate of £1,840,517. On the other hand, deductions for losses already referred to, together with abandoned wells, &c., were £116,000, and the nett allowance to date for depreciation is £240,991, so that the property account now appears

in the balance-sheet at £1,483,526. Apart from the reserve mentioned, there is the preference shareholders' reserve of £126,959, all invested in good-class securities, and the existence of this fund is no doubt consolatory in view of the absence of dividend. Investments and securities abroad, at cost or under, are valued at £81,614, bills receivable come to £37,346, and cash is £47,714. Other assets consist of stocks £33,181, oils delivered under contracts £133,673, materials and stores £109,370, and debtors £105,215. Floating liabilities, however, are extremely heavy, sundry creditors being £199,494, bills payable £287,199, and advances from bankers £136,560. The creation of further capital is, therefore, imperative, and the directors seek authority for increasing the borrowing powers by £350,000. No opinion is hazarded regarding the future, but the directors say that since the middle of December last work at the oil fields has gone on undisturbed, and while no preference dividend can be declared at present, the improved prospects give hope that a distribution will be possible at no very distant date.

THE ORDNANCE "COMBINE."

It is interesting from many points of view to learn that the great armour plate manufacturers and builders of ships for the British Navy, Messrs. John Brown and Co. and Cammell, Laird, and Co., of Sheffield, and the Fairfield Shipbuilding Company, of Glasgow, have united forces in order to erect works on the Clyde which will put them in a position to build not only guns of the largest size, but all the machinery required to work and load these guns. The prosperity of these firms and of Messrs. Vickers, Sons, and Maxim depends so largely upon Government orders, upon the tens of millions poured out every year by the British taxpayer in order to secure supremacy for the British Navy, that a combination of this kind was almost inevitable. Nothing was to be gained by competition, and as a matter of fact, competition has long ago tacitly, or by agreement, ceased between these great firms. They have beaten Woolwich altogether, so completely beaten it, indeed, that the Government might well consider whether Woolwich should not be given up except as a storehouse or a repairing shop, or a place where small articles required by the ever-clamouring fighting organisations of the country might be made. One would like to know, however, what the position of these great firms will be, and where their new works, with the capacious dock that is to be built to accommodate ships while being fitted up, when our naval programme is cut down, as cut down it will be, if not voluntarily one of these days by the incapacity of the nation to sustain it. An agitation, moreover, is going on all over Europe to restrict naval armaments, and in other ways to work the unhappy nations clear of the deadly and blighting military giant Despair by whose ravages the very foundations of their civilisation are threatened. Can the capital put into such works as these combined firms are now projecting be considered safe, in view of this temper of European nations, and of the growing feeling in this country that the time has come to put a stop to the insensate competition in building ships of war merely that they may rust away for a few years, and then be sold for a price not much better than that obtained for scrap iron? We can only hope, in view of the coming change, that our great Navy creating and gun-casting firms will not neglect to make provision for the transformation of their works into instruments for the furtherance instead of the destruction of civilisation. If they do this there is not much need to fear, because in the times to come there must be an incalculable increase in the demands for the products of machine shops and engineering shops, of forge and anvil, to carry out works of utility beneficial to mankind. How much steel would be required to line, say, four railway tunnels driven under the English Channel between England and France, and two tunnels between Scotland and Ireland? If the United States is able to consume in enterprises of a beneficial, wealth-begetting description almost as much iron and steel as all the

rest of the world put together, in spite of Europe's waste in preparations for war that need never come, is there not room for indefinite expansion of the same kind all over Europe? We shall not despair of these firms if, while busy preparing to load up monster battle-ships, cruisers, torpedo-boats, and other engines of destruction, with the mightiest weapons of offence perverted human ingenuity can invent, they are also careful to lay the foundations on which a business carried on for the benefit of mankind may be built up.

GEDULD PROPRIETARY AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES.

The Geduld Proprietary has recently made itself notorious in a way that has not helped the Kaffir Circus to recover from its woes. But the shares are still fairly active counters in the market, for the gamblers do not despair that at some time or other the public will take a hand in the gamble. They are much overpriced, but that matters not, if eventually they can be sold at the figure to those who can be deluded into the belief that it represents wealth of a kind. The shares are largely held in Germany, and English investors would be wise to let them stay in Germany, at any rate, until it is possible to form some approximate idea of their value. This is impossible at present, and is made the more impossible by the discrepancies in the assay figures which constituted the recent scandal. The Geduld Proprietary is a parent concern, and has floated two subsidiaries—the North Geduld and Central Geduld—holding the major portions of their capitals. These subsidiaries are shaft sinking, but there is a great distance between sinking shafts and earning profits and dividends, and until these are possible, how can the parent concern itself hope to pay dividends? Shareholders must wait as patiently as they can, and learn things in due time. Meanwhile, tiny as the income has always been, it was still tinier in 1905. Interest gave £3,656, licences £407, sales of water £290, and rent £70, total £4,424, but as the expenditure amounted to £7,092, there was a loss of £2,668. As, however, £5,756 was brought in from the previous accounts, there is still a small credit of £3,088 to carry forward. The financial position is a tolerably comfortable one, as liquid assets total £46,710, against liabilities of £16,585, but it is practically certain to become weaker as time goes on. The revenue received by the Central Geduld from interest and rents amounted to £4,275, while outgoings absorbed £4,176, so the credit balance is slightly increased from £1,506 to £1,604. Cash and other liquid resources are put at £47,230 against £5,651 owing to creditors, and as there are 75,000 reserve shares, there is plenty of money available to spend on shaft sinking and development. The North Geduld did not do so well as the Central, for the expenditure of £3,836 topped the interest receipts of £3,086 by £750, so the credit is thereby reduced from £4,328 to £3,578. It is a little richer, however, than its neighbour, for it has as much as £97,739 in cash, while creditors are owed £11,359. Out of the issued capitals of £325,000—the North Geduld also having 75,000 shares unissued—the Proprietary holds 220,000 shares in each, the whole 440,000 being taken in the balance-sheet at cost, £223,942. How much would they fetch if the company tried to realise them in order to raise the wind?

American Business Notes.

A sudden jump of about £3,200,000 occurred in the liabilities of the New York Associated Banks on loans and discounts last week. This was accompanied by an increase of about £2,400,000 in the deposits, but none the less was the position of the surplus reserve injuriously affected. In actual amount that reserve was not reduced, because against a loss of \$1,000,000 in specie there was an increase of \$1,306,000 in the paper reserve. Even so, however, thanks to the sudden jump in the liabilities the proportion of reserve to these liabilities was down by \$2,744,000 to a total of only \$10,136,000 or £2,028,000. There is nothing

very alarming in this, and the figure is nearly \$2,000,000 better than at the same date last year, but one naturally inquires why has such a sudden jump taken place in the discounts and advances granted by these banks when their position had been in recent weeks already more than once strained to breaking point. The first idea was that they might have been furnishing the means to the speculators to redeem some of their urgency loans on our market. The time, however, has not quite come for this operation, and the more probable reason for the sudden expansion in the credits granted by these banks is found in last week's issue of \$50,000,000 of new notes by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. None of the usual Press agencies has told us what the railroad company has to pay for this accommodation, but the able financial editor of the *New York Evening Post* stated in his Saturday message to last week's *Observer* that the rate of interest and commissions brought the charge paid by the railroad company up to more than $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the portion conveyed here and placed with bankers and intermediaries in London was sold at a price which gave the buyer $4\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. No more significant fact could be instanced in proof of the dangerous extent to which credit is being strained by the lavish expenditure of this and other corporations in the United States.

But still the Pennsylvania does not seem to have enough money to meet its great expenditure, for the telegraphic agencies tell us that it has sold another \$25,000,000 of short term notes in Paris. At this rate the company's managers will soon overwhelm their great corporation's magnificent position. Mercifully for the modest investor these creations of debt are not yet in a form suitable for his consumption. They must be held—and pawned—by financiers.

Are the New York financiers in any position to meet in cash their heavy temporary obligations on this side? We fear not. It is stated that the estimated amount of United States short loans now running here and soon to mature reaches £80,000,000. This is a formidable total. How is it to be provided for? There is only one way possible, and that is by the sale of the securities issued by these corporations to investors on this side of the Atlantic. But what chance is there of any such sale taking place? None that we can see. The public in Europe may cautiously buy bonds that look first-class, but they will not touch the shares of any railroad company in the United States at the present inflated and frequently agitated prices; therefore the loans will be renewed in great part, if not wholly, and their renewal will mean higher rates of interest exacted here, and possibly a recurrence of something approaching to stringency upon the London money market.

Reverting to the position of the New York Associated Banks, it may be worth while to point out that out of the 53 banks embraced in the weekly statement of averages published on May 5 no less than 24 then possessed reserves below the statutory minimum of 25 per cent. of their liabilities on deposits. One bank, the New Amsterdam, had only 17.4 per cent., another, the Bowery, had only 17.3 per cent., and the others ranged from 20 to 24.8 per cent. These figures once more emphasise the fact that the position of many of these banks is such as to create anxiety on every occasion when credit is called upon to meet emergency demands.

It was inevitable that the high protectionists in the United States should resent bitterly that proposal to allow machinery and other supplies required by the Panama Canal to come in free. In the United States Senate accordingly Senator Aldrich has presented a resolution stipulating that the materials to be used in the construction of the Panama Canal shall be restricted to those of domestic production, unless President Roosevelt deems that the prices of American goods are extortionate. Well, they are extortionate if we may judge from the fact that a Scotch firm offered to provide two steel dredges at a price £14,000 below

the lowest tender put in by American firms. At this rate the cost of construction would go far to ruin the American capitalists whose money is risked therein long before the canal is completed and in working order. But what cares the protectionist Shylock for that?

Financial experts are somewhat puzzled over the causes for the comparatively low price at which the late issue of \$20,000,000 of New York City 4 per cent. stock had to be sold. Speaking before the Savings Banks Association on May 9, Mr. Vanderlip, vice-president of the National City Bank, gave a view of the question which the *New York Evening Post* describes as interesting. He said that "this declining state of public credit would seem to be more than an ordinary financial puzzle," and ascribes it to a misapprehension of the city's resources, and of the true condition of its credit. He thinks that the city's debt (\$625,000,000) is small when allowance is made for the resources on which it is based and for the portion of the gross liability which is protected by special liens. From the total debt he deducts \$170,000,000 of its own bonds in the city's sinking fund, \$135,000,000 for which specific and sufficient revenues are pledged, and \$50,000,000 of dock bonds with \$46,000,000 subway bonds, both of which are productive and earn their interest. From this he concludes that the burden on the taxpayers is really less than \$250,000,000, which he considers no great liability for a city of 4,000,000, and predicts that the bonds that were lately issued at 108, will within 10 years sell at 125. This, as the *Evening Post* remarks, will depend for fulfilment on the money market's condition, quite as much as on better understanding of the city's credit. As it is, the debt is increasing at the rate of \$50,000,000 a year, without any provision for more subways or for improving the water supply and distribution, both much needed; to say nothing of more and better dock accommodation, sewers, pavements, and schools. The *New York World* regards the first cause of the depression in the city's credit as being the "high finance" of the past year and the widespread speculation which has exhausted the country's floating capital, forced up the rates of interest, and led to monetary conditions described by conservative bankers as disgraceful. Professor Taussig, speaking before the same audience, said that the banking situation in the United States seems to have changed for the worse in the last ten or twenty years, and that the old ideal of banking was passing away. Commercial banks, with their semi-judicial policy and consequent prestige, were giving place to institutions combining various kinds of operations. National and State banks doing a similar business are closely associated with investment houses, with private banking firms that promote and finance great ventures, and with individuals whose primary interest is not in banking. The new Armstrong laws, the result of the late insurance and banking scandals, will, it is hoped, effect an improvement, and so better the market for City bonds.

Public interest in the United States is just now much taken up with the question of rebating on the railways to the Standard Oil, Sugar Trust, and other great institutions, to the prejudice of minor business establishments. Acting upon the proofs supplied to the United States Attorney-General by Congressman Hearst, of the *New York Journal*, who has made the matter of the violation of the Interstate Commerce Act, and of the Elkins Anti-Rebate Law a speciality, the Federal Grand Jury of New York has brought indictments in seven cases for their violation and for conspiracy. For violation the only punishment is a fine, but for conspiracy the penalty is a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000, or imprisonment for not more than two years, or both. The corporations against which the indictments have been brought for violation are the American Sugar Refining Company, the New York Central, and Hudson River Railroad and one of its vice-presidents; the American Sugar Refining Company of New York and two wholesale sugar dealers in Detroit; the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad, the same vice-president, and

the general traffic manager; a second indictment against the two sugar refining companies and the Detroit dealers; and lastly against the central Railroad's vice-president and general traffic manager, and the two Detroit men for conspiracy. The evidence on which the indictments are based showed that the Elkins law has been systematically disregarded since its enactment, and that a general and systematic policy has been pursued by large shippers of extorting from the different railway companies favours, the legality of which was questionable, and which cause great injury and oppression to small shippers denied equal markets in interstate commerce. Whether these indictments, and the President's message to Congress, based on the report against the Standard Oil Company, will have any result, remains to be seen. The indicted men are very influential and enormously wealthy, and law proceedings against such in the United States usually hurry with lagging steps. The only thing that may hasten matters is that there are Congressional and important State elections next November.

The first quarterly statement of the earnings of the New York Interborough since its merger with the Metropolitan system was made public on May 10. The statement is for the quarter ending March 31 for both the elevated and subway lines of transit, and shows gross earnings of \$5,318,728. This is a gain of \$736,006 over the corresponding period of 1905, which included the strike. Net earnings were \$3,147,332, an increase of \$623,927, and the surplus \$1,109,138, an increase of \$380,041. The sum of \$649,731 cash in hand is reported, and a total profit and loss surplus of \$2,096,548. There is some desire in financial circles to learn the relation of these figures to the interest charges on the new \$70,000,000 four and a-half per cent. collateral trust bonds of the Interborough-Metropolitan. These bonds are secured by deposit of \$35,000,000 Interborough stock, and the interest on them is, therefore, equal to 9 per cent. on the Interborough stock, or, for the quarter, \$787,500. The surplus for the quarter would pay this and leave a balance of \$321,638. This balance must be applied toward paying the 5 per cent. dividend on the \$55,000,000 preferred stock of the combined companies. For the quarter that would amount to \$687,500, and the balance of \$365,862 must be earned by the Metropolitan system, which reported a deficit of \$515,631 for the March quarter of 1905. Its earnings, therefore, must have increased \$881,493 to make up the difference, and it is not believed this has been made. The directors of the Interborough-Metropolitan were to have met May 10 to declare the dividend on the preferred stock, but it was postponed. It is said officially, however, that one of 1½ per cent. for the quarter would be declared, payable July 1.

Messrs. Speyer and Co., with other American firms, are said to have contracted with Bolivia to construct railways in that State at a cost of £5,500,000.

If Paris has not only taken £5,000,000 of Pennsylvania Railroad bonds, but provided another £5,000,000 to enable American insurance companies to meet their losses by the San Francisco fire, the commitments of its bankers in Yankee finance must be getting rather too deep for convenience. French savings, however, have been flowing into United States securities in growing volume, at least ever since doubts began to be cast on the solvency of the autocratic Government of Russia. But for such opportune help the Wall Street players might have been brought up sharp long since.

Passing Events.

A curious story is that being unfolded in Canada about the little company to promote immigration which was apparently organised by Mr. Preston, the Canadian Immigration Commissioner, who works under the control of Lord Strathcona, High Commissioner for the Dominion. It looks like a private profit company, its nominal capital being only £3,000, divided into 300 shares of £10 each, which on January 1 of the current year had all been taken up, and on which

apparently only £10 had then been paid up. Nevertheless, this company is stated to have received bonuses to the amount of £45,000 up to April 14 of this year in virtue of a contract entered into with it by the Dominion Government. This contract has now been cancelled, but a great deal has to be unravelled before we can acquit the officials of the Dominion of all complicity with what looks like an excellent little arrangement for benefiting the few at the expense of the many. What is Mr. Preston's position? The solicitor who attended to the incorporation of the company is his son-in-law, the *Tribune* says, one of the shareholders, Mr. Edmund Sainsbury, of Matcham's Hotel, is an uncle of this solicitor, and another shareholder is the solicitor's brother. We hope the Dominion Government will probe this unpleasant affair to the bottom. Complaints have many times reached us about the peculiar methods of the Canadian Immigration Department, but we have disregarded them because unwilling to appear hostile to any arrangement by which the population of the Dominion might be genuinely increased. All the same, we have throughout had the gravest doubts about the wisdom or humanity of the system by virtue of which people have been thrown in thousands into the inhospitable territories of the Canadian West and North-West, men and families largely of a type and antecedents unfitted for the bitter experiences they are bound to undergo.

Wednesday's *Daily Chronicle* contained an interesting statement of the views of Professor W. M. Ramsay on the attitude England should assume towards that German project, the Baghdad Railway. When England's aid was asked to help in carrying this enterprise out some years ago, we regretted much the outburst of passion with which the proposal was rejected. No reasonable objection can be made to the co-operation of England and Germany in this work, unquestionably one of great value to the inhabitants of that waste and neglected territory, and, in the long run, one of profit to those who may find the money to carry it through. Mr. Ramsay thinks we ought now to abandon the senseless attitude of hostility then assumed and come to the financial assistance of the Germans. The line as projected will be about 800 miles long, and there are only 125 miles of this so far completed. The Turkish Government has given a guarantee of 4 per cent. on capital expended to the amount of £8,000 per kilometre, but we have little doubt that this guarantee might soon become unnecessary. With our help the work can be carried on without it, and in a few years, with orderly government such as would certainly follow the penetration of the country by the iron road, a traffic would spring up ample enough to compensate those who had taken the risk, and we should share in the business and in the fruits of civilisation.

Western Australia has a deficit in spite of its vast expenditure, but then it has such a small population, and the gold industry is not so brilliantly expansive as it was some years ago when the Government of Sir James Forrest thought too much money could never be borrowed and squandered, because the resources of the settlement were limitless. The deficit on April 13 was only £18,000, but there will be a large decrease of receipts from the Commonwealth, and economy and more taxes are talked of. To set an example, each Minister has consented to dock his salary by £200, and doubtless lower officials will suffer in proportion. Then, as to taxation, there is to be an impost levied on unimproved land values with certain exemptions, and subdivision of large unimproved estates is to be promoted, by taxation we assume. Meanwhile the colony is going to arrange for the emission of another loan of £1,500,000 for the purpose of completing the Collie Narrogin and Jandakot railways. When is this dependence upon the usurer to be given up? It means ruin if persisted in. The ruin may be postponed, will be so as long as borrowing is possible, but it will be all the more deadly and lasting when that expedient ceases to be available.

Interesting particulars about the debt of Uruguay are furnished in a recent issue of the *Montevideo Times*. Its total amount on December 31 last was about £25,842,000, but this was £270,309 less than at the end of the previous year. The diminution, however, was more apparent than real, because two debts, one for \$9,000,000, and the other for \$4,000,000, were sanctioned last year, and will now have to be added to the total. The larger of these two items is for the purpose of paying the war indemnities and the smaller to meet the cost of what is called transit works. In spite of this increase in the capital of the debt, however, it is calculated that the charges for its service will not be increased, because the rate of interest has been, or will be, cut down from 6 per cent. to 5 per cent. It may be added that the debt reached its highest total in 1899, upwards of \$20,000,000 having been added to it during the period 1894-99, all as product, the *Montevideo Times* says, of the extravagance and dishonesty of the Borda Government which bred a revolution, costly as usual. As it stands the debt is a crushing burden to the small population of the Republic, and it is a perpetual wonder to us how they are able to sustain it.

A slight decrease has taken place in the numbers of people on relief works in India, according to the Governor-General's report for the week ended May 12. The total, however, is still 475,000, of which 164,000 are in the United Provinces, 95,000 in Ajmer and Rajputana, 81,000 in Bombay, and 115,000 in Central India. As regards the United Provinces the Viceroy says that cholera continues in five districts, and he attributes the reduction of the numbers on the relief works there to some extent to this cause. Prices, however, have fallen in 14 districts, but the condition of the cattle is bad in Bundelkhand, and continues poor in Rajputana, where there is also in places a deficiency of water. Cholera, moreover, has broken out near Ajmer, and although rain has fallen in some of the affected districts in Bombay, prices continue high in the Deccan and Karnatik. Cholera is also prevalent in that province, but to some extent perhaps the position has improved, and the Punjab wheat crop was described in another message as being one of the largest on record, leaving plenty for export after local or internal demands had been satisfied. Perhaps after all the famine may not be a devastating one, but it will be some months yet before we can be sure.

In the House of Commons on Monday Mr. Lonsdale asked the Under-Secretary for the Colonies if he was aware that a deputation representing 6,000 skilled artisans had declared to Lord Selborne that if the scheme of repatriating the coolies were carried out 7,000 whites would lose their employment, and whether the posters in the mines would be removed. Mr. Runciman answered for Mr. Winston Churchill, and admitted that a deputation from a mass meeting had waited on Lord Selborne and expressed great alarm at the possible results of the posters; also showed anxiety lest the industry be dislocated, and many miners lose employment. But are these deputations genuine, or are they the bogus or compulsory agitations the Randlords have been so clever in fomenting since the origin of the Jameson raid? What the miners are really afraid of is losing their employment if they will not obey the behests of their masters. They are helpless, as is proved by the fact that resolutions in a quite contrary sense have been received by Lord Selborne from the Independent Labour party and from the Pretoria Lodge of the South African Operative Masons' Society. So His Majesty's Government rightly do not propose to remove the posters, and we think British workmen on the Rand will not rebel in consequence.

During the past few years the growth of the business of the Eadie Manufacturing Company has been such as to necessitate considerable additions to the factory accommodation, and a further extension is now rendered imperative owing to the company having introduced a further patented speciality for which very important contracts have been offered. This extension will cost nearly £50,000, and as the directors consider

it would be unfair to shareholders to expect this amount out of immediate or future profits, they propose to increase the ordinary share capital to £150,000 by the issue of 20,000 £1 shares, and to offer these to holders of existing ordinary shares at a premium of £1 per share in the proportion of two new shares for every 13 held.

An interesting return showing the naval strength of the various European Powers possessed of floating slaughter-machines, and also of the United States and Japan, has just been issued. It should give encouragement to those of the present Parliament who are pledged to work for a reduction in our excessive and indeed intolerable budget of naval expenditure, for it shows that England possesses 55 battle-ships of the first-class against only 19 belonging to France, eight still possessed by Russia, 18 credited to Germany, and 14 to Italy. That is to say, our first-class battle-ships are only four in number short of those belonging to these four other Powers combined. France has more second-class battle-ships than we have, nine against four, but altogether in the three classes of battle-ships these Powers possess only 88 against our 61. And we have also more armoured cruisers than any of these other Powers; in fact our number 28 is only six short of the whole array of those of the four Powers named, and only in torpedo-boats is France supreme, therein showing her wisdom, for we do not believe in battle-ships as weapons of offence at sea. They are too large and too vulnerable. But we are beyond the three-power standard now, and can, therefore, afford to set the example in making large retrenchments without running the smallest real risk.

We do not quite see what Chili is going to gain by an issue of £2,500,000 of paper money, or 40,000,000 pesos (Chilian dollars). One half of this is to be issued in payment for public works, and an equivalent amount as "cover" is to be handed over to the conversion fund out of the proceeds of the last loan issued in Europe. The other half will be offered to the banks in the Republic in return for an equal sum in gold. At least half this amount of paper money is therefore to be represented by part of the proceeds of an interest bearing loan issued in Europe, and we do not quite see how inflation of the currency, which must act injuriously upon the exchange value of the peso, is to be avoided. It is always dangerous to endeavour to stimulate prosperity by flying to the printing press.

The Greek budget has been re-introduced to the Chambers at Athens with considerable modifications, the *Times* Athens correspondent says. Receipts are now estimated at £4,962,134, and the expenditure at £4,935,596, so that a tiny surplus is looked for. The estimate of expenditure shows a reduction of £80,000 compared with that of the previous year, and this is encouraging. Greece, however, is so much tied down by the Powers and so heavily burdened that growth of revenue is hardly to be expected.

What the economic consequences of the great victory in France secured by what is called the *Bloc* will be it would be rash to try to forecast. Those who are not friendly to the secular policy of the dominant republican groups are hoping that such a majority as the second ballots of last Sunday gave, a majority of 100 greater than that enjoyed by the same groups in the last Parliament, may lead to sub-divisions, and so give the opportunity to the reactionaries to get some kind of revenge or triumph. We are not sure, and one thing at any rate is clear, France has determined to make an end of State complicity with clericalism. It will not allow the civil affairs of the Republic to be interfered with in any way, either by the Pope or by the minor sects existing in France, and in this respect the nation has shown a cool sound sense, the meaning of which should not be lost here. It may be added that the new Chamber of Deputies will contain 246 Radicals and Socialist Radicals, 77 Republicans of the Left, seven dissident Radicals, 22 Independent Socialists, 53 Unified Socialists, 64 Progressives, and only 117 Royalists, Buonapartists, and members of the so-called Nationalist party. The *Bloc* thus gains 56 members

for the most part Radicals and Socialists, and the triumph of the Socialists is one of the most significant omens of the election. Socialism is growing in France, as in Germany, because the pressure of national expenditure is productive of suffering to the working classes throughout the country. Were France able to reduce her budget demands, so as to set free a large sum every year to be applied in remission of taxation, or in part to that, and in part to the gratification of popular or socialistic demands, there would be much less agitation in the country, fewer bitter conflicts when strikes occur, and the wealthy classes would not exist in a permanent condition of semi-panic. Democracies, however, are slow to learn, and we fear many Parliaments will have yet to be elected in France, Germany, and England before the mind of the democracy is sufficiently cultivated to grasp the true remedy for the social evils more and more bitterly felt.

Is it another South African scandal? It looks like it, for the incidents are somewhat similar to those of the Geduld episode. The directors of the South African Land and Exploration Company have issued a statement in which they say the engineer, Mr. Troye, reported in August and September last that 400 tons of rich ore, of a value of £15,000, had been obtained from the neighbourhood of the original rich strike. In November the manager, Mr. Teale, said 1,200 tons of ore were on the surface, valued at 15 per cent., metallic tin, while Mr. R. J. Frecheville, in the same month, reported 850 tons on the surface, from the central section, averaging 14½ per cent. tin oxide, and Mr. Teale's figures were corroborated by Mr. Penhale, the succeeding manager. But subsequent milling results did not reflect results of the assays. Prompt investigation followed. "The dumps of the central section," the directors add, "were opened, and showed that the exterior two (?) feet consisted of rich ore, and that the interior was worthless. . . . Of the original estimated ore reserves from the central section—namely, 1,200 tons, containing 15 per cent. metallic tin—200 tons were treated, yielding 3½ per cent. tin oxide. Of such reserves only 300 tons, assaying 5 per cent. tin oxide, remain." This is a striking commentary on all the stories we have heard of tin finds and tin wealth in the Transvaal! We shall hope they will be received with greater scepticism if repeated in the future.

No more useful and wisely conducted organisation exists than the Stock Exchange Benevolent Fund, which began in most modest fashion its career of beneficence over a hundred years ago. The annual dinner of subscribers was held on Thursday evening, when subscriptions aggregating £19,929 were announced. When we think how hard times have been, and are, in the markets, this may be regarded as the best collection ever made, although Mr. Daniel Marks's £22,028 in 1901 and the total for last year also were greater. Much credit is due both to members and stewards for this result, but the truth is that all wise members regard the fund as an insurance established for their families when misfortune or old age overtakes them, and trust its management most implicitly. These are the names of the stewards and the amounts collected by each:—Hon. F. N. Curzon, £4,005; Mr. E. E. Pohl, £2,239; Mr. E. M. Cohen, £2,153; Mr. A. A. Baker, £2,082; Mr. E. C. Mordaunt, £2,001; Mr. A. H. M. Praed, £1,709; Mr. T. Morton, £1,708; Mr. G. J. Coelen, £1,412; Mr. G. L. Jeffrey, £1,310; and Mr. A. C. H. Nickisson, £1,310; total, £19,929.

Mr. Asquith has been in the City, it is said, interviewing bankers and discussing the important question of the Bank gold reserve. Some active spirits in banking circles are pressing upon the Government the advisability of paying off in gold the old debt—some of it more than two centuries old—due by the nation to the Bank of England, so as to strengthen the metallic reserve. This would be an excellent step in some ways, and might do mischief in others if our larger bulking gold reserve tempted the great joint-stock banks to trade on still finer margins than they now possess and to

neglect the provision of reserves of their own. What use would £11,000,000 more gold at the Bank be to a joint-stock bank whose own balances were reduced at the Bank of England to a point of fineness which prevented it from drawing on the Bank's stock when the money was wanted? The most pressing question of the day is how the joint-stock banks as a body are going to provide reserves for themselves. Some of them are doing it, others not.

Imperial troops are now being called for to assist the whites of Natal in crushing the blacks whom they have goaded to rebellion by their policy, whom they have attacked presumptuously in their pride. Thus do we always drift into war, thus bear the burden of Empire. Is the Government going to tamely acquiesce in this latest demand? We shall have to pay the bill remember! Natal has not a shilling to spare, is unable squarely to meet its present obligations.

We hear that the private examination of the directors of the late International Bank of London began on Monday last, before Mr. Registrar Hood. At last, therefore, we may hope to gain some insight into the causes which brought this bank to a sudden and disastrous stop. We believe that Mr. Carl Meyer and some of the other directors have already been under the harrow. They should have a very interesting and instructive story to tell.

We always insisted that the ultimate fate of the Frederick Hotels would be capital reorganisation, and proposals to that end have been brought forward and sanctioned. Realising the hopelessness of a satisfactory dividend on the ordinary capital, the vendor directors who hold it propounded a scheme for writing down. There is to be absolutely no interference with preference rights, but 12s. 6d. is to be cancelled from each preferred and deferred ordinary share of £1 each, making them 7s. 6d. fully paid. This will have the effect of bringing down the aggregate share capital from £1,050,000 to £706,250. We suspect that the good of the company is not the only idea in the directorial mind, because it is easier to make out a case for the declaration of dividends instead of building up reserves if a lot of dead-weight has been lopped off the capital account.

The news comes from Manchester that the fusion of certain big provision companies is under consideration. They include the successful Lovell and Christmas, George Wall and Co. and Wall and Co. The combine is specially designed to develop trade with the colonies and Argentina. The only company we know anything about is Lovell and Christmas, and in that case we should say leave well alone. A slight decline took place in the company's shares on the announcement.

Shareholders of the Motor Traction Company had better examine the proposal just placed before them very closely before coming to a decision. The directors invite them to sell their undertaking to a new company now being formed, with a capital of £400,000. They are to get £150,000 for the business, which is equal to 5s. per share, and as £200,000 of the new company's total capital will be reserved for working capital the thing looks plausible enough. But the purchase price is payable in cash or shares, and we are not sure that good will result from virtually trebling the company's capital, which is what the proposal really means, because we cannot gather that any other business is to be acquired. Just note: The capital of the fresh venture is fixed at £400,000. Of that £200,000 will be working capital, and £150,000 goes to pay for the Motor Traction Company, leaving £50,000. Who gets that? The vendors, we suppose, tacking it on somewhere for goodwill. Full details are promised at the meeting on Tuesday next, and until the whole business has been explained we should not give the directors proxies. Did not the Motor Traction Company rise from the ashes of a Lawson promotion?

The New Tamarugal Nitrate Company has already gone through one reconstruction, and shareholders are now asked to agree to another. We doubt if they will.

The directors propose to cut down the capital from £363,200 to £273,000, and to merge the preference and ordinary shares into one class, the preference shareholders to receive share for share, and the ordinary two for every five now held. Several reasons are adduced why proprietors should consider this scheme mutually advantageous, but we hardly think they will go down. If the company becomes moderately prosperous, as is generally believed will be the case, the preference shareholders are likely to suffer by allowing the ordinary to share their prior rights, while really flourishing conditions will mean a sacrifice by the ordinary shareholders, because so large a proportion of the profits would go to the preference. Is it really necessary to make a change at all?

Letter to the Editors.

OUR MINING TRUST.

SIRS,—In a recent issue, replying to, or referring to, the letter of an unreasonable correspondent, you said you would suggest no further trusts or mining trusts. The mining trust which did not turn out to the satisfaction of that correspondent has turned out very well for some others among your readers, as they picked out the Indian mines and the New Zealand mines, and took their profits when they saw them. Several of us, therefore, venture to hope that you will continue to give proposed trusts, which are both interesting and valuable.

Yours truly,

H. D. R.

Answers to Correspondents.

OLIVE.—As you do not mind waiting for your profit, you might take a few of the shares. Your papers have been returned to you, as you will need the application form.

H. D. R.—We should regard No. 1 as the best from the point of view of safety, but No. 4 offers the best speculative chance. You will observe from our rules that a fee of 1s. covers one security only, whereas your question applies to four. This is not quite fair. Letter No. 2.—This is a fairly good company, but do not invest too freely. One or two of the mines mentioned might be worth attention if carefully selected.

ISLANDS.—(a) This company is certainly making progress, but we should not think there is much chance of capital appreciation, even though these shares are entitled to extra dividends under certain conditions. It is a fact that eighteen months' dividend was recently paid, and as a speculative investment a few shares might be bought. (b) Like the other company, this one is making headway, and seems to be building up a fair business. The bonds look fairly cheap, and you might divide the money between the two.

STANNITE.—We know too little of the company to pass an opinion upon it. We have never received any official documents for analysis. Can you send us any?

WEST AUSTRALIAN CRUSHINGS.

The gold exported and received at the Perth branch of the Royal Mint in April amounted to 152,216 fine ozs. of a value of £646,574, compared with 172,136 ozs. with £731,188 in the corresponding month of last year.

Name of Company.	February.		March.		April.	
	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.
	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.	Tons.	Ozs.
Associated G. M. of W. A. . .	8,065	£18,502	8,912	£20,933	8,668	£20,237
Associated Northern Blocks . .	3,091	£14,175	3,370	£15,303	3,274	£15,077
Bellevue Proprietary . . .	3,477	1,744	3,810	1,941	3,664	1,851
Burbank's Birthday . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Comopolitan Proprietary . . .	7,753	£8,653	8,590	£9,230	8,518	£8,783
Golden Horseshoe . . .	18,409	12,640*	20,335	13,319*	19,272	12,910*
Golden Pole . . .	1,000	1,026	1,120	1,201	1,190	1,193
Great Boulder Perseverance . .	11,997	7,332*	12,990	5,541	12,693	5,672*
Great Boulder Proprietary . .	11,635	12,840	12,619	12,545	12,530	12,488
Great Fingall . . .	18,042	10,609*	20,169	10,509*	19,806	10,625*
Hainault . . .	—	—	4,697	1,681*	4,667	1,771*
Hannan's Reward . . .	705	369	567	221	1,430	355
Hannan's Star . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ida H. . .	1,230	944	1,500	1,093	1,500	1,052
Ivanhoe . . .	15,360	10,019*	17,040	10,274*	16,590	10,035*
Kalgurli . . .	8,609	6,286*	9,764	7,109*	10,039	7,390*
Lake View Consols . . .	9,716	3,405*	10,905	3,695*	10,826	3,614*
Menzies Consolidated . . .	1,215	£3,608	1,470	£3,310	1,421	£3,353
Merton's Reward . . .	3,027	772	—	—	—	—
North Kalgurli . . .	425	208	—	—	441	272
North White Feather . . .	900	502*	8,860	860*	1,800	8,691
Oroya-Brownhill . . .	9,845	12,647*	10,460	12,572*	10,735	12,569*
Peak Hill Goldfield . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Queensland Menzies . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red Hill . . .	1,735	724	1,617	720	1,820	707
Sons of Gwalla . . .	9,754	5,190*	10,872	5,372*	10,898	5,204*
South Kalgurli . . .	7,150	3,012*	7,210	3,222*	8,012	3,330
Vivian . . .	—	—	1,500	514	1,606	484*
Westralia and East Extension .	3,043	1,623	3,218	1,571	2,731	1,341
Westralia Mount Morgans . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
White Feather Main Reef . .	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Fine Gold.

SOUTH AFRICAN MINE RETURNS.

Further progress was made by the South African mines, measured solely by their outturn of gold in the month of April. For the whole of the Transvaal the output was 439,243 ozs., of a value of £1,865,785, the Rand itself contributing 420,467 ozs., and the mines in the outside districts 18,776 ozs. These figures show a decrease in weight of 4,480 ozs., and of £19,030 in value compared with the return for March, but as the output per diem was 14,641 ozs. against 14,313 ozs., the improvement was 328 ozs. daily, in the aggregate about 9,800 ozs. For the first time for many months past there was an increase in the native labour supply, 239 more blacks working than were employed in March. Despite the shorter month some of the mines showed larger all round returns, notably Crown Deep, Ferreira Gold, Robinson

MINE.	February.			March.			April.		
	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.
	Tons.	Ozs.	£	Tons.	Ozs.	£	Tons.	Ozs.	£
Angelo	14,908	7,967	14,521	16,088	10,678	19,044	9,980	15,345	..
Barrett	—	—	550	—	—	435	9,980	381	..
Bonanza	7,420	4,558	10,439	6,800	4,218	8,684	6,550	4,256	8,202
Buffelsdoorn Estate . . .	—	527	1,093	—	461	926	—	332	523
City and Suburban . . .	23,400	8,904	16,750	25,900	9,478	17,273	24,800	9,339	17,279
Comet, New	14,397	5,244	3,910	17,000	6,354	4,289	18,077	6,596	5,616
Cons. Langlaagte	15,039	5,287	4,423	17,474	5,811	5,321	17,666	5,609	4,900
Cons. Main Reef	16,300	5,753	7,068	17,715	6,077	7,173	17,141	6,132	7,486
Crown Deep	26,648	10,721	26,000	27,310	11,120	21,200	27,076	11,342	22,250
Crown Reef	18,007	10,996	25,119	20,298	10,687	23,030	20,375	10,728	23,079
Driefontein	19,016	6,491	3,702	19,639	8,711	3,318	17,539	5,993	..
Durban Roodepoort . . .	9,705	4,630	6,500	10,765	4,517	6,250	10,039	4,199	6,650
Do. Deep	9,410	3,397	1,100	11,040	4,093	2,200	10,080	3,709	1,050
Ferreira	19,150	12,200	29,109	21,400	12,703	29,049	29,950	12,715	29,215
Do. Deep	17,308	11,638	29,500	19,744	12,275	30,300	28,426	12,279	30,700
French Rand	16,400	5,063	3,308	18,500	5,807	3,057	17,600	5,820	3,105
Geldenhuis Deep	20,660	9,148	13,750	23,860	9,913	14,850	21,240	9,393	14,700
Geldenhuis Estate . . .	15,675	6,647	14,513	17,165	7,271	15,018	16,953	6,996	15,318
Ginsberg	7,161	2,875	3,245	7,759	3,030	2,720	7,709	2,949	3,296
Glencairn	12,144	3,877	4,857	13,216	4,122	7,564	13,400	3,886	4,506
Glen Deep	14,710	5,498	6,650	13,940	6,090	7,000	15,860	6,136	7,050
Glyn's Lydenberg	1,980	1,264	—	2,200	1,411	—	2,140	1,360	..
Goch New	14,052	4,894	4,077	14,492	5,609	4,762	15,805	5,900	4,628
Heriot	8,410	3,519	3,044	9,260	3,853	9,200	—	3,714	..
Jubilee	5,034	1,766	—	5,544	1,806	—	5,563	1,753	..
Jumpers	11,000	4,380	5,105	11,200	4,447	4,300	10,650	4,398	5,057
Jumpers Deep	14,700	5,335	2,000	15,741	5,870	2,000	15,143	5,331	1,600
Knight's	27,450	8,962	9,185	28,300	9,151	9,505	30,310	9,316	10,971
Knight's Deep	20,888	7,413	9,174	22,375	7,653	8,593	20,902	7,620	9,369
La-caster	13,403	3,775	134*	14,600	3,708	1,022*	13,600	4,230	2,455
Lancaster West	5,985	2,244	2,427	6,572	2,204	1,046	6,341	2,111	1,686
Langlaagte Deep	17,648	6,418	6,200	19,652	7,098	6,450	19,447	6,694	6,250
Do. Estate	25,140	8,002	10,400	29,075	9,000	10,000	27,960	9,590	14,000
May Consolidated	13,010	5,735	12,033	14,280	6,688	12,444	13,820	5,906	12,017
Meyer and Charlton . . .	10,190	4,397	7,501	10,740	4,856	8,499	10,500	4,853	9,003
Modderfontein	9,000	3,563	2,832	11,347	4,231	3,358	11,299	4,157	5,358
New Kleinfontein	27,752	9,479	9,015	31,218	10,481	12,022	31,102	11,103	13,329
New Unified	7,662	2,072	—	8,888	2,242	—	8,334	2,405	459
Nigel	6,900	3,659	6,358	7,480	3,068	5,044	7,400	3,078	5,134
Nigel Deep	2,983	1,899	1,960	3,139	1,771	741	3,255	2,122	2,436
North Randfontein . . .	13,169	5,765	7,400	14,885	6,000	7,100	14,951	6,000	7,200
Nourse Deep	23,235	10,667	14,050	26,440	11,877	15,000	26,730	11,344	14,900
Porges Randfontein . . .	15,571	6,038	10,000	13,927	6,000	8,400	13,419	6,000	8,600
Primrose	13,925	6,585	13,508	16,115	6,865	13,545	16,124	6,478	13,587
Princess Estate	5,526	2,674	1,475	6,585	3,111	2,340	6,108	2,954	1,680
Rietfontein New	8,060	4,420	7,542	8,800	4,958	8,436	5,033	9,253	..
Robinson	26,675	18,549	48,932	30,500	19,843	0,803	30,148	19,711	50,474
Robinson Cent. Deep . .	14,538	9,413	27,153	16,705	10,483	30,390	16,155	19,710	39,928
Robinson Deep	26,638	14,197	31,249	30,004	16,121	36,787	28,239	15,271	34,325
Robinson's Randfontein .	13,421	5,116	3,700	15,199	5,500	4,000	14,841	5,750	5,750
Roodepoort Central . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do. Deep	7,523	2,936	2,667	7,527	2,883	2,355	6,835	2,697	2,164
Roodepoort United . . .	8,700	3,907	4,005	10,030	4,445	4,010	8,756	4,350	4,780
Rose Deep	22,300	7,876	9,050	25,100	8,943	11,050	21,300	8,353	10,300
Salisbury	5,300	1,530	1,680	5,500	1,770	1,640	5,200	1,520	1,390
Sheba	6,100	3,030	—	—	3,250	—	—	3,268	..
Stimmer East	15,352	5,633	5,769	16,463	5,680	1,211	15,532	5,677	2,083
Summer and Jaok	48,000	18,044	26,605	53,200	20,010	29,742	51,900	19,814	30,978
South Randfontein . . .	12,715	5,654	6,000	14,689	6,000	5,900	14,022	6,000	7,000
Transvaal Gold	7,923	3,587	—	8,899	3,867	—	8,826	3,887	..
Treasury	6,425	2,305	4,021	8,278	2,489	1,023	7,500	2,242	621
Van Ryn	20,240	7,936	11,001	22,540	8,725	12,505	21,710	8,520	13,251
Village Deep	17,555	6,396	5,165	20,440	6,931	5,270	21,838	6,866	6,315
Village Main Reef	23,000	9,004	14,495	23,800	9,680	14,527	23,008	13,444	20,012
Vogelstruis Estates . . .	6,275	2,372	—	—	—	—	5,300	1,895	..
Wemmer	7,990	3,993	—	8,940	4,655	7,382	—	—	..
W. Rand Central	2,425	1,045	1,000	2,525	1,106	1,050	2,475	1,100	..
Windsor	4,390	1,119	968*	5,120	1,450	7	5,174	1,474	233
Wt. Deep	24,320	9,845	15,008	26,940	10,763	16,105	27,270	10,850	16,532
Worcester	2,480	591	—	—	704	—	—	906	..

* Loss.

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	OZ.	OZ.	OZ.	OZ.	OZ.	OZ.
January	—	70,340	199,279	288,824	369,258	428,638
February	—	81,405	196,513	289,522	363,811	407,068
March	—	104,127	217,465	308,242	399,823	443,723
April	—	119,588	227,871	305,946	399,166	439,243
May	7,488	138,602	234,125	314,480	416,395	—
June	19,779	142,780	238,320	308,219	412,317	—
July	25,060	149,179	251,643	307,840	419,505	—
August	28,274	162,750	271,918	312,277	428,591	—
September . . .	31,936	170,802	276,197	312,286	416,487	—
October	33,393	181,439	284,544	325,625	415,527	—
November . . .	39,075	187,375	279,813	330,107	424,757	—
December . . .	52,897	196,023	286,061	362,204	431,594	—
Total . .	258,998	1,704,410	2,963,749	3,779,621*	4,897,221	1,719,272

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
January	£	£	£	£	£	£
February ..	—	293,786	846,489	1,226,846	1,568,508	1,820,739
March	—	345,782	834,739	1,229,726	1,545,371	1,731,664
April	—	442,303	923,739	1,309,329	1,698,340	1,884,815
May	—	507,980	967,936	1,299,576	1,695,550	1,865,785
June	31,271	588,746	994,505	1,335,826	1,768,734	—
July	84,014	606,493	1,012,322	1,309,231	1,751,412	—
August	110,269	663,674	1,068,917	1,307,621	1,781,944	—
September ..	120,953	691,322	1,155,039	1,326,468	1,820,496	—
October	135,654	725,522	1,173,211	1,326,506	1,769,124	—
November ..	141,848	770,766	1,208,669	1,383,167	1,765,047	—
December ..	165,986	795,922	1,188,571	1,427,947	1,804,253	—
Total ..	1,014,687	7,259,888	12,589,247	16,054,809*	20,802,074	7,303,003

* Includes £33,766 not declared previously.

Central Deep, Glen Deep and French Rand. The profits of the Goldenhuis Estate and Village Deep were larger despite smaller outputs. The reduced profits of the Rose Deep and Durban Deep, are attributed to a falling off in the tonnage crushed, owing to holidays, and a smaller labour force. Two tube mills are working at the Jumpers Deep and Ferreira Deep.

MINING RETURNS.

Alaska Mexican.—Crushed 19,730 tons ore, value \$32,999 saved 429 tons sulphurets, value \$32,084.

Alaska Treadwell Gold.—Crushed 73,976 tons, value \$80,514; saved 1,303 tons sulphurets, value \$79,063.

Alaska United.—Crushed 21,320 tons, value \$27,649; saved 428 tons sulphurets, value \$17,548.

British Broken Hill Proprietary.—3,380 tons crude ore produced 574 tons concentrates, containing 350 tons lead and 16,072 ozs. silver.

Brilliant Block Gold.—Crushed 900 tons, 268 ozs.; residues (tailings and concentrates) value £780.

Carrington's Lion P.C.—Crushed 250 tons for £410.

Central Chili Copper.—Production of regulus contained 132 tons fine copper, and gold and silver; value, £486.

Chinese Engineering.—Output of coal, 19,500 tons; sales, 18,500 tons; consumption, 1,250 tons.

Esperanza.—Crushed 12,561 tons; shipped to smelter, 3,844 tons; value of bullion, \$136,767; value of concentrates, \$74,817; value of ore shipped to smelter, \$282,484—\$494,068.

Kelantan Gold Dredging.—Recovered, 115 ozs.

Mills Day Dawn United.—Crushed 1,495 tons, value £4,400.

No. 2 South Great Eastern.—Crushed 5,230 tons for 2,495 ozs.

Ouro Preto of Brazil.—6,586 tons, 2,285 ozs.

Raub Australian.—720 ozs. from 5,800 tons ore crushed.

Stratton's Independence.—£3,508 from 2,284 tons of shipping ore.

Tasmanian Consols.—Crushed 670 tons, 316 ozs.

Victoria Proprietary (1903).—103 ozs. from 580 tons crushed.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, MAY 28.

Army and Navy Auxiliary Co-operative Supply.—Caxton Hall, 3 p.m.

Claudius Ash, Sons, and Co.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

TUESDAY, MAY 29.

Bengal and North-Western Railway.—Gresham House, noon.

Chardwar Tea.—138, Leadenhall Street, 1.30 p.m.

Cape Town Consolidated Trams and Land.—1, London Wall Buildings, 2.30 p.m.

Day Dawn P.C. Gold Mining.—Winchester House, 11.30 a.m.

John Lysaght.—Bristol, 2.30 p.m.

Motor Traction.—Winchester House, 4 p.m.

Nobel Dynamite Trust.—Winchester House, 1 p.m.

Rand Central Electric Works.—Winchester House, noon.

Redfern.—Regent House, noon.

Royal Mail Steam Packet.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.

Russian Petroleum and Liquid Fuel.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.

Rubber Estates of Ceylon.—4, Lloyds Avenue, 1.30 p.m.

Union-Castle Steamship.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30.

Eadie Manufacturing.—Redditch, 1.15 p.m.

J. C. and J. Field.—Winchester House, noon.

Law Fire Insurance.—187, Fleet Street, 1 p.m.

Reuter's Telegram.—24, Old Jewry, noon.

Spitzkop Farm Gold.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

THURSDAY, MAY 31.

Frontino and Bolivia Gold Mining.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.

Matabele Central Estates.—3, Copthall Buildings, noon.

Trust and Loan of Canada.—7, Great Winchester Street, 2 p.m.

Walker, Harrison, and Garthwaite.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1.

Captain Cook Brewery.—Winchester House, noon.

King's Norton Metal.—16, Great George Street, noon.

The Bank of British North America has opened a branch at North Battleford, Sask.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1906, and May 19, 1906:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

	£	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1906, to May 19, 1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to May 20, 1905.
Balances, April 1: Bank of England	£	£	£
Bank of Ireland	—	9,334,212	6,352,909
	—	1,117,275	1,077,369
REVENUE.	—	10,451,487	7,430,278
Customs	—	4,592,000	4,436,000
Excise	—	3,874,000	3,943,000
Estate, &c., Duties	—	2,242,000	2,045,000
Stamps	—	1,067,000	1,119,000
Land and Tax and House Duty ..	—	300,000	360,000
Property and Income Tax ..	—	3,543,000	3,551,000
Post Office	—	1,710,000	1,650,000
Telegraph Service	—	440,000	410,000
Crown Lands	—	80,000	80,000
Receipts from Suez Canal ..	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	—	314,115	314,272
*Revenue	—	18,162,115	17,908,272
Total, including balance	—	28,613,602	25,338,550
OTHER RECEIPTS.	—	—	—
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	—	100,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	—	—	100,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..	—	—	191,592
Under Military Works Acts, 1867 to 1901 ..	—	—	160,408
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900	—	—	13,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	—	35,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905	—	—	3,500,000
Total	—	28,613,602	29,438,550
*Revenue as above	—	18,162,115	17,908,272
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—	—	—	—
Customs	—	28,699	26,228
Excise	—	289,000	289,000
Estate, &c., Duties	—	566,000	582,000
Total	—	883,699	897,228
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	—	19,045,814	18,805,500

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

	£	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1906, to May 19, 1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to May 20, 1905.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
National Debt Services	—	5,848,154	5,778,583
Other Consolidated Fund Services	—	228,058	242,007
Payments to Local Taxation ..	—	90,000	90,000
Accounts	—	12,207,569	13,417,255
Supply Services	—	—	—
Expenditure	—	18,373,781	19,528,745
OTHER ISSUES.	—	—	—
For Advances for Bullion	—	450,000	—
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	45,000	45,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	2,000,000	2,000,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	—	150,000	150,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	—	25,000	13,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	10,000	35,000
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..	—	112,965	—
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..	—	—	—
Surplus Revenue 1905-1906 applied to reduce Debt	—	500,000	—
	1906. May 19.	1905. May 20.	
Balances in Exchequer:—	£	£	£
Bank of England	5,954,274	6,635,667	—
Bank of Ireland	992,582	1,031,138	—
	—	6,946,856	7,666,805
Total	—	28,613,602	29,438,550

Treasury, May 22, 1906.

BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY COMPANY.—The directors, with the sanction of the Secretary of State for India in Council, are prepared to renew the £400,000 debentures falling due on June 15, 1906, for a further period of three years at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum interest, with a discount of 5s. per £100, provided the holders intimate their acceptance of this offer, and send their bonds to the office for endorsement before noon on June 6. A commission of 5s. per £100 will be allowed to brokers and other agents. In view of the Whitsuntide holidays, an early intimation of acceptance would be a convenience.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for ten days ended May 23, \$2,952, increase \$669.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 13, \$19,309, increase \$1,760; aggregate from January 1, \$264,328, decrease \$3,971.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 21, Rs. 66,019, increase Rs. 13,934; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 11,22,637, increase Rs. 1,33,417.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 21, \$133,600, increase \$57,300; total from July 1, \$4,759,300, increase \$1,396,900.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 21, Rs. 30,071, increase Rs. 5,844.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 15, £383, increase £44.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 2nd week of May, \$14,311, increase \$2,531; aggregate from January 1, \$294,988, increase \$53,600.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 21, Rs. 19,479, increase Rs. 4,415.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended May 7 amounted to \$17,500.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending May 19, £1,263, increase £6; aggregate from January 1, £24,718, increase £304.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending May 19, £761, increase £2; aggregate from January 1, £14,611, decrease £188.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for March, £4,206, decrease £188.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending May 19, £411, increase £61; aggregate from January 1, £8,787, increase £721.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 18, £1,414, increase £145; aggregate from January 1, £27,563, increase £3,861.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 20, £10, decrease £5; aggregate from January 1, £173, decrease £5.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 18, £5,096, increase £224; aggregate from January 1, £96,597, increase £4,184.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending May 18, £30,510, increase £4,420; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £558,960, increase £86,055; 438 miles, against 424½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 19, £1,120, increase £18; aggregate from January 1, £22,387, increase £1,677.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 20, £135, decrease £16; aggregate from January 1, £2,144, decrease £47.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 18, £106, decrease £23; aggregate from January 1, £1,962, decrease £119.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 18, £4,967, decrease £723; aggregate from January 1, £92,466, increase £1,415.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 19, £4,567, decrease £452; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £92,321, increase £2,109.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 18, £186, decrease £85.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 17, £624.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 19, £392, decrease £41; aggregate from October 1, £9,641, decrease £849.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 12, £26,046, increase £11,234; aggregate from April 1, £158,822, increase £75,531. Miles 97½ against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 19, £24,031, decrease £1,412; aggregate from January 1, £426,566, decrease £24,625.

London Motor Omnibus (Vanguard).—Traffic receipts for week ending May 19, £3,456, increase £2,952.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 19, £8,971, increase £402; aggregate from January 1, £151,519, increase £1,599.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 12, £201, increase £8; aggregate from January 1, £3,629, increase £111.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 20, £678, increase £20; aggregate from January 1, £15,279, increase £3,201.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 20, £15,297, increase £2,065; aggregate from January 1, £301,684, increase £31,780.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of January, 1906, £11,016, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Nett earnings for March, \$26,091, increase \$2,444. Nett earnings from July 1 to March 31, \$387,468, increase \$108,356.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending May 13, £3,780, increase £228; aggregate from January 1, £67,936, increase £4,713.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 21, £1,403, increase £213; aggregate from January 1, £22,673, increase £4,853.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of April, \$311,600.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 19, Rs. 40,763, increase Rs. 2,684; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 8,81,602, increase Rs. 90,812.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of April, £4,898, increase £2,101. Total from January 1, £19,159, increase £7,820.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of March, \$418,249, increase \$56,518; aggregate from January 1, \$12,06,500, increase \$172,197. Nett traffic receipts, \$220,194, increase \$31,228; aggregate from January 1, \$6,14,082, increase \$98,140.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Weeks.	Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	£		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	£
Baker St. and Waterloo ..	May 19	1,359	+	18	10	14,589	—	—
Brecon and Merthyr ..	" 20	2,014	+	8	20	40,697	+	2,404
Cambrian	" 20	5,423	—	100	20	104,292	—	1,595
Central London	" 19	6,693	—	22	20	136,017	—	4,399
City and South London ..	" 20	2,671	+	185	20	57,263	+	195
Furness	" 20	10,284	+	1,014	20	197,188	+	24,966
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.)	" 20	72,180	+	3,639	20	1,401,301	+	62,140
Great Eastern	" 20	96,000	—	600	20	1,895,700	+	16,000
Great Northern and City ..	" 19	1,797	+	215	20	35,987	+	1,629
Great Northern	" 19	109,300	+	1,582	20	2,132,500	+	52,299
Great Western	" 20	240,400	+	6,400	20	4,406,300	+	29,200
Hull and Barnsley	" 20	9,598	+	1,420	20	194,437	+	18,645
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 20	106,114	+	3,552	20	2,062,093	+	64,444
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 19	56,111	—	582	20	1,113,604	—	4,075
London & North Western ..	" 20	276,000	+	10,000	20	5,353,000	+	180,000
London & South Western ..	" 20	88,600	+	500	20	1,675,900	+	14,500
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 20	8,615	+	435	20	166,148	+	7,760
Metropolitan	" 20	15,081	—	2,667	20	327,087	—	17,664
Metropolitan District ..	" 20	8,100	—	829	20	159,296	—	9,773
Midland	" 19	217,979	+	4,087	20	4,364,791	+	127,698
North Eastern	" 19	179,208	+	6,916	20	3,479,463	+	188,787
North London	" 20	8,590	—	393	20	179,199	—	4,268
North Staffordshire	" 20	17,775	+	554	20	354,997	+	13,451
Rhymney	" 20	6,135	+	62	20	120,729	+	2,953
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 19	84,879	+	1,925	20	1,616,142	+	2,280
Taff Vale	" 20	18,839	+	1,448	20	384,304	+	14,588

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	May 20	84,778	+	1,341	16	1,335,116	+	25,244
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 19	33,296	+	991	16	519,984	+	16,011
Great North of Scotland ..	" 19	9,120	+	40	16	137,695	+	758
Highland	" 20	9,118	+	194	16	134,518	+	589
North British	" 20	89,797	+	1,027	16	1,416,903	+	33,892

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	May 18	2,611	—	597	5	47,879	—	2,187
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 18	1,746	+	10	5	30,629	+	39
Great Northern	" 18	18,659	+	749	20	340,530	+	4,318
Midland Great Western ..	" 18	10,662	+	521	11	201,908	—	5,869

§ From January 1.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, May 8.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, May 8.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
SOUTH AFRICAN.							
Angelo	Angelo	2 1/2	2 1/2	May Consolidated	2 1/2	2 1/2	
Anglo-French Ex.	Anglo-French Ex.	4 1/2	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2	
Apex	Apex	4 1/2	4 1/2	Modderfontein	4 1/2	4 1/2	
Aurora West	Aurora West	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. B.	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Bantjes	Bantjes	1 1/2	1 1/2	New Goch	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Block B.	Block B.	2 1/2	2 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2	
City and Suburban, £4 ..	City and Suburban, £4 ..	4 1/2	4 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2	
Comet (New)	Comet (New)	2 1/2	2 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Cons. Goldfields	Cons. Goldfields	4 1/2	4 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Do. Pref. 22/6	Do. Pref. 22/6	22/6	22/6	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Crown Reef	Crown Reef	10 1/2	10 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	6 1/2	6 1/2	
Driefontein	Driefontein	2 1/2	2 1/2	Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Durban Roodepoort	Durban Roodepoort	3 1/2	3 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4 ..	8 1/2	8 1/2	
East Rand	East Rand	4 1/2	4 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	
East Rand Extension	East Rand Extension	1 1/2	1 1/2	Roodepoort United	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Ferreira	Ferreira	18 1/2	18 1/2	Sallsbury	1 1/2	1 1/2	
French Rand	French Rand	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sheba (New)	6/6	6/6	
Geduld	Geduld	3 1/2	3 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1 ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Geldenhuis Estate	Geldenhuis Estate	3 1/2	3 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	2 1/2	2 1/2	
Ginsburg	Ginsburg	1 1/2	1 1/2	Steyn Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Glencairn	Glencairn	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Development ..	13/9	13/9	
Harmony Proprietary	Harmony Proprietary	7/7	7/7	Transvaal Gold Estates ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Henderson's Transvaal ..	Henderson's Transvaal ..	10/9	10/9	Treasury	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Heriot	Heriot	3 1/2	3 1/2	Van Ryn	3 1/2	3 1/2	
Johannesburg Con. In. ..	Johannesburg Con. In. ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Jubilee	Jubilee	2 1/2	2 1/2	Vogelstruis	3 1/2	3 1/2	
Lumpers	Lumpers	1 1/2	1 1/2	Welgedacht	3 1/2	3 1/2	
Knifontein	Knifontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	West Rand Consols	3 1/2	3 1/2	
Knight's	Knight's	3 1/2	3 1/2	Woluter, £4	3 1/2	3 1/2	
Lancaster	Lancaster	1 1/2	1 1/2	Worcester	3 1/2	3 1/2	
Langlaagte Estate	Langlaagte Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2				

DEEP LEVELS.

Angelo Deep	Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Bonanza	Bonanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Cinderella Deep	Cinderella Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2	Robinson Deep (new) ..	4 1/2	4 1/2	
Crown Deep	Crown Deep	12	12	Roodepoort Cn. Deep ..	3 1/2	3 1/2	
Durban Roodepoort	Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rose Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2	
Golden Deep	Golden Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	South Rose Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2	
Geldenhuis Deep	Geldenhuis Deep	6 1/2	6 1/2	Village Main Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2	
Knight's Deep	Knight's Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2	
Nigel Deep	Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2				

RHODESIANS.

Bechuanaand Ex.	Bechuanaand Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Chartered B. S. A.	Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rhodesia Exploration ..	2 1/2	2 1/2	
Charter Trust and Agency	Charter Trust and Agency ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Globe and Phoenix	Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sekukwe	5/5	5/5	
Lomagunda Development ..	Lomagunda Development ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	Tanganyika	4 1/2	4 1/2	
Mashonaland Agency	Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Mayo (Rhodesia)	Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 1/2				

DIAMONDS.

De Beers Deferred	De Beers Deferred	17 1/2	17 1/2	Koffyfontein	7 1/2	7 1/2	
Do. Preferred	Do. Preferred	17 1/2	17 1/2	Lace Diamond	2 1/2	2 1/2	
Eland's Drift Diamond ..	Eland's Drift Diamond ..	2/6	2/6	Orange Free State	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Frank Smith Diamond ..	Frank Smith Diamond ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	Premier Diamond Def. ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Jagersfontein Deferred ..	Jagersfontein Deferred ..	8 1/2	8 1/2	Do. do. Pref. 8 1/2 ..	8 1/2	8 1/2	
Do. Preferred	Do. Preferred	4 1/2	4 1/2				
Kamfersdam	Kamfersdam	1 1/2	1 1/2				

WEST AFRICAN.

Abbotiakoon	Abbotiakoon	1 1/2	1 1/2	Gold Coast Agency, new ..	2 1/2	2 1/2	
Abosso	Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	2 1/2	2 1/2	
Ankobra	Ankobra	1 1/2	1 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau) ..	2 1/2	2 1/2	
Ashanti Consols, 2/- paid/3/6d	Ashanti Consols, 2/- paid/3/6d	3/6d	3/6d	Deep	5/6	5/6	
Do. Goldfields	Do. Goldfields	1 1/2	1 1/2	Himan Concessions	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Sansu	Sansu	6/6	6/6	Obbuassi Syndicate	6/6	6/6	
Bibiani, fully paid	Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	Prestea	6/6	6/6	
British Gold Coast	British Gold Coast	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sekondi and Tarkwa	1/1	1/1	
Broomassie	Broomassie	23/9	23/9	Takwah and Abosso	2 1/2	2 1/2	
Effuanta (Wassau)	Effuanta (Wassau)	4/6	4/6	Wassau	1 1/2	1 1/2	
Fanti Consolidated	Fanti Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2	W. A. Gold Trust	1/1	1/1	

AUSTRALIAN.

Anglo-Aus. Exploration ..	Anglo-Aus. Exploration ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	6/9	Ida H.	6/6	6/6
Associated	Associated	2 1/2	2 1/2	6/9	Ivanhoe Gold Corp. ..	6/6	6/6
Do. Nrn. Blocks	Do. Nrn. Blocks	2 1/2	2 1/2	6/9	Ivanhoe South	1 1/2	1 1/2
Bellevue Proprietary	Bellevue Proprietary	2/6	2/6	9/6	Kalgurli	9/6	9/6
Boulder Deep Levels	Boulder Deep Levels	1/1	1/1	19/6	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 1/2
Chaffers Extended	Chaffers Extended	10/10	10/10	16/9	Lanceland	1 1/2	1 1/2
Chaffers 4/1	Chaffers 4/1	1/1	1/1	11/3	London & W.A. Explor.	11/6	11/6
Cosmopol'n Pr'pr'ty	Cosmopol'n Pr'pr'ty	6/3	6/3	3 1/2	Mount Boppy	1 1/2	1 1/2
Golden Horseshoe, New Shares	Golden Horseshoe, New Shares ..	5 1/2	5 1/2	1 1/2	Nrn. Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
Golden Links	Golden Links	3/3	3/3	2 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	2 1/2	2 1/2
Golden Pole	Golden Pole	10/10	10/10	1 1/2	Peak Hill	2/1	2/1
Great Boulder, 2/	Great Boulder, 2/	24/24	24/24	1 1/2	South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do. Perseverance	Do. Perseverance	11/10	11/10	3/6	Sons of Gwalia	1 1/2	1 1/2
Great Fingall	Great Fingall	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	W'strlia Mt Morgans ..	2/6	2/6
Hainault	Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2				
Hampton Plains	Hampton Plains	1/1	1/1				
Hannan's Star	Hannan's Star	1/6	1/6				

MISCELLANEOUS.

Anaconda, 25 dols.	Anaconda, 25 dols.	14 1/2	14 1/2	2	Libiola, £5	1 1/2	1 1/2
Balaghat, full paid	Balaghat, full paid	30/30	30/30	4 1/2	Linares £3	4 1/2	4 1/2
Brilliant and St. George ..	Brilliant and St. George ..	7/6	7/6	3 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1 ..	3 1/2	3 1/2
Broken Hill, Prop.	Broken Hill, Prop.	3 1/2	3 1/2	45/3	Mount Lyell	47/6	47/6
Camp Bird	Camp Bird	22/6	22/6	3 1/2	M't. Morgan	3 1/2	3 1/2
Cape Copper, £2	Cape Copper, £2	6	6	6 1/2	Mysore, 10s.	6 1/2	6 1/2
Champion Reef, 2/6	Champion Reef, 2/6	18/6	18/6	17/6	Mysore Goldfields, 15/6	2/9	2/9
Clitters United	Clitters United	17/6	17/6	8/6	Do. West, 19/	7/6	7/6
Con. Gold N.Z.	Con. Gold N.Z.	13/6	13/6	8/6	Do. Wynaad, 19/	8/6	8/6
Copiapu, £2	Copiapu, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Namaqua, £2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Cornish C'n'ols	Cornish C'n'ols	26/26	26/26	26/3	N'ndydrong, 10/ shares	26/3	26/3
Coromandel 19/6 pd.	Coromandel 19/6 pd.	2/1	2/1	16/3	O'ogum	16/6	16/6
Dolcoath	Dolcoath	26/6	26/6	1 1/2	Do. Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
Esperanza	Esperanza	3 1/2	3 1/2	6 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	6 1/2	6 1/2
Exploration	Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	9/6	St. John del Rey	9/9	9/9
Frontino and Bolivia	Frontino and Bolivia	10/6	10/6	5 1/2	Tharsis	5 1/2	5 1/2
Le Roi	Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2	Waibi	8 1/2	8 1/2
Do. (No. 2)	Do. (No. 2)	2 1/2	2 1/2	6/3	Ymir	1 1/2	1 1/2

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.		GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
		Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	
Alcoy and Gandia	May 19	Ps. £ 15,000	-Ps. 2,000	**	Ps. 306,400	+P. 22,400	
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia	April 19	£86,417	+£19,710	**	£330,275	+£79,834	
Argentine Gt. Western ..	May 18	17,146	+2,598	**	627,915	+96,269	
Algiciras (Gibraltar) ..	" 12	Ps. 28,321	-Ps. 4,673	**	P1,411,927	-P17,941	
Buenos Ayres & Pacific ..	" 19	38,276	+7,763	**	1,426,164	+335,839	
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o ..	" 19	92,047	+14,363	**	1,763,308	+239,821	
and Cen. Argentine	" 20	84,741	+12,198	**	3,472,756	+528,316	
Buenos Ayres G. Sthn. ..	" 20	37,165	+4,119	**	1,564,484	+213,763	
Do. Western	" 20	410	+115	**	16,242	+504	
Do. Ensenada	" 19	9,106	+1,193	**	389,977	+15,330	
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid. ..	" 19	2,640	+410	**	97,625	+2,154	
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 19	1,316	-20	**	55,283	-5,347	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 19	1,153	+39	**	55,091	+6,057	
Do. Western Ex.	" 20	3,755	+735	**	65,205	+11,945	
Cordoba Central	" 20	7,775	+2,280	**	134,360	+31,510	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 20	2,270	+970	**	35,145	+12,055	
Do. N. W. Arg'n. Ex. ..	" 20	4,365	+55	**	195,960	+4,335	
Cordoba and Rosario	" 28	5,947	+1,099	**	209,258	+10,481	
Costa Rica	" 19	11,719	+3,995	**	358,563	+47,608	
Cuban Central	" 19	6,333	-840	**	203,745	+33,560	
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 19	3,534	-696	**	175,752	+7,342	
Entre Rios	" 21	£140,100	+£16,130	**	£5,584,680	+£182,790	
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico ..	" 19	24,544	+10,12	**	313,362	+38,092	
Leopoldina	March 19	£593,400	+£28,200	**	£1,731,900	+£123,900	
Mexican	May 21	£146,500	+£21,500	**	£2,671,90	+£238,500	
Do. Southern	" 21	£23,930	+£2,852	**	£493,01	+£17,030	
Do. Central	Feb. 19	£2,229,926	+£181,788	**	£18,184,422	+£142,073	
Do. Do.	" 19	£635,795	+£8,660	**	£5,328,789	+£221,747	
Manila	May 19	£35,860	+£16,032	**	£732,872	+£46,845	
Nitrate	" 15	23,696	+6,631	**	206,377	+16,134	
Ottoman	" 19	3,660	-596	**	84,723	-13,335	
Peruvian Corporation	April 19	£644,090	+£120,725	**	£6,490,350	+£105,575	
San Paulo	May 13	19,408	+1,928	**	381,528	+11,780	
Salvador	" 19	£16,750	+£3,750	**	£936,101	+£130,606	
United of Havana	" 19	23,953	+13,953	**	723,388	+239,004	
Villa Maria & Rufino ..	" 19	1,175	+110	**	26,853	+2,172	
Western of Havana	" 10	3,710	-730	**	180,430	-2,272	

* Month ended. † Fortnight ended. ‡ Net

** From January 1, 1906.

§ From July 1, 1905.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

		GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.				GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.			
NAME	Week ending	Amount.		In. or Dec. on 1905.		Amount.		In. or Dec. on 1905.	
Bengal Nagpur ..	April 28	Rs. 5,65,733	—	R. 26,553	£	R. 96,96,111	—	R. 10,43,241	
Bengal & N.-W.	" 21	Rs. 2,71,100	—	R. 16,198	+	Rs. 4,14,651	—	R. 3,35,119	
Bombay & Baroda ..	May 12	R. 4,68,000	—	R. 48,000	—	R. 79,00,000	—	R. 5,17,000	
Do. State Lines ..	" 12	Rs. 5,90,000	—	R. 89,000	—	21,06,58,000	—	R. 19,000	
Burma	" 21	R. 2,87,574	—	R. 6,598	+	R. 1,26,00,572	—	R. 42,457	
Delhi Umballa ..	" 19	Rs. 37,300	—	Rs. 1,465	—	Rs. 77,18,465	—	Rs. 25,183	
East Indian	" 19	Rs. 16,40,000	—	R. 72,000	—	R. 3,25,07,000	—	19,92,000	
G. Indian Penin.	" 19	Rs. 12,05,100	—	R. 2,23,223	—	R. 2,80,97,081	—	R. 41,307	
Indian Midland ..	" 19	R. 2,46,300	—	R. 64,207	—	Rs. 46,06,118	—	R. 8,65,376	
Madras	" 19	£ 24,383	—	£ 843	—	£ 512,783	—	£ 49,962	
South Indian	April 21	Rs. 2,59,138	—	Rs. 4,614	—	Rs. 39,79,218	—	R. 5,81,812	
South Behar	" 28	Rs. 11,406	—	Rs. 1,421	—	Rs. 2,01,545	—	Rs. 18,035	
S'thern, Mahratta ..	" 29	R. 2,97,000	—	R. 43,576	—	Rs. 43,70,289	—	R. 7,25,115	
Southern Punjab ..	May 12	Rs. 56,100	—	R. 9,228	—	Rs. 13,50,385	—	R. 7,54,611	

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£2% PER ANNUM—£100 PER £1,000 ASSURED

to policies which have already participated; and £2% for each year excluding first that they have been in force, if they participate for first time.

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**BONUS FOR QUARTER OF A CENTURY
£2% PER ANNUM.**

HEAD OFFICE: EDINBURGH, 19, St. Andrew Square.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
on May 10.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

In one sense the Money Market is growing stronger, thanks principally to the release of £1,500,000 in gold by the Secretary of State for India in Council. As yet, however, the credit wielders of the market have not benefited by the increase of £1,752,000 which has taken place in the Bank's stock of coin and bullion. Adding in £41,000 in notes come back from the circulation the total increase in the banking reserve is about £1,800,000, but of this only £26,000 remained to the credit of other deposits on Wednesday last. The rest had been required to the extent of £809,000 to reduce the market's debt on other securities, a debt still amounting to more than £2,000,000, while £913,000 was added during the Bank week to the Treasury balances. The credit market, therefore, remains short of resources, may, indeed, be extremely poor, relatively at least to its occasional requirements, if allowance be made for the money at the credit of the Government of Japan which figures in the total of other deposits. It is, therefore, to be inferred that the market will have to go to the Bank to help it over the end of the month, and we quite look for stiffish rates upon Stock Exchange credits extended to mid-June. They should, however, be sensibly lower than last time.

Why is the Government piling up its balances again? Could it not have paid off that £2,000,000 of Treasury bills which have been renewed, and which the market took and will have to pay for to-morrow, thus making the way easier not only for the sale of the Indian loan, which was not taken up very enthusiastically this week, but for that postponed issue of Irish stock? We see from last week's revenue returns that £500,000 was disbursed then on account of the surplus remaining from last fiscal year, but this was not enough if Mr. Asquith were intent upon so managing the supplies of credit available as to facilitate Government borrowing operations. Perhaps, however, the

Treasury is acting in collusion with the Bank of England in keeping the market bare lest it should be hit unawares by some unlooked-for disturbance in credit. The rumour crops up every other day that more gold will be required for New York, and although this does not seem probable in view of the fact that the metal is reported to have already begun to return from San Francisco, no less than \$1,470,000 being reported as already on the way, we can never be sure because the gigantic commitments of New York financiers in all directions render the Wall Street market liable to sudden disasters. Credit never was more inflated than it is in New York at this hour, notwithstanding the gold borrowed in Europe to try and prop up the fabric. There may be other grounds also for the caution with which the Bank of England is undoubtedly acting in its solicitude to prevent the open market from slipping away. All is not sound at home any more than in New York. We have amounts unguessable of new securities issued within the last eighteen months or two years still carried on credit, and often carried at a loss. Unless relief comes exhaustion will supervene, and then there will be trouble.

All week seven-day money has mostly been quoted at 3 per cent. by the joint-stock banks, but occasionally they got $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and as the end of the week approaches the market hardens. Call money has rarely been cheap except in the afternoon, when the overnight rate might fall to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but it has sometimes cost $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and loans into the new month were quoted yesterday at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as a minimum. Day-to-day money has more usually been $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. these past two days.

Such rates do not allow much margin for those bill brokers who early in the week were taking long-dated bank bills at $3\frac{3}{8}$ to $3\frac{7}{8}$ per cent., and even $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., the figure to which fine three months paper of this class has fallen, does not give great scope for profits. Yet had it not been that the competition from the Continent has been small it is doubtful whether our bill brokers would have been able to keep the rate up as well as they have done. They were frightened, however, by the action of the Bank in warning them through its broker not to allow rates to slip away, and after struggling bravely to keep the three months rate at $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. they for the most part held fast at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as a minimum, getting rather better rates for remitted bills of what might be called second quality, although how they can determine always what is first class and what is second or third we should not like to try to explain. It is a matter of names almost invariably, the market rarely seeing what is behind the name, and going comfortably alone in its humdrum routine. To-night the market is described as firmer.

As the price of bars remains at 77s. 9d. per oz., probably the Bank will get gold next week, of which about £886,000 from Africa will be available on Monday. There is no competitor except possibly New York, and the Indian demand is not likely to be important. It is in the influx of gold, as we always insist, that the hope of preventing a renewal next autumn of the recent stringency, and in a more acute form, lies, but the Bank requires a good many millions yet before it can be considered strong against all untoward contingencies.

Calls on new issues falling due next week barely aggregate £1,650,000, of which £1,000,000 becomes payable on Monday. That includes £500,000 due then on New South Wales $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. stock and £300,000 on the National Railway of Mexico prior lien bonds. On Thursday, which is the only other day when sensible amounts of floating capital will be absorbed by investments, the heaviest payments are £200,000 on Bahia Blanca and North-Western first debentures and the same amount on Buenos Ayres and Pacific ordinary shares.

SILVER.

Business in the silver market has been on a considerable scale this week, as in addition to large buying by the Indian bazaars there was a special order to be

filled. The spot quotation in consequence advanced to 31½d. per oz., or the highest point touched since August, 1896, while forward metal went up to 31d. per oz., although there was not quite so much interest shown in it. Towards the end of the week, however, supplies came out so freely that they soon exceeded requirements, and prices close to-night at 31½d. and 30½d. per oz. respectively. Applications for the Rs. 40,00,000 India Council drafts on Wednesday reached a total of Rs. 3,28,70,000, of which Rs. 2,88,70,000 were in bills and Rs. 40,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 34,35,000 were accepted in bills and Rs. 5,75,000 in transfers, tenders at 1s. 4 1-32d. and 1s. 4 1-8d. per rupee receiving about 14 per cent. Next week another Rs. 40,00,000 will be offered.

Tenders for £2,000,000 India 3 per cent. stock were opened on the 23rd inst. at the Bank of England. The applications amounted to £4,369,000 at prices varying from £96 to £94 10s. (the minimum), and tenders at £94 11s. received about 10 per cent. of the amount applied for, those above that price being allotted in full. The average price obtained for the stock was £94 16s. 5d.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, May 23, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued	£ 50,461,365	Government Debt	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	32,011,365
		Silver Bullion	—
	£50,461,365		£50,461,365

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 15,977,281
Rest	3,284,478	Other Securities	31,234,166
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	10,328,067	Notes	21,838,295
Other Deposits	42,123,808	Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,348,980
Seven Day and other Bills ..	109,373		
	£70,398,726		£70,398,726

Dated May 24, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year :—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. May, 24.		May 16, 1906.	May 23, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,188,473	Rest	3,273,021	3,284,478	11,457	—
11,682,106	Pub. Deposits ..	9,415,014	10,328,067	913,053	—
40,252,049	Other do. ..	42,097,478	42,123,808	26,430	—
115,381	7 Day Bills ..	69,683	109,373	39,690	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,749,522	Gov. Securities ..	15,977,281	15,977,281	—	—
26,893,103	Other do. ..	32,043,530	31,234,166	809,364	—
27,148,384	Total Reserve ..	21,387,285	23,187,279	—	1,799,994
				1,799,994	1,799,994
				Increase.	Decrease.
£		£	£	£	£
28,852,155	Note Circulation ..	28,664,440	28,623,070	—	41,370
37,550,539	Coin and Bullion ..	31,601,725	33,360,349	1,758,624	—
52½ p.c.	Proportion ..	41½ p.c.	44½ p.c.	2½ p.c.	—
2½ "	Bank Rate ..	4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £1,505,000 in.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders for £2,000,000 in six months' Treasury bills were opened on Monday at the Bank of England, when the total amount applied for was £6,186,000. Tenders at £98 8s. 2d. received about 40 per cent. of the amount applied for, and the average rate of allotment was £3 2s. 2d. per cent.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
1,800,000	6 months	July 1	3 2 6
1,500,000	—	—	—
1,000,000	6 months	July 29	2 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 12	2 10 8
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 26	2 13 8
1,500,000	6 months	Sept. 16	2 11 5
1,000,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 10 0
2,000,000	6 months	Nov. 26	3 2 2
1,500,000	—	—	—
500,000	—	—	—
17,213,000			

† Issued privately.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended May 19.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs	National Debt Services ..
Excise	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Charges
Stamps	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty.	tion
Property and Income Tax ..	Supply Services
Post Office	Bullion Advances
Telegraphs	Treasury Bills (nett amount)
Crown Lands	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	Exchequer Bonds
Treasury Bills (net amount)	Exchequer Bonds redeemed
Miscellaneous	Uganda Railway
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works
Uganda Railway	Naval Works
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts
count	Land Registry (New Build-
Advances for Interest on Ex-	ings)
chequer Bonds	Public Buildings Expenses
Telegraph Acts	Act
Naval Works Acts	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Military Works Acts	Act
Land Registry Acts	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	in reduction of debt
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	Conard Agreement
Issue of Exchequer Bonds	Surplus Revenue, 1905-6 ..
under Conard Agreement Act	Deficiency Advances re-
ways and Means	paid
Temporary Advances Defi-	ways and Means Advances
ciency	repaid
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	Increase in Exchequer
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	balances
Transvaal and Orange River	
Colony. Repayment of	
Temporary Advance	
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	
tion payments	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances	
£2,858,170	£2,858,170

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Monday, Bars £70,000	Friday, Malta £15,000
Tuesday, Bars £100,000	
Tuesday, India £500,000	
Wednesday, Bars £210,000	
Thursday, Bars £91,000	
Thursday, France £5,000	
Friday, Bars £20,000	Nett Influx £981,000
Total £996,000	Total £996,000

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1906.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Jan.	1,361,699,000	1,233,474,000	128,225,000	—
Feb.	1,007,233,000	967,181,000	40,052,000	—
Week ending				
Mar. 7	235,959,000	215,866,000	20,093,000	—
" 14	261,348,000	268,032,000	—	6,684,000
" 21	208,799,000	211,042,000	—	2,333,000
" 28	290,066,000	205,714,000	44,352,000	—
April 4	284,635,000	345,370,000	—	60,735,000
" 11	266,009,000	210,891,000	55,118,000	—
" 18	182,932,000	300,087,000	—	117,155,000
" 25	230,499,000	139,973,000	90,526,000	—
May 2	281,140,000	263,265,000	17,875,000	—
" 9	231,902,000	210,041,000	21,861,000	—
" 16	293,489,000	269,214,000	24,275,000	—
" 23	209,951,000	189,198,000	20,753,000	—
	5,305,571,000	5,029,348,000	276,223,000	—

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'18½	25'19½	Antwerp	short	25'25	25'26½
Brussels	chqs.	25'23½	25'25	Italy	sight	25'15	25'17
Amsterdam	sight	12'14½	12'14½	Constantinople	3 mths	110'05	110'05
Berlin	chqs.	20'48½	20'51½	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	15½d	16½d.
Do.	3 mths	20'29	20'30½	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Hamburg	chqs.	20'47½	20'50	Bombay	T.T.	1/4½	1/4½
Frankfurt	short	20'47½	20'48½	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	2/12	2/12
Vienna	sight	24'07½	24'04½	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2/11½	2/11½
St. Petersburg.	3 mths	93'95	94'00	Singapore ..	T.T.	2/4½	2/4½
New York	60 dys	4'82	4'82½	Yokohama ..	4 mths	2/6½	2/6½
Lisbon	sight	51	51				
Madrid	sight	26'80	26'95				

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	May 25, 1906.	May 17, 1906.	May 10, 1906.	May 25, 1905.
£		£	£	£
Gold in hand	117,989,480	117,771,600	117,957,760	114,826,520
Silver in hand	42,570,320	42,460,640	42,416,360	44,360,680
Bills discounted	31,780,360	33,493,080	35,242,600	20,568,160
Advances	19,870,080	19,922,480	20,443,360	18,537,360
Note circulation	184,109,120	186,073,400	187,668,280	171,834,520
Public deposits	8,346,520	7,245,680	6,284,600	11,222,200
Private deposits	25,290,600	25,673,200	27,846,720	20,937,760

Proportion between bullion and circulation 87½ per cent. against 86½ per cent. a week ago.

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.	
			Last Week.	Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	2 3/4	2 3/4
Berlin	4 1/2	May 23, 1906.	3 1/2	3 1/2
Hamburg	4 1/2	May 23, 1906.	3 1/2	3 1/2
Frankfort	4 1/2	May 23, 1906.	3 1/2	3 1/2
Amsterdam	4 1/2	May 23, 1906.	3 1/2	3 1/2
Brussels	3 1/2	May 15, 1906	3 1/2	3 1/2
Vienna	4 1/2	October, 1905	4	4 1/2
Rome	5	September, 1904	4	4
St. Petersburg	7 1/2	April 17, 1906	8	8
Madrid	4 1/2	August 21, 1901	4	4
Lisbon	5 1/2	January 11, 1899	5	5
Stockholm	5	January, 1906.	4 1/2	4 1/2
Copenhagen	5	October, 1905	4 1/2	4 1/2
Calcutta	6	May 24, 1906	—	—
Bombay	6	May 24, 1906	—	—
New York call money	3 1/2	—	—	—

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	May 15, 1906.	May 7, 1906.	Apr. 30, 1906.	May 15, 1905.
Cash in-hand	£ 50,753,750	£ 48,788,050	£ 48,697,350	£ 53,716,600
Bills discounted	49,712,750	42,042,550	44,770,000	41,342,450
Advances on stocks	3,154,450	3,799,050	6,147,450	3,719,400
Note circulation	65,827,350	68,139,100	69,814,200	63,350,600
Public deposits	28,171,800	25,961,900	30,061,000	33,293,750

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	May 15, 1906.	May 7, 1906.	April 30, 1906.	May 15, 1905.
Gold Reserve	£ 46,472,333	£ 46,301,125	£ 46,256,708	£ 47,023,083
Silver reserve	12,842,458	12,788,958	12,880,291	13,103,208
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	1,655,500	1,847,875	1,854,208	1,707,916
Note circulation	70,319,458	71,839,041	73,419,125	64,039,166
Bills discounted	16,632,041	18,840,500	19,817,875	11,128,208

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	May 17, 1906.	May 10, 1906.	May 3, 1906.	May 18, 1905.
Coin and bullion	£ 4,942,840	£ 4,838,720	£ 5,070,040	£ 4,902,320
Other securities	23,194,840	23,132,200	23,902,840	22,321,120
Note circulation	27,227,280	27,455,440	27,114,720	26,207,840
Deposits	3,237,320	3,053,520	4,479,840	2,808,120

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	May 19, 1906	May 12, 1906.	May 5, 1906.	May 20, 1905.
Gold	£ 15,128,977	£ 15,123,323	£ 15,116,637	£ 14,789,194
Silver	24,267,585	24,094,856	24,014,741	21,760,457
Foreign Bills	3,415,301	3,392,254	3,253,644	1,657,826
Discount and Short Bills	22,451,413	22,364,089	22,759,149	46,503,764
Treasury Account	36,577,074	37,429,023	37,408,627	21,011,733
Notes in circulation	61,899,697	62,182,150	61,931,191	62,912,090
Current Account deposits	23,335,370	23,228,419	22,472,618	23,108,755
Dividends Interests	1,505,934	1,061,780	1,178,638	2,236,159
Government Securities	6,049,530	6,868,734	7,940,546	3,510,803

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	May 1/14, 1906.	Apr. 23/ May 6, 1906.	Apr. 16/29, 1906.	May 1/14, 1905.
Gold	£ 74,501,673	£ 74,041,506	£ 73,360,175	£ 90,749,946
Silver and subsidiary coin	5,591,644	5,477,085	5,299,565	6,490,632
Advances and bills discounted	46,074,249	46,611,350	47,626,218	36,276,354
Securities belonging to the Bank	8,519,935	8,434,046	8,076,368	5,285,550
Notes in circulation	113,024,484	113,099,012	111,855,778	89,499,216
Deposits and current account	47,861,711	47,878,623	45,630,301	43,925,468
Treasury account	2,721,747	2,389,498	1,110,403	15,681,334

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	May 15	May 17	May 22	May 24
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
Do. do.	3 months	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
Antwerp and Brussels	3 months	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
Hamburg	3 months	20 1/2	20 1/2	20 1/2	20 1/2
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20 1/2	20 1/2	20 1/2	20 1/2
Paris	cheques	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
Do.	3 months	25 3/4	25 3/4	25 3/4	25 3/4
Marseilles	3 months	25 3/4	25 3/4	25 3/4	25 3/4
Switzerland	3 months	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
Austria	3 months	24 3/4	24 3/4	24 3/4	24 3/4
St. Petersburg	3 months	24 3/4	24 3/4	24 3/4	24 3/4
Moscow	3 months	24 3/4	24 3/4	24 3/4	24 3/4
Italian Bank Places	3 months	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
New York	60 days	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	43 1/2	43 1/2	43 1/2	43 1/2
Lisbon	3 months	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2
Oporto	3 months	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2	50 1/2
Copenhagen	3 months	18 1/4	18 1/4	18 1/4	18 1/4
Christiania	3 months	18 1/4	18 1/4	18 1/4	18 1/4
Stockholm	3 months	18 1/4	18 1/4	18 1/4	18 1/4

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	May 19 1906.	May 12, 1906.	May 5, 1906.	May 20, 1905
Specie	£ 37,088,000	£ 37,288,000	£ 36,630,000	£ 43,034,000
Legal tenders	16,279,200	16,018,000	15,914,200	16,866,800
Loans and discounts	208,140,000	205,140,000	208,420,000	224,080,000
Circulation	10,002,400	10,075,800	10,168,800	9,061,600
Net deposits	205,360,000	202,920,000	205,460,000	233,040,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of nett deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £2,027,200 against an excess last week of £2,576,000.

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3 1/2 - 3 3/4
Three months	3 1/2
Four months	3 1/2 - 3 3/4
Six months	3 1/2 - 3 3/4
Three months fine inland bills	3 1/2 - 3 3/4
Four months	3 1/2 - 3 3/4
Six months	3 1/2 - 3 3/4

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
" " short loan rates	4 1/2
Bankers' rate on deposits	2 1/2
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	3
" " 7 and 14 days' notice	3 1/2
Current rates for 7 day loans	3 - 3 1/2
" " for call loans	3 - 3 1/2

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

There must be business doing on the Stock Exchange, else how could the great crowd of members live? Are they all living, or must not an increasing proportion be either exhausting their savings or existing on charity, hope and faith, but especially charity? Certainly the evidence of public interest in markets becomes less and less every week. They present the appearance worn in former times after a panic or a great crisis in finance. Here and there eddies of speculation may arise in which the public takes a little interest, but apart from investment dealings markets as a rule have nothing to do. When members play at all, they play at "besting" one another, and cannot get fat on that. When is a change for the better coming? We really do not see when, or how. Until the debris of past losses and the accumulations of credit grown hollow or worm-eaten have been cleared away, good, active markets cannot be looked for. It is, therefore, little use indicating the lines on which business might be expected to improve or the directions public energies might take in restoring activity to any class of securities. If the speculative home investor is not to be tempted into playing for the rise in the Home Railway market with traffic receipts showing such increases as they do, there is certainly no hope of reawakening interest in that waste place the Kaffir Circus, or even in getting the public to rush after the shares of the numerous motor vehicle enterprises now being diligently presented to it.

The seemingly anomalous thing is that inside the Stock Exchange we are always told nothing like a weak position exists on any large scale. This is good if true, but the inference must be drawn that if the Stock Exchange is not committed to positions involving tremendous risks and losses, the sufferings of the public must have been greater than any ever experienced before since gambling in stocks and shares began. Also it is to be inferred that much of the credit undoubtedly locked up by our bankers and financiers is in a form which prevents a transfer of risks to the outside public. American securities of all descriptions are pawned with our credit-yielding institutions to an extent never before equalled, and such portion of issues like those \$50,000,000 short term notes of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company as have been placed here must remain in the hands of middlemen because the public would not buy a security of that description. To make matters worse for the high financiers our insurance companies are at present almost completely out of the market. They may not have sold securities yet to any extent, but they have probably called in loans, as we explained some weeks ago, and they are abstaining from making permanent or even temporary invest-

ments to an altogether unusual extent, so that markets are really not in a happy position nor is the danger of complications in credit at an end. It is not our intention, however, to insist upon points of this kind at present. Little indeed is gained by continued minute analysis of the influences at work beneath the surface. It is best to wait for events to develop, and as far as possible to hope that the dangers visible enough to those who care to look into facts may be once more overcome or circumvented, as they have so often been before.

The Week's Stock Markets.

There is still nothing encouraging to be said about stock markets. They lay quiet almost as the grave, and so far as we can see there is no prospect of an immediate return to even mild activity. The fact that all the Continental bourses were closed on Thursday for Ascension Day helped to accentuate the inertia, and a good many people thought the London Exchange might just as well have been closed also. So it might for all the business there was doing. The present inactivity is the more strange because there are no foreign political clouds to disturb the peace of mind, and the domestic situation is all that could be desired. Trade is flourishing in practically every branch, and we believe the Government is exceedingly keen on the question of economy in the great spending departments. This being so the conclusion is forced upon us that serious trouble lies hidden somewhere, and until this has been brought to the surface and cleared away dealers must expect a continuance of the present misery. Gold is steadily flowing into the Bank, and at the present rate of progression we may soon pull the reserve up level with the figures of a year ago. In ordinary times this prospect would serve as a stimulant to markets, but just now public and professionals alike seem quite disheartened, and prices persistently droop. There is no life at all in the

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS. (Last year's dividends are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91	88½	Consols (2½ p.c. Money) ..	89½	89½
91½	89½	Do. Account (June 1) ..	89½	89½
90	87½	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	88½	88½
100½	99½	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907 ..	100	100
93½	92½	Irish Land (2½) ..	90½	91
100½	99½	Local Loans (3) ..	99½	99½
100½	98	National War Loan (2½ p.c.) ..	98½	98½
99½	98½	Do. Account (June 1) ..	98½	98½
101½	98½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	98½	98½
301	289	Bk. of England Stock, (9 p.c.) ..	291	290
106½	103½	India 3½ p.c. Stock red. 1911 ..	104½	104½
97½	95½	Do. 3 p.c. Stock red. 1913 ..	96½	95½
82	79½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stock red. 1926 ..	80	80
66½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	65½	65½

Consol market, and quotations ended much where they opened. Other British Funds showed small irregular movements, and India 3 per cent. went back when the low price fetched for the new loan became known. The syndicate put in at 1s. only above the minimum price of 94½ and obtained 10 per cent. of what they asked for. The average price obtained was no more than £94 16s. 5d., and the premium on the new stock, which had been as high as 7½, fell away to ½. Home County and Corporation and Colonial Inscribed stocks showed no important movements. A new West Australian loan of £1,500,000 is spoken of, the money being required for opening up new lands for settlement and for the construction of railways.

The Foreign bond section was as idle as any, and on Ascension Day business was virtually at a standstill. Russians opened a little dull on the disappointment felt at the absence of the Tsar's reply to the address of the Duma, but subsequently picked up and closed steady. Japanese resumed their upward movement after a dull start, and Chinese were strong in tone, although changes were few. Continentals were steady to firm, with small rises in Turkish, Portuguese, and Spanish, and in the South American group Brazilians inclined upward. Argentines closed slightly dull, and Cédulas responded to some buying from

Buenos Ayres prompted by the usual hopes of an early settlement. Peruvians hardened in a small way, and amongst Central Americans Colombians were somewhat dull. It is said that Nicaragua would like to place a 5 per cent. loan for a million at 92½, but we doubt if investors would be particularly keen.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
103½	101½	Argentina 5 p.c. 1886 ..	102½	103
101½	100	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	101½	101½
103½	100½	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	102½	102½
93½	89½	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	93½	93
93	89½	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	89½	89½
92½	90	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	89½	89½
104½	101½	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	101½	101½
92½	86½	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	89½	89½
102½	97½	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	99½	99½
106	103½	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	103½	103½
91½	86½	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	90½	90½
102½	99½	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	102½	102½
96½	95	Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885 ..	95½	95½
97½	94	Do. 4½ p.c. 1886 ..	96½	96½
96½	92½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1895 ..	94	94
101	98½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	101	101
100½	97½	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	97½	98
105½	103	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	105	105
105½	102½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	102½	102½
101½	96½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	98½	98½
105½	100½	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	102½	102½
53½	50	Costa Rica A ..	52	52
43½	41½	Do. B ..	42	42
47½	43½	Colombian External ..	46	46
108½	105½	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	105½	106½
106½	104½	Egypt United 4 p.c. ..	104	104
102½	101½	Do. 3½ p.c. pref. ..	100½	100½
105½	103½	Do. 4½ p.c. State Domain ..	105	105
88½	87½	German 3 p.c. ..	86½	86½
53½	50	Greek, 1884 ..	53½	53½
53½	50½	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	54	54
43	39½	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	41½	41½
52½	49½	Do. Funding ..	52½	52½
98½	93	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	97	96½
105	103½	Italian 5 p.c. ..	105	105
104½	100½	Japan 5 p.c. ..	103	104½
104	100½	Do. 1901-2 ..	101	101½
92½	88½	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	92	92½
104½	100½	Do. 6 p.c. ..	101½	101½
105½	101½	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	103½	103½
71½	68½	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	71½	71½
87	81	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	82½	82
83	79½	Servian 4 p.c. ..	83	83
97½	90½	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	96½	96½
100½	100	Turks 3½ p.c. Tribute ..	100½	100½
105½	102½	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	103	103
94½	90½	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	93½	94
74	70½	Uruguay 3½ p.c. ..	72	71½
98½	94½	Do. 5 p.c. ..	94½	94½
54½	50½	Venezuelan, Dip. (3) ..	52½	52

Very little of interest happened in the Miscellaneous market, and prices moved within the narrowest limits. Some excitement was caused by a successful attempt to corner "bears" of the new Alliance Motors. In this case the shorts proved to be underwriters. These gentlemen appear to have heard that the issue was going very badly, and proceeded to sell shares in the market in order to protect themselves, a perfectly legitimate and natural proceeding. It turned out, however, that the issue was fully subscribed, large applications being sent in at the last moment, and the underwriters who sold were caught short of the shares. The premium thereupon jumped to 7½. There was less business in Associated Cements, and the shares were inclined to react, but the debentures kept good. Nitrates were irregular, Textiles closed firm, and nothing worth noting happened in the Catering division until the Lyons dividend was announced. This was at the rate of 35 per cent. per annum, making 30 per cent. for the year with a bonus added of 2½ per cent. On the declaration the shares slightly improved, but dullness soon set in as some dealers declared they had been looking for 40 per cent. Meat shares were still dull, and Liptons eased off as, although the dividend has been maintained at 7 per cent., there is no contribution to reserve. Breweries are still going down. London Dock stocks were better, but Surrey Commercial issues keep heavy. A big rise occurred in Eastman Kodak issues, the market being very short of shares, but the best price was not quite maintained. Anglo "A" were less active, but had a very sharp jump on Wednesday, carrying the price up to 26½. The close was at or near the top. Hudson's Bays were steady and a trifling improvement occurred in Pekin Syndicates. Tramway and Omnibus shares were in better

request and B.E.T., Road Cars and London Motor Bus all improved.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
141 1/2	132 1/2	134 Brighton Ord. (5 1/2 p.c.) ..	136	135
157 1/2	149 1/2	151 Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	153	153
130 1/2	117 1/2	119 Do. Def. (5 1/2 p.c.) ..	120	119
120 1/2	108 1/2	109 1/2 Caledonian Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	110 1/2	110
80	74 1/2	75 1/2 Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	76	75 1/2
44 1/2	34 1/2	35 1/2 Do. Def. (1 p.c.) ..	35 1/2	35 1/2
56 1/2	48 1/2	49 1/2 Central London (4 p.c.) ..	49 1/2	49 1/2
89	77 1/2	79 1/2 Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	78 1/2	78 1/2
169 1/2	142 1/2	15 Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	15 1/2	15 1/2
44 1/2	39	42 City and South London (2 1/2 p.c.) ..	40	40
69 1/2	63 1/2	66 Furness (1 1/2 p.c.) ..	68 1/2	68 1/2
40 1/2	37 1/2	37 1/2 Great Central Pref. ..	38 1/2	37 1/2
139 1/2	127 1/2	129 Do. Def. ..	127 1/2	127 1/2
91 1/2	81 1/2	82 1/2 Great Eastern (3 1/2 p.c.) ..	83 1/2	82 1/2
105 1/2	100 1/2	101 1/2 Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	102 1/2	102 1/2
47 1/2	43 1/2	44 1/2 Do. Def. (1 1/2 p.c.) ..	45 1/2	45 1/2
144 1/2	131 1/2	134 1/2 Great Western (5 1/2 p.c.) ..	135 1/2	134 1/2
52	47 1/2	48 1/2 Highland (1 1/2 p.c.) ..	49 1/2	48 1/2
47 1/2	42 1/2	43 1/2 Hull and Barnsley (1 1/2 p.c.) ..	46 1/2	46 1/2
109 1/2	103 1/2	104 Lanc. and Yorks. (3 1/2 p.c.) ..	105 1/2	104 1/2
89 1/2	82 1/2	83 1/2 Metropolitan (2 1/2 p.c.) ..	84 1/2	83 1/2
37 1/2	22 1/2	23 1/2 Metropolitan District ..	24 1/2	23 1/2
70 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2 Midland Pref. (2 1/2 p.c.) ..	68 1/2	67 1/2
74 1/2	68 1/2	69 1/2 Do. Def. (2 1/2 p.c.) ..	70 1/2	69 1/2
76 1/2	74 1/2	75 North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	76 1/2	76 1/2
47 1/2	43 1/2	44 Do. Def. (1 1/2 p.c.) ..	44 1/2	44 1/2
147 1/2	138 1/2	140 1/2 North-Eastern (6 1/2 p.c.) ..	141 1/2	140 1/2
105 1/2	104 1/2	105 1/2 North-Western (6 1/2 p.c.) ..	106 1/2	105 1/2
90 1/2	86 1/2	87 South-Eastern Ord. (2 1/2 p.c.) ..	88 1/2	87 1/2
132 1/2	124 1/2	125 Do. Pref. (4 1/2 p.c.) ..	125 1/2	124 1/2
52 1/2	50 1/2	51 1/2 Do. Def. ..	52 1/2	51 1/2
164 1/2	151 1/2	154 South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	154 1/2	153 1/2
108 1/2	103 1/2	104 Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	104 1/2	104 1/2
57 1/2	50 1/2	51 Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	51 1/2	51 1/2

A heavy fall in the price of Great Western stock puzzled the Home Railway market considerably, especially as no satisfactory explanation of the movement seemed to be forthcoming. In their efforts to find a solution of the mystery dealers were pretty unanimous in ascribing the decline to a "bear" raid, but the reasons given for such an attack were numerous and varied. One group put forward the view that it was prompted by the smallness of the increase in the traffic returns for the current half-year, another held

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
99 1/2	89 1/2	92 1/2 Atchison Shares (4) ..	92 1/2	91 1/2
109 1/2	104 1/2	105 Do. Pref. (5) ..	106 1/2	106 1/2
120 1/2	109 1/2	112 1/2 Baltimore & Ohio (New) (5) ..	111 1/2	110 1/2
101 1/2	96 1/2	97 1/2 Do. Pref. (4) ..	98 1/2	97 1/2
65 1/2	55 1/2	59 1/2 Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	61 1/2	60 1/2
100 1/2	102 1/2	102 1/2 Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	103 1/2	103 1/2
53 1/2	48 1/2	49 1/2 Denver Shares ..	44 1/2	44 1/2
95 1/2	88 1/2	89 1/2 Do. Pref. (5) ..	90 1/2	89 1/2
85 1/2	78 1/2	79 1/2 Erie Shares ..	43 1/2	43 1/2
77 1/2	69 1/2	70 1/2 Do. Pref. (4) ..	80 1/2	81 1/2
185 1/2	171 1/2	176 Do. and Pref. (4) ..	71 1/2	71 1/2
160 1/2	143 1/2	147 1/2 Illinois Central (7) ..	178 1/2	178 1/2
41 1/2	31 1/2	32 1/2 Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	148 1/2	148 1/2
159 1/2	137 1/2	142 1/2 Missouri and Texas ..	38 1/2	35 1/2
96 1/2	87 1/2	90 1/2 New York Central (5) ..	145 1/2	143 1/2
90 1/2	82 1/2	84 Norfolk and Western (4) ..	93 1/2	93 1/2
57 1/2	49 1/2	49 1/2 Do. Pref. (4) ..	54 1/2	54 1/2
75 1/2	68 1/2	69 1/2 Ontario Shares (3) ..	70 1/2	70 1/2
85 1/2	79 1/2	80 1/2 Pennsylvania (6) ..	81 1/2	81 1/2
47 1/2	46 1/2	46 1/2 Reading Shares (1 1/2) ..	67 1/2	67 1/2
54 1/2	48 1/2	48 1/2 Do. 1st Pref. (4) ..	67 1/2	69 1/2
74 1/2	64 1/2	66 1/2 Do. and Pref. (4) ..	67 1/2	69 1/2
43 1/2	36 1/2	38 1/2 Southern Pacific ..	68 1/2	66 1/2
105 1/2	101 1/2	103 Do. Pref. (5) ..	99 1/2	98 1/2
164 1/2	145 1/2	152 Union Pacific (5 1/2) ..	103 1/2	103 1/2
101 1/2	98 1/2	99 Do. Pref. (4) ..	103 1/2	102 1/2
26 1/2	20 1/2	21 Webash ..	21 1/2	21 1/2
53 1/2	44 1/2	45 1/2 Do. Pref. ..	45 1/2	47 1/2
87 1/2	78 1/2	79 1/2 Do. Income Debs. ..	83 1/2	82 1/2
182 1/2	161 1/2	164 1/2 Canadian Pacific (6) ..	165 1/2	164 1/2
106 1/2	104 1/2	104 1/2 Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	104 1/2	104 1/2
112 1/2	109 1/2	111 1/2 Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	111 1/2	111 1/2
20 1/2	20 1/2	20 1/2 Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	27 1/2	27 1/2
105 1/2	101 1/2	102 Do. Guar. (4) ..	108 1/2	108 1/2
120 1/2	114 1/2	117 1/2 Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	118 1/2	118 1/2
210 1/2	205 1/2	208 1/2 Do. and Pref. (5) ..	208 1/2	208 1/2
70 1/2	60 1/2	64 1/2 Do. 3rd Pref. (2) ..	66 1/2	66 1/2
109 1/2	107 1/2	108 1/2 Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	108 1/2	108 1/2

that it was due to fears that the line would suffer severely from the closing down of tin-plate mills in South Wales, which was said to be contemplated owing to the prohibitive price of the metal, and a third talked of a fresh issue of capital. Many other theories were put forward, but the last mentioned proved to be the correct one, as on Thursday the company announced an issue of £2,000,000 ordinary stock to provide funds for expenditure already authorised on new lines in course of construction, the widening and improving of existing lines, and the purchase of additional rolling-

stock. The new issue is offered at 125 to holders of existing ordinary stock, who are expected to apply for what they want, paying 10 per cent. on allotment, 25 per cent. on July 2, and three instalments of 30 per cent. each on September 1, November 1, and January 1, 1907. It does not, however, rank for dividend until fully paid, so that, taking the dividend for this year at 5 1/2 per cent., the market reckoned that the "turn" would be only about 1 1/2 per cent. on the present quotation. Some jobbers argued that by depositing the full amount at 3 per cent., and withdrawing it piecemeal as instalments fall due, the stock could be obtained at fully 2 1/2 under the current figure; but even so, they were by no means enthusiastic over its reception, and although they gave the quotation as 1 1/2 premium, it was more as a matter of form than anything else. On the announcement the old stock was further offered and fell to 131, but the "bears," having nothing left to go for, then began to buy back, and it finished a little above that figure. Nothing much occurred in any other part of the market, except that Great Eastern

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
231 1/2	211 1/2	223 Antofagasta (10) ..	231 1/2	232 1/2
360 1/2	313 1/2	360 Do. Def. (15) ..	360 1/2	360 1/2
130 1/2	118 1/2	120 Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	119 1/2	118 1/2
132 1/2	125 1/2	128 Do. Pref. (5) ..	128 1/2	125 1/2
88 1/2	84 1/2	85 Bahia Blanca Pref. ..	85 1/2	85 1/2
144 1/2	136 1/2	136 1/2 B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	137 1/2	137 1/2
129 1/2	124 1/2	125 Do. Pref. (5) ..	126 1/2	127 1/2
136 1/2	128 1/2	129 B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	130 1/2	130 1/2
120 1/2	115 1/2	116 Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	119 1/2	119 1/2
110 1/2	107 1/2	107 1/2 Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109 1/2	109 1/2
120 1/2	113 1/2	116 B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	116 1/2	116 1/2
119 1/2	109 1/2	111 Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	111 1/2	111 1/2
170 1/2	160 1/2	164 Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	166 1/2	166 1/2
109 1/2	104 1/2	105 Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	105 1/2	105 1/2
138 1/2	120 1/2	132 B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	133 1/2	132 1/2
92 1/2	83 1/2	83 Central Uruguay (4 1/2) ..	84 1/2	85 1/2
109 1/2	106 1/2	107 Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	104 1/2	104 1/2
96 1/2	91 1/2	94 Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	91 1/2	93 1/2
75 1/2	66 1/2	70 1/2 Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3 1/2) ..	73 1/2	72 1/2
59 1/2	52 1/2	52 1/2 Costa Rica ..	52 1/2	52 1/2
78 1/2	68 1/2	77 1/2 Cuban Central ..	78 1/2	78 1/2
111 1/2	104 1/2	11 Do. Pref. (5 1/2) ..	11 1/2	11 1/2
108 1/2	103 1/2	104 Do. Deb. (4 1/2) ..	104 1/2	104 1/2
93 1/2	90 1/2	92 1/2 East Argentine (4 1/2) ..	93 1/2	93 1/2
94 1/2	6 1/2	7 1/2 Inter-oceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	94 1/2	84 1/2
86 1/2	78 1/2	79 1/2 Leopoldina (4) ..	80 1/2	80 1/2
98 1/2	94 1/2	95 1/2 Do. Deb. (4) ..	97 1/2	97 1/2
108 1/2	107 1/2	107 1/2 Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	109 1/2	109 1/2
105 1/2	103 1/2	103 1/2 Do. "B" (6) ..	107 1/2	107 1/2
28 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2 Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	24 1/2	25 1/2
130 1/2	118 1/2	127 1/2 Do. 1st Pref. (6 1/2) ..	127 1/2	127 1/2
59 1/2	49 1/2	52 1/2 Do. and Pref. ..	53 1/2	54 1/2
16 1/2	14 1/2	16 Mexican Southern (2 1/2) ..	61 1/2	60 1/2
21 1/2	10 1/2	19 1/2 Nitrate Ord. (8) ..	15 1/2	15 1/2
214 1/2	202 1/2	203 Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (5) ..	204 1/2	204 1/2
193 1/2	188 1/2	177 1/2 San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	203 1/2	203 1/2
		United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	181 1/2	182 1/2

was inclined to give way on fears that the proposed tax on railway tickets in Germany would interfere with the Continental business of this line, and that Metropolitan continued to dwindle owing to another poor traffic return. District, too, was weak at first, but hardened again when the market began to talk of a saving in working expenses now that the line has got rid of steam and is working entirely by electric traction.

Business in New York has shrivelled up for the time being, and last Saturday the recorded transactions amounted to no more than 148,000 shares, while on most days since then the total has been under 500,000 shares. For this state of affairs the Pennsylvania Company seems to be largely responsible, as although it is not long since that company placed a loan of £10,000,000 in 4 1/2 per cent. short term notes it was reported to be seeking to borrow a further £5,000,000 in Paris. The report caused a good deal of uneasiness lest it should prove to be merely the forerunner of a number of similar appeals for fresh capital, and attempts to stimulate the market met with little encouragement. Sundry efforts were made to lift Erie and Reading shares, and it was said that Continental orders had been received, but the buying never amounted to much, and the greater part of the modest improvements soon disappeared when Wall Street tried to realise its profit. Quotations were inclined to harden towards the close of business on Thursday, partly because of the more settled conditions in San Francisco, as the reopening of the banks has led to the return of funds to New York, and partly because

of a rumour that more gold was to be obtained from this side. Owing, it was said, to the large amounts of Pennsylvania notes here and on the Continent, New York bankers were believed to be in a position to take gold from here, and were credited with the intention of competing for the supplies of the metal coming into our market next week. Bullion brokers had no confirmation of the story, and thought it more probable that if any gold was required it would be taken from Paris as being the cheaper market, but they were inclined to think that none would be wanted.

Canadian Railways still give us very little to write about. Grand Trunk stocks were held fairly steady in anticipation of a good traffic return, but the publication of the figures, although these were fully up to expectations, failed to bring about any appreciable improvement. Canadian Pacific shares, on the other hand, fell back, and there was also some selling of the "rights" to the new shares, which drove the price down to about 11½.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
21	16	19	Allsopp Ordinary	19	19
51	44	—	City of London Ord.	46½	45½
551	533	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20)	540	540
192	108	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	16	15½
51/3	40/3	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	2½	2½
61/3	49/6	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20)	2½	2½
56	48	48	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	48½	48½
99½	98½	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	92	94
68	5½	5½	Aerated Bread (32½)	6½	6½
7½	6½	7	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	7	7
27½	27/3	18½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½)	7½	7½
45½	40½	1½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7) ..	1½	1½
7½	5½	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2½	2½
114	108	—	Brunner Mond (35)	56	55
14½	11½	1½	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½)	111	111
58	5½	103½	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½)	11½	11½
500	492½	495	Coats Ordinary (20)	5½	5½
26½	19/9	24/9	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	490	490
25½	22/9	1½	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil)	13	13
6½	—	6	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	1½	1½
13½	12½	—	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	6	6
20½	18/9	4½	Henley's Telegraph (15) ..	12½	12½
27½	26½	27½	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	18½	18½
108½	106½	108	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½)	1½	1½
24½	20½	23½	Do. Debenture (4½)	108	108
6½	5½	5½	Lipton Ordinary (7)	1½	1½
34½	22½	22½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	6½	6½
15½	10½	18/9	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	1½	1½
7½	6½	—	Russian Petroleum	6½	6½
18½	13/9	17½	Savey Hotel (5)	6½	6½
16½	14½	—	Sweetwater Automatic	15	15
12½	10½	12½	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	15	15
19½	17½	18½	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	12½	12½
102½	102½	103½	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	18½	18½
98½	80½	83½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	103½	103½
54½	42½	49	Hudson's Bay Co. (5½)	84½	84½
110½	105½	105½	Peruvian Cor. & P. C. Pf. (12½)	50½	50½
9½	9	—	Do. Debentures (6)	105½	105½
13½	11½	—	National Discount (10)	9	9
6½	5	4½	Union Discount (11)	11½	11½
11½	10½	10½	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	4½	4½
104½	95½	—	City of London Elec. Ord. (6)	102	102
133½	125½	—	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4½)	98	98
166½	58½	59½	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	127	128
85½	75½	38½	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	3	3
28½	25½	37½	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	38½	37
31½	30½	—	Brown, J. & Co. Ordinary (10)	1½	1½
14	12	12½	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½)	1½	1½
47½	38½	42	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	12½	12½
117	107½	110½	United States Steel Ordinary ..	43	41½
57½	49½	23½	Do. Preference (7)	109½	108½
15½	13½	—	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	2½	2½
241	235	—	Cunard Steam	14	14
98½	37	—	Peninsular & Oriental Det. (13)	234½	234½
9	7½	—	Royal Mail	59	59
215½	209½	114½	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5)	82	82
86½	76½	23½	Anglo-American Telegraph— Do. Pref. Ord. (2½)	114½	115
150½	143	143½	Do. Def. Ord.	25½	26½
157½	147	142	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	143½	143½
113½	108½	108½	Eastern Extension (7)	142	142
144½	142	142	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	109	109
84	62	61½	Western Telegraph (7)	142	142
93½	88	87½	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	62	62
117	83½	—	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)	72½	72
10	84	—	London General Omnibus (7)	86½	86½
			London United Trams Pref. (5)	92	92

Amongst Argentine Railways, Great Western ordinary stock fell to 118 ex rights on sales against purchases of the new shares, but the issue met with a very favourable reception, the amount offered to the public having been largely over-subscribed by Monday morning, and the price rose to ½ premium. The rest of the group was quiet and inclined to be dull, in spite of good traffic figures, and other South American things also showed a tendency to slip back. A large business in United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock left the quotation much about where it was, but

the "bulls" had rather the best of it in the tussle over the stocks of the old Mexican company, and Antofagasta ordinary stock also finished higher. The new Central Uruguay Eastern Extension shares are not attracting very much support and the price hangs round about par.

If a twenty-day account is always to produce the stagnation the one now closing has done, stockbrokers never want to see another. These last few days the calm has been deadly, but markets will revive again presently. Meantime players keep up their heart by dealing in options, and to-day Yankee rails, "coalers," especially, were firm, with the "bull" clique uppermost. All other departments of the exchange were utterly stagnant, and we do not even hear a quotation for the new Indian scrip, but it is about ½ premium. "Bears" of Great Western stock put it up £1 by closing. Paris was inclined to depress Russian securities, and they were weak here. The Mining market has to begin arranging its account to-morrow, and did nothing at all to-day.

Can it be that our old acquaintance the Mutual Reserve Life Assurance Company of New York has departed this country? Its offices in Cannon Street, City, have been closed, and it seems to have levanted from its other nests throughout the kingdom. It was in the past full of assurance and always without a reserve, and the business it did was nothing short of impudent imposture. Old readers of this REVIEW will remember the job we had in exposing its misdeeds, and the mud its creatures threw, and recently its officials have been engaging the attention of the law in the States. Probably that has something to do with its sudden disappearance here. But does the British board get away unquestioned?

Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

The annual report of this important undertaking once more brings into prominence its really scandalous treatment at the hands of the Colonial Office before the late Government was retired into obscurity. Not only was the company passed over in favour of certain friends when the mail contract came up for renewal, but absolutely no encouragement was given to those who sought to develop trade between the West Indies and this country, and the directors complain bitterly that the sum now being paid for the conveyance of mails is hopelessly inadequate for the important services which the companies' passenger vessels continue to render. Notwithstanding the withdrawal of the West Indian mail subsidy, the company's transatlantic steamers have continued to maintain a regular service between England and the principal West Indian Islands. The company has also made, and is making, very important additions to its fleet in order that this service may be efficient as possible, and has been treated most shabbily for its pains. In the absence of any arrangement with the late Government for connecting up the various West Indian Islands with each other and with Great Britain a further revision of the itineraries of the West Indian Intercolonial services has been necessitated with the view of effecting economies. Under these circumstances the company submitted the scheme to the Colonial Office, whereby for a moderate payment all the colonies would be regularly connected with the company's transatlantic steamers at Barbadoes and Trinidad, but as yet no reply has been given. That, perhaps, is hardly surprising, because the present Colonial Secretary needs time to examine the position in all its bearings, but the delay should not be prolonged, because the necessities are patent. In addition to putting new steamers on the South American service the company is effecting improvements in other vessels with encouraging results, and is having several boats fitted up with cold storage accommodation with the idea of developing the fruit industry. Three new steamers were also acquired to run between the United

Kingdom, the Continent and Cuba, and as already announced the directors have decided to re-enter the Australian trade. The whole of the interest of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company's Australian mail service has been acquired, and the directors are now giving careful consideration to the mail contract question. The present agreement expires in 1908 and new tenders will be submitted in conjunction with the Orient Steam Navigation Company. The extended voyages to New York of the West Indian Transatlantic passenger steamers, to which reference was made in the last interim report, have been attended with encouraging results, and have proved the means of stimulating the traffic between North America, the West Indian colonies, Colon, and Central American ports. As to financial results, we find that the passenger money, freights, Government contracts, postages, armed cruisers' subvention, &c., produced £1,458,971 in the 12 months to December 31, being an increase over the preceding year of the important sum of £262,735. Interest and discount gave a further amount of £6,548 and £8,274 was brought in, making £1,473,794 in all against £1,205,113. Expenditure, however, was also heavily larger, and the cost of navigating ships came to the big sum of £932,454. Other important items were provisioning £115,008, general administration £92,426, and ships' repairs and general maintenance £87,594. The directors then provide £18,150 for insurance, add £35,000 to the insurance fund and allow £141,413 for depreciation of the fleet and property. Interest on debentures takes a further sum of £13,750, and discount on calls paid in advance amounts to £7,296, so that the nett balance remaining from the huge receipts is only £17,077. The directors, however, probably did not intend to keep more than sufficient to meet the dividend on the preference stock proportion of the divided shares, with the equivalent paid up on the undivided shares, preferring to strengthen the financial position as much as possible. Balance carried forward is £8,076. Tonnage of the fleet is now 165,511, having a balance-sheet value of £1,928,785, or about £11 13s. per ton, which is not excessive. Moreover, the insurance fund now amounts to £250,000. Floating liabilities are moderately heavy, but the company has a fair quantity of liquid resources, and there is still a good deal to come in from calls.

Critical Index To New Investments.

BOULTON AND PAUL, LIMITED.

After being in existence for about a century this business was converted into a limited liability company in 1897 with a share capital of £128,000, divided into 5,000 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares and 7,800 ordinary shares of £10 each, which were afterwards converted into £1 shares. All the preference and 61,500 ordinary shares were issued to the vendors, with £16,500 in debentures out of a total of £40,000, and the holders of the preference shares for family and private reasons offer them for subscription at 21s. per share. The business is a well-known one of constructional engineers, horticultural builders, &c., and it is stated that for the eight years from 1898 to 1905 the average profits have been £19,414 per annum, out of which, after providing for debenture interest, preference dividend, and depreciation, &c., dividends averaging 15 per cent. have been paid on the ordinary shares. According to the last balance-sheet at September 30 the assets, including £39,554 for goodwill, showed a surplus over debentures and trade creditors of £127,884, so that the security seems good.

JUGRA LAND AND RUBBER ESTATES, LIMITED.

This company acquires from Mr. E. V. Carey about 28,000 acres of land in the Island of Jugra, ceded to him by the Selangor Government, with a view to opening up and reselling it at an enhanced price, and of

engaging in the cultivation of rubber. For this land Mr. Carey asked 30s. per acre, half in cash and half in shares, but a syndicate intervenes and the company pays another 10s. per acre in the same proportions, making a total of £56,000. The capital of the company has been fixed at £150,000 in £1 shares, of which £76,250 is expected to be available for planting and development and £6,950 for other working capital, the balance being absorbed by £4,000 for preliminary expenses, £2,000 for brokerage, and £4,800 representing 5 per cent. underwriting and 1 per cent. over-riding commission on 80,000 of the 122,000 shares offered for subscription. It is estimated that by the fifth year there will be 750 acres in bearing, yielding on the basis of 3s. 4d. per lb. a balance of revenue over expenditure of £7,250, and that by the tenth year this balance should have increased to £148,000. The price taken for the calculation seems moderate enough, and the company may do very well, but the shares are only for those who can afford to lock them away and wait for a return.

CENTRAL URUGUAY EASTERN EXTENSION RAILWAY, LIMITED.

An agreement having been made with the Uruguayan Government to amend the method of calculating the guarantee in consideration of the company completing the construction of the lines as embodied in the original concession, arrangements have been made to extend the railway from Nico Perez to Centurion on the Brazilian frontier. This extension has been undertaken by the Construction Company, Limited, for a sum of £1,238,400, subject to adjustment as regards the actual length of the line, payable £750,000 in 5 per cent. preference shares, £50,000 in ordinary shares, and the balance in 5 per cent. debenture stock, and the company now offers 75,000 5 per cent. preference shares of £10 each on account of the contractors, who have had it underwritten for a commission of 2½ per cent. Interest is guaranteed by the Government at the rate of 3½ per cent. upon £5,000 per kilometre of line constructed, and in addition the company is allowed to retain from its nett receipts an amount up to 1½ per cent. per annum on the same capital outlay. The directors, however, state that the existing line from Toledo to Nico Perez, which was completed in 1891, has for the past few years been practically independent of the Government guarantee, and it is believed that the extension will give equally good results. Applications from shareholders in this and in the Central Uruguay Railway Company of Monte Video are promised special consideration as regards allotment.

BEAUFORT MOTOR COMPANY, LIMITED.

According to the prospectus British factories are at present unable to keep pace with the demand for commercial vehicles, and millions of pounds worth of orders are still waiting to be placed. It is, however, by no means clear that this company will do anything towards relieving the congestion, and, in fact, it seems much more likely to add to it, as it appears to be merely a selling agency. The original Beaufort Motor Company is a very small affair, as its assets including stocks of pleasure cars, omnibus chassis and commercial vehicles cannot be stated separately, and even when the plant, machinery, and lease of the British United Engineering Company and practically the whole of the share capital of Lory's Yacht Agency, Limited, are thrown in, the total only comes to £12,500, and this sum is taken in cash. On the strength of contracts for a large number of commercial vehicles, which are to be made by two motor manufacturing companies and are expected to produce a gross profit of over £35,000, and sundry other contracts and negotiations, the vendor asks a further £65,000 in shares for his "goodwill." The total capital is £150,000, divided equally into £1 ordinary and preferred ordinary shares, the latter being entitled to share in the surplus profits after 6 per cent. has been paid on both classes, and 50,000 of the preferred ordinary were offered for subscription.

LAINDON AND DISTRICT GAS LIGHT, COKE AND WATER CO., LIMITED.

Out of a total capital of £12,000, divided into 1,200 6 per cent. preference shares and 1,200 10 per cent. ordinary shares of £5 each, the Waterworks, Lighting, and Power Investment Corporation, Limited, takes £8,000 in cash and £1,500 in preference and ordinary shares and debentures for its interest in waterworks business at Laindon, Essex. The vendors have in addition undertaken to lay a new water main and provide and erect gas works, and with their profit as contractors on this work look for a total profit on the deal of about £4,000. Applications are invited for 850 preference shares and 1,223 ordinary shares and 500 5 per cent. first mortgage debentures of £10 each, so that the directors are offering more than their authorised capital. It is a paltry affair altogether, and, like most of these insignificant undertakings, endeavours to attract investors by quoting the present market value of concerns which are working under totally different conditions.

NEW SPEEDWELL MOTOR CO., LIMITED.

The Speedwell Motor and Engineering Co., Limited, has sold its business and assets, exclusive of book debts and cash, to the managing director and works director for £7,250 in cash, and the present company has been formed with a capital of £50,000, divided into 40,000 ordinary and 10,000 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each, for the purpose of taking it off those gentlemen's hands and extending it. In view apparently of being given their old posts at a salary of £550 and 5 per cent. of the nett profits each the Messrs. Dew are content with a profit on the resale of £2,000, payable half in cash and half in preference or ordinary shares. Hitherto the Speedwell cars have been built abroad, but it is proposed to increase the capacity of the works at Chiswick to 100 cars per annum, and the sales manager of the old company estimates that on this output a profit of £18,133 should be earned before providing for depreciation or directors' fees. This, the directors say, would suffice to pay 20 per cent. on the ordinary shares, provide for directors' and managers' commissions, and leave £5,666 for depreciation and contingencies.

GREAT EASTERN LONDON MOTOR OMNIBUS COMPANY, LIMITED.

Formed with a capital of £405,000 in 400,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, and 100,000 deferred shares of 1s. each, entitled to half the surplus profits after 10 per cent. has been paid on the ordinary, this company acquires from the Eastern Omnibus Passenger Trust, Limited, the freehold and leasehold premises, contracts, options, and goodwill of the Great Eastern London Suburban Tramways and Omnibus Company, Limited. For these assets the Trust paid £32,700 in cash, including £3,475 for goodwill, in addition to which it bought nearly 12 acres of land at Edmonton for £5,700, and now hands over its bargains for £42,000 in cash and the right to subscribe for the whole of the deferred shares. At present there are 20 omnibuses running from Leyton, Upton Park, and West Ham to Oxford Circus, but 300,000 of the ordinary shares are offered for subscription to enable the new company to increase this number to 300, when it is estimated that at 2d. per bus mile on 200 omnibuses running 100 miles per day a nett profit of £60,833 will be earned. The promoters have been more fortunate than most of their competitors in that they have succeeded in getting 100,000 shares underwritten for the comparatively modest commission of 6 per cent.

WATERLOW BROTHERS AND LAYTON, LIMITED.

An issue of £40,000 in 4½ per cent. first mortgage debentures of £25 each was offered by this old-established business of stationers and printers at the price of £24 10s. to provide additional working capital required. Established in 1811, the business was converted into a

limited liability company with a capital of £100,000 in 1887, and in 1903 was re-registered with a nominal capital of £250,000, the shareholders receiving one 5 per cent. preference and one ordinary share of £10 each for every £10 ordinary share held. The freehold properties and machinery, &c., forming part of the security for this issue have not been independently valued since 1900, but sundry adjustments made in the freeholds in subsequent years are set forth, and the total assets, exclusive of goodwill, are said to have been taken into the accounts at over £165,000 on September 30 last. Profits are set out for the 13 years to that date, and although these show fairly wide fluctuations, the total even in the worst year was sufficient to cover the amount required for interest many times over.

GENERAL MOTOR CAB COMPANY, LIMITED.

Long before this prospectus made its appearance, the City offices of newspapers were deluged with "preliminary notices," alleging that considerable interest was being evinced in the forthcoming issue. It was further claimed that the new company was to revolutionise the cab industry, and the promoters were cute enough to take advantage of Mr. Henry Norman's well-known enthusiasm for motors and secure a good advertisement by inducing that gentleman to drive one of the cabs before his fellow M.P.'s. Tactics such as these are generally to be viewed with suspicion, and now that the prospectus has been allowed to see the light, it proves to be framed on the same unduly optimistic lines as the preliminary notices. The capital is £260,000, divided into 257,000 preferred ordinary shares of £1 each and 60,000 deferred shares of 1s. each, entitled to half the surplus profits after paying 7 per cent. on the preferred ordinary and putting 10 per cent. to a reserve fund, and of these 230,000 preferred ordinary shares were offered for subscription. With the money thus raised 500 Renault motor cabs, similar to those now working in Paris, are to be acquired, and it is estimated that they will be able to earn 35s. per day each. Deducting 25 per cent. for drivers' wages and 11s. 3d. for working expenses, a net profit of 15s. per cab per day is brought out, or, with the whole 500 cabs working 300 days, £112,500 per annum, of which hire of taximeters, licences, and depreciation is expected to take £29,500, leaving £83,000 for distribution. These, however, are promoters' estimates, and pure guess work which we are by no means sanguine of seeing realised in actual working. The United Investment Corporation, which is the vendor transfers the contract for the supply of the cabs in return for the right to apply for the remaining 27,000 preferred ordinary shares at par within two years from the date of the general allotment, to take up half the deferred shares, and to have allotted to the Société Générale des Compteurs de Voitures (Taximètres) the remaining deferred shares. In addition, however, the Corporation has underwritten 200,000 of the present issue for a commission of 10 per cent., of which it is paying 7½ per cent. to sub-underwriters, and it hopes to make a further profit of £2,000 out of the £10,000 allowed for preliminary expenses.

GREAT COBAR, LIMITED.

In addition to taking over what is claimed to be the largest copper producing proposition in Australia this company acquires another copper mine, two gold mines and two coal mines, together with smelters and a refinery, the total purchase price being £1,006,000, payable £800,000 in cash, £55,000 in shares, and £151,000 in cash, shares or debentures. Its capital is £750,000 in £5 shares, and there are also 6 per cent. first mortgage debentures for a similar amount, of which £550,000 debentures and 130,000 shares are offered for subscription, and of these 116,000 shares have been underwritten for a commission of £50,000 in cash, and 8,600 shares, and £420,000 debentures are guaranteed for 400 shares and £49,000 in cash, shares or debentures, or just over 16 and 12 per cent. respectively. From 1894 to 1902 the prospectus states that 730,669 tons of ore were extracted, which yielded 23,922 tons of copper, and the present reserves of ore

are estimated at 1,530,506 tons, expected to produce 40,449 tons of copper, while the coal reserves are put at 6,000,000 tons. At the present rate of production of 4,000 tons of copper per annum, sufficient profit is being earned, taking copper at £85 per ton, to pay 15 per cent. on the share capital, and when the new main shaft is sunk and the proposed additions and improvements to plant are completed, the annual output should be increased to about 13,000 tons, and the profits, with copper at £70 per ton, will be trebled. These are the promoter's calculations, and the prices on which they are based seem to us too high for safety, but the directors state that even taking Mr. Rolker's figure of £60 per ton and his estimate of 1,530,506 tons containing 40,449 tons of copper, the profit on the ore reserves would be upwards of £1,100,000. Two other experts have reported on the property, and both seem equally enthusiastic over the prospects. Of these Mr. W. J. Barnett is the most conservative, and bases his estimates on the average price of "best selected," during the ten years 1892 to 1902, on which, with £10 15s. from the gold and silver contents, he brings out an annual profit of £393,000 with an output of 12,000 tons of copper.

WESTERN DOMINION COLLIERIES.

As its name implies, this is a Canadian company which has been formed to buy from the Souris Coal Mining Company, Limited, certain mineral property in the Province of Saskatchewan, about 280 miles west of Winnipeg. The Souris Company commenced work in 1901, and has apparently prospered ever since, the nett profit for the three years and ten months ended February 28 last having averaged £8,826 per annum. The share capital of the new company is £200,000, but half of that is to be kept in reserve against the debenture-holders' option to convert into shares. Meanwhile £100,000 in 6 per cent. first mortgage debentures are offered for subscription at 98 per cent.

KOREAN WATERWORKS, LIMITED.

Subscriptions will be received by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China for 2,500 5 per cent. debentures of £100 each issued by this company at the price of 87½. The company, which has a capital of £250,000 in £1 shares, acquires a concession granted by the Imperial Korean Government for the establishment of a water supply for the city of Seoul, the capital of Korea, and for erecting and carrying on waterworks there. This concession was purchased by the International Syndicate for £15,000 in cash and £50,000 in shares, the original vendors undertaking to construct the waterworks within a period of two years for £138,495, and is resold to the present undertaking for £17,007 in cash and £249,993 in shares. After providing for the contract sum for construction and for other charges, including £11,250 for underwriting commissions, £10,000 for preliminary expenses, and the cash portion of the purchase price, the present issue will give £12,998 for working capital, a margin which it is to be hoped will prove adequate. Messrs. Livesey, Son, and Henderson calculate that with an average charge of 10.8d. per 1,000 gallons, which is less than half the price charged for the present indifferent supply, the consumption of water will increase, especially as there is a growing tendency to adopt Japanese customs, and on this basis they estimate that a nett revenue of £29,238 will be earned within a few years after the works are completed.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE ELECTRIC SUPPLY CO., LIMITED.

Out of a total share capital of £1,000,000, divided equally into £5 preference and ordinary shares, 75,000 shares of each class have been issued, and the company now offers another 12,500 of both classes, the ordinary at a premium of £2 and the preference at a premium of 10s. per share. The funds are required mainly to meet the extensions at present in progress at the generating station at Carville, whereby 22,000 electrical horse-power will be added to that station, and also for the necessary cables and apparatus in the extension of the supply within the company's area, including the

repayment of money borrowed. During the past eight years the company has been able to pay a regular dividend of 8 per cent. on its ordinary shares, and the sales of current have gone up from 803,789 units in 1898 to 30,378,852 units in 1905, thanks largely to the fact that the North Eastern Railway, Messrs. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., and Messrs. Wigham-Richardson and Co., as well as sundry power companies and local authorities, are now numbered amongst the customers. It is estimated that the sales this year will amount to 48,000,000 units, and that in 1907 they will be further increased to 83,000,000 units. Out of the sums provided for reserve and depreciation the directors have within the last few years entirely replaced its original system which was laid down in 1890 by an extra high tension generating system of the most modern kind, and as the company has a reputation for careful management, the shares appear to be a fair investment.

SALINAS OF MEXICO, LIMITED.

Sundry salt-producing properties, situated on the high plateaux in the States of San Luis Potosi, Zacatecas, Chihuahua, and Coahuila, in the Republic of Mexico, are acquired by this company for £126,500 in cash, £110,000 in 5 per cent. participating debentures, and 280,000 £1 shares. The total capital is £325,000 in shares and a similar amount in 5 per cent. debentures, entitled to interest at the rate of 5 per cent., and a further distribution out of surplus profits after 5 per cent. has been paid on the shares, and of these £200,000 debentures, including £10,000 of the vendors' proportion, are offered for subscription at the price of 95 per cent. During the five years from 1900 to 1904 receipts ranged from about \$720,000 to \$723,000 per annum, but nett profits have shown a tendency to shrink, and in 1904 were down to \$285,658, the average for the five years being \$337,648 or £33,764. In 1905 the profits are said to have further fallen to about £20,000 in spite of an increase of about 1,000 tons in the output, and the decrease is ascribed to the fact that sales have so largely exceeded production during the past few years that stocks were reduced and the salt available was insufficient for the requirements of the business. With the additional works, however, to be provided out of this issue the directors state that they confidently expect nett profits to reach at least £50,000 per annum, and as the company seems to have a practical monopoly for the interior of Mexico it is possible that these anticipations may be realised. Out of the above-mentioned purchase price the owner of the properties receives £110,000 in cash, £110,000 in debentures, and 95,000 shares, and in addition the vendor pays 5 per cent. in cash and 130,000 shares for underwriting £190,000 debentures, and also provides the preliminary expenses up to £7,000.

LONDON ROAD-CAR COMPANY, LIMITED.

In connection with the conversion from horse to electric traction the directors of this company are issuing £100,000 in 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £10 each, of which 4,320 shares have been allotted to shareholders and 5,680 are offered for subscription at par. Contracts have been entered into with leading manufacturers for a large number of motors, and these with the motors already acquired should give the company about 260 vehicles by the end of the present year. As we have pointed out from time to time in dealing with the reports, the change in conditions of working has been handled in a business-like fashion which should ultimately prove to the company's advantage. Shareholders therefore might find it to their benefit to take up the shares now offered.

Notes on Books.

The Arbiter in Council. (London: Macmillan and Co.)

We hasten to call attention to this book because it has been put out so quietly and in such a modest guise.

that the average reader might overlook it. Moreover, the introduction is not quite happy in form, attempting as it does, after the manner of the late Arthur Helps, to set up the framework for the succeeding debates by telling us all that is necessary about the imaginary group of friends in council whose essays and conversations fill the rest of the volume. At the head of them is placed a hale old gentleman of 75, called Mr. Ashworthy, "member of a manufacturing family in the north of England," and the others are a K.C., a dreamy scholar of Balliol, a journalist who is supposed to edit the volume after the death of "the Arbiter," Mr. Ashworthy; a stockbroker, Mr. Leopold Meyer, and a "learned Cambridge historian." The prelude thus given is not wholly promising. When, however, we pass to the substance of the book we at once begin to make acquaintance with a piece of literature of a very high quality indeed. The book reminds one of Montaigne's essays or of Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholy" in its wealth of apt, unusual and most interesting quotations, and the style is clear, modest, restrained, suffused also with high aspirations for the good of mankind springing from a mind penetrated by the spirit of the Christian religion unspoiled by priest or theologian. So far as its main purpose goes, the book may be called an able and well-sustained argument in favour of the abolition of war, and one of the most impressive essays in it, or discussions if the phrase be preferred, in spite of the large space given to Henry of Navarre and William Penn, deals with "the federation of the world," a dream, a far-off dream it is, perhaps, but here we are made to see possibilities of its realisation, for the world and mankind do make progress, although ideals are very slow of realisation.

We turned with special interest to the essay and debate on the "Political Economy of War," and found the whole eminently sound, wise in the appreciation of facts, and packed with suggestive illustration and comment. A book of this kind could not be written by any ordinary polemic or special pleader, nor yet by the busy, over-worked journalist. It must therefore be the work of a thoughtful man of some leisure, by one who has access to a great library and is endowed with a fine taste in selecting authorities, quotations, light-dispensing illustrative arguments and anecdotes. Thus it comes about that we have not for a long time come across a book which has proved such a delight to read or which promises to be so much of a friend and counsellor in days to come. If there is any criticism at all we should venture to offer, it is that in dealing with the effects of the wars of the eighteenth century, the losses and gains; the writer hardly seems to take the true measure of the enormous accession of empire-building strength gained by England through her appropriations of territory in various parts of the world, above all through her conquests in Hindostan. In this connection it might be well for students to supplement the statement in this volume by reading that brilliant passage in Carlyle's "Life of Frederick the Great," in which he sums up the advantages which England secured in various parts of the world as a result not so much, perhaps, of her own warrings as of the almost uninterrupted state of slaughter and rapine which existed all over Western Europe. To no small extent it may be true that our gains of those days were haphazard and sometimes in a manner accidental, but they none the less put England in a position to surmount the loss caused by the wrenching away of the thirteen States which became the North American Commonwealth and the exhausting severity of the prolonged struggle with the French Revolution of the first Napoleon. We are not putting forward this view of the facts with any design of lessening the value of the "Arbiter in Council" as a fascinating and most powerful contribution to the literature of concord between nations, as a treatise against war of altogether unusual ability, good judgment and erudition, but merely to show that there are on occasion other points of view, and that, although war may nearly always, except when a war of self-defence,

be productive of evil only, yet nations or races do rise for seasons more or less brief to domination by means of wars, and although they may be ultimately ruined by their success—have, indeed, always hitherto been so—for a time the glamour of conquest carries them on to a height of grandeur in the world's eyes they could not otherwise have reached. This book drives home many a lesson in the brevity of human glory which we shall do well to lay to heart if we desire to avoid the fate of all the empires that have gone before. We therefore earnestly and emphatically recommend all who are interested in and have at heart the progress of mankind from barbarism to civilisation, from a state of suppressed warfare in times of peace to one of friendly and co-operative industrial rivalry and friendly progress, at all times, in all circumstances, to get this volume and carefully read it. Its high literary excellence alone will make it a delightful possession, which even those who disagree with some of its arguments and conclusions cannot fail to enjoy.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

Lifelessness has continued to characterise every section of the Mining market; no one department has exhibited more vitality than another. A long and dreary account it has been, happily drawing to its close, so gamblers think, for there is the shadowy hope that things may be better during the coming account. Each day we have been told business has been less than the oldest professional can remember, and we can well believe it, for the genuine transactions daily recorded can hardly be numbered by the dozen. The scare about the repatriation notices has evidently died down, for we have lately heard little about it. So it is no use wasting words on a state of things dismal in the extreme, with prices falling, falling, and scarcely a rise to relieve the inevitable recession. Next week's making-up list will again be a grievous sight to operators for the rise.

Amidst this profound solitude the "bulls" and "bears" of Premier Diamonds have maintained their struggle with unflagging vigour, sometimes the one party prevailing, sometimes the other, prices violently fluctuating almost from hour to hour. Here alone has there been anything resembling excitement. Latterly the "bulls" have been triumphant, and have pushed the shares up 5s. and sometimes 10s. at a time, but the gamblers seem so fierce that there is no foretelling how the fortunes of the struggle will again change.

In the Rhodesian section insiders have paid most attention to South African Option Syndicates and Willoughby Consolidated, on the reports of the diamond find, but even here the activity has died away, the public not responding to the invitations to buy at inflated prices.

Amongst Westralians, Great Fingalls have moved mysteriously, the "bulls" pushing them up one day and the "bears," or profit-takers, knocking them down the next. Other shares have moved in very listless fashion.

Coppers, too, have been much quieter than usual, whilst Indian shares have just been steady.

The price of tin, after falling heavily, is now gradually recovering, the "bulls" a week ago having evidently overshot the mark, and the business in Cornish tin mines has been less animated.

SURPRISE GOLD MINING COMPANY.—During the year ending December 31 last the 20 stamps crushed 34,530 tons of ore, yielding 12,781 ozs., while the cyanide plant treated 35,743 tons for 5,926 ozs., the whole realising £61,332. Tribute revenue was £377, and transfer fees gave £26. On this the nett profit was £16,202, leaving £8,806 to be carried forward, after deducting the previous year's debit. Working costs show a slight reduction compared with those for 1904, averaging 16s. 5½d., against 16s. 8d. per ton. In February, 1905, what is believed to be the Surprise Reef was intersected in No. 2 borehole, and arrangements were at once made for sinking the main shaft from No. 3 level, and up to the end of March last the depth reached was 916 ft. At the depth of 839 ft. a broken section of the reef was encountered, and it was decided to sink further to 900 ft., at which depth crosscuts are now being put in. Should the reef not be met with in solid formation, the directors will have to consider the question of still further sinking. In the meantime the whole of the costs of sinking the main shaft and of development has been met out of the working profits. The experts are inclined to speak hopefully of the prospects, but it is difficult to share their optimism.

BONSOR GOLD MINING COMPANY.—The accounts for 1905 show that £3,852 was received in royalty from the tributers. Amounts have been charged for interest on loans £8,192, and depreciation of plant, &c., £7,794. The tributers ran the mill with 20 stamps and crushed 15,784 tons, yielding 3,505 ozs., while 8,906 tons of tailings were cyanided for 1,451 ozs., making a total output of 4,956 ozs., of a value of £14,060. At the end of October the tributers found they could no longer work at a profit, and the

claims under lease were handed back to the company. Nevertheless, further money is to be spent on a mine which has for many years demonstrated its worthlessness. The consulting engineer is still of opinion that the main shaft should be sunk from the fifth to the sixth and seventh levels and the reef tested and driven on at these depths, which would entail an expenditure of between £5,000 and £10,000. It is proposed to amalgamate with that other failure, the North Bonsor, involving an issue of preference shares, and the proposals contemplate the provision of such further sums as may be required should the preliminary work carried out prove successful.

NORTH BONSOR GOLD MINING COMPANY.—In the financial year ending December 31 the sum of £6,542 was received for tribute revenue, and the whole of the expenses in London and South Africa have been written off this, also £1,031 for depreciation, leaving a balance of £3,870, which has been taken in reduction of development outlay. The tributers crushed 18,576 tons of ore at the Bonsor battery, yielding 10,525 ozs., and 12,422 tons of tailings were treated for a production of 4,413 ozs., a total of 14,938 ozs., of a value of £42,687. At the end of October the tributers abandoned the lease, and the claims were handed back to the company. Mr. Currie, the consulting engineer, is of opinion that this property should be further developed in conjunction with the Bonsor Mine, and the directors have under consideration a scheme for the amalgamation of both companies, which, while not entailing an assessment on the shares, is to give the shareholders the right to participate in the finding of the necessary working capital. Who would not accept with alacrity the privilege of losing more money in such a mine?

RAND CENTRAL ELECTRIC WORKS.—The revenue derived from the supply of power and the rent of plant amounted to £100,525 in the past financial year, and, in addition, £2,299 was received from interest, exchange, transfer fees, &c., making a total income of £102,824, the working profit being £54,410, or £5,959 in excess of that for 1904. To this has to be added £4,525 brought forward, and out of the total credit of £58,936 the sum of £24,097 has been carried to a renewal account, this comparing with £16,670 set aside for depreciation in the previous year. There remains an available balance of £34,838, and after paying a dividend of 7½ per cent., £12,338 is carried forward. The balance-sheet is a creditable one, revealing a strong financial position. Having regard to the increasing demands for electrical energy in the Witwatersrand district, the directors contemplate important extensions of the company's plant, thus enabling it to produce and supply power at a reduced rate, and thereby considerably enlarge the sphere of its operations. Negotiations are proceeding with the Transvaal authorities, with a view to obtaining a revision of the company's licence, which will take cognisance of the altered technical conditions produced by the progress of electrical science, and it is expected that these will be successfully carried through in the near future.

OROYA BROWNHILL COMPANY.—During the year 1905 112,713 tons of ore were treated, and the gold obtained therefrom was 153,752 ozs., of a value of £652,606, the average yield being 27.28 dwts., or £5 gs. per ton. The average working cost was 25s. 2d. per ton, which shows a reduction of 9.53d. per ton compared with 1904. Further savings have been made during the current year, and it is anticipated the costs will shortly be reduced to about 21s. per ton, which gives further evidence of the economy possible with white labour. After paying colonial tax, £18,000, providing £10,571 for income-tax, writing off £70,327 for mine development and main shafts account (thus expunging these two items from the balance-sheet), and providing £32,470 for depreciation, the nett profit is £380,489, which compares with £405,570, but as a little more was brought in, the available balance is £388,979, against £411,715. The rate of dividend is the same—80 per cent.—and there is left a balance of £15,479 to carry forward. In their report the general managers speak quite hopefully of the prospects, the position of the mines having shown considerable improvement during the year. They estimate that the present output can be maintained for two years from ore disclosed above the deepest workings, and for a considerably extended period in the event of the ore bodies proving continuous between the various points penetrated. A group of mines has been purchased in the Black Range district of the East Murchison Goldfield, and this has necessitated the formation of a new company, called the Oroya Black Range, Limited, with a capital of £200,000 in £1 shares, of which 50,000 shares are set aside for working capital.

GIBRALTAR CONSOLIDATED.—The report of the directors covers a period of 18 months from July 1, 1904, to December 31, 1905. Sales of gold realised £5,408, in addition to which £3,089 was received as royalty from tributers and £583 as rent in respect of the alluvial area. The total income was £9,409 and the expenditure £10,389, leaving a debit of £980, making the total deficit £2,771. No meeting was called within the twelve months, it is explained, as the directors required time to mature certain plans for acquiring a new property. A circular was issued last December to this effect, and it also referred to an option acquired over the Great Morgan Consolidated Mine in Pambula, New South Wales. The option was granted for twelve months, then an extension of time was applied for, but without arriving at a satisfactory settlement. Certain proposals are now on their way to New South Wales, which may lead to an arrangement. The Adelong Mine has not developed satisfactorily. Considering the valuable plant and machinery possessed by the company, the directors think a new property should be acquired, provided it offers reasonable prospects of success. So the outlook for the company is hazy and uncertain, and it would probably be wiser to wind it up.

CORNISH TIN MINES.—Until the conversion of further cost book mines to limited liability takes place there are three important companies whose shares are now being largely dealt in on the market whose prospects look very promising should the high price of tin be maintained. First and foremost is Dolcoath, which is earning well over 10 per cent. on its paid-up capital. This company is most ably managed by Mr. Arthur Thomas, an engineer of the new school, and with an invaluable knowledge of tin mining and the new processes of ore dressing. An encouraging point as regards Dolcoath is the continuance of the high lode values half a mile vertical from grass. Another prominent company is Clitters United Mines, which holds in the eastern part of the country a position similar to that of Dolcoath in the western part—that is, the premier position. The two companies differ in two essential points. Whereas Dolcoath is one mining property, the Clitters Company owns a group of mines covering an area of about 1,200 acres, and whereas the ore in the former is a simple tin ore, in the latter it is of a complex nature, containing not only tin, but wolfram and copper, besides arsenic. It is due to the successful treatment of this complex ore that the Clitters Company stands in such a conspicuous position, as not only does the tin from the mine fetch the highest price at the Redruth ticketings, but the wolfram and copper are recovered and rendered marketable at good prices. The wolfram fetches about the same price as copper. The by-products, including arsenic, form an important addition to the revenue of the company. This company having started in recent years, was able to adopt the most modern plant, with the result that the working costs for the past year were 13s. 11d. per ton of ore treated, which shows that a very low grade ore can be made profitable if treated on modern lines. The average production of tin in Cornwall is 40s. per ton of ore treated, but in many mines it considerably exceeds that figure, as in the case of the Hingston Mine, one of the Clitters group recently unwatered. From this mine the following values are now being stopped:—West of the Bayly's Shaft at the 120 and 140 fathom level a 5 ft. lode is being stopped worth 35s. per ton. At the 100 fathom level, 90 fathoms west of Bayly's shaft, ore value 70s. has been stopped. At the 35 fathom level the lowest parcel of ore mined proved worth 23s. per ton, and the highest 110s. per ton. In the Hitchin Shaft ore of a value of 60s. per ton has been mined. The benefit derived from the ore mined from Hingston will appear for the first time in the present month's returns, which will show a considerable increase on anything in the past.

"CORNISH CONSOLS."—This company is interesting itself chiefly in converting into limited liability, in financing and modernising existing cost book companies of known value. Many of these companies own excellent properties, but under their cost book system have no reserve working capital, and their shares are unsaleable, except locally, their system having been to divide all profits to the hilt, and make a call on the shares when money was wanted. To bring their dressing plant up to date would entail a bigger call per share than they care to face. The first mine this company has taken in hand is the South Crofty, an excellent property, producing a somewhat complex ore, calling for the most modern dressing appliances, including the use of electro-magnetic separation, with which to eliminate the copper and wolfram mixed in the tin ore. The issued capital of the South Crofty, Limited, will be £40,000, about £25,000 of which will be working capital, and there will be £10,000 reserve working issue. Nominal capital, therefore, is £50,000. The "Cornish Consols" also acquires direct from the mineral lords leases of property of known value, unwaters them, develops them, installs modern dressing plant, and then floats them as producing mines. It has already acquired direct from the Duchy of Cornwall a lease of the South Phoenix Mine in the Liskeard district, a former well-known producer of tin. The "Cornish Consols" is proceeding at once to unwater this mine and set it going; the lease from the Duchy cost £46, and there is a royalty payable of 1-30th of the gross value of mineral sold. The Consols has arranged also to guarantee the capital for the first subsidiary of the Clitters United Mines, Limited, which is floating off a portion of its excess property.

BRISLETS TIN MINES.—In the financial year ending December 31 the total output of black tin was 971 tons, producing 712 tons of metallic tin. Deducting 42 per cent. of the No. 1 company's tin, the total output of tin belonging to this company was 642 tons, realising £96,327, the average price obtained being £149 per ton. After paying all expenses and writing £7,015 off the cost of the water races, the nett profit was £57,826, to which is added £367 brought in. The bank loan of £30,812 appearing in the previous year's accounts has been paid off, and cash now amounts to £17,065 against liabilities of £585. So the company appears to have started quite promisingly.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

*. The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

During the six months ended December 31 the gross revenue of this undertaking was Rs.56,94,409, or a decrease of Rs.2,08,986 against the corresponding period of 1904. At the same time the working expenses were Rs.26,28,401, or Rs.82,954 more, so that the percentage of expenditure to gross receipts

advanced from 43.11 per cent. to 46.16 per cent. First-class passenger traffic showed a trifling decrease, but second-class intermediate and third-class all improved, the last-named substantially. Parcels were also better, but passengers' luggage went down more than 50 per cent., and miscellaneous fell from Rs.2,74,341 to Rs.57,260, due to the cessation of the special traffic for the Tibet mission. This alone meant a drop in receipts of Rs.4,35,000, and the directors have also to report the failure of the wheat and seed crops, caused by frosts in January, 1904, so that the export of these articles was greatly reduced. Under wheat there was a decline of Rs.1,17,000, and in linseed Rs.2,30,000. These losses were partly made good by the increased passenger traffic, as mentioned, and partly by the carriage of cheap food grains for Rajputana and some of the western districts where scarcity had arisen owing to the failure of the monsoon rains. Total goods revenue showed a decline of Rs.1,09,155, and while the income from telegraphs and sundries improved, the steamboat receipts showed a substantial decrease. Tonnage of goods lifted was 792,891, against 746,020, the smaller earnings in face of this increase being due to the shorter haul over the company's lines. Principal goods increases occurred in coal and coke, grain and pulses, rice, sugar, salt, manufactured cotton and tobacco, while, apart from the commodities mentioned declines took place in rape and mustard and other seeds. The extra working expenditure was mainly caused by additional charges for renewals of rails and sleepers and special works. Balance of nett earnings comes out at Rs.30,66,008 against Rs.33,57,948, of which the company's share is Rs.16,40,822. This has been brought home at the rate of 1s. 4d. per rupee, realising £108,787, after making an adjustment in connection with interest on capital, and £22,155 was brought forward, making, with interest, miscellaneous receipts, and gain on exchange an aggregate of £132,729. From this sundry charges absorb £695, income-tax £5,000, debenture stock interest £6,000, and preference dividend £22,982, leaving £98,051. The directors now propose a dividend of 2 per cent. and a bonus of 1 per cent., making 3 per cent. in all, with a balance of £19,676 carried forward.

MARSTON, THOMPSON AND EVERSHED, LIMITED.

During the year ended March 31 this ever-swelling company took over the business of Sydney Evershed, Limited, and the balance-sheet is now beginning to assume important proportions. Freehold and leasehold properties have jumped up from £768,976 to £994,453, and the mortgages, loans, investments, and cash, a composite item which ought to be separated, has increased by £42,724 to £107,871. Book debts, rents, &c., appear at £55,156, against £49,471, stocks are up £17,000 to £78,772, and capital invested in Evershed, Vine, and Co. £5,644 is a new item. Casks have a value of £25,808, according to the accounts, and plant, fixtures, horses, &c., amount to £21,283. On the debit side the paid-up share capital is now £464,415, with a debenture debt of £360,000, and the heavy sum of £308,846 owing to trade creditors and on mortgages, loans, &c. Reserve fund has been raised to £130,000. In their report the directors say that, apart from the extra trade derived from the purchase of the business of Sydney Evershed, of which the company has only had the benefit of four months' trading, there is a considerable increase in the sales as compared with the preceding year. Profits are returned at £50,049, or about £6,000 more, and £4,627 was brought forward, making £54,676. From this debenture interest takes £12,269, preference dividend £11,193, directors' fees £1,592, and interim ordinary dividend £7,174. Compensation fund charge absorbs a further sum of £2,746, leaving £19,701, and the directors propose to make up the ordinary dividend for the year to 10 per cent., being 1 per cent. less. Moreover, no addition is made to reserve, against £6,000, but the carry forward is increased by about this sum to £10,601.

RUSTON, PROCTOR, AND CO., LIMITED.

The improved position of the engineering trades finds exemplification in the report of this excellent business for the year to March 31 last. Twelve months ago the directors reported a drop in profits of about £6,000, but the whole of that was recovered in the period under review, the balance on trading account being £64,057, or an improvement of £9,394. Depreciation is allowed at very fair rates: buildings 2½ per cent., plant and machinery 7½ per cent., loose tools 5 per cent., and office furniture 10 per cent. On the various assets this requires a sum of £11,819, and after providing £1,000 for directors' remuneration, and £10,000 for debenture interest, the nett credit remaining is £41,238. To that is added £5,798 brought forward, making £47,036 against £37,409 a year ago. The directors, therefore, propose to increase the dividend by 1½ per cent. to 7½, adding £3,500 more at £13,500 to the equalisation of dividend fund, and twice as much at £500 to employees' aid account. The sum carried forward is then raised by about £1,000 to £6,786. Reserve for dividends will now be £50,000, and there is a further accumulation of £17,127 from premiums on shares and re-valuation of loose tools. This leaves the company without a general reserve built up from profits, but we must remember that the whole of the goodwill, patents, and drawings amounting to £82,693 have been already written off. Land and buildings were increased during the year by £10,741, making the total £185,780, and £7,408 added to the plant, machinery, and loose tools raises this item to £122,559, in each case after allowing for depreciation. At the date of the balance-sheet the company owed £119,077 to sundry creditors, including £45,000 to bankers, but this debt may presently be liquidated as the directors propose an increase of £150,000 in the capital to provide funds to cope with the continued expansion of the business. The new shares will be 5 per cent. cumulative preference of £1

each. Sundry debtors owe £68,073, or about £51,000 less than the sum due to creditors, but stock at Lincoln and abroad is valued at £350,938 and cash and bills reach £93,746.

JOHN LYSAGHT, LIMITED.

Again this undertaking did well during the year ended December 31 last. After providing for depreciation and bad debts the profits of the various manufacturing and engineering departments of the home businesses combined with the revenues of the distributing branches in the Colonies and elsewhere, amount to £149,603. That is an improvement compared with the preceding 12 months of £20,587. Debenture interest requires £13,500 and £210 is payable as trustees' fees, leaving £135,983, which is raised to £214,451 by the balance of £78,558 brought forward. The directors this time add a 2½ per cent. bonus to the regular 10 per cent. dividend, adding £45,000 or £30,000 more, to reserve, £2,000 to the workmen's provident fund, and carrying forward the largely increased credit of £99,451. All this is accomplished after providing the regular £18,000 for preference dividend. Reserve will now be £210,000 against freehold and leasehold property of £460,349 and goodwill £134,612. Under all heads the floating liabilities amount to £119,488, which is not excessive for a business of this kind and size, and on the other side we find that debtors alone reach £321,827. Stock-in-trade is entered at £482,346, a big figure, but doubtless good value, cash and cash assets amount to £71,444, and £10,360 has been invested in shares in other companies.

KING'S NORTON METAL CO., LIMITED.

The violent jump in profits a year ago has been followed by a heavy decline of £20,644 to £27,633 in the results for the 12 months ended March 31, but these extreme fluctuations are such a matter of course with this company that the directors never by any chance offer any explanation of them. Including £4,560 brought forward, the balance available was £16,567 down at £32,193, out of which £3,500 is written off for depreciation against £7,000 provided last time, and instead of putting £5,000 to reserve, £6,000 is set aside for new plant. Then preference dividend having been paid, the ordinary shares again receive 10 per cent., but on this occasion there is no bonus of 1 per share, and the sum carried forward is slightly smaller at £4,493. With the turn of the wheel the amount due to sundry creditors has dropped by £35,006 to £15,194, while sundry debtors owe £27,499 less at £34,504, but stocks are £4,189 up at £66,192 and cash has increased by £1,708 to £4,441. Capital outlay on plant and buildings came to £7,599, but against this there is the £6,000 set aside out of revenue to be considered.

SCOTTISH AUSTRALIAN INVESTMENT CO., LIMITED.

The position of this company steadily improves, and the speculatively-minded might do worse than turn attention to the 6 per cent. guaranteed preference stock. It already carries five and a-half years of dividend arrears, or £66,000, on the £200,000 of stock, and the directors say that should the half-year now in progress enjoy a good season, there is every probability that the profits will be sufficient to entirely extinguish the balance of drought losses and leave a substantial amount towards the payment of these arrears. Last half-year the profits amounted to £41,089, against £24,666 in the corresponding period, and after providing for debenture interest requiring £6,393 only, the balance remaining is £34,695. The whole of that is applied in reduction of drought losses, bringing down the debit to £24,747. That is a comparatively trifling sum, and the company has extricated itself from its difficulties remarkably well. The reserve has disappeared, as we know, but the existence of the fund was a very great help when a period of adversity was encountered, and we have no doubt that when the dividend arrears have been cleared away the directors will set to work to again accumulate a substantial fund for contingencies. Very dry weather was experienced during the half-year to December 31 last in some parts of Queensland, causing inconvenience at some of the company's stations, but towards the end of that month rain began to fall, and during the first quarter of the current year a very heavy and general fall took place. Indeed, some damage was actually caused by floods, which must be a very unusual experience for Australia. The position in Queensland is now described as highly satisfactory, and a fairly good season in New South Wales has been followed by further rainfalls, so that there also the conditions are considered very encouraging. The returns of stock on the stations will, as usual, be made up to June 30 next and submitted in the next report, and the actual position can then be more accurately gauged. At this period of the year, when pastoral and agricultural operations are incomplete, results are to some extent based on estimates, but these have been made on what are considered safe limits. Freehold property in land and houses is valued at £528,003, leaseholds at £58,895, and the pastoral property at £662,972. Loans secured on land, crops, &c., have been made to the value of £42,190, produce consignments are entered at £71,717, and balances on open accounts or debtors amount to £107,856. On the other side creditors are pretty heavy at £98,778, and £23,000 is owing on bills payable.

LIEBIG'S EXTRACT OF MEAT CO., LIMITED.

It is almost unnecessary to say that this company presents a very excellent report and balance-sheet for the year ended March 31, 1906. Sales of the company's well-known products continue to be very satisfactory, and the entire business is in a sound and flourishing condition. Cattle prices ruled high during the season, but that can hardly be considered a drawback, because the concern was enabled to profit considerably from its own estancias, and good prices were realised, especially for hides. The directors seem to clearly recognise that it is not

well to depend upon others for cattle supplies, and besides those mentioned in the last report five estancias, of an aggregate area of 261,000 acres, have been acquired. To meet the cost and generally make provision for increasing business it is proposed to create an additional 20,000 shares of £5 each, to be issued at the directors' discretion. This will doubtless mean a nice bonus for the shareholders, and it should not be necessary to waste money on underwriting. All the premises and plant have been maintained in a high state of efficiency. Sales of produce in the 12 months reached £461,643, or £6,826 more than in the previous year, but the expenses went up £20,133 to £273,141, so that the nett balance was some £13,000 less. Including £21,236 brought in, the disposable sum was £209,738 against £220,417, and the directors add a 2½ per cent. bonus, against 5 per cent., to the 20 per cent. dividend, making 22½ per cent. for the year, or 2½ per cent. less. This is after providing £25,000 for the preference dividend, and it is better to reduce the bonus than lower the allocation to reserve, which will again be £30,000. Employees' provident fund then receives £2,000, directors' percentages reach the nice sum of £15,850, and £24,388 is carried forward. Reserve fund will now amount to £210,000, and there is an insurance fund of £77,246. Most of the important balance-sheet items show big increases. On the debit side bills payable amount to £241,438, or £188,453 more, but sundry creditors are a little less at £219,143. Against this nett advance the stock valuation has gone up £121,693 to £604,517, sundry debtors owe £200,967 against £141,635, and cash is larger by £69,645 at £225,749. Land, manufactories, buildings, machinery, plant, &c., has increased by £51,886 to £377,696, while establishments in South America for specie shipped, drafts issued, &c., are about £100,000 less at £452,805. Shipments of sovereigns to the River Plate were £190,000 only, against £645,000 in the previous year, a rather heavy decline in view of the fact that exchange was still very high.

J. LYONS AND CO., LIMITED.

This enterprising catering company earned a gross profit of £662,148 in the year to March 31. That is a remarkable figure, and shows an increase over the previous year of £119,154. Expenses, however, also went up with a bound, and including the amount brought forward the available balance is about £20,000 better at £228,332. Debenture stock interest takes £4,200 more at £17,625, preference dividend is the same, and depreciation absorbs £42,294 against £36,722. The directors, however, can add a 2½ per cent. bonus to the 30 per cent. dividend paid for three years past at the cost of a small decline in the carry forward to £34,505. Reserve fund remains at £400,000. These figures appear in the preliminary statement, and we shall deal fully with the accounts next week.

GREENWICH INLAID LINOLEUM CO., LIMITED.

This company's business continues very profitable, and the progress made since the capital was written down is quite remarkable. In the 12 months to March 31 the trading profit was £68,935, transfer fees gave £85, and £2,760 was brought in, making £71,780 in all. Against this the charge for upkeep and renewals was £6,099, directors' fees amount to £1,500, and sundry smaller charges take £188, leaving £63,992. After providing debenture interest and preference dividend, the credit remaining is £53,144, and besides maintaining the ordinary dividend at 15 per cent., the directors place £10,000 to the reserve and carry forward the largely increased balance of £5,644. These results entitle the board to extra remuneration to the amount of £1,500, and we do not suppose anyone will mind this, considering that profits showed an increase of almost £20,000. That is a very good point, but we note a bad one. A reserve account of £119,542 has been created, entirely from share premiums, and the directors now see fit to take £69,542 of this credit and use it to write down patents and licences by £43,282, plant and machinery by £26,061, and furniture by £199. In other words, capital is being applied in a wholesale fashion to the relief of revenue, and the practice is none the less reprehensible because the company does not appear likely to immediately suffer from it. The property item will now stand at £331,882 instead of £401,424, and the reserve will be £60,000, including £10,000 from the past year's revenue. Stock-in-trade at or under cost, together with tools, is valued at £122,867, compared with £114,968, debtors owe £71,085, against the trifle of £461 due to creditors, and cash in bank and in hand amounts to £32,767.

MERCANTILE BANK ASSETS CO., LIMITED.

As its name implies, this company was formed to nurse some of the remains of the old Mercantile Bank of Australia. A certain amount of progress was made with the realisation during the year to December 31 last, and the receipts from all sources amounted to £20,649. Of this £14,062 came from realisations and £6,587 from rents, interest, &c. On the other hand, the outgo was £14,745, including redemption of debentures £5,914, charges for upkeep of securities and properties £2,621, debenture stock interest £3,121, and administration and directors' fees £2,037. The directors were, therefore, able to repay the loan of £500 from the Melbourne Trust Company and to increase the balance in hand from £1,345 to £6,749. Debenture stock still outstanding is £123,681, issued capital of the company is £15,370, and a suspense account of £19,148 exists to provide management expenses, and, if they should occur, deficiency of revenue to meet interest on debenture stock, contingent liabilities, and depreciation upon ultimate realisations. On the assets side the property accounts and other securities, including sundry debtor balances, are valued at £120,131, and balances owing by purchasers of properties at £24,289.

OXFORD, LIMITED.

This place of entertainment continues to do well. Revenue from all sources was £67,375, and the outgo reached £48,873, leaving £18,502 as nett profit, an improvement of some £600. The expenditure includes £3,000 for debenture interest, £2,150 written off leasehold premises, and provision for depreciation and maintenance. An interim dividend of 4 per cent. has been already paid, and the directors now propose a final 6 per cent., together with a bonus of 3 per cent., making 13 per cent. in all, against 12½ per cent. Another sum of £6,000 is then added to reserve and £3,624 is carried forward against £4,123 brought in. Reserve will now be £40,000, which is a very good accumulation against a property valuation of £156,000, especially as it is kept in high-class securities. Altogether the company possesses investments to the amount of £45,880 and a cash balance of £13,360.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—The London cargo market was again very quiet, but sellers are not disposed to make concessions, and except for a slight decline in La Plata wheats prices are practically unchanged. Northern markets were disposed to harden owing to unfavourable crop reports, and improved American cables, but the advance was not maintained. In the United Kingdom there have been complaints of dry weather, and in some districts conditions have been decidedly wintry. On the whole, however, the crops are looking well, and conditions on the Continent may be considered pretty good, except that Germany needs rain. Farmers' deliveries last week amounted to 386,703 qrs. against 394,753 in the same period last year, bringing the total to date to 14,200,133 qrs. against 17,437,463 qrs. a year ago. American markets opened pretty strong on a shrinkage in the visible supply, large foreign and outside purchases, and the absence of important rains in the South-West. Liberal profit-taking then led to a reaction, but prices again advanced under fresh unfavourable crop news, especially from Kansas. Bradstreet gives the quantity in sight east of the Rockies at 45,163,000 bushels against 47,770,000 last week and 32,259,000 bushels last year. According to Dornbusch the quantity of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom is 4,055,000 qrs. against 3,840,000 a week ago, and to the Continent 2,415,000 qrs. against 2,460,000 last week.

WOOL.—Business everywhere continues very good, and even quite brisk in some branches, and under the prevailing conditions a maintenance of present prices is confidently looked for, the existing values, both for merinos and crossbreds, being the effect of a general trade demand and not of speculation. There has been an active inquiry for the new season's wool, and though the new clip is not yet generally available, transactions are much above the average for this time of the year. Attendance at markets everywhere has been exceptionally good. The third series of colonial wool auctions for the current year was brought to a close on Wednesday. The nett available total reached 166,000 bales, of which all but 5,000 were sold, and it is estimated that 91,000 bales were taken by the home trade. At all the series there has been a large and increasing attendance of buyers, and there has been no lack of bidding at any time.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—Our market during the past week has presented few fresh features of importance as compared with seven days ago. The general tone has been quiet, and buyers have not shown much anxiety to operate freely. Advices from most of our markets abroad are not very encouraging, but the present quiet period is variously interpreted, some people thinking that the lull in operations is only temporary, while others think it will continue for some time. Be this as it may, both spinners and manufacturers have plenty of work to go on with. In cloth for export buyers for India have shown few signs of activity. The general inquiry has been quite unimportant. Makers of dhooties find very little business offering to test prices. For China, transactions have been largely confined to small retail lots. The smaller markets of the Continent have continued healthy, but the difficulty of arranging transactions continues. A fair turnover has taken place, however, for the Levant in a miscellaneous class of goods. The demand from the outlets of South America seems to be tapering off somewhat. In home trade goods the demand has rather improved in the light fancy materials, and the outlook for the autumn trade in heavy cloths is considered bright, several buyers already placing orders with makers. Printing cloths of both Burnley and Cheshire makes have moved off steadily from day to day to a fair extent, but it cannot be said that any large transactions have been arranged. In Mexicans and T-cloths makers are difficult to deal with, business to a large extent being restricted, owing to their stiff attitude. In coloured woven goods and satens no particular new feature has shown itself. In American yarns for home use a quiet, steady trade has been done from day to day. Spinners have presented a stiff front to buyers. The margin continues for most kinds, and qualities generally satisfactory. Certain of the finer numbers of twist are not easily obtained for early delivery, and the general position for American yarns has gained strength during the last few weeks. The output of the spindles seems to be well taken off by manufacturers. In shipping yarns a fair turnover has taken place for the Continent, but buyers for China and India have not done very much. Egyptian yarns continue to move off in small lots, few large transactions being mentioned. Rates for new crop months show some little irregularity. Order lists for spinners are nothing like so extensive as a month or two ago.

The market in New York opened very quietly, unchanged to a point up, chiefly on "bear" covering, but prices afterwards

fell away on disappointing cables, "bear" pressure, and favourable weather reports. This was quickly followed by a further advance, only to recede once again on unsatisfactory cables and liquidation. The market continued weak, but at the close is a little steadier. Closing prices are:—May to July, 5.98d.; July-August, 5.99d.; August-September, 5.90d.; September-October, 5.73d.; November-December, 5.72d.; December-January, 5.72d.; January-February, 5.73d.; February-March, 5.74d.; March-April, 5.75d.

COAL.—Trade has again been inclined towards slackness, buyers everywhere being inclined to do business from hand to mouth, and it is not expected that business will appreciably improve until prices are lower. The approach of summer is having the usual effect upon the market, nevertheless the position all round is considered satisfactory. It is said that a fairly large number of new contracts have been placed at better values than ruled this time last year. There has been a quiet and steady demand for seaborne. Nothing new has developed in the inland department, the few orders coming into the market being principally for house coal. Quotations are:—Best Admiralty large, 15s. 6d. to 15s. 9d., f.o.b., Cardiff; Durham unscreened bunkers, 9s. to 9s. 3d., f.o.b.; best West Yorkshire, 10s. 6d.; Derby black shale, 9s. 3d. Best anthracite, 17s. 6d. to 18s. 6d.; seconds, 16s. to 17s.; nuts, 17s. 9d. to 18s. 6d.

COPPER.—The fact that producers can sell their output for long periods ahead is thought to prove the very strong position of this market, especially as prices remain exceedingly firm. Most of the available production for July has been disposed of, and large quantities have been placed for August. New orders have been given out to manufacturers, and plenty of work is said to be in sight, assuming a very large consumption for Europe as well as America. The market opened rather dull, notwithstanding firm advices from the other side, but prices soon braced up in the absence of sellers. On the whole, however, the week was a quiet one, with moderate fluctuations only, and final figures are £85 7s. 6d. for cash and £85 for three months' delivery.

TIN.—Stocks are described as being at a dangerously low level, and are still being encroached upon by the steadily expanding trade requirements. The market therefore lends itself rather easily to manipulation, and is very largely in the hands of speculators. This leads to very violent fluctuations. At the start prices broke badly under violent bear attacks, chiefly on forward positions, and as the market lacked strong support a loss of a dozen pounds occurred almost in no time. This was followed by a fairly sharp recovery, with the market very feverish and excited, and business difficult to do. Frequent and wide fluctuations ensued, nearly all the trade being of a professional character; but further support was forthcoming after the break, and before the close a large part of the loss had been recovered. Final figures were £190 10s. for cash and £188 10s. for futures.

IRON AND STEEL.—Firmness continues to characterise all branches of the iron and steel trades, manufacturers in places receiving renewed inquiries as to offers which had been suspended. Consumers are short of supplies and are consequently more ready to give orders, whilst there are better specifications from country merchants. A good trade has been done in Cleveland iron, and deliveries have been the largest on record, and that demand for pig-iron is in excess of the present output is apparent in the large withdrawals from the stock in the public warrant stores. Cleveland iron is now the cheapest in the market, and it is on this account that it is so largely taken by Germany. The hematite iron trade is very steady, and considerable business is being done. Makers still quote 67s. for mixed Bessemer numbers, nett f.o.b. Stocks of iron have been appreciably reduced. In Scotland there is also a more cheerful feeling in all departments of the iron and steel trades, and the conditions generally are favourable to a maintenance of good business.

SUGAR.—With favourable weather on the Continent and diminishing receipts from Cuba, where the rainy season seems to have set in, holders continue to realise. White sugars are moving rather slowly, and though distributors evidently hold small stocks their purchases are from hand to mouth only, yet the margin between 88 per cent. and granulated remains very fair, which shows, as Mr. Czarnikow observes, that unsold supplies, even in second-hands, are not excessive. At the present level there is justification in assuming that the anxiety of holders must be diminishing, and that "bears," who, as usual, assisted the depression, will some day, should the weather change, think of covering. Regarding crops, it seems that sowings in France are not yet finished. One factory sowed 60 per cent. only last week, but this was an exception. The New York market remains very quiet at previous prices for spot sugar. Landings in the three ports for the week were 60,000 tons, and meltings 40,000 tons, raising stocks to 366,000 tons.

TEA.—Now that the market has got over the disturbance of the change in the duty it has developed a good deal of strength, and business this week was again on an increased scale. Medium and good liquoring teas are in most demand, owing to the decision of the trade to give the consumer the benefit of the lower duty by raising the quality instead of reducing the price, but common sorts were also freely inquired for. At the Indian sale this week 33,576 packages were offered, and an average price was obtained of 7.15d. per lb., against 7.30d. last week and 6.58d. a year ago. On Ceylon teas, of which 26,263 packages were brought forward, the average improved to 7d. compared with 6.90d. and 6.75d. respectively. Supplies from Java were rather smaller at 2,742 packages, and last week's improvement was well maintained.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Cordoba Central.—For 1905 of 8½ per cent. on the ordinary stock and a further £2 17s. 6d. per cent. on the income debenture stock (Central Northern section), making £3 17s. 6d. per cent. for the year.

East Argentine.—On the ordinary stock for 1905 at the rate of £4 10s. per cent., payable June 13.

Southern Punjab.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for the six months ended Dec. 31, making 4½ per cent. for the year, carrying forward £36,763.

BREWERIES.

Ashby's Staines.—Interim on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended March 31 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

Dartford.—Interim at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended March 31.

James Eadie.—5 per cent. on the Ordinary shares for the year ended March 31, placing £7,000 to reserve.

New Black Lion.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the Ordinary shares for the year ended March 31.

Wolverhampton and Dudley.—Interim on the Ordinary shares at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended March 31.

MINES.

Broken Hill Proprietary Block 10.—No. 74, of 3s. per share, payable June 20.

English and Australian Copper.—1s. per share for the year ended Dec. 31, carrying forward £3,771.

Great Boulder Proprietary Gold.—Interim of 9d. per share on account of the current year.

No. 2 South Great Eastern Gold.—(No. 94) of 6d. per share, payable May 30.

Oroya Brownhill.—Interim of 4s. per share.

Tomboy Gold.—Tenth of 2s. per share, payable June 20.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Allen Everitt and Sons.—Final of 3 per cent. on the preference shares, making the full 6 per cent. for the year ended March 31, carrying forward £1,872.

Assam Company.—Balance of 6 per cent., or £1 4s. per share, making 8½ per cent. for 1905.

Associated Cotton Ginners of Egypt.—Interim of 1s. 9d. per share.

Aveling and Porter.—Further of 4 per cent., making 8 per cent. for the year ended March 31, carrying £6,324 forward.

Broken Hill Water Supply.—No. 51, of 6d. per share, payable July 2.

Cardiff and Channel Mills.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, and at the rate of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended March 31.

Edward and John Burke.—For the half-year ended April 30 on the ordinary shares at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, and a bonus at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, placing £10,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £16,022.

Grand Hotel, Eastbourne.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for the six months ended March 31, payable 20th inst.

Hallamshire Steel and File.—22s. 6d. per share, being at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum for the year ended March 31, carrying £2,063 forward.

Inglis and Co.—Further of 5 per cent. and bonus of 2 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 12 per cent. for the year ended April 28, carrying £3,808 forward.

J. C. and J. Field.—At the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended March 31.

John Hunter, Wiltshire, and Co.—3s. 6d. per share for the six months ended March 31, making 6 per cent. for the year, placing £500 to reserve, and carrying forward £1,511.

Lipton.—Final on the ordinary shares at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum for past half-year, making 7 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £11,435.

London and River Plate Bank.—Interim of 8 per cent. (24s. per share) for the half-year ended March 31.

London Scottish American Trust.—Interim on the deferred stock at the rate of 2½ per cent.

Madulseeema Coffee and Cinchona.—11 per cent. on the preference shares for the year ended Dec. 31, reducing the arrears to 10 per cent., carrying £2,755 forward.

Metropolitan Amalgamated Railway Carriage.—On the ordinary shares at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum, making 10 per cent. for the year, placing £50,000 to reserve and carrying forward £86,131.

North Wales Iron and Manganese.—Interim of 1s. 6d. per share (7½ per cent.), payable May 23.

Pumpherson Oil.—At the rate of 30 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended April 30.

Richard Evans and Co.—Further of 2 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 4 per cent. for the year ended March 31.

Ruston, Proctor, and Co.—7½ per cent., placing £13,500 to equalisation of dividend account, and carrying forward £6,786.

Shorts.—Final on the deferred ordinary shares of 5s. per share, making 20s. per share for the year, placing £2,000 to reserve, and carrying £1,230 forward.

Slaters.—Interim on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended March 31.

The Mint, Birmingham.—For the half-year ended March 31 of 6s. 3d. per share, making 10 per cent., and a bonus of 5s. per share for the year.

Weardale Lead.—Third interim of 3d. per share on account of the current year.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

MARSTON, THOMPSON AND EVERSHED,
LIMITED.

The ordinary annual general meeting of Marston, Thompson and Evershed, Limited, brewers, Burton-on-Trent, was held on May 22 at the registered offices, Burton-on-Trent, Mr. Frederick Hurdle, the chairman, presiding.

The secretary, Mr. David Burrell, having read the notice convening the meeting, and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: I have much pleasure in presenting to you what I hope you will consider to be a favourable account of our last year's trading. No doubt you have all carefully read the report and balance-sheet, which was sent to you on the 14th inst., and will have noticed that our profits have been well maintained. When I had the pleasure of meeting you in May last year, I pointed out that our trading since March 31, 1905, showed an improvement. I am now pleased to tell you that the improvement has been continued throughout our financial year, and still continues. It is also most satisfactory to note that the improvement is not confined to the free trade only, but our own houses in most cases have shared in the prosperity. You will have noticed in the report that our contribution to the compensation fund under the Act of 1904 has amounted to the large sum of £2,746 18. 11d. That amount covers our liabilities under this head to October next, being six months in the current year, and your directors thought it better to deal with the matter at once, and, consequently, we have charged the whole amount to last year's trading. Although we have paid this large sum, it does not represent the full amount it has cost us, as there are many legal and other charges incidental to the settlement of the claims under the Act. I have unfortunately yet again to tell you that the war tax is still in force. We have continued the insurance of the whole of our licences, the premiums for which have amounted to nearly £800. We think this is a wise thing to do. Of course, this charge is also paid out of the profits before we take the dividend into consideration. This amount, together with the payment to the compensation fund and other expenses in connection with it, is, roughly speaking, equal to 2 per cent. on the ordinary capital of your company. This has naturally had its effect on the amount available for the dividend, and your directors have decided to recommend the payment of 1 per cent. less than last year. Since I had the pleasure of addressing you last we have successfully carried through the amalgamation with Messrs. Sydney Evershed, Limited, but it was not completed until November, so that we have only had the benefit of their trading for four months, and you will readily understand that a great many changes have to be made to bring a business of that extent into line with our own before the real benefits of the amalgamation make themselves felt. I am pleased to tell you that so far as we have gone our expectations have been fully realised, and now that our brewery is working practically at its full capacity, we confidently expect that the profits will be correspondingly increased. You will notice there is a great variation in the figures in the balance-sheet as compared with last year. This, of course, is mainly due to the amalgamation, and owing to this and the further issue of ordinary shares at a premium, we have been able to increase the reserve fund by £30,000, making, as no doubt you will have already observed, the total amount of £130,000, and no item of goodwill appears in the accounts. You will be pleased to hear that all our properties, including the brewery and plant, have been kept in the best state of repair. We have also taken advantage of the exceptionally good year for hops to purchase a large stock of the best quality, which will safeguard us against bad seasons for the next three years. Our beers have given exceptional satisfaction, and we intend in the future, as in the past, to try to merit the high praise which we have hitherto received for our productions. There is another matter I wish to allude to. Unfortunately the present Government, it appears, do not intend to let the trade have any peace. We understand that further legislation is promised. They do not think the brewery industry has been harassed enough, and propose to upset the Bill which the late Government took such pains to make law, with the honest attempt to solve the compensation question once for all. Although we subscribe the funds for our own extinction, and not one penny is paid by the ratepayers outside those connected with the trade, the Government still think we should be put to further worry and expense, and contemplate bringing in a measure to strangle the present Bill before it has had a fair chance to show the good it really is capable of doing. What the ultimate result will be no one can say, but I know it has already had a very bad effect upon brewery stocks and shares, and caused a depreciation in prices which is not in many instances justified when trading results of many sound business concerns are fairly considered. In the interests of the shareholders of brewery enterprises it seems high time the trade should be allowed a period of rest. A Blue Book now issued contains an interesting account of the operation of the Act of 1904. It appears that clubs have largely increased. Also, in spite of the reduction of the number of licensed houses, convictions for drunkenness do not appear to have decreased to any extent, and one is inclined to draw the deduction that it is not a good thing for people that the trade should be diverted from its legitimate channels, and drawn into others over which there cannot be the same amount of supervision as has always been the case in the public-houses. I will not detain you

longer, and, thanking you for your attendance here to-day, I now beg to move the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, and shall be glad to answer any questions you wish to put.

Mr. F. Thompson said, in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts: I feel that our chairman has so fully dealt with the accounts themselves that I need not trouble you with further details. We have had the largest turnover of trade in the history of the firm, and the balance of profits disclosed in the accounts is also a record one. The union of the houses of Marston, Thompson and Evershed has assisted towards this. It has also brought amongst us our new director, Mr. S. H. Evershed, a colleague who has the respect and esteem of all who know him, and under whom several of us have been proud to serve in various capacities in promoting the manhood and sporting honour of our town. We are told that figures may be made to prove anything, but I venture to say that you can only draw one inference from the figures we have placed before you to-day, and that is, that you are the owners of a business that is thoroughly sound and prosperous, and I ask you to show your confidence in your business by backing up the efforts of your directors by every means in your power.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

Mr. Hurdle proposed the payment of a further dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for the half-year, making with the interim dividend already paid 10 per cent. for the year, carrying forward £10,600 11s. 1d. to next year.

Mr. Yeomans, in seconding, said: Our chairman has already informed you that the Compensation Act and other expenses in connection with it have cost us a sum nearly equal to 2 per cent. on our ordinary capital, and in addition to this we have spent a considerably larger amount than in former years in repairs and renewals to our brewery and houses, which has been paid for out of profits. The directors thought it the wisest policy to slightly reduce the dividend.

The retiring directors, Mr. F. Thompson and Mr. F. G. S. Holbrooke, were re-elected, and the appointment of Mr. S. H. Evershed as a director was confirmed.

The auditors, Messrs. Harrison and Sedgwick, having been re-appointed, Mr. Richards proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman. This was seconded by Mr. Taverner. It was cordially received and passed, and the Chairman having responded, the meeting terminated.

HOVIS-BREAD FLOUR CO., LIMITED.

The ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Hovis-Bread Flour Co., Limited, was held on Wednesday at the Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, S.W., Mr. J. Browne-Martin (chairman of the company) presiding.

The secretary (Mr. A. E. Cressall) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: With respect to the accounts, I think you will agree with me that they speak for themselves, and the text of their speech is unquestionably encouraging. I will, therefore, not dwell at length on the accounts, but will confine myself to a few remarks on points upon which I feel the shareholders might wish some explanation. In the first instance, I will refer to the amount expended on capital account during the financial year under review—viz., £32,012. This, of course, is a large increase on any amount expended on that account in the former financial years of the company, and, as you probably are aware, is mainly concerned with the building and equipment of our Manchester mill. The building is now practically finished, and we are very pleased with its appearance and hopeful as to its prospects and the increased advantages it will bring us. The equipment of the mill with machinery is being pushed along with all speed, and within a short time we hope to have the mill running. I may remind you that the amount to be expended on this mill will exceed £60,000, and your consent was given last year for the issue of £60,000 of debentures, half of which were issued up to March 31 last, as you will see by the amount appearing on the debit side of the balance-sheet. The mill is erected on the freehold land we purchased from the Trafford Park Estate Company, and forms a valuable asset of the company. Being exactly opposite to the grain elevator, it is in a very choice position, and, as I explained last year, will effect a considerable saving in carriage and in the distribution of our produce. The net profit on trading amounts to £33,074, being the largest amount we have made in any year since the formation of the company. (Applause.) As we have been prosperous, we have deemed it advisable to increase the amount set down for depreciation this year—a policy which I feel sure the shareholders will approve. (Hear, hear.) We have also paid the debenture interest out of revenue, although the money raised by the issue is to be applied to the construction and equipment of the Manchester mill, which is not yet earning revenue. This concludes my remarks on the accounts, and I will now address the shareholders on a matter in which they can, and I am sure will, if it is pointed out to them, help the company considerably. Everyone interested in this enterprise can easily assist Hovis by recommending it to their friends and asking for it whenever they are away from home. I cannot urge this matter too strongly on you. Let me take this opportunity of bringing to your notice two new productions—viz., Hovis currant bread and Hovis sultana bread. Both are very palatable and extremely nutritious. They can be obtained from all the principal bakers, and can well be used in households for both children and adults. Now, some of the shareholders will doubtless say, "That is all very well, but Hovis breads are expensive."

The following notice is not issued for the purpose of inviting subscriptions, but by way of information only, and no applications will be entertained, unless the same are made on the footing of and with reference to the prospectus referred to below, copies of which can be obtained from the Bankers and Brokers, and at the offices of the Company.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST on the footing of the Prospectus will CLOSE for Town and Country on or before TUESDAY, 29th MAY, 1906.

GREAT COBAR, LIMITED.

Registered under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900.

SHARE CAPITAL £750,000, divided into 150,000 Shares of £5 each. Six per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures to Bearer, £750,000, in Bonds of £20, £50 and £100 each, of which £200,000 are reserved for future issue.

The Company is issuing a prospectus, which has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies in accordance with the Companies Act, 1900, inviting subscriptions at par for:—

Six per Cent. First Mortgage Debentures	£550,000
130,000 Shares of £5 each	£650,000

Payable as follows:—

DEBENTURES.		SHARES.	
On Application	5 per cent.	On Application	£0 12 6
On Allotment	45 per cent.	On Allotment	1 17 6
Two Months after Allotment 50 p.c.		One Month after Allotment	1 5 0
		Two Months after Allotment	1 5 0
			5 0 0

DEBENTURES.—The Debentures will be issued in amounts of £20, £50 and £100 each, and will be secured by a Trust Deed charging the freehold and leasehold properties of the Company, and by a first floating charge on the whole undertaking and assets of the Company.

The Trust Deed will provide that, commencing with the year 1908, the Company shall set aside out of profits and apply annually a sum of £100,000 as a Sinking Fund for the redemption of the Debentures. This fund will, in the first instance, be applied in purchasing the Debentures below 5 per cent. premium, and any balance will be utilised in redeeming the Debentures by drawings at 5 per cent. premium. In the event of liquidation, except for the purpose of amalgamation or reconstruction, the Debentures will be repayable at 5 per cent. premium. The remaining £200,000 Debentures are reserved for future issue to provide additional working capital as and when required.

Interest on the Debentures will be payable half-yearly on the 1st May and 1st November in each year, the first payment, calculated from the due date of payment of the several instalments, to be due on the 1st November, 1906.

Interest on prepayments will be allowed at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum. Subscriptions for £420,000 of the Debentures and for 116,000 Shares, which will give the Company a cash Working Capital of £150,000, having been assured, the Directors will proceed to allotment as soon as the lists are closed.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE-HOLDERS.—Chaplin, Milne, Grenfell and Co., Limited, 6, Princes Street, E.C.

DIRECTORS.—William Rich, M.Inst.C.E., Treva, Camborne, late General Manager of the Rio Tinto Mines.

John D. Kendall, Mining Engineer, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

Andrew Haes, Stockbroker, 17, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C.

Rudolph H. Henning, 2, Mount Street, W., gentleman.

William A. Horn, Wimbledon Park House, Wimbledon, Director of the Bank of Adelaide (London Board).

T. M. Joseph-Watkin, Barrister-at-Law, 33, Courtfield Gardens, S.W.

Gerard B. Elkington, J.P., 31, Walbrook, E.C., Director of Elkington and Co., Limited.

BANKERS—London City & Midland Bank, Ltd., Threadneedle Street, E.C., and Branches.

Bank of Adelaide, 11, Leadenhall Street, E.C.

Clydesdale Banking Company, Ltd., Glasgow, and Branches.

Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, Ltd., Sydney, N.S.W., and London.

Chaplin, Milne, Grenfell, & Co., Ltd., 6, Princes Street, E.C.

COMMERCIAL AGENTS—Henry R. Merton & Co., Ltd., 2, Metal Exchange Buildings, E.C.

SOLICITORS—Ashurst, Morris, Crisp, & Co., 17, Throgmorton Avenue, E.C.

Paines, Blyth, & Huxtable, 14, St. Helen's Place, E.C.

BROKERS—London—Haes & Sons, 17, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C., and Stock Exchange.

Cardiff—E. T. Lyddon & Sons, 122, Bute Street, and Stock Exchange, Cardiff.

AUDITORS—Whinney, Smith, & Whinney, Chartered Accountants, 32, Old Jewry, E.C.

SECRETARY (pro tem.) and OFFICES—C. T. FEARY, 32, Old Jewry, E.C.

The prospectus, amongst other things, states as follows:—

This Company is formed to acquire as a going concern the Copper and Gold Mines in New South Wales, in the Commonwealth of Australia, well known as

the "Great Cobar" and the "Cobar Chesney," together with the Coal Mines and Coke Works, Smelting, Refining, and Electrolytic Installations owned and held therewith.

The properties comprise:—1. The Great Cobar Copper Mine. 2. The Cobar Chesney Copper Mine. 3. The Peak and Conqueror Gold Mines. 4. The Coal Mines at Lithgow. 5. The Coal Mines and Coke Works at Rix's Creek. 6. The Smelters at Cobar. 7. The Refinery at Lithgow.

The copper mines and smelting works are connected by rail with the coal mines, coke works, refining, and electrolytic works, and with the entire railway system of New South Wales.

The Great Cobar Copper Mine, with its allied properties, is the most important copper proposition in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Kendall reports to the Directors in regard to the Great Cobar Mine as follows:—It was discovered in 1869, but was not worked in a commercial way until 1875. From that year until 1889, when it was closed down owing to what is known as the Secretan failure, it was continuously worked. At the beginning of 1894 it was re-opened, and by the end of 1902, 730,669 tons of ore had been extracted, which produced 23,922 tons of copper.

The possession, in conjunction with copper mines, of coal mines and coke works, together with smelting, refining, and electrolytic works, makes the concern one of the most complete in the copper world. In fact, it is in the almost unique position of having at hand and under its own control all the ore, fuel, and flux, as well as the other adjuncts required to make it self-contained.

Reports on the properties have been made by Mr. J. D. Kendall, Mr. W. J. Barnett, and Mr. C. M. Rolker. Mr. Kendall and Mr. Barnett did not report on the Cobar Chesney Mine.

Copies of these reports are enclosed with the Prospectus. On reference to such reports it will be found that:—

1. At the present rate of production of 4,000 tons of copper per annum sufficient profit is being earned (taking copper at about its present price of, say, £85 per ton) to pay 15 per cent. on the share capital after providing for Debenture Interest.

2. When the new main shaft is sunk and the proposed additions and improvements to plant are completed, the annual output of copper should be increased to about 13,000 tons, and the annual profits (taking Copper at only £70 per ton), after making provision for Debenture Interest and Sinking Fund, will be trebled.

3. Taking the price of copper at Mr. Rolker's figure of £60 per ton, and his estimate of 1,530,505 tons, which, on the basis of his calculation, will produce at least 40,449 tons of copper, there is a profit on the ore reserves in the mines of upwards of £1,100,000, while at the present market price the profit would, of course, be very largely increased.

4. The average percentage of copper in the ore reserves, according to the lowest estimates in the reports, is about 3.15 per cent.

5. Each ton of copper carries gold and silver to the estimated value of £11 6s. 3d.

6. There are coal reserves at Lithgow and Rix's Creek equal to six million tons.

With regard to the continuance of the ore bodies below the present bottom of the mines at Great Cobar, Mr. Barnett says that no ore has been included in his estimate below the 850 feet level, and that the ore bodies show every sign of continuing to much greater depths, while Mr. Kendall advises the Directors that the evidence for the continuance of the ore bodies from the 850 feet level down to a depth of 1,400 feet was, at the time of his visit, as strong as it was at the 200 feet level for their continuance down to 850 feet.

Although Mr. Rolker suggests that the output could be increased to 1,400 tons per day, the Directors do not propose to extract so large a quantity until the mine has been developed to a greater extent.

A cash working capital of £150,000, together with the £200,000 Debentures held in reserve, is considered by the Directors ample to meet all requirements.

The prospectus contains particulars of contracts and other information to satisfy the requirements of the Companies Act, 1900, and copies of the contracts, of the Draft Trust Deed to secure the Debentures, and of the reports of Mr. Kendall, Mr. Barnett, and Mr. Rolker above-mentioned, as well as a report of Mr. Kendall made in April, 1903, may be seen at the Offices of the Solicitors, between the hours of 11 and 4, on any day before the closing of the Subscription Lists.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Bankers and Brokers, and at the Offices of the Company.

London, May 24th, 1906.

That is a mistaken idea, because, after all, the best thing is always the cheapest, as is well known, and the amount of nutriment and benefit that is to be derived from eating Hovis far outweighs the expense. Hovis bread is three times as nourishing as white bread, and the additional cost is comparatively trifling. Now, if the shareholders will make a point during this present year of getting one or other or even all the Hovis breads at home and asking for it when they are on their holidays—at the seaside or in the country—and, moreover, insist upon having it, they will help the company considerably. I think I ought to refer to our trade in the colonies—namely, in South Africa and in New South Wales. In both places we have made arrangements with the largest milling companies to mill Hovis, and in the former milling was started in the early part of this year. Before moving the adoption of the report, I shall be pleased to reply to any questions that shareholders may put to me. (Applause.)

Mr. Helby seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Other formal resolutions were then carried, and the meeting closed with the usual compliments to the chairman.

DEKHARI SYNDICATE, LIMITED.

A crop of 308,000 lbs. of tea was expected for the year ended December 31, but the actual outturn came to 316,599 lbs., and the company benefited still further by an increase from 8 15-16d. to 9 7-32d. per lb., against an average for all Assam teas sold in London this season of 8 3/4d. per lb. Cost of the tea laid down in London was 7 7-32d., and the nett profit came to £2,627, to which was added £4,220 from the previous account making a total of £6,847, and after repeating last year's dividend of 10 per cent. £5,087 is carried forward. The company has a paid-up capital of £18,210 only, but the remaining half of 242 new £10 shares issued a year ago is to be called up on July 1 to provide for the outlay on the 100 acres of tea planted in 1904-5 and 1905-6. Liabilities on bills payable and to sundry creditors are small at £2,688 against £8,548 to come in for tea sold and £177 due from sundry debtors, but cash is trifling at £30. An item of £600 appears amongst the assets for balance of cost of new tea house, but this is to be charged in the next two years and the company appears to be well managed in every respect.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Channel Tunnel: Its Commercial Advantages.

Duty of Trustees as to Investment of Trust Funds. By A. R. Rudall (London: Effingham Wilson, 54, Threadneedle-street, E.C. Price, 1s.).

The Arbitrator in Council. (London: Macmillan and Co., St Martin's-street, Leicester-square, W.)

Transvaal Chamber of Mines. Sixteenth Annual Report for the Year 1905 (London: 202, Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C.).

LAND CORPORATION OF CANADA, LIMITED.

Sales of farm lands by this company during the year ended December 31 went up from 631 acres to 2,093 acres, and as the average price realised was \$1 better at \$5, the receipts from this source rose by \$7,940 to \$10,464. An extra \$100 at \$1.075 was also received from the sale of 10 town lots, giving a total of \$11,539, on which the profits came to £1,004 or £706 more. Interest, dividends, &c., however, were £783 down at £2,452, and with £3,712 less at £4,001 brought forward, the total revenue came to only £7,456 against £11,246, and after providing for general charges, the available balance showed a decrease of £3,548 at £6,078, but the directors repeat the dividend of 1s. 6d. per share or 7 1/2 per cent., and carry forward a very much smaller balance of £453. After deducting the book value of the land sold, the properties stand in the balance-sheet at £22,019 or about 7s. per acre, and as the directors state that since December 31, 4,207 acres have been sold at an average of about \$5.75 per acre, the immediate outlook seems bright enough. Some of the money realised has been invested in Government and other securities, but although these were increased by £2,399 to £17,164, the amount hardly seems adequate as a provision against the time when the company has no more land to sell. Debtors for farm lands and town lots, representing deferred payments on capital account, have dropped by £8,216 to £36,664, but bills receivable are £651 higher at £2,224, and cash is £2,486 up at £2,533, while liabilities on open accounts come to no more than £427.

The following notice is not issued for the purpose of inviting subscriptions, but by way of information only, and no applications will be entertained unless the same are made on the footing of and with reference to the Prospectus referred to below, copies of which can be obtained from the Bankers, Brokers, and at the Offices of the Company.

The SUBSCRIPTION LIST on the footing of the Prospectus will be OPENED on SATURDAY, the 26th May, 1906, and will be CLOSED on or before TUESDAY, the 29th May, 1906.

THE SALINAS OF MEXICO, LTD.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts, 1862 to 1900.)

SHARE CAPITAL - - - £325,000

(DIVIDED INTO 325,000 SHARES OF £1 EACH.)

Five per Cent. Participating Debentures (Authorised), £325,000,

Entitled to Interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, and in addition to rank *pari passu* for further dividend with the Shares after the latter have received, in any year, a non-cumulative Dividend of 5 per cent.

Messrs. MARTIN'S BANK (LIMITED), of 68 Lombard Street, London, E.C., as Bankers of the Company, are authorised by the Directors to receive applications for an

Issue of £200,000 of the above 5 per Cent. Participating Debentures at 95 per Cent., In Debentures to Bearer of £100 each.

£10,000 of this Issue is offered on behalf of the Owner of the Properties, making—with £100,000 of 5 per cent. Participating Debentures, being the balance which he is to receive under the Sale Contracts—a total amount to be now issued of £300,000, and leaving £25,000 available for future requirements.

Payment is to be made as follows:—On Application £10 per cent.; On Allotment, £25 per cent.; Two Months after Allotment £30 per cent. Four Months after Allotment £30 per cent.

Payment in full may be made on Allotment at a Discount of 4 per cent. per annum.

Script to Bearer will be issued after Allotment, and will be exchanged for Definitive Debentures after payment of the instalments.

The Trust Deed securing the Debentures will provide that they will be repayable at par on the 1st January, 1946, but the Company will have the option to redeem them at £125 per cent. on or after the 1st July, 1918, upon six months' previous notice of such redemption being given by the Company.

Trustees for the Debenture Holders.

THE CITY SAFE DEPOSIT AND AGENCY COMPANY, Limited, 13 Throgmorton avenue, London, E.C.

Directors.

Colonel GEORGE EARL CHURCH, Dashwood House, 9 New Broad street, E.C., M. Am. Soc. C.E. (Chairman).

Captain ADRIAN CHARLES CHAMIER, 46 Nevern square, S.W., Director of the Mexican Southern Railway Limited.

*LUIS DE ERRAZU, 56 Avenue d'Jena, Paris, salt manufacturer.

GEORGE WILLIAM HOGHTON, Dashwood House, 9 New Broad street, E.C., Director of the Interoceanic Railway of Mexico (Acapulco to Vera Cruz) Limited.

*Hon. CHANDOS SCUDAMORE STANHOPE, 16 George street, Hanover square, W., Director of the Interoceanic Railway of Mexico (Acapulco to Vera Cruz) Limited (Managing Director).

* Will join the Board after allotment.

Bankers.

Martin's Bank Limited, 68 Lombard street, London, E.C.

Solicitors.

Ashurst, Morris, Crisp and Co., 17 Throgmorton avenue, London, E.C.

Brokers.

Leonard Clow and Company, 22 Austin friars, London, E.C.

Auditors.

J. H. Duncan and Co., 39 Coleman street, London, E.C.

Secretary.—A. Mitchell, F.C.I.S.

Registered Offices.

Dashwood House, 9 New Broad street, London, E.C.

The Prospectus, amongst other things, states as follows:—

This Company has been formed to acquire from the Hon. Chandos S. Stanhope (the Vendor to the Company) the salt-producing properties situated on the high plateaux in the Republic of Mexico, at present being worked by the owner, Señor don Luis de Errazu, under the title of the "Negociacion de Sales de Salinas de Peñon Blanco," and which consists of 16 lagoons and parts of two others; of these, six are in operation, the remainder being held in reserve.

The properties to be acquired consist of a total area of over 100,000 acres of land, with all plant, buildings, machinery, wells, evaporating tanks thereon, and the stocks of stores of salt which may be on hand at the 1st June, 1906.

The accounts in respect of the five years from 1900 to 1904, inclusive, were audited by Messrs. Ford and MacNab, Chartered Accountants, of Mexico City, in November, 1905, and they have certified that the profits showed an average for the 5 years of \$337,648.21, which at 2s per \$, equals £33,764 per annum.

It is confidently expected that when the additional works recommended by M. Arnaud are completed, and the full benefits obtained therefrom the net profit should amount to at least £50,000 per annum, whilst £15,000 will pay 5 per cent. on the present issue of £300,000 of Debentures.

The following information is based on statements made by the Vendor, and upon the report made by Monsieur M. Arnaud, Engineer-in-Chief of the Salins du Midi, one of the most important salt-producing concerns in France, who visited the properties for this purpose in 1905.

The gross tonnage of salt produced by the "Negociacion" during the twelve years ended 1904 amounted to nearly 400,000 tons; during the last five of these years the sales averaged 40,094 tons per annum, whilst the production averaged only 33,492 tons, the balance having been provided out of the previously accumulated stocks.

The business to be acquired by the Company has belonged to the family of Mr Errazu for over 60 years, controls the supply of salt to a territory which is the most populous and busy part of the Republic, having over 7,000,000 inhabitants, who consume more than 50,000 tons of salt per annum, in addition to which about 20,000 tons are required for the mining industry, and possesses all the important inland salt-producing properties in the interior of Mexico.

The natural conditions of the "Salinas" and "Palomas," the two most important of the properties above mentioned, situated some 360 miles apart, and both having direct railway connection, are such that salt can be produced

at a low cost, and with the additional works provided for by the present issue the two properties will be able to supply the whole of the salt requirements of the interior of Mexico.

The permanency of the supply of brine for all practicable purposes has been thoroughly demonstrated, wells which were sunk by the founder of the business in 1846 to a depth of 30 feet being still fully productive at their original depth.

As the brine improves in quality with depth, it is intended to provide a suitable pumping plant so as to utilise richer water than that which has hitherto been evaporated, thus enabling more rapid and economical production.

It will be seen that the production of salt for some time past has not been equal to the demand. This was the case especially during the last three years, when evaporation was low, owing to unfavourable climatic conditions and to no steps having been taken to provide additional evaporating pans to meet such a contingency. M. Arnaud shows that this can be done at a comparatively small expense, there being ample space and brine available, and estimates that the gross profit should then be increased to £53,960 per annum.

The consideration payable to the Vendor by the Company is £126,500 in cash, £110,000 in Five per Cent. Participating Debentures, and 280,000 Shares of £1 each credited as fully paid. Out of this the Vendor will pay the owner, Mr Errazu, £110,000 in cash, £110,000 in Five per Cent. Participating Debentures, and 95,000 Shares of £1 each credited as fully paid, and will discharge the underwriting commission and the preliminary expenses of the Company not exceeding £7,000, at which they are estimated.

The Hon. Chandos S. Stanhope, who has had a wide experience of Mexican business, and who has personally visited and examined the Properties, has entered into an agreement to act as Managing Director of the Company for a period of three years, and will visit the Properties from time to time as required.

The Prospectus contains particulars of Contracts and other information to satisfy the requirements of the Companies Act, 1900. Copies of the Contracts and Report can be seen at the Offices of the Company during office hours.

Applications for Debentures must be made on the form accompanying the Prospectus, which should be sent, together with a cheque for the amount of the deposit, to Messrs Martin's Bank, Limited, 68 Lombard street, London, E.C.

An application for a settlement in, and a quotation of, the Debentures will be made in due course to the Stock Exchange, London.

Prospectuses may be obtained at the Company's Offices: from Messrs Ashurst, Morris, Crisp & Co., 17 Throgmorton avenue, London, E.C. Messrs Martin's Bank, Limited, 68 Lombard street, London, E.C.; and from Messrs Leonard Clow & Co., 22 Austin friars, London, E.C.

Dated 24th May, 1906.

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CLEMENT WILSON,
"Investors' Review" Office,
Norfolk House, Norfolk Street,
London, W.C.

Investment Queries.

Questions about Public Securities will be answered each week in the **Investors' Review** on the following terms:—

For each question thus answered the charge will be **One Shilling**. Where more than One Question is put they should be numbered, and a copy kept. No Security is ever named in the Answers Printed.

Private Letters giving fuller answers can be had if desired. The minimum charge for such letters is **Ten Shillings** each; but for that Three Questions will be answered. For all additions beyond three the charge will be **Half-a-Crown** per query.

Lists of Investments furnished by correspondents will be annotated, or new sets of suggested investments will be supplied on the same terms, viz.:—10s. for the First Three, and 2s. 6d. for each Additional one. But no group of securities forming a trust calculated to yield a given income will be supplied for less than **One Pound**.

The charge for Wires about New Issues appearing on days that prevent timely criticism in the **Investors' Review** will also be 2s. 6d., plus a prepaid telegram form.

The Editors cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

Letters from correspondents must, in every case, be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

The Investors' Review.

The Standard and the Gresham Life Assurance Reports.

They puzzle us, and we take the two together because of certain similarities which will be obvious when we state a few facts. Both the Standard Company and the Gresham Society do a large business, which is carried on at an almost identical ratio of expenditure. In the Gresham the expenses last year amounted to 19.86 per cent. of the premium income, and in the Standard to 19.51 per cent. Both offices, too, have large funds, and yet we cannot be sure that their business is on anything like the solid basis on which that of some much smaller offices rests. Last year, moreover, was the quinquennial year for both these life offices, and here a remarkable contrast appears. The Gresham Society is able to show, on a rather mixed system of valuation, and taking 3½ per cent. as the rate of interest earned throughout, as against £4 1s. 10d. per cent. on the average earned, a surplus of £300,752, of which £245,000 is immediately set aside as the divisible surplus accruing as future bonuses to participating policyholders. In addition £50,000 is set aside to still further strengthen the basis of the next valuation five years hence. But the Standard Company, in spite of the enormous business, a large increase, £1,646,000, over the five years in its funds, and every apparent advantage, brings out no surplus at all, only a mere balance of £5,440. That is to say, there appeared to be a gross balance to the good, measuring the assets, after deducting vested liabilities on November 15 last, of £125,440, but that included the proprietors' paid-up capital of £120,000. Deducting this, the small balance left is as just stated. Does this lamentable result, so far as participating policyholders are concerned, arise from a stricter valuation, or are there other causes at work, of which we get no definite description in the report of the directors? Possibly there may be something in the rate of interest at which the Standard calculates its accumulations. It took 3 per cent. as the basis in some instances and 3½ per cent. in others. Even so, the result should not have been so distressing, since the average rate of interest earned was, we are told, over 4 per cent. throughout the quinquennium. It is a pity the directors have not been more explicit. All they tell us is that the company is now in a stronger position than it has ever been, and they are unanimously of the opinion that by making the present sacrifice existing shareholders and policyholders have a better security than ever, and also that the attractions to new entrants are much increased, which is mere assertion, and just as it may turn out. They add that in view of the increased possibilities through the strengthening of the reserves, the directors have no hesitation in declaring an intermediate bonus to all "with-profit" policies, which become claims by death or mature on or before November 14, 1910, at the rate of £1 per cent. per annum for each full year's premium due, and paid after November 15, 1905, except in the cases of the Minerva and Victoria Companies, former absorptions of the Standard, whose with-profit policies will only get 10s per cent. per annum. They also propose to give the shareholders next year out of future profits the same or usual dividend of 10 per cent., or 24s. per share, the first half of which became

due on the 15th inst. Out of what moneys are these bonuses and dividends to be paid? They do not tell us, and it is useless for a mere outsider to attempt to guess, but it may be noted that £188,556 has been set aside as the amount required for adjustment on re-valuation of assets. Do the directors hope to get this back? Are there more losses to be met?

Another point of similarity between these two powerful companies whose aggregate resources amount to over £22,000,000, the Standard's balance-sheet footing up to £12,761,000 and the Gresham's to £9,319,000, is the large amount which is now being paid by both offices on policies of various descriptions that have become claims. Thus in the past year the nett premium income of the Standard Life Company was £999,158, and the amount paid on death and endowment claims and as surrenders came to £829,000, or upwards of 82 per cent. of the premium income. In the case of the Gresham Company the proportion was nearly 81.4 per cent., the nett premium income having been £994,134, and the amounts paid away on death and endowment claims and as surrenders reaching about £809,000. These proportions indicate a very severe strain upon the resources, through high mortality or some other unexplained causes, and point to a smaller proportionate rate of accumulation of funds in future. When we add to this the fact that current working expenditure as above-mentioned approached 20 per cent. of the premium income in both instances, it is obvious that the life and endowment policy business of these two offices cannot be in a quite healthy or securely prosperous state. We are not sure either that they are prospering in their annuity business, at any rate the Gresham last year only added about £16,000 to the total of its annuity fund, while the Standard Company does not appear to have any separate annuity fund whatever. It doubtless keeps the capital apart from the revenue, but the published accounts do not show the good book-keeping. The capital received by the Gresham Company for annuities sold last year amounted to nearly £130,000, while the Standard Company received £161,564, and we should like to see the position of this portion of their business overhauled by independent actuaries. The point in favour of the Gresham Company on a comparison of the two is its separation of the annuity branch of the business from the life policy branch. By this separation we are allowed to see that last year, while under £130,000 in capital was received for fresh annuities sold, £162,376 was disbursed in payment of current annuities running. This is a larger proportion than the Standard had to find since it received £161,564 as capital for annuities sold, while its current annuity outgoings amounted to only £113,317. But is it really accumulating money in this department? What is the amount of its separate annuity fund, and is that growing in proportion to the increase in the liabilities or diminishing? We have no means of knowing, which is a pity.

The French Budget.

No wonder M. Poincaré is making a strenuous attempt to curtail the naval and military expenditure of the republic. After much bandying to and fro between Senate and Chamber of Deputies, the budget for 1906 has been fixed at 3,709,241,503 fr., and a surplus of 49,436 fr. is brought out; that is to say, the national expenditure of the French Government amounts to, in round figures, £148,368,000, and it has proved impossible for either the Chambers or the Government to make ends meet. Accordingly new short-term bonds to the amount of 57,000,000 fr., or £2,280,000, will have to be emitted, and even then the budget would not have balanced had it not been that another 36,000,000 fr. has been gathered in from special sources not set out in the official summary with which we deal. This result is reached in spite of the partial cancellation of the budget for public worship. That alone is expected to save about £1,667,000 in the current year. Thus the French nation is confronted

by a position rapidly becoming intolerable. Taxation has reached, if it has not passed, the limits of fruitfulness, and the cause of the sterility which has overtaken the revenue yielding power of the people is not far to seek. The debt alone costs £49,296,000 per annum, and the charges specially set down for the army take away another £28,673,000, while the naval budget exceeds £13,000,000. Thus almost £91,000,000 or upwards of 61 per cent. of the entire receipts, borrowed and other, are swallowed up by debt and the army and navy together. This cannot continue for many more years without bringing France into a position of partial insolvency. The burden of debt alone would be almost intolerable, even were there no charges whatever to be borne in addition for the fighting forces.

One cannot help admiring the minute care with which the representatives of the people wrestle over the various items in the budget, items often of singular minuteness because everything capable of yielding a revenue has to be sought out and taxed. One may say, indeed, that the private distillers, the viticulturists who make their own wines and spirits, alone get off with anything like generosity. Every industry is taxed, and if the country has as yet no income-tax it may be said, as the Finance Minister insists, that one cannot be established except at the cost of remission of taxes elsewhere. It results from this congested state of affairs that the country is only able to afford about £10,000,000 a year for public education, that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is put off with a paltry £2,274,000, and that agriculture gets a sop of but £124,000 out of the budget. The colonies, however, run away in the current year with £4,428,000, and we do not see that there is any substantial return derived from this continual outflow of the taxpayers' money. It results also from the diligent minuteness with which the people are taxed that the cost of collecting the taxes forms no insignificant portion of the load the nation has to bear, upwards of £9,900,000 being required to pay the wages of tax collectors alone. What a relief it would be to France if her military burden could be cut down by say, one-half, if the blood tax could be proportionately lessened and the resources of the people liberated from a variety of vexatious imposts which yield little, and cost much to collect. France is wealthy, no country wealthier, and the result of liberation of this kind must inevitably be a development of prosperity throughout the land which would find its expression in a diminution of the spirit of hostility between classes and masses, and a general heightening of the standard of comfort amongst the people.

We are not sure that the figures just given with reference to the army and navy represent the whole of the charges these public institutions involve; at any rate, there is a sum of £720,000 set down to naval pensions which we do not know that the £13,000,000 odd set down in the summary to the navy includes. The only encouraging point to be mentioned in connection with this distressing exhibit is the large expenditure on public works, the majority of them probably more or less revenue yielding, which amounts, if the final arrangements effected between the two Houses of Parliament stand good, to about £5,200,000 in the current year. Also it is to be remembered that in the charge for the debt a good deal of capital redemption is included; that is to say, portions of the debt are being gradually extinguished by terminable annuities. On the other hand, pensions continue to expand, and both the naval and military charges on this account automatically increase year by year. So also do the civil pensions, but even so France has not only some assets of a valuable kind to represent a portion of her debt, but that debt itself would diminish steadily, and become a bearable total within a comparatively short period of time were not the Government continually driven to neutralise the benefits likely to accrue through the expiry of terminable annuities by continual additions to the debt. In the current year no less than £11,240,000 will be swept away by pensions of various kinds, and this is an increase of about £640,000 on

the total for 1905. Meanwhile, the nation clamours for more and ever more benefits. Its educational system demands more money, the working classes are determined to have pensions to put them on an equality with the fighting and civil public services, and ameliorations of various other kinds, all demanding the expenditure of public money, will be pressed upon the Government and the new Chambers more assiduously than ever. To meet demands of this kind, some of them legitimate, others the mere expression of the misery induced by the excessive taxation which the people have to bear, the Ministry has no means whatever. It cannot increase taxation, for impotence point has already been reached, or almost reached. Thus circumstances are forcing upon the Government the necessity of effecting some material reduction in the military expenditure, and in this lies the most hopeful aspect of the position. The more France suffers as a nation from the excessive weight of its non-productive charges the more will the uprising of the masses impel the Government towards economy, such economy as can be reached by the curtailment of wholly wasteful and non-productive expenditure. Is our Government going to stand aside and allow France to take the lead in laying proposals for a general disarmament before the coming Hague Conference? Can we do nothing to help the French people in their extremity by manfully taking up the humane and prudent position of a people confident in its future, conscious of its strength, and saying, "We will reduce our armaments gradually and steadily to the limits necessary for our defence, and henceforth abstain from the deadly rivalry in the heaping-up of instruments of manslaughter by which the people are oppressed."

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

COSTLY LONDON WATER.

Apparently the accounts for the year ended March 31, 1905, of the Metropolitan Water Board, publicly advertised last week, show a deficiency of £9,550. In the details, however, there are items which serve to modify this impression, inasmuch as the balance-sheet mixes up capital and revenue, so that we cannot be sure whether the ratepayers are paying more than their water rates for the privilege of being kept from thirst by this unnecessary body, or whether they get something back besides filtered Thames and Lea. The entire capital outlay to date is put at £46,206,086 up to March last year, and income was—now what was it? For a year we do not know, but for the period from June 24, 1904, to March 31, 1905, most of the companies' figures covering nine months or so, the water rents, including rents of meters, came to £1,928,679, in addition to which there was £8,859 received as rents of houses and lands, and £53,598 as miscellaneous income. Against this revenue, the aggregate of which was £1,991,135, there was the outlay of £438,111 for getting the water, and no less than £273,369 was levied as rates and taxes. Thus the water rate of the citizens contains a charge which the County Council levies upon the property assigned to the board. Then salaries, superannuations, and so on took £137,342, and £27,432 went in establishment charges. These are large items, but none of them approach the burden of debt charges which the board has to provide for. These amount to fully £836,000, and the aggregate expenditure for this period was £2,000,685. There was thus the deficiency above mentioned, but it is probable enough that this may not recur, and that we shall see some little profit accrue by this time next year. Capital expenditure, however, is by no means at an end. On the contrary, we must look for continuous demands for more money if the supply is to be kept up to the requirements of the metropolis. In the year ending March 31 there was no heavy levy for new works, but still £222,229 of new capital went to pay for extensions and

£57,588 was absorbed by the Staines Reservoirs Communication Works. In the year as a whole the capital outlay came to £1,918,573, but most of this went to pay for undertakings handed over to the board. Thus about £691,000 represented the balance of compensation awarded by the Court of Arbitration to the Metropolitan Waterworks for transfer of their undertakings. Then another £219,287 was disbursed as compensation to directors of the metropolitan water companies, while £91,168 was absorbed in the cost of arbitration and in payment of the companies' winding-up expenses. No less than £212,197 was provided out of capital to meet the stamp duties on the transfers of the property, and in addition the board's arbitration costs and Court expenses came to upwards of £149,000. This kind of outlay cannot recur, and will in great measure be represented only by the additional interest charge to be borne in future years because of the capital emitted to meet these and other heavy charges. Thus loans to the amount of £1,390,241 had to be emitted in order to pay the bills. Whatever the gain of the acquisition of the London water companies nominally for behoof of the inhabitants may be, it certainly has not been cheap.

THE BURDEN OF MILITARISM.

Mr. Haldane might have seen to it that the statistician in his office did better when he was about it than issue the halfpenny return professing to set forth the military expenditure of the United Kingdom, Colonies, and Foreign Countries for the past financial year. The figures as given are not complete, and therefore it is almost useless to summarise them. In our own case, for example, the total for 1904-5 is given as £31,559,638, but this does not include the annuities charged upon the revenue to repay those masses of money borrowed for military works. Then the French total of £27,398,743 excludes £3,723,076, the charge for the French colonial army serving abroad. The handicap of Germany, too, whose total in the table is £32,241,627, is not fully set forth, seeing that pensions are excluded, together with £4,890,408, the cost of colonial military expenditure. Notwithstanding the fact that nearly £4,000,000 of this colonial war budget is put under the heading "extraordinary war expenditure," the whole should have been set forth and tabulated in an intelligible manner. Then the return might have been worth a penny. So with the United States again, nearly £28,000,000 paid for pensions, that scandalous item, is left out of account. Even so, the aggregate of the military expenditure of nine countries, classing India as a separate State, is in this table about £207,000,000, and in addition we spent last year for our own share nearly £7,000,000, or to be exact, £6,855,090, on military forces abroad, exclusive of £434,463, the cost to us of the British troops in occupation of Egypt. To our military expenditure in the colonies, aggregating nearly £7,000,000, these dependencies themselves contributed only £543,224, but it is claimed that they spent £3,823,686 on their own account in addition, so that we have altogether £11,220,000 of colonial manslaying charges to add to our home budget. Then the Army expenditure of India is put at £20,176,000, but that cannot be complete either since it obviously excludes the charges for military works in India, and we also think fails to include the whole of the charges for pensions borne by India, but of that we cannot be sure until the detailed accounts of the Indian Government for the past year are before us.

It may be added that militarism cost the Transvaal community nearly £1,462,000 in the past year, of which £1,318,000 went to meet the cost of the South African constabulary, a semi-military force modelled somewhat after the Royal Irish Constabulary. As the aggregate figures stand, and without attempting to assess the omitted items, the burden of empire to us, if we include India, comes to nearly £70,000,000 a year. We wish Mr. Haldane would stir up the Treasury, or Mr. Lehmann who procured this very imperfect return,

to give us an intelligibly constructed exhibit of both the naval and military outlay of England, her colonies and dependencies, and of all the great military powers of the world. It would be a most instructive and valuable return, and powerfully assist the increasing number of people who are fighting as for their lives against this deadly blight. We note that the French Minister, M. Poincaré, has been speaking out about the danger to French finance of the cost of the Army and Navy, and insisting that demands should be reduced. "For some years past," he said, "new expenditure has been incurred, and reductions have been voted with the result that in 1906 a balance could be obtained only by the aid of exceptional resources, an elegant euphemism which in simpler and plainer French means a loan." Deficits, in fact, continually haunt the French Government, and as M. Poincaré pointed out, it is hopeless to expect to cover these deficits by taxes. "It will be chimerical to hope," he said, "that the introduction of the income-tax will suffice to remedy the present difficult situation. That tax must assume neither an inquisitorial nor a vexatious form, and will have above all as its object a more just distribution of the present burdens of the tax-payers. It cannot co-exist with the maintenance of our direct taxes. Consequently the immediate difficulty of restoring the equilibrium of the budget subsists intact." It is just the same here. Our budget for the current year, although it shows a surplus, is really a protectionist budget. That is to say, the expenditure on the army and navy has been continued at such frightful totals as to render our present burden of taxation too irksome to be borne. If we cannot cut down this expenditure, not by a million or two, but by tens of millions, in the near future, then the wealthy classes now compelled to pay a shilling income-tax and in other ways harassed by direct taxation, will persevere until they succeed in throwing as much as they can of their share of public burdens on to the backs of the multitude by means of a protective tariff. Therefore, the reduction of naval and military budgets everywhere is really the most vital and most urgent of all democratic reforms. Without that there is no durable security for credit, public or private.

LIPTON, LIMITED.

We could always see the humorous side of this joint-stock venture. To our mind, the remarkable escapades of its renowned founder rendered it impossible to regard the thing quite seriously, and we used to watch for the inevitable decline in profits when the chairman's mind had been distracted by the preparations for a cup "race." The childish delight of the small allottees with their five shares bought at 25s. each was also comical in its way. When the shares reached £3 or thereabouts they regarded Sir Thomas as a public benefactor, and their friend for life, but we have not sought to ascertain their feelings since the price dropped to 15s., recovering by painfully slow degrees to the neighbourhood of £1 or 21s. As a matter of fact, the thing is now getting beyond a joke. We believe Sir Thomas sticks manfully to his shares along with the small grocer and provision dealer, but his pals, the needy upper ten, always ready to make a bit, slipped out of their allotments when the Stock Exchange provided a good opportunity by putting such a ridiculous premium on the shares in addition to the vendor's 25 per cent. It is only right, however, to congratulate them on the good sense displayed, because, to be frank, the business is getting into rather low water. Trading profit for the year ended March 10 fell below the £200,000 mark, and the actual total of £196,397 shows a decline of well over £30,000, compared with 1904-5. This means a slump second only to that which occurred in 1901-2, when the revenue collapsed by about £55,000, and Sir Thomas came to the rescue by paying the advertising expenses. There was a small addition to the interest and transfer fees which came to £4,912 against £4,247, making £201,309 in all. Fortunately a small

saving also was effected in the management and other expenses, bad debts were only £754 compared with £2,453, and the profits being under £200,000, Sir Thomas Lipton, the managing director, receives no remuneration. We do not know that this is necessarily a good point, but, anyhow, it saves £5,000, and the charge for directors' and trustees' fees is only £2,130, against £7,130. Therefore, after providing a rather larger sum for depreciation, the nett balance is £139,397 or a drop of little more than £21,000. Then the balance brought forward was better by £5,248 at £12,039, and the sum for disposal is £151,435, being a shrinkage of £15,604. Debenture interest requires £20,000, and the preference dividend £50,000, so that by passing over the reserve, which a year ago received £15,000, the directors are able to maintain the ordinary dividend at 7 per cent. at the expense of a small decline to £11,435 in the sum carried forward. No wonder the shares became weak when the report came out, and, stock excuses notwithstanding, there seems little doubt that the business is a declining one. Subjoined is our usual comparative statement covering five years:—

	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Profit on trading and estates	£223,618	£226,916	£222,815	£226,884	£196,397
Interest and transfer fees	4,584	4,005	3,691	4,247	4,912
	228,202	230,920	226,506	231,131	201,309
Management, general charges, &c., and advertising	28,807*	45,559	38,725	40,586	37,904
Bad debts	1,652	3,052	1,954	2,453	754
Provision for income-tax not recoverable	1,851	—	—	—	—
Depreciation	19,063	19,631	21,721	20,714	21,125
Directors' and trustees' fees	7,130	7,130	7,130	7,130	2,130
Balance, being profit	169,699	154,949	156,976	160,248	139,396
Amount brought forward	5,167	9,865	4,814	6,791	12,039
Total	174,866	164,814	161,790	167,039	151,435
Debenture interest	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Preference dividend	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Ordinary dividend	80,000	80,000	70,000	70,000	70,000
Reserve	15,000	10,000	15,000	15,000	—
Carried forward	9,866	4,814	6,790	12,039	11,435
	174,866	164,814	161,790	167,039	151,435

* Advertising expenses paid by Sir Thomas Lipton.

Nor will proprietors derive much satisfaction from a study of the balance-sheet. Reserve built up from revenue remains at £130,000, making, with the share premiums account, a total of £296,667. Of this £127,658 is kept in separate securities on which there is a depreciation of £1,845, not an excessive sum all things considered. Property account, consisting of a fine, fat goodwill, freehold and leasehold premises, and freehold estates in Ceylon, now stands at £182,169 against £1,825,793, the capital addition for the year being £3,462, and the depreciation allowance £4,086. That means a nett reduction in the twelve months of £624, which is a splendid advance on the previous year's £26. Plant, machinery, fixtures, fittings, &c., were increased by £19,121, but in this case the percentage wastage allowance was better at £17,039, leaving the item at £198,320. Stocks have again increased by £20,730 to the great figure of £654,600, which is not a good sign when business is poor, and we note that sundry debtors £119,719 are less by £52,314. Part of this has gone on to the cash balance, the total being £76,476 against £54,171, and advances in stocks and investments account for the difference because bills payable £36,215, and sundry creditors £91,288 are both higher. On the whole, a pretty wretched display, the more serious because trade all through the country has been exceptionally good, and we begin to greatly fear that the business is unable to keep pace with its rivals.

J. LYONS AND CO.

The least satisfactory part of this company's report for the year ended March 31 is the proposal to further increase the capital by the creation of £1 preference shares. There are already 250,000 of these shares in existence, all of £1 each, and the directors now desire to double the amount, making the total £500,000, as

against the paid-up ordinary capital of £400,000. Such proportion is rather heavy, to our way of thinking, and the increase necessarily weakens the security of the preference shares already in existence. Moreover, the benefit of anything above 5 per cent. which the new capital may earn goes to the ordinary shareholders, who take no risk. Nor is it altogether certain that this is the last issue of preference shares which the directors contemplate, and it seems to us that further money should be raised by means of ordinary shares issued at a suitable premium. From the weakness of the company's shares after the dividend and bonus were announced last week, we should infer that some dealers had wind of this capital increase. As to the company's business, that was again wonderfully good in the year to March 31, and the gross trading profit of £666,550 is a really remarkable figure. It is £123,556 more than in the preceding 12 months, but again the interest, transfer fees, &c., were substantially lower at £904, so that altogether the revenue adds up to £667,454 against £545,716. Additional costs, however, were heavy, as might be expected, and we find that the salaries, wages, rents, rates, repairs, maintenance, &c., required a sum of £474,857 or an advance of £105,102. This left the nett balance at £192,646 compared with £176,010, a gain of £16,636, and with £35,685 brought in the directors have £228,332 at their disposal. Depreciation absorbs £42,294 against £36,772, an extra £4,219 at £17,625, is required for debenture interest, and the preference dividend again takes £8,333. Then £18,000 is provided for renewals, repairs, and advertising, having been set aside from last year's profits and included in the balance forward, and £142,080 is left. An interim dividend has been already paid at 25 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, and the directors now propose a final payment at 35 per cent. per annum, making 30 per cent. for the year, together with a bonus of 2½ per cent., carrying forward £34,505. Last year no bonus was paid. From the credit carried out the directors reserve £20,000 towards providing for installation expenses, future renewals, repairs, and advertising, and for the last quarter's preference dividend. We repeat our comparative statement, showing five years' results:—

	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.	1902.
	£	£	£	£	£
Gross profit.....	666,550	542,994	474,024	436,121	350,060
Profit to be dealt with, including amount brought forward.....	228,332	208,447	183,216	153,908	132,522
Debenture interest.....	17,625	13,406	12,000	12,000	4,665
Preference dividend.....	8,333	8,333	8,333	8,333	8,333
Depreciation.....	42,294	36,772	29,555	22,587	21,514
Interim dividend.....	41,375	41,375	40,042	38,750	37,500
Final dividend.....	66,200	57,925	56,058	54,250	48,750
Balance to carry forward.....	34,505	35,685	35,561	26,321	16,093
Reserve fund.....	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000

Capital expenditure for the year, not clearly revealed in the accounts, was £63,178, and we gather from the report that only two new establishments were opened during the financial year, both in January last. The company, however, completed the purchase at the price of £54,000 of the Crown lease property adjoining the "Popular" Café. After deducting the rather small sum of £18,705 for depreciation, the freehold land, buildings, and leasehold premises are entered at £1,068,884, and a further £11,883 represents outlay for sundry installation expenses. Depreciation allowed on plant, machinery, fittings, ovens, &c., is £23,588 on a total of £198,600, a very fair sum. The nett increase on the year is £14,915. Goodwill, as usual, remains at £39,189, and the reserve fund is still £400,000, mostly share premiums, and largely locked up in the business. Nevertheless, the company owes £50,000 to bankers, and has a heavy adverse trade balance, so that the provision of more capital is doubtless very necessary. Stock-in-trade is worth £153,479, not an excessive figure, and at the date of the balance-sheet the company had the excellent cash balance of £106,061, besides investments of £65,546 and loans

with interest of £15,937. The negotiations for the lease of Freemasons' Tavern, referred to last year, have been abandoned. Not a bad thing, we should say, because the company's expansion with big ventures was becoming a little too rapid.

THE RUSSIAN DUMA.

Stock markets here and abroad have been nervous this week because of the antagonism developed between the Russian Parliament and the bureaucracy, or rather the Cæsarism of the army. The impression prevails that the Duma is imitating the French States General of 1789, and formulating a subversive programme calculated to destroy the springs of wealth and therewith the security of the foreign usurer. Superficially this may be true enough, but if it be true, as the Petersburg correspondent of the *Tribune* has been telling us, that a military plot has been formed for the purpose of spiriting away the Duma, arresting it, destroying it, in fact, and declaring a dictatorship which would mean also the deposition of the Tsar, then the members of the representative assembly are to be forgiven if they put forward claims going far beyond what they might be willing to accept. Most circumstantial is the account of the plot printed in Wednesday's *Tribune* from its correspondent, and apparently the scheme would have already been carried out but for a doubt about the willingness of the army to follow these Prætorians, and for the difficulty in getting someone to accept the perilous and ungracious post of military dictator. The publicity given to the machinations of General Trepoff, several of the Grand Dukes and their surroundings, has also doubtless helped to avert the fate prepared by them for the Duma, and meanwhile there is hope in the very fact that the execution of such a daring project has been postponed; hope also in the dignified attitude of the representative assembly. Its words may be strong, its demands in some respects extreme, but it has not acted in a way to provoke conflict, nor sought to overstep the bounds of constitutional right. No threat has been formulated by it against the authority of the Tsar; on the contrary, it seeks on every occasion to show respect for his peculiar position, and if Nicholas II. were a strong man, able to sway in some measure the elements gathering for the tempest, or to enforce his will upon the intriguing courtiers around him, his wisest policy would be to throw in his lot with the Duma, and get its assistance in putting down disaffection and in giving Russia a new life. Unfortunately, aimable, well-intentioned and personally upright though he is, the Tsar has not the force of character which would enable him to play the part of leader in a democratic state. His weakness, indeed, is largely at the bottom of the whole mischief, and also his ignorance. It cannot be possible for a man placed as he is to get at the facts, to put himself in a position whence he can view events in their right proportion. Schooled as he has been in autocracy from his birth upwards, it is impossible for him, with his limited range of knowledge and somewhat narrow intellect, to realise that the only chance of saving his country from a cataclysm, whose effects might last into future centuries, lies in a bold adhesion to the popular cause.

Can one wonder that the Duma is restive and making formidable looking claims for the expropriation of the landowners, the splitting up of the huge Imperial domains, for control over the budget, for the right to appoint ministers and to compel them to give to it an account of their stewardship, when we read as we do in Thursday's *Tribune* that 20,000,000 of the Russian people scattered over 22 provinces are in a state of famine, and that the brutal police have actually interfered in places to prevent the distribution of food to the starving citizens because the soup kitchens were not licensed by them? The present famine is said to be greater than those of 1891 and 1892, so much greater that the help required would need to be five times more than was then given to be in the least degree effective; yet the police interfered to prevent the distribution of food provided by the charity of those

who still have something to give. Peasant families are lying prostrate in their poor huts, says this able correspondent, dying for want of food and from epidemics which are following swiftly in the wake of famine. They die in silence because however loudly they may complain no one comes to help them. And the Government, as usual, has been striving to hide the facts, hence the destruction of unlicensed centres of food distribution. The late Minister of the Interior, Mr. Durnovo, fearing lest the "intellectuals" should come into contact with the starving peasants, ordered, in a special circular published in every newspaper, that all soup kitchens opened without the special permission of the local governor should be immediately closed. This order has been obeyed, and the channels of charity flowing to the rescue of the little children and old people have been stopped. How is it possible for the peasant representatives in the Duma to be silent, meek, or acquiescent amid circumstances such as these? What can they think about tales of brutality, food emptied into the gutter rather than that the starving people should have it from an unlicensed kitchen? The wonder is that a general revolt has not already broken out all over the Empire and disorders are multiplying, ominous of still greater troubles to come. After all, the capacity of humanity to endure has limits, and the usurer must sometimes give a thought to these limits even amid his anxiety for the security he holds. Each day brings a catalogue of deeds of violence, ominous in the extreme, blackening the political horizon, and warning us that where autocracy is to-day anarchy may be to-morrow.

THE INSURANCE WAR.

It goes on briskly, and may ultimately do good if it keeps the public interested and inquisitive, but meanwhile it bodes mischief enough. Messrs. Linklater and Co., the solicitors to the policyholders' committee, which claims to represent the British insureds in the Mutual Life Company of New York, have issued a circular in which another attempt is made to justify the action of Mr. Haldeman. They rebut the suggestion that he who, up to May 10, was at the head of the British organisation of this alien company, has acted as a traitor in giving the names and addresses of Mutual policyholders to the North British and Mercantile. We cannot see much in their argument for the fact remains that he did convey a list of these policyholders to his new employers, and the rancour thereby excited is not likely to be diminished by any glosses. In fact, an action has already been commenced by the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York against the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company and Haldeman, and with a view to stop the further endeavours of the North British Company to seize its policyholders wholesale, counsel for the New York Company appeared before Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady on Wednesday, demanding urgency for a motion to restrain Mr. Haldeman from utilising the lists he took with him to the North British. The judge declined to make the order, and the question stands over for debate until the first motion day of next term, but the incident is significant enough, and promises many disagreeable wrangles in days to come.

Mr. E. McClintock, too, is now here. He was formerly actuary, and is now vice-president of the Mutual Life Assurance Company of New York, and his presence will doubtless stir up the British officials of the Mutual to renewed zeal. If, however, he expects to regain public confidence in this country by such declarations as the one made by him on landing to the effect that recent disclosures will have a beneficial effect on all concerned, and in future nothing will be possible which will not bear the closest investigation, he will find himself mistaken. This would be good news if the words were in any degree reflected in deeds, but they are not. Here is the test: Will Mr. McClintock and his colleagues consent to an actuarial valuation of the contracts, assets, and liabilities of his company by British actuaries selected here either

through the company's British policyholders, or by the officials of our Institute of Actuaries? If not then his words go for nothing, and we can only hope that the business of this and other American companies done here will dry up. It can only yield disappointments and vexations in the future to all who take out their policies, as it has done in the past, for we have seen no evidence of the least intention to effect genuine reforms. From this point of view we are wholly against these American offices, as we always have been, and rejoice that efforts should be made to wean people in this country away from the habit of trusting their money to alien institutions managed in the reckless, improvident, and even dishonest fashion recent disclosures have made patent. We may even go further, and say that had the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company or other home offices of similar standing publicly advertised their readiness to take over on stated terms the policies of all insureds in these American offices who cared to execute the transfer of existing policies to them, we should have had never a word to say in protest. And perhaps it would be better now, since war has been declared, were some of the other offices to enter into open competition for these policyholders in alien offices. The conflict has broken out, and it might be as well that the North British Company should be supported by its neighbours in endeavouring openly and fairly to take away business from these mismanaged, grossly corrupt and extravagant American organisations, organisations in the conduct of whose affairs we have never been able to find much trace of any design to use clients with scrupulous fairness. Failing a united and strong effort to put an end once and for all to the ravages of these foreign agencies we shall have to agitate for such changes in the laws regulating life insurance business here as will compel all foreign life offices to maintain reserves in the United Kingdom to guarantee fulfilment of their contracts, and to place these reserves in the hands of British trustees. This and the regulation of the scale of expenses would cure many evils.

THE MUTUAL RESERVE FUND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK.

It was quite nice on the part of the officials of this company to notify when closing their offices here that the discontinuance of further business in the United Kingdom will not in any way affect policies already in force. These are to be "duly honoured at maturity at the head office in New York, subject to the due fulfilment of the terms of such policies, including the payment of premiums." In future, however, all moneys should be sent direct to the head office in Broadway, New York City. Yes, but how will British holders of policies which become claims be able to enforce their rights on the other side of the Atlantic? In closing its London office the company did not leave so much as the brass door-plate to be seized by its creditors, and it has no marketable assets of any kind in the United Kingdom so far as we ever heard or know. This has always been the weak point about these alien offices doing what they called life insurance business here. Their funds are conveyed away to another country, and may be wasted there for all that policyholders here can say or do to protect themselves. Moreover, this Mutual Reserve has very little money of any description to divide amongst its creditors. As long ago as 1893 we took occasion to overhaul its pretences and pretensions of benevolence in language so frank that its officials attempted to bring an action for libel against us, but they thought better of it, and after indulging in a variety of displays, withdrew from the contest. In the quarterly number of this REVIEW for February, 1893, it was pointed out that the business was an unsound one, that it could not be honestly conducted, that policyholders here had no security whatever, that they were liable to be called upon to pay ever-increasing assessments as the claims became

more numerous, and that the company made a boast of accumulating no reserves whatever. For some years back an attempt has been made to alter this state of affairs; but even so, and taking the public figures of the head office as they stand, there does not appear to be £250,000 in hand to meet claims. Moreover, in former years, at all events, some of the alleged assets which the company claimed to possess were in pawn, and we really do not see how matters can have much improved in the interval, especially as policyholders in the United Kingdom have been successful in bringing actions for the restitution of all premiums paid, with interest, on the ground that they had been induced to take out policies by false pretences. Our impression, therefore, is that there will be next to nothing for any policyholder here, and because that is the view we hold, for which we have good and sufficient reasons, we believe that it would be throwing good money after bad to continue sending premiums to New York. If the policyholders could unite their forces here, and bring pressure to bear upon the Government in Washington, they possibly might secure something out of the wreckage—also they might not, for we believe the concern to be an empty shell, and shall not be surprised to find that it peters out with an evil smell.

THE BRITISH LINEN COMPANY BANK.

The directors of this old Scotch bank again feel able to declare a dividend of 20 per cent. for its year ended April 14 last. Nett profits from current business were £1,281 higher at £274,763, but only £16,198 was realised as profits on investments sold, or £9,321 less than in the preceding year. Also the balance brought forward was £21,000 down at £45,561. It resulted that the gross amount available for distribution was fully £29,000 less at £336,521, so there is no addition made to the reserve this year, as against £50,000 a year ago. It, however, stands at £1,700,000, against a paid-up capital of £1,250,000, so the directors have felt able to distribute £20,000 as dividend, half of which was paid last Christmas, the other half being due on the 25th inst. In addition, £20,000 has been set aside in reduction of the cost of bank offices, leaving £66,521, or nearly £21,000 more, to be carried forward. In the balance-sheet there is little change, but the deposits show a recovery of £345,000 at £12,260,000, so that the bank is either lending its funds more freely or its customers are beginning to accumulate savings again. Something of both may be operative, but more of the credit distilling. Notes in circulation have also recovered by £3,085 to a total of £843,190, but there is a falling off of £173,630 in the liability on acceptances, now down to £388,804. Among the assets, the most prominent item is always "bills discounted and advances on cash, credit, and current accounts," and the total of these has gone up by £762,670 to £6,232,421, a growth that would alone amply account for the increase in the deposits and current account balances. Cash, however, is also £155,576 up, or at least what is loosely called cash, for the balance-sheet item, as usual, contains a mixture of ingredients whose relative quantities are wholly concealed, and in which hard cash may have a minor share. The entry runs, "Gold and silver coin, notes of other banks, balances with London bankers, and money at call or short notice in London."

After the next Scotch bank panic we may be quite sure the reforming zeal of trustful shareholders and customers will put an end to this method of concealing facts. Investments in British, Indian, and colonial stocks amount to £1,564,446, a decrease of £294,000, so presumably the management has been selling at a profit. The bank has also £1,880,898 invested in stock of the Bank of England, Corporation, railway debenture, and other stocks (including £449 4s. 3d. of its own stock), and this is £298,000 or so less than the total of a year back. Altogether, therefore, investments held are less by about £592,000, which is rather a remarkable change. What has the board done with the money; how employed it? Fixed loans for short terms

are up only £4,647 at £3,773,137, so that it is in the larger business done in advances, and possibly in bills discounted, although that is doubtful enough, where we find the only apparent explanation of the expansion in profits and in deposit and current account balances, but there is nothing in the figures to explain the slight year-to-year variation in the profits, any more than there was when resources were diminishing, to account for their growth and the unexplained ability of the board to pay increasing dividends. All is mystery and unwholesome because it is so. We have, moreover, again to note the continuous growth of the bank's investments in real estate. In spite of £20,000 written off out of the past year's profits, the total of £1,036,000 is about £1,000 up in the balance-sheet compared with a year ago. London property, however, has been written down £10,000, and now stands at £390,000. Even so, upwards of £1,000,000, or all the capital except less than £215,000 invested in real property, mostly in bank offices, looks an excessive amount, but there is no hope of getting any explanation from the directors, and the shareholders are not in the least likely to utter a word as long as they get these 20 per cent. dividends. To them everything must be all right while that happy state of affairs continues. Nobody, for example, has even asked the company what its position is in relation to the defunct distilleries scattered over the highlands and to the over-capitalised breweries it did so much to help into existence; nor is there ever a word uttered with reference to its commitments in the Finlay-Muir companies, the repayment in full of whose debts to the bank can never, we fear, be looked for. How much was written off in the past year for bad and doubtful debts and what was the allowance for rebate on bills? If a London bank or discount company can set forth its rebate in the profit and loss account, why not a Scotch bank? We must continue to hammer at points like these until some reform in the interests of customers and shareholders alike is brought about. The aggregate of the balance-sheet, it may be added, is just about £161,000 up at £16,904,272, and the figures fit together in quite a model way always.

MANCHESTER BREWERY COMPANY.

In briefly dealing with the position of this badly used enterprise, as disclosed in the report for the year to February 24, we may say at the outset that we believe the company's affairs are now in thoroughly capable hands. All the troubles, and they are serious enough, arose from the reckless management of the late board, and the present men have a very hard task in clearing up the muddle. They cannot possibly succeed without a thorough capital reorganisation, because money has been actually lost, thrown away would not be too strong a term, and we are glad that a strong representative committee has been appointed to go thoroughly into the question. They will find the business decidedly troublesome, as we gather that losses to the amount of £359,000 will have to be provided for, besides a considerable accumulation of preference dividend arrears. Happily for the company some of the people with whom the late board had entered into important agreements involving the company in heavy obligations have proved exceedingly reasonable, and the present directors are quick to acknowledge the fact. For example, the contract to purchase some land in Trafford Park entailing an annual charge of £1,046 for chief rent and the erection prior to March of the current year of a new brewery to cost not less than £40,000 has been very considerably modified. After prolonged negotiations it was arranged to take over the land at 22½ years' purchase of the chief rent, and the sum of £5,000 has been already paid leaving £18,541 payable at the rate of £3,090 per annum, the vendors releasing the company from the covenant requiring the expenditure of £40,000. That is a very good achievement, and on the whole we suppose the directors were wise to avoid litigation over other matters. We gather that £12,000 has been obtained from the late directors in settlement of all claims, which seems a small sum considering the

misdeeds enacted, but doubtless this was better than a long legal fight. As to Mr. Benjamin Smith, he received £2,000 as compensation for removal from office. The agreement with this individual had about 3½ years to run, the salary being £1,250 per annum, and in some ways we are rather sorry the directors compromised instead of fighting the case. The proceedings would have been most illuminating. Other matters which have been satisfactorily settled up are the long outstanding contract entered into seven years ago for the purchase of properties from Messrs. G. F. Carrington and Sons, and the reduction of ordinary mortgage liabilities by about £40,000. It may be remembered that the committee of investigation appointed in 1904 recommended the outlay of at least £50,000 upon the company's premises in decorations and renovations, the whole to be immediately expended if possible, but in any case within five years. In pursuance of this proposal the directors last year laid out £25,839, of which £17,839 has been placed to suspense account and £8,000 written off the year's trading. Capital deficiency of £28,356 on the sale of Broadbent's properties, referred to in last year's report, has also been placed to suspense account pending the decision of the shareholders as to writing down the capital. Suspense account, therefore, stands at £46,195, profit and loss debit at £38,295, and we believe the capital deficiency is £274,429, thus making up the £359,000 above mentioned. During the year the directors reduced the freehold and copyhold properties by £97,825 to £1,079,953, and we suppose it is in this item that the principal losses lie. Other assets or entries on the credit side are goodwill and ingoings £180,596, freehold land at Trafford Park £23,601, leasehold properties £46,528, and cash balance £200. On the other side sundry mortgage creditors amount to £263,663 and other creditors to £98,568, while £18,541 is still owing on account of the Trafford Park purchase. As to the trading that yielded a profit of £119,979 in the twelve months to February 24, rents produced £11,692 and transfer fees £41, making £131,712. On the other hand salaries, wages, duties, rates, taxes, &c., absorbed £69,608, directors fees were very small at £471, and trustees' fees were almost as much at £461. Leasehold redemption took a further amount of £1,529, charge under the Compensation Act was £1,545, brewery repairs amounted to £3,140, and mortgage and debenture interest amounted to £31,741. Sum still left is £23,217, and after writing £8,000 off the year's special expenditure on repairs and alterations to houses and paying £2,000 to Mr. Smith the directors set the balance of £13,217 against the debit to profit and loss, reducing it to £38,294. It should be mentioned that the sales last year were up nearly £30,000, while the working expenses were reduced £4,000, so that if the capital is properly cut down and a little more money provided there ought to be some hope for the enterprise under the present management notwithstanding the scandalous abuses of the past. The directors of Showell's Brewery went to gaol for issuing a false balance-sheet, but in Manchester the standard of morality is evidently not very high.

AUSTRALIAN ESTATES AND MORTGAGE COMPANY.

It seems to be beyond question that Australia is recovering from her seven years of devastating and ruin-spreading drought in very satisfactory fashion. This is decidedly gratifying for the country's creditors, because the capital commitments of the Commonwealth are enormous for a country depending almost entirely upon nature for its prosperity. There are practically no industrial enterprises to give a helping hand when the land does not yield too bountifully; never can be while the country binds and fetters itself with protective tariffs, and it is hardly too much to say that the existence of the nation depends upon one thing, rain. Fortunately, that seems to have been fairly plentiful since the break up of the drought, and in their annual report just issued the directors of this company say

that the year 1905 was characterised by favourable conditions in most parts of Australia. Not all, because in some districts of Queensland the rainfall was much below the average. Satisfactory prices were obtained for live stock, and wool further advanced in value, now standing at a high figure. Moreover, since the commencement of the current year there has been an abundance of rain throughout Australia, especially in Queensland, and the prospects for the present season are considered satisfactory. All that is very pleasing, especially as it is accompanied by a further substantial improvement in revenue. Gross profit, including income from properties, interest on mortgages and investments, commission, and other profits, amounted to £211,953, or £23,356 more than in the preceding 12 months. Current expenses £19,732 and land and income-taxes £2,059 were a trifle larger, and the balance of nett profit comes out at £190,162 compared with £167,127. From that, interest on 4½ per cent. first mortgage and 5 per cent. "A" debenture stock requires £107,500, leaving £82,662, which is handled in the following manner: A sum of £67,009 is first placed to reserve, in order to bring the total thereof to £100,000, which had to be gathered before any interest was payable on the 4 per cent. "B" mortgage debenture stock—this in accordance with the resolution passed by debenture stockholders in 1901. The directors are then in a position to pay the full 4 per cent. interest due for 1904 and 2 per cent. on account of the period under review, making 6 per cent. in all, and leaving 2 per cent. in arrear. A balance still left of £959 is carried to the "B" debenture stock interest reserve fund. Shareholders, however, must not run away with the idea that the excellent progress made brings them in sight of a dividend, because there is the terrible debit to profit and loss of £361,227, arising from drought losses, to be wiped off first. That must take some years to accomplish under the best conditions. Meanwhile the directors are steadily liquidating the company's indebtedness, fixed and floating, and besides repaying a bankers' loan of £94,000, they reduced the "B" debenture stock from £581,635 to £534,903 through purchases in the open market at a discount and by tender. Profit on the transaction was £17,904, which has been carried to the special reserve, along with £1,200 received from the liquidator of the Union Mortgage and Agency Company of Australia, raising the total of this account to £50,628. Reserves now aggregate £150,628, against properties and stock, loans on mortgage, and other securities, £3,330,075. So far as can be gathered from the profit and loss account, this capital returns about 6 per cent. in interest, and as all drought losses are supposed to have been eliminated, the figure may represent fair value. Other important assets consist of tip-top investments £132,902, cash £30,329, and sundry debtors £214,927. On the other side, the floating liabilities are quite moderate at £64,264, and there is no doubt at all that the position is vastly improved.

TRANSVAAL CHAMBER OF MINES' REPORT.

Necessarily much of the matter in this many ways important annual report is old, and no inconsiderable part of its contents have already appeared in these columns. Nevertheless, the book is useful, for it concentrates in handy size data and statistics to which one can refer, while the student of the Rand mining industry will find it full of practical historical knowledge. Much of the report of the executive committee deals with the question of native labour, but this is looked at, we must remember, from a very narrow and interested standpoint, not from a broad and general one. For instance, considerable stress is laid upon the difficulty of recruiting native labour by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, but the methods adopted by the recruiters are not particularly of the kind likely to be successful. Nor can we think there is any sincere and intense desire on its part to succeed, for if natives came to the mines in multitudes, what would become of the bosses' beloved coolies?

However, it is interesting to learn that during the 12 months the Association spent no less than £273,000 in obtaining labour from the native territories, and that the total expenditure since its inception in 1901 to the end of 1905 reached £952,278. This is a colossal sum, but it is a costly thing to send a number of gentlemen of luxurious tastes over thousands of miles of territory to try and persuade a native or two to work in the mines. This costly method was not resorted to when the bosses desired to tell the natives of South Africa that their wages would be reduced. It would cost considerably less than a million to issue proclamations in the various native languages offering the blacks a fair day's wage for a fair day's work, with no kicks and cuffs as bonus. We have always held that this rational business mode of proceeding would meet with far greater success than the cumbrous policy of recruiting by men who may look upon such labour as a kind of holiday task. And the Chinaman, when they have got him, is not spoken of with enthusiasm. "When allowance is made for the novelty of the work performed by coolies on the mines and the necessary period required to train them after arrival to the performance of their duties, the standard of efficiency is reported to be very satisfactory. The average coolie is a steady worker." He is, but he likes his liberty and good pay, and on the Rand has neither. In the scores of reports issued by mining companies the costliness of the coolie has been bewailed, for it takes a long time to train the gentleman to his work. An efficient worker underground he never or rarely becomes, and his failure in this respect probably explains the dry vagueness of the phrase quoted above. Satisfactory to whom is the coolie? He has not been very much so to the shareholders, and steadiness does not connote cheapness and economy. In April, 1905, a system of piece work contracts was inaugurated, but it is admitted to be impossible "to judge accurately whether the cost of this class of labour, calculated for a period of, say, three years, will work out higher than native labour when the increasing efficiency of the labourers is taken into account." Beyond this the report of the executive is of the usual humdrum character. From the statistical portion of it we learn that the number of stamps at work increased from 5,835 to 7,335, in addition to which five tube mills were at work. The total output was 4,897,221 ozs., valued at £20,802,074, an increase of 1,117,600 ozs., made up as follows:—

	Ozs.	£
Increase in mill production ..	696,265	2,957,546
Increase in concentrates	18,898	80,274
Increase in sands	309,568	1,314,962
Increase in slimes	89,358	379,569
Increase in banks	11,919	50,629
	1,126,008	4,782,980
Less unspecified gold in 1904	8,408	35,715
	1,117,600	4,747,265

There was more activity in the outlying districts, the number of companies contributing being 16, against 12, and the number of stamps running 425, compared with 285.

BLEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

We are glad to find this great business doing something to justify its enormous capitalisation. Profits have always been moderately good, that is to say, no violent slump to vanishing point occurred such as happened with most of the other northern textile trusts, but even when the revenue somewhat exceeded prospectus estimates no dividend could be immediately paid, because the vendors were obliged to recognise the enormous item of goodwill, and place something to reserve. A year ago, however, ordinary dividends were commenced with a 2 per cent. payment, and now this distribution is to be doubled. After first charging £149,911, or £20,754 less, for maintenance and repairs, the balance on trading account is £470,685, or an increase of the very considerable sum of £112,974. Interest and in-

come from investments reached £6,616, and transfer fees produced £376, making an aggregate of £477,678. Against this we get central charges £16,834, interest account £4,608, second instalment to British Cotton Growing Association £1,000, and loss on realisation of investments £2,504. Then £14,200 is written off leasehold and sundry property accounts, the depreciation fund receives £50,000, or £20,000 more, and £15,000, compared with nothing, is provided as a special fund for improvements of power plant. Debenture interest requires the usual sum of £101,250, and £272,282 is left. To that is added £17,619 brought in, making £289,901, and, after providing preference dividend, the directors pay 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares, adding £50,000 to the general reserve, £10,000 to the fire insurance fund, and carrying forward £12,883. That is a very good display, but it has not all been achieved on the original properties. No less than four additional businesses were acquired during the year, and we note that the outlay on capital account was the great sum of £606,090. Writing off £14,200, as already mentioned, this leaves the capital outlay at £7,116,499, and even now the total accumulations for depreciation and reserve are only £435,000. We believe goodwill stands at £1,750,000. The rather considerable sum of £377,659 is owing to sundry creditors, against debtors £351,810, stocks £215,141, and cash £95,368.

American Business Notes.

Last week the New York Associated Banks were again compelled to enlarge their advances, so as to help the creators of new securities to what is called "money." The increase was only £1,760,000, but the total of loans and discounts is now upwards of £205,000,000 for these Associated Banks alone, and this total has been reached in spite of enormous transfers of securities to London and Paris, whereby the means of English and French banks have been committed to American finance to an extent wholly unprecedented. And the position in New York remains precarious, for the surplus reserve has again fallen off about £700,000, until it only amounts to £1,340,000, against £2,300,000 last year. At this season of the business year this surplus is much too narrow. Perhaps it may be helped a little by the return of gold from San Francisco, although that is a contingency by no means to be speculated upon, but there are hundreds of corporations in the United States all waiting to launch new securities in order to feed the ever-grinding mills of industry, and to flaunt before the world the unparalleled prosperity of the great Republic.

For last year the Anaconda Copper Company shows a profit of \$5,588,000, exclusive of £131,000 received as interest. After paying three quarterly dividends, aggregating 11½ per cent., which took \$3,450,000, the surplus for the year is brought out at \$2,269,000. In the course of the year \$17,429,000 worth of copper, silver, and gold were disposed of, and the stock at the end of the year, copper taken at cost and silver and gold at the selling price, was about \$575,000 less than at the beginning, the total being \$5,761,000.

Last year's report of the Pennsylvania Company, that dependent of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which works all its lines west of Pittsburg, showed a nett income of \$6,054,431, of which \$2,000,000 was at once put aside for extraordinary expenditure, and another \$1,656,000 absorbed in sinking fund charges. Then dividends aggregating 5 per cent. were paid on the company's stock, taking \$2,000,000 more, leaving a surplus of \$398,268, against \$1,560,000 the year before. Gross receipts were slightly up at \$40,596,440, and working expenses a trifle less at \$29,038,778. A great deal of work is going on all over the system.

The inquiry that has been going on into the railway and rebate questions in the American Congress has produced some revelations on all fours with the scandals in the insurance companies that have been before the

public during the past year. As the *New York Evening Post* says, "Sworn testimony that trusted officials of the Pennsylvania Railroad are vulgar 'grafters' would have shocked and surprised men a year and a-half ago; but the insurance revelations have hardened us to news of this kind." It then goes on to summarise some of the evidence, which tells a startling story. For instance, G. W. Creighton, general superintendent of the Altoona division, received 1,300 shares of stock from some mining companies with which his road has permanent business. When asked whether they had been given for "pure love and affection," he replied, "I just accepted them without asking any questions." Mr. George W. Clarke, a car distributor, benefited by occasional cheques for \$50, cases of wine, boxes of cigars, and dividends on coal companies' shares. He was not informed what it was all for, but accepted the gifts and cashed the cheques. Regarding some stock worth \$5,000 that came into his possession, he put in the *non mi ricordo* plea, he could not "recall the circumstances." Mr. John J. Jamison, president of the Jamison Coal and Coke Company, acknowledged without hesitation that he had sent a cheque for \$5,000 to Mr. Pitcairn, assistant to President A. J. Cassatt, in order to secure advantages. He had also given stock to other Pennsylvania officials, among others to E. Pitcairn, trainmaster Pittsburgh division, 200 shares, value \$10,000; R. L. O'Donnel, superintendent Buffalo and Alleghany division, 200 shares, value \$10,000; George W. Clarke, car distributor, 100 shares, value \$5,000; a clerk, de Boyer, in superintendent Gibbs' office, in charge of motor power, 200 shares, value \$10,000. These are only a few of the details elicited during the examination of officials of the various corporations immediately concerned, but they have created a very deep impression on the public, whose thinking faculties were first set in motion by the insurance revelations.

Perhaps the most important result of the various inquiries that have been set on foot at Washington and in several State legislatures as a consequence of the great insurance scandals, and the efforts of the "small dealer" to avert being crushed by the ever growing power of the trusts and railway monopolies, is the discredit which has fallen on President Roosevelt in connection with the Rate Bill, now before the Senate, which is intended to control the railway tariffs. The unfortunate habit into which the President has fallen of following up his recommendation of any measure to Congress by mixing himself up in the party intrigues that accompany the passage of every Bill of a fundamental nature through the Federal Legislature seems likely to react on his prospects in the next presidential election. In order to secure the passage of the Bill in the form he desired he entered into secret negotiation with the Democratic senators in order to defeat Senator Aldrich, one of the Standard Oil men, and his followers, whose opposition, to say nothing more, to the President is patent to the world. By a combination of Democrats and "Roosevelt Republicans," as they came to be called, he hoped to carry the day, but when in some way it dawned on him that he was being duped, and he suddenly saw a great light which revealed to him that in reality "Aldrich and those fellows" held the winning cards, he abandoned the men who had rallied to him without a word of notification, and denied that any dealings had taken place with them. The result has been an unseemly bandying about of the lie between the President and the men he entangled himself with; and between individual senators of both parties. The conflict is really one between the Standard Oil and its partisans in the Legislature on one side, and those who more or less sincerely and for political reasons are, or wish to pose as, its opponents and protectors of the public interests, on the other. Whatever form the Bill may ultimately pass in it is undeniable that the reputation of President Roosevelt and of the Republican party has suffered a severe blow through his reckless energy and disregard of methods in compassing his ends. What the effect of the Bill when it becomes law will be on the business

of the country remains to be seen. All will depend on its execution; for so far when the Standard Oil and the law have come in conflict it has not been the great trust that has suffered the most. It would be strange if the result of the present contest were to add the bones of a United States President to those of other victims on the field of its many victories.

Passing Events.

The directors of the Nigeria Bitumen Corporation state that the manager believes the company's licences cover a very important oilfield, and that drilling will have to be undertaken by the company. They have not sufficient funds to deal with this work in addition to the bitumen, and an arrangement has been made under which an issue of 20,000 shares is guaranteed in consideration of an option expiring on September 1, 1907, to subscribe at par for 1,993 shares. The arrangement provides that the shareholders are to be given an opportunity to take these 20,000 shares at par, and the directors therefore invite subscriptions. On their own showing the issue seems to be rather premature, as the directors admit that the manager's formal report on the subject of oil has not yet been received, and we fail to see from the circular where the need for such haste lies.

Naval manœuvres are costly experiments always, and one cannot help harking back now and then to the good old days when it was a comparatively easy matter to convert the trading vessel into a fighting one. Nowadays we have specialised to such an extent that the mercantile marine is practically useless for offence in times of war. Accordingly we have been spending £40,000,000 or so a year in building and maintaining the most monstrous war navy the world ever saw, and part of that navy consists in unwieldy battleships so loaded with armour as to be really unseaworthy, unable to stand any unusual strain. No wonder then that whenever the fleets start out to manœuvre accidents and losses ensue. This week the first-class battleship *Montagu*, launched in 1903 and costing quite £1,500,000, has struck on the rocks at Shutter Point, Lundy Island, and is breaking up. The weight of the vessel causes her to go to pieces, her top-heaviness being such as renders it altogether impossible for the lower hull to sustain the weight when a rock is struck. Her armour rends her to pieces. How much longer is the nation going to submit to the construction of these monsters of the deep, full of danger to those who man them, enormously costly to the taxpayer and comparatively useless in warfare? Oh, the loss of the *Montague* is good for Sheffield and Glasgow at least, will provide more work perhaps for some of the unemployed.

Sir Donald Currie stood up briskly in defence of the South African shipping ring at the meeting of the Union Castle Company's shareholders this week, but we really cannot say that his speech was convincing. His attitude is one of absolute refusal of the demands made by South African merchants and traders. The "ring" can do nothing for them. Freight rates are as low as it is possible to work the business on, and it is therefore useless to complain. Indeed, we gather from Sir Donald's words that there is no ground for complaint, but that statement will hardly wash. People never unite in growling when there is no grievance. Individuals may make an outcry because of some special cause of discontent peculiar to themselves, but a whole trading community cannot be induced to stand up together and demand changes, and make appeals to Government, unless there are real grievances; nor is it possible on any sound business principle to justify the rebate system established by the "ring." It constitutes tyranny which, however good it may be, temporarily at least, for shipping company shareholders, is in the long-run most injurious to business. When, in other words, a group of ocean carriers establish by combination a monopoly so as to be able to dictate their terms to shippers that monopoly invariably becomes oppressive.

Mr. Athol Thorne endeavoured to cheer the shareholders of the National Explosives Company at their meeting this week by holding out hopes about the future. Business has been bad enough in the past, as he frankly admitted. 1904 year was the worst of the three recent ones, involving a loss of £16,000 chiefly because of a serious explosion at the factory. But last year was not so particularly brilliant, for the gross loss in it was £6,700, and only by knocking off the debenture interest as a revenue charge was it brought down to £600. Still, Mr. Thorne says the future is suffused with hope, for the second half of 1905 marked a turn in the tide. "We have ceased to lose ground," he said, "and we are in fact holding our own." We trust it may be so, for the company has been very disappointing to its proprietors this long while back.

A report comes from Glasgow that an amalgamation is to be arranged between Babcock and Wilcox, Limited, and Stirlings, Limited, hitherto keen competitors in the manufacture of water tube boilers. According to this arrangement the shareholders in Stirlings, Limited, will receive three Babcock and Wilcox shares for each Stirling share held, so says the Glasgow correspondent of the *Financial Times*.

At the meeting of Willoughby's Consolidated this week Lieut.-Col. A. W. Jarvis descanted quite touchingly upon the wonderful and substantial increase in the Rhodesian gold output and upon the prospects of Willoughby's Consols and its subsidiaries. We envy the Colonel's happy imagination which can take delight in such beautiful mental pictures, for duller-minded people can see no evidence of expansion identical with greater individual success. And as for the subsidiaries they are hard up for more cash, and the parent company naturally wishes them to pay off their debts, in order to replenish its own attenuated purse. This money is to be raised, if it be possible, by amalgamation, and if shareholders see their money restored, with interest, at some future time we shall be greatly surprised. What is not good enough for tributaries is not good enough for them. As for Willoughby's itself, will not the wonderful diamond "find" rehabilitate its shattered fortunes and give shareholders some of their own back? At least, this is what they are tempted to expect. Not only does the company possess 5,000 shares in the South African Option Syndicate, but Sir John Willoughby has generously made it a present of part of his private interest. We shall not know, however, what these shares and this interest are worth until we know what diamonds are on the property, and what their commercial value is. And it will take considerable time and money to find this out.

Apropos of the above, the chairman presiding at a meeting of the Rhodesia Chamber of Mines lamented the shortage of labour consequent upon the rapid expansion of the mining industry. This is something quite new, for the companies in their reports say there is a fair supply of labour. But to attribute the shortage to the "rapid expansion" of an industry that grows at less than a snail's pace is a terminological inexactitude that will not stand the test even of superficial investigation. The gold output, the same gentleman declared, increased by 42 per cent. during the past year, yet the production is still tiny, shareholders do not receive dividends, many companies are making losses, others are liquidating and reconstructing, and not a few have to "economise" by amalgamating. This is the grand result of a 42 per cent. increase! And despite this prodigious yield, he pathetically appealed to the Chartered Company to repeal the 30 per cent. vendor interest clause. Surely a "rapidly expanding" industry ought to be able to bear this heavy and unjust impost! And is there no consideration to be shown to this debt-laden, penurious, Imperial gold swallower?

In his Johannesburg Jottings, "Dadge" writes in this strain in the *Sporting Times*:—

"I pity the Liberal Government with all the South African problems to solve. It is like a game of chess—magnates *versus* Government, played through the columns of a newspaper. Some of the magnate moves puzzle even those on the spot.

White men and black men are being knocked off the board; it behoves the Government to see that the full complement of yellow men follow. So far there has been a monopoly in procuring black labour by the W.N.L.A., which works hand and glove with the capitalists. An independent lot of men have arisen offering to procure as many black men as are desired; and obstacles are being put in the way of this organisation, naturally. Magnates have been flying to Delagoa to try and work the Portuguese authorities to prevent recruiting in their domains, and have generally been betraying their hand. Had they kept quiet, and allowed the New Labour Company to do their best, it would have proved or disproved their contention that black labour is not procurable honestly; but their present action, in trying to stop the recruiting at the outset, shows them up in a deplorable light, and won't help them with the Imperial Government."

Here is independent testimony to what many another honest observer has said.

The first feeling excited by the news of the attempted murder of the young King and Queen of Spain on their way back from the church where they were wed is a mingled one of horror and fury, horror at the crime and fury against the criminal. But rage passes, giving place to thankfulness that the intended victims escaped. Yet no language can express the detestation aroused in all healthy minds by deeds of this description. Whatever excuses may be advanced, however much stress may be laid on the fact that the rulers of Spain have in the past tantalised the people by their savage inhumanity, the fact remains that crimes like this are as futile for good as they are infamous and abominable. Far more injurious to the cause of national freedom and progress is one such foul deed than decades of official oppression. Cruelty—and how fiendishly cruel the perpetrators of such deeds are—is made manifest by the reckless slaughter and wounding of bystanders that resulted from the attempt to kill King Alfonso and his bride—cruelty begets cruelty, savage attack savage repression, and the last state of a country cursed by anarchist outrages often becomes one of greater misery and degradation among the people than ever. Witness Russia. Joining sincerely as we do in the thankfulness and congratulations everywhere felt and expressed that these young lives have been spared, we can only hope that their horrible experience on their wedding day will blunt neither the King's nor the Queen's sympathies for their people, nor turn them aside from labouring together to remove the ignorance and injustice which form the fertile if putrid source from which spring crimes like that to which they so nearly fell victims.

Answers to Correspondents.

MITHRA.—(1) These shares stand at par, the nominal price being 2s. 6d. There is, therefore, not much scope for improvement, although the company's position is pretty good. (2) Much better to wait, we think. Even then it would probably be doubtful policy to buy.

H. D. R.—(1) You will realise that it is quite impossible to fix a precise date for a particular event. That the collapse will come some day is reasonably certain, because vicious inflation such as that recently indulged in can only have one end. All we can immediately say is that the shares mentioned should not be touched until they are many points lower than they are now. (2) The character of the lodes is not, as a rule, patchy and pocket; they are what is called permanent and continuous, so have lasted, and are likely to last, many years. (3) On the outlook for the metal market the prospective value for these shares has much improved, and they seem to be an attractive speculative investment. The company is honestly and well managed, and unless something quite unforeseen happens, it should continue to pay good dividends for some years to come. (4) What we say of No. 3 applies equally to this company. The directorial report, issued this week, is dealt with in the present number. (5) This concern also appears to have better prospects, based on the outlook for the industry generally, but the share is more speculative than either 4 or 5.

STANNITE.—No. 1 seems much the better of the two. See our note on it in the present issue.

NORTH.—There is very little difference in the merits of these shares as speculative investments, but if you think of buying any we should prefer No. 1, as the prospects seem to be a little more in favour of this from a dividend paying point of view.

UNION OF LONDON AND SMITHS BANK.—Deposits and current accounts on May 23 came to £34,603,488, acceptances and liabilities by endorsement to £4,629,308, and other liabilities to £560,131, while assets consisted of cash in hand and at Bank of England £5,821,699, money at call and short notice £6,451,190, investments including reserve fund £6,292,404, and discounts, loans and other advances £19,927,319.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for ten days ended May 23, \$2,952, increase \$669.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 27, \$22,931, increase \$3,250; aggregate from January 1, \$302,100, decrease \$2,314.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 28, Rs. 67,442, increase Rs. 14,424; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 11,88,707, increase Rs. 1,46,419.

British Columbia Electric Railway.—Net earnings for April, \$24,707, increase \$1,669.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 21, \$133,600, increase \$57,300; total from July 1, \$4,759,300, increase \$1,396,900.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 28, Rs. 41,046, increase Rs. 2,580.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 15, £383, increase £44.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 2nd week of May, \$14,311, increase \$2,531; aggregate from January 1, \$294,988, increase \$53,600.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 28, Rs. 22,616, increase Rs. 5,229.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended May 7 amounted to \$17,500.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending May 26, £1,198, decrease £32; aggregate from January 1, £25,916, increase £272.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending May 26, £740, increase £19; aggregate from January 1, £15,351, increase £779.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for March, £4,206, decrease £188.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending May 26, £375, increase £25; aggregate from January 1, £9,162, increase £746.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 25, £1,416, increase £175; aggregate from January 1, £28,979, increase £4,036.

Blessington and Poulaphuca.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 27, £11, decrease £2; aggregate from January 1, £184, decrease £7.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 25, £4,898, decrease £31; aggregate from January 1, £101,495, increase £4,153.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending May 25, £28,660, increase £3,179; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £587,621, increase £89,234; 438 miles, against 424½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 26, £1,134, increase £89; aggregate from January 1, £23,521, increase £1,766.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 27, £121, decrease £8; aggregate from January 1, £2,266, decrease £54.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 25, £124, increase £2; aggregate from January 1, £2,086, decrease £117.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 25, £4,784, decrease £339; aggregate from January 1, £97,249, increase £944.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 26, £5,309, decrease £57; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £97,630, increase £2,052.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 25, £166, decrease £97.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 24, £607.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 26, £380, decrease £137; aggregate from October 1, £10,021, decrease £986.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 26, £24,482, increase £10,252; aggregate from April 1, £209,547, increase £97,672. Miles 97 against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 26, £23,240, decrease £1,959; aggregate from January 1, £449,806, decrease £26,584.

London Motor Omnibus (Vanguard).—Traffic receipts for week ending May 26, £3,374, increase £2,842.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 25, £8,752, increase £54; aggregate from January 1, £160,271, increase £1,861.

Rosedale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 26, £193, decrease £1.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 27, £853, increase £156; aggregate from January 1, £16,132, increase £3,357.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 27, £14,651, increase £1,755; aggregate from January 1, £316,335, increase £33,535.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of January, 1906, £11,016, increase £267.

British Columbia Electric.—Net earnings for April, \$24,707, increase \$1,669. Net earnings from July 1 to April 30, \$420,142, increase \$115,242.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending May 27, £3,824, increase £352; aggregate from January 1, £75,453, increase £5,395.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 21, £1,403, increase £213; aggregate from January 1, £22,673, increase £4,853.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of April, \$311,600.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 26, Rs. 41,212, increase Rs. 4,011; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 9,22,874, increase Rs. 94,823.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of April, £4,898, increase £2,101. Total from January 1, £19,159, increase £7,820.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of March, \$418,249, increase \$56,518; aggregate from January 1, \$12,06,500, increase \$172,197. Net traffic receipts, \$220,194, increase \$31,228; aggregate from January 1, \$6,14,082, increase \$98,140.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	Wks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	Wks.
Baker St. and Waterloo ..	May 26	1,383	+	24	15,972	—	—
Brecon and Merthyr ..	" 27	1,935	—	77	42,632	+	2,327
Cambrian ..	" 27	5,918	—	280	110,210	—	1,785
Central London ..	" 26	6,464	—	251	142,481	—	4,620
City and South London ..	" 27	2,546	+	73	59,809	+	268
Furness ..	" 27	10,474	+	1,041	207,662	+	26,007
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 27	70,714	+	4,973	1,472,015	+	67,113
Great Eastern ..	" 27	93,300	—	400	1,989,000	+	15,600
Great Northern and City ..	" 26	1,763	+	175	37,750	+	1,804
Great Northern ..	" 26	108,000	+	4,164	2,240,500	+	56,463
Great Western ..	" 27	234,000	+	6,200	4,640,300	+	35,400
Hull and Barnsley ..	" 27	11,004	+	2,969	205,441	+	21,614
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 27	106,567	+	3,754	2,168,660	+	68,198
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 26	55,176	+	948	1,168,780	—	3,127
London & North Western ..	" 27	274,000	+	10,000	5,627,000	+	190,000
London & South Western ..	" 27	90,600	+	800	1,766,500	+	15,300
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 27	8,772	+	223	174,920	+	7,983
Metropolitan ..	" 27	15,682	—	2,235	342,769	—	19,809
Metropolitan District ..	" 27	8,419	+	1,103	167,715	+	10,936
Midland ..	" 26	218,641	+	4,114	4,583,432	+	131,712
North Eastern ..	" 26	180,062	+	8,375	3,659,525	+	197,162
North London ..	" 27	8,626	—	392	187,825	—	4,660
North Staffordshire ..	" 27	17,471	+	674	372,468	+	14,125
Rhymney ..	" 27	6,245	+	40	126,973	+	3,394
South Eastern & London ..	" 26	81,964	+	743	1,698,106	+	3,023
Chatham & Dover ..	" 26	81,964	+	743	1,698,106	+	3,023
Taff Vale ..	" 27	18,647	—	98	402,951	+	14,449

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian ..	May 27	87,628	+	1,225	1,422,744	+	26,460
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 26	35,256	+	782	555,240	+	16,793
Great North of Scotland ..	" 26	9,340	+	380	147,935	+	1,138
Highland ..	" 27	9,611	+	41	144,129	+	630
North British ..	" 27	94,934	+	135	1,599,337	+	34,027

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	May 25	2,927	—	439	50,806	—	2,666
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 25	1,838	+	102	32,467	+	141
Great Northern ..	" 25	18,466	+	131	358,996	+	4,449
Midland Great Western ..	" 25	11,583	—	338	213,491	—	6,207

§ From January 1.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, May 28.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, May 28.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
3 1/2	Angelo	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	May Consolidated	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Anglo-French Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
4 1/2	Apex	4 1/2	4 1/2	6 1/2	Modderfontein	6 1/2	6 1/2
3 1/2	Aurora West	3 1/2	3 1/2	1	Do. B.	1	1
3 1/2	Bantjes	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	New Goch	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Block B.	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	City and Suburban, £4	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	Comet (New)	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Cons. Goldfields	4 1/2	4 1/2	18 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	18 1/2	18 1/2
10 1/2	Do. Pref.	10 1/2	10 1/2	1 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
2	Crown Reef	2	2	6 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	6 1/2	6 1/2
10 1/2	Driefontein	10 1/2	10 1/2	1 1/2	Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	3 1/2	3 1/2	8 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4	8 1/2	8 1/2
3 1/2	East Rand	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	East Rand Extension	5 1/2	5 1/2	1 1/2	Roodepoort United	1 1/2	1 1/2
18 1/2	Ferreira	18 1/2	18 1/2	1	Salisbury	1	1
1 1/2	French Rand	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Sheba (New)	6 1/2	6 1/2
3 1/2	Geduld	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Geldenhuis Estate	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	2 1/2	2 1/2
3 1/2	Ginsburg	3 1/2	3 1/2	13 1/2	Steyn Estate	13 1/2	13 1/2
3 1/2	Glencam	3 1/2	3 1/2	13 1/2	Transvaal Development	13 1/2	13 1/2
7 1/2	Harmony Proprietary	7 1/2	7 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Henderson's Transvaal	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Treasury	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Horiot	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Van Ryn	3 1/2	3 1/2
3 1/2	Johannesburg Con. In.	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Jubilee	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Vogelstruis	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Jumpers	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Wegedacht	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Kleinfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	West Rand Console	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Knight's	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Wolhuter, £4	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Lancaster	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Worcester	3 1/2	3 1/2
2 1/2	Langlaagte Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2				

DEEP LEVELS.

1 1/2	Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bonanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Cinderella Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Robinson Deep (new)	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Crown Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Roodepoort Cn. Deep	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Rose Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
6 1/2	Deep	6 1/2	6 1/2	3 1/2	South Rose Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
6 1/2	Geldenhuis Deep	6 1/2	6 1/2	4 1/2	Village Main Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Knight's Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2				

RHODESIANS.

1 1/2	Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Rhodesia Exploration	2 1/2	2 1/2
12 1/2	Charter Trust and Agency	12 1/2	12 1/2	1 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Selukwe	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Lomagunda Development	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Tanganyika	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	12 1/2	Willoughby	12 1/2	12 1/2
2 1/2	Mayo (Rhodesia)	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2

DIAMONDS.

17 1/2	De Beers Deferred	17 1/2	17 1/2	7 1/2	Koffyfontein	7 1/2	7 1/2
17 1/2	Do. Preferred	17 1/2	17 1/2	2 1/2	Lace Diamond	2 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	Eland's Drift Diamond	2 1/2	2 1/2	18 1/2	Orange Free State Diamond	18 1/2	18 1/2
8 1/2	Frank Smith Diamond	8 1/2	8 1/2	10 1/2	Premier Diamond Def.	10 1/2	10 1/2
4 1/2	Jagersfontein Deferred	4 1/2	4 1/2	9 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	9 1/2	9 1/2
4 1/2	Do. Preferred	4 1/2	4 1/2				
2 1/2	Kamlersdam	2 1/2	2 1/2				

WEST AFRICAN.

16 1/2	Abbotiakoan	16 1/2	16 1/2	8 1/2	Gold Coast Agency, new	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	2 1/2	2 1/2
3 1/2	Ankobra	3 1/2	3 1/2	5 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau)	5 1/2	5 1/2
3 1/2	Aschanti Consols, 2/- paid	3 1/2	3 1/2	5 1/2	Deep	5 1/2	5 1/2
9 1/2	Do. Goldfields	9 1/2	9 1/2	1 1/2	Himan Concessions	1 1/2	1 1/2
6 1/2	Sansu	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	Obbuasat Syndicate	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Prestea	6 1/2	6 1/2
23 1/2	British Gold Coast	23 1/2	23 1/2	1 1/2	Seckondi and Tarkwa	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Broommasie	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	Taquaah and Abosso	2 1/2	2 1/2
12 1/2	Effuante (Wassau)	12 1/2	12 1/2	1 1/2	Wassau	1 1/2	1 1/2
12 1/2	Fanti Consolidated	12 1/2	12 1/2	1 1/2	W. A. Gold Trust	1 1/2	1 1/2

AUSTRALIAN.

1 1/2	Anglo-Aus. Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2	Ida H.	7 1/2	7 1/2
2 1/2	Associated	2 1/2	2 1/2	6 1/2	Ivanhoe Gold Corp.	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Ivanhoe South	6 1/2	6 1/2
2 1/2	Bellevue Proprietary	2 1/2	2 1/2	9 1/2	Kalgurli	9 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Boulder Deep Levels	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 1/2
11 1/2	Brownhill Extended	11 1/2	11 1/2	1 1/2	Lancefield	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chaffers 4/	1 1/2	1 1/2	11 1/2	London & W.A. Explor.	11 1/2	11 1/2
6 1/2	Cosmopol'n Pr'p'ty	6 1/2	6 1/2	1 1/2	Mount Boppy	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Golden Horseshoe, New Shares	5 1/2	5 1/2	3 1/2	North Kalgurli	3 1/2	3 1/2
3 1/2	Golden Links	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	1 1/2	1 1/2
9 1/2	Golden Pole	9 1/2	9 1/2	1 1/2	Peak Hill	1 1/2	1 1/2
24 1/2	Great Boulder, 2/-	24 1/2	24 1/2	1 1/2	South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
11 1/2	Do. Perseverance	11 1/2	11 1/2	1 1/2	Sons of Gwalia	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Great Fingall	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	W'str lla Mt Morgans	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2				
1 1/2	Hampton Plains	1 1/2	1 1/2				
1 1/2	Hannan's Star	1 1/2	1 1/2				

MISCELLANEOUS.

13 1/2	Anaconda, 25 dols.	13 1/2	13 1/2	1 1/2	Libiola, £5	1 1/2	1 1/2
29 1/2	Balaghat, full paid	29 1/2	29 1/2	4 1/2	Linares £3	4 1/2	4 1/2
7 1/2	Brilliant and St. George	7 1/2	7 1/2	3 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	3 1/2	3 1/2
37 1/2	Broken Hill, Prop.	37 1/2	37 1/2	4 1/2	Mount Lyell	4 1/2	4 1/2
22 1/2	Camp Bird	22 1/2	22 1/2	3 1/2	M't. Morgan	3 1/2	3 1/2
6 1/2	Cape Copper, £2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	Mysore, 10s.	6 1/2	6 1/2
17 1/2	Champion Reef, 2/-	17 1/2	17 1/2	1 1/2	Mysore Goldfields, 15/-	1 1/2	1 1/2
13 1/2	Clitters United	13 1/2	13 1/2	7 1/2	Do. West, 10/-	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Con. Gold N.Z.	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2	Do. Wynaad, 10/-	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	Copiapu, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Namaqua, £2	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Cornish C'n'sols	1 1/2	1 1/2	26 1/2	Nyndroog, 10/- shares	26 1/2	26 1/2
1 1/2	Cromandel 19/6 pd.	1 1/2	1 1/2	16 1/2	Oo egum	16 1/2	16 1/2
3 1/2	Dolcoath	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Esperanza	3 1/2	3 1/2	6 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	6 1/2	6 1/2
10 1/2	Exploration	10 1/2	10 1/2	9 1/2	St. John del Rey	9 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Frontino and Bolivia	1 1/2	1 1/2	5 1/2	Tharsis	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2	Walhi	8 1/2	8 1/2
2 1/2	Do. (No. 2)	2 1/2	2 1/2	9 1/2	Ymir	9 1/2	9 1/2

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.				GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.			
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.		
Alcoy and Gandia	May 26	Ps. £8,500	-£2,500	**	Ps. £314,900	+£19,900		
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia ..	April *	\$86,417	+ \$19,710	**	\$330,275	+ \$79,834		
Argentine Gt. Western	May 25	20,951	+ 7,643	\$	648,866	+ 103,912		
Algebras (Gibraltar)	" 26	Ps. 33,391	- Ps. 5,661	**	P. 1,481,051	- P. 119,040		
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	" 26	32,733	+ 4,562	\$	1,463,565	+ 343,752		
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o and Cen. Argentine	" 26	91,786	+ 17,551	**	1,855,094	+ 257,372		
Buenos Ayres G. Stn.	" 27	71,931	+ 6,454	**	3,544,687	+ 534,770		
Do. Western	" 27	37,148	+ 5,713	**	1,601,632	+ 218,476		
Do. Ensenada	" 27	329	+ 35	**	16,571	+ 539		
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	" 26	9,478	+ 2,031	**	399,355	+ 17,361		
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 26	1,640	- 154	**	99,265	+ 2,600		
Do. Northern Ex.	" 26	1,506	+ 58	**	56,789	+ 5,289		
Do. Western Ex.	" 26	1,124	+ 74	**	56,215	+ 6,131		
Cordoba Central	" 20	3,755	+ 735	**	65,205	+ 11,945		
Do. Northern Ex.	" 20	7,775	+ 2,280	**	134,360	+ 31,510		
Do. N. W. Argtn. Ex.	" 20	2,270	+ 970	**	35,145	+ 12,055		
Cordoba and Rosario	" 20	4,305	+ 55	**	195,960	+ 4,335		
Costa Rica	" 28	5,947	+ 1,099	**	209,258	+ 10,481		
Cuban Central	" 26	9,265	+ 3,015	**	367,828	+ 50,623		
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 26	6,332	+ 75	**	210,077	+ 33,635		
Entre Rios	" 26	3,901	+ 13	**	179,633	+ 7,329		
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico	" 21	\$140,100	+ \$16,130	**	\$5,584,686	+ \$182,790		
Leopoldina	" 26	23,600	+ 7,604	**	336,962	+ 45,696		
Mexican	April *	\$551,300	+ \$89,700	**	\$2,283,200	+ \$213,600		
Mexican	May 21	\$146,500	+ \$21,500	**	\$2,682,900	+ \$238,500		
Do. Southern	" 21	\$23,930	- \$2,852	**	\$498,031	+ \$17,030		
Do. Central	Feb.	\$2,229,926	+ \$181,788	**	\$18,854,222	+ \$142,073		
Do. Do.	" 1	\$635,795	- \$8,660	**	\$5,328,789	+ \$221,747		
Manila	May 26	\$28,815	- \$15,644	**	\$823,990	+ \$62,309		
Nitrato	" 15	23,696	+ 6,631	**	206,377	+ 16,134		
Ottoman	" 26	3,459	+ 620	**	88,182	+ 14,455		
Peruvian Corporation	April *	\$644,090	+ \$120,725	**	\$6,490,350	+ \$1,052,575		
San Paulo	May 20	12,417	+ 5,459	**	393,945	+ 6,321		
Salvador	" 26	\$15,500	- \$2,000	**	\$951,601	+ \$128,606		
United of Havana	" 26	19,238	+ 9,112	**	742,626	+ 248,116		
Villa Maria & Rufino	" 26	1,222	+ 127	**	28,075	+ 2,299		
Western of Havana	" 26	3,991	+ 130	**	193,421	+ 4,113		

* Month ended. † Fortnight ended. ‡ Nett

§ From January 1, 1906.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

NAME	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.		Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.
Bengal Nagpur...	May 5	Rs. 5,42,801	- R. 21,673	+	R. 102,38,914	+ R. 10,21,569
Bengal & N.-W...	April 28	R. 2,91,240	+ R. 25,023	+	Rs. 47,09,723	+ R. 3,63,973
Bombay & Baroda	May 26	Rs. 4,39,000	- R. 7,000	+	R. 18,72,000	+ R. 6,25,000
Do. State Lines	May 25	R. 6,12,000	+ R. 39,000	+	R. 1,19,02,000	+ R. 65,000
Burma	May 26	R. 3,32,624	+ Rs. 18,908	+	R. 1,29,35,300	- R. 21,445
Delhi Umballa	May 26	Rs. 38,000	- Rs. 2,451	+	Rs. 7,54,832	- Rs. 29,667
East Indian	May 26	R. 16,50,000	+ R. 53,000	+	R. 3,41,57,000	+ 20,45,000
G. Indian Penin.	May 26	Rs. 11,77,500	- R. 1,37,550	+	R. 2,94,88,096	+ R. 23,266
Indian Midland	May 26	R. 2,45,500	+ R. 85,583	+	Rs. 69,07,737	+ R. 10,06,778
Madras	May 26	R. 27,042	+ £. 648	+	£. 539,550	+ £. 51,219
South Indian	April 28	R. 2,61,777	+ Rs. 11,190	+	R. 41,95,767	+ R. 1,22,144
South Behar	May 5	Rs. 11,082	+ Rs. 642	+	Rs. 2,15,446	+ Rs. 27,546
S'thrn. Mahratta	May 5	R. 2,99,611	+ Rs. 54,906	+	Rs. 46,73,643	+ Rs. 87,83,764
Southern Punjab	May 19	Rs. 56,950	+ Rs. 8,510	+	Rs. 14,07,345	+ R. 1,62,67

Established 1824.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Assets over 4 MILLIONS Sterling.

The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

THE SURPLUS DIVIDED WAS **£597,415.**

Chief Office:

15, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,
LONDON, S.W.W. J. H. WHITTALL,
Actuary.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

TOTAL FUNDS NEARLY **£6,000,000**FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE
MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Please apply for particulars to

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ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE.

INCORPORATED A.D. 1790.

FIRE, LIFE, SEA, ANNUITIES, ACCIDENTS & EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY.

The Corporation is prepared to act as
EXECUTOR OF WILLS, TRUSTEE OF WILLS AND SETTLEMENTS.

SPECIAL TERMS TO ANNUITANTS WHEN HEALTH IS IMPAIRED.

FUNDS IN HAND EXCEED **£5,250,000.**

Apply for full Prospectus to the Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE: ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON, E.C.

PELICAN AND BRITISH EMPIRE

FOUNDED

LIFE OFFICE

1797.

1905 Bonus **£1 12s.** per cent.
per annum.Total Assets
exceed
5½ MILLIONS.Head Office:
70, Lombard Street,
London, E.C.Claims Paid
exceed
19½ MILLIONS.

The Central Insurance Company, Ltd.

CHAIRMAN: WALTER CHAMBERLAIN, J.P.

Total Security to Policy-Holders over **£1,000,000.**

FIRE. ACCIDENT. BURGLARY.

SHORT AND UP-TO-DATE CONDITIONS.

Head Office: 12-13, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.

HUGH LEWIS, General Manager.

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
on May 10.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

All week until to-day the short credit market has been pinched for means. Large sums were accordingly borrowed at the Bank. Up to Wednesday the amount taken out must have considerably exceeded £1,000,000, but it was so far neutralised by the payments of bills falling due, previously discounted with the Bank, that the nett increase in other securities was only £249,000 on the week. On Thursday, however, the end of the month requirements, together with those of the Stock Exchange settlement, caused a rush upon the Bank which advanced and discounted to an aggregate of several millions, it is said. When this money has been paid back the market will again be poor unless in the meantime large amounts of gold are received from abroad. As yet the Bank has done nothing very remarkable in accumulating the metal, if we allow for the £1,500,000 handed over to it from the stock

kept here by the Simla Government. Last Bank week, for instance, the nett influx was only £489,000, and of this £177,000 went into circulation, together with over £322,000 in notes, so that the reserve was actually about £11,000 down on the week. Other deposits, moreover, have only increased £555,000 since the previous return, in spite of the nett amount borrowed at the Bank, because only £280,000 was released by the Treasury. It indeed was still piling up its balances down to Saturday last, for the increase in the six days then ended was £949,000, but the end of the month always sees considerable Exchequer dispersals, only we should be glad to find the balances well below £10,000,000 at this time of year.

Short loans being scarce for the reasons described, bankers gradually advanced their rates on seven-day money from $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to $3\frac{3}{4}$, and even 4 per cent., rates paid on Thursday. Call money also stiffened in the same manner, and people paid 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. that same day for overnight balances, in order to avoid going to the Bank. This morning bankers got no more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on week-to-week money, but supplies were much less abundant than had been expected, and although the rate for call loans fell to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as a general thing borrowers had occasionally to pay $3\frac{3}{4}$ and even $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for such accommodation.

In anticipation of this cheapening discount rates have been tending to slip away for some time back. The struggle on the part of holders of remitted bills has been to work the three months' rate down to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., while dealers in credit have tried to get $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Mixed parcels of fine bank bills to be paid for to-day have been discounted at $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. for the last two or three days, and we fear the best working rate yesterday for 90-day spot paper of a good class was only $3\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. To-day the unexpected dearth of money caused brokers to keep their rates for bills up, and the market was, if anything, harder at $3\frac{7}{8}$ per cent.

We are not sure that cheapness is guaranteed in a manner that will warrant any material decline in market quotations. Even were another £2,000,000 or £3,000,000 of gold to be added to the Bank of England stock the fact that all great centres of banking credit have their means fully engaged in various directions, not least in state and corporate loans of great dimensions, ought to warn us against a confident belief that rates are going to continue easy. We see no lasting cheap money this year. There will be ups and downs, with ups predominating. After a run of loan raising at the Bank of England the market will be flush of short term balances, but as the end of every month approaches, or whenever the credit thus created at the Bank of England has been cancelled, floating bankers' money will again be in short supply, and if discount rates are allowed to slip back because of temporary flatness in the short loan market it is about as certain as anything human can be that export demands for our gold will spring up again in various directions. Yet we shall probably want our gold in the autumn to an extent that would make the addition of £5,000,000 or £6,000,000 to the visible stock a most comforting factor in the position.

Hence, prudent dealers in credit, bill brokers and others must continue to strive against any sudden or undue depression in discounts. Should foreign competition drive our rates down there may be no other course open to the Bank of England but to drain the market of free credits and force rates up. Foreign markets are, however, fully enough engaged with their own affairs at present, and we do not anticipate that either French or German bankers will be such liberal competitors for London bills during the next six months as they usually are. French bankers have committed themselves heavily to American corporate finance, and will have to make large advances to their own Government. The Germans are also deeply engaged in various enterprises besides being under the necessity to provide upwards of £25,000,000 for their Imperial

and Prussian Government necessities. It must not be forgotten either that our own trade is so flourishing that our bankers are finding additional demands made upon them by the home manufacturer and distributor, and all influences of this kind militate against cheap money.

Calls on new issues aggregate about £2,212,000 next week of which £615,000 falls due on the 5th, including £290,000 on new India 3 per cents. and £1,476,500 on the 8th, the total for that day being swollen out by £1,276,500 due on the last issued Chilean loan. On the same day the new Great Western ordinary stock will take up £200,000.

SILVER.

The market for bars has been much quieter this week, as the Indian demand was much less urgent. At the same time realisations to secure profits were more in evidence, and with larger supplies of the metal available prices relapsed to 31d. per oz. for cash and 30½d. per oz. for delivery two months forward. Then the bazaar buying was resumed, and quotations rallied, finishing at 31½d. and 30½d. per oz. respectively. Tenders for the Rs.40,00,000 of India Council drafts offered this week amounted to Rs.2,73,10,000 in bills and Rs.1,01,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs.27,32,000 were accepted in bills and Rs.12,68,000 in transfers, applications at 1s. 4d. and 1s. 4 1-32d. per rupee receiving about 11 per cent. Next Wednesday another Rs.40,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, May 30, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued ..	50,731,360	Government Debt ..	11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	32,281,360
		Silver Bullion ..	—
	£50,731,360		£50,731,360

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	15,977,281
Rest ..	3,261,442	Other Securities ..	31,483,251
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	10,047,867	Notes ..	21,785,715
Other Deposits ..	42,678,571	Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,390,962
Seven Day and other Bills ..	96,329		
	£70,637,209		£70,637,209

Dated May 31, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year :—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. May, 31.		May 23, 1906.	May 30, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,123,961	Rest ..	3,284,478	3,261,442	—	23,036
11,608,528	Pub. Deposits ..	10,328,067	10,047,867	—	280,200
41,613,526	Other do. ..	42,123,808	42,678,571	554,763	—
102,424	7 Day Bills ..	109,373	96,329	—	13,044
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
15,749,522	Gov. Securities ..	15,977,281	15,977,281	—	—
28,415,791	Other do. ..	31,234,166	31,483,251	—	249,085
26,836,126	Total Reserve ..	23,187,279	23,176,677	10,602	—
				565,365	565,365
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation ..	£	£	£	£
29,500,280	Coin and Bullion ..	28,623,070	28,945,645	322,575	—
37,886,406	Proportion ..	33,360,349	33,672,322	311,973	—
508 p.c.	Bank Rate ..	448 p.c.	438 p.c.	—	10 p.c.
2½		4	4	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £489,000 in.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.

WITHDRAWALS.

Saturday, Bars ..	£6,000	Tuesday, Chili ..	£8,000
Saturday, Australia ..	£25,000	Wednesday, West Indies ..	£10,000
Monday, Bars ..	£41,000	Wednesday, South America ..	£15,000
Tuesday, Bars ..	£81,000	Thursday, South America ..	£80,000
Tuesday, Germany ..	£5,000	Friday, West Indies ..	£5,000
Wednesday, Bars ..	£263,000		
Thursday, Bars ..	£239,000	Nett Influx ..	£734,000
Friday, Bars ..	£192,000		
Total ..	£852,000	Total ..	£852,000

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
1,800,000	6 months	July 1	3 2 6
11,500,000	—	—	—
1,000,000	6 months	July 29	2 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 12	2 10 8
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 26	2 13 8
1,500,000	6 months	Sept. 16	2 11 5
1,000,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 10 0
2,000,000	6 months	Nov. 26	3 2 2
11,500,000	—	—	—
150,000	—	—	—
17,213,000			

+ Issued privately.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended May 26.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs ..	National Debt Services ..
Excise ..	Other Consolidated Fund
Estate, &c., Duties ..	Charges ..
Stamps ..	Payments to Local Taxa-
Land Tax and House Duty ..	tion ..
Property and Income Tax ..	Supply Services ..
Post Office ..	Bullion Advances ..
Telegraphs ..	Treasury Bills (nett amount)
Crown Lands ..	Advances for Interest on
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares ..	Exchequer Bonds ..
Treasury Bills (nett amount)	Exchequer Bonds redeemed
Miscellaneous ..	Uganda Railway ..
Bullion advances repaid ..	Military Works ..
Uganda Railway ..	Naval Works ..
Unclaimed Dividends Ac-	Telegraph Acts ..
count ..	Land Registry (New Build-
Advances for Interest on Ex-	ings) ..
chequer Bonds ..	Public Buildings Expenses
Telegraph Acts ..	Act ..
Naval Works Acts ..	Public Offices Site (Dublin)
Military Works Acts ..	Act ..
Land Registry Acts ..	Suez Canal drawn Shares
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act ..	in reduction of debt ..
Public Offices Site (Dublin) ..	Canard Agreement ..
Issue of Exchequer Bonds	Surplus Revenue, 1905-6 ..
under Canard Agreement Act	Deficiency Advances re-
ways and Means ..	paid ..
Temporary Advances Defi-	ways and Means Advances
ciency ..	repaid ..
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	Increase in Exchequer
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	balances ..
Transvaal and Orange River	
Colony. Repayment of	
Temporary Advance ..	
Adjustment of Local Taxa-	
tion payments ..	
Decrease in Exchequer	
balances ..	
£2,062,000	£2,062,000

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1906.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Jan.	1,361,699,000	1,233,474,000	128,225,000	—
Feb.	1,007,233,000	967,181,000	40,052,000	—
Week ending				
Mar. 7	235,959,000	215,866,000	20,093,000	—
" 14	261,348,000	268,032,000	—	6,684,000
" 21	208,709,000	211,042,000	—	2,333,000
" 28	250,066,000	205,714,000	44,352,000	—
April 4	284,635,000	345,370,000	—	60,735,000
" 11	266,009,000	210,891,000	55,118,000	—
" 18	182,932,000	300,087,000	—	117,155,000
" 25	230,499,000	139,973,000	90,526,000	—
May 2	281,140,000	263,265,000	17,875,000	—
" 9	231,902,000	210,041,000	21,861,000	—
" 16	293,489,000	269,214,000	24,275,000	—
" 23	209,951,000	189,198,000	20,753,000	—
" 30	201,975,000	246,087,000	—	44,112,000
	5,507,546,000	5,275,435,000	232,111,000	—

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs	25'19½	25'19½	Antwerp	short	25'26½	25'25½
Brussels	chqs.	25'25	25'25	Italy	sight	25'17	25'16½
Amsterdam	sight	12'14½	12'14½	Constantinople ..	3 mths	110'05	110'02
Berlin	chqs.	20'51½	20'51	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	168½d.	168½
Do.	3 mths	20'30½	20'31½	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4½	1/4
Hamburg	chqs.	20'50	20'50	Bombay	T.T.	1/4½	1/4
Frankfort	short	20'48½	20'48	Hong Kong	T.T.	2/1½	2/1½
Vienna	sight	24'04½	24'04½	Shanghai	T.T.	2/11½	2/11½
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	94'00	94'10	Singapore	T.T.	2/4½	2/4½
New York	60 dys	4'82½	4'82	Yokohama	4 mths	2/0½	2/0½
Lisbon	sight	51	51½				
Madrid	sight	26'95	27'42				

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	May 23, 1906.	May 15, 1906.	May 7, 1906.	May 23, 1905.
Cash in hand ..	52,686,850	50,753,750	48,788,050	56,158,550
Bills discounted ..	40,373,200	40,712,750	42,042,550	41,256,150
Advances on stocks ..	3,124,100	3,154,450	3,799,050	2,969,400
Note circulation ..	63,439,600	65,827,350	68,139,100	61,416,300
Public deposits ..	31,155,100	28,171,800	25,961,900	36,171,100

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.	
			Last Week.	Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1906.	2½	2½
Berlin	4½	May 23, 1906.	3½	3½
Hamburg	4½	May 23, 1906.	3½	3½
Frankfort	4½	May 23, 1906.	3½	3½
Amsterdam	4½	May, 1906	3½	3½
Brussels	3½	May 15, 1906	3½	3½
Vienna	4½	October, 1905	4½	3½
Rome	5	September, 1904	4	4
St. Petersburg	7½	April 17, 1906	8	8
Madrid	4½	August 21, 1901	4	4
Lisbon	5½	January 11, 1899	5	5
Stockholm	5	January, 1906.	4½	4½
Copenhagen	5	October, 1905	4½	4½
Calcutta	6	May 24, 1906	—	—
Bombay	6	May 24, 1906	—	—
New York call money	3	—	—	—

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	May 31, 1906.	May 25, 1906.	May 17, 1906.	June 2, 1905.
Gold in hand	£117,647,080	£117,989,480	£117,771,600	£114,645,320
Silver in hand	42,531,360	42,570,320	42,460,640	44,348,320
Bills discounted	38,026,560	31,780,360	33,493,080	24,714,520
Advances	19,801,000	19,870,080	19,922,480	18,719,600
Note circulation	190,879,080	184,109,120	186,073,400	175,862,360
Public deposits	8,633,040	8,346,520	7,245,680	9,791,920
Private deposits	23,759,080	25,290,600	25,673,200	22,286,000

Proportion between bullion and circulation 84 per cent. against 87½ per cent. a week ago.

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	May 23, 1906.	May 15, 1906.	May 7, 1906.	May 23, 1905.
Gold Reserve	£46,649,833	£46,472,333	£46,301,125	£48,035,083
Silver reserve	12,873,958	12,842,458	12,788,958	13,188,291
Foreign bills	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	1,537,041	1,655,500	1,847,875	1,701,583
Note circulation	68,680,458	70,319,458	71,839,041	62,955,333
Bills discounted	15,654,166	16,632,041	18,840,500	10,698,125

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	May 24, 1906.	May 17, 1906.	May 10, 1906.	May 25, 1905.
Coin and bullion	£4,852,320	£4,942,840	£4,838,720	£4,727,960
Other securities	23,292,000	23,194,840	23,132,200	22,969,480
Note circulation	27,132,600	27,227,280	27,455,440	26,367,920
Deposits	3,147,280	3,237,320	3,053,520	3,124,000

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	May 26, 1906.	May 19, 1906.	May 12, 1906.	May 27, 1905.
Gold	£15,133,775	£15,128,977	£15,123,323	£14,799,657
Silver	24,452,477	24,267,585	24,094,856	22,001,476
Foreign Bills	3,473,893	3,415,301	3,392,254	1,646,524
Discount and Short Bills	22,124,570	22,451,413	22,364,089	46,330,758
Treasury Account	36,580,497	36,577,074	37,429,023	21,555,185
Notes in circulation	61,649,940	61,899,697	62,182,150	62,677,158
Current Account deposits	23,536,963	23,335,370	23,228,419	23,103,644
Dividends Interest	1,333,853	1,565,934	1,061,780	2,444,914
Government Securities	6,005,746	6,049,530	6,868,734	3,700,964

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	May 8/21, 1906.	May 1/14, 1906.	Apr. 23/May 6, 1906.	May 8/21, 1905.
Gold	£73,348,857	£74,501,673	£74,041,506	£90,992,851
Silver and subsidiary coin	5,572,108	5,591,644	5,477,085	6,426,230
Advances and bills discounted	45,258,599	46,074,249	46,611,350	36,599,889
Securities belonging to the Bank	8,366,729	8,519,935	8,414,046	5,355,508
Notes in circulation	113,281,415	113,024,484	113,099,012	90,219,403
Deposits and current account	47,171,257	47,861,711	47,878,623	42,572,105
Treasury account	6,158,650	2,721,747	2,389,498	15,481,841

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	May 22	May 24	May 29	May 31
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'3	12'3	12'3	12'3½
Do. do.	3 months	12'58	12'58	12'58	12'58
Antwerp and Brussels	3 months	25'48½	25'48½	25'47½	25'50
Hamburg	3 months	20'71	20'72	20'73	20'72
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'71	20'72	20'73	20'72
Paris	cheques	25'21½	25'21½	25'19½	25'19½
Do.	3 months	25'38½	25'38½	25'38½	25'38½
Marseilles	3 months	25'38½	25'40	25'40	25'40
Switzerland	3 months	25'47½	25'47½	25'47½	25'47½
Austria	3 months	24'35	24'36	24'36	24'37
St. Petersburg	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Indian Bank Places	3 months	25'47½	25'48½	25'48½	25'48½
New York	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	43½	43½	42½	42½
Lisbon	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Osaka	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'45	18'45
Christiania	3 months	18'46	18'46	18'46	18'46
Stockholm	3 months	18'46	18'46	18'46	18'46

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	May 26, 1906.	May 19, 1906.	May 12, 1906.	May 27, 1905
Specie	£36,196,000	£37,088,000	£37,288,000	£42,934,000
Legal tenders	16,779,200	16,279,200	16,018,000	17,125,000
Loans and discounts	209,880,000	208,140,000	205,140,000	222,200,000
Circulation	9,967,000	10,002,400	10,075,800	9,167,200
Net deposits	206,540,000	205,360,000	202,920,000	231,020,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of nett deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £2,027,200 against an excess last week of £1,340,200.

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3½-3½
Three months	3½-3½
Four months	3½-3½
Six months	3½-3½
Three months fine inland bills	3½-3½
Four months	3½-3½
Six months	3½-4

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
" " short loan rates	4½
Bankers' rate on deposits	2½
Bil brokers' deposit rate (call)	3
" 7 and 14 days' notice	3½
Current rates for 7 day loans	3½
" for call loans	3½-3½

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

The Stock markets are taking a holiday, and we do not see why readers of this REVIEW should be bothered with notes about the Stock Exchange. It has been doing next to nothing this week beyond settling its 20-day account, and really there is no prospect of a large revival of dealing in the near future. How can business revive when prices are inflated in so many directions, when the losses have not been squarely met in the South African market, or in the Home Railway market? Even where the losses have been met, moreover, the resulting liquidation has left multitudes of people too poor to be in any condition to resume play. We are less occupied at present about the fate of the Kaffir Circus, although it continues to show plenty of symptoms of rottenness, than about the course of the market for Yankee Railroad securities. Prices for these are being bravely maintained at an immense inflation, by the help of the whole world's credit one may say, but it is an expensive business, even for multi-millionaires and their banks, and unless the European investing classes, together with those in the United States, come forward to relieve the bankers of the securities held in pawn by them or taken firm by financiers, and pledged with their bankers, a breakdown must occur through the exhaustion of the means of those who have committed themselves to support the markets. Now, we do not see any prospect of the British public becoming enamoured of Yankee securities of any description at present. The market is little else than a professional one on both sides of the Atlantic, and as long as it remains so we can only wait expectant for the day of reckoning, the day that may sweep away the dazzling wealth parade of many a market potentate on both sides of the Atlantic, but one which would also bring prices back to points that would warrant us in saying to readers, "now you may buy without much fear of loss if you buy with judgment."

The Week's Stock Markets.

Apart from the routine work connected with the general and Consol settlements, both of which have been carried through during the past week, dealers have found precious little to occupy their time. Ordinary business has been almost at a standstill, and it is hard to say when the public will again turn its attention to Stock Exchange speculation. A certain amount of investment business still goes on, but even that is a good deal restricted just now by the fact that the big insurance companies and others are not such big buyers as they were before the San Francisco catastrophe. Derby Day kept a good many members away, and it is not surprising that Epsom Downs

should prove more attractive than the House in times like these. Moreover, on Wednesday the Jews were absent for the Pentecost, and the New York and other American markets remained closed for Decoration Day. Under these circumstances the stagnation of business can be imagined, and when the general settlement had been satisfactorily concluded a large number of dealers departed until Tuesday morning. Operators in the Consol market were obliged to put in an appearance to-day in order to complete the settlement, but the business was soon arranged, and in the afternoon the House had a very deserted appearance. At one time there was a possibility that the Stock Exchange would be opened to-morrow in order to adjust Consol differences, but the Committee acceded to a widely-signed petition to make the day a holiday, the operation mentioned being postponed until Tuesday. Partly because the settlement pay day fell on the last day of the month and partly because the account open for the rise is still pretty extensive, especially in the American section, bankers' charges for loans were again high. Money brokers were supplied at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and the general rate was $4\frac{3}{4}$ to 5 per cent. with $5\frac{1}{4}$ paid on occasions. Money was also fairly dear on Consols. The rate opened about $3\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and advanced to 4 per cent., subsequently easing off to $3\frac{7}{8}$ per cent. These are rather onerous charges on a security paying less than 3 per cent., and on this occasion the bulls had a difference against them on the month of $\frac{3}{8}$, the making-up price being 89 $\frac{5}{8}$ against 90. Fluctuations in prices were extremely narrow, and final figures show practically no change, allowing for the deduction of the dividend which took place to-day. Other British Funds were slightly irregular, and Bank stock lost 1. Home County and Corporation stocks and Colonial Inscribed issues were steady. The latter were continued at 4 to 5 per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS (Last year's dividends are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91	88 $\frac{7}{8}$	Consols (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Money)	89 $\frac{5}{8}$	89 $\frac{5}{8}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Account (July 4)	89 $\frac{5}{8}$	90
90	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	88 $\frac{5}{8}$	88 $\frac{5}{8}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907 ..	100	100
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	Irish Land (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	91	91
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	99	Local Loans (3) ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	98	National War Loan (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c.) ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Account (July 4) ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
301	28 $\frac{7}{8}$	Bk. of England Stck. (9 p.c.) ..	290	288
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	India 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stck. red. 1913 ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
97 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 p.c. Stck. red. 1918 ..	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
82	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Stck. red. 1926 ..	80	80
66 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$

In the Foreign Bond section the principal incident was the fall and subsequent recovery in Russians. Operators were rather alarmed at the unsatisfactory reply of the Ministry to the address of the Duma, and let prices down all round. Later on, however, a recovery set in on Paris support, although the news from Russia is not very reassuring. At one time the premium on the new loan was down to $\frac{1}{2}$, but it pulled up when other things improved. Spanish and Turkish were also heavy at the commencement, but there was a quick recovery on the improved Continental advices. Japanese bonds showed strength throughout, and small buying of Chinese bonds was reported. In the South American division Peruvian again came into favour, but Cédulas lost an early rise, and Argentines and Brazilians were irregular with very small movements. Carry over rates were much the same as usual. All the leading South American stocks were continued at 4 to 6, together with Japanese issues, except the 5 per cent., 1902, which were done at 2 to 4 per cent. On Central Americans the charge was 5 to 7, and a similar contango prevailed on Peruvian preference and ordinary. Uruguays were taken in at 1 to 3, as well as Russians, but on Spanish and Turkish the rate was 2 to 4 per cent. In the making-up list the movements were not important, but advances predominated. Argentines were a little irregular, but Brazils went up $\frac{1}{8}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$. Honduras $\frac{1}{8}$, Japs $\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{8}$, Mexican 4 per

cent. 1, and Turkish Unified 1. Russians showed losses of 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Argentina 5 p.c. 1886 ..	103	103
102	100	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly.	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	102
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	93	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
93	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	86	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$
106	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
103	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	Chilian 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1885 ..	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
97 $\frac{1}{2}$	94	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1886 ..	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1895 ..	94	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. 1895 ..	101	102
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	98	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	105	105
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
53 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Costa Rica A ..	52	51 $\frac{1}{2}$
43 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. B ..	42	41 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	Colombian External ..	46	45 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Egypt Unified 4 p.c. ..	104	104
103	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. pref. ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
106	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. State Domain ..	105	105
89	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	German 3 p.c. ..	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	86
54	50	Greek, 1884 ..	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	50	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	54	53 $\frac{1}{2}$
43 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	41 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$
53	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Funding ..	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	93	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Italian 5 p.c. ..	105	105
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Japan 5 p.c. ..	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
104	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1901-2 ..	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 6 p.c. ..	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
71 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
87	81	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	82	82
83	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	Servian 4 p.c. ..	83	83
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	Turks 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. Tribute ..	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	103	103
94 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	94	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
74	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	Uruguay 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ p.c. ..	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 5 p.c. ..	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Venezuelan, Dip. (3) ..	52	51 $\frac{1}{2}$

Public interest in Home Railway stocks is still a negligible quantity, and as the events enumerated above have reduced the dealers' interest to very small proportions the market has been quiet, with a tendency to allow prices to slip back. Metropolitan was conspicuously flat in the beginning of the week owing to the statement by the secretary of the company that the rent paid by the Great Central and Metropolitan joint committee for the line between South Harrow and Verney Junction was included in the weekly traffic. Dealers apparently had been under the impression that this payment was not being taken into account, and that the decrease in the earnings shown week by week were consequently less serious than they appeared. The letter to the Share and Loan Department made no reference to the rent of £20,000 per annum payable by the Great Central for the South Harrow and Canfield Junction section, but the market concluded it was being dealt with in the same way, and showed its disappointment by knocking $1\frac{1}{2}$ off the price. Part of this loss was wiped out almost immediately, thanks to the disclosure of a "bear" account at the settlement, and as further investigations brought to light sundry compensating advantages in the arrangement a considerable business was done for the new account, which carried the recovery still further. District followed Metropolitan fairly closely in its ups and downs, but City and South London improved substantially on a better traffic return than had been anticipated. Great Western continued heavy on the fresh capital, but the new issue rose to 2 premium towards the end of the week. Nothing else of importance happened beyond a slight spurt in Great Northern deferred and the gain of a fraction or two by Hull and Barnsley, Great Eastern, and Brighton deferred. Allowance being made for the fact that the new account is shorter, contangoes worked out at about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. less than at the beginning of the twenty-day account settled this week, notwithstanding the fact that bankers charged fully as much for money. Rates sometimes

dropped below 5 per cent., but not often, and were more generally round about 5-5½ per cent., while in the case of South-Eastern, where a big "bull" account was disclosed, the charge was decidedly stiff at from 12 to 14 per cent. Great Western stock fell 3½ during the account owing to the new issue, Metropolitan ordinary and surplus lands stocks were 1½ and 1 down, and City and South London dropped 2, while Brighton ordinary and preferred put on 1 and 2, Great Northern deferred and "A" stocks and Hull and Barnsley rose 1½, and North British preferred was 1 up. Apart from these, however, the movements in either direction were unimportant, the largest being gains of ½ in Great Northern preferred, North-Western, Midland issues, and District, and losses of that fraction in Great Central preferred, South Eastern ordinary and preferred, and Central London.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last com- pleted year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
141½	132½	135 Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	135	135
157½	149½	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	153	153
130½	117½	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	119	119½
120½	108½	110 Caledonian Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	110	110½
80	74½	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	75½	76
42½	34½	Do. Def. (1 p.c.) ..	35½	35½
90½	88	89 Central London (4 p.c.) ..	89	89
89	77½	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	78½	78½
168	141½	15 Chatham Ordinary ..	158	158
44½	39	40 City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	40	43
69½	63½	67 Furness (1½ p.c.) ..	68½	66½
40½	37½	37½ Great Central Pref. ..	37½	37½
19½	17½	Do. Def. ..	17½	17½
91½	81½	82½ Great Eastern (3½ p.c.) ..	82½	82½
105	100½	102 Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	102½	102
47½	43½	Do. Def. (1½) ..	45½	45½
144	131	131½ Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	131½	131½
52	47½	— Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	48½	48½
47½	42½	45½ Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	46	47
109½	103½	104½ Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.) ..	104½	104½
89½	67½	66½ Metropolitan (2½ p.c.) ..	68½	67½
37½	22	24 Metropolitan District ..	26	25½
70½	66	67½ Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	67½	67½
74½	66½	67½ Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	68½	68½
70½	74	76 North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	76½	76
47½	43	43½ Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	44	43½
147½	138½	140 North-Eastern (6½ p.c.) ..	140½	140½
163½	154½	156 North-Western (6½ p.c.) ..	156½	156½
90½	86½	86½ South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	87	87
132	123½	123½ Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	124	124
55½	50½	51½ Do. Def. ..	51½	51½
164	154½	154 South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	153½	153½
108½	103½	104 Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	104	104
57½	50½	51½ Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	51	51½

Dealings in American Railroad shares have again been left entirely to the professionals in Wall Street, and even there the interest in the gamble has shown

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses).	Price last week.	Price this week.	
99½	89½	91½	Atchison Shares (4) ..	91½	92½
109½	104½	105	Do. Pref. (5) ..	106½	106½
120	109½	111	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (5) ..	110½	111
101½	96	97½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	97	97
63½	55½	60½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	60½	60½
195½	162½	176	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	173	176½
52½	38½	44½	Denver Shares ..	44	44½
93½	88½	90	Do. Pref. (5) ..	90	90
52½	40½	47½	Erie Shares ..	46½	47½
85½	78	82	Do. Pref. (4) ..	81	82
77	65½	73½	Do. and Pref. (4) ..	71½	74
186½	171	180	Illinois Central (7) ..	178	186½
160½	143½	150½	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	148½	152
41½	31½	35	Missouri and Texas ..	358	358
159½	137½	143½	New York Central (5) ..	143	144½
95½	87½	91½	Norfolk and Western (4) ..	91½	90½
96½	92	94	Do. Pref. (4) ..	94	94
57½	45½	53½	Ontario Shares (3) ..	52	53½
75½	67½	69½	Pennsylvania (6) ..	68½	68½
85½	72½	72½	Reading Shares (1½) ..	69	69
74½	64½	67	Southern Pacific ..	66½	67½
43½	36½	39½	Southern ..	38½	39½
105	101½	103	Do. Pref. (5) ..	103	103
164½	145½	153½	Union Pacific (5½) ..	152½	154½
101½	97½	98½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	98	98
26½	20	21½	Wabash ..	21½	22
53½	42½	50½	Do. Pref. ..	47½	50½
87	78	85	Do. Income Debs. ..	82	84
182½	161½	164½	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	164	164½
106½	104	104½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	104½	104½
112	109	111½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	111½	111½
29½	25½	27½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	27½	27½
105½	101½	101½	Do. Guar. (4) ..	102	102
120	114½	118½	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	118½	118½
110½	105½	108½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	108½	108½
70½	60½	65½	Do. 3rd Pref. (2) ..	66½	65½
109½	107½	108½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	108½	108½

signs of flagging. Various efforts were made to stir up the play in "coalers," Readings being selected on a plausible but untrue statement that the shares available for market purposes were so few as to render

them an excellent medium for manipulation. The price was lifted several dollars, and Erie were pushed up to keep them company, while Ontario and Pennsylvania also received a certain amount of attention. Illinois Central came into prominence just before Decoration Day holiday, owing to the decline in the price of cotton, but with all the demonstrations the market cannot be said to have been active at any time. On balance the "bulls" had the best of it during the past account, and making-up prices were decidedly higher in most instances. Reading put on 5, Wabash preferred stock and income debentures were 5 and 6 up, Erie common and Ontario rose 3½, Illinois Central 4, Louisville 3. Erie preferences gained 2½ and 3, Southern common, Union Pacific common and Atchison preferred advanced 1½ to 1½, and Missouri and Kansas were 2½ better. Great Northern preferred and Northern Pacific were marked up 8 and 6 on a revival of the reports of the sale of the Great Northern Company's ore-lands. Against these improvements the only declines worth noting were 1½ in Pennsylvania and 1½ in Baltimore ordinary. The account in this section is said to have been very much reduced inside, and it certainly seemed as if part of the load had been shifted from the market, as the inquiry for money was much less keen and rates ruled round about 5½ to 6 per cent. or a good 1 per cent. below those current at the previous settlement.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last com- pleted year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
233	211½	234½	Antofagasta (10)	232xr	235
360	313	—	Do. Def. (15)	360xr	305
130½	118	117	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	118	117
132	125	125	Do. Pref. (5)	125	125
88	84½	85	Bahia Blanca Pref.	85	85½
144½	136½	136½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	137	137
129½	124½	127	Do. Pref. (5)	127	128
136½	128	130	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	130	130½
120½	115½	119	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	119	119
110½	107½	109	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109	109
120½	113½	115½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	116	116
119	109	110½	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	111	111
170	160½	167	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	166	167
109	104½	105	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	105	105
138½	129½	131½	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	132½	132
92½	83	85½	Central Uruguay (4½)	85	86
109½	106½	104	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	104xd	105
96	91½	93½	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	93½	93½
75½	69½	72½	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	72½	72½
59½	52½	54½	Costa Rica	54	54
71½	68	73	Cuban Central	72	72½
111½	104½	111	Do. Pref. (5½)	111	111
108	103½	104	Do. Deb. (4½)	104	104
93½	90	92½	East Argentine (4½)	93	93
92½	88	88½	Inter-oceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	88½	88½
86½	78½	80	Leopoldina (4)	80	76½xd
98½	94½	98	Do. Deb. (4)	97	98
109½	107½	—	Manila Bonds "A" (6)	109	109
105½	103½	—	Do. "B" (6)	107	107
28½	23½	25	Mexican Ord. Stk.	25	25½
130½	118½	127	Do. 1st Pref. (6½)	127½	127½
59½	49½	54	Do. 2nd Pref.	54	54½
68½	54½	61	Mexican Southern (2½)	60xd	61
16½	14½	15½	Nitrate Ord. (8)	15½	15½
21½	19½	20½	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (5) ..	20½	20½
214½	202½	202	San Paulo Brazilian (12)	203	202
193	168½	182	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	182	179xd

Canadian Pacific shares improved in the end of last week on the weekly traffic returns, and although they fell back on Monday the loss was speedily recovered when the April statement came out, as the increase of £811,000 in nett earnings was considered satisfactory. The Grand Trunk figures, on the other hand, were not at all liked, as they showed that the gain in gross income was more than absorbed by the heavier working charges, leaving a decrease of £300 in nett revenue instead of the increase of about £5,000 which had been looked for. Prices of the ordinary and third preference consequently fell back sharply, and although they picked up again towards the close the movements on the week were still adverse to the extent of several fractions. On the account Canadian Pacific shares were ½ down, but Grand Trunk ordinary and third preference gained ½ and 1, and the first and second preference rose ¾ and ½. Money on these stocks was not greatly wanted, and could be obtained at 5½-6 per cent.

In the Foreign Railway market the announcement of an interim dividend at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum caused a demand for United Railways of Havana ordinary stock, and the price improved to 185,

but it dropped back to 183½ almost immediately, and has since further receded until it is now quoted at 179xd. Apart from this, the most notable incident was the bear attack on the railway bonds of the Guayaquil and Quito Railway, which drove them down to 86½. Argentine Railways were comparatively neglected, and even a batch of excellent traffic returns failed to put any life into them, so that movements on the week were insignificant. Arica and Tacna shares were lifted to 5 on the declaration of a dividend of 5s. per share, but other South American things were steady, without important change, and the rally in the stocks of the old Mexican Company, which set in towards the close, merely added a trifle to the quotations for the ordinary and first preference. Antofagasta ordinary stock was in some demand, and rose 1, while the deferred was marked up 5. Contangos on South American and on Mexican Railway stocks ranged from 5½ to 6½ per cent. Making-up prices of Argentine Railways show gains of 3½ in North-Eastern preference stock, 1 and 1½ in Buenos Ayres and Pacific ordinary and second preference, 3 in Buenos Ayres and Rosario preference, and 5 in Cordoba Central first preference. Buenos Ayres Great Southern preference and Cordoba Central income debenture were also 1½ up,

stock and Transandine preference shares. Antofagasta ordinary improved 1½, United Railways of the Havana ordinary 4½, and Paraguay Central debenture stock 2. Mexican ordinary and second preference put on 1½ and 1½, and Mexican Southern ordinary 1, but Inter-oceanic "B" debenture stock was 1 lower. Central Uruguay improved 2½, but Midland Uruguay fell 1½, and amongst Brazilian issues advances of ½ and 2½ in Leopoldina ordinary and debenture stock were accompanied by a loss of 1 in San Paulo ordinary.

Miscellaneous markets were extremely idle, and there are few interesting movements to record. Anglo "A" was further taken up by the "bull" clique, and fancy dividend estimates are still being indulged in, although the financial year does not end until March next. A sharp reaction, however, set in before the end, and the close was dull. Other Telegraph things were somewhat irregular, but no important movements occurred. Cunard shares were good in the Shipping list, Insurance shares were steady, and amongst Tramways and Omnibuses B.E.T., Road Cars, and London Motors all improved. Hudson's Bays came into small favour again, and there was a slight recovery in Pekins, but otherwise Land shares presented nothing of interest. Textiles were steady to firm, Nitrates were hard, with Santa Ritas prominent, and in the Iron and Steel group Babcock and Wilcox were lifted a little on the amalgamation with Stirlings. Dunderland Iron Ore preference and ordinary shares continue to go up. Cements were still fairly good, and Catering shares held their ground with the exception of Lyons, which were adversely affected by the new capital issue. Breweries, as usual, were dull, but Nalder and Collyers ordinary advanced 2. Daimler Motor shares were still good, and Salt Unions improved, together with Brunner Mond and United Alkalies. Moderate buying of Niger Company's shares was reported, and Dock stocks were inclined to recover. Lipton shares went back on the report, which is hardly surprising. Eastman Kodak shares reacted after the recent big rise. Rates in this section were much the same as usual, and making-up prices showed some irregularity. Associated Cement ordinary rose about ½, the preference 1½, and the debentures 1½. B.E.T. preference were up ½, Coats ordinary 2s., and the preference 2½, Daimler Motor ordinary ½, and the preference 1½, while Eastman ordinary and preference rose ½ and ¾. Hope Bros. ordinary rallied ¾, Lautaro Nitrate ½, Niger shares ½, Mazawattee preference 1½, Rosario Nitrate ¾, St. James Electric 1½, and Westminster Electric ¾. Hudson's Bays made-up 1 better, Pekins advanced 1½, Anglo "A" 3½, Great Northern Telegraph 2½, and National Telephone preferred 2. On the other hand, Gordon Hotels dropped ¾, Watney Combe deferred 5, and the first preference 1, Pekin Syndicate deferred 5, Eastern Extension Telegraph ¾, and Commercial Union Assurance 2.

Apart from the final Consol adjustment, dealings in the Stock Exchange to-day were practically at a standstill. The attendance in all sections was extremely thin owing to the attractions of Epsom and the departures for the Whitsuntide recess. Consols closed a trifle easier, and Americans slightly relapsed in the afternoon in response to easier Wall Street prices. Mines were still being sold from Paris.

Critical Index To New Investments.

BRUCE PEEBLES AND CO., LIMITED.

When this company was formed in 1903 to take over the engineering business of D. Bruce Peebles and Co. the capital was fixed at £200,000 in £5 preference and ordinary shares, but in May, 1905, it was increased to £300,000 by the creation of 10,000 additional shares of each class, and the new shares were offered for subscription when all the preference and 1,049 of the ordinary were taken up. Now it is claimed that the business has grown so rapidly that further working capital is required, and the directors therefore offer the remaining 8,951 ordinary shares at par, of which

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
21	16	10	Allsopp Ordinary	19	19
51	44	—	City of London Ord.	45½	45½
551	533	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	540	540
19½	16½	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	15½	17½
51/3	40/7½	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22)	2½	2½
61/3	49/6	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	2½	2½
56	48	48	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4)	48½	48½
99½	92½	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4)	94	94
68	5½	6½	Aerated Bread (32½)	6½	6½
7½	6½	6½	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	7	7
7½	6½	2½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½)	7½	7½
27/-	21/3	25/3	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	1½	1½
45/-	40/-	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	2½	2½
7½	5½	—	Brunner Mond (35)	5½	5½
1½	10½	—	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½)	11½	11
14/3	11/6	1½	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½)	1½	1½
58	5½	5½	Coats Ordinary (20)	5½	5½
500	482½	497½	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	490	490
26/9	19/9	24/9	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil)	1½	1½
25/6	22/9	1½	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4)	1½	1½
6½	6	6	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (5) ..	6	6
13½	12½	—	Henley's Telegraph (15)	12½	12½
89½	78/9	4½	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	4½	4½
27/6	26/-	27/-	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½)	1½	1½
108½	106½	108	Do. Debenture (4½)	108	108
24/3	20/6	22/-	Lipton Ordinary (7)	1½	1½
6½	5½	5½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	6	6
34/-	22/6	22/9	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	1½	1½
15/6	10/7½	12/9	Russian Petroleum	1½	1½
7½	6½	—	Savoy Hotel (5)	6½	6½
18/-	13/9	17/-	Sweetmeat Automatic	13	13
16½	14½	—	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10)	15	15
12/6	10/6	12/-	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	12	12
19/-	17/3	18/6	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	18	18
103½	102½	103½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4)	103	103
92½	80½	84½	Hudson's Bay Co. (58/-)	84½	85
54½	42½	51½	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½)	50½	52½
110½	105½	105½	Do. Debentures (6)	105½	105½
9½	9	—	National Discount (10)	9	9
13½	11½	—	Union Discount (11)	11½	11½
5½	5	4½	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8)	4½	4½
1½	10½	10½	City of London Elect. Ord. (6)	10½	10½
104½	95½	—	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (48)	98	98
133½	125½	—	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½)	128	128
66/3	58/6	59/6	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	3	3
85/-	75/-	3½	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	37	38
28/6	25/7½	18	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10)	18	18
31/9	30/9	—	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½)	1½	1½
14	12	12½	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	12½	12½
47½	38½	42	United States Steel Ordinary ..	41½	42½
117	107½	108½	Do. Preference (7)	108½	109
57/-	49/9	2½	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	2½	2½
15½	13½	—	Cunard Steam	14	14½
241	235	—	Peninsular & Oriental Det. (13)	234½	235½
59½	57	—	Royal Mail	59	59
9	7½	—	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5)	8½	8½
115½	109½	114½	Anglo-American Telegraph—	—	—
—	—	—	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½)	115	115
—	—	—	Do. Def. Ord.	26½	26½
27½	16½	27½	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7)	143½	143½
150½	142	144	Eastern Extension (7)	142	142
157½	148	148	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	109	109
113½	108½	108½	Western Telegraph (7)	14½	14½
14½	14½	14½	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6)	6½	7
83	6½	6½	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8)	7½	7½
9½	8½	7½	London General Omnibus (7)	86½	86½
117	83½	—	London United Trams Pref. (5)	8½	9½
10	8½	—			

and Buenos Ayres Western debenture rose 1, but against these there were declines of 3 and 3½ in Great Western ordinary and preference, 2 and 3 in Cordoba and Rosario first preference and 6 per cent. debenture stocks, and 1 each in North-Eastern ordinary debenture

7,000 have been underwritten for a commission and brokerage of 6 per cent. Nett profits rose from £16,888 in 1903 to £42,916 in 1905, and in addition to paying dividends of 6 per cent. for the first two years and 6½ per cent. for the third on both preference and ordinary shares £14,091 has been written off preliminary expenses and £15,000 put to a general reserve. The assets, including £4,078 for special reserve fund investments and £26,536 for goodwill, patents, &c., are said to show a surplus of £292,821 over liabilities other than share capital. These figures speak for themselves, and there is not much doubt that the issue will be taken up.

SOUTH METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS AND LIGHTING CO., LIMITED.

This is a promotion of the British Electric Traction Co. with a comprehensive programme for the construction of tramways, light railways, and for the supply of electricity in the South Metropolitan districts. The company was registered in 1899 as the County of Surrey Electrical Power Distribution Co., Limited, the change to the present title having been made in August, 1904, and the capital is now expanded to £400,000 in 6 per cent. preference and ordinary shares, of which 19,570 preference and 146,300 ordinary shares have been issued. It is estimated that the capital expenditure for the acquisition of the tramways, light railways, and lighting orders, the establishment of the lighting undertaking, the construction of the tramways, except the Sutton to Mitcham section, and the extension of the power house and lighting business will be £443,210. In order to provide the further funds required the company offered £150,000 in preference shares at par and a like amount in 4 per cent. debenture stock at 90, and both issues were underwritten by the B.E.T. Co. for a commission of 10 per cent. payable in ordinary shares. The Penge section of the tramways comprising 2½ miles has been completed, and about one mile was opened in February last, and the Croydon to Tooting section is nearly ready, but the company does not appear to have made much progress in other directions, and its nett profits for the year ended December 31 last were only £1,129. It is, however, estimated that the nett profits for the current year will be more than sufficient to pay the debenture interest and dividend on the preference shares issued up to December 31, and for 1907 they are expected to amount to not less than £24,000, while the sum required for the full debenture interest and preference dividend is £16,174.

GEARLESS MOTOR OMNIBUS CO., LIMITED.

A lot has been heard lately of the superior qualities of the "gearless or auto-mixte" system of running motor omnibuses, thanks to the advertising methods adopted to herald the appearance of this prospectus. It is claimed for the system that its liability to failure is far less than that of an ordinary petrol motor or steam vehicle, owing to the use of an electric motor, which, while designed to do away with the necessity for change speed gear by increasing the power at starting or when ascending a hill, may also be used to drive the vehicle in the event of a breakdown of the other machinery. The inevitable Mr. W. Worby Beaumont is, of course, to the fore with an opinion, but it is based upon nothing more than trials of a chassis and of touring cars, and his calculations are, therefore, largely fanciful. Should the venture prove a commercial success the promoters are determined to secure a handsome return for their trouble, as out of a capital of £220,000, divided into 215,000 £1 ordinary shares and 100,000 1s. deferred shares they take all the deferred shares and £7,500 in cash in payment for the benefit of sundry contracts. One of these contracts provides that the company is to pay to the London and Parisian Motor Company £3,000 and a royalty of £30 for each auto-mixte equipment supplied, and another provides that the same company shall supply 150 chassis fitted with that system at

£720 each, and 25 ordinary chassis at £710 each. The deferred shares are entitled to half the surplus profits after 10 per cent. has been paid on the ordinary, and it is estimated that these will amount to at least £20,930. In addition to selling its contracts to purchase goods at prices which will no doubt leave a large margin of profit to the makers, the promoting syndicate appropriates £5,300 in cash for underwriting 53,000 of the ordinary shares, so that altogether the syndicate will do very well out of the deal if it goes through. Already, however, there seems to be a difficulty in the way, as a rival syndicate is claiming that the use of the patents in question is an infringement of others held by it.

BORNEO RUBBER AND TRADING CO., LIMITED.

The share capital and all the assets, with the exception of a mining plant, of a private Dutch company carrying on a business of general merchants and agents at Pontianak, Dutch West Borneo, are acquired by this company, which proposes to develop certain rubber estate and tannin concessions. For these assets the Maia Syndicate, Limited, paid £10,000 in cash and £26,000 in shares, and promptly resells them for £17,500 in cash, £26,000 in shares and £16,500 in cash or shares, and, in addition, it takes £7,500 in cash for underwriting 75,000 shares. The total capital is £130,000 in £1 shares, of which 26,000 are allotted in part payment of the purchase price and 10,000 are held in reserve, leaving 94,000 to be offered for subscription, and out of the proceeds of these it is proposed to apply £17,500 to the cash portion of the price, £8,000 to underwriting and brokerage charges, £20,000 to the erection of a tannin extract factory, £7,000 to collection of bark and establishment of the industry, and £7,000 to planting additional rubber trees, giving a surplus of £15,500 for general working capital. No particulars of profits earned in the past are given, but the prospectus is filled with calculations based on a selling price of 5s. per lb. for rubber and £6 per ton for tannin, and showing a gradual increase from £21,000 in 1907 to £122,000 in 1914. In all these figures there is not sufficient evidence to show that the shares are anything but a highly speculative venture.

ORIENTAL CAFES, LIMITED.

Originally established in 1903, with a capital of £10,000, this company increased its capital to £50,000 in 1905, and is now indulging in a further expansion to £100,000, on the strength of its having paid a dividend of 6 per cent. last year. Subscriptions are invited for 54,383 shares of £1 each at par, and the prospectus is a fearful and wonderful document, full of large type, in which the statement regarding the 6 per cent. dividend stands out conspicuously. The annual report of the company was issued some time in April, but was not sent out very freely to the Press, and now, instead of giving full details of the results of working, the directors expect intending applicants to be satisfied with a reprint of an abridged report of the shareholders' meeting. From it we gather that the profits for 1905 were, in round figures, £4,600, of which about £2,200 was absorbed by management expenses, leaving a nett balance of £2,338, but no mention is made of any provision for reserve or depreciation or anything of that sort, and this lack of information renders the figures worse than useless. Another point in the prospectus requiring elucidation is the reference to debentures being paid off out of the proceeds of the present issue. When were these issued, and what is their amount? The directors give no particulars, and altogether the whole proceeding is of such a hole-and-corner nature that the new shares had better be left to those members who waxed so enthusiastic at the meeting and to their friends.

KUALA LUMPUR RUBBER CO., LIMITED.

Two groups of estates in the Federated Malay States, respectively known as the Kent and Uganda

and the Wardieburn, are acquired by this company for £160,000, of which £142,600 is payable in cash, and the balance in cash or shares. The first-named was bought originally for £60,000, and resold to the intermediary promoter for that amount in cash and £5,650 in shares or cash, and the second was secured for £80,000, so that there is a profit on the deal of £14,350. The total capital is £180,000, in £1 shares, all of which are offered, but the directors may go to allotment on a minimum subscription of £163,000, a figure which does not leave much margin for working capital, especially as it is proposed to proceed with the planting of about 1,000 acres of new ground. In addition to the rubber plantations, containing 147,719 trees, of which 11,896 are tappable this year, the estates include some 700 acres of coffee, as well as certain tin deposits. The latter, however, were not taken into consideration in fixing the purchase price, nor are the profits from them taken into account in estimating the returns, although in the past these have amounted to about \$1,000 per month. From rubber alone it is calculated that, taking the price at 5s. 4d. for the current year and at 4s. 6d. subsequently, the profits will suffice to pay about 4 per cent. per annum for the second and third years, after which much greater profits are expected.

CLITTERS UNITED MINES.

In last week's issue we gave some particulars of Clitters United Mines, a company that shares with Dolcoath the distinction of being the premier tin mining company in Cornwall. The report issued by the directors this week is their third, and covers a period of thirteen months to December 31. The results of the working are not overpowering, but the promise is good, and the report is much better than any previous one. There seems now every likelihood that the improvement will not only be maintained, but make considerable progress in the current twelve months. For the rise in the price of tin and the prospects that consumption will continue to outpace supply for an indefinite time to come has made a wonderful difference to this company's prospects, apart from other favourable circumstances. The chief aim of the directors hitherto has been to complete the unwatering and development of the Hingston and Clitters mines, so as to render the company entirely independent of dump ore and to provide large and valuable ore reserves for the future. This was achieved during the past year, and whilst the programme was being carried out the directors successfully endeavoured to pay all expenses on the low grade ore available. Sales for the thirteen months amounted to £20,256, the working cost per ton being 13s. 8d. on mineral worth 16s. 11d., leaving a gross profit of 3s. 3d. per ton, or £3,869 in the aggregate. After deducting from this all expenses, depreciation and interest on the debentures, the nett profit was only £53, which it is proposed to write off the account for purchase of property, development, &c. The following figures are interesting as showing the improvement that has occurred since the beginning of the present year:—

	1905.	1906.
Ore value per ton	16s. 11d. ..	27s. 7d.
Mineral contents per ton (exclusive of arsenic).....	21.28 lbs. ..	27.7 lbs.
Average price of black tin (tin oxide).....	£89 4s. od. ..	£102 16s. 9d.
Price of black tin sold May 8, 1906 ..	..	£121 os. od.

The company's debenture issue has been satisfactorily re-arranged, and this has placed the finances on a sound basis, and as the main capital expenditure has practically ended, all profits from January 1st last become available for dividend. Strong emphasis is laid upon the fact that the anticipations as to values in the deeper workings of the Hingston mine have been fully borne out by the most recent developments, and it is said "this portion of the company's property promises to become of exceptional importance as a consistent producer of highly payable ore." Owing to the large area of the company's mineral-bearing ground, the directors have given their attention to various important schemes for dealing with a portion of the property, and have already arranged on favourable terms for the guarantee of the necessary capital for the formation of a first subsidiary. This will include the Old Gunnislake mine, which, in addition to its tin and wolfram, has in former years been known as a large producer of rich copper ore in conjunction with uranium. Mr. Joseph Paul, the general manager, writes as follows in regard to the prospects: "I consider these are much better now than at any time since the company commenced operations; the larger lodes at Hingston will turn out a high tonnage at moderate costs, and now that our sorting arrangements are complete, and by closely watching this department, I expect the grade milled to be much better. The company also has very excellent prospects in opening up the virgin ground, of which there is about a mile between the workings at Clitters and those at Hingston, and about half a mile on the western extension of Hingston. This ground is traversed by several

lodes, including those worked on, for its whole length, and the ancient workings still to be seen at surface are as fine as can be found in the country; especially is this so where the Caunter lode junctions with the east and west lodes. I feel that in prospecting there, as it is intended to do, some good discoveries will result."

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

*.**Frank and unbiassed answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.*

Monday last was contango day in the mining market, but there was very little business to arrange, the speculative account open being of the meagrest dimensions. As the current account will be of the normal length of a fortnight, contango rates looked a little easier than they were at the previous settlement, the charge on the bulk of Kaffir shares being 6-7 per cent. There were, as usual, several prominent exceptions, such as 5-6 per cent. on East Rand Props, Rand Mines, Modderfonteins and Randfontein Estates, 5½-6½ per cent. on Gold Fields and 5-6 per cent. on T.C.L.'s. Of the Diamond shares, De Beers were continued at 3½-4½ per cent., Jagers at 4-5 per cent. and Premiers at 5-6 per cent. On Rhodesians the rate was also 6-7 per cent., but on Chartered over 9 per cent. was the charge.

Both on West Africans and Egyptians the prevailing rate was again 6-8 per cent., whilst it varied much on West Australians. Most were continued at 6-8 per cent., but Associated, Great Fingalls, Ivanhoes and Oroyas were done at 5-7 per cent., Horse-shoes at 3-5 per cent., and Sons of Gwalia 4-6 per cent. at first, but later there were borrowers of the shares.

Losses in the South African making-up list preponderated, but on the whole they were not very heavy. The principal decline was 1¼ in Premier deferred, the others including ¼ in Crown Reefs, Ferreira and Treasuries, and ½ in Gold Trusts, Cinderella Deeps, and Meyer and Charltons. Against these there were gains of ½ in Van Ryn, ½ in Rand Mines and Geduld, ¼ in Robinson Central Deep and ½ in De Beers deferred, East Rands, Modderfonteins, and New Heriots. Amongst West Africans, Nigeria Props improved ½ and Wassaus 3-32, but Ashanti Goldfields dropped 2s. The leading West Australian shares were higher, Golden Horseshoes to the extent of ½, Oroyas ½, Great Fingalls, Ivanhoes and Kalgurli ¼ each, and Lake View Consols 3s. Of the Copper shares, Rio Tintos advanced 1½, Anacondas ¾ and Cape Coppers ½.

All hopes that the new account would be better than the old have not been realised; indeed, business has, if anything, been more meagre. Some professionals will try to persuade us this is due to the coincidence of the Derby week and the Whitsuntide holidays, but these are far-fetched theories. A week or so ago the stagnation was attributed to the posting up of the repatriation notices and the fear that the coolies would gladly take advantage of the Government's offer. They have not done so, and we have been asked to believe they have voluntarily, and without the least pressure, expressed to Lord Selborne their contentedness with their lot and their indisposition to return to China until their time is up. But all this "happy" news fails to bring business, proving once again that the public cares not a cent whether the coolies go or stay. A broker who steps into the market with a genuine buying order is not only envied but regarded with some wonderment. So prices have again been slipping away daily, as much as ½ in places, but in the majority of instances hardly more than ¼. A similar condition of things exists in the Rhodesian market.

The outstanding exception to the prevailing dullness is again Premier Diamond, where the tussle between the "bulls" and the "bears" has continued, and on balance the loss is heavy. In contrast with the violent fluctuations in these shares, De Beers and Jagers have been steady.

Movements have been sluggish elsewhere. Neither in West Africans, Egyptians nor West Australians are there any changes of interest. Even Copper shares have exhibited little or no life, Rio Tintos being a trifle better.

The price of tin has moved with much irregularity, moving up sharply one day and reacting the next. Accordingly there has been little or no excitement in Cornish tin shares, the values of which stand very firm.

KOFFYFONTEIN MINES.—An interim report is issued by the directors covering the six months to the end of December, in which period 357,367 loads were washed for a yield of 18,190 carats of diamonds, showing an average yield of five carats per 100 loads. The quantity sold was 18,219½ carats, realising £39,454. Adding diamonds on hand, £6,570, and blue ground on hand, £375, and deducting the value of the stock at June 30 last, the nett credit is £39,574, transfer fees yielding £14, and sundry receipts £122, in all, £39,714. Outgoings aggregated £33,604, so the nett profit was £6,110, which reduces the debit balance to £54,305, a formidable item still. Liabilities are also heavy, bills payable amounting to £9,135, and sundry creditors to £7,097, against which cash stands at £7,969, debtors owe £1,362, and diamonds on hand are valued at £6,945. Should this comparative success be maintained, it will be a long time before the company can earn distributable profits. Since the beginning of the present year, the directors say, steady profits have been earned, and they have been able to reduce the liabilities by some £14,500.

TRANSVAAL COAL TRUST COMPANY.—Better results were obtained by this company in 1905 than in 1904, the operations at

the two collieries producing an additional 82,916 tons. The coal winning account consequently shows a credit of £46,695, which is an appreciable increase over the preceding year's profit, due to the larger tonnage handled, but the directors regret that, owing to keen competition and cutting of prices, "it has not been possible to secure a profit which might be reasonably considered commensurate with the large output and the great amount of work involved." A dividend of 5 per cent. was paid out of the profits, and a very good balance-sheet is published.

SPITZKOP FARM.—This company's mine has remained shut down during the whole of 1905, and local circumstances have not altered to such an extent as to induce the directors to advise a resumption of active operations. The expenditure exceeded the revenue by £2,219, and this loss has to be added to the old debit of £27,213, making the aggregate £29,433. Cash is only £25, against £135 owing to creditors, but the company has some £5,500 invested in Consols. An item on the asset side of the balance-sheet is a loss of £9,831, arising from the destruction and depreciation of plant, buildings, machinery, stores, &c., during the war. This passive attitude of folding arms and watching events is not very profitable.

WEST AUSTRALIAN GOLDFIELDS.—A little over 12 months ago a committee of shareholders was appointed to make an examination of this company's position, and a report was issued on June 6, 1905. The sanction of the Court having been obtained, the recommendations contained in the report for a big reduction of the capital have been carried into effect, and the consequent alterations made in the balance-sheet. The assets, which the committee considered, taken on the whole, as well worth preserving, and likely to realise more than the amount they were valued at in the books, have been treated separately as to their capital value, the sales made having been credited to and the sum spent in protection of the assets debited to the original total. The result is that the group now stands in the books at £148,325, against £190,068, a reduction of £41,743, but the directors are unable as yet to form a definite opinion as to what the ultimate result of their realisation may be. Revenue from investments in the year 1905 amounted to £5,630, and shows a decline of £6,008 compared with 1904. This is owing chiefly to the loss of revenue on Kalgoorlie Tramways "B" debenture stock sold and to the cessation of dividends on the company's holding in the Duke United shares. General expenditure took £3,185, but the directors estimate it will not exceed £2,000 during the current year. Naturally enough, the affairs of the Ymir Mine, and of the Kettle River Power Company, in both of which large interests are held, have given the directors much anxiety. It having become necessary to provide fresh capital in order to preserve the assets of the Junction Deep Leads of Victoria, and the directors having already made during the past year additional advances to that company, reorganisation was decided upon. The net profit for 1905 was £1,207, and the debit balance is now £35,544, reduced in the following manner:—Debit at December, 1904, £187,147; deduct £150,000 written off 200,000 ordinary shares at 15s. per share; sundry adjustments, £395; and last year's profit, £1,207. As the result of the conversion of the 103,530 £1 preference shares into converted preference shares, the amount of the arrears of the preference dividend, £24,175, has been reduced to £8,327. The auditors report that the shares, investments, land, buildings, machinery, and sundry debtors, aggregating, after deducting realisations during the year, £138,498, appear in the balance-sheet at the same figure as they stood in the books at the end of 1904, and no reserve has been made to cover any loss that may arise upon their ultimate realisation. The directors have to confess that the restoration of the company to a sound position must take some time, in view of the huge debit balance.

AUSTRALIAN SMELTING CORPORATION.—A circular issued by the secretary to the shareholders informs them that the arrangements under which the Corporation acquires the property and assets of the Smelting and Refining Company of Australia (1901), including its smelting works at Dapto, New South Wales, have now been finally sanctioned by the Court. Instructions have been given to the Corporation's representatives in the colony to take immediate possession of the smelters, and the necessary alterations to adapt them to modern requirements will be taken in hand without delay. Negotiations are also well forward with the New South Wales Government, with the object of securing such improvements at Port Kembla as will relieve the Corporation of the necessity for removing the smelters from their present site, and so save the expenditure of much working capital.

FRONTINO AND BOLIVIA (SOUTH AMERICAN) GOLD MINING COMPANY.—In the half-year to December 31 there were produced 7,762 tons of mineral for a yield of 8,800 ozs. of bullion. Compared with the preceding six months, these figures show an increase of 657 tons crushed, a decrease of 372 ozs. produced, and a decline of 3 dwts. 3½ grs. in the yield per ton. The pyrites treated by the cyanide process gave 633 ozs. of bullion, valued at £1,105, while the returns from the tributaries were 515 ozs. of bullion, against 426½ ozs. There was a heavy fall in the profit, which was only £2,819, compared with £8,081 in the previous half-year, a reduction attributed to two main causes—(1) The decline in the grade of the Silencio ore; (2) the increase in working costs. The yield from Silencio fell from 2.81 ozs. to 1.58 ozs., and the effects would have been more serious had not the superintendent increased the output by 924 tons, and obtained ore of a better grade from other mines. Costs were increased by debiting several items of dead work to revenue charged previously to capital account. Expenditure also included £500 written off exchange account, but the directors assure shareholders that every effort is being made to keep down ex-

penses. During the three months of the current half-year to the end of June the number of tons crushed has been 3,193, for a yield of 3,534 ozs. of bullion, averaging 1 oz. 2 dwts. 3½ grs. per ton, while from the tributaries' mines the production is 293 ozs. of bullion, of an estimated value of £8,837. More development work was done than in the first half of 1905, and this has increased the ore reserves to 3,866 tons from 1,500 tons. An improvement in the grade of the mineral from Silencio is anticipated.

BRITISH BORNEO EXPLORATION COMPANY.—The accounts issued by the directors cover the period from the date of incorporation, February, 1905, to February of the present year. A concession has been acquired by the company giving it the exclusive right for a period of 50 years to explore the whole of British North Borneo. The company has sold, the directors say, for future delivery, 18,000 tons of high grade and 12,000 tons of second grade manganese ore at prices which should show a good profit, the buyers having the option, subject to certain conditions, of taking a further 10,000 to 12,000 tons of the former quality, and 28,000 tons of the latter as soon as available. Large deposits of coal are reported to exist near the coast, about 15 miles north of the manganese deposits and steps are to be taken to investigate these as soon as convenient. Other discoveries include chromite, sand and blue ground, while indications have from time to time been found of gold, smokeless coal, tin, wolfram, copper and other minerals. An expedition organised by the British North Borneo Company has started from Temon with a view to reporting on the suitability of the country for the construction of a railway from Temon, the present inland terminus of the railway on the west of the island to Cowie Harbour on the east coast. A representative of the British Borneo Exploration accompanies the expedition, and will report upon the mineral prospects of the interior. The balance of expenditure over receipts is £4,893, while cash is only £160, with £432 owing by debtors, against total liabilities of £5,077.

DAY DAWN P.C. GOLD MINING COMPANY.—During the financial year ending December 31 the expenditure exceeded the receipts by £4,607, and after deducting this from the credit in the previous accounts, there still remains a surplus of £1,502. Tributaries paid £1,056 to the company in percentages and payments for hauling, &c., the work done by the company itself being practically confined to prospecting and developing. Thus the output of quartz was small, the 534 tons crushed giving the good yield of £3,416, including concentrates and residues. The directors say they have received no report from the shareholders' committee for publication, but a lengthy report by a firm of accountants has been handed to them, and is open for inspection at the company's offices. They proceed to state that in view of the smaller capital of the proposed new company they have consented to a further reduction of fees, and are providing in the new articles for the payment of the minimum fees they can accept—£150 per annum for the chairman and £100 for each director. They are not in favour of a proposal to appoint a local board at Charters Towers. But that is no reason why the shareholders should not be.

NEW QUEEN GOLD MINING COMPANY.—The directors of this company have issued an interim report for the half-year ending February 28, and in this period the mill crushed 5,010 tons of the company's stone, 126 tons for the tributaries, and 969½ tons for the public, a total of 6,105 tons against 5,226 tons in the preceding half-year. The cyanide works treated 6,382 tons for 1,311 ozs. of gold, of a nett value of £5,103, and 444 ozs. of silver worth £44, total £5,147. During the current six months the mine, on present appearances will, it is said, keep most of the stamps going, and as occasional public parcels may be reasonably expected, the outlook for stone is considered fairly good. Altogether, there is nothing very exhilarating to tell.

CENTRAL CHILI COPPER COMPANY.—Shareholders are now enlightened by means of extracts from the general manager's letter, upon the accidental causes of the recent temporary decrease in the output. He appears now to be overcoming the difficulties he has had to contend with, the production of regulus for the month of April having been advised by cable as 260 tons against 210 tons for March.

PAHANG CORPORATION.—Circulars have been issued by the directors of the Pahang Corporation and the Pahang Kabang companies announcing a scheme for the amalgamation of these companies and the purchase of the interests in the property of the Malay Exploration Syndicate. Additional capital is urgently needed, the amount proposed to be raised being £100,000. The meeting to consider the scheme is convened for the 8th inst.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

EAST ARGENTINE RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

We learn from the report of this company for the year 1905 that as from January 1 the steamboats were worked on joint account by the East Argentine and the Argentine North-Eastern companies, the revenue of the steamboats became merged in that of the railway. Whether this had any effect on the income we are not sure, but the traffic receipts show a decline of £7,110 at a total of £61,209, compared with the preceding year. On the other hand, the working expenses were reduced by £7,593,

so that the profit balance of £25,885 shows an increase of £483. To this is added interest on Guarantee Rescission bonds £28,230, and transfer fees, exchange and interest £911, making £55,026. From that, interest on debenture stock requires £16,351 and income-tax £529, and the directors have placed £1,500 to the permanent way renewal fund and £3,000 each to the rolling stock and locomotive renewal funds. Other small charges aggregate £218, leaving £30,428, which is raised to £30,792 by the sum brought forward. One-fifth of the outlay upon extensions and additions in 1901 to 1905 absorbs £1,434, and the directors are now able to pay a dividend on the company's stock of 4½ per cent., carrying forward £801. After adding the £1,500 from revenue, together with the proceeds of the sales of old rails, and charging £7,425 for cost of rails laid in 1905, the permanent way renewal fund shows a debit of £1,003, which will be liquidated in 1906. It is estimated that sufficient steel rails have been shipped to complete the relaying of the main line. New passenger stock shipped early this year consisted of three first and four second class coaches, and two brake and postal vans. Cost of these in running order will amount to about £10,000, so that a further charge of £3,000 during 1906 should close this account for the present. The three new locomotives mentioned in the last report were shipped late in 1905, and are now being erected. Thanks to the working agreement with the Argentine North-Eastern Railway the company was able to dispose of its two large steamers, and we gather that if the sanction of the Argentine Government can be obtained a scheme will be proposed for the complete fusion of the two companies. The Argentine North-Eastern holds a majority of the East Argentine stock and already manages the line.

SOUTHERN PUNJAB RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

This company found the second half of 1905 a very prosperous period, and gathered a gross revenue of Rs.18,24,627, or Rs.4,31,970 more than in the corresponding period of 1904. Working expenses at 52 per cent. required Rs.9,39,653, and adjustments on account of previous half-year's were Rs.9,153, making the outgo Rs.9,48,800, and leaving Rs.8,75,821 as net earnings. Converted into sterling this produced £58,388, which other income raised to £60,756. Debenture interest, £8,750, and some smaller charges aggregating £2,759, reduced this to £48,847, of which £15,187 is due to the Secretary of State leaving £33,660. From that the directors propose a final dividend at 5 per cent. per annum, making 4½ per cent. for the year, absorbing £24,150, and leaving £36,763 to be carried forward against £27,253 brought in. Capital expenditure on the Ludhiana extension for the half-year was £79,365, and the Southern section—McLeodgunge Road to Ferozepore—was opened for public traffic on February 10 last, the line being thus opened throughout. The works are practically complete with the exception of the ballasting, which is being pushed on as rapidly as possible.

LIMA RAILWAYS CO., LIMITED.

This is the line which the Peruvian Corporation some time ago contemplated buying but after mature consideration decided to forego that pleasure. The bargain would have been a bad one if the thing had been given away, because it is difficult to imagine a more deplorable position than that disclosed in the annual report to December 31 last. A terrific decrease took place in the passenger traffic, which yielded only £9,962 against £31,560, the past year's total, including the payment at £5,000 per annum made by the Chorrillos Electric Tramway Company. The heavy decline had, of course, been anticipated. Under an arrangement with the tramway company, the railway agreed to practically abandon the passenger business in consideration of the annual contribution mentioned. The railway was forced into this position as it was useless to attempt competition with the tramway. Unhappily the goods traffic was not satisfactory during the year, and from August to December trade became particularly slack. The period, however, finished up with an improvement of £82, and there was a gain of £352 in miscellaneous receipts. On the other hand rents dropped £123, tramway income £203, La Punta £1,100, and the Magdalen line £597, meaning a total drop in revenue of £23,187 at £39,754. Against that the working expenditure was less by £27,409 at £39,275, so that the result of operations is a credit of £479 against a loss of £3,743. Charges which must be met, however, that is debenture and other interest, £4,890, and London charges £2,144, aggregate £7,034, so that this credit is converted into a debit of £6,563. Total deficiency to date is £16,735, and the company is already severely in debt to bankers and others. Happily the immediate prospect is a trifle more hopeful, cargo traffic receipts to date showing an increase of over £2,000, and details have now been settled of the Callao agreement. These may be summarised as follows:—The company will receive for the first three years £10,000 per annum, and afterwards 11-30ths of the average cargo receipts of the previous three years, with a minimum, except in the case of forced competition, of £9,000 with a maximum of £11,000. This agreement is subject to the Government granting permission to electrify the railways and by the latest cable the directors are advised that good progress is being made in this direction. The board acknowledges the services rendered by the committee, but gives no details of anything achieved.

WEST FLANDERS RAILWAYS.

A translation of this company's report for the year ended December 31 made for the benefit of the English shareholders

shows that the receipts from all sources amounted to 4,354,011fr. or 193,135fr. more than in the preceding 12 months. Passengers and luggage contributed 40,384fr. to this increase and the balance came from goods, cattle, &c. On the other hand, there was a decrease of 16,190fr. at 2,156,288fr. in the working expenditure of the various departments, while the outgo under every head reached 2,401,046fr., leaving 1,952,965fr. as net profit. Toll and sundry receipts and the balance brought forward, less interest on reserve fund, raises this to 2,117,305fr., from which the bond service requires 915,325fr., leaving 1,201,980fr. Sinking fund absorbs a further amount of 180,476fr., 18,452fr. is credited to repairs and renewals account, 25,000fr. goes to the accident fund, and 46,750 is absorbed for Belgian income-tax. The legal reserve next claims 46,565fr., statutory allowance is 28,057fr., and 130,000fr. is placed to the extraordinary reserve. Shareholders then receive a first dividend of 5 per cent. and an extra dividend of 1 per cent., and 6,680fr. remains to be carried forward. A special meeting will be held at the close of the general meeting to consider the agreement for the sale of the company's property to the Belgian Government in advance of the expiration of the concessions.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

The report issued by this company at the present time is only an interim one and does not contain any accounts, but the directors give an interesting summary of the working for the half-year ended March 31. In this they state that notwithstanding a war of rates in the outward Indian trade the general export business has almost compensated for the deficit caused by the disagreement between the English and German lines trading to Antwerp, which has involved all concerned in a considerable loss. The homeward and inter-colonial trade, on the other hand, has been disappointing, the decline in shipments in the latter being particularly marked, as the comparison is made with a busy season last year, and the freight returns consequently show a serious deficiency. Passenger traffic, however, indicates marked progress, the revenue being higher and the prospects favourable, and in spite of a large increase in expenditure, due partly to the overlapping of the ships engaged in the mail service by the new tonnage which has been lately introduced, and partly to the acceleration effected under the existing contract, the results have on the whole been satisfactory. With regard to the fleet two boats were sold some months ago, and have disappeared from the list, while a third has been disposed of since the close of the half-year. The four new boats especially built to reinforce the mail service between India and China are now at work, and the four steamers mentioned in the last report as having been contracted for in connection with the intermediate service between London, China, and Japan will be delivered by the builders during the current year. With these four vessels the total tonnage of the fleet, including steam tenders and tugs at various ports, will be brought up to 395,052 tons. A considerable outlay is being incurred in adapting some of the largest cargo steamers for the conveyance of refrigerated produce in the Australian and other trades, and the directors are again able to state that the mail and general work of the fleet has been carried on with regularity and efficiency. Dividends are declared as usual at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred and 7 per cent. per annum on the deferred stocks.

BANK OF MONTREAL.

A fair increase of £12,041 to £172,718 was secured in the net profits of this bank for the six months ended April 30, and with a very much larger balance of £164,765 brought forward the amount available was £56,971 up at £337,483. The directors, however, have made no alteration in the dividends which remain at 2½ per cent. per quarter, nor have they added anything to the rest which stands at £2,054,795, so that the balance forward is further raised to £189,538. Notes in circulation are £267,442 up at £1,953,770, deposits bearing interest have risen by £1,072,369 to £17,329,028, and those not bearing interest by £294,370 to £1,136,467, while on the other hand current loans and discounts in Canada, &c., have increased by £2,277,100 to £18,819,634. Of the other assets gold and silver coin amounts to £1,136,467 or £294,370 more, Government demand notes are £338,812 down at £1,097,748, and call and short loans in Great Britain and the United States are £871,226 lower at £4,800,318. Agencies of the bank in Great Britain owe £568,680, agencies in foreign countries £703,884 and notes and cheques of other banks come to £735,440, while the bank holds investments of various kinds valued at £1,816,310.

SHORTS, LIMITED.

There is no doubt at all that this business is an exceedingly good one, but such a high price was charged for it when it was turned over to a limited company that there is little chance of the financial position becoming really strong if the shareholders are to receive a return on their investment commensurate with the risks run. Although the meeting to be held next week is the eighth annual gathering, the present concern having been formed in 1893, the reserve fund is only £16,500, including £2,000 added from the past year's profits. This goes against the item of freehold and leasehold premises, trade marks, designs, licences and goodwill, &c., £440,148. How much intangible matter is included in this item we have never been able to learn, but know the figure is pretty big. In other directions the finances are not strong. Being a cash business we do not expect to find the item of debtors very large, and the total indeed is only £389, but on the other hand, creditors should also be small. They probably would be if the company had more free resources at its dis-

posals, instead of which the amount owing is quite considerable at £27,637. We wonder if the undertaking is able to take advantage of all the cash discounts offering. Investments, presumably on account of reserve, amount to £9,925, and stock of wines, spirits, &c., is worth £39,177, but the cash balance of £13,732 is not very startling with over £10,000 still to be provided for dividends. Trading profit for the 12 months to March 31 was £31,041, and £604 was received from interest and transfer fees, making £31,645. From this income-tax absorbs £617 and £1,500 is payable for directors' fees, leaving £29,528, which is increased to £31,231 by the balance brought forward. The directors have already paid the 4 per cent. dividend on the preference shares £8,000, the 6 per cent. preferred ordinary dividend £7,500 and three interim dividends of 2½ per cent. each on the deferred ordinary shares. The last-named is now to receive a final 2½ per cent., making 10 per cent. for the year, the same as before, but in order to do this and add the already mentioned £2,000 to reserve, the carry forward has to be reduced to £1,231.

LONDON CENTRAL MARKETS COLD STORAGE CO., LIMITED.

The directors of this company are never without an excuse or two when business does not turn out very grand, and profits persistently decline. A year ago it was the Russo-Japanese war, the lingering effects of the drought in Australia, and the shortage of miscellaneous market supplies. Of course, the directors were confident that things would immediately look up just as they were in the previous report, and are still in the one under notice. But the directors' hopes seem to be mere flights of fancy, because matters persist in looking down instead of up. Trading profits were less by almost £4,000 at £12,806, and the board attributes this to the fact that as goods came forward they were promptly distributed instead of going into cold store. Later, there was a gradual increase in the storage business, notably from Australia and Argentina, Russia still being disturbed, but not enough to make good the previous deficiency. A little help came from a credit in connection with the cancellation of a storage lease, which brought in £876, although we are not sure that this is a revenue item at all. Then the general charges were reduced by £3,357 at £5,429, a most important saving, and the nett balance is actually larger at £8,253. Transfer fees gave £7, making £8,259, for which the charges for lease insurance premiums, lease redemption, director's fees, and remuneration of committee added up to £2,555 leaving £5,704. With £465 brought in the directors have £6,168 for disposal, and after providing for interest and redemption of debentures and income-tax they again propose a dividend of 4 per cent., carrying forward £510. The company is building up a reserve for the redemption of the debentures, besides making provision for the repayment of capital at the expiration of the leases in 1932 and 1939.

JOSEPH BURTON AND SONS, LIMITED.

This company did rather well in the 12 months ended April 2. Profit on trading and income from other sources was £2,676 more than in the preceding year at £25,059, and the balance brought in was a good thousand pounds up at £3,274, so that the aggregate balance was £28,333 against £24,491. Allowance for depreciation was £2,210, income-tax took £420, and after providing £5,567 for interest on debentures and loans and directors' fees—why confuse these charges—and £5,500 for the preference dividend, the sum left is £14,635 against £10,524. The ordinary dividend, however, is still kept down to 5 per cent., and another £2,500 is added to reserve, the balance carried forward being £7,385 or fully £4,000 more. The company carries on the business of wholesale and retail provision merchants, and the directors state that during the year a number of new stores have been opened or acquired upon favourable terms. Additions to property account were £1,263, raising the total to £242,087, and on that the wastage allowance is only £455, this sum being written off plant and machinery. Rolling stock, fixtures, fittings, &c., were increased by £9,197, and reduced by £1,756, leaving the item at £48,860. Stock-in-trade is valued at £67,968, but trading accounts are adverse to the amount of £23,000, and cash is very poor at £1,968. Shares in allied business are entered at £6,707, and we cannot trace from the accounts whether they bring in any revenue or not. With the addition made from last year's profits the reserve will be £20,000, but it is practically all involved in the business, and it must be confessed that the financial position is hardly so good as the revenue.

BROWNLEE AND CO., LIMITED.

Although the timber trade is supposed to have passed through a rather anxious and troublesome time during the past year, the directors of this Glasgow undertaking are happy to report some recovery in profits for the 12 months ended March 31. After providing all charges, including depreciation and directors' remuneration, the balance of profit is £28,199 or £1,240 more than in the previous year. The improvement does not nearly make good the decline then shown of £3,874, which itself followed a drop of £7,391, but it is a move in the right direction. Moreover, the balance brought forward is only £2,663 against £4,254 so that the sum now for disposal is less than it was a year ago at £30,861. Nevertheless the directors pay the preference dividend together with 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, the same as before, adding another £5,000 to reserve, but further reducing the carry forward to £2,312. The financial position may be described as fair, as the reserve now reaches £37,500 against an outlay on properties of £137,693, the Glasgow and Kilmarnock

saw mills being entered at £105,955, and the Grangemouth mill at £29,738. Sundry creditors are nearly £10,000 heavier at £53,484, but debtors are down by £15,710 to £127,891, and bills receivable, cash and investments show a decline of £18,692 at £63,639. These movements are partly connected with an increase in stocks of £32,190 to £132,887, and partly with the capital expenditure incurred on the new premises now being erected at Grangemouth. Whether these are sufficiently advanced to contribute to the revenue we do not know, and it may be remarked, that the company does not publish a profit and loss account.

METROPOLITAN AMALGAMATED RAILWAY CARRIAGE AND WAGON CO., LIMITED.

This well-known and flourishing company increased its profit by over £35,000 during the year to March 31 last compared with the preceding 12 months. The total reached £235,811, and is arrived at after providing for contingencies and internal reserves. Preference dividends require £21,198 and the directors now propose a final dividend at 12½ per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. for the year, the same as before, adding £50,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £86,131 against £51,032 brought in. Additions to property account during the year were heavy at £77,157, raising the total to £702,458, and we cannot trace any allowance for depreciation unless the internal reserves just mentioned are intended for this purpose. The reserve fund, however, now amounts to £150,000, so that the position is right enough. Sundry creditors are pretty heavy at £270,588 but the amount is more than offset by debtors £289,038. Besides that, the company has cash £146,254, investments £364,312 and stock-in-trade and work in progress £248,402. In fact the company's affairs are so flourishing that no harm could result if a proper profit and loss account were published, and the items of the balance-sheet given in greater detail.

REUTER'S TELEGRAM CO., LIMITED.

The revenue of this well-known and almost too enterprising company was down again in the year to December 31, the subscriptions, commissions, &c., being £189,124, with £180 brought in against £207,725, including £137 from previous account for 1904. Current expenses were £42,679, or £2,567 less, and there was a saving in telegrams and agencies of £10,335 at £134,678. These declines, however, were very far from offsetting the drop in income, so, after adding £1,950, or £200 more, to the life insurance and superannuation fund, the directors place £3,000 or £2,000 less to reserve, nothing against £5,000 to the telegraphic remittance fund, and £2,000 or £1,200 more to the officers' pension reserve. Surely remarkable solicitude for the staff. Balance still left is £4,817 compared with £4,915, and after providing the regular dividend of 5 per cent., a sum of £81 remains to be carried forward. All told the reserve funds of the company amount to £73,131 against goodwill £65,000, and premises £45,899, so that the finances are strong. Sum due to creditors is £59,258, while debtors owe only £26,834, but the cash balance is the big one of £74,512, and bills receivable amount to £13,010.

REDFERN, LIMITED.

This company continues to do very poorly. In the year to January 13 there was a gross trading profit of £91,683, which seems a big sum, transfer fees gave £8, and £7,302 was brought forward, making £98,993 in all. But against this the general business expenses, salaries, advertising, rent, rates, &c., require the heavy amount of £75,291, depreciation took a further sum of £2,675, London office expenses were £2,215, and other charges £649. Balance over was £18,163, which provides the preference dividend with a credit carried forward of £12,163. No dividend is proposed on the £200,000 of ordinary capital, and the reserve fund remains at £20,000 against property and goodwill of £211,753. Sundry trade creditors amount to £21,959, but it has been necessary to raise £23,000 on loan, as sundry debtors owe the big sum of £124,212. Cash amounts to £8,905, stock represents a sum of £33,583, and £101 has been invested in Consols.

AGUA SANTA NITRATE AND RAILWAY COMPANY.

This company continued to work with only two of its oficinas during the half-year ended December 31, and the output of nitrate showed a further shrinkage of 50,752 qtls. to 589,364 qtls., although the sales were the same as for the corresponding period of 1904 at 660,000 qtls. The quantity carried by the railway, however, was considerably smaller at 3,314,776 qtls., and the earnings from all sources fell off by \$73,793 to \$1,340,948. After providing \$98,952 for depreciation, the nett profits were \$74,962 down at \$1,241,996, and, converted into sterling, showed a decrease of £5,622 at £93,150, but expenses in Valparaiso took less, so that the available balance was only £3,222 less at £82,496, and after paying the usual quarterly dividends of 4 per cent. each, £34,496 was added to the depreciation fund and £15,000 written off for repairs to the Valparaiso oficina. During the past year the machinery of this oficina was thoroughly overhauled and its capacity considerably increased, to enable the company to deal with the large quantities of medium and lower grade "caliche" economically. The total cost of this work to December 31 was \$365,068, and the directors state that, in their opinion, the special provision noted above will bring the book value down to its proper level. With the present addition the depreciation fund will amount to £468,395, and the company has in addition a reserve fund of £60,000, against an issued capital of £600,000, while its debenture issue has been gradually reduced to £98,300, so that its position is exceedingly good.

CLAUDIUS ASH, SONS, AND CO. (1905), LIMITED.

The first year's trading of this amalgamation showed profits well up to the average of the prospectus at £72,077, but of this half went to the vendors under the agreement for purchase, leaving with £978 from interest on deposit a balance of £37,017 for the company. Directors' fees and other charges absorbed £4,045, and after writing off £1,493 for one-third of the preliminary expenses and providing for interest on calls in advance and on purchase-money, the amount available came to £30,256. The certificate empowering the company to trade having been granted on July 17, the proportion of profits from July 1 to 16, amounting to £2,784, has been credited to capital reserve, and after providing for preference dividend the ordinary shares receive a dividend at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum for the six months to December 31, and £3,804 is carried forward. Freehold and leasehold properties stand in the balance-sheet at £49,622 and plant, machinery, &c., at £34,548, or an increase of £4,588 over the prospectus valuation. Stocks, too, are £9,748 higher at £276,906, cash, apart from £75,000 on deposit out of the new capital raised, is £11,519 up at £25,213, and sundry debtors come to £12,231 more at £212,859, against which there is only £29,832 due to sundry creditors.

TRUST AND LOAN COMPANY OF CANADA.

The half-year ended on March 31 proved a very profitable period for this well-managed company. Revenue from all sources was £45,968, or £5,548 more than in the corresponding period against which the total interest charges were £20,302 compared with £18,171. Expenses in London amounted to £7,702, and other charges to £1,141, leaving £16,824 as the nett profit, an improvement of £3,148. Balance brought forward was £21,405, making £38,229, from which £3,537 goes to the reserve fund leaving £34,692. The directors, therefore, propose to pay a bonus of 1 per cent. instead of ¾, in addition to the 3 per cent. dividend, making 4 per cent. instead of 3½ for the half-year. A balance of £21,692 then remains to be carried forward. During the past half-year a sum of £204 has been added to the reserve fund for increase in the value of investments in England, and £1,668 has been charged against it for loss on securities realised in Canada. Sundry other debits and credits have also to be taken into account, and on March 31 the fund stood at the excellent total of £187,354. Most of this has been separately invested, gilt-edged securities being held to the value of £158,733. Cash, £54,789, is also in excellent supply, and, including debtors of £180,084, the investments in Canada amount to £1,421,956. Floating liabilities are quite unimportant.

CITY OF LONDON REAL PROPERTY CO., LIMITED.

This company's nett rents for the year ended April 12, after deducting all charges, including expenses of management, amounted to £142,696, to which is added £29 for transfer fees, making £142,725. From this mortgage and debenture interest absorbs £36,697, directors' fees £1,250, and auditors' fees £79, while £8,180 was required for instalment and interest on sinking fund, and £11,850 for interest on reserve fund at 3 per cent., leaving £84,668. With £19,901 brought in, the sum for disposal is £104,569, from which the directors pay a dividend of 10 per cent., crediting £13,150 to reserve fund, and carrying forward £25,015. The company has a paid-up share capital of £664,040, debenture stocks of £578,100, mortgages £467,100, deposits and loans £25,510, ordinary floating liabilities £11,872, and staff deposit account £18,763. That is not a very heavy burden of debt for a company of this kind, and the position has been rendered exceedingly strong by the creation of a reserve fund of £420,000 and a sinking fund against leaseholds of £94,831. Cost of properties, including a nett sum of £8,003 spent during the year, is £2,313,043, shares in another company are valued at £1,005, sundry debtors owe £17,777, and cash amounts to £17,161. The only comment which the directors make on the year's operations is to point out that the rates and taxes exceeded those of the previous 12 months by about £3,000.

CHARDWAR TEA CO., LIMITED.

The crop of tea for the year ended December 31 amounted to 335,549 lbs., or an increase of 56,246 lbs., and with an improvement in the quality the average price rose from 6.93d. to 7.85d. per lb., and the gross proceeds were £2,881 larger at £10,998. Expenditure, however, exceeded the estimate, although the cost per lb., owing to the larger crop, was only 6.61d., against 7.53d., and the nett profits came to £1,747. Deducting managers' commission of £175 and the debit balance of £491 brought forward, the amount available, including £13 from dividends and sundry adjustments, was £1,108, out of which the preference dividend is paid for 1904 and 1905 and £508 is carried to the new account. Notwithstanding this return to comparative prosperity, the company's position is none too good, and the possibility of a dividend on the ordinary shares, which form two-thirds of the capital, still seems far off. In addition to £3,600 due on bills payable, the company owes £815 to sundry creditors and £278 for factory wages unpaid, against which there are £3,965 in tea stocks and £1,095 to come in from sundry debtors, and in spite of an overdraft of £892 at the bank, cash is poor at £111.

RUBBER ESTATES OF CEYLON, LIMITED.

This company took over two of its estates as from January 1, 1905, and another as from April 1, but the remainder were not transferred until the very end of the year, so that the results for the 12 months to December 31 cannot be regarded as any indication of what will be done when the property is in full working

order. No rubber is as yet being produced, but 67,450 lbs. of tea, 1,025 cwt. of cocoa, and 98,570 cocoanuts were harvested, and from these an income of £3,695 was derived, of which £3,179 was absorbed by working expenses, and £396 by London office charges and interest, leaving £164 to be carried forward. Expenditure in developing the properties took £2,515, and the directors state that they are all being got into good working order, while the felling of forest for rubber planting is being vigorously proceeded with. So far 1,196 acres have been planted with rubber, but by the end of June next the total area under rubber will be brought up to 2,436 acres. The oldest of these trees were only planted in 1903, so that no revenue can be expected from this source for some years yet, but in the meantime it is estimated that 395,000 lbs. of tea, 1,100 cwt. of cocoa, 150,000 cocoanuts, and 10 cwt. pepper will be gathered for the current season, and a further revenue is looked for from the plumbago mines on one of the estates, which have been let on the basis of a royalty of £4 14s. 6d. per ton on all plumbago shipped.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—The London cargo market again shows very little change. Buyers are not disposed to operate at all freely, and holders adhere to late quotations. Hence business is extremely quiet. Northern markets opened steady on higher American cables and unfavourable weather reports, but reacted on reports of increased stocks and large shipments. The approaching holidays then induced a little covering by the shorts, and the close was fairly steady. Dornbusch estimates the quantity of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom at 3,985,000 qrs., against 4,055,000 qrs. last week, and to the Continent 2,220,000 qrs., compared with 2,415,000 qrs. On the other side dealing was rather quiet, but reports from most quarters were favourable, and considerable realising set in. Bear covering occasionally produced a rally, and when Bradstreet's figures came out the market was inclined to harden, but on the whole the tendency was downward throughout. Bradstreet estimates the quantity of wheat in sight east of the Rockies at 41,890,000 bushels, against 45,163,000 last week, and 30,254,000 a year ago.

WOOL.—Business has been rather slow this week, which may be partly attributed to the coming holidays. Prices, however, keep fairly steady all round, especially for all well-grown domestic produce. Inquiries are rather numerous, and a fair amount of confidence is felt in the immediate future. There is no lack of orders for woollen goods made in Yorkshire, and with a few exceptions the mills are well employed. At the closing auction of the East Indian wool series held at Liverpool, 5,842 bales were offered, making a total of 23,954 bales for the series, of which 20,500 were sold. The arrivals to date for the fourth series of colonial wool auctions, which are fixed to commence on July 10, are as follows: New South Wales, 12,768 bales; Queensland, 2,491; Victoria, 7,064; South Australia, 844; West Australia, 177; Tasmania, 510; New Zealand, 14,230; Cape and Natal, 17,912; total, 55,996 bales.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The general state of our market during the past week has been firm, but sellers have not met with very much new business. A quiet time has been experienced by most sellers, but no particular pressure has shown itself for new business, both spinners and manufacturers having plenty of work to go on with. The raw material in Liverpool has shown a tendency to droop, but American cotton has not very much effect upon our market at the present time, both spinners and manufacturers being in a strong position. In cloth for export the inquiry has been of small dimensions. Our large consuming markets have not been very active, shippers on the whole being more disposed to look on and bring pressure to bear upon makers to keep up to contract time with deliveries. Some manufacturers are having difficulty in meeting their engagements. For India shirtings have been quieter during the last few weeks, and fine goods such as dhotees have not shown any improvement. Order lists in this class of goods are running down, and some makers could very well do with new business. For China staple cloths have been quiet, few transactions being reported. In fancy goods, however, odd lots have been put through. The smaller markets have continued healthy, but the total sales have not been important. For the Levant and Egypt inquiry has come through in goods of a miscellaneous character, but transactions are difficult to arrange, negotiations being frequently stopped owing to the difficulty of settling delivery. The outlets of South America have been rather quieter. The demand for the moment seems to be tapering off. In the home trade houses the sales of light fancy goods have been rather disappointing, but it is understood that retailers have heavy stocks. The outlook for the autumn is encouraging, several makers of heavy goods receiving orders of fair weight. Printing cloths have continued steady without very much new business. T-cloths and Mexicans are firm in quotation, owing to engagements. Coloured woven goods and sateens maintain their position, without any active buying. Home trade American yarns have been very well held by producers. The superior qualities of cop twist and fine weft have shown a tendency to harden in price, although the raw material is easier on the week. Users find difficulty in getting early delivery of certain counts and qualities. The strong position of American spinners is rather marked. In shipping bundles a fair China business has been done, distant delivery being given. For the Continent a moderate turnover has taken place in cops. Bolton spinnings present scarcely any new feature. Users have not been in the mood to operate freely, rates showing some little irregularity.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

RUSSIAN PETROLEUM AND LIQUID FUEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

The ninth ordinary annual general meeting of the Russian Petroleum and Liquid Fuel Company, Limited, was held on Tuesday at Winchester House, E.C., the Hon. Evelyn Hubbard (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. A. J. Milne, A.C.A.) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, at the outset of his speech, dealt with the great difficulties the company had experienced during the past year owing to the outbreaks at Baku, and then explained the various items in the accounts. He went on to say: I now turn to what is of more practical interest to us to-day than the recital of our past misfortunes, and that is the consideration of our present position and our outlook for the future. I have, of course, felt it specially incumbent upon me to make myself acquainted on the spot with the actual state of affairs at this juncture, and I have recently spent six weeks in Russia. In St. Petersburg I had the opportunity of meeting and establishing good personal relations with the chiefs of the two great companies with which we are now allied for the purposes of distribution in Russia, Messrs. Nobel and the Mazoot Company, and I should like to make public acknowledgment of the courteous and friendly way in which these gentlemen have met us throughout the negotiations resulting from our inability to deliver the full proportion of refined products that were due under our agreement, and my sense of the value which their alliance has already proved to us throughout the critical times of the past winter. The operations of these two companies are of such magnitude, and they have so firm a grip of the interior business of Russia, that in combination with them we can obtain results which we could never hope for by ourselves, and it is my confident belief that we shall be able to show you proof of this at the end of the current year. Prices, as you know, have ruled abnormally high for the last six months at Baku owing to the shortage, and while the corresponding figure is not always obtainable for Mazoot in a few places where it comes into competition with other forms of fuel, the average is calculated to work out at the parity of the Baku price. Kerosene, on the other hand, is realising in the interior prices considerably in excess of the Baku value, and in view of the general shortage of stocks and the inevitable delay in working the production of oil back to its former level, our managers are of opinion that we may look for a continuance of very remunerative prices for our products both for 1906 and 1907, which is as far as any forecast can be made. I think, therefore, that the successful marketing of our goods is well assured. The next and the most vital question is, of course, what quantity we may hope to produce. Into this question Mr. Baddeley and I went carefully during our visit to Baku, with the assistance of Mr. Urquhart and Mr. Dournieff, our wells manager, who has had a very long acquaintance with the possibilities of our Group 19. The result of our investigation is, I am glad to say, distinctly reassuring. I certainly did not anticipate in January last the rapid recovery that our plot has already shown. At that time it showed as if we could hardly hope for more than, perhaps, to cover our working expenses for the year. Without pledging myself to the absolute accuracy of what is, after all, but an estimate, I may explain that at the existing price of 25 copecks for crude oil, all expenses of production, all our estimated debenture interest, and some £80,000 depreciation are, we reckon, covered by a gross weekly output of about 240,000 poods. The week before I reached Baku we attained a figure 60,000 poods in excess of that, and for the past eight weeks our production has now averaged close on 300,000 poods. A satisfactory feature of the position is the fact that over 200,000 poods are being supplied by our wells on the older strata, where constant pumping is steadily reducing the water that has hampered us ever since the strikes. That was our great difficulty. A not less satisfactory feature is the great success of the first new well, No. 62, which we have carried down to the fresh stratum at 310 fathoms, which, overflowing two or three times a day, has been giving us a regular addition of some 10,000 poods daily, and has set at rest any doubt as to the richness of this hitherto unexploited source. You will remember that when we last met we could only hold out the hope that we had a good stratum below, but we had not then tested it. We have now tested it, and have every reason to believe it will prove an extremely rich source. We have only had this one well upon it, and it has given us first-rate results. The deeper borings are being energetically pushed on; two or three are now closely approaching the 310 fathom stratum, and three or four more should become available before the close of the year. Of the above, one or two will be carried right through this stratum—and this is a further point—so as to tap the further totally untouched source which Mr. Dournieff, supported by the best geological opinion in Baku, considers to lie about 20 fathoms deeper still—that is, at about 330 fathoms. They are a tremendous depth. A fathom is 7 ft., so that we are getting down to something like 2,300 ft. If this calculation proves correct, it is evident that no question as to any exhaustion of the oil-producing qualities of our property can be raised again for many years to come. If we are able, in addition to this very rich stratum we have tapped, to find a further one 20 sagues below it, we have got all we want. The one thing needful is that we should be replaced in possession of adequate working capital, and to that point I will address myself immediately. I should like at this point to read you a telegram which has arrived

Cotton in New York opened with a steady tendency, but soon fell away on liquidation, an expected bearish weekly weather report and selling by shorts. This weakness continued and became accentuated on private crop news, whilst Monday's monthly Government report is also expected to be of a bearish character. There is little or no improvement at the close. Closing prices are: June, 5.78d.; June-July, 5.77d.; July-August, 5.78d.; August-September, 5.71d.; September-October, 5.63d.; October-November, 5.58d.; November to January, 5.57d.; January-February, 5.58d.; February-March, 5.59d.; March-April, 5.60d.

COAL.—There has been no great animation manifested in the coal trade, the warmer weather naturally having its effect upon supply. The result of the discussion in London respecting summer prices ended in the announcement, from May 29, of a reduction of 1s. for all descriptions of coal. Seaborne has been quite inactive, no business being done in any direction. Quotations are still about 16s. and 15s. In fact, business in all parts of the kingdom has been easier. The following are the prices ruling at Cardiff:—Best steam, 15s. 6d. to 15s. 9d.; best seconds, 14s. 9d. to 15s. 3d.; seconds, 14s. to 14s. 3d. At Swansea, best anthracite, 18s. to 19s.; seconds, 17s. to 18s.

COPPER.—The position of this market remains much the same, the demand for consumption still being strong, while producers are sold well ahead. Business opened quietly, but the tone was very firm, and quotations were inclined to harden. Steady support was later forthcoming for future delivery, and as the market seemed disposed to harden, "bears" showed a desire to cover their sales. Movements then became somewhat irregular as dealing was rather slow in view of the holidays, and final prices were £85 for cash and £84 10s. for future delivery.

TIN.—A very heavy account for the rise is now open in this metal, and the market must be a rather dangerous one to touch. Immediate arrivals will probably be on a larger scale and the Straits are making every effort to increase the output in view of the high prices ruling. The opening was active and weak, and some large lines were offered, especially of forward metal. Strong support, however, was given at the reduced quotations, all the quantities forced on the market being readily absorbed. Prices, however, soon went back again, partly owing to the disappointing Dutch sales, only to improve once more in the absence of selling pressure and the revival of good buying. This kind of see-saw went on throughout the week, and final figures were lower at £181 15s. for cash and £181 10s. for three months' delivery.

IRON AND STEEL.—Business and sentiment in the iron and steel trades are about the same as a week ago, and confidence in the future is still very strong. Germany and Belgium have continued to buy on a large scale, and the orders booked here are so great that it is asserted the present rate of shipment will last for at least two or three months. From Middlesbrough and other North of England ports 143,571 tons of pig-iron, 18,618 tons of manufactured iron, and 31,814 tons of steel were exported in the month of May, which was a "record" month for pig-iron. Trade in Cleveland pig-iron has been quiet, on the whole, G.M.B. realising 50s. 6d., whilst No. 1 was offered at 52s., and there were sellers of small quantities of No. 3 at prices below those quoted by leading makers. In Glasgow, too, pig-iron warrants have in the past day or two lacked buying support, and hematite has weakened a trifle. In the Midlands a steady business has been done, but orders are for limited quantities, consumers being disposed to postpone purchases until after the holidays, in the hope that easier rates may be accepted, but manufacturers declare that this is highly improbable.

SUGAR.—The slight improvement noticeable a week ago has continued to a moderate extent, based on a confirmation of the less favourable crop reports from France, on rainy weather and diminishing receipts in Cuba and on rumours of a German refiners' syndicate, which caused more buying there and less offering of granulated here. In France some factories had sown only 70 to 80 per cent. of their roots last Saturday, Mr. Czarnikow points out, and though the total sowings may be near completion now, the fields require considerable weeding, for which there is a scarcity of labour. The weather, however, has changed for the better, and reports from Germany and Austria continue excellent. In New York the market has shown a slight improvement, and prices are fractionally higher. Landings in the three ports for the week were 35,000 tons, and meltings 41,000 tons, reducing stocks to 360,000 tons.

TEA.—The quantity of Indian tea brought forward this week was heavy for this period of the year at 31,700 packages compared with 20,998 packages a year ago, but the market continued strong. Messrs. W. J. and H. Thompson report that good liquoring Assam teas again met with best attention, particularly tippy broken Pekoes, and although there was not the same keen demand for Pekoes prices were steady, while clean common to low-medium leaf was more in request at previous quotations, and the average price realised came to 7½d. per lb. or ¾d. more than in the corresponding period of 1905. Ceylon teas were also in much more abundant supply, the offerings amounting to 33,743 packages against 20,998 packages last year, but an active inquiry was experienced for all desirable descriptions, and especially for medium to good broken Pekoes from 7d. upwards. Some shipping orders were noted with material benefit to sales, and useful grades from 4½d. to 6d. seemed in better request. Common grades were quiet and unchanged, but the market as a whole was firm, and in spite of deterioration in many instances prices generally were unchanged, and the average worked out at 7d. compared with 6½d. last year.

to-day from Baku: "Gross production for week ending Sunday, 6 a.m., 284,000 poods." That, you see, is not quite the 300,000 I mentioned just now. "Decrease in production caused by well 62 only spouting once Saturday." It generally spouts two or three times, but wells have their fancies and do not always play the same on successive days. "Also well 40 much cork." Now, although it stopped our production for the day, that is a very good feature, because that is the old stratum, and it shows that there is a great deal of gas and power still in that stratum. If there had been a gradual stream in the bore, it would not have formed that cork, which is caused by the sand thrown up and the pressure of gas behind it; and that shows that we may still look to the old stratum to do us very good service. "However, both have returned normal yesterday, when production for Monday, 6 a.m., 44,500 poods." That is rather in excess of 300,000. "Well 53, at a depth of 317 sagesen. Boring work progressing very rapidly. Well 71 at a depth of 300 sagesen. Well 54, 293 sagesen. Work progressing well." That bears out exactly what I had written in my report to you. He adds: "The revenue expenditure for the wells for the first three months is £126,000, against £171,000 for the same period last year. Still further economies in progress." That also bears out exactly what I said to you just now—that we had gone into the question of making economies, and have found that substantial economies were to be effected. I think that will be satisfactory to you. (Hear, hear.) You will have gathered, I think, from what I have said, that we look to such an increase of production over our present figure during the next six months as shall return us a weekly average for the whole twelve months of some 300,000 poods, which is, say, equivalent to from 15,000,000 to 16,000,000 for the year, while our managers have little doubt that 1907 may be looked to for an output of 20,000,000 or over. They were very confident of that when I was there, that we should not only increase our production, but maintain it thereafter regularly. This, however, does not exhaust the possibilities. You will remember that when in January and February last we pressed on the Russian Government our claim for compensation, the reply we received from the responsible Ministers was that while the Government could accept no liability nor entertain any claim for cash compensation, they recognised the hardship of our case and intimated that it might be met in some future allotment of fresh oil lands. H.I.M. the Tsar was also pleased to express to our Ambassador his wish that the English companies should receive favourable consideration. Bearing those assurances in mind, we shall apply at the next auctions in the autumn with every expectation that our claims will be recognised, and I need hardly point out that the acquisition of further oil lands on easy terms will go far towards compensating for losses of the past. Meanwhile the fact remains that our company requires an increase to its finances of some £300,000 to replace it in a position of stability, clear off its floating debt, and enable it to take full advantage of the brighter prospects now opening before it. We carried for some time the liabilities shown to our London bankers in the expectation that we should be able to discharge them out of the earnings of the period 1904-5. That hope was summarily knocked on the head by the disasters of that year, and we were only able to finance ourselves through the winter by paying the high rates of discount ruling in Russia on bills which we negotiated there, in addition to having to renew our London advances. We feel that it is imperatively necessary that this state of things shall come to an end, and it is in order to be able to clear off these liabilities that we propose to you to-day to increase the borrowing powers of the company by £350,000 in excess of the limit fixed by Article 84 (e). That article limits our borrowing powers to one-half of the amount of the share capital—say, £550,000 in all—and though the extension of £350,000 will give us considerably more than we require at present it is well to reserve a margin against any future contingencies. Your directors have always in view the desirability of acquiring fresh oilfields when opportunity offers, and it is not impossible such opportunity may occur in the near future, in which case we should be ready to avail ourselves of it. Our present production is, and must be for some time to come, inadequate to fully supply the amount of refined products which we are entitled to market under the Combine, and it is of the first importance that we shall as soon as possible place ourselves in a position to utilise to their full extent the advantages which the existing high range of prices in the interior presents to us. As regards the amount of £300,000 which we now require to raise, I should point out that such an issue on anything like fair terms would impose no additional burden on the shareholders, but would, on the contrary, effect a very considerable saving as against the cost of a floating debt which we have been carrying during the past year. I should like to add that, as you know, a committee of the larger shareholders was formed some time back. That committee was summoned on, I believe, the fairest possible basis that the wit of man could devise. We took in everybody who had a director's qualification of £2,000, notwithstanding which that committee was criticised—very unfairly, I believe—as not being a satisfactory committee. Now, a committee for financial matters must necessarily be a small one; but if any gentleman present wishes to put anyone forward to join that committee, we shall be delighted to have his assistance. Of course, we should expect him to be a substantial shareholder. (Hear, hear.) We have not yet, in our opinion, been given credit for the improvement in our prospects, which is becoming more apparent every day, and we have held on in the conviction that you are entitled to get better terms than we have as yet been offered. Our financial scheme must, I think, involve not only the issue of further debentures, but also the

readjustment, to some extent, of the relative rights of the preference and ordinary shareholders. We shall take our chief shareholders into our confidence in settling the details of the scheme. The Chairman concluded by formally moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Ogilvy seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously after some discussion.

A resolution was also passed authorising directors to borrow a sum not exceeding £350,000.

MOTOR TRACTION CO., LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the members of the Motor Traction Company (1905), Limited, was held on Wednesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., for the purpose of considering a resolution for the sale of the assets to a new company, Mr. F. H. Bromwich, chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Harry Gulliver) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman explained that the object of the resolution to be proposed was to authorise the directors to enter into an agreement for the sale of the assets to a company with a share capital of £400,000, of which 200,000 shares were set apart for working capital. The purchase consideration payable to the present company was to be £150,000, which represented a return of the capital value of the company's shares taken at par, with a premium of 25 per cent. After reminding the shareholders of the explanations he had already entered into at previous meetings, he went on to say: This new company, which, as a matter of fact, has already been registered, will have a very substantial share capital, and the directors of it, whose names, I may say, have been already submitted to me and my colleagues for our approval, will be directed by gentlemen who are most capable in every respect of handling a company of this importance. As regards the purchase price of £150,000, that will be payable to this company either in cash or partly in cash and partly in shares, as we may ultimately settle with this group. I may tell you that our first consideration will be to see that a sufficiency of cash working capital is available to this new company. No transfer of the assets of this company will take place until we are satisfied that that transfer will be to a company in itself sufficiently substantial and capable of carrying on the policy which we have initiated, and, of course, profitably to its own shareholders. If it should ultimately be decided that they pay us wholly in cash, then, of course, it will not be for us to comment upon the amount of working capital which they think proper to have, or the method of managing their own business, but should we be asked to take any part of our purchase money in shares, you may be quite sure that the first thing your directors will apply themselves to consider will be that the company is well and soundly constituted. Your licence confers upon you the right to manufacture or cause to be manufactured, or to run, or to license to be run, in Great Britain any motor vehicle manufactured under what is known as the Daimler system or under the De Dion Bouton system. That in itself is a very great privilege. The Daimler 'buses (known in London as the Vanguard) are made under the Daimler system, and are generally acknowledged to be the best which have ever been put upon the market. The Mercedes motor-car is, I think, generally acknowledged to be, at any rate, one of the best motor-cars ever put upon the market; certainly it commands the highest prices. We have the right to manufacture, or cause to be manufactured, either or both of these vehicles, or any other motor vehicle, without going to any expense of experimenting to find out what is suitable and what is not suitable. We have the right to take one of these motor-cars or motor 'buses just as it is, and reconstruct it on the same model entirely. Of course, these two vehicles I speak of are protected very fully by patents, and anyone who had not the licence we have could not possibly construct one of these 'buses without running the risk of an action for infringement, which, of course, would be immediately brought against him. The first right, therefore, is the right to manufacture, or cause to be manufactured, any motor vehicle under the Daimler motor system or the De Dion Bouton. The latter is not so well known here as in some other parts of the world, but it is well known, because several of our omnibus companies are running under that system. We have, therefore, got a ready-made market in this country for an article which we are entitled to manufacture or to have manufactured. We have not got to experiment like some of the firms of engineers have done, only to their own cost to find out that it is only after years of trial and the waste of much money that they have put themselves in a position to compete against other vehicles which have been through that course. As I say, we have a market all ready for us, and this company, with the working capital it will have at its command, will be able to immediately avail itself of that market. The foreign companies—the Daimler and the De Dion Bouton—are full up with work covering a period of something like two years from the present date, and if you wanted to place an order with them, as a good many of our companies would like to do, for the delivery of their motor-cars at an early date, they would tell you they could not take your order. Most of the money for these surplus orders goes to other foreign manufacturers. I am told that the Board of Trade Returns show that £10,000 a day is leaving this country for motor 'buses manufactured abroad for delivery here. I daresay you saw a statement made by the London Road Car Company that they were issuing further capital for the purchase of further motor omnibuses in pursuance of their policy to change the whole of their horse-drawn 'buses into motor omnibuses. It is the same with other omnibus companies, and also railway

companies. We are only on the fringe at the present moment of the construction of motor vehicles. After further explanation, and after the solicitor had read the agreement in extenso,

The Chairman moved: "That the directors be and are hereby authorised to enter into an agreement in the terms of the draft submitted to this meeting, with such modifications therein as the directors may think proper, providing for the sale of the assets of this company to a company in course of formation, with a share capital of £400,000, having for its objects the acquisition of the undertaking of this company, at a purchase price of £150,000, payable in cash or in fully-paid shares of the said company, or partly in one and partly in the other, as the directors may agree."

Mr. Gilbert seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

GREENWICH INLAID LINOLEUM COMPANY, LIMITED.

The twelfth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Greenwich Inlaid Linoleum (Frederick Walton's New Patents) Company, Limited, was held on Thursday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Sir William Treloar, J.P. (the chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. D. S. Mackay) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman: I am glad to welcome you all here to-day and to feel certain that you are gratified as usual, or more than usual, with the report we have placed before you. Last year I told you that the directors were pleased with the record of the year's trading, but that they would not be satisfied unless they could this year show you better results. Well, that is what we are doing to-day, for our certified profit is £69,020 6s. 1d., as against £49,397 5s. 9d. last year. (Applause.) This increased profit of nearly £20,000 has been secured in the face of a steady advance in the prices of the raw materials used in our manufactures, and in spite of our determination to maintain an advance of 3d. per yard upon our inlaid linoleum of the third quality, notwithstanding the fact that some of our competitors have chosen to sell this at a lower price—a price, indeed, at which we know it cannot be produced at a profit if the quality is maintained. For every yard of linoleum manufactured we have to purchase a yard of hessian, which—after a special treatment—forms the backing, and to give you an instance of the advance in this material, I should like to quote a few words which appeared in the *Daily Mail* of yesterday:—"A 'Corner' in Jute."—"What is practically a 'corner' in jute has been engineered in the Scotch market, the price of first marks having advanced to £29 per ton, or over 70s. in two weeks. The scarcity of raw material has created an uncomfortable feeling in the cloth manufacturing trade." Jute, I may tell you, is the raw material from which the hessian is made. Two years ago we bought hessian at 2d. per square yard; to-day the price is 3½d., an addition of 1½d. per square yard on the cost of every square yard of linoleum manufactured by us or any other firm. We are in no doubt as to our policy in this matter. We have made up our minds not on any account to reduce the quality or the thickness of the material. (Hear, hear.) We do not aim at underselling by reducing prices; anyone can do that. If raw materials advance to such an extent as to necessitate a slight alteration in our rates, then we will advance the price rather than reduce the quality or thickness. Our trade customers tell us that they prefer such a course to be adopted, and our day books give us striking and substantial proofs of the wisdom of our policy. We can sell every yard we make, and we have now orders on hand for as much as our machinery can cope with for some time. Now just a few words upon the figures in the report. First you will notice that the amount owing to trade creditors is practically nil, the small sum shown, about £400, being for a few railway carriage accounts which were not sent in time enough for us to pay them. The value of our stock in trade (raw materials and manufactured linoleum) stands at £8,000 more than last year. There is much cause for satisfaction in this, for our stock of oil, purchased at a price much below the present market rate, is sufficient to last us to the end of the current financial year. Our book debts this year are within £3,000 of what they stood at a year ago. The cash in hand is £32,767. Last year it was £30,285. In consequence of our prosperity, and appreciating the desire of the shareholders at last general meeting that a substantial sum should be written off our patents, licenses, &c., your directors recommend that £69,542 7s. 8d. shall be taken from the reserve account and applied to writing down the following assets, namely: Patents and licenses, £43,282 8s. 11d.; plant and machinery, £26,061 2s. 5d.; furniture, £198 16s. 4d. Some of our patents have still many years to run, but this writing off will extinguish the amount originally paid for this item. The sum written off plant and machinery is ample to cover the cost of pattern cylinders in case some of those may in the future become obsolete, and the other item extinguishes the small furniture account which has stood in the books for many years unaltered. Now, to take our profit and loss account serialim, the balance brought into the accounts at the beginning of the year was £2,759 10s. 10d., the net profit for the year is £69,020 6s. 1d., together making £71,779 16s. 11d. The deduction for debenture interest, preference dividend, and upkeep of plant, machinery, and buildings is £18,635 6s. 2d., leaving for distribution £53,144 10s. 9d. This enables us to recommend a dividend of 15 per cent. for the year and to place £10,000 to reserve. It is our intention to invest this £10,000 outside the business in some well-guaranteed stock or stocks readily negotiable. (Hear, hear.) The balance to be carried forward this year is

£5,644 10s. 9d., an amount which covers the debenture interest for the current year. Although the amount for upkeep and renewals absorbs £6,099, it is gratifying to know that our plant and machinery are in excellent working condition. We have never taken any credit for the goodwill of our business, although that has been built up by years of continued work and at considerable cost, and it must now be worth a very considerable sum. I have placed before you a record of our position, which I hope you will easily understand and fully appreciate, and in concluding my remarks I should like to bear personal testimony to the able and careful assistance we always have from our friend Mr. D. S. Mackay, the general manager and secretary. I will now move the adoption of the report and balance sheet, and call upon my friend Mr. H. G. Regnart to second me, after which I will, if you have any questions, do my best to answer them. (Applause.)

Alderman Horatio G. Regnart, J.P., seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman moved, and Alderman Regnart seconded, the declaration of a dividend of 10 per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year, which was also agreed to.

The retiring directors and auditors were then re-elected, and the meeting closed with the usual compliments to the chairman.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY.

The 67th annual meeting of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company was held on Tuesday at Cannon Street Hotel, Mr. Owen Philipps, M.P. (chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. R. L. Forbes) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said: I am pleased to be again able to report an improvement in the company's position, and the accounts now presented show that the business has been steadily expanding. During the past year the receipts have increased no less than a quarter of a million sterling, and our total receipts for last year were nearly one and a-half millions. (Hear, hear.) The working expenses have, it is true, also increased, owing to the greater number of voyages completed during the year, but the gross profit is larger than it has been for some years past. We have been able to make out of the profits of the year proper provision for the year's depreciation of the fleet. I wish again to remind the proprietors that the fleet still stands in our books at a figure very considerably above the market value, but by continuing the policy we have been carrying on we will, I hope, be able gradually to write down the fleet to its proper value without calling upon the proprietors to make a sacrifice of any portion of their capital. Our fleet, which has been increased considerably during the last three years, now consists of 42 vessels, of a total gross tonnage of over 165,000 tons. We are convinced of the necessity of continuing the progressive policy which we have been carrying on, under which policy the company is slowly but steadily returning to prosperity. Owing to the great increase in the size, number, and value of our vessels, we propose continuing insuring a portion of the risk on all the more expensive of our steamers till such time as our insurance fund is large enough to justify the company again taking the whole of the risk itself. I am pleased to say that this year we have been able to add £35,000 to the insurance fund, thus raising it to a quarter of a million, but even this figure is, in our opinion, too small to justify the company itself taking the whole of the risk on all our vessels. Our mail and cargo services to the Brazils and the Argentine have been carried on during the past year with encouraging results, and the new twin-screw mail steamers of 10,000 tons which we are introducing into the service are keeping up the high reputation which the company holds, whilst the luxurious arrangements on board for the comfort of passengers will, I hope, induce many people to visit South America who might not otherwise do so. A number of our vessels have met with serious delays in the River Plate, owing to the trade having expanded, whilst the dock accommodation has remained practically the same; but I am pleased to say that the Argentine authorities appear to be keenly alive to the importance of doing all that is in their power to facilitate trade, and I hope before long some large scheme of dock extension at Buenos Ayres may be undertaken by the Argentine Government. I intend paying a visit to the Argentine in August, as I think it is desirable, in the interests of the company, for me to see on the spot how our business is being conducted and what improvements, if any, are necessary to meet the ever-changing conditions. (Applause.) As you are all aware, the West Indian mail contract, which we had held from the British Government for over 60 years, terminated on June 30, 1905, and was not renewed. When I last had the honour of addressing you I told you that we would meet the difficult problem when it arose to the best of our ability. After going fully into this and other matters, the Chairman concluded by formally moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

The Right Hon. Sir James Fergusson, Bart., G.C.S.I. (deputy chairman) seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then moved that Sir James Fergusson, who retired by rotation, be re-elected a director of the company.

Mr. S. H. Curtis seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. S. H. Curtis, Mr. Edward Norton was also re-elected a director.

The auditors were then re-elected, and the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

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The Investors' Review.

Poor Law Waste and Old Age Pensions.

In the debate in the House some weeks ago on a motion in favour of an old-age pension scheme, the Chancellor of the Exchequer laid stress upon the inability of the nation to provide the cost of it, which he estimated would range from 10 millions to 26 millions sterling. The Government, he said, was pledged to retrenchment of expenditure in the public services, which can only be effected by reducing the numbers of our fighting forces and the shipbuilding programme. These have the first claim on public taxation, but he was not without hope that in the distant future old age pensions might become a practical scheme. Mr. John Burns also delivered a weighty speech on this now important problem, and reminded us that a Royal Commission is sitting to consider this matter and to inquire into the working of the poor-law system. If the Commission can, and will, do its labours thoroughly, it may alight upon a scheme and see a way to provide a fund which will give us some millions. Few people in this country have the vaguest notion of the appalling waste and profligacy that is fostered by our poor law system. The cost of keeping, feeding, and clothing an ordinary pauper is nothing; it is the machinery that squanders the money with no regard to thrift. Not only are the paupers often employed on useless labour, but a vast army of unnecessary officials are paid to see that they are fed on the cheapest food and the least expensive clothing. The system of feeding, too, is conducive to excessive waste, not economy. Each pauper is allowed for each meal a maximum of so much food, and this is put before him whether he can eat it or not. If he cannot eat it, instead of being utilised or consumed in any way, or distributed amongst the others, it is thrown away as offal. Imagine what a burden it is upon the ratepayers when the cost of this food is aggregated throughout the kingdom. Again, all the officers of workhouses, with their large salaries and their keep, are sufficient in number, if their labour were economically utilised and concentrated, to maintain far greater numbers of people. That is to say, a small workhouse has the same official machinery as a large one, whilst with a better system and greater efficiency much less machinery would be equally as effective. Bakers, engineers, cooks, doctors, nurses, chaplains, schoolmasters, superintendents, labour masters, children's attendants, porters, clerks to the guardians, clerks to the masters, porters, needle mistresses, matrons, assistant matrons, to say nothing of the number of outside contractors, all cost vastly more than the maintenance of paupers in places little unlike prisons. It is on the keep of this army that the money of the ratepayers is spent, not on that of the indigent and aged. In a word, workhouses are run less for the benefit of the poor than for officials, who, for the most part, have the easiest of easy lives. Matrons, who do nothing but superintend from a remote distance, must have their assistants in two or three grades, who have the same enervating labour to perform. Masters, who live as indolently, must have their daily clerical work of entering records in their books done by clerks. For the rest they saunter about, have little or no responsibility, for they can always throw their responsibilities upon their subordinates. Thus there are double, treble, and even

quadruple sets of officials, so that the cost of a dozen of these would keep 100 paupers in luxury. One who knows a great deal of the inner working and life of a workhouse told us the other day that he would undertake to keep at a profit at the Hotel Metropole the paupers of any workhouse at the cost charged to the ratepayers, and from our own personal knowledge this is not exaggerated. The present writer has passed in the course of years many months in various unions, and has seen the inner workings of others in the carrying out of his professional duties on the provincial Press, whilst he has heard a great deal from those employed as officers with whom he is on intimate terms. By a proper and economical poor law system and administration millions of money could be saved, and this saving could at once form the nucleus of an old-age pension fund, from which the community would derive greater benefit. Every man at 65 years of age would not want a pension. It need only be given to the destitute and deserving. Mr. John Burns says there are now 300,000 persons over 65 years of age receiving poor law relief. They have to receive it through the elaborate machinery we have described, but if the cost of that machinery were greatly reduced, the nation could maintain these poor people for considerably less than it does now.

Has the nation ever considered how our poor law system encourages prostitution and the increase of illegitimate children? It has not considered it, because the evidence of it is carefully hidden from the eyes of the ratepayers. Our workhouses are filled with unmarried women, who use them merely as refuges from the effects of their vices. They are permitted to come in and go out whenever they please, there is no means of putting check upon their incoming and outgoing, nor any restraint upon the number of illegitimate children they may bear. Thus our unions are not only filled with these creatures, but with the children they choose to bring into the world. Though there is a great demand for some classes of female labour these women prefer to lead idle, useless lives in, to them, the paradise of the workhouse, where food is plentiful, where want is unknown, where they can always be sure of skilful medical attention and nursing at parturition time. Indeed, to the writer's personal knowledge, they can even make sure of being fussed over by lady guardians, whose conduct at such times is often more disgusting than prudent. Those who would cast forth an unfortunate servant into the street will take a deep interest in a prostitute pauper. This is not the surest way to foster the country's morality and economical well-being, and these are things which an ordinary observer may see, but which would be hidden from the members of a Royal Commission. Though a Royal Commission may do much, may observe many abuses, it may miss a great deal—evils that go to the whole root of the disease. Why should there be no classification in our workhouses? Why should destitute but cultured womanhood, flying from starvation, be compelled to live with the vicious? What can a civilised country gain by this herding together of the worthy and worthless? Are the vices and the consequences thereof of these creatures, men and women alike, to go unrepressed, unpunished? Cannot the evils they produce be arrested? Cannot the environment be purified for the worthy ones whom misfortune may compel to live in it? Our poor law system is one that degrades, not elevates; one that drains alike the moral and physical resources and wealth of the nation, and the sooner it is stopped or arrested the better.

The Trade of Russia.

Our newspapers give only one side of Russian affairs. A most interesting side we admit it to be, but insistence upon it day after day has a tendency to make us forget the other Russia, which lives and works and struggles its way upwards towards civilised habits of life and in spite of strikes, revolts, assassinations, and autocracy, makes progress. Two very interesting consular reports have recently made their appearance, which enable us to get some conception of this other aspect of Russian

affairs and Russian progress. One is by Mr. Consul Wardrop, dealing with the district of Petersburg, and the other by Mr. Consul Grove, which treats of Moscow. Both these reports, however, range over the general affairs of the Empire, and contain a mass of interesting information about its products and people, its trade and credit, well worth study in detail. We propose here to give some jottings which may tempt readers to go to the originals.

Mr. Wardrop tells us that the average grain crop per acre in Russia is the lowest in the world, only 518 lbs. Well managed estates, however, are said to yield more than twice the average. Putting it in poods, a pood roughly equalling 36 lbs., the average is 38.8 poods per desiatin (nearly 2½ acres), while on well-managed estates the yield of rye is 85 poods, of wheat 88, and of oats 102. The backward state of agriculture is due to the ignorance and poverty of the peasantry, a large number of religious holidays, and the system of parceling out the land so that a holding of about 30 acres may be broken up into from 30 to 60 scattered lots. The bad harvest of 1905 and the accompanying agrarian troubles do not seem to have had any considerable effect in diminishing the area under winter grain, but it is feared that spring sowings may be less. In the Baltic provinces and in Poland last year's potato crop is said to have been good in quality and adequate in quantity. The preliminary estimate of the beet harvest for the whole Empire, including Turkestan, was 7,233,000 tons, or about 4 per cent. more than in 1904, an increase due to the larger area under cultivation. Flax cultivation in Europe has gradually moved eastward, and Russia now supplies 80 per cent. of the entire crop. It is believed that the yield varied a good deal in different districts, but considerable stocks are said to be still left from 1904. Russia also grows hemp, oil seeds, hops, onions, &c., makes dairy produce, and some proportion of the yield is always exported. It is also a wool-growing country, and since 1900 there has been a gradual migration of sheep farmers from the North Caucasus, Don Territory, and Tauris to the steppe lands in Siberia, where there are now at least 15 large estates devoted to this industry in the Akmo-linsk territory and the southern part of Tobolsk. Experience shows that better results are obtained there than in Ciscaucasia. In a little time, therefore, it is quite within the bounds of likelihood that Siberian mutton will be on sale in the markets of Western Europe. Some time ago a Danish firm applied to the Railway Department for a reduction of the freight on Siberian mutton for export and on sheep from Siberian stations to places where there are slaughter houses. This demand was refused at the time, owing to the absorption of all the capacity of the railway in furnishing the wants of the Army, but it will probably be renewed, and as there are said to be now 7,690,000 sheep in West Siberia, the day cannot be distant when their products will enter into competition with those of Australia and South America. The cotton industry contributes one-fifth of the total value of the industrial production of Russia, and more than three-fourths of the value of home manufactured goods. This is thanks to the draconian tariff, by which foreign tissues are shut out, and not to any special quality of the native cotton, which is similar to Indian, short of fibre and somewhat coarse. In fact, from the description Mr. Wardrop gives, there is little probability that, under present conditions, Russian cotton will ever enter seriously into competition with American. One is impressed, however, with the infinite variety of Russian resources in her soil and minerals. The Empire has "everything within itself." Iron ore, containing 60 per cent. of iron, is said to have been found in a district of Kher-son, and the metallic industries of the Empire are full of promise, or would be, if unshackled. We need not dwell upon petroleum or on the gold production, or on sugar or spirits, but it may be worth mentioning that large finds of platinum are reported from two places in the Ural.

As yet Russia is not nearly half opened up by railways, and until both railways and highways are laid

down throughout the country to a far greater extent than at present exists, the people over great tracts of country must remain stagnant, in sour and fermenting masses, and, as Mr. Consul Grove says, there will always be districts where famine is more or less acute. No general statistics relating to the railway mileage are given by him of a later date than the end of 1903, when there were 36,700 miles of line open for traffic, 31,530 miles of which were in European Russia, 5,170 miles in Asiatic Russia, and 1,950 miles in Finland. Of the total, 24,450 miles were managed by the Government and 12,250 miles by private companies. Up to the end of 1904 the total amount spent on the railways was about £561,000,000, the cost of the private lines averaging 87,605 roubles, and on Government lines 108,770 roubles per verst. The whole working of the Government lines, after paying interest, resulted in 1903 in a loss of 18,880,437 roubles to the Government. This was less than in 1902, when the loss was 32,178,114 roubles, but it was due not wholly to improved traffic or earnings, but partly to cheaper fuel. The deficit of 1903 is said to be entirely due to the Transbaikal, Siberian, Ussuri, and Syzran-Viazma lines. As recently as 1899 the total result of financial operations in connection with the railways was a profit of 1,215,300 roubles for the Crown.

In some respects Mr. Consul Grove's report is the more interesting of the two, and it is worthy of remark that he strikes a more pessimistic note than Mr. Wardrop. This is natural enough, because times of war do not hurt the political capital of any country so much as the outlying country and other cities. Moscow, moreover, is the great financial and business centre of the Empire, and it would naturally suffer to a more acute degree than the chief seat of the bureaucracy, where so much of the taxation wrung from the peoples of the Empire is spent. Mr. Grove, however, is not by any means hopeless of the position, and qualifies the gloom of his picture by many touches which give encouragement to the belief that the resources of Russia will prove equal to the strain if only the people are allowed opportunity to develop them. Yet all sorts of difficulties have hampered business during the last two years. If 1904 was a bad year, Mr. Grove says, 1905 was a worse, and the monetary position has been difficult throughout. Failures have consequently been numerous, and the difficulties of getting payment great. These difficulties, however, do not always arise from inability to pay, but must sometimes at least be attributed to the difficulty of procuring facilities for remittance. If one applies to private banks they charge 1 to 1½ per cent. higher than the Government rate. If application be made to the State Bank the cheque is issued at the Government fixed rate, but invoices must be produced to show that the remittance is for a commercial transaction, and then the cheque has to come from Petersburg, so that it is received two or three weeks after application. As regards the failures, moreover, it is impossible, Mr. Grove says, to attribute them entirely to recent events. Many of the concerns which are now bankrupt have been in that position for years back. They simply carried on, waiting for an opportune psychological moment, which has now arrived, and of which they have availed themselves. That Russia, however, is suffering grievously is indicated by the aggregate figures of her imports and exports. These are given by Mr. Grove for the past five years, and they show that the excess of exports over imports has risen from about 197,000,000 roubles in 1901 to nearly 470,000,000 roubles last year. Such an expansion must involve an enormous strain upon the country. Its purchasing power has not been increased by the great expansion in its exports, which have risen from 730,000,000 roubles in the first year named to 993,000,000 roubles in the last. The exports have simply been hurried out of the country in order to meet obligations contracted abroad, or possibly in order that the wealthier Russian people might lay down funds abroad against any cataclysm at home.

For all this, we must not despair, and some excellent advice to British merchants is conveyed in Mr. Grove's

report. He says that the Germans are pushing their business in all directions, so much so that in seven years' past they doubled their exports to Russia, while British exports in the same period have risen only by some 8 per cent. His remarks indicate that the British merchants and manufacturers are slack in looking after orders, rigid in giving credit, and careless in executing initial orders, which often lead to large business. "I would again beg," he says, "to call attention to the great advisability of heads, or, at all events, partners of big firms dealing with Russia, coming out periodically in person to see for themselves, and, what is quite as important, to be seen. In Russia personality or individuality goes a very long way." "Good Russian firms," he further remarks, "quite recognise that for a first-class British article you have to pay accordingly, and they are prepared to do this provided they are allowed a fair amount of time." Most Russian firms are not overburdened with capital, and the present system of long credit has been in existence for many years. Many firms that are quite reliable and doing a good business cannot pay cash till part, at all events, of the consignment received is sold, and, more important still, paid for. If they cannot get credit from British firms, they are compelled to go elsewhere. In the matter of refusing small orders, the Russians say Englishmen are too proud to do business with. "It is no good applying to England; they only do business *en grand*," is a remark I have often heard when asking why such-and-such an article, a British speciality, is ordered elsewhere," and Mr. Grove gives an instance of a Russian firm which recently inquired of both British and German houses making an offer for some article required. The German firm promptly wired, "Goods despatched." Some days later a letter in English came from the British firm asking for further particulars. The German firm secured the order, which has been repeated and enlarged upon. These hints should not be overlooked, for whatever the political turmoil in Russia, and it may be great until a new order of things is established, there are upwards of 120,000,000 of people within the Empire which must be fed and clothed, whose wants will expand in proportion as their affairs improve under peace, and there is no reason at all why we should be shut out of a share in this business. In Siberia alone, for example, there is now a great shortage of all kinds of articles wanted by the farmer and by the inhabitants, who are in funds because of the enormous amount of money poured into the country during the war with Japan. We should be vigilant and ready to get a share of this wealth when it is dispersed.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE GLOOM IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Independent testimony as to the terrible state of things in South Africa comes from the United States in the latest volume of the consular reports. There is no need to embellish what is therein told. The language is simple and unaffected, but the picture it describes is distressing and pitiable, none the less so because it is the product of the unenlightened and grasping policy of the mine bosses. "Never in its history has South Africa suffered more acutely from depression than at the present time. To-day the whole country, from Johannesburg to Cape Town, is in a discouraged condition, and storekeepers in all the towns are complaining of exceptionally dull business when there should be the healthiest signs of revival. This depression is not confined to one place. From inland and port towns the same reports are received—retrenchment by the Government and commercial firms, increase in bankruptcies and in the number of unemployed, scarcity of money, decrease in the value of property, and too much competition." The President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce recently stated: "It is impossible, under present conditions,

to forecast what South African trade in 1906 is likely to be." In 1905 the failures numbered no less than 2,317, and for the first two months of the current year 426, which is almost double the number for the corresponding period of 1904. In many quarters it is feared the worst has yet to come, and the fear is reasonable enough. During 1905 the importation of merchandise reached a value of £31,000,000, compared with £34,000,000 for 1904, whilst the exports were £35,000,000, against £29,000,000, the gain being in the exports of gold and diamonds.

These statements are corroborated and emphasised in a letter from the correspondents of the Liberal Press, published in their Tuesday's issues. "There is a general agreement," says he, "that the condition of Johannesburg is deplorable, a large number of businesses being for sale or in process of liquidation. The town is, in fact, adjusting itself to the Chinese system, and is becoming another Kimberley. Confidence has been destroyed, because it is recognised that Chinese labour is an economic failure, is opposed to public welfare, and that the country is paying the penalty of over-speculation, maladministration, and market rigging. Many people entertain the hope that they will get out before the inevitable crash comes." He then paints the state of terrorism begotten of the threats of the mine-owners to close the mines and throw large numbers of men out of work should the coolies be withdrawn. They are all-powerful, these unscrupulous men, without pity and mercy in their lust for gold and thirst for omnipotence. Therefore, "though the aversion from the Chinese is increasing, it is strongly tempered by fear." The opinion is growing, the writer declares, that the Chinese system must come to an end, and the community would welcome resolute but not precipitate action on the part of the Government. The consensus of opinion is that the best policy would be to enforce the repatriation of the Chinese on the termination of the first three years' contract, as this would end the present uncertainty, and compel the bosses to find suitable labour instead of coercing the community to accept Chinese. "There is not the slightest doubt that there are plenty of natives available for work in the mines, but they are kept away to ensure the continuation of the Chinese. Government action is necessary to break the conspiracy, for it is hopeless to expect reform whilst the administration is in the hands of the Chamber of Mines and the officials appointed under the Milner régime.

It is excessively difficult to drive prepossessions out of people's minds, else the true character of mine management in South Africa would have become understood long ago. We have laboured to make it known, with results which have caused us to be perfectly sick of the entire subject. Long ago for a brief space we had a hope that the present Government might do something both to liberate the industry from the rot under which it now perishes, and to give the inhabitants of the country a fresh start. That hope has been fading away fast, and we begin to despair of remedies from anywhere. The mines ought to be taken altogether out of the hands of the cosmopolitan illicit diamond-buying fraternity, by whom, or by whose inheritors, they are now in great measure controlled. National control should be established by the Imperial Government as preliminary to handing the management over, under limitations, to the people of the country as soon as their new constitution has been set to work. By taxing the industry on which we have a moral lien for the costs of the war, or, at the very least, for the £30,000,000 contribution, we should benefit workmen, shareholders, and the State in almost equal proportions, but it seems quite useless to write about these things. "Booms" are sighed for, and the classes of people who have become involved in the "Kaffir Circus" morass cling to the hope that the bosses, by whom they have always hitherto been left in the lurch, will gratify their desires by lifting prices, so as to give them a profit. With eyes fixed on markets for this miracle to be performed, their ears are open only for legends and lies

designed to confirm the watchers in their folly. Hint that Chinese labour does not pay, has been and must continue to be a disastrous failure; draw attention to facts that no body of shareholders has any real influence over the way the mines are managed, that enormous sums are disbursed in fancy salaries to individuals useful to the real masters of the industry, that the commissions exacted by these same masters often sweep away money which should have been available for dividends—talk practical common-sense, in short, upon this subject, and the reward is contumely. Well, friends, you will reap the harvest of your besotting none the less thoroughly for that. South Africa is in the throes of an insolvency so great, so far-reaching, that not even its banks can save it. Some of them may even be involved in the general liquidation. But the "helots of Park Lane" are all serene; they have got your money, friends, and you have acquired an experience which does not appear to have helped you as yet to an overdose of wisdom.

BEEF TRUST HORRORS.

So disgusting are the revelations about the meat packing industry in the United States that we have been unable to read much of them. One effect they have already produced in America is said to have been a great decrease in the consumption of meat, and we rejoice at that. Both in America and here the habit of meat eating has grown to be excessive, and has been productive of many diseases which humanity might have escaped by a healthier mode of living. Certainly in this country the sale of the products of these Chicago packing companies, this Beef Trust, should be henceforth at an end. A statement has been put forth in their behalf of the usual description, the description unfortunately familiarised to us by American business methods in all directions. It simply declares that everything is all right, and that the preparations of the Trust are made up in the most satisfactory manner. But the method by which droves of cattle, sheep, and hogs are daily slaughtered and the carcasses prepared for human consumption before they are even cold precludes the possibility that the results can be wholesome as food, and alongside this statement of the Chicago packing houses, as they are called, we have a catalogue of seizures by the City inspectors, which only too fully confirms statements made first in that remarkable novel, "The Jungle," and next in the report of Mr. Roosevelt's special commissioners, a report which that gentleman is singularly reluctant to make public in full. We find the story of the local efforts to check crime summarised in Thursday's *Tribune*. One of the President's commissioners disguised himself as a farmer, and visited a certain slaughter-house unknown to the *employés*. He there watched 31 head of diseased cattle being slaughtered, and 24 of these had been passed by the State inspectors as healthy. But the statistics furnished by the City inspectors are the most significant. In the week ending November 18 last these gentlemen condemned and destroyed 211 cattle, 771 hogs, 40 sheep, 3 calves, and 14 quarters of beef, of a total weight of 239,099 lbs. Meat, fish, fruit, and vegetables to the weight of nearly 32,000 lbs. are also mentioned as having been destroyed, together with three lots of bacon and hams weighing 8,625 lbs., which were condemned by the inspectors at the wholesale markets before eight o'clock in the morning, and the Health Commissioner of the City sums the matter up thus:—Since August 7 the weekly condemnations of unfit food have averaged 137,300 lbs. of meat, fish, poultry, &c., and 23,100 lbs. of fruit and vegetables. This would make an aggregate of 7,141,316 lbs. of meat for the year and of 1,201,200 lbs. of fruit and vegetables all condemned and destroyed as unfit for human food. How much diseased stuff gets through? That is the question. It is pleasant, though, to find that the public officials of the city of Chicago do possess a moral sense, and are endeavouring to do their duty in spite of the corruption with which they are surrounded. The wonder to us is that the people of the United States allow the millionaires who control these

trusts, and not only destroy the health of the people, but strip producer and consumer to an intolerable extent, to exist. No one would be astonished were they to be driven out of the country and their entire organisation destroyed. At the same time, we cannot help pointing out that the whole of this abominable system has its root less in individual turpitude than in the degrading protectionism by which United States industries are fenced round. Protection invariably breeds dishonesty, and the longer protection is continued in any country, and more dishonest become the methods of its trading, until the minds of a whole nation may become poisoned, its moral sense so warped, that good and evil blend in an indistinguishable hash of make-believe and hypocrisy.

ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS, LIMITED.

It may be necessary to remind our readers that this is the name under which one of the Harmsworth—we beg pardon, the Lord Northcliffe—fiction factories is conducted. The company first saw the light rather more than a year ago, and was designed to relieve the anxiety of the former owners of the *Daily Mail*, the *Illustrated Mail*, the *Overseas Mail*, the *Evening News* and the *Weekly Despatch*. You see, there was always the possibility that the readers of these journals would suddenly become sane, and that would have been a really awful prospect. It was a bit doubtful, too, whether all these journals were exactly flourishing enterprises, but by bundling the lot into one concern any troublesome losses could be skilfully hidden up. Despite its boasted circulation, we should judge the *Weekly Despatch* still to be a losing affair, and doubt very much if the booming of Jabez Balfour or the tram ticket lottery nuisance has done it much good. Few things have been more revolting—not even excepting the Pekin massacre lies—in the history of modern day yellow journalism than this attempt to turn the “Liberator” ex-convict into a popular hero. The wretched man has purged his offences in the eye of the law, but misery, destitution and starvation remain as a lasting monument to his splendid unscrupulousness in crime. The amount of suffering he caused among the poorer classes is almost as great as that inflicted on the peerage and society by the unjailed grandees of diamonds and gold. Only last week we had a very hard case brought to our notice. Those driven to suicide alone are at peace. In other respects this particular journal panders to much that is base and sordid, and on its own feet we doubt if it could live much longer. But to return to our particular subject, the financial condition of the agglomerate, we find things much as might be expected. The prospectus spoke of an average profit of £152,000, and the twelve months to March 31 wound up with a trading balance of £158,867. Such a figure must rouse terrible jealousies in the mind of “Baron Answers” comrade in tariff reform adversity, Mr. C. A. Pearson. If only the *Standard Newspapers* could earn or show one-quarter as much profit, how happy might the apostles of ruin by tariffs be! A revenue of £920 from transfer fees reveals how anxious the ordinary share subscribers were to grab the 1s. premium established to make the thing go off, and raises the total income to £159,787. Against this, preliminary expenses, including interest on purchase price and underwriting commission, all nicely confused into one item, made away with £27,995. We fancy the underwriting was about £23,000. Another £3,697 goes for income-tax and £128,094 is left. Dividends on the preference and ordinary shares from the due dates of instalments amount to £61,000, and after placing £20,000 to reserve, in accordance with the articles of association, the vendor directors pay 8 per cent. on their own deferred shares, carrying supreme control, and credit £6,276 to the next account.

The report seems to have been drawn up by a rather poor literary hand, as these fine figures are dismissed with the remark that the “result attained is particularly gratifying in view of the bad state of trade

at the outset of the financial year.” Good old tariff reform! Before proceeding to have a look at the balance-sheet, we may as well point out that the company, in connection with some other ventures, doubtless including the Amalgamated Press, have purchased a richly-wooded area of 2,300 square miles in the upper valley of the Exploits River, Newfoundland, and the largest water power in the island at Grand Falls. “The newspapers of the company are now effectually safeguarded against any increase in the cost of paper in the future,” and the danger of an increase in the price of the *Mail* is averted. The office boy and bank clerk cannot afford more than a halfpenny a day. We note from the accounts that stocks of paper are remarkably low at £5,022, but paper is a realisable asset, and the big figures are reserved for the more flimsy material. Thus, goodwill, copyrights, freehold and leasehold properties, machinery, plant, &c., stand at £1,349,147, additions included and depreciation allowed for. The amounts added and deducted are not stated. Of this total we should say that at the very outside the solid matter is not worth more than the balance of £349,000 odd, leaving a round million for wind and water. The reserve account, as mentioned, is £20,000. A sum of £103,093 has been invested in the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company, represented by 100,000 preferred ordinary shares of \$5 each, this investment being connected, no doubt, with the purchase of forest land. A sum of £68,690 is due to sundry creditors, but debtors owe £82,144 and cash is in delightfully full supply at £207,553, ensuring prompt payment of salaries and wages—and of dividends, too. But the *Daily Mail* must still be a fine property, and we see many anæmic people of both sexes conning the illustrations in the *Daily Mirror*. None of these papers ever seem to us to have any reading matter—or matter readable.

BARCLAY, PERKINS, AND CO.

We are anxious to give as much prominence as possible to the annual report of this big brewery because it is the first ever issued to the public and the Press. The document was sent out at the end of last week together with an “official” account of the meeting held on Thursday, and while we are glad to have all the information available, it would be nicer to get a glimpse of the accounts a week, say, before the annual gathering is held. However, the directors have redeemed their promise to circulate the accounts, and we must be thankful for first concessions. Moreover, it gives us pleasure to congratulate the directors on the adoption of the sensible plan of placing the previous year's figures alongside those of the period under review. This enables the position year by year to be ascertained at a glance. The company's balance-sheet reaches remarkable dimensions. Its total is £5,430,582. Let us first run down the items on the debit side. Beginning with the capital account, we find the ordinary shares of £100 each amount to £1,020,000, while the preference capital in the hands of the public is £2,820,000. These figures show no change on the year, and the debenture stock is likewise unaltered at £1,450,000. Reserves, however, have been reduced from £391,139 to £363,661 because the directors have found it necessary to write off £33,475 as losses on loans to publicans. This debit reduces the special reserve to £191,186, but a moderate increase has occurred in the mortgage sinking fund making it £29,985. The depreciation of investment reserve is £82,489, and the general reserve stands at £60,000. Liabilities on mortgage of public houses have been reduced by £15,590 to £96,172, and there is a decline of £24,709 to £320,461 in the publicans' trade and other deposits. Loans secured on investments are slightly larger at £255,088 and sundry creditors, trade and other accounts, including £19,704 for beer duty, are less by £8,228 at £65,346. There is also a contingent liability of £648,500 on guarantee of customers' mortgages. In other words, the company would have to find this money if the customers could

not, but would, of course, come into the property released. On the credit side there is one striking and stupendous item, loans to publicans with interest, trade debtors, and outstanding accounts, £2,675,892. This is after deducting a reserve of £259,177, and shows a reduction on the year of £112,920. Without a knowledge of the property advanced against, the trade conditions, and a host of other circumstances, it is impossible to express any opinion of an asset like this, and we can only say we hope it is all right. Goodwill is not remarkable one way or the other at £358,989, and freehold and leasehold brewery, plant, machinery, &c., is rather larger at £715,880, the additions being £16,935 and the writings off for depreciation and sales £14,676. Freehold and leasehold public and other houses, and reversions have gone up nearly £28,000 to £886,353, stocks are less at £207,367, and, while cash is very small at £13,995, the company has certain investments entered at £572,097, an increase of £30,030. This item, however, looks much better than it is. The company has some British Railway debentures and preference stocks and municipal loans, which it enters at £497,748, but at the date of the balance-sheet the value was no more than £369,740, showing the enormous depreciation of £128,008. The war tax of 1s. per barrel of beer still remains, as we know, and the brewery companies will long have cause to remember the South African conflict. Trade and other investments, £79,348, make up the total, and the worth of these we have no means of judging. During the 12 months to March 31 the company sold 533,089 barrels of beer, an increase compared with the previous year of about 10,800 barrels, and the gross profit on trading went up by £17,414 to £226,440. This is after providing the tidy sum of £50,700 as a reserve against bad debts. Such appropriation is altogether distinct from the sum written off against publicans' loans, and the chairman was careful to remind shareholders that the special reserve account "would be further utilised to write off losses on loans as occasion and special circumstances might require." Not exactly a pleasant prospect, and it is comforting to know that the ordinary capital is privately held. Other items of revenue build the income to £241,114, which compares with £223,885, and after providing £39,345 for depreciation, £9,751 for interest on first mortgages, loans, &c., and £3,535 for licence compensation levies, the balance over is £188,438. Debenture stock interest reduces this to £137,733 and a further sum of £72,000 is absorbed in providing the preference dividend. An interim dividend of 3 per cent. has been already paid on the ordinary shares, and the directors now pay another 2 per cent., making 5 per cent. in all. Sinking fund premiums to the amount of £5,997 were paid from the credit of £17,875 brought forward, leaving £11,878, and the amount now carried out is £26,611, subject to the payment mentioned, another sum of £8,425 as premium on a further policy, and dividend accrued on the preference shares at the date of the balance-sheet.

THE PAHANG CORPORATION.

In our last issue we briefly announced that the directors of the Pahang Corporation had issued a scheme of reconstruction and of amalgamation with its subsidiary, the Pahang Kabang. It is, of course, no startling news to learn that fresh capital is urgently needed, nor is it surprising that the directors should deem the present moment, when the price of tin is high, a favourable one for launching so big a scheme. Its past record is certainly not in its favour. Success has hitherto eluded it, and may continue to elude it, for there have been times in its career when the price of tin has been very high. During the 20 years of its existence the biggest dividends it has paid on the ordinary shares were the 6 per cent. distributed in 1899 and 1900, but in the past two or three years nothing has been paid on the preference shares. The cost of a new mill capable of treating 250 tons a day and of the requisite machinery is estimated at about £60,000, in addition to which large sums will be required for

necessary development and for working capital. Therefore no less than £100,000 is considered absolutely essential. So the directors believe the only possible way of raising this is to amalgamate with the Pahang Kabang, and to purchase interests in the property of the Malay Exploration Syndicate, which has exclusive rights to prospect over the whole area belonging to both the other companies outside certain excepted places. These rights and others are to be transferred to the new company, the capital of which is to be £250,000, divided into 100,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each and 600,000 ordinary shares of 5s. each, 54,500 of the former and 500,000 of the latter to be issued and the balance held in reserve. After 10 per cent. in any year has been paid on the ordinary shares, the preference shares are to rank *pari passu* with the ordinary up to 15 per cent. This is certainly making the privileged shares look attractive, but, unfortunately, such rights cannot of themselves make the dividends assured. For the property and assets of the Pahang Kabang 9,000 preference shares will be allotted and issued, while 36,000 ordinary shares will be given to the Malay Exploration Syndicate. This will leave 414,000 ordinary shares to be offered for outside subscription, the whole of which have been guaranteed by the Malay Exploration, which will take firm 14,000 shares in consideration of the allotment to it of a further 50,000 shares. The Borneo Company were approached with a view to their becoming managers in the East, but before agreeing to this they instructed an engineer to examine the properties to see if the prospects warranted the expenditure of so much additional capital. The report received satisfied them, so they will accordingly undertake the management. There is just a chance, of course, that the new company, with better machinery and with favourable prices, may make a tolerable success of it in the future, but the doubts are too great to make it other than an experiment, involving considerable though fairly enticing risks.

MEYER AND CHARLTON GOLD MINING COMPANY.

The Meyer and Charlton is not only one of the leading mines of the Albu group, but it has for many years been one of the most prominent outcrops on the Rand. Last year the amount of the dividends it distributed was the largest in its history, though the costs are still high and the quality of the ore much poorer. On the other hand, a greater quantity of ore was crushed—50,000 tons more—and the profits were increased. Compared with the previous year, there was a saving of 2s. 11d. per ton in the working costs, the figure being reduced to 20s. 9d. per ton, but they are still 2s. 9d. in advance of the "record" established by the company before the war. This is proof that it was far cheaper to work with native labour than with Chinese, and makes it the more incomprehensible—not to us, but to others who do not trouble to think—why the bosses reduced the wage of native labour after the war, and paid ever so much more for coolies. The directors of the Meyer and Charlton, mindful of past achievements, are still hopeful of effecting further savings, but how they can be hopeful with dear Chinese labour they do not explain. Did they try their best to get natives, even by offering a higher wage, which would then be less than they pay for the coolies, the possibility of an appreciable reduction would be greater than it is now. The yield per ton of ore crushed fell from 40s. 7d. to 35s. 9d., a decrease of 4s. 10d. per ton. This is very serious, but the directors argue that it is not due to any decline in the value of the reefs, but to the plan adopted of increasing the quantity of Main Reef sent to the mill. In 1903 only 2 or 3 per cent. came from this low grade reef; in 1904 the proportion was 13.7 per cent., and in 1905 it was raised to 37.4 per cent. This policy, however, would not be adopted unless it were compulsorily. The other reefs—the South Reef and the Main Reef Leader—are, as in several mines, much richer, and the scheme of the bosses is to extend the lives of the mines by treating as much as possible of the Main Reef. This was

ignored in the past, when the costs were less than they are now, and present-day shareholders have to suffer for it. If it cannot be worked, by mixing it with the richer ore from the other reefs, then the lives of the mines must be shortened. Neither the great lords nor their shareholders can have it both ways. This likewise has an effect upon the ore reserves. At the end of the past year these totalled 264,578 tons, of an average assay value of 9.57 dwts. per ton, compared with 199,130 tons, of a value of 12.84 dwts. 12 months previously, so while they have increased by 65,000 tons, the quality is less by 3.2 dwts. per ton. The consulting engineer hastens to explain that this is due to the fact that, in revaluing the Main Reef Leader reserves, high assays have been eliminated, therefore the difference is merely one of conservatism, and is not accounted for by any decrease in the value of the development of the mine. It is a pity that this virtue of conservatism is not practised in other directions, particularly in that of labour, otherwise the all-round results of mining on the Rand would not be so lamentable. For the year the gross profit was £99,784, and the dividends, which aggregated 55 per cent., absorbed £55,000. This compares with a distribution of 50 per cent. in 1904, requiring £50,000, so the improvement is not a wonderful one. After making allowance for depreciation of plant and the profits' tax, and carrying to reserve an amount equal to 10 per cent. of the dividends paid, there is, with the balance brought in, a credit of £75,039 to carry forward. As usual, no fault can be found with the financial position as disclosed in the balance-sheet. In fact, there is, as we have frequently stated, little or no complaint to make with the financial management of any of the Albu companies. We merely think a grave error of judgment has been committed in employing Chinese labour. If we give the mine a life of eight years, and calculate the yield at 13 per cent., it will be seen that on last year's dividend the share is more than fully priced.

RHODESIA COPPER COMPANY.

The directors of this slow-moving concern have not been over-anxious to issue their report and accounts for the twelve months to June 30, 1905, and we are not surprised at this seeing the little they have to say. Even the information they give is nearly twelve months old, and in the intervening period there has been ample time for many things to happen—favourable and unfavourable. Had the happenings been very favourable shareholders would probably have been promptly informed of them, and as they have heard of nothing out of the way they may take it that things have been moving in the slow, desultory fashion to which they are now accustomed. What shareholders will make of the report itself it is not easy to say, but they are not likely to be assisted thereby in forming an approximate idea of what they will ultimately get out of the concern. They know that in the past the company's engineers have spoken most hopefully and even enthusiastically of the general richness of the property and the prospects, but actual results and facts are far more acceptable than vague expert prognostications. Results and facts are wanting, though, and it looks as if they will be wanting for a long time yet. During the financial year—and it requires an effort to take the memory back to 1904 and 1905—1,690 mining claims were transferred to the Rhodesia Broken Hill Development Company and 160 mining claims to the Kafue Copper Development Company, and these are the two subsidiaries so far formed. Let us look how the directors have manipulated the finances so as to achieve the glory of a 10 per cent. dividend. The main real, tangible revenue amounted to £3,377 from interest and transfer fees, but this is raised to £81,567 by "surplus from realisation of shares in other companies, including appreciation in value of 75,000 shares in the Rhodesia Broken Hill Development Company." As the expenditure merely came to £6,507, a wind-blown profit of £75,061 is shown, out of which the above dividend is paid—paid in scrip of the Develop-

ment Company. Having performed this pretty trick the directors take the percentage of £60 payable to them and carry forward £407. Why this haste to hand over the scrip to the shareholders? Probably the directors believed it would advance the price of their own shares, but there is scarcely a movement in them from one month's end to another. Had the directors considered the shares of the Development Company intrinsically valuable, certain to rise to a high price on the market, surely they would have preferred keeping them in order to swell out the other poor assets, for they could have exhibited this airy profit all the same. "Let us give it to the shareholders; what good is it to us; it'll please 'em," may or may not have been a sentiment expressed in the board room, whatever the real motive may have been. At the bankers the company has £20,784, and in contango loans, £33,965, a total of £54,749, whilst debtors owe £6,920 against creditors, £19,809. Then there are shares in other companies, we know not which, valued at "average" cost, £148,032, but it does not follow that because they cost the company so much they could be sold for anything approaching this sum. The probability is against it. With expenditure going on it is hardly likely that the cash will last very long, and whence the profits are to come to replenish that spent we know not. For the company appears to be engaged principally in prospecting, and this is not highly remunerative work. Such operations, we are told, have been continued with a view to the final selection of the whole of the company's claims and farms before the country is thrown open to public pegging. The areas already selected are to be examined by the company's engineers. Recent development work has been conducted upon the Rhino and the Bwana N'Kubwa claims, but the depth reached is nothing to speak of. All that is certain is that if the company is destined ever to earn considerable profits from mining, a wait of years has first to be patiently endured.

TRUCULENT LABOUR.

"Khaki is down and fustian up," a cynical friend of ours says, and fustian in the ascendant is making the most of its opportunity. We do not blame the representatives of the working classes, not even for baiting John Burns, of whom many of them are bitterly jealous; but they should know that the impracticable schemes for re-planting the people on the land, for old-age pensioning all and sundry, for State-provided employment regardless of cost or consequences, are not doing their cause any good among the propertied or educated classes. That there should be work enough for everybody, and that everybody should work, are excellent propositions, but the working classes should have thought of them before they went a-mafficking. They cannot at once and the same time encourage waste of the nation's capital on profitless wars, on wars of any sort, and enjoy the benefits this capital might provide were it employed in developing the country's trade and industry. Looking at what we have lost in the African War alone, the wonder is that there is so much work available as employment statistics reveals the existence of, but until our naval and military burdens are materially reduced neither the working classes nor those who employ them can enjoy immunity from poverty, still less unchequered prosperity. Always a more or less sensible proportion of those who can work and would find themselves out of employment when the nation's capital is being drained into the Exchequer; when the few are growing increasingly rich at the cost of the many. Have the working classes no cause to grumble, then? They may have many legitimate causes, but let them season their complaints with practical good sense. By all means strive to amend the land laws, to bring about the reafforestation of waste regions, spend money, when it is available without recourse to the usurer, in executing works of public utility for the common good; but do not act like ill-conditioned street beggars, determined to extort charity by threats as a remedy for ills not by any means all due to "the classes above."

THE RHODESIAN SLUMP.

The outstanding incident in the mining market this past week has been the tremendous slump in the shares of the "Banket" group, not as the result of an ordinary "bear" drive, but as the effect of the selling of real stock. Many times in the past year or so we have warned readers that these rubbishy shares have been pawned in masses with various banks, particularly with the Scotch banks, and the *Rhodesian Review* for the month of June has gone to the trouble of unearthing figures showing the holdings of the various banks in the months of December and March. These are most informing and interesting, and we take the liberty of "lifting" the table:—

	Dec. 1905.	Mar. 1906.
Commercial Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh..	940	2,060
Do., Glasgow.....	150	50
Do., Glasgow.....	190	190
Do., London.....	250	250
Union Bank of Scotland, Glasgow.....	1,735	1,435
Do., Glasgow.....	550	2,560
Do., Edinburgh.....	1,120	2,560
Bank of Scotland, London.....	500	350
Do., Glasgow.....	1,085	1,480
Do., Glasgow.....	—	6,060
British Linen Bank, Dundee.....	200	200
Do., Glasgow.....	3,635	10,265
Do., Glasgow.....	430	770
Do., Edinburgh.....	230	320
Do., Edinburgh.....	—	480
Royal Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh.....	420	990
Do., Glasgow.....	4,070	90
Do., Glasgow.....	620	620
Do., Glasgow.....	80	80
National Bank of Scotland, Glasgow.....	1,530	1,795
Do., London.....	—	642
North of Scotland Bank, Aberdeen.....	150	350
Clydesdale Bank, Glasgow.....	—	1,520
London City and Midland.....	3,715	2,180
Do.....	50	50
Do.....	670	620
London Joint Stock.....	400	400
Do.....	1,120	650
Lloyds.....	300	100
National Bank of South Africa.....	4,220	627
Standard Bank of South Africa.....	100	100
Dresdner Bank.....	1,765	1,150
Deutsche Bank.....	572	105
Bank of Tarapacá.....	950	—
Anglo-Foreign Bank.....	800	400
	32,547	41,849

From this it will be seen that bank holdings increased in the three months by about 9,000 to nearly 42,000. It appears that great trouble was experienced in obtaining a copy of the register of shareholders, particularly after the fall last February, and the share list, ultimately supplied is made up to March 31. The same article gives a very lengthy list of individual shareholdings, and this is equally interesting. We can only give samples, and refer readers to the *Rhodesian Review*. The list, we may add, shows further bank commitments:—

	December, 1905.	March, 1906.
Dezenberg, Edward.....	1,500	1,225
Meyer, Edward Nathan } 6A, Austin Friars ..	1,370	50
Foxwell, Douglas L., Warnford Court	1,500	1,500
Fox, Henry Wilson } (Chartered Company) 2, }	665	3,000
Brodie, Douglas E. } London Wall Buildings	490	1,765
Farrar, Sidney H., 4, London Wall Buildings..	1,250	950
Hallam, Ernest } 34, Ashburnham Grove, }	—	—
Simpson, Robert } Greenwich	—	—
Pierer, August } 8, Drapers' Gardens	1,450	1,450
Bensinger, Louis.....	2,300	2,300
Boyle, Henry David } 8, Old Jewry	2,000	2,000
Sidgreaves, Harry G. }	1,145	1,050
Bigham, Hon. Mrs. J. C., Kitley, Plymouth ..	750	750
Mischoffsheim, Ferdinand, Brussels	839	839
Carr, Walter, Stock Exchange.....	1,300	800
Carr, W. I. and P. W., 2, Royal Exchange Buildings.....	1,000	900
Consolidated Goldfields, South Africa, 8, Old Jewry.....	650	550
Cambridge, W. J., 6, Throgmorton Street	1,410	3,200
Drucker, Henry, 10, Throgmorton Avenue	1,000	800
Daggafontein Prospecting Syndicate, 3, Gracechurch Street	1,600	2,850
Forrester, Henry, 105, West George Street, Glasgow	3,580	3,430
Grenfell, Arthur Morton } 2, London Wall Buildings	—	—
Lake, Ernest John }	—	—
Green, Henry Charles, 5, Throgmorton Avenue	—	—
Green, Henry Charles } 5, Throgmorton Avenue	—	—
Griffin, Richard S. }	—	—

	December, 1905.	March, 1906.
Goodhart, George Elijah, Westerham, Kent ..	2,305	2,295
Gordon, John Herbert, Crickley Hill, Gloucester	2,100	2,100
Hudson, Robert William, Marlow	2,750	50
Inglis, Robert William, 3, Adam's-court	1,275	700
Kirkpatrick, Alex. B., 88, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow.....	590	1,070
Koch, Victor, 27, Throgmorton Street	1,000	1,000
Marten, Frederick C., 9, Tokenhouse Yard	1,050	1,070
Pensam, Herbert A. } 80, Endlesham Road, Balham	2,525	4,400
Smith, Richard W. }	—	—
Pensam, Herbert A. } 80, Endlesham Road, Balham	720	1,000
Simpson, Robert }	—	—
Stevens, Edward } 43, Lothbury.....	2,815	2,410
Richardson, William }	—	—
Schmidt, Hermann, Amptill Square, N.W. ..	3,215	1,090
Ward, Arthur E. N., 65, London Wall	17,015	13,968
Leonhardt, Fritz von } 120, Bishopsgate Street	1,740	3,015
Bloch, Ludwig.....	900	1,000
Michaelson, Isidore, Great Cumberland Place	600	600
Mashonaland Agency, 2, London Wall Buildings	2,600	2,600
May, Nathan, Stock Exchange	1,250	545
Newall, William, 10, Throgmorton Avenue....	3,000	1,600
Neumann, Sigimund, Salisbury House	3,700	3,180
Prinsep, James.....	450	2,950
Sapte, Major H. L. } 8, Old Jewry	1,000	1,000
Prinsep, James }	—	—
Braishaw, John } 8, Old Jewry	1,060	20
Radiard, Arthur.....	1,000	50
Bedborough, James T. } 40, Threadneedle Street	3,000	30
Reitlinger, Albert, 60, London Wall	500	700
Rosenbaum, Max.....	1,075	580
Alexandre, Edmond.....	1,400	1,400
Rothschild, Lord N. M., New Court	937	937
Rhodesia Broken Hill Development, Salisbury House.....	450	450
Schiff, Ernest F., Warnford Court.....	—	1,500
Seligman, David A., 18, Austin Friars	750	500
South African Gold Trust, 8, Old Jewry	—	—
Teynham, Lord.....	—	—
Griffith, Mervyn G. } 41, St. Vincent Place }	—	4,465
Delagoa Bay Development, 3, Gracechurch Street.....	—	—
Flachfield, Alfred, Hampstead	—	—
Henderson's Transvaal Estates, 3, Gracechurch Street.....	—	—
Macnair, Thomas }	—	—
Allan, David Steele }	—	—

Further, the list shows that the bulk of the shares are still in the hands of the Stock Exchange and the "shops." "It must not be assumed," says the writer, "that they are beneficial holders of such shares; to a large extent they probably represent contango operations, and, of course, that constitutes another insurmountable obstacle in the way of arriving at the actual position. I may call attention to the fact that Mr. Sidney H. Farrar has considerably increased his holding, while Lord Rothschild has disposed of practically all his shares. Mr. A. E. N. Ward, representing Dr. Hans Sauer, has reduced his holding, and Mr. Hermann Schmidt" (the "Magpie" chatterer of the *Sunday Times and Special*) "has been on the same tack."

Not many months ago we were abused by a correspondent, who thought we would be happier dead, for warning readers against the "banket" rig, and probably many others thought we had some personal prejudice or spite against Mr. Abe Bailey, and the rest of the gang who made the "discovery" and manufactured these hundreds of thousands of shares. Little intelligence was needed to grasp the fact that such shares were highly dangerous things for outsiders to touch, and this opinion has been justified by events. The public, too, have been intelligent enough to see it, and have bought less from the gamblers and the "shop" than we really imagined. But many, like our vilifying and "wise" correspondent, have loaded themselves up with the rubbish, in the belief that the high premium represented intrinsic value, and probably they have long since in secret cursed their folly. But this is not so amazing as the fact that reputable banks have assisted their customers to engage in this highly speculative class of business. No doubt they have exacted ample margins, but that does not excuse them. Anyway, the revelation has seemingly alarmed them, and there is doubtless much truth in the report that it is the banks that have this week thrown out the shares with such precipitate haste and accelerated the slump. It cannot be good business in the long run this helping shareholders to ruin themselves.

American Business Notes.

A slight improvement took place last week in the position of the New York Associated Banks. They still continue to extend their advances to customers, and the total was up £420,000 for the week at £210,300,000. Deposits, however, have increased to a larger extent and are £820,000 higher. Also the return of coin from circulation has been considerable, leading to an increase of about £423,000 in what is called the "specie average." This is set off by a decline of nearly £200,000 in the holding of legal tender notes, the nett result being a slight increase of £21,400 in the surplus reserve. This accordingly stood at \$6,808,000, or \$757,000 more than in the same week of last year. Gold is still arriving at New York in larger amounts than are exported, but the credit availed of to bring this gold in will presently involve the financiers in fresh difficulties unless Europe can absorb Yankee securities. It cannot much!

Remarkable progress in cotton manufacture is being made in the southern States, according to the *Mamufacturers' Record*, a Baltimore paper. In 1880 the total number of spindles was 667,000, and the capital involved \$21,000,000. These totals did not increase in any phenomenal manner during the next decade, but in the 16 years since 1890 the figures have gone up from 1,712,000 spindles and \$60,000,000 of capital to 9,470,000 spindles, the present total, and a capital involved aggregating \$230,000,000. Since 1900 the industry has more than doubled, and but for the scarcity of labour which has prevailed for the last year or two it is quite probable, says the Baltimore authority, that at least another 1,000,000 spindles would have been added to the total of the south. The cry, indeed, is for more labour. Is Lancashire threatened by this remarkable development? In all probability it will suffer in time, especially if the utmost diligence is not shown in seeking out compensations elsewhere. Happily Central and South America are every year becoming better customers for our cottons, and doubtless other regions of the world will come to the fore should the United States fail us.

The revelations of lawlessness and corruption in the management of the great industrial institutions in the United States are following each other so rapidly that it seems as though they would never end. The Standard Oil is now in the limelight, and some very ugly facts have been bared to public view. A Mr. John Gruet, for a number of years secretary of the Waters-Pierce Oil Company of St. Louis, and one of the leading men in the Standard Oil Company that controls it, has been giving an account in the *New York World* of the way in which the Standard Oil had established a network of information agencies all over the United States and Mexico, by means of which it was enabled to kill competition and ruin the small dealers. Railway clerks and freight agents were regularly subsidised to betray the business of other companies sending oil over the lines on which they were employed, and then steps were taken to kill their business by putting down the price of oil to dealers in the localities to which the rival companies were shipping it. Besides that, the Standard Oil maintained an extensive telegraph system of its own along the route of every pipe line owned by it, which served as trunk lines from east to west. In addition there are private wires leased from telegraph companies connecting the principal cities, and the most elaborate precautions are taken to prevent leakage of messages. Some of the witnesses asserted before the Inter-State Commerce Commission that the telegraph wires of the ordinary companies are tapped to obtain information of business of rivals, and an army of spies and detectives is in the service of the Standard Oil not only to pry into the affairs of rival companies, but to watch its own employees as well. A regular secret service fund was provided to meet the requirements of the Standard system, and secret reports on individuals in the employ of the company were sent in, much as one might imagine under a despotic government. Care was also

taken as much as possible that even among the higher employees there should not be too large an acquaintance with the affairs and policy of the company.

Mexico, according to the statements made, is absolutely in the grasp of the Standard Oil. The Waters-Pierce Company first established refineries at ports in Mexico, to which oil is shipped in Standard tank steamers. Mr. H. Clay Pierce, of this company, is also president of the Mexican Central Railway, along the line of which, at a place called Ebano, is an oil-field which will remain undeveloped unless the ownership passes to the Standard Oil. The first act of the present management of the Mexican Central on assuming control of the road was to cancel a contract for oil with the Ebano operators. The Standard's monopoly in Mexico is maintained in various ways, one of which is the subsidising of officials as in the United States; another consists in "gratifying" persons of influence whose services may be needed. The effect of the revelations of the methods by which the Rockefeller wealth has been acquired, and of the Press comments on the Rockefeller family, is being seen in the retirement of Mr. J. D. Rockefeller, jun., from the head of his bible class, and the gradual cessation of the adulation of which his father has been the object on the part of many leading men among the clericals of some of the sects.

The first fruits of the inquiry into Standard Oil methods has been a decision by the Inter-State Commerce Commission abolishing the privilege enjoyed by the Standard company of having paraffin, one of its by-products, carried at its natural weight on the line of the Lake Shore Railway, while independent and rival companies had to pay oil weight on it.

There was much talk in Philadelphia and New York over the expected approaching resignation of the presidency of the Pennsylvania Railroad by Mr. A. J. Cassatt. It was said to be the intention of a large body of shareholders and certain financial interests to compel him to this step in consequence of the insecurity felt in the stability of the company after the admissions of corruption, discrimination and family favouritism under his administration. It was also said that opportunity would be taken of the change to bring the Reading Railway into closer relationship with the Pennsylvania, and to operate them as one road together with the Baltimore and Ohio. Mr. George Baer, of the Reading, would succeed Mr. Cassatt at the head of the Pennsylvania, and Mr. Theodore Voorhees, vice-president of the Reading, step into Mr. Baer's place. Later accounts say that Mr. Cassatt's friends are rallying to his support, and that should he offer his resignation it would be rejected. As might be expected, the rumours caused much stir in railway circles directly interested in the subject.

Following the exposure of the doings of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company come charges against the Union Pacific for discriminating against the Sioux City and Rock Springs Coal Company, in the State of Wyoming. The complaint laid before the Inter-State Commerce Commission is that the railway company refuses to permit the construction of spur tracks to facilitate the coal company's operations, and in other ways discriminates against it in favour of the Union Pacific Coal Company, which operates large mining properties in the same territory, alleged to be owned by officials of the Union Pacific Railway Company.

The deeper the Inter-State Commerce Commission goes into the management of the Pennsylvania Railway, the worse the revelations are. At the hearing on May 23 Mr. W. A. Patton, assistant to the President, Mr. Cassatt, acknowledged that he had become possessed of \$307,000 of coal company securities, for which he had paid nothing. His chief clerk, Mr. J. N. Purviance, has acquired \$38,500 worth of similar securities on the same terms. Shippers who wanted to get their business done by the Pennsylvania gave away in this manner nearly \$350,000 of "the stuff." The general manager of the Columbia Coal Company

explained that his company was forced to purchase private cars, because it could get no cars from the railway, while the Keystone Coal Company and the Berwind-White Company—often spoken of as "Cas-satt companies"—were relatively well supplied. Five hundred cars a day were arbitrarily allotted to the Berwind-White Company, and 200 kept in reserve nearly every night as a provision against shortage, and this at a time when all other coal shippers were clamouring for cars. "Freezing out" a company by refusing it cars and then buying it up, after driving it to "reconstruction," was one of the methods adopted by Pennsylvania Railway officials for acquiring property. As the inquiry progresses it reveals close social and family ties between those controlling the Pennsylvania to such a degree that it might properly be described as a clan oligarchy, owning a number of subsidiary companies, in whose interest they manipulated the huge Pennsylvania Railroad system.

The new loan placed in Paris by the Pennsylvania Railway Company, amounting to \$50,000,000, raises the total of notes and bonds issued by the Pennsylvania in the last eight months to \$200,000,000, and makes its entire outstanding stock, note, and bond debt figure up to a total of \$594,399,797. On January 1, 1902, the total was \$292,165,423; the increase in the four years and five months that have elapsed since then amounts to \$302,234,374, and it is generally understood that though there is no probability of another early issue, there must be many more issues of bonds or notes before the improvements and extensions in progress or projected can be completed.

A report that there would be an issue of \$25,000,000 of new stock by the Great Northern Railway of the United States to finance its extensions through Canada by way of Winnipeg to Vancouver was regarded in New York as premature. The Great Northern is said to be strong enough in funds at present on account of the sale of stock to the amount of \$25,000,000 last year, and as a result of large surplus earnings above dividend requirements.

It is a matter of some interest that a direct passenger and freight service will be opened between Libau in Russia and New York on June 28. The first vessels employed are to be the well-known *Smolensk* and *St. Petersburg* that searched British vessels in the Red Sea during the Russo-Japanese War, and the *Saratoff*. Good results are expected from direct commercial intercourse between the two countries.

The most sensational of all the exposures yet made in the United States is undoubtedly that of the doings of the Chicago meat-packing houses commonly known as the Beef Trust. The other institutions whose methods have made many doubt whether there was any honesty at all in American business merely touched the people's pockets; the Beef Trust has not only been robbing them, but destroying their health as well, with the assistance of a high tariff and the criminal neglect of the public servants appointed and paid to protect them against the very things permitted to be done. Some of the ways in which the Armour, Swifts, and Morrisons of Chicago have been coining gold and poisoning the community are worth describing, because, with perfect impartiality, they have been sending their products into every market where the Governments take no heed of the public health. "Potted chicken," for instance, was made of unfit veal, and lard was rendered from diseased hogs and adulterated with 20 per cent. of cotton seed oil. "Skinned hams" were made from the flesh of old hogs unfit for other use, while sausages were made of refuse and unsound meat and dyed with chemicals. "Canned roast beef" had for its base the dyed udders of cows, and "potted ham and devilled ham" were elaborated from gullets of beef ground up with potato-peelings. Other and more horrible things were turned out of these money-coining establishments too disgusting to describe. The wealth accumulated by the men at the head of the establishments in which these

things were done runs up into the tens of millions, and until they were found out and denounced they were all "honourable and prominent citizens." Nelson Morris laid the foundation of his fortune by buying up broken-down and diseased cattle. There is now, of course, a great outcry against these men, and vehement demands for "drastic laws," but the most severe laws would have no more result than the existing ones while the position of inspectors is given to saloon-keepers and drunken political heelers, and no judge dare pass on a rich criminal a sentence more severe than a nominal fine. The matter lies really in the hands of the American people themselves, but given up as they are to party in politics, social pleasures, horse-racing, football, and the pursuit of the dollar without regard as to how it is acquired, no change is to be expected. The only thing to bring the American people as a whole, and their business men in particular, to their senses is for the countries to which they send their adulterated and fraudulent stuffs to put an embargo on all American products until they mend their ways. If the American people themselves are indifferent to their own reputations and the quality of the food they eat, that is their own affair, with which no outsider need find fault. It is to the credit of the *New York World* that it has been one of the most fearless among the American papers in exposing and denouncing the frauds of all kinds that have flourished for so long in the United States, irrespective of the political designation of the party in power for the time being. The trouble about the present exposure is that it is the result of what is practically a private inquiry personally ordered by President Roosevelt, and therefore without official importance. He is said to be reluctant to make the full findings public lest the farmers and stock-raisers should suffer, but it would seem that the best way to prevent that would be to bring the matter to a head as soon as possible, either by Federal action or by laying bare all the details, and so compelling the State of Illinois and the authorities of Chicago to do their duty toward the country if for no other motive than self-interest.

It is given out on what appears good authority that the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Company has arranged for a loan of \$25,000,000 to be made on notes running two and a-half years, bearing 5 per cent. interest, maturing about December 31, 1908. The official announcement is expected shortly. The money, it is said, is needed for the construction of the extension to the Pacific coast from Evarts, South Dakota, to Seattle and Tacoma. Work has been carried on for some time between those two places and to the eastward by the Pacific Railroad, a company organised in the interest of the St. Paul, and the contract has been let for 800 miles from Evarts westward. The route to be followed is due west from Evarts to Butte, Montana, thence to Wallula in the State of Washington, and from there on to the coast. The estimated cost is \$40,000 per mile for the 1,500 miles to be built, and the entire length will, it is expected, be completed and in operation by January 1, 1909.

The traffic officials of the various railways centring in Chicago report that there is an unusual amount of traffic for the season of the year. The trend of it is not in any particular direction nor from any particular source, but seems to be from everywhere to everywhere, and is remarkable for its diversified character. Local traffic is said to be as heavy as through freight, which is causing some roads to refuse to allow their cars off their own lines, and as the tendency seems to be towards an increased volume of traffic, there is some concern as to what the transportation conditions will be when the regular busy season comes round and crop moving begins.

An official denial is given to the report that the United States Steel Trust was about to issue \$50,000,000 of new bonds in order to pay for plant being erected at Gary, Indiana. Judge Gary, the managing director, stated that the corporation has in hand \$15,000,000 to be devoted to this purpose, and he is doubtful whether more than that can be expended

within the current year. The judge, however, does not deny the probability that at a future date some bond issue will be made, and we must not forget that it is a custom with American joint-stock enterprises of all kinds to use revenue for a time in order to meet what may be called capital expenditure, and then when a favourable opportunity occurs to recoup the company by issuing bonds in order that it may get back the money spent, to distribute it amongst stockholders. If there had been anything like a proper reserve fund accumulated against the rapid depreciation of all the buildings and plant used by a company of this kind there ought to have been no necessity to look forward to any bond issue, but, as we have kept hammering into the minds of investors here, it is a conspicuous failing of this gigantic combination that proper allowances for depreciation have never been made.

Mr. Andrew C. Fields, former legislative agent of the New York Mutual Life, and its superintendent of supplies, has been disclosing to the special grand jury in New York which is investigating the insurance scandals the sources of the corruption fund used to "influence" legislation at Albany and in the capitals of other States in which the Mutual did business. As a result, it is expected that at least three former officials of the Mutual and one or two trustees will be found implicated in the scandal in the supply department, a clerk in which made a full confession explaining the disappearance of important records from that department last year. Dr. Walter R. Gillette, at the time vice-president of the company, had instructed him not to permit expert accountants to find anything in the department damaging to the company. The legislative agency fund appears to have been obtained by the diversion of large sums through a "padded" bill system that the supply department had in operation with the Lysander Lawrence stationery company, which thus became accessory to the frauds on the Mutual's policyholders. It is expected now that the evidence in hand will enable Mr. Jerome, the district attorney, to get definite action on the Mutual cases from the special jury by June 15 next. The clerk who gave the information has been discharged from the service of the company.

Why has it been necessary to incorporate the Mexican Consolidated Electric Company of Mexico City under the laws of Canada? We ask because an application appears to be pending presumably before the Dominion Courts having for object to empower the company to change its name to the Mexican Tramways Company, and to raise its capital to an authorised total of \$15,000,000 in bonds and \$8,000,000 in shares. The enterprise is a promising one, and ought to be remunerative, but we hope it will not go ahead too fast.

Apart from the enormous increase of taxation in the United States since the accession of the Republican party to power, which is felt only in a general way, the rise in the cost of living is beginning to rouse universal discontent. The fact has been contradicted, but the following figures are familiar to every householder who calls to mind the prices prevailing in 1896 and now. They are taken from a long list recently compiled by the *New York World* :—

Articles.	1896. \$ c.	1906. \$ c.	Increase. \$ c.
Butter, fancy.....per lb.	.14 ..	.20 ..	.06
Cheese, full cream .....	.09½ ..	.14½ ..	.04½
Macaroni .....	.05½ ..	.07 ..	.01½
Tapioca .....	.02½ ..	.04½ ..	.02½
Tea, Ceylon .....	.24 ..	.45 ..	.21
Pepper .....	.06 ..	.11 ..	.05
Turkeys, live .....	.10 ..	.13 ..	.03
Chickens, broilers .....	.30 ..	.40 ..	.10
Turkeys, dressed .....	.14 ..	.20 ..	.06
Ducks, No. 1 .....	.15 ..	.20 ..	.05
Veal, prime .....	.07 ..	.08½ ..	.01½
Pork, light .....	.06 ..	.09½ ..	.03½
Codfish, boneless .....	.07 ..	.09 ..	.02
Pork, Mess	11.50 ..	17.75 ..	6.25
Beef, hams	16.00 ..	21.00 ..	5.00
Lard, prime	4.70 ..	8.95 ..	4.25
Oranges, California	3.50 ..	4.50 ..	1.00
Bananas	1.00 ..	1.65 ..	.65
Apples	2.75 ..	5.00 ..	2.25
Eggs.....per dozen	.12½ ..	.21 ..	.08½

And so on over a long list. During the present spring the food trust actually put up the price of eggs 2 cents a dozen at a moment a regular flood of them was coming into the market. Wages and ordinary incomes *per contra* are not rising, but rather the reverse, and the public is helpless. As will be seen, the increases in prices range up to 50 per cent. in the 10 years, and the retail prices are in most cases much more. The result in the case of the working classes is that children to an extent unknown in former years are forced into the labour market to enable the parents to meet the increased cost of living. A Senator the other day, when the subject was under discussion, said: "We are heading straight for a political, social, and economic revolution." This is the nett result of 10 years of Republican-Trust and high tariff administration.

The principal points in the Rate Bill as passed by the United States Senate are as follows :—

The Inter-State Commerce Commission shall fix the maximum rate to be charged when complaints have been made.

The rates so fixed may be reviewed to the fullest extent by the Courts.

Before the rate can be suspended an interlocutory decree notice of five days and a hearing before three judges are necessary.

A rate fixed and passed upon goes into effect within 30 days, and may remain in force for two years.

The Commission may fix joint through rates and part rail and part water rates.

The Inter-State Commerce Commission will consist of five members, as at present.

Railways and carriers are prohibited from dealing in commodities they carry.

Pipe lines, private car lines, express companies, and palace car companies are made common carriers.

Rebates are punishable by imprisonment of either party, or fines of from \$1,000 to \$20,000.

Anyone soliciting or compelling rebates may also be fined three times the amount of the rebate.

Railway companies must keep uniform sets of books accessible to the Commission at all times.

Railway companies must also make uniform reports.

The giving of inter-State passes, except in specified cases, is prohibited.

The Inter-State Commission may compel switch and siding conditions.

After a Commission-made rate is suspended or an injunction is made permanent, appeal shall lie direct to the Supreme Court.

Damage done to goods sent over a joint through route shall be borne by the initial carrier.

After a good deal of discussion, the Senate Committee on Finance has reported a resolution directing the purchase of all Panama Canal supplies in the United States, "unless the President shall in any case deem the bids or tenders therefor to be extortionate or unreasonable." As some of the tariff revision advocates in the Press remark, the wealthy United States Government has now a protection against exaction which is denied to the poor American individual consumer; it can purchase abroad, and pay no duty, while he must submit to robbery and injustice. But after all the individual consumer has brought it all on himself. It was a majority of his votes that put the present trust-controlled administration in power in 1896, and has kept it there ever since.

It has been definitely announced by the President of the Equitable Life Company of New York and by the voting trustees appointed by Mr. Thomas F. Ryan, owner of a majority of the Equitable stock taken over from Mr. James H. Hyde, that the right to elect a majority of the directors will be conferred on holders of Equitable policies, the number being 28 out of 52. This step has been taken under the new insurance law and in agreement with an explicit promise made in writing last June by Mr. Ryan to the voting trustees. It is further suggested that, though no pledge on the subject appears in the agreement with the voting

trustees, Mr. Ryan should sell his stock to the company under the provision in Section 95 of the new law, if such action were desired by its officials. His price then was that paid by him, or \$2,500,000, with interest at 4 per cent. from last June, less dividends received in the interim. It is reported, however, that some of the minority stockholders will test the constitutionality of the new law, which enables the directors, with the consent of the majority of stock-holders, to give the policy-holders control of the governing board. Should this be done, the progress toward mutualisation will be, perhaps, indefinitely delayed.

Another new fire insurance company has been brought into existence through the increase of rates by the underwriters. It is styled the Cosmopolitan, and begins business with a capital of \$300,000 and a paid-up surplus of \$150,000. The president is Adolph Loeb, of the firm of Adolph Loeb and Sons, of Chicago; the first vice-president is Leo A. Loeb, of the same firm; and the second is Herbert A. Scheftel, of J. S. Bache and Co. The lawyers of the company are Wollman and Wollman.

A widely circulated report that the United States Steel Corporation was about to make a \$50,000,000 bond issue has been officially denied. The Indiana Steel Company, for whose new plant the money was required, is said to have covered its expenditures by earnings, and will be able to meet all demands up to December next, and in any case it will not need to be mortgaged for quite two years. This is the gist of a statement made by Judge Gary, chairman of the board of directors of the company.

Passing Events.

It is no secret that the colonists of Rhodesia are deeply dissatisfied with the Chartered Company's administration, but it appears that this dissatisfaction may some day vent itself in ways more violent than we have hitherto seen. A correspondent has sent to the *Tribune* a letter he received from a relative in Rhodesia, in which the writer speaks of the indignation aroused by a proclamation forbidding pegging or prospecting in a diamond area near Gwelo. But armed men are prospecting in defiance of the notice, and unless the diamond prospecting regulations are altered revolt is threatened. The letter proceeds:—

In spite of the very cheerful meeting of the Chartered Company recently held in London, at which all the shareholders seemed so very pleased with their prospects—and, by the way, howled down the only man who ventured to tell the truth—Rhodesia is not in a prosperous condition. The people of Rhodesia have stood all they are going to stand, and unless they are listened to this Gwelo diamond business will be the last straw. The feeling on this question is not confined to one class. Every class is solid on the matter. The condition of the country is not surprising when one looks at how it has been governed. The gold and land regulations are enough to strangle any new country, and it is wonderful Rhodesia has reached even its present stage. Of course, had it not been for Rhodes it would not be so far advanced. Bulawayo is an example of Rhodesia's prosperity. There you can find whole blocks of splendid office buildings empty, and have been so for years. It is a pity that the home Government do not take over the country and make it a Crown colony. They might make a mess of it, but could hardly do worse than the Chartered Company.

For the present it appears probable that the threatened danger to the Chinese Imperial Customs has been averted. England has led in the remonstrance addressed to the Pekin Government, and for the present, at any rate, no change will be made. If, however, we are to believe the Pekin correspondent of the *Times* China has not given up her determination to seize if the Powers allow her some portion of the money collected by this service in order to pay her troops. Her armies, this correspondent says, have been inflated out of all proportion to the revenue, and that is probably true, since Yuan-shi-kai, the most aggressively patriotic and powerful viceroy in China, is consistently following a policy one of the aims of which is to arm China with modern weapons and to drill armies so as to be in a position to repel the foreign aggressor, no matter who. He himself has a disciplined army of considerable size, and in the Yang-tsze

Provinces other viceroys are following his example. Money is consequently needed, and the Imperial Customs revenue is the only direction in which the strained resources of the empire can be augmented unless the system of internal taxation is reformed and cleared of corruption. So it is now said that the large sums assigned from the Customs to administrative uses—lighthouse construction, revenue, cruisers, &c.—lying at the credit of the Inspector-General of Customs in a British bank will be transferred to the Chinese Government. If that is so, an end will be put to the security of the foreign investor, and we therefore hope this transfer will not be allowed. The episode, however, is ominous of what will one day come. China has been shamefully abused by the foreign aggressors and shamelessly robbed. One day the meek Simian will arise and retaliate, but there is no immediate danger so long as the present foreign Customs service is maintained, provided a European of character and discretion is appointed to succeed Sir Robert Hart.

A new loan is about to be issued by the Swedish Government. It will amount to £2,400,000 in 3½ per cent. bonds, and will be placed with a syndicate of Swedish, German, French, and Belgian banks. How is it that London gets no share in a transaction of this kind? Why have we driven Sweden away from our market? Her public securities are amongst the best to be had.

It seems that M. Poincaré has succeeded in knocking off about £720,000 from the estimates proposed by his various colleagues in the French Ministry. This, however, still leaves a deficit of 180,000,000 fr., or £7,200,000, for which fresh resources must be found. The Minister of Finance takes his stand resolutely against any form of loan or even monopoly, and intends to make good the deficit by fresh taxation. It will be interesting to see what his proposals are, for in our opinion France, that is to say the great bulk of the French people, cannot bear further taxes.

Mr. Carruthers, the Premier of New South Wales, is already joyful over his anticipated surplus. He declares that on June 30 next, when the financial year closes, New South Wales will show a surplus of £1,000,000, after paying off £400,000 of the debt. The nett result of the year's operations is that the whole services of the Government and of the new loans, including payments for land resumptions, have been made from current revenue, and that the debt has been materially reduced without the necessity of extra taxation. This result, the Premier claims, is the best for a quarter of a century, and is all the more gratifying as it follows a long series of deficits. If all this is true we shall have cause heartily to congratulate the colony on its prosperity.

Queensland not to be behind claims for the eleven months of the financial year expired an excess of income over outgo of £712,000 as compared with £508,000 a year ago. This shows what abundant rain will do, even in a debt-laden place like these colonies.

Notes on Books.

The Mining Manual for 1906. Edited by Walter R. Skinner. (London: 11-12, Clement's Lane, E.C.)

The merits of this mining manual are by this time too well known to need lengthy exposition. It has now reached its twentieth year of publication, and the longer it lives the more useful it becomes, for with the vast growth of mining and the increasing number of mining companies that come into existence yearly, one has to refer to its records more frequently than ever. Strange to say, the present volume is not so bulky as the preceding one, but this is hardly to be marvelled at when we call to mind the prolonged depression in the mining industry, a depression not yet ended. Unable to get further capital to pay directors' and other fees, numberless companies have been forced to go into final liquidation, whilst scores of others have ended their independent existence in amalgamations.

This has particularly characterised Rhodesian mining, and there are still too many left whose prospects are utterly hopeless. The reduced size of the book is also due to a closer form of setting, which has enabled the bulk of the work to be contracted without disturbing any of its well-known contents. In addition to particulars of yields and the statements of ore reserves included in notices of Australasian companies, it has been found advisable to emphasise by reference note the fact that at the end of that section there is to be found the usual table giving full details of tons crushed per month, yield per ton, &c., for each company, drawn up on a plan similar to that adopted in all the other sections. Mr. Skinner says it is satisfactory to find that the work of compilation has been greatly simplified by the almost entire absence of companies registered in Guernsey. This is well from other points of view, particularly from that of honesty, the compiler opining that promoters "of a certain class" have discovered it to be disadvantageous to them to register companies there. Certainly the public is suspicious, and reasonably suspicious, of any Guernsey-registered company. Why should promoters fight shy of the English law if they do nothing to violate it? The outstanding incident of the past twelve months has been the heavy depreciation in South African shares, and Mr. Skinner attributes this, to some degree, to a mistaken idea on the part of the public as to the yield of ore from the mines. We may assure the editor that such an idea is far from an erroneous one, for it is a fact the bosses themselves confess and lament in nearly all their reports. Neither has this been the sole cause of the selling of shares, nor is the attitude of the Liberal Government responsible for the wholesale liquidation, which commenced long before the decline in the quality of the ore became universal knowledge, also during the long tenure of a sympathetic Conservative Government. But these theories do not detract in any conceivable way from the great usefulness of the manual, which we heartily welcome.

The *pièce de résistance* in the June *Book Monthly* is Mr. Milne's interview with that most enterprising of journalists "T. P.," and the latter's views on things literary and journalistic. Wise man, he asks emphatically, "if journalism is not a branch of literature, what on earth is it?" The two are related from beginning to end, and a great deal of modern journalism is very good literature." We always appreciate the Personal and Particular in this magazine, apart from the excellent illustrations, and to repeat that its classified lists of "New Books Nearly Ready" and "Books of the Month" alone make it a necessary presence in an up-to-date household is but vain repetition. The editor's London Letter this month is of special interest to writers, for it deals with Mr. Putnam's forecasts of the new American Copyright Bill.

Letter to the Editors.

THE INSURANCE WAR.

SIRS,—I have followed with much interest your comments on the struggle between the North British and the Mutual of New York, and have greatly admired the impartiality with which you have poured broadside after broadside into both parties to the conflict. I am bound, however, to say that in my judgment the criticisms in your issue of June 2 somewhat miss fire. You say:—

"Here is the test: Will Mr. McClintock and his colleagues consent to an actuarial valuation of the contracts, assets, and liabilities of his company by British actuaries selected here either through the company's British policy-holders, or by the officials of our Institute of Actuaries? If not, then his words go for nothing, &c."

I consider this to be wide of the mark, because the Mutual has already officially offered to undergo the test you propose, and the offer was declined, or, at any rate, not acted upon, by the gentlemen who appointed themselves to represent the British policy-holders. In the circular they issued on April 26 it was specifically stated that "the only suggestion so far received in reply" to their complaints was that "an actuary, appointed by the president of the Institute of Actuaries, should go to New York at the company's expense to verify reserve liabilities." As a Mutual policy-holder it has always been a puzzle to me why this fair, candid, and spontaneous offer was not immediately accepted. Its non-acceptance

cannot, however, be imputed to the company; it lies solely with the self-created "committee" of British policy-holders, and is not the least mysterious action of that remarkably mysterious body.

I am, sirs, your obedient servant,

A MUTUAL POLICY-HOLDER.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1906, and June 2, 1906:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.		Total Receipts into the Ex- chequer from April 1, 1906, to June 2, 1906.	Total Receipts into the Ex- chequer from April 1, 1905, to June 3, 1905.
Balances, April 1:	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	9,334,212	6,352,909
Bank of Ireland	—	1,117,275	1,077,369
		10,451,487	7,430,278
REVENUE.			
Customs	—	5,978,000	5,622,000
Excise	—	4,595,000	4,649,000
Estate, &c., Duties	—	2,942,000	2,710,000
Stamps	—	1,397,000	1,500,000
and Tax and House Duty ..	—	310,000	370,000
Property and Income Tax ..	—	3,697,000	3,679,000
Post Office	—	1,710,000	1,650,000
Telegraph Service	—	640,000	600,000
Crown Lands	—	80,000	80,000
Receipts from Suez Canal	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	—	5,000	5,000
Miscellaneous	—	359,348	325,644
*Revenue	—	21,713,348	21,190,644
Total, including balance		32,164,835	28,620,922
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	100,000	100,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	—	—	100,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..	—	—	191,592
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..	—	—	160,408
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900	—	—	13,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	—	35,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905	—	—	3,780,000
Total		32,264,835	33,000,922
*Revenue as above	—	21,713,348	21,190,644
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	—	28,699	26,228
Excise	—	289,000	289,000
Estate, &c., Duties	—	691,000	746,000
Total		1,008,699	1,061,228
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	—	22,722,047	22,251,872
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.			
		Total Issues out of the Ex- chequer to meet payments from April 1, 1906, to June 2, 1906.	Total Issues out of the Ex- chequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905 to June 3, 1905.
EXPENDITURE.			
National Debt Services	£	£	£
Other Consolidated Fund Services	—	5,879,245	5,830,431
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	—	248,995	267,907
Supply Services	—	90,000	90,000
	—	25,633,669	16,475,755
Expenditure	—	21,857,209	22,664,093
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	550,000	20,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	45,000	45,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	2,000,000	2,000,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	—	150,000	150,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905 ..	—	—	940,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	—	—	13,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	25,000	35,000
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..	—	10,000	—
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..	—	219,969	—
Surplus Revenue 1905-1906 applied to reduce Debt	—	500,000	—
		25,357,178	25,867,093
Balances in Exchequer:—	1906. June 2.	1905. June 3.	
Bank of England	£	£	
Bank of Ireland	1,049,382	946,537	
		6,907,657	7,133,829
Total		32,264,835	33,000,922
Treasury, June 5, 1906.			

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN BANK.—The statement for May shows current accounts and deposits of £13,974,055, other liabilities £551,954, and acceptances and endorsements £9,311, against assets consisting of cash in hand and at Bank of England £1,897,014, money at call and short notice £1,456,050, British Government and other securities £3,952,929, and bills discounted, loans, &c., £9,213,016.

MARINE & GENERAL**MUTUAL LIFE OFFICE.**

ESTABLISHED 1852.

Funds - - £1,382,382.

All **WHOLE LIFE** and **ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES** receive the same liberal treatment in **PRIVILEGES** and **BONUS ADDITIONS**, and are granted at average premiums.

Apply for Prospectus to Head Office,
14, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, or to any of the Branches throughout the Country.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE.

INCORPORATED A.D. 1720.

RE, LIFE, SEA, ANNUITIES. ACCIDENTS & EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY.

The Corporation is prepared to act as

EXECUTOR OF WILLS, TRUSTEE OF WILLS AND SETTLEMENTS.**SPECIAL TERMS TO ANNUITANTS WHEN HEALTH IS IMPAIRED.****FUNDS IN HAND EXCEED £5,250,000.**

Apply for full Prospectus to the Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE: ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON, E.C.**The Investors' Review.****The Week's Money Market.**

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on May 10.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

How long will easy money be with us? Short credits of all descriptions were bound to be cheap this week because the market not only enjoyed the use of the large sums borrowed from the Bank last week, but because the Treasury paid out freely at the end of the month. Already, however, the loans obtained from the Bank have had to be paid back, and the market still owes considerable amounts on short bills discounted by it there, so that it may again be in poverty by the end of the month, and forced to renew loans on a considerable scale. Even should the market nearly escape from the Bank's control at the end of the quarter we cannot yet count upon prolonged ease in the short loan market. That could only come in the event of a great addition being made to the metallic reserve concurrently with a cessation of all danger of renewed and formidable export demands. As the gold is coming in steadily it seems probable that nothing approaching dear money will now have to be encountered until September, but neither can we look for money to be cheap in a well-assured sense. Call loans may fluctuate between 2 and 3 per cent. and may even go below 2 per cent. now and again in the afternoon, but we doubt if seven-day money is likely to be freely procured at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. This week seven-day loans have come down to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but until to-day bankers who held out for 3 per cent. got it, and call money has also been $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 per cent. most mornings. To-day, however, call money was really abundant, and some jobbers said they were able to get it at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the outside market. The joint-stock banks continued to ask $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for it, but the rate between jobbers was 2 per cent. That the market, however, is for the time being more comfortable was demonstrated by the prompt and unanimous action of the discount market on Thursday. It met and decided to knock $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. off its deposit rates, making them $2\frac{1}{4}$ for call and 3 per cent. for notice money. And the banks took the change in all meekness.

For all their readiness to lower short loan rates the bill brokers have endeavoured with some success to sustain discount rates. They have been reluctant even to-day to take three months' bills below $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., and some of them persisted up to yesterday afternoon in quoting $3\frac{7}{8}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. for this class of paper. Mixed parcels of all dates, however, have been disposed of at $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., and if money is not tightened up again by the Stock Exchange settlement next week we fear it will be impossible to keep discounts from sliding back. Brokers, however, were helped to-day by the renewed weakness in the Paris

cheque. This is 'not' yet pronounced, but is so far significant of possibilities that bullion brokers now think the Bank may be compelled to pay more than 77s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. next week if it wishes to secure £500,000 or so of gold then to be disposed of in the open market. If competition for the metal merely threatens it will help to keep the discount market firm. Most brokers gave $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. as their working rate this morning on bank bills of all classes except 60-day, but the Continent took a few bills at $3\frac{5}{8}$ per cent., and four and six months' bills for payment to-morrow were disposed of at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and we should not be at all surprised to find this the general working rate next week, especially if the India Council, as is reported, should release a further large amount of gold. It was certainly offering money more freely to-day on loan to the end of the month at $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

The position of the Bank return is not bad in some respects, but neither is it so excellent as to preclude the danger arising from sudden changes in the condition of the short loan market. Other deposits, for example, although up £1,906,000, thanks in part to £558,000 added to the market debt on other securities, are still only £44,584,000, and the banking reserve is actually £151,000 lower at £23,025,000, in spite of the influx of £721,000 in gold from abroad. So large, in other words, was the holiday demand for currency that all this gold and £107,000 from the previously existing stock held disappeared in the active circulation together with about £45,000 in notes, and this currency may not come back readily. There is only some Scotch gold, it is said, to be returned which might act as an offset. Then the Treasury will again begin to accumulate the money to meet its July dividends, and although it paid out £1,470,000 last week that money also cannot be depended upon to remain with the market. The sole dependable foundation of ease, therefore, continues to be imports of gold, and as long as the Bank of England continues to secure the bulk of the arrivals from the mines it does not seem probable that anything like dear money will be encountered. Still, the reserve remains small, and the market is carrying greater risks in many directions than it ever shouldered before, while all available credit is employed either in legitimate commerce or in price-sustaining enterprises on the Stock Exchange.

New issue calls are light next week, only £693,344 all told. On Monday £23,344 falls due, principally on Loddon Valley Goldfields shares; then on Tuesday £80,000 is payable on the Belfast Corporation loan, and £75,000 on the Provincial Motor 'Bus and Traction Company's issue. After that nothing falls due until Friday, when £500,000 becomes payable on the Cordoba Central Extension debentures, the total being made up by £15,000 payable the following day on Village Main Reef debentures.

SILVER.

The bazaar speculator in silver appears to have overshoot the mark in his dealings recently, and this week there has been a good deal of forced liquidation. Unfortunately for the seller the demand has been extremely small, and quotations crumbled rapidly away until they were down to 29 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz. for cash and 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. for future delivery. The market became a little steadier at these levels, and with rather less pressure to sell prices to-day recovered $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 30d. and 29 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per oz. respectively. Applications for the Rs. 40,00,000 Council drafts in India offered this week reached a total of Rs. 3,23,10,000 for bills and Rs. 65,00,000 for telegraphic transfers, and the whole amount was allotted in bills, tenders for which at 1s. 4d. received 32 per cent. Next Wednesday only Rs. 30,00,000 will be offered. In connection with these weekly sales the Secretary of State has issued amended regulations which permit applicants tendering on the Wednesday for bills and transfers to insert a request that if the tender for transfers be not sufficiently large to secure an allotment of one lakh of rupees it may be increased to the necessary extent by reduction of their tender for bills.

BANK OF ENGLAND.
AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the
Week ending on Wednesday, June 6, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Notes Issued ..	50,711,855	Government Debt ..	11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	32,261,855
		Silver Bullion ..	—
	£50,711,855		£50,711,855

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£		£
Proprietors' Capital ..	14,553,000	Government Securities ..	15,977,133
Reserve ..	3,244,991	Other Securities ..	32,041,172
Public Deposits (including		Notes ..	21,721,705
Exchequer, Savings		Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,303,516
Banks, Commissioners			
of National Debt, and			
Dividend Accounts) ..	8,577,988		
Other Deposits ..	44,584,481		
Seven Day and other Bills	83,066		
	£71,043,526		£71,043,526

Dated June 7, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year :—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. June 8.		May 30, 1906.	June 6, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,132,626	Rest ..	3,261,442	3,244,991	—	16,451
7,584,282	Pub. Deposits ..	10,047,867	8,577,988	—	1,469,879
39,178,735	Other do. ..	42,678,571	44,584,481	1,905,910	—
114,082	7 Day Bills ..	96,329	83,066	—	13,263
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
16,687,806	Gov. Securities ..	15,977,281	15,977,133	—	148
24,374,720	Other do. ..	31,483,251	32,041,172	—	557,921
23,500,199	Total Reserve ..	23,176,677	23,025,221	—	151,456
				2,057,514	2,057,514
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
28,331,875	Coin and Bullion ..	28,945,645	28,990,150	44,505	—
50½ p.c.	Proportion ..	33,672,322	33,565,371	—	106,951
3 "	Bank Rate ..	4½ "	4½ "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £721,000 in.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Saturday, Bars ..	£63,000
Tuesday, Bars ..	£176,000
Wednesday, Bars ..	£136,000
Thursday, Bars ..	£128,000
Thursday, Egypt ..	£200,000
Friday, Bars ..	£26,000
Total ..	£729,000
	Total Influx .. £729,000
	Total .. £729,000

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
1,800,000	6 months	July 1	3 2 6
1,500,000	—	—	—
1,000,000	6 months	July 29	2 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 12	2 10 8
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 26	2 13 8
1,500,000	6 months	Sept. 16	2 11 5
1,000,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 10 0
2,000,000	6 months	Nov. 26	3 2 2
1,500,000	—	—	—
17,213,000			

† Issued privately.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1906.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Jan.	1,361,699,000	1,233,474,000	128,225,000	—
Feb.	1,007,233,000	967,181,000	40,052,000	—
Week ending				
Mar. 7	235,959,000	215,866,000	20,093,000	—
" 14	261,348,000	268,032,000	—	6,684,000
" 21	208,709,000	211,042,000	—	2,333,000
" 28	250,066,000	205,714,000	44,352,000	—
Apr. 4	284,635,000	345,370,000	—	60,735,000
" 11	266,009,000	210,891,000	55,118,000	—
" 18	182,932,000	300,087,000	—	117,155,000
" 25	230,499,000	139,973,000	90,526,000	—
May 2	281,140,000	263,265,000	17,875,000	—
" 9	231,902,000	210,041,000	21,861,000	—
" 16	293,489,000	269,214,000	24,275,000	—
" 23	209,951,000	189,108,000	20,753,000	—
" 30	201,975,000	246,087,000	—	44,112,000
June 6	267,679,000	226,581,000	41,098,000	—
	5,775,225,000	5,503,016,000	272,209,000	—

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.
(For week ended June 2.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs ..	678,000
Excise ..	233,000
Estate, &c., Duties ..	471,000
Stamps ..	80,000
Land Tax and House Duty.	—
Property and Income Tax ..	81,000
Post Office ..	—
Telegraphs ..	—
Crown Lands ..	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	5,000
Treasury Bills (net amount)	—
Miscellaneous ..	41,233
Bullion advances repaid ..	—
Uganda Railway ..	—
Unclaimed Dividends Account ..	—
Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds ..	—
Telegraph Acts ..	—
Naval Works Acts ..	—
Military Works Acts ..	—
Land Registry Acts ..	—
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	—
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	—
Issue of Exchequer Bonds under Cunard Agreement Act	—
Ways and Means ..	—
Temporary Advances Deficiency ..	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	—
Transvaal and Orange River Colony. Repayment of Temporary Advance ..	—
Adjustment of Local Taxation payments ..	—
Decrease in Exchequer balances ..	988,103
	£2,577,336

National Debt Services ..	—
Other Consolidated Fund Charges ..	20,936
Payments to Local Taxation ..	—
Supply Services ..	2,456,400
Bullion Advances ..	100,000
Treasury Bills (net amount) Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds ..	—
Exchequer Bonds redeemed	—
Uganda Railway ..	—
Military Works ..	—
Naval Works ..	—
Telegraph Acts ..	—
Land Registry (New Buildings) ..	—
Public Buildings Expenses Act ..	—
Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act ..	—
Suez Canal drawn Shares in reduction of debt ..	—
Cunard Agreement ..	—
Surplus Revenue, 1905-6 ..	—
Deficiency Advances, repaid ..	—
Ways and Means Advances repaid ..	—
Increase in Exchequer balances ..	—
	£2,577,336

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris ..	chqs	25'19½	25'16½	Antwerp ..	short	25'25½	25'23½
Brussels ..	chqs.	25'25	25'23	Italy ..	sight	25'10½	25'15
Amsterdam ..	sight	12'14½	12'13½	Constantinople	3 mths	110'02	110'02
Berlin ..	chqs.	20'51	20'49½	Rio de Janeiro	90 dys	16½	16½
Do. ..	3 mths	20'31½	20'31	Calcutta ..	T.T.	1/4	1/4
Hamburg ..	chqs.	20'50	20'48	Bombay ..	T.T.	1/4	1/4
Frankfort ..	short	20'48	20'46	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	2/1½	2/1½
Vienna ..	sight	24'04½	24'03½	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2/11½	2/10½
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	94'10	94'10	Singapore ..	T.T.	2/4½	2/4½
New York ..	60 dys	4'82	4'82½	Yokohama ..	4 mths	2/0½	2/0½
Lisbon ..	sight	51½	51½				
Madrid ..	sight	27'42	27'80				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.	
			Last Week.	Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	2½	2½
Berlin	4½	May 23, 1906.	3½	3½
Hamburg	4½	May 23, 1906.	3½	3½
Frankfort	4½	May 23, 1906.	3½	3½
Amsterdam	4½	May, 1906	3½	3½
Brussels	3½	May 15, 1906	3½	3½
Vienna	4	June, 1906	3½	4½
Rome	5	September, 1904	4	4
St. Petersburg ..	7½	April 17, 1906	8	8
Madrid	4½	August 21, 1901	4	4
Lisbon	5½	January 11, 1899	5	5
Stockholm	5	January, 1906.	4½	4½
Copenhagen	5	October, 1905	4½	4½
Calcutta	5	June 7, 1906	—	—
Bombay	6	May 24, 1906	—	—
New York call money ..	3	—	—	—

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	June 7, 1906.	May 31, 1906.	May 25, 1906.	June 8, 1905.
Gold in hand ..	117,833,080	117,647,080	117,989,480	114,676,240
Silver in hand ..	42,578,360	42,531,360	42,570,320	44,420,240
Bills discounted ..	27,949,000	38,026,560	31,780,360	18,811,320
Advances ..	20,412,840	19,801,000	19,870,080	19,166,800
Note circulation ..	184,066,160	190,879,080	184,109,120	173,800,240
Public deposits ..	6,529,400	8,633,040	8,346,520	8,016,480
Private deposits ..	23,093,040	23,759,080	25,290,600	21,793,880
Proportion between bullion and circulation 86½ per cent. against 84 per cent. a week ago.				

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	May 16/29, 1906.	May 8/21, 1906.	May 1/14, 1905.	May 16/29, 1905.
Gold ..	75,710,478	73,348,857	74,501,673	91,147,369
Silver and subsidiary coin ..	5,712,265	5,572,108	5,591,644	6,373,438
Advances and bills discounted ..	43,273,806	45,258,599	46,074,249	36,421,691
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	8,554,789	8,366,729	8,519,935	5,456,449
Notes in circulation ..	112,519,505	113,281,415	113,021,484	90,360,002
Deposits and current account ..	47,481,217	47,171,257	47,861,711	46,221,562
Treasury account ..	1,609,942	6,158,650	2,721,747	11,495,985

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	May 31, 1906.	May 23, 1906.	May 15, 1906.	May 31, 1905.
Cash in hand ..	£ 50,578,400	£ 52,686,850	£ 50,753,750	£ 53,650,150
Bills discounted ..	43,840,750	40,373,200	40,712,750	44,476,850
Advances on stocks ..	3,854,350	3,124,100	3,151,450	3,498,250
Note circulation ..	66,170,000	63,439,000	65,827,350	63,640,250
Public deposits ..	27,925,300	31,155,100	28,171,800	31,124,150

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	May 31, 1906.	May 23, 1906.	May 15, 1906.	May 31, 1905.
Gold Reserve ..	£ 46,560,375	£ 46,619,833	£ 46,472,333	£ 47,667,708
Silver reserve ..	12,850,166	12,873,938	12,842,458	13,171,375
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	1,682,541	1,537,041	1,655,500	1,665,250
Note circulation ..	71,488,875	68,680,458	70,319,458	65,147,291
Bills discounted ..	18,828,916	15,654,166	16,632,041	11,646,833

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	May 31, 1906.	May 24, 1906.	May 17, 1906.	June 1, 1905.
Coin and bullion ..	£ 4,848,280	£ 4,852,320	£ 4,942,840	£ 4,724,800
Other securities ..	24,626,320	23,292,000	23,191,840	23,727,840
Note circulation ..	28,483,040	27,132,600	27,227,280	27,322,200
Deposits ..	3,224,200	3,147,280	3,237,320	2,933,560

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	June 2, 1906.	May 26, 1906.	May 19, 1906.	June 3, 1905.
Gold ..	£ 15,136,114	£ 15,133,775	£ 15,128,977	£ 14,805,430
Silver ..	24,550,047	24,452,477	24,267,585	22,139,699
Foreign Bills ..	3,397,955	3,475,893	3,415,301	1,641,160
Discount and Short Bills ..	22,438,251	22,124,510	22,451,413	40,492,612
Treasury Account ..	36,625,506	36,580,497	36,577,074	21,233,867
Notes in circulation ..	61,585,180	61,649,940	61,899,697	62,490,314
Current Account deposits ..	23,336,871	23,510,963	23,335,370	22,638,315
Dividends Interests ..	1,130,532	1,333,853	1,505,934	2,448,592
Government Securities ..	7,172,444	6,005,746	6,049,530	4,814,726

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	June 2, 1906.	May 26, 1906.	May 19, 1906.	June 3, 1905.
Specie ..	£ 36,622,000	£ 36,196,000	£ 37,088,000	£ 40,910,000
Legal tenders ..	16,580,000	16,779,200	16,279,200	17,124,600
Loans and discounts ..	201,308,000	209,880,000	208,140,000	220,260,000
Circulation ..	9,948,000	9,967,000	10,002,400	9,254,600
Net deposits ..	207,350,000	206,540,000	205,360,000	227,300,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £1,364,000 against an excess last week of £2,027,200.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	May 24	May 29	May 31	June 7
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'3	12'3	12'3½	12'2½
Do. do.	3 months	12'5½	12'5½	12'5½	12'5½
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'48½	25'47½	25'50	25'47½
Hamburg ..	3 months	20'72	20'73	20'72	20'71
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'72	20'73	20'72	20'71
Paris ..	cheques	25'21½	25'19½	25'19½	25'18½
Do. ..	3 months	25'38½	25'38½	25'38½	25'37½
Marseilles ..	3 months	25'40	25'40	25'40	25'37½
Switzerland ..	3 months	25'47½	25'47½	25'47½	25'43½
Austria ..	3 months	24'36	24'36	24'37	24'35
St. Petersburg ..	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow ..	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places ..	3 months	25'48½	25'48½	25'48½	25'45
New York ..	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P..	3 months	42½	42½	42½	41½
Lisbon ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen ..	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'45	18'44
Christiania ..	3 months	18'46	18'46	18'46	18'45
Stockholm ..	3 months	18'46	18'46	18'46	18'45

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3½-3½
Three months ..	3½-3½
Four months ..	3½-3½
Six months ..	3½-3½
Three months fine inland bills	3½-3½
Four months ..	3½-3½
Six months ..	3½-4

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
" short loan rates	4½
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	2½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	2½
" 7 and 14 days' notice	3
Current rates for 7 day loans	2½
" for call loans ..	2-2½

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

The real cause of the want of business on the Stock Exchange may be complex, many influences, that is to say, are at work in producing the existing stagnation, but they may be divided into two classes. On the

one hand, there is the exhaustion of those who in former years did so much to give prosperity to markets, or the lock up of all the resources they have left in securities they are unable to realise. On the other hand, the public that might speculate, or at least invest freely because still more or less wealthy, is kept away from markets by the excessive prices of most things for sale there. Outsiders rarely get a fair chance. If a thing is good the players within the Exchange pounce upon it, and cause the price to advance until there is no margin of profit left for those who come last. Until, therefore, the classes that have lost their money have had the time to accumulate fresh capital, or until prices are allowed to come back to tempting points, we really do not see how business on the Stock Exchange is to broaden out. Who desirous of being considered sane would advise clients to invest in United States Railroad stocks at present figures? What is there to tempt anybody to go into the Kaffir market and pick up bargains? Why should the old-fashioned investor turn to Home Railway stocks in the hope of making a profit there? In Municipal securities, in Consols, in all high-class stocks there is no temptation to the man who wishes to put his money into something giving him a chance of profit over and above the interest earned by the money. From this point of view markets stand in their own light, and yet we do not see how prices are to be brought down because the whole credit of the country rests upon inflated values of every description. Were the depression to become acute in any class of security it would reveal weak places in the credit fabric from one end of the country to the other. We are thus in a sort of *impasse*, and the best that is to be hoped for is a small investment business and some little eddies of speculation now in one security or group of securities, now in the other, but anything like a large and general activity of markets does not seem to us possible under existing conditions.

What is the weakest spot in the market? We should not like to say. In fact, the Stock Exchange itself emphatically repudiates any hint that it is anywhere weak. "There is no swollen out account in the market" we are always told, and if that be true, as it probably is to a large extent, compared at least with what used to exist in former days, then the inflation of prices in all sections of the market is due to the action of the banks and other money-lending institutions. They are running all the risk when their clients become exhausted, and one cannot avoid a feeling of uneasiness lest the process of impoverishment now going on among clients may not end in embarrassments and losses amongst the banks that have so far made such handsome profits through consuming the capital of their customers. The business of a bank which grows fat on the losses of clients is never good business.

The Week's Stock Markets.

This has been a short week for Stock Exchange business, and we have again to record an almost complete absence of dealing in practically all departments. The public is doing absolutely nothing, a condition of affairs which naturally inclines dealers to act on the bear side rather than increase their account open for the rise. It is hardly surprising, then, that quotations steadily dwindle, and many dealers are beginning to despair of any change for the better in the near future. The pending issue of Irish Land stock is set forth as one of the reasons for the general stagnation and apathy, and undoubtedly it will be a good thing when this operation is out of the way. There must, however, be other causes, because money prospects are moderately hopeful, and there are no foreign complications to cloud the political horizon. Markets are clearly suffering the penalty of unreal and often unscrupulous inflation, and the truth of the matter probably is that outsiders will not be again tempted to speculate until quotations have been reduced to a level which promises a fair run for the money risked. When the Consol differences had been adjusted on

Tuesday prices were disposed to rally on the usual notion that the stock had a cheap appearance after the deduction of the dividend, which took place on Friday last. The improvement, however, could not be maintained, and quotations ended much where they did a week ago. Irish Land stock went back, as well as India 3 per cent., and on the whole the gilt-edged market was the reverse of brilliant. Home County and Corporation and Colonial Inscribed stock were steady, with few movements of importance. It is said that Natal has placed £300,000 4 per cent. three year Treasury bonds at par. Even native "revolts" cost money.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS (Last year's dividends are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91	88½	Consols (2½ p.c. Money) ..	89½	89½ xd
91½	89½	Do. Account (July 4) ..	90	89½ xd
91½	88½	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	88½	88 xd
100	99½	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907 ..	100	100
93½	90½	Irish Land (2½) ..	91	90½ xd
100½	99½	Local Loans (3) ..	99½	98½ xd
100½	98	National War Loan (2½ p.c.) ..	99½	98½ xd
100½	98	Do. Account (July 4) ..	99½	98½ xd
101½	98½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	99½	98½ xd
101½	98½	Bk. of England Stock (6 p.c.) ..	288	286½
501	287	India 3½ p.c. Stock. red. 1931 ..	104½	103½ xd
106½	103½	Do. 3 p.c. Stock. red. 1931 ..	95½	94½ xd
97½	95½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stock. red. 1926 ..	80	79½ xd
82	79½	Do. 2½ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	65½	65½
66½	65½			

The Foreign Bond market opened with a fairly firm tendency, and small bidding for Brazilians on Continental account caused a moderate improvement in one or two issues, particularly the 4 per cent. 1889 and rescission bonds. Argentines sympathised, and European stocks were inclined to advance. Russians, however, were unaffected by the fixing of the special settlement in the new 5 per cent. loan for 21st inst., and after the initial strength prices became somewhat flat on weaker Paris advices. The Bourse is a little

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
103½	101½	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886 ..	103	103
102	100	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Ry. ..	102	102
103½	100½	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	102½	102½
93½	89½	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	93½	94½
93	88½	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	89½	90
93½	89½	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	89½	90
104½	101½	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	101½	101½
92½	86	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	89½	90
102½	97½	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	99½	99½
106	101½	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	103½	104
91½	86½	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	90½	91
103	99½	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	103	103
96½	95	Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885 ..	95½	95½
97½	94	Do. 4½ p.c. 1886 ..	96½	96½
96½	93½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1895 ..	93½	93½
101½	98½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	102	102
100½	98½	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	98½	99
105½	103½	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	105	105½
105½	102½	Do. 5 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	102½	102½
101½	96½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	98½	98½
105½	100½	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	102½	102½
53½	50½	Costa Rica A ..	51½	51½
43½	41½	Do. B ..	41½	41½
47½	45½	Colombian External ..	45½	46
106½	105½	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	106½	106½
106½	105½	Egypt United 4 p.c. ..	104	104½
103	101½	Do. 3½ p.c. Pref. ..	100½	101
106	103½	Do. 4½ p.c. State Domain ..	105	105½
89	87½	German 3 p.c. ..	86	86
54	50	Greek, 1884 ..	53½	53½
54½	50	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	53½	53½
43½	39½	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	41½	41
53	49½	Do. Funding ..	52½	52½
98½	95	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	96½	96½
105	103½	Italian 5 p.c. ..	105	105
104½	100½	Japan 5 p.c. ..	104½	104½
104	100½	Do. 1902 ..	101½	101½
92½	88½	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	92½	93
104½	100½	Do. 6 p.c. ..	102	102
104½	101½	Mexican 5 p.c. 1890 ..	103½	103½
71½	68½	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	71½	71½
87	81	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	82	81
83	79½	Servian 4 p.c. ..	83	83
98½	95½	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	95½	95½
100½	100	Turks 3½ p.c. Tribute ..	100½	100½
105½	102½	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	103	103
95½	90½	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	94½	95½
74	70½	Uruguay 3½ p.c. ..	71½	72
98½	94½	Do. 5 p.c. ..	94½	95
54½	52	Venezuelan, Dip. (3) ..	51½	51½

disturbed by the income-tax question, which led to a relapse in French Rentes. Spanish, Greeks, Italians, Portuguese, and Turkish all gave way, while new Russians dropped to ½ premium. Chilians, Peruvians, Cédulas, and Uruguays cascaded off in the South American

group, and amongst Central Americans a small drop occurred in Honduras, but Argentines and Brazilians continued hard. Japanese and Chinese kept steady throughout.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
141½	132½	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	135	135
157½	149½	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	153	153
130½	117½	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	119½	119½
120½	108½	Caledonian Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	110½	110½
74½	72½	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	76	76½
42½	34½	Do. Def. (1 p.c.) ..	35½	35½
96½	87	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	89	89
89	77½	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	78½	78½
16½	14½	Chatham Ordinary ..	15	15½
44½	39	City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	43	42
69½	63½	Furness (1½ p.c.) ..	66½	66½
40½	37½	Great Central Pref. ..	37½	37½
19½	17½	Do. Def. ..	17½	17½
91½	81½	Great Eastern (3½ p.c.) ..	82½	82½
105	100½	Gr. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	102	102
47½	43½	Do. Def. (1½) ..	45½	46
144	131	Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	131½	132
52	47½	Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	48½	47½
109½	103½	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	104½	104½
89½	87½	Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.) ..	87½	87½
37½	22	Metropolitan (2½ p.c.) ..	23½	23½
70½	66	Metropolitan District ..	67½	67½
74½	66½	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	68½	68
72½	74	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	68½	69
47½	43½	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	43½	44½
147½	138½	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	140	140½
163½	154½	North-Eastern (6 p.c.) ..	156½	156½
90½	86½	North-Western (6 p.c.) ..	87	87
132	123½	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	124	124
55½	50½	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	51½	51½
164	153½	Do. Def. ..	154	154
108½	105½	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	104	104
57½	50½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	51½	51½
		Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	51½	51½

The resumption of business after the holiday brought no relief to the Home Railway market, which continues lethargic and uninteresting. Even the remarkably fine Whitsuntide traffic receipts failed to stimulate activity, and although traces of an investment inquiry were noticeable, here and there the effect on prices was extremely small. Great Western, North-Western, and Midland issues did creep up a little, but the changes did not amount to more than 10s., a fraction which was also gained by Hull and Barnsley and Lancs and Yorkshire. Metropolitan scored a fair recovery early in the week, in spite of the unsatisfactory weekly return, but fell back later. District, however, gained £1 and held it to the end, but Central London ordinary and City and South London were both depressed by sales believed to be due to the closing of a deceased account.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
99½	89½	Atchison Shares (4) ..	92½	93½
109½	104½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	106½	106½
120	109½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (5) ..	111	111½
101½	96	Do. Pref. (4) ..	97	97
63½	55½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	60½	61
195½	162½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	176½	176½
52½	36½	Denver Shares ..	44½	44½
93½	88½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	90	91½
52½	40½	Erie Shares ..	47½	47½
87½	78	Do. Pref. (4) ..	82	82
77½	65½	Do. and Pref. (4) ..	74	73½
186½	171	Illinois Central (7) ..	186½	188½
160½	143½	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	152	155
41½	31½	Missouri and Texas ..	35½	37
159½	137½	New York Central (5) ..	144½	145
95½	87½	Norfolk and Western (4) ..	90½	91 x 1
96½	92	Do. Pref. (4) ..	94	94
57½	45½	Ontario Shares (3) ..	53½	53½
69½	67½	Pennsylvania (6) ..	68½	68½
85½	59½	Reading Shares (1½) ..	69	74
74½	64½	Southern Pacific ..	67½	69½
43½	36½	Southern ..	39½	40½
105	101½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	103	103
164½	145½	Union Pacific (5½) ..	154½	156½
101½	98½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	98	98
20½	20	Wabash ..	22	22
87	78	Do. Pref. ..	50½	52
182½	161½	Do. Income Debs. ..	84	87
106½	104	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	164½	165½
112	109	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	104½	104½
29½	25½	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	111½	111½
105½	101½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	27½	28
120	114½	Do. Guar. (4) ..	102	102
110½	108½	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	118½	118½
70½	60½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	108½	108½
109½	107½	Do. 3rd Pref. (2) ..	65½	67
		Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	108½	108½

Operators in Wall Street did their best to produce an appearance of activity during the two days on which our market was closed, and were so far successful that gains of several dollars were recorded in Mil-

waukee, Union Pacific, and one or two of the other favourites. They were, however, left to play the game by themselves as the public still refuses to take any interest, and as dealers on this side are equally unwilling to join in, the daily report has consisted merely of a record of the manipulations of this or that pool. Reading and Union Pacific were at first selected as offering opportunities for a demonstration, but the movements failed to draw in outside support, and attention was then turned to Milwaukee by the talk of "rights" in connection with an issue of new capital to provide for the extension to the Pacific coast. The amount required was put at \$33,000,000, and it was said that this would be raised by convertible bonds, of which \$11,000,000 would be issued at once. Wabash "B" debentures advanced sharply on the announcement that the bonds were to be retired.

capital by £2,000,000 to £6,000,000 to provide for the extensions of the line which have been built during recent years. Only half of the new capital is to be issued at present, but the market expects that this amount will afford an opportunity to holders of securing something substantial in the way of "rights." United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock has been in strong demand, and touched 183½, but the scrip for bonus was inclined to give way. Antofagasta ordinary stock also met with a good deal of support, and the deferred was lifted in the usual substantial fashion, but Mexican Railway issues were comparatively neglected, and only the second preference showed any movement at the close.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
233	211½	Antofagasta (10)	235	238
360	313	Do. Def. (15)	305	370
130½	118	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	117	117
132	125	Do. Prfd. (5)	125	125
88	84½	Bahia Blanca Prfd.	85½	85½
144½	136½	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	137	137
129½	124½	Do. Pref. (5)	128	128
136½	128	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	130½	131½
120½	115½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	119	119
110½	107½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109	109
120½	113½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	116	115½
119	109	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	111	109½
170	160½	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	167	166
109	104½	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	105	105
138½	129½	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	132	132½
92½	85	Central Uruguay (4)	86	87
109½	106½	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	105	105
96	91½	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.)	93½	93½
75½	69½	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	72½	73
59½	52½	Costa Rica	2½	2½
71½	68	Cuban Central	72	72
111½	104½	Do. Pref. (5½)	11	11
108	103½	Do. Deb. (4½)	104	105
93½	90	East Argentine (4½)	93	93
94	6	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	82	82
86½	78½	Leopoldina (4)	76½xd	76½xd
98½	94½	Do. Deb. (4)	98	98
109½	107½	Manila Bonds "A" (6)	109	109
105½	103½	Do. "B" (6)	107	107
28½	23½	Mexican Ord. Stk.	25½	25½
130½	118½	Do. 1st Pref. (6½)	127½	127½
59½	49½	Do. 2nd Pref.	54½	55
68½	54½	Mexican Southern (2½)	61	61
16½	14½	Nitrate Ord. (8)	15½	15½
21½	19½	Ottoman (Suwayna to Aidin) (5) ..	20½	21½
214½	202½	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	202	202
193	168½	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	179xd	183xd

The increase of \$355,000 in the Canadian Pacific traffic return for the last ten days of May was regarded as highly satisfactory, and the price of the shares was carried up to 166. Business, however, was so far from brisk that fully half of the improvement was wiped out almost immediately. Towards the close of the week the demand revived a little, and the final quotation was very little below the best. The Grand Trunk increase of £24,300 for the same period was considerably larger than had been expected, and the ordinary and third preference stocks both show very substantial advances.

Considerable interest has again been evinced in the railway bonds of the Guayaquil and Quito Company, and the pressure to sell which was noticeable before the holidays became much more pronounced on the resumption of business, with the result that the price dropped to 77½, carrying the first mortgage bonds down to 100 with it. It was freely asserted that the company was in such a bad way that the coupon due on July 1 would not be met. There does not appear to be any justification for this assertion, as the *Financial Times* on Thursday stated that the funds for the payment of the coupon had already been deposited with Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co., and that an official announcement with regard to the general position of the bonds would be issued within the next few days. A little buying back followed this statement, but the price, nevertheless, was decidedly lower on the week. Argentine Railways do not attract much attention at present, but they were, if anything, up on the week, the only important exceptions being Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary and deferred stocks. Buenos Ayres and Pacific ordinary finished higher on the news that it is proposed to increase the ordinary

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
21	16	Allsopp Ordinary	19	19
51	44	City of London Ord.	45½	45½
551	533	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	540	540
150½	168	Ohlsson's Cape (40)	17½	17
51½	40 7½	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22) ..	2½	2½
61½	49 6	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	2½	2½
96½	48	Warney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4) ..	48½	49½
92½	92½	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4) ..	94	94
6½	6½	Aerated Bread (24½)	6½	6½
7½	6 7½	Apollinaris Ord. (5)	7	7
2½	2½	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½) ..	7½	7½
27½	21½	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7)	2	2
45½	40½	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	5½	5½
7½	5½	Brunner Mond (35)	5½	5½
11½	10½	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½) ..	11	11
14½	11½	Calico Printers Ordinary (24½) ..	11½	11½
58	5½	Coats Ordinary (20)	5½	5½
500	497½	Do. Pref. Ord. (20)	490	490
26½	19½	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nll) ..	1½	1½
25½	22½	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4) ..	1½	1½
6½	6	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	6	6
13½	12½	Henley's Telegraph (15)	12½	12½
89½	78½	Harrold's Stores Ord. (20) ..	78½	78½
27½	27½	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½) ..	1½	1½
108½	106½	Do. Debenture (4½)	108	108
24½	20½	Lipton Ordinary (7)	1½	1½
6½	5½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30)	5½	5½
34½	22½	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	1½	1½
15½	10½	Russian Petroleum	6½	6½
7½	6½	Savoy Hotel (5)	6½	6½
18½	13½	Sweetmeat Automatic	5	5
16½	14½	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10) ..	15	15
12½	10½	Welsbach Ordinary Stock	10½	10½
19½	17½	Do. Pref. Stock (6)	18½	18½
103½	102½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4) ..	103½	103½
92½	80½	Hudson's Bay Co. (58½)	85	86
54½	42½	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½) ..	52½	52½
110½	105½	Do. Debentures (6)	105½	105½
9½	9	National Discount (10)	9	9
13½	11½	Union Discount (11)	11½	11½
6½	5	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8) ..	4½	4½
11½	10½	City of London Elect. Ord. (6) ..	10½	10½
104½	95½	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4½) ..	98	97½
133½	125½	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	128	128
66½	58½	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	3	3
85½	75½	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	38	38
28½	25½	Brown, J., & Co. Ordinary (10) ..	1½	1½
31½	30½	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½) ..	1½	1½
14	12	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	12½	12
47½	38½	United States Steel Ordinary ..	42½	42½
117	107½	Do. Preference (7)	109	109½
57½	49½	Vickers Ordinary (12½)	2½	2½
158	138	Cunard Steam	14½	15
241	235	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13) ..	235½	231½xd
59½	57	Royal Mail	59	58½xd
9	7½	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5)	8½	8½xd
115½	109½	Anglo-American Telegraph— Do. Pref. Ord. (2½)	115	114½
27½	16½	Do. Def. Ord.	20½	20½
150½	143	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7) ..	143½	144½
155½	145	Eastern Extension (7)	14	14½
113½	108½	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	109	109½
144½	142	Western Telephone (7)	142	144
8½	6½	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6) ..	7½	7½
92½	88	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8) ..	7½	7½
117	83½	London General Omnibus (7) ..	80½	86½
11	8½	London United Trams Pref. (5) ..	9½	9½

The outstanding incident in the Miscellaneous market was the sensational drop in Royal Exchange Assurance shares. This particular security has been very weak during the past week or so, and when it was stated that the final dividend would be only 5 per cent., instead of 10 per cent., the price dropped about £60. This was followed by a recovery of about 20, but the quotation is still 40 lower on the week at 230-240. Other insurance shares were disposed to sympathise, and the market looks like again becoming unsettled. A severe drop also took place on Millwall Dock 1887 preference stock. An effort to realise found the jobbers extremely reluctant to take the stock, and it could not be disposed of except at a great sacrifice. Other dock companies were steady, and the only noticeable movement in the shipping list was a fall of 1 in P. and O. deferred. Gas Light

stock eased off and Trusts generally moved downward. In the tramway list B.E.T. ordinary and preference were still disposed to go up. Iron and Steel shares were somewhat irregular, with most of the movements favourable, Alkali shares were dull, and Nitrates advanced here and there, with Santa Ritas again prominent. Textiles were steady, as well as Catering shares, and in the Meat division Nelsons, River Plates, and Eastmans all improved on the hope that the Chicago packing scandals will lead to increased business. Bovril's were good for the same reason. Eastman Kodaks were on the up grade again, but Cements have quite dropped out of favour for the time being. Breweries held fairly steady, and Barclay Perkins issues improved on the report. Anglo "A" became weak near the close, but Eastern Telegraph stock was firm and higher. Hudson's Bays and other land and exploration shares were quiet.

Except that prices continue to dwindle in the Kaffir Circus, and especially amongst Rhodesian shares, the whole African morass being in a state of collapse save for one item, De Beers deferred shares, which were firmer, nothing has to be reported about Stock Exchange affairs to-night. Business remains miserable, and the account to be settled next week ought to give no trouble to anybody except the unfortunate people who have to meet losses, happily a dwindling number. The £300,000 of three-year 4 per cent. bills issued by the Natal Government for war expenses has been placed at a price a little below par.

Critical Index To New Investments.

BARBERTON EXPLORING AND DEVELOPMENT CO.,
LIMITED.

For the fourth time an effort is being made to prolong the existence of this unhappy concern, which, after starting with a property at Cripple Creek, Colorado, abandoned that and turned its attention to South Africa, where it bought 81 claims in the Barberton district, a number which has since been increased to 92. At the previous reconstruction in 1903 the capital was fixed at £150,000, and £50,344 was issued in 10s. shares credited with 9s. paid, but the new company is to have a capital of £100,000 in 10s. shares credited with 8s. 6d. paid up. For the assets of the old company the liquidator receives 199,980 of the shares, and liabilities of approximately £1,000 are to be paid off, and the public are invited to tender at a price exceeding the liability of 1s. 6d. per share for any of these 199,980 shares not taken up by members of the old undertaking. Stress is laid on the proximity of the mine to the "Sheba," which has produced gold to the value of over £2,500,000, and on the fact there are several other properties with encouraging prospects in the neighbourhood. The manager also reports that in April last he struck a good body of ore assaying 8 dwts. per ton, and that the ore was becoming richer, but neither these facts nor the talk of the 12 dwt. ore to be found, rendering the mine "a splendid payable proposition," are sufficient to inspire much confidence in the future of this oft-refloated derelict.

The Burton Brewery Combine.

It embraces Allsopps, Thos. Salt and Co., and the Burton Brewery, and the details now officially published are substantially in accord with the information which leaked out at the end of April last. The premature publication of the scheme caused much perturbation in "high" circles, and the particulars set forth were described as inaccurate. So they might have been on unimportant points, but broadly speaking the description of the plan was right enough. The idea is that Salts and the Burton Brewery shall transfer their properties, assets, and trade connection, subject to certain specific mortgages, to a Trust company in consideration of £747,776 4½ per cent. debenture stock, £110,000 4 per cent. income bonds, £211,940

5 per cent. preference shares, £34,490 preferred ordinary shares, £165,510 ordinary shares, and £87,300 cash. These are to be allocated to the parties interested in accordance with two schemes of arrangement, but the method of distribution is not mentioned. Allsopps, however, will re-lease their properties at a rental of £70,000 per annum, and a sinking fund of £7,500 per annum to commence in 1909. There will also be sundry cash payments to be provided from certain special assets, and it is calculated that the sums mentioned, together with the sinking funds, will be sufficient to provide within the term of the lease for the repayment of all mortgages and the loan and preference share capital of the Trust Company. When that has been accomplished Allsopps will become absolute owners of the properties. If profits permit, after the payment of all fixed charges and interests, Allsopps will have to provide a further sum of £10,000 per annum in order to pay a dividend on the ordinary shares of the Trust Company. Moreover, the payment of such dividend for five consecutive years prior to the expiry of the lease will involve Allsopps in further obligations, as these ordinary shares will then be considered to have assumed a certain value, and they must be purchased on a sliding scale. Provision is made for re-entry of the Trust Company in case of failure to pay the rent, and for an agreed compensation for possible deterioration in the value of the leased properties on re-entry. It is almost unnecessary to say that great economies in working are anticipated from the new arrangement, and Allsopps are expected to become so wealthy that all the payments under the scheme should be provided with ease, and a nice fat surplus still remain. As it stands the thing is too nebulous to give opportunity for effective criticism, and we shall have more to say when many points now dark and vague have been brought to the light of day. But if Allsopps are to reap all the advantages considered certain Salts and the Burton Brewery seem to be making a pretty bad bargain, and Allsopps will scarcely find their finances relieved by these added obligations, even though the acquired businesses do produce a certain revenue, and we can never forget the purchasing company's overpowering and valueless item of goodwill.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

* * * Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

There is no change for the better in the condition of the Kaffir market. Dealers still bewail an utter lack of business, and not only is no support given from any quarter, but shares are being offered daily, and have to find a lodgment somewhere. Under such distressing circumstances there is no help for it but to put prices lower, even of those shares that have managed to keep tolerably steady during the recent tumble. The public is not so delighted as the gamblers pretended and hoped they would be to learn that the coolies are not rushing back pell-mell to China, nor so disgusted with the policy of the Government, so speculators are seeking other imaginary causes of the deepened depression.

It is impossible for Rhodesians to keep steady whilst Kaffirs are falling, so several have given way to a further extent, particularly the shares forming the "Banket" group, which have virtually slumped on real selling, probably of pawned stock. Tanganyikas and Zambesias have also been heavy losers, some say due to forced liquidation, others to selling on rumours of an impending new capital issue. Anyway, there is no ray of hope yet visible in this market.

West Africans and Egyptians are still lifeless, and there are very few changes from day to day to give evidence of animation amongst West Australians. In the past day or two Golden Horseshoes have been bought on Paris account, and have sharply risen, and Kalgurlies and Great Boulders have gained slightly, but two or three of the other leading shares have eased off.

Copper shares have been strong all round, particularly Rio Tintos, which the French have been buying with some freedom, on the prospect, it is said, of a dividend of £5 per share for the current year, should the price of copper keep up. Cape Coppers and Tharsis have likewise appreciably improved, but Anacondas have been quiet in comparison.

In spite of a rally in the price of tin the share market has been rather dull.

WINDSOR GOLD MINES.—The present position and the prospects of this company are anything but satisfactory and hope-

ful; the consulting engineer himself admitting that "the operations at the mine under present conditions cannot be considered other than disappointing, but it enables the policy of further opening up the property to be pursued without increasing the company's indebtedness." Only a comparatively small portion of the entire reef area has hitherto been touched, and it is the object of the present mine policy to open up as much of the unknown and deeper lying reef as possible in the hope of again finding higher grade ore, such as occurred on the Main Reef west of the shaft down to the 7th level. During the year 1905 58,162 tons were crushed, yielding ore to the value of £72,614, and as the working costs amounted to £64,467, there was a gross profit of £4,147, equal to 1s. 5d. per ton only, although there was a reduction of 1s. 10d. per ton in the costs. When, however, interest of £2,680 is deducted, and depreciation £6,279, and sundry revenue is taken credit for, including £2,633 amount received from the underwriters in settlement of commandeered gold, there is a nett loss of £1,956, which increases the debit balance to £72,468. How and when do the directors hope to get rid of this? In addition the large sum of £39,178 is owing to sundry creditors, and £9,318 to the bank, against which cash and debtors are less than £2,000. There are 73,142 shares unissued, but who would buy them if offered? Not only is the ore low grade, but the mine is troubled with faults.

BRACKPAN MINES.—In addition to boreholing this company was principally engaged last year in getting together all the cash it could. At a special meeting held in February, 1905, the option over 250,000 shares, at the price of 50s. per share, was extended for a period of two years from that date. Subsequently 50,000 shares were taken up at the above price, giving the company as much as £125,000. At a further meeting in May the shareholders sanctioned an increase of the capital from £660,000 to £750,000 by the creation of 90,000 £1 shares. Of this new issue 68,514 fully-paid shares were issued in respect of the acquisition of additional claim property on the farm Benoni. The principal income was £27,133 from interest, while sundry revenue was £805, and as the expenditure amounted to £15,134, there was a nett profit of £15,134, which contracts the debit from £30,666 to £17,862. Thanks to the substantial increase in the capital, cash amounts to £551,267, so the company can be said to be wealthy.

WOLHUTER DEEP.—The expenditure on the development and equipment of this company's property during the past twelve months amounted to £45,904 nett, after allowing £660 for revenue from interest and other sources. Cash and cash assets, after deducting liabilities, were only £1,178, but there are calls of 19s. 6d. per share on the 92,500 working capital shares, which may bring in £90,000 odd.

CITY DEEP.—During the financial year ending December 31 a sum of £53,394 was spent on development and equipment and £731 was received from interest, &c., so the deficiency was £52,663. Cash and debtors total £8,194 against creditors for £7,287, but there are calls of 18s. per share on 70,000 working capital shares for those to pay who have more cash than they want.

KLIP DEEP.—In their brief report for the year ending December 31 the directors say the Wolhuter Deep has commenced shaft sinking, and arrangements are being made whereby the Klip Deep will be able to avail itself of that shaft for mining operations. Expenses in the 12 months were £1,867, against receipts amounting to £482, leaving £1,867 to be added to the deficit of £9,377. Liquid assets well exceed the current liabilities.

LYDENBURG GOLD EXPLORATION COMPANY.—"The continued stagnation in mining enterprise which has prevailed in South Africa has compelled the directors to preserve the waiting attitude of previous years," is the doleful message in the report for 1905. A small profit of £680 was, however, earned, and this, together with £408 transferred from suspense account, has been carried to the credit of the prospecting and agricultural operations. Liquid resources amply cover the current liabilities, but it needs little strength of imagination to foresee a dismal prospect for this company.

VOGELSTRUIS ESTATES AND GOLD MINES.—It is rather an ancient report the directors issue, for it covers the year ending June 30 last, and no excuse is offered for the tardiness in presenting it. The accounts show a nett profit of £24,480, but no allowance is made for depreciation. It is understood, is the plea offered for this, that prior to the declaration of a dividend a sufficient sum is set aside for this purpose and to meet any other contingencies—rather a weak excuse. In 1904 the directors made an issue of 25,000 shares at 30s. each to defray capital expenditure, but as they received applications for no more than 16,226 shares, Sir Donald Currie consented to take up the balance of 8,774 shares, in addition to others previously allotted to him. It is to be hoped he will never regret it.

UM RUS GOLD MINES OF EGYPT.—It comes almost as a startling surprise to learn that this company, upon which such fond hopes have been centred, by shareholders and market gamblers alike, is to be reconstructed. On March 6 of last year milling operations were commenced, with the result that in the following 10 months 6,161 tons were treated for a production of 4,295 ozs. of bar gold, realising £14,708. From this the directors deduct the expenditure from the date of crushing to the end of December, amounting to £10,606, leaving a profit of £4,102. A note in the accounts, however, says there will be a further charge to profit and loss when the returns from August 1, 1905, to December 31 come to hand, estimated at £8,000, so there

will be a nett loss of about £4,000. During the winter Mr. Arthur Llewellyn, the superintending engineer of the Sudan Gold Field, inspected the mine, and has given the directors his recommendations as to the future development of the property. He points out that the lode is a strong and well-defined one, and that it has been explored to a limited depth through only one-fifth of the length of the mining ground. He advises that the development work in the mine should be pushed forward as vigorously as possible, but this will involve a considerable increase in the capital. He adds:—"I am strongly of opinion that the prospects amply warrant it, and I think this would be the view of every practical engineer who had visited the mine. Considering the large proportion of payable ground discovered in the small area hitherto developed, it must be conceded that the mine has so far opened up unusually well." The directors approve of these recommendations, and, in order to raise the necessary capital, propose reconstruction, the new company to have the same title as the old, also a similar capital of £180,000 in £1 shares, to be issued 15s. paid up, with a liability of 5s. per share, which will provide £45,000. This is the reason for reconstruction, and it remains to be seen whether the mine will eventually justify it.

NAMAQUA COPPER COMPANY.—The accounts for the year 1905 show a credit balance of £57,819, and as £1,586 was brought from 1904, there is a total surplus of £59,405. It has been considered advisable to set aside £15,000 to provide for extended exploration and development, and a bonus of £1,200 is given to the staff. This leaves, after paying interim dividends, £29,055 for distribution, out of which a final dividend is paid at the rate of 12½ per cent., making 20 per cent. for the year, allowing £5,473 to be carried forward. While the output from the mines was approximately the same as in the preceding year, this was not achieved without drawing to some extent on the reserves, owing to the yield showing a somewhat lower percentage of copper. On the other hand, the company benefited during part of the year from the high market price of the metal. Much difficulty was experienced with the initiation of smelting operations, in consequence of the refractory nature of the ores, but good progress was made and fair results were obtained.

NORTH CERRO MURIANO COPPER MINES.—The directors of this new copper company have issued a report for presentation at the statutory meeting, giving an abstract of the receipts and payments to May 29th. The authorised capital is £250,000 in £1 shares, and the total number of shares allotted is 120,000, all for cash, 5s. per share being payable on application and on allotment. A further instalment of 5s. was payable on the 1st inst. The company is under the management of the well-known firm of Messrs. John Taylor and Sons. Permission has already been obtained from the vendor company to commence mining operations, and trial pits are being sunk to test the lodes, with a view to fixing upon suitable sites for main shafts.

"LLOYD" COPPER COMPANY.—The directorial report is almost 12 months old, being brought up to June 30 last. Milling operations were suspended from July 31, 1904, to January 1, 1905, during which time work was confined to prospecting. The ore treated amounted to 37,518 tons, yielding 919.5 tons of copper, equal to 2.45 per cent., but even on this low-grade ore the mine was able to pay working expenses, as well as the cost of the five months' prospecting. Before deducting debenture interest there was a profit on the year's working of £6,104, but after paying this interest, writing off £3,699 for depreciation and £1,062 from the value of the ore reserves, there is a debit of £3,646. After difficult and protracted negotiations, the directors have acquired the adjoining property.

ENGLISH CROWN SPELTER COMPANY.—In the financial year ending December 31 last 8,253 tons of raw calamine and blende were raised from the mines, and 14,181 tons of discariche ores treated in the dressing works. These produced 8,911 tons of calcined calamine and blende, nett dry weight, at a cost of £4 14s. 3d. per ton of ore delivered at Swansea. In addition to the quantity of calamine consumed, 6,635 tons of blended and purchased material were treated at the smelting works, the whole resulting in the production of 7,645 tons of metal. The output of calamine ore and blende showed a decline of 6,182 tons, while the average assay of the ore as received at the works was 42.23 per cent., against 44.96 per cent. a year ago. The make of metal, however, was a "record" one, and there was a further substantial saving in the consumption of coal, the average price obtained for the metal invoiced being £24 8s. 9d. against £21 16s. 8d. in 1904. As foreshadowed at the last meeting, the company was compelled to take up, under its guarantee, the first mortgage debenture of £10,000 of the Welsh Crown Spelter Company (in liquidation), and the whole property is now under option to a Manchester syndicate, who are working it. Nett results of the combined operations of mining, dressing, and smelting, after allowing for loss incurred on advances to the Welsh Crown Spelter Company and depreciation, is a profit of £17,937, which gives an available total of £18,237, with the sum brought in. A final distribution of 10 per cent. is added to the interim one, making 17½ per cent. for the year, and £537 is carried forward.

UNITED EXPLORATION COMPANY.—The accounts for the year ending March 31 show a nett profit of £4,172. This company was formed as a trust, not to pay dividends out of interest received in investments, but to promote mining and other companies. Originally attention was directed to the Transvaal, but finding little or nothing worth getting there, the directors turned their eyes in 1900 to West Africa, and they have not taken them off that spot since. Yet despite the miserable experience of the

past six years, the directors talk in this manner to the shareholders:—"From the very satisfactory results already achieved there the directors have every confidence in the ultimate profit to this company." But such confidence shareholders are hardly likely to share.

NILE VALLEY, BLOCK "E."—In February last the shareholders in this concern were informed that the directors were negotiating for an agricultural concession in the Dongola province, and this week news comes that this concession of about 10,000 acres has been delivered. It is announced in a directorial circular that a subsidiary company is being formed to deal with it, the capital of which will be £100,000, the financial scheme and the distribution of profits being approved of by the Government. Full particulars are promised at an early date, the shareholders in the Block "E" to be offered a preferential allotment of shares at par.

ANGLO-FRENCH QUICKSILVER AND MINING CONCESSION OF CHINA.—The report submitted to the statutory meeting held this week stated that the number of shares allotted is 90,623, of which 90,616 are credited with 17s. 6d. paid up in part consideration for the goodwill, lands, buildings, and other assets of the old company. Total amount of cash received by the company in respect of the 90,623 shares is £4,138, and the estimated amount of preliminary expenses incidental to the formation of the company, but payable by the old company, is £1,120.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

BANK OF ADELAIDE.

After providing £2,000 for reduction of bank premises account the nett credit to profit and loss for the year ended March 26 is £49,239. From this the directors again propose a dividend at 8 per cent. per annum, adding £15,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £18,239. Actual profit was £46,286 against £47,876 for the previous twelve months. Deposits £3,145,970 show the highly important increase of £811,732 to £3,145,970, bills in circulation have gone up from £246,474 to £456,497, and notes in circulation are larger by £27,878 at £157,846. Specie, bullion, and cash balances, £477,391, are larger by £131,163. Government debentures amount to £458,914, and no less than £1,255,000 has been lent at short call. Balances due from other banks represent a further sum of £103,352, and the total cash assets add up to £2,300,278 against £1,533,366. Remittances in transit have increased £71,234 to £205,977, and the bills receivable and all other advances appear at £1,913,016 against £1,700,946.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BANK.

Profits of this excellent bank recovered in substantial fashion during the half-year ended March 26. After providing for all outgo, including bad and doubtful debts, rebate on bills, interest on deposits and management expenses, the nett balance was £23,056 compared with £21,233 in the corresponding period of the previous year. Balance brought in, however, was £5,836 lower at £21,452, making £44,508 against £48,521, but the directors have decided to raise the dividend from 17½ per cent. to 20 per cent. per annum, adding £2,500 to the officers' provident fund and carrying forward £29,508. During the half-year, 2,500 new shares were issued at a premium of £10 each, the latter being placed to reserve, which now amounts to £350,000 against a paid-up capital of £150,000. A further increase of £293,021 to £1,990,843 has taken place in the deposits, and notes in circulation are slightly higher at £114,251, but bills in circulation are only £17,207 against £81,541. Balances due to other banks are up by £6,566 to £65,277. Against these additional liabilities the bank has increased its specie on hand by £337,492 to £786,483, although the bullion held is less by £86,487 at £208,112. Investments are a trifle up to £104,140, and bills receivable and all other advances show an increase of £98,308 to £1,494,055. Balances due from other banks amount to £54,172 compared with £9,583, while the movement in remittances in transit is largely the other way, the amount being down from £102,486 to £15,184. Bank premises have risen £2,500 to £62,500.

MADRAS RAILWAY COMPANY.

During the six months ended December 31 this company's gross receipts were £631,689 or £13,889 more than in the corresponding period of 1904. Working expenses, however, were up by £24,531 to £369,903, so that the nett receipts were smaller by £10,642 at £261,786. Ratio of working expenditure to gross revenue was 58.56 per cent. against 55.90 per cent. Coaching traffic increased by £4,546, the number of passengers, excluding season tickets, troops, and police, being £123,215 larger at 4,240,494. Most of the improvement was in third-class passengers, but first and second also contributed. Season tickets produced rather less, and there was also a shrinkage in the revenue from parcels traffic. Inclusive of railway material and revenue stores, the increase in goods tonnage was 5,516 at 767,305, leading to an advance in receipts of £9,447. There was a striking improvement of £31,074 in grain and pulse, owing to imports to meet deficiencies in local crops caused by the failure of the monsoon in certain districts. Provisions, leather, and hides, and skins showed smaller gains, but against these we have a heavy drop of £19,663 in coal and coke. This is due to the more extensive use of electricity on the Kolar goldfields, and

the falling off in the demand for coal has been accentuated by the closure of some of the less paying mines. Oil seeds, metals, stone and lime, tobacco and wood, also produced less revenue, but not sufficiently so to call for special comment. The additional working expenditure is due to the increased outlay now necessary to maintain the line in good working condition. Depreciation of the various works is, of course, always going on, but the company is naturally not allowed to build up special funds, and must meet the cost from ordinary revenue. After making adjustments the nett revenue is £265,581 or a decline of £9,885, and represents a statistical return of £4 8s. 6d. per cent. per annum on the capital bearing interest compared with £4 14s. 2d. in the corresponding period. The regular guaranteed dividends were distributed as usual on January 1 last. In the report the directors point out that the first two years of the valuation period referred to six months ago expired on March 31 last. Taking the company's 5 per cent. stock as an example, the mean market price on April 1, 1904, was £125 10s., whereas the average for the two years since has been £127 11s. 1d. One more year remains to complete the valuation period, which fixes the amount to be paid for the undertaking, should the Government decide to purchase, and it is desirable that the shareholders should recognise the importance of maintaining the stock prices during the interval.

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LIMITED.

Companies which derive benefit from war operations must inevitably suffer when hostilities cease, and this undertaking, which made a good thing out of the Russo-Japanese war, has now to report some curtailment of profits. The report just issued covers the year 1905, which opened in promising fashion, the war still being in active existence, but when in September the fighting happily ceased, the release of a large amount of tonnage caused rates of freight to fall and employment to become unremunerative. Moreover, disastrous floods on the Yangtze interfered seriously for a time with shipping on the river, and the presence of floating mines on the coast constituted a danger to navigation and necessitated insurance outlay to provide against the risk which unfortunately still exists. The earnings of the fleet have naturally been effected by these causes, and also owing to higher cost of coal the nett profit on voyage account being £106,051 against £120,493 in 1904, and about £38,000 in the year before that, clearly indicating the effects of the war. With £4,436 brought in and £12 for transfer fees, the total credit is £110,409, from which general charges absorb £6,243, depreciation £67,587, income-tax £2,417, and interest £7,005. Balance still left is £27,247, compared with £44,189, and the directors find it necessary to reduce the dividend from 6 per cent. to 5, and to pass over the reserve fund, which last year was credited with £10,000. The sum carried forward, too, is about £2,000 down at £2,453. Reserve remains at £120,000, and the exchange reserve is likewise unaltered at £3,999, but the company has been fortunate in escaping any serious claims upon the underwriting account, the balance of which now stands at £280,958 against £241,151. During the year the *El Dorado* was sold, as mentioned in the last report, while the steamers *Koon Shing*, *Cheong Shing*, and *Chip Shing*, for the construction of which the board had contracted, have been completed and despatched to China, where they are now engaged upon the northern trade routes. The company has also contracted with the Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock Company to build a suitable steamer to take the place on the Yangtze of the *Yuen Wo*, previously reported as destroyed by fire. It is hoped she will be ready for service shortly. At the date of the balance-sheet the tonnage of the fleet reached 92,040, having a balance-sheet value of £1,046,610, or £11 7s. 5d. per ton. Since the close of the accounts *Ching Sing* has been completed. Within the period under review the book value of the fleet has increased by more than £100,000, thanks to the additions made, and as no increase has occurred in the capital account this means a big advance in floating liabilities. The company owes £104,362 on bills payable, £52,500 on loan, £65,861 on deposits, and £21,576 to sundry creditors. This means a total of £244,300, or £71,541 more, and there is only a small increase of £7,127 in sundry debtors. It is also to be noted that the cash in hand, £3,010, is nearly £22,000 short of the sum required to pay the dividend, and it will not be a surprise if a new issue of capital becomes necessary. Perhaps a debenture issue with a fairly quick redemption would be the best method.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND TRAMWAYS, LIMITED.

The number of passengers carried during the twelve months ended December 31 rose from 8,504,584 to 15,579,914, but the average receipts per passenger fell by 0.19d. to 1.07d. against a decrease in expenses of 0.11d. to 0.65d., and the proportion of expenses to receipts came to 61 per cent. against 60 per cent. Gross receipts rose by £25,004, and with £560 from advertising amounted to £82,736, of which power and running expenses took £38,185 and repairs and maintenance £10,592, leaving a profit of £33,959. The company now runs a "lighting" section as a separate department, but its sales apart from current supplied to the traction section only yielded a trifle of £233, and the total revenue was £8,156, of which £1,121 was saved as profit. In addition £1,186 was received from miscellaneous sources, and £24,565 came in from interest and dividends on investments giving a total income of £60,831, and of this administration charges took £9,031, rents of lines £9,519 and debenture and other interest £13,482, and after paying £103 to the British electrical superannuation fund and providing for preference dividend the balance available, including £1,702 brought in, was £18,860. Two years ago, when the amalgamation of this company with the Dudley, Stourbridge and other

British Electric Traction creations was carried through, the directors were enthusiastic over the benefits to be derived from the fusion of interests, and gaily promised holders of the preferred ordinary shares then created a dividend of 7 per cent. per annum, but, as we expected, they have been unable to implement that promise, and on this occasion give them no more than 5½ per cent., carrying forward £573 or £1,129 less. Capital expenditure during the year was £58,128, and £1,672 was received from sale of old steam rolling-stock, but the total capital expenditure is now £434,179, against which the depreciation and reserve fund comes to £79,743 or only £300 more than it was two years ago, and considering that there must be a large proportion of antiquated material little better than scrap included in the outlay this provision is evidently very far from being adequate. Investments in debentures and shares of other companies, including the £77,166 in ordinary and preference shares in the Birmingham and Midland Motor-Omnibus Company recently formed to take over the horse undertaking of this company with those of the Birmingham Motor Express Company and the City of Birmingham Tramways, are taken into the balance-sheet at cost, amounting in all to £812,848, and we should like to know what their real value is. So much of the capital has been employed in this way that £75,000 4½ per cent. first mortgage debenture stock had to be issued during the year, and a further issue is contemplated to discharge balances payable on contracts in connection with the reconstruction and equipment of the lines, so that the chances of the preferred ordinary shares receiving their full dividend would seem to be still remote. In addition to debenture stock of £275,000 and a mortgage on land of £4,357, the company has borrowed £75,000 from the City of Birmingham Tramways and owes £28,707 to sundry creditors, as well as certain unspecified amounts on contracts in course of completion. Against these there is £22,185 to come in from sundry debtors, and £70,950 due on loans, together with £25,368 on deposit and £9,969 in cash, but out of these assets £18,287 has to be found for the dividend just declared, and it is, therefore, not surprising that more money is badly needed. The lease of the Dudley-road line or that portion of it which lies within the city boundary expires on June 30, and the Corporation has announced its intention of purchasing the poles, overhead apparatus and low tension cables, but the price has not yet been fixed. For the purchase by the Corporation of Dudley of the tramways and light railways within the borough £10,631 is to be paid to this company, and the directors might tell the shareholders what relation this sum bears to the book value.

WILLIAM CORY AND SON, LIMITED.

This important coal business did very well during the year ended March 31, and produced a profit of £214,762 or £18,387 more than in the previous 12 months. The revenue includes income from reserve fund investments, and is arrived at after providing for depreciation and all expenses. Directors' and managing director's remuneration draws off £14,081, and the debenture holders' trustees are entitled to £420, so that £200,261 is left. Balance brought in was £29,759, making £230,019, from which the directors pay debenture interest and preference dividend, together with 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares. A sum of £7,200 is then placed to the debenture stock premium redemption fund, increasing it to £57,200, the total sum which will be required to pay the premium on the outstanding debenture stock should the directors decide at any future time to redeem it. Another £2,453 is credited to the insurance fund for steamers and £34,266 is carried forward. The insurance fund also gets the benefit of £17,546 realised from sales of sundry plant, &c., in excess of book values, increasing it to £40,000. This incident seems to prove that the depreciation allowances are always very full. Nett additions to the capital account for the year were £7,216, increasing it to £2,359,963, and a further sum of £410,000 is invested in the ordinary shares of Rickett, Cockerell, and Co. All told, the reserve funds reach £347,200. Floating liabilities come to £307,167, but total debtors, including bills receivable, amount to £313,912, and stocks are valued at £69,228. Cash looks small at £17,186. All the reserves are separately invested in gilt-edged securities.

ANGLO-PORTUGUESE TELEPHONE CO., LIMITED.

This small but progressive company gathered a revenue of £29,808 during the year to December 31 last, being an increase of £3,846 compared with the previous 12 months. Operating, general, and management expenses absorbed £16,682, and £842 was payable in royalties to the Portuguese Government, leaving £12,284. Debenture interest and income-tax require a further amount of £2,582, and £9,702 remains as nett profit. It may here be pointed out that last year's nett profits have been adversely affected to the extent of £2,007 by the new method of dealing with subscriptions paid in advance; but for this the nett profits for the period under review would have been shown as £11,709 instead of £9,702. In fact, a complete rearrangement of the accounts, capital and other, has been carried out, as foreshadowed in the last report. They are now presented in the shape it is proposed they shall bear in future, and shareholders do not need to be reminded that the reorganisation proposals included the payment of a nice fat interim dividend from the reserve fund. The effect of this is now shown in the profit and loss account. A year ago there was a balance brought forward of £17,088, of which £2,550 went for dividend, £5,119 was set aside for discount and expenses of debenture stock issue made in the spring of 1905, and a special vote took £500. This leaves a surplus of £8,919, which, together with a transfer of £21,338 from the reserve fund, is added to the profit balance for last

year £12,284, making £42,541. Debenture interest and income-tax brings this down to £39,958, from which an interim dividend amounting to £25,000 has been already paid. The directors now propose to pay a final 6 per cent., placing £5,000 to a new reserve, and carrying forward £5,458. Rather less than 12 months back the capital of the company was increased to £100,000 by the creation of 25,000 shares of £1 each. These shares were issued in the following November, and rank for dividend *pari passu* with the shares previously issued as from January 1 last. Issued capital is now £99,454, and the company has a debenture debt of £50,000. At the date of the last accounts the capital expenditure was £160,613, and £18,242 was added during the year, including shares issued under agreement, less debentures redeemed, making £178,855. Against this £20,000 was transferred from the reserve as depreciation, leaving the property account at £158,855. Trading accounts are somewhat adverse, but cash is £4,267, and £10,000 has been invested in good-class securities.

GUARDIAN LIFE COMPANY.

The most interesting announcement in this big insurance company's report for the year 1905 runs thus:—"It will be satisfactory to the proprietors to know that the company, having withdrawn from business in the United States some years ago, does not sustain any loss by the San Francisco fire." In this happy position all is comfortable with its fire department, which is after all the most important of the various branches of business it carries on. Last year, for example, the nett fire premium income was £501,872. Of this, losses swept away £247,363 or 49.29 per cent., and expenses took £178,780 or 35.62 per cent., so that the two together accounted for 84.91 per cent. of the current income. After providing for these losses, however, and all other charges, bonuses, bad debts, &c., and adding £8,500 more to the premium reserve, the trading profit was £65,411, to which £25,859 received from interest on the reserve funds had to be added making the entire available profit for the year £91,270. Out of this the directors added £39,712 to the reserve, leaving £51,558 to be transferred directly to profit and loss. The premium reserve fund now amounts to £222,150, and the general reserve to £460,000, making the total funds of the fire department £682,150. In the life department the business was small, but it yielded about £8,825 gross in individual premiums, and there was a slight growth in the business, after allowing for re-insurances. The entire nett premium income of the year was £227,082, and the nett claims paid came to £192,894, in addition to which £18,929 was paid as surrender values. Expenses and commissions took £31,386 or £13 16s. 6d. per cent. of the premium income. Also bonuses to the amount of £69,059 were assigned to policyholders, and the proprietors are credited with £70,000, being their share of the life department profits for the past quinquennium. It follows as the interest and dividend income was only £122,298, while the consideration for annuities sold was only £4,615, that the total of the life funds, including the £30,000 investment reserve fund, was down £29,123 at the end of the year, the total being then £3,196,379. Doubtless during the current quinquennium some additions will be made to this fund, but the life portion of the business is at present distinctly non-progressive. The company has an accident, burglary, and general assurance department, which received £51,509 nett in premiums, and paid £17,097 in claims, while £21,781 was disbursed as expenses and commissions. There is a premium reserve of £20,200 in this department, and the profit of £12,917 was added to the reserve fund. Coming to the profit and loss account, we find the nett amount available for distribution to be £153,239, after giving a bonus of £6,980 to the staff, and crediting revenue with only one-fifth of the share of life profits coming to the proprietors from last quinquennial valuation. A dividend of 9 per cent. per annum has been declared by the directors, of which 4 per cent. has already been paid, leaving 5 per cent. to be distributed, and after meeting this £63,239 will be left to carry forward, exclusive of the three-fifths still undistributed of that £70,000 coming to the proprietors from the life department. The aggregate of the balance-sheet of the company, it may be added, is now £5,337,117, and it has no mortgages on property outside the United Kingdom except a small amount in Cape Colony.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

As should be well known, this company does the largest fire insurance business in the world. Its nett fire premium income for 1905 came to £3,054,216. Against this losses to the amount of £1,376,834, being 45.10 per cent. of this premium income, were paid. Then agents' commission and all management expenses took £1,076,000, or another 35.23 per cent. of the premium income. This left £601,589 to be carried to the credit of profit and loss, leaving the fire fund at £1,400,000, or the same figure as the year before. In the life department the business was moderately good, and yielded £54,504 nett in new premiums. After meeting all claims and commissions and expenses, amounting to 12.62 per cent. of the premium income, the funds of this department were increased by £277,092, raising the total, including the annuity fund of £670,781, to £9,135,960. The annuity business was also large, £94,990 having been received as the purchase price of annuities. Coming to profit and loss, we find that after meeting income-tax the nett amount at the credit of this account on January 1, 1905, was £721,410. After adding the surplus from the fire fund and interest to the amount of £148,477 not carried to other accounts, together with a small sum for transfer fees, the entire available balance on December 31 last was £1,471,532, out of which two dividends aggregating £2 per share, £3 paid, have been or will be distributed. These, however, take altogether only £261,258, so that the balance at credit of profit and loss will now be £1,195,274. In-

cluding this balance, the fire fund already mentioned and a reserve fund of £1,600,000, the total of the company's assets stands at £13,803,187.

LAGUNAS NITRATE CO., LIMITED.

This company's gross profit for the year to December 31 was £67,129 or £13,438 more than in 1904, and with the addition of £1,266 for interest and transfer fees the aggregate revenue is £68,396. Various charges, including London expenses and income-tax, reduce this to £61,667 against £45,431, but the directors do not recommend an increase in the dividend, which will again be 5 per cent. The balance carried forward is £21,099 against £4,431 brought in. In view of the fact that the company has absolutely no reserve fund, against an issued share capital of £900,000, and a works and properties account of £815,082, the decision to restrict the dividend is a very wise one. We hope that no attempt will be made to raise it until the financial position has been very materially strengthened. A further sum of £58,500 is represented by debentures and shares in the Jazpampa Bazo Nitrate Company, taken at par. Do these produce a revenue sufficient to justify this valuation? Sum due to creditors is small at £13,146 and on the other side there are bills receivable £15,000, various stocks and stores £53,914, debtors £6,969, and cash £14,589. We do not like to see an exchange suspense account of £6,311 on the credit side.

SAN SEBASTIAN NITRATE CO., LIMITED.

During the year ended December 31 this company took profits on 154,473 quintals of nitrate, which yielded a nett revenue of £16,960 or £5,855 more than in the preceding 12 months. Transfer fees gave another £16 making £16,976 in all. Against this the London expenses were £1,027, reserve for income-tax required £330, and £4,000 or £3,000 more was written off for depreciation of plant and machinery. Balance still left was £11,619 or £2,641 more, to which is added £2,040 brought in, making £13,659 against £11,071. The directors therefore, increase the dividend by 1½ per cent. to 5, adding another £4,000 to reserve and carrying forward £2,421. As already announced, the restriction compact has been renewed for a further period of three years, and we learn from the report of this company that the reduction on initial quotas for the first year has been fixed at 30 per cent., or the same as for the combination year just ended. Capital expenditure during the past 12 months was £397, making a total of £134,884, against which we have to deduct the wastage allowance on plant and machinery £4,000, leaving the property account at £130,884. Reserve fund is £7,000, a small sum truly, but the company's profits have always been so slender that few opportunities have occurred for rendering the financial position strong. Other capital assets are valued at £5,478, and sundry creditors are very light at £3,215, which is rather unusual for a nitrate company. On the other side, debtors owe no more than £400, but cash is £4,074, and stocks are valued at £26,766.

REDUCTO NITRATE CO., LIMITED.

The second annual report of this Chilean nitrate company reveals a promising condition of affairs. Owing to the alterations and additions to plant which have continued during a substantial portion of the year the output was somewhat limited, and the accounts relate to 323,190 quintals only against 338,105 quintals in 1904. Nevertheless the profit was some thousands better at £22,598, and after providing directors' fees £1,000, general charges £483, and income-tax reserve £1,074, the balance remaining is £20,041. From that the statutory contribution of £1,002 is made to reserve and a dividend of 7½ per cent. is paid to the shareholders, leaving £4,039 to be carried forward. Last year no dividend was paid as the directors were anxious to strengthen the financial position. They set aside a sum of £15,651 to the general reserve account, and now use this money in writing off £5,651 against unworked material, reducing the item to £13,497, including grounds account £20,000, and £10,000 from plant and machinery. This account stood at £61,145 a year ago and as £13,043 was added during the period now being reviewed the balance-sheet figure is now £64,188. According to the report recent advices indicate that the equipment at the oficina is now in a satisfactory condition, and it is confidently expected that production on a larger scale than hitherto will in future be rendered possible. Some floating liabilities amount to £10,608 against which the company has stocks £18,201, debtors and bills £4,061, and cash £1,542. Working assets apart from those mentioned are valued at £11,894, and the statutory reserve now reaches £1,826.

DOOM DOOMA TEA CO., LIMITED.

Although the crop for 1904 was the largest in this company's history, the directors were sanguine enough to look for a further increase during the 12 months ended December 31, but their anticipations were far from realised. Climatic conditions were less favourable, the rainfall being only 83 inches against 100 inches, and the output, instead of being larger, fell short of the previous year by 238,219 lbs., at 2,305,913 lbs. The smaller crop increased the cost of production by ¾d. to 7 11-32d., but the average price realised was 7d. up at 9½d., and gross profits consequently were £374 higher at £20,322. This improvement, however, was more than neutralised by the reduction of £706 to £2,252 in the balance from the previous account, so that the amount available, including £20 from transfer fees, showed a further shrinkage of £325 at £22,593. The directors have apparently decided that the dividend must not be reduced below 10 per cent., and in order to maintain it at this figure, they not only omit to make any provision for reserve, but draw upon the

sum brought in to the extent of £1,658, leaving £593 for the new account. With £879 from interest, the reserve is raised to £47,702, of which £20,000 is invested, £10,000 is held on deposit in London, and the remainder is used as working capital. Liabilities on bills payable are £6,500 higher at £11,500, and sundry creditors have risen by £242 to £4,078, but garden drafts in transit come to £659 less at £1,043, while, on the other hand, debtors for tea sold stand at £43,291, stocks are valued at £937, and sundry debtors owe £1,123. Cash has been reduced by £2,163 to £4,791, advances to coolies are £406 up at £1,806, and recruiting advances £548 up at £1,769.

PABBOJAN TEA CO., LIMITED.

The outturn of tea for the year ended December 31 was 1,213,690 lbs., or 41,690 lbs. more than the estimated quantity, and 37,607 lbs. over the crop for 1904, and at the same time the quality appears to have been exceptionally good. At any rate the price realised was 1¾d. better at 11¾d. per lb. against an average increase for Indian teas of about ¾d. per lb., and gross profits rose by £6,248 to £15,468. The balance brought forward too was considerably larger at £3,154, giving a total available of £18,624 compared with £9,554, and after providing for debenture interest and transferring £989 to debenture redemption fund the dividend is raised by 2½ per cent. to 7½ per cent., and £9,234 is carried forward. No attempt has yet been made to form a reserve fund, although this is the fifth year of the company's existence, and the directors apparently consider that they had done all that was required when they paid off £5,000 of the debentures in accordance with the trust deed, in spite of the fact that the estates stand in the books at £115,989, or over £57 10s. per cultivated acre. A decrease of £8,500 to £8,000 in bills payable is largely offset by increases of £4,082 to £8,002 in sundry creditors including the Calcutta agents, and £1,166 to £2,768 in garden drafts and liabilities. On the other hand, the amount to come in from tea sales is £1,953 less at £25,830, but sundry debtors have risen by £547 to £1,024, and cash is £560 up at £1,732. Advances to coolies show an increase of £519 at £1,139, and recruiting advances a decrease of £49 at £2,075.

SCOTTISH ASSAM TEA CO., LIMITED.

The quantity of tea available for sale during the year ended December 31 was 25,553 lbs. larger at 588,991 lbs., and the average price realised rose from 7 21-32d. to 8¾d. per lb., but if the company had to rely entirely upon its crop for an income, we fear it would be very badly off. Gross receipts came to £2,732 more at £20,735, and after deducting freight and other charges the nett revenue from this source was £2,878 up at £18,631, but expenses were £2,397 heavier at £18,570, leaving a profit of no more than £61. The directors, however, do a good deal of business in exchange, and their operations gave them a profit of £5,633 against £4,789 a year ago, and with £76 from interest and £633 brought forward, the amount available was £1,862 larger at £6,404, out of which the dividend is raised by 1 per cent. to 5 per cent., and £1,000 is put to reserve against £207, leaving £1,424 to be carried forward. This balance, however, is subject to directors' fees, manager's commission, and bonus to Calcutta agents, &c., which are estimated at £950 or £300 more than a year ago. Capital account remains at £70,000 the figure to which it was written down in 1904, and against this the reserve with the present additions stands at no more than £3,500, or 5 per cent., after 42 years' working, but apart from this there is nothing to cavi at in the position. Sundry creditors are modest at £894, while sundry debtors amount to £2,836, and a decrease of £1,397 to £6,201 in stocks of tea is more than compensated by an increase of £3,823 to £9,484 in cash.

JAIPUR TEA CO., LIMITED.

Cold and unseasonable weather in the early part of the season reduced the crop for 1905 to 230,741 lbs., or 37,259 lbs. less than the estimated quantity and 13,273 lbs. below that of the previous year. A substantial improvement, however, of 0.72d. to 11.28d. per lb. in the average price realised more than made good this shortage, and the gross proceeds rose by £155 to £10,789, to which was added £1,605 from tea seed sold. After providing for all expenses, including managers' commission, the nett profits amounted to £2,441, making, with £431 brought forward and £108 from miscellaneous receipts, a total of £2,980 available for distribution, so the directors pay a dividend of 5 per cent., and put £1,000 to reserve, leaving £480 to be carried to the new account. With this addition, the reserve will stand at £3,000, against an outlay on block account of £26,932, which is not a very large percentage, considering that this company is now nine years old, but it is so much to the good that it is all invested outside the business, as the company's holding of rupee paper is valued at £3,178. On this, however, the company had borrowed £1,590, and, in addition, it owed £3,137 on bills payable and to sundry creditors, but, on the other hand, there was £7,601 to come in for tea sold, and cash amounted to £1,196.

DHENDAI TEA CO., LIMITED.

Events were more favourable in the year ended December 31, and in addition to an increase of 28,497 lbs. to 378,372 lbs. in the crop the company benefited by an improvement in quality and better markets, with the result that the average price realised rose by 1.65d. to 9.14d. Gross receipts in consequence came to £3,491 more at £14,407, and after meeting all charges, including £307 for manager's commission, and making sundry adjustments the nett balance available was £3,984 compared with £1,282. The directors promptly utilise the greater part of this

increased revenue to raise the dividend from 4 per cent. to 10 per cent., transferring a mere £500 to reserve and carrying forward £284. Liabilities to sundry creditors are comparatively small at £812, while the amount owing to the company is £1,675 up at £4,272, of which £4,207 is due from the agents, Messrs. G. Williamson and Co., and the position seems satisfactory enough.

GALAH Ceylon Tea Estates and Agency Co., Limited.

Although this company used 128,000 lbs., or 15,972 lbs. more, of bought leaf, the output from its factories for the 12 months ended December 31 was only 14,508 lbs. larger at 1,547,641 lbs., while the cardamom crop fell off by 610 lbs. to 17,316 lbs. The average price realised for the tea was barely up to last year's figure at 5.22d., but the cardamoms realised 1.37d. more at 11.64d., and the total receipts rose by £1,051 to £52,487. Ceylon expenses, however, increased by no less than £1,922 to £43,659, while London office charges came to £1,502 against £1,341, and £167 was written off for irrecoverable coast advances, so that after providing for debenture interest and writing off the usual £750 for depreciation the nett balance, including £49 brought in, amounted to £3,708, or a decrease of £1,441. Preference dividend absorbed £3,600 of this, and the ordinary shares, therefore, have to go without any return for the second year in succession, and on this occasion it is not even possible to strengthen the reserve. Capital expenditure, in spite of the allowance for depreciation, is £1,355 up at £178,851, owing to the outlay on new machinery, upkeep of non-bearing land, &c., against which the reserve looks insignificant, especially as it is all in the estates. The current position, too, is far from encouraging, as with £26,954 or £643 more due to sundry creditors, sundry debtors owe £10,292, and stocks of tea and cardamoms are down to £8,402, while cash is much about the same at £3,035, or just about sufficient to pay the debenture interest and preference dividend. Coast advances have been reduced by £341, but are still far too heavy at £2,168.

NEW ZEALAND TRUST AND LOAN Co., Limited.

In their report for the year ended December 31 the directors of this company say that no efforts have been wanting either in London or New Zealand to endeavour to realise the remaining assets of the company to the best possible advantage and with the least possible delay. Since the close of the year the Mount Parker Estate has been sold at a satisfactory price and one considerably higher than could have been previously realised. This sale enables the directors to recommend a distribution out of the funds on hand of 5s. per share, amounting to £10,000, to be debited to the reserve fund reducing it to £44,699. This distribution will make a total of £6 per share returned to the shareholders since the commencement of the winding up, and the directors now propose, on the advice of the solicitors, to set aside out of the remaining assets, as realised, the sum of £40,000, to form a fund for the redemption of the remaining capital. The contingent fund question has also been under review. This account formerly stood at £84,014, but on the basis of the New Zealand Government's "unimproved" values of the company's properties for taxation purposes it has been reduced to £64,391, being the difference between the amount at which those properties stand in the company's books and such Government valuations. The balance of the contingent account £19,623 has been retransferred to the reserve fund. Are we to assume that the £64,391 is the sum which the company may expect to lose on realisation? Book value of the properties is £170,367, including loans of £9,181, and the company's other assets consist of cash £114, loans at short notice £6,500, and accrued interest £184. Last year the company's revenue was £8,026, and £12,457 was brought forward, making £20,483. After meeting general expenses in London and New Zealand, land and income taxes, and exchange on remittances, the sum remaining is £17,515. From that a dividend of 1s. per share is proposed, with a balance over of £15,515.

AMERICAN FREEHOLD LAND MORTGAGE COMPANY OF LONDON, Limited.

This company again did well in the year to March 31, and received a revenue from interest of £84,861 against £81,977 in the previous year. Transfer fees, exchange and net profit on sales of real estate, etc., gave £275 and £1,658 was brought in making £86,795. General expenditure and debenture charges required £40,015 leaving £37,779, and after meeting the preference dividend the directors again pay 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, adding £18,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £1,188. A small increase of £8,341 to £218,205 in the short term debentures has taken place during the year, and the loans on first mortgage of freehold lands and property have risen from £1,108,167 to £1,147,020. Lands formerly in real estate now sold under contracts are less by £8,638 at £18,244, and real estate, meaning, we suppose, foreclosures, is less by £6,375 at £4,750. Reserve fund is now £55,000, and the company has a good supply of liquid resources.

HOMOCEA, Limited.

Although the capital of this concern was subjected to a severe pruning two years ago it still appears to be considerably overweighted for the business done, and a further cutting down is we fear inevitable. Trading profits for the twelve months ended March 31 were £1,091, and with £6 from interest and £357 brought forward the total income came to £2,057, of which London office expenses took £571 and a trifle of £22 was written off for depreciation of the Willesden works, furniture, &c., leaving a balance of £1,463. This was a slight improve-

ment compared with the previous year, but it was not nearly sufficient to meet the company's obligations, and the preference shareholders who are nominally entitled to a cumulative dividend of 6 per cent. and to half the profits after 10 per cent. has been paid on the ordinary have to be content with a mere 3 per cent. Purchase of business account, including £26 paid for further trade marks, stands at £49,319, and represents practically the whole of the capital assets, as the Willesden property and furniture are only valued at £216 and £212 respectively. Sundry creditors are small at £402, while sundry debtors come to £3,009, but cash is steadily dwindling, and is now down to £454, while stocks are valued by the officials and directors at £3,868. We must not, however, overlook the fact that the company is the happy possessor of £200 Consols, which cost it £194 or £97 per cent.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

INSURANCE.

Royal Exchange.—5 per cent., making 9 per cent. for the year.
British and Foreign Marine.—Interim for the half-year ending June 30 of 9s. per share.

BREWERIES.

Bentley's Yorkshire.—Interim at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum, on the ordinary shares, for the half-year ended March 31.
North-Eastern.—Interim on the ordinary shares of 4s. per share.
Showell's Stockport.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent., on the ordinary shares for the half-year ended March 31.

MINES.

Associated Northern Blocks (W.A.).—Interim of 2s. per share, payable July 5.
Mount Boppy Gold.—Interim of 2s. 6d. per share in respect of the profits for the four months to April 30, payable 29th inst.
Globe and Phoenix Gold.—Interim of 1s. per share, for 1906, payable July 5.
Kalgurli Gold Mines.—Interim (No. 17) of 7s. 6d. per share, payable July 6.
Oriental Consolidated.—50 cents per share.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Amazon Steam Navigation.—Final of 3 per cent. for second half of 1905, making 5 per cent. for the year.
American Mining, Milling and Smelting.—At the rate of 15 per cent. per month, payable June 15.
Anglo-Chilian Nitrate and Railway.—13s. per share, on each class of shares, making 10 per cent. for 1905, placing £30,000 to reserve.
Arica and Tacna Railway.—5s. per share, being at the rate of 1½ per cent. per annum for the past financial year.
Bank of British West Africa.—5 per cent. for the past half-year, making 8 per cent. for the year ending March 31.
Booth Steamship.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year ended March 31, carrying £14,471 forward.
Chadburns (Ship) Telegraph.—On the ordinary shares of 14 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended March 31, making 11 per cent. for the year.
Doors Tea.—10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 12½ per cent. for the year.
Ebbw Vale Steel, Iron, and Coal.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the share capital for the year ended March 31.
Empire of India and Ceylon Tea.—5 per cent. on the ordinary shares for 1905.
Galah Ceylon Tea Estates and Agency.—Preference for the half-year ending June 30 at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.
Hannan's Land.—Interim for 1906 of 2½ per cent.
Homocoea.—3 per cent. on the 6 per cent. preference shares for the year ended March 31.
Malta and Mediterranean Gas.—Final of 3 per cent. on the ordinary capital, making 5 per cent. for the year ended March 31, carrying £1,587 forward.
Pears.—5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, placing £8,000 to reserve, and carrying £11,898 forward.
Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water.—Maximum of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares and of 3½ per cent. on the 7 per cent. shares for the past half-year.
Southern India Tea Estates.—2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended Feb. 28, carrying £1,109 forward.

MINING RETURNS.

Abbontiakoon Block 1.—5,600 tons, 3,160 ozs., leaving 1 dwt. 16 grains per ton in residues.
Abosso Gold.—4,254 tons, 2,347 ozs.; cyanide 2,675 tons, tailings 607 ozs.; total, 2,954 ozs.
African Gold Dredging and Mining Concessions.—62 ozs. recovered.
Ankobra (Taquah and Abosso).—No. 1 dredger recovered 200 ozs.; No. 2 dredger recovered 79 ozs. gold.
Ashanti Goldfields Auxiliary.—261 ozs.; value, £1,044.
Associated Northern Blocks (W.A.).—Milled 3,365 tons; treated 534 tons slimes; yield, £15,457 sterling.
Associated of Western Australia.—Milled, 9,041 tons; treated, 4,586 tons of slimes; yield, £20,088.
Balaghât.—4,450 tons, 3,542 ozs.; 4,003 tons tailings cyanide, 397 ozs.; total, 3,939 ozs.
Barrett Gold.—413 ozs., value, £1,700.
Bibiani Gold Fields.—Crushed, 2,897 tons, 1,725 ozs.; 3,120 tons tailings by cyanide, £3,183.

Bonanza.—Crushed, 7,240 tons, 2,280 ozs.; cyanide and slimes, 7,959 tons, 1,697 ozs.; total, 3,977 ozs.

Briseis Tin.—Black tin cleaned up, 85 tons 10 cwt., in addition to New Brothers Home No. 1, 38 tons 18 cwt.

British Broken Hill Proprietary.—3,796 tons crude ore produced 677 tons concentrates, containing 420 tons lead and 18,956 ozs. silver.

Broomassie.—Crushed, 950 tons, 1,110 ozs.

Burma Ruby.—133,000 loads washed, producing rubies value Rs.87,000; royalties Rs.25,000.

Burbank's Main Lode (1904).—Crushed 710 tons, 448 ozs.; 720 tons by cyanide, 101 ozs.

Carrington's Lion P.C.—Crushed 300 tons, for £570.

Champion Reef.—Crushed 14,980 tons, 11,161 ozs.; 17,340 tons tailings (cyanide), 2,497 ozs.; total, 13,658 ozs.

Chillagoe.—Mungana, 1,412 tons lead ore; purchased 331 tons lead ore; total, 1,743 tons lead ore; producing 140 tons lead bullion, containing 12,552 ozs. silver in the following proportions: 101 tons lead and 9,996 ozs. silver; purchased 39 tons lead and 3,556 ozs. silver; totals, 140 tons lead and 12,552 ozs. silver.

Chinese Engineering and Mining.—Output of coal 20,000 tons, sales 20,500 tons, consumption 1,225 tons.

Crown Deep.—Crushed 27,795 tons, 8,255 ozs.; tons sands and concentrates by cyanide 20,400, 2,579 ozs.; tons slimes 8,780, 548 ozs.; total, 11,382 ozs.

Day Dawn Block and Wyndham Gold.—Treated 1,330 tons, value (including tailings and concentrates) £4,400.

Duff Development.—Recovered 305 ozs.

Durban Navigation.—Output, 18,000 tons; sales, 20,400 tons.

Durban Roodepoort Deep.—Crushed 10,790 tons, 3,101 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 7,745 tons, 607 ozs.; 3,371 tons slimes, 177 ozs.; total, 3,885 ozs.

Durban Roodepoort.—Quartz milled, 11,095 tons, 3,315 ozs.; tailings, 6,685 tons, 780 ozs.; slimes, 3,245 tons, 208 ozs.; total, 4,298 ozs.

Ferreira Deep.—Crushed 21,124 tons, 8,944 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 13,400 tons, 2,794 ozs.; slimes, 7,096 tons, 724 ozs.; total, 12,462 ozs.

Geldenhuis Deep.—Crushed 23,790 tons, 5,775 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 15,830 tons, 3,364 ozs.; slimes 7,545 tons, 569 ozs.; total, 9,708 ozs.

Geldenhuis Estate.—Crushed 17,250 tons; from mill, 4,440 ozs.; from tailings by cyanide, 2,086 ozs.; from slimes, 659 ozs.; total, 7,185 ozs.

Glen Deep.—Crushed 18,680 tons, 3,825 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 12,330 tons, 2,455 ozs.; slimes 6,455 tons, 541 ozs.; total, 6,801 ozs.

Glencoe (Natal) Collieries.—Output, 11,828 tons.

Glynn's Lydenberg.—Crushed 2,350 tons, 553 ozs.; cyanide 1,592 tons, 647 ozs.; slimes 758 tons, 252 ozs.; total, 1,452 ozs.

Golden Pole Gold.—Crushed 1,400 tons, 882 ozs.; sands 1,177 tons, 302 ozs.; concentrates 12 tons, 22 ozs.; slimes 873 tons, 137 ozs.; total, 1,343 ozs.

Great Fingall.—20,778 tons, 6,214 ozs.; tailings by cyanide, 21,994 tons, 2,874 ozs.; concentrates, 324 tons, 1,530 ozs.; total, 10,618 ozs.

Hainault Gold.—Crushed 4,817 tons, 1,661 ozs.

Hutti (Nizam's).—Crushed 2,150 tons, 931 ozs.; tailings, 2,050 tons, 279 ozs.; total, 1,210 ozs.

Hyderabad (Deccan).—Output of coal, 40,460 tons.

Ivanhoe Gold.—Crushed 17,200 tons, 3,837 ozs.; sands, 8,440 tons, 1,668 ozs.; slimes, 7,540 tons, 2,535 ozs.; concentrates, 1,220 tons, 2,508 ozs.; total, 10,548 ozs.

Jumpers.—Crushed 11,900 tons, 3,189 ozs.; tailings by cyanide, 1,531 ozs.; total, 4,720 ozs.

Jumpers Deep.—Crushed 17,527 tons, 4,586 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 9,785 tons, 1,198 ozs.; slimes, 7,367 tons, 357 ozs.; total, 6,141 ozs.

Kalgurli Gold.—10,793 tons, 7,937 ozs.

Kelantan Gold Dredging.—Recovered 88 ozs.

Koffyfontein.—Recovered 2,450 carats diamonds.

Lace Diamond.—Blue ground washed, 28,308 loads, yielding 3,600 carats, equal to 1272 carats per 100 loads; blue ground floored, 47,033 loads, making 903,862 loads on the floors.

Lake View Consols.—11,006 tons, 3,076 ozs.; old tailings, 3,380 tons, 535 ozs.; total, 3,611 ozs.

Lancaster Gold.—Crushed 15,450 tons, 3,222 ozs.; cyanide, 10,872 tons, 1,536 ozs.; total, 4,758 ozs.

Lancaster West Gold.—Crushed 6,666 tons, 1,198 ozs.; cyanide, 5,878 tons, 844 ozs.; cyanide gold includes by-products containing 5 ozs.; total, 2,042 ozs.

Langlaagte Deep.—Crushed 23,010 tons, 4,962 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide, 17,522 tons, 2,429 ozs.; slimes, 6,404 tons, 331 ozs.; total, 7,782 ozs.

Le Roi No. 2.—Shipped 2,100 tons. Net receipts are \$33,500, being payment for 2,162 tons shipped, and \$1,800, being payment for 52 tons concentrates shipped, in all \$35,317.

Lloyd Copper.—Production 142 tons standard copper, value £11,768.

Middleburg Steam.—Sales of coal, 20,460 tons.

Mill's Day Dawn United.—Crushed 1,471 tons, value £4,500.

Mount Boppy.—6,300 tons, 1,207 ozs.; cyanide 3,834 tons, 1,312 ozs.; slimes 2,600 tons, 859 ozs.; concentrates tonnage 30, 124 ozs.; total, 3,502 ozs.

Mount Lyell Blocks.—Treated 6,250 tons for 72 tons 8 cwt. fine copper.

Mysore.—14,450 tons, 14,705 ozs.; 13,500 tons tailings, cyanide 1,766 ozs.; from plates, 807 ozs.; total, 7,278 ozs.

Mysore West.—Mysore-Wynaad: 687 ozs. from 2,160 tons crushed; 110 ozs. from 2,496 tons cyanided.

New Hillgrove Proprietary.—Crushing 185 tons, including 60 tons screenings from sorting floor, yielding 372 ozs. bullion and 277 tons concentrates, value 16 ozs.; the value of the tailings is 1 dwt. 14 grs. per ton; Eleanor antimony, £200.

New Queen Gold.—Crushed 382 tons, 266 ozs. realised; concentrates, £310.

New Zealand Crown.—Crushed 1,693 tons, yielding £2,901.

Nigel Gold.—Crushed 8,200 tons, 3,624 ozs.

North White Feather.—Crushed 1,780 tons, 958 ozs.; cyanide 1,380 tons, 123 ozs.; total, 1,081 ozs.

Nourse.—Crushed 28,070 tons, 7,608 ozs.; sands and concentrates by cyanide 18,563 tons, 3,563 ozs.; slimes 9,944 tons, 774 ozs.; total yield, 11,545 ozs.

Nundydroog.—6,750 tons, 278 ozs.; 7,290 tons tailings, 753 ozs.; total, 6,031 ozs.

Ooregum.—10,172 tons, 4,685 ozs.; 10,098 tons tailings (cyanide) 917 ozs.; total, 5,602 ozs.

Oroya Brownhill.—Crushed 10,610 tons, 12,593 ozs.

Oroville Dredging.—Clean up \$15,500.

Ottos Kopje Diamond.—Recovered from debris 81 carats, including one diamond weighing 12 carats; realised £154.

Penhalonga Proprietary.—Crushed 6,400 tons, yielded over the plates 780 ozs.; concentrates 135 tons, 594 ozs.; total 1,374 ozs.

Princess Estate.—Crushed 6,952 tons, 2,184 ozs.; cyanide 4,197 tons, 888 ozs.; total output, 3,072 ozs.

Queensland Copper.—Ore treated, 1,232 tons; production, 227 tons of matte, containing 130 tons fine copper. Shipment 224 tons matte.

Red Hill, Westralia.—Crushed 1,831 tons, 709 ozs.

Rhodesia Consolidated.—Nelly.—Crushed 1,850 tons, 949 ozs.; cyanide 1,075 tons, 373 ozs. Sabi.—crushed 709 tons, 133 ozs.; cyanide 533 tons, 138 ozs.; total 1,595 ozs.

Rhodesia Goldfields.—Crushed 1,575 tons, 360 ozs.; cyanide 860 tons, 329 ozs.

Roodepoort Central Deep.—Crushed 7,763 tons, 2,123 ozs.; cyanide 5,111 tons, 990 ozs.; cyanide gold includes by-products containing 34 ozs.; total, 3,113 ozs.

Rose Deep.—Crushed 23,500 tons, 6,272 ozs.; tons of sands and concentrates by cyanide 13,600, 2,014 ozs.; slimes 2,517 tons, 535 ozs.; total, 8,821 ozs.

St. John del Rey.—Gold produced £20,860; yield per ton .56 of an oz. troy.

Sheba.—Output, 3,713 ozs.

Sons of Gwalia.—Crushed 10,746 tons, 2,782 ozs.; tailings, 6,120 tons, 989 ozs.; concentrates, 217 tons, 607 ozs.; total, 4,378 ozs.

South Kalgurli.—Crushed 8,318 tons, 3,316 ozs.

Talisman Consolidated.—4,130 tons of ore; value, £12,041.

Tasmanian Copper.—Treated 4,786 tons ore, fluxes, &c., producing 287 tons matte, assaying 60 per cent. copper.

Tasmanian Gold.—Crushed 6,069 tons, 3,120 ozs.; 514 tons concentrates, 668 ozs.; 2,827 tons cyanide, 274 ozs.; total, 4,062 ozs.

Tasmanian Smelting.—Silver-lead bullion shipped contained 750 tons lead, 121,000 ozs. silver, 289 ozs. gold.

Tolima.—May returns, 50 tons; value, £3,000.

Tomboy Gold.—Crushed 7,300 tons; value, \$48,500; concentrates shipped, 350 tons, \$26,700.

Transvaal and Delagoa Bay Investment.—Output, 30,000 tons, Transvaal Gold Mining Estates.—Crushed 8,618 tons, 2,060 ozs.; central cyanide, 3,810 tons, 904 ozs.; central slimes, 2,560 tons, 411 ozs.; Kameel's cyanide, 1,430 tons, 371 ozs.; Kameel's slimes, 740 tons, 152 ozs.; old slimes, 700 tons, 177 ozs.; total, 4,075 ozs.

Victoria Proprietary (1903).—125 ozs. from 305 tons crushed.

Vivien.—Crushed 2,680 tons, 540 ozs.; tailings, 1,200 tons, 71 ozs.

Waihi.—24,632 tons of 2,000 lbs., yielding £63,822.

Wankie (Rhodesia) Coal.—Output 11,542 tons.

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.—The scheme for the centralisation of note issues in Switzerland has now taken definite shape through the establishment of the Swiss National Bank, with a capital of 50,000,000f., in 100,000 registered shares of 500f., 50 per cent. paid. Two-fifths of the capital are reserved for the cantons in proportion to population, or to the cantonal banks, and one-fifth for the former note-issuing banks, in proportion to the actual amount of notes outstanding per December 31, 1904. These three-fifths having been entirely subscribed for, the remaining two-fifths—viz., 20,000,000f., are now offered for subscription at par, exclusively to Swiss subjects, firms established in Switzerland, and corporations having their head offices in that country, &c. The subscription list will be opened on the 5th inst., and closed on or before the 9th inst. The Swiss Bankverein are prepared to transmit to Switzerland applications from any Swiss residents in this country who may desire to subscribe, and will be glad to supply further particulars on application.

The Strand, Sunday Strand, Grand, and Wide World magazines for June. We are sorry to have to class these altogether in a lump instead of giving each the separate paragraph it deserves, but space forbids. They all contain their usual complement of sentimental fiction and sensational facts, or vice versa, with a fair amount of useful information thrown in for those who care to read it. The amusing side of the Strand is kept well to the fore with the luminous jokes of the Strand Club, but we cannot say that Mr. W. W. Jacobs greatly embellishes its humour by his story. Their "Secrets of Success" are revealed by eminent artists in the Grand for those not yet eminent to take a lesson by; and in the same magazine Mr. G. Manville Fenn contributes his best story from his point of view. The Wide World is a very exciting number, almost too much so, even though being over true tales one naturally expects them to be more wonderful than fiction.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Northern markets were closed till Wednesday morning, and the short week since has not exhibited any liveliness, though speculative positions on the Liverpool Exchange strengthened a little under American influence. The London Cargo market, which opened on Tuesday, developed a firmer tone and a slightly improved demand, 30s. 3d. being paid for a shipload of South Australian. Supplies of grown wheat have been scarce, and for the most part firmly held. Farmers' deliveries for the week amounted to 36,104 qrs., averaging 30s. 4d. against 20,984 qrs., averaging 31s. 3d. in the same week of last year. Imports amounted to 724,710 qrs., against 513,753 the week before, and Dornbusch estimates the quantities of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom at 3,780,000 qrs.; against 3,985,000 last week, a great proportion of it coming from Australia and California. American markets opened weak, and after rallying slightly under large purchases broke again on good crop reports from Canada. Later there was more activity, and a further hardening under news of damage to Texas wheat, the considerable decrease in Bradstreet's estimates—40,347,000 bushels in sight east of the Rockies, against 41,890,000 bushels last week—and large buying orders in interior and foreign interests.

WOOL.—Markets will not recover their usual activity until next week, but while actual business doing is slack there is no change in the position. Prices are, as usual, against the buyer for all colonial produce. For home-grown clip there is as yet a wide divergence of opinion as to value, buyers offering from 3s. to 4s. per tod of 28 lbs. less than growers are willing to accept. With consumption so large and stocks so small sales this month will probably show some heavy speculation, and buying on American account promises to be strong. The quality of the wool is said to be excellent and considerably above the average. In yarns spinners are well engaged, chiefly on export orders. The piece trade is rather disappointing.

LINEN.—The placid prosperity of the market has at last been disturbed by a strike of weavers, and at the end of last week business was thoroughly disorganised in consequence. But for the holidays slightly relieving the pressure for immediate deliveries, the effect on both spinning and manufacturing branches would have been even worse. As it is, the volume of business showed a considerable shrinkage, buyers naturally not caring to place orders that showed little possibility of speedy execution. Latest advices, however, state that the strike is practically over, and by Monday all is expected to be plain sailing again. Barnsley trade shows a general improvement in both home and foreign.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—This is our only business day this week, owing to the Whitsuntide holidays. Our market was closed yesterday, and will not reopen after this evening till Monday next. A quiet tone has prevailed. In the absence of many buyers and sellers, the turnover is of comparatively small extent. There appears to be no stimulating influence from abroad for shippers of piece goods to give out orders of magnitude. Manufacturers, on the other hand, continue to have plenty of work to go on with, and many of them, being behind contract time in delivery, are not eager to commit themselves further. Home trade American yarns have been exceedingly well held, especially in cop-twist. The production of the spindles is being fully absorbed by the looms, and no stocks can be heard of in any quarter. Indeed, users of both cop-twist and weft are finding it difficult to get adequate deliveries round to supply the looms. It need hardly be added that spinners are very firm in price. Shipping yarns have been quiet throughout in all directions, no new feature having shown itself. Bolton spinnings remain firm in best qualities, but in the commoner descriptions prices are rather irregular when tested. Altogether business has been on a very limited scale, as is usual at Whitsuntide. We shall not resume operations in a normal way on our Exchange before Tuesday, the 12th inst. It may be stated that the Washington Bureau cotton figures published this morning have had no perceptible influence on our market. American statistics relating to cotton are discredited, and spinners for the most part take no notice of them.

The cotton market in New York opened with a weak tendency, prices declining on some freer offerings and bearish visible supply figures. Subsequently there was a recovery, and quotations sharply improved on "bull" support and covering by shorts.

COAL.—Little has been done in any branch of the trade this week, the holidays lasting in most instances till Wednesday night, in others till Thursday, and practically there is no change in quotations anywhere. House coals naturally are gradually easing off, but the demand for steam keeps steady, and the exports from the Humber ports for the week ending May 29 show a very satisfactory increase over the corresponding week of last year. From Hull 48,082 tons were despatched compared with 32,610 tons last year, and from Grimsby 47,247 tons compared with 26,359.

COPPER.—The American position is still considered a very strong one, and large producers are disposed to advance prices in order to protect themselves. A big Continental demand is also being experienced, and when the market reopened on Tuesday prices were quickly advanced. The disturbances in Mexico helped the improvement, and bears were still covering short contracts. Advices from America were strong throughout the week, and with sellers adopting an attitude of reserve, prices advanced to £85 17s. 6d. for cash and £84 17s. 6d. for three months forward. Messrs. Henry R. Merton and Co. give the visible supply on May 31 as 9,986 tons, against 9,583 tons on

May 15. The total supplies for May were 31,422 tons, and the deliveries 30,574 tons against 28,533 tons and 28,411 tons respectively for April. Stocks in England and France were 5,461 tons against 5,183 tons on May 15. The Chile charters for May are 2,100 tons.

TIN.—Some dealers are looking for a period of comparative dullness in this market. During the next month or so consumption will probably be small, and a good many American and European buyers are supposed to have covered their requirements for some time ahead. Scarcity is, therefore, much less to be apprehended than it was a little while ago. The opening was rather dull, with bears inclined to force sales, but sellers were not disposed to let go their stocks at lower prices, and this attitude prevented much decline in quotations. The tone, indeed, became rather firm towards the end of the week on Eastern buying, and closing figures were £188 5s. for spot and £182 for forward delivery.

IRON AND STEEL.—The iron and steel market has again been good; in some places, in fact, business has been buoyant. Owing, however, to the Whitsuntide holidays work was not resumed in some places until Wednesday, whilst others are still idle. In Lancashire a fairly good trade has been done in hematite pig-iron, and makers have in hand a considerable number of orders. The prevalent belief is that the market will improve as the summer advances. Makers are practically producing as much now as they can make out of the plant in the district. An improved business has been done in Cleveland pig-iron, and prices have moved in favour of sellers. Deliveries are very good both on home and export account, and there have been heavy withdrawals from the stock in the public stores. Business is quiet in manufactured steel and iron, consumers being very backward in giving out more orders for finished iron and steel. Dullness has also characterised the Scottish market, but in most departments the existing contracts are sufficient to keep the works at present well employed.

SUGAR.—Though business has inevitably been interrupted by the holidays, a further temporary rise of 1d. was caused by reports of unfavourable weather, especially in Western Germany, where, according to Licht, the fields are overgrown with weeds. Similar trouble prevails in France, and extra labour is needed to overcome it, and when this is completed it is expected that with the few days' fine weather the young plants will make rapid progress. This has already had its effect upon prices, which, as Mr. Czarnikow points out, have receded. Reports from Austria continue good, but in Western Europe the fields do not look so well as last year. The American market shows firmness for spot and near-at-hand sugars, with another slight advance for centrifugals. On the whole refiners display somewhat more interest, and when the exact figures of the Cuban crop are known it is anticipated that purchases of non-preferential sugars may be made upon a larger scale. Landings in the three ports for the week were 40,000 tons and meltings 46,000 tons, reducing stocks to 354,000 tons.

TEA.—Owing to the holidays no auctions were held this week, but Messrs. McMeekin and Co.'s notes on Indian and Ceylon teas for the month of May state that the offerings of Indian during that month amounted to 164,000 packages, against 137,000 packages in May, 1905, and that the average price was 7½d. per lb., against 6½d. Ceylon offerings were 146,000 packages, against 120,000 packages in the same month of last year, and the average obtained was 7d. per lb., against 6½d. The figures for the twelve months of the tea trade, says this same circular, show at once the largest importations and the largest deliveries on record. Fortunately the latter exceed the former, and stocks have at last been reduced to about the level of twelve months ago. Total imports of all teas for the year June 1, 1905, to May 31, 1906, amounted to 307,608,000 lbs., against 301,864,000 lbs. in the previous year. Deliveries came to 309,804,000 lbs., against 271,336,000, and stocks in London on May 31 were 102,864,000 lbs., against 102,579,000 last year.

Answers to Correspondents.

CARDIGAN ROAD.—We have not yet found out that there is much cause for alarm, and would certainly consider it unwise to throw over your stock at the present time. It is a speculative security, but with chances.

E. H. W.—There would not be the slightest risk with either of the institutions. Both are of the very highest standing, with little to choose between them, but if we have any preference it is for No 1.

H. BAYLEY.—This industry is a very uncertain one, and although the company has done rather better of late its balance-sheet is sadly in need of a clean-up. The shares are, consequently, only a speculative security, but as they yield £5 6s. 8d. per cent. at the present price there seems to be some margin for improvement.

B. W.—The issue was not altogether a success, but the stock should be a fair investment of a somewhat speculative order.

A. E. H. R. No. 1.—Before deciding try the Post Office. (1) If it is not as good as either, then we know no reason against

BRANDON'S PUTNEY BREWERY, LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Transfer Registers of this Company will be closed from the 18th to the 30th inst., both dates inclusive, for the preparation of Interest and Dividend Warrants payable on and after July 2nd next.

By Order,
JOHN LONGMAN, Secretary.

The Brewery, Putney,
June 8th, 1906.

accepting "B." (2) We believe the National Debt Office will sell you what you require. If not, apply to one or other of the leading life offices doing annuity business.

A. B. C.—Up to the present we have heard no good reason for the fall in this security. It is probable that an official statement will be issued shortly, and in the meantime we think it well to hold on. When completed, the railway should easily earn its bond interest, and there is always the Government guarantee, such as it is.

W. H. G.—(1) This is a fairly strong bank, and has weathered much Australian adversity. There is, however, a liability on the shares which, of course, involves some risk. On the whole, however, we should be disposed to keep this security. (2) This line has made such good progress lately that we are disposed to say keep the security mentioned. It is, in fact, about the best of the trio. (3) This is much more speculative, and at the present price seems quite full value. You would probably do well to realise.

JERSEY.—We are sorry, but we are unable to obtain the information you desire. The underwriting commission should be on the nominal value, i.e., £4 for each £100, which would, however, produce only £50.

INDIAN GOLD MINES.

The figures for the month of May show a recovery upon those for April, the total of 47,305 ozs. being an increase of 2,365 ozs. As the daily average was 1,526 ozs. against 1,498 ozs., it was a real improvement. On the other hand, compared with May, 1905, there is a big falling off, of no less than 3,790 ozs., due largely to the falling off in the quality of the ore.

Name of Company.	Feb. Tons.	Feb. Ozs.	Mar. Tons.	Mar. Ozs.	April. Tons.	April. Ozs.	May Tons.	May Ozs.
Balaghat.....	14,200	3,643	4,400	3,774	4,400	3,778	4,450	3,939
Champion Reef.....	16,990	16,386	16,100	14,460	14,166	12,853	14,986	13,658
Coromandel.....								
Mysore.....	15,150	16,477	15,700	17,371	12,500	16,065	14,450	17,278
Mysore W. and Wynaad.....	1,395	960	1,493	751	1,731	848	2,160	797
Nundydroog.....	6,200	5,543	6,800	5,953	6,550	5,812	6,750	6,031
Ooregum.....	9,696	4,529	10,267	5,626	10,047	5,584	10,172	5,602

The following table gives the total monthly returns from the Mysore Field alone, for 1906 and the previous five years:—

	1901. Ozs.	1902. Ozs.	1903. Ozs.	1904. Ozs.	1905. Ozs.	1906. Ozs.
January ..	42,829	41,612	48,080	50,935	50,999	50,870
February ..	40,764	40,053	46,268	49,500	49,629	48,538
March ..	42,727	41,575	48,327	50,914	51,629	47,935
April ..	42,038	38,339	48,271	49,991	52,324	44,940
May ..	42,110	28,093	48,628	50,445	51,095	47,305
June ..	41,829	37,406	48,930	50,800	51,553	—
July ..	42,071	43,847	50,571	50,476	51,086	—
August ..	42,048	49,628	50,286	50,613	50,541	—
September ..	41,524	49,420	51,452	50,526	50,962	—
October ..	41,670	47,858	51,380	50,031	51,287	—
November ..	41,669	48,332	51,559	50,442	50,802	—
December ..	43,069	48,078	53,984	51,560	53,077	—
Total ..	504,348	514,291	597,786	606,233	615,561	239,588

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, JUNE 11.

Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
Bargang Tea.—138, Leadenhall Street, noon.
City of London Real Property.—Cannon Street Hotel, 1 p.m.
Holbrook.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Lagunas Nitrate.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Pearks.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.
San Sebastian Nitrate.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12.

American Freehold Land Mortgage.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.
Bank of British West Africa.—Liverpool, noon.
Liebig's Extract of Meat.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
New Zealand Trust and Loan.—9, King William Street, 3 p.m.
Namaqua Copper.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Trust Union.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
Um Rus Gold Mines.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
Villa Maria and Rufino Railway.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
William Cery and Sons.—Cannon Street Hotel, 11 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13.

Crédit Foncier de Mauritius.—Winchester House, noon.
Day Dawn P.C. Gold Mining.—Winchester House, noon.
Grand Junction Canal.—21, Surrey Street, 2 p.m.
Kalgoorlie Electric Power and Lighting Corporation.—Winchester House, noon.
North Cerro Muriano Copper Mines.—6, Queen Street Place, 11.30 a.m.
Nahama Tea Estate.—39, Victoria Street, S.W., 2.15 p.m.
National Reversionary Interest.—63, Old Broad Street, 2.45 p.m.
Royal Exchange Assurance.—Royal Exchange, noon.
United Exploration.—Cannon Street Hotel, 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14.

Arica and Tacna Railway.—Winchester House, 1.30 p.m.
Imperial Russian Cotton and Jute.—Institution Chartered Accountants, 11.30 a.m.
Lydenburg (Transvaal) Gold Exploration.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15.

Homocea.—Winchester House, noon.
Mint, Birmingham.—Birmingham, 2 p.m.
National Model Dwellings.—Winchester House, 3.30 p.m.

COMPANY MEETING.

ZINC CORPORATION, LIMITED.

The first half-yearly general meeting of the Zinc Corporation, Limited, was held at the Equitable Building, Collins Street, Melbourne, on April 30 last, Mr. W. L. Baillieu, M.L.C., in the chair.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, said that, as this dealt with the position fairly fully it was only necessary for him to add a few words. As a board, they desired to say that the company should be exceedingly satisfied with the business it had entered into, having secured a very large tonnage of zinciferous tailings from four large Broken Hill mines; that was to say, the accumulated dumps and contracts entitling them to a large tonnage over a period of years had been made for the current outputs and future production tailings. In the report it would be noticed that, while the company had made large contracts, it had been careful to guard itself in a financial way against any contingencies not possible to foresee at the present time, by limiting absolutely its liability in respect of the contracts entered into. This liability consisted in all of £22,500. The shareholders would understand that, in carrying on such a large business as this, the first consideration of the directors was to lay out the works so that the operations would be carried on on the most economical lines, and at the same time give the greatest efficiency in extracting the metals contained in the residues. It had probably taken longer than had been expected to come to a decision in these important matters, but it was better to hasten slowly than make any mistakes. However, they were able to say now that they had practically agreed upon the whole of the policy, all the fundamental machinery was on order, and by the time it arrived the engineers would be ready to place it in the respective positions it had to occupy. The mill already in operation on the British mine would have a capacity, when completed, of something like 2,000 tons of tailings per week. It would be seen that this was more than an experimental mill, but it was better for the company to start its operations on this scale than to start erecting its large concentrating mill before being quite sure of the best method of treatment. The experience thus gained would be most valuable to the technical staff in erecting the large works at the south blocks site. A licence to use the Potter process had been obtained, also an option giving the right to use the Elmore and Catermole processes. An efficient technical staff had been selected, and they looked forward to substantial improvements being made in the methods of zinc recovery. The directors felt that shareholders might congratulate themselves on the purchases made, and the rights secured over tailings at Broken Hill, and also that the mines would be greatly benefited by the establishment of a large central zinc concentration works, such as the company was now installing. The report also mentions that the directors are considering the erection of zinc smelting works, and in this connection the services of Mr. Augustin Queneau have been secured under a contract to go into the whole matter and report fully on same. This gentleman has been chosen by Mr. H. C. Hoover—a director in England—who is well qualified to make a suitable selection. In his cable he advised the directors that a better man for the position could not have been secured. Previous to this Mr. Queneau had filled the position of consulting engineer to the New Jersey Zinc Company, New York. He will visit Australia and go into the matter with the directors, and they hope that as a result of his examination of the question the company will install as part of its plant zinc smelting works.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the balance-sheet and the accounts (which was unanimously carried), and advised that since the close of the half-year the directors could report having entered into a satisfactory contract for the sale of a large tonnage of zinc concentrates extending over a period of five years, and also had much pleasure in stating that the option given to the vendors over 100,000 shares at par had been exercised—this sum, together with the original issue, giving a total cash capital of £263,000.

The meeting then closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK.—Current and deposit accounts on May 31 amounted to £18,013,628 and acceptances to £1,217,156, against which there were Government stock and other investments £3,458,467, cash in hand and at Bank of England £2,763,345, money at call and short notice £5,181,512, and bills discounted, advances and other securities £9,097,689.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT 4½ PER CENT. STERLING LOAN.

(SECOND SERIES.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Bonds of the above Loan will be ready for delivery in exchange for fully paid Scrip certificates on Thursday, the 14th day of June, 1906, at the offices of Parr's Bank, Limited, 4, Bartholomew Lane, London, E.C., the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, 31, Lombard Street, London, E.C., The Yokohama Specie Bank, Limited, 120, Bishopsgate Street Within, London, E.C.

The Scrip issued by each Bank can only be exchanged at the Bank indicated thereon, and it must be left three clear days for examination.

It is recommended that the exchange be effected through London Bankers or Agents, as the issuing Banks cannot be responsible for the delivery of Bonds sent by post.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for ten days ended May 31, \$2,563, decrease \$555.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 4, \$21,512, increase \$420; aggregate from January 1, \$323,613, decrease \$1,894.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 28, Rs. 67,442, increase Rs. 14,424; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 11,88,707, increase Rs. 1,46,419.

Bilbao River and Cantabrian Railway.—Traffic receipts for May, £9,390, decrease £2,488.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 31, \$191,700, increase \$71,200; total from July 1, \$4,951,000, increase \$1,468,100.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 5, Rs. 36,326, increase Rs. 11,535.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 15, £383, increase £44.

Midland Uruguay.—Receipts for May £5,213, decrease £586.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 4th week of May, \$25,910, decrease \$3,292; aggregate from January 1, \$339,897, increase \$54,534.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 5, Rs. 20,943, increase Rs. 9,721.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended May 21 amounted to \$28,342.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending June 2, £1,228, decrease £111; aggregate from January 1, £27,144, increase £161.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending June 2, £964, increase £107; aggregate from January 1, £16,314, increase £886.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for March, £4,206, decrease £188.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending June 2, £412, increase £97; aggregate from January 1, £9,574, increase £843.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 1, £1,364, increase £26; aggregate from January 1, £30,343, increase £4,062.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 3, £16, increase £1; aggregate from January 1, £200, decrease £6.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 1, £4,923, decrease £190; aggregate from January 1, £106,418, increase £3,963.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending June 1, £29,579, increase £2,164; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £617,200, increase £91,398; 438 miles, against 424½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 2, £1,186, increase £70; aggregate from January 1, £24,707, increase £1,836.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 3, £143, decrease £1; aggregate from January 1, £2,408, decrease £55.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 1, £114, decrease £18; aggregate from January 1, £2,200, decrease £134.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 1, £4,877, decrease £340; aggregate from January 1, £102,127, increase £638.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 2, £5,530, increase £55; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £103,161, increase £2,107.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 1, £134, decrease £159.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 31, £585.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 2, £477, decrease £47; aggregate from October 1, £10,498, decrease £1,033.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 26, £24,482, increase £10,252; aggregate from April 1, £209,547, increase £97,672. Miles 97 against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 2, £25,223, decrease £2,780; aggregate from January 1, £475,029, decrease £29,304.

London Motor Omnibus (Vanguard).—Traffic receipts for week ending June 2, £2,792, increase £2,153.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 2, £9,254, decrease £399; aggregate from January 1, £169,525, increase £1,508.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 1, £208, increase £11.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 3, £852, increase £81; aggregate from January 1, £6,984, increase £3,438.

FOREIGN

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 3, £14,200, increase £1,484; aggregate from January 1, £330,535, increase £35,019.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of May, 1906, £11,691, increase £776.

British Columbia Electric.—Nett earnings for April, \$24,707, increase \$1,669. Nett earnings from July 1 to April 30, \$420,142, increase \$115,242.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending May 27, £3,824, increase £352; aggregate from January 1, £75,453, increase £5,395.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending April 21, £1,403, increase £213; aggregate from January 1, £22,673, increase £4,853.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of May, \$308,800.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 2, Rs. 43,411, increase Rs. 5,049; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 9,66,285, increase Rs. 99,872.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of May, £3,684, increase £870. Total from January 1, £22,843, increase £8,690.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of April, \$415,413, increase \$60,200; aggregate from January 1, \$1,621,914, increase \$232,398. Nett traffic receipts, \$218,256, increase \$33,852; aggregate from January 1, \$832,339, increase \$131,992.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.		Gross Traffic for year to date.	
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.
Baker St. and Waterloo ..	June 2	£ 1,431	+ 48	12 17,403	—
Brecon and Merthyr ..	" 3	2,010	+ 8	22 44,642	+ 2,325
Cambrian ..	" 3	6,342	+ 1,100	22 116,552	— 625
Central London ..	" 2	6,242	— 373	22 148,723	— 4,965
City and South London ..	" 3	2,595	+ 74	22 62,404	+ 242
Furness ..	" 3	11,071	+ 1,471	22 218,733	+ 27,473
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 3	80,980	+ 10,242	22 1,552,995	+ 77,355
Great Eastern ..	" 3	114,200	+ 16,800	22 2,101,200	+ 324,000
Great Northern and City ..	" 2	1,789	+ 201	22 39,339	+ 2,005
Great Northern ..	" 2	119,100	+ 13,589	22 2,359,600	+ 70,202
Great Western ..	" 3	265,000	+ 40,800	22 4,905,300	+ 76,200
Hull and Barnsley ..	" 3	10,917	+ 3,294	22 216,358	+ 24,903
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 3	130,730	+ 26,309	22 2,299,309	+ 94,107
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 2	77,219	+ 7,026	22 1,215,009	+ 3,800
London & North Western ..	" 3	328,000	+ 48,000	22 5,955,000	+ 238,000
London & South Western ..	" 3	108,200	+ 13,100	22 1,874,700	+ 28,400
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 3	10,456	+ 1,493	22 185,370	+ 9,300
Metropolitan ..	" 3	15,774	— 1,907	22 358,543	+ 218,000
Metropolitan District ..	" 3	8,523	+ 1,367	22 170,208	+ 12,200
Midland ..	" 2	253,924	+ 35,353	22 4,837,356	+ 107,005
North Eastern ..	" 2	199,777	+ 21,447	22 3,859,302	+ 218,000
North London ..	" 3	8,425	— 134	22 199,450	— 4,204
North Staffordshire ..	" 3	19,075	+ 2,096	22 394,543	+ 10,221
Rhymney ..	" 3	6,226	+ 476	22 133,199	+ 3,700
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 2	108,151	+ 10,729	22 1,806,257	+ 13,753
Taff Vale ..	" 3	19,073	+ 600	22 422,023	+ 15,000

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian ..	June 3	92,232	+ 730	18 1,514,976	+ 27,199
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 2	37,253	+ 1,022	18 592,493	+ 17,815
Great North of Scotland ..	" 2	9,720	— 152	18 159,755	+ 986
Highland ..	" 3	10,306	+ 72	15 154,435	+ 712
North British ..	" 3	99,323	+ 2,256	18 1,605,860	+ 36,202

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	June 1	2,842	— 246	8 53,648	— 2,872
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 1	1,737	+ 33	8 34,204	+ 174
Great Northern ..	" 1	19,700	+ 580	22 378,696	+ 5,029
Midland Great Western ..	" 1	12,673	+ 807	8 226,164	— 5,400

§ From January 1.

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The Investors' Review.

Our Foreign Trade in May.

To no small extent the stagnation of finance business in the City is probably ascribable to the great activity in the country's commerce. When we see it increasing month by month, it is obvious that an increasingly large proportion of the banking resources available must be engaged in this direction, and it will be some time before the profits realised begin to stimulate business on the Stock Exchange. Last month, which had the same number of working days as May, 1905, imports increased by £4,597,490, or nearly 9 per cent., to £51,430,457. Exports of British and Irish produce kept pace with this expansion, the total being £27,252,693 or £4,447,234 more, an increase of nearly 16½ per cent. The reshipments of foreign and colonial merchandise also increased by 4½ per cent. or £311,222 to £7,116,655, and for the five months ended with May imports rose by over 10 per cent. in value and exports by over 15½ per cent. The figures, in short, are altogether unprecedented, and the only peculiarity about them is that exports are increasing at greater ratio than imports, as our summary table shows. For the five months, that is, the "balance of trade" shows a decline of £3,127,000 compared with the year before, and of upwards of £8,500,000 compared with two years ago. In other words, the increase in the total value of imports for the past five months was £30,880,000, while the increase in the exports was £34,007,000. This includes movements of bullion and of foreign and colonial merchandise re-sold abroad, and if it went on long we should begin to suspect trade as a whole to be less profitable than its wont. Another most satisfactory and striking characteristic of the present state of the country's foreign business is the steady expansion of our sales of British manufactures. In the past month alone the bulk of the increased value of our exports is attributable to this source, as out of a total increase of £4,447,000 in the value no less than £3,481,000 fell to articles wholly or mainly manufactured. This aspect of the statistics presents a hard problem to the Tariffites, and when the trade of the country is thus expanding one cannot help feeling that something must be rotten in the City of London when it is so violently Protectionist, so determined to fight against facts, and so coercive in its mood towards the rest of the country. What the trouble is it is not our present business to inquire, but the contrast between the facts and the City's prepossessions is surely emphatic enough.

As often explained, much of our importation classed under the head of articles wholly or mainly manufactured really consists of raw material required by the British manufacturers, and the quantity and value of purely manufactured articles included in this division of the monthly tables issued by the Board of Trade is always insignificant when compared with our exports of similar articles. We imported last month, for example, 122,600 tons of iron and steel and manufactures thereof, the value of which all told was £808,124, while the exports of iron and steel amounted to 393,154 tons in weight and to £3,276,118 in value, and a most varied trade our export trade is. Some decrease occurred last month in the quantities and values of tin plates and tin sheets exported, but that is not to be wondered at when we remember that tin has increased in price to a most injurious extent.

The wonder rather is that business has not been smaller, and we may be prepared to see a further decrease in this particular item of our exports during coming months, until supply and demand have adjusted themselves and prices reached a more wholesome level. But in all that concerns our great engineering business the figures speak of undiminished prosperity. We imported, for instance, during May

IMPORTS.

	May.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as com- pared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
	£	£	£	£
General merchandise	44,780,098	46,832,967	51,430,437	+ 4,597,490
Gold	2,456,414	2,464,717	4,557,082	+ 2,092,365
Silver	784,306	1,049,315	1,647,548	+ 598,233
	48,020,818	50,346,999	57,635,087	+ 7,288,088

EXPORTS.

	May.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as com- pared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
	£	£	£	£
Brit. & Irish Produce	24,332,089	27,252,693	31,729,927	+ 4,477,234
For. and Col. M'dse..	5,585,686	6,805,433	7,116,655	+ 311,222
Gold	2,384,663	1,454,072	4,197,065	+ 2,742,993
Silver.....	1,074,515	1,365,063	1,645,119	+ 280,056
	33,376,953	36,877,261	44,688,766	+ 7,811,505

IMPORTS.

	Five months ended May 31.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as com- pared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
	£	£	£	£
General merchandise.	228,775,107	229,595,284	252,684,687	+ 23,089,403
Gold	13,962,798	16,284,206	20,660,013	+ 4,375,807
Silver.....	5,318,446	5,378,383	8,793,056	+ 3,414,673
	248,056,351	251,257,873	282,137,756	+ 30,879,883

EXPORTS.

	Five months ended May 31.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as com- pared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
	£	£	£	£
Brit. & Irish Produce	120,046,897	129,720,824	149,959,329	+ 20,238,505
For. and Col. M'dse..	31,404,046	33,655,129	37,166,853	+ 3,511,724
Gold	12,815,141	9,929,435	16,920,029	+ 6,990,594
Silver	6,092,287	5,826,054	9,092,738	+ 3,266,684
	170,358,371	179,132,042	213,138,949	+ 34,006,907

VISIBLE BALANCE OF TRADE.

	May.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as com- pared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
	£	£	£	£
Imports.. ..	48,020,818	50,346,999	57,635,087	+ 7,288,088
Exports	33,376,953	36,877,261	44,688,766	+ 7,811,505
Excess value of im- ports over exports	14,643,865	13,469,738	12,946,321	— 523,417

	Five months ended May 31.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (—) in 1906 as com- pared with 1905.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	
	£	£	£	£
Imports.. ..	248,056,351	251,257,873	282,137,756	+ 30,879,883
Exports.. ..	170,358,371	179,132,042	213,138,949	+ 34,006,907
Excess value of im- ports over exports	77,697,980	72,125,831	68,998,807	— 3,127,024

The values of the imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

The values of the exports represent the cost and charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

717 cwts. of cutlery worth £14,752 and 37,113 lbs. of hardware worth £92,402, but our exports of cutlery during the month were valued at £59,483 and of hardware at £196,803. This, however, is exclusive of implements and tools of the value of £189,527 exported

and also of scientific instruments worth £54,442. Altogether, therefore, our total exports of cutlery, hardware, implements, and instruments came to £505,653 last month, and on the same basis the total value of our imports of these commodities amounted to less than £180,000. There cannot be anything dead in a trade which thus proclaims British supremacy, and in the matter of machinery of all kinds our position remains supreme, so that, adding this in, we get an aggregate export of metallic wares of all descriptions including new ships of nearly £7,400,000 for the month of May alone.

Marked prosperity still attends our textile industries, and the increased value of cotton yarns and tissues exported last month was about £1,126,000, the total being £6,714,459. Except to Belgium and Italy, European countries took rather less cotton tissues last month than in May, 1905, but there were more or less marked increases in the exports to Turkey, Egypt, Morocco, Persia, Japan, the United States of North America, Colombia and Panama, Venezuela, Peru, Uruguay, and, above all, the Argentine Republic. Our own possessions and dependencies also continue magnificent customers, India leading in spite of all her troubles. Australia, indeed, took less, but both New Zealand and Canada did better. Up to the end of May the aggregate value of this class of exports alone has this year been £31,304,523 against £28,698,149 in the first five months of 1905 and £24,772,318 in the same part of 1904. Our export trade in woollen and worsted goods is also satisfactory, if not so strikingly progressive, its aggregate value in the past month being £2,361,183, and the domestic trade in woollens must be remarkably good at the present time, for our imports of the raw material show a great expansion for that month alone, being no less than 64,389,266 lbs. compared with 33,080,000 lbs. in May, 1905. To this increase the most notable contributors are New Zealand, Australia, and the Argentine Republic, in the order given, New Zealand having sent us about 12,245,000 lbs. more and Australia 9,180,000 lbs. more, while the increase in the supply from the Argentine Republic has been 3,464,000 lbs. The linen trade gives equally satisfactory statistics, and, as always, the United States are our best customers for linen tissues, but exports were larger last month to Cuba, Mexico, the Argentine Republic, Australia, New Zealand, France, Germany, and Italy. The Philippine Islands are also taking more of our linen manufactures. Exports of jute tissues were not so large last month as in the same month either of 1905 or 1904 so far as quantity is concerned, but the value was greater than in either of these previous years. Our silk trade is small, and will always necessarily be so since this country is not in a position to compete with France and Italy in the manufacture of silk fabrics. Still, even this trade shows no signs of diminution; on the contrary, our exports of broad stuffs were last month larger than in either of the two preceding Mays. Space does not permit us to go into the details of our smaller branches of trade, but they are not to be despised because their individual totals seem insignificant compared with the great staples of British industry, and it is satisfactory to note that our exports of earthenware and glass show expansion as well as those of hangings and other descriptions of paper. The candle business is also steadily good, although not expanding with other things in the current year, and our trade in motor-cars and parts thereof is beginning to grow, although as yet insignificant.

Glasgow Shipbuilders and the Russian Navy.

A curious story was set afloat at the end of last week to the effect that the Clyde shipbuilders were negotiating for the rebuilding of the Russian Navy, and were, in their eagerness to secure the business, prepared to accept payment for their ships in Russian 5 per cent. bonds, to be given to them at 90. The amount of

these bonds was stated to be £20,000,000 in the aggregate, and they were to be entirely floated here, if not directly, then through the medium of the shipbuilders, who would get the paper and sell it to the best advantage they could, or raise money on it with the Scotch and other banks on the best obtainable terms. The story was generally discredited in the City, and yet there appears to have been some measure of truth in it, although why the Russian Government should be in any haste to load the unhappy citizens of the Empire with the cost of a new Navy may well excite astonishment. Were Russia to cease altogether to be a sea Power, her inherent strength would not be in the least degree weakened, nor would her position among the nations of Europe be appreciably affected, for the country remains now as in the days of the first Napoleon—as it ever has been—to all intents and purposes unassailable from outside by any foe. There is nothing to be gained by attacking Russia, whether on land or sea, and if the Tsar were really able to carry out his pacific aspirations, he might well signalise the meeting of the next Hague Conference by declaring that his Government would abandon the attempt to figure as one of the great naval Powers of the world.

Passing that by, it is interesting to look at the Navy and bonds proposition as unfolded in Glasgow and London gossip. Inherently there is nothing vicious in the proposal to build ships against paper so long as the Power or firm issuing the paper is in a position to redeem it or to make good the interest charges such recourse to credit involves. Assuming Russia to continue solvent, and her more Liberal Government, certain to come one day, however long on the road, willing to accept obligations imposed upon the people by the irresponsible autocracy, then the shipbuilders of Glasgow might do an excellent stroke of business in entering into a compact with the said autocracy to circumvent and nullify its pledges given to the bankers who recently issued the last formidable Russian loan. At the same time, there are many practical difficulties in the way of the realisation of such a project. It may be that Russian internal troubles will develop into formidable revolts, causing a disorganisation of the Imperial fisc great enough to imperil the credit of the Government abroad and to put in question its power to meet not only the obligations upon this new debt, but upon the debts already in existence. Sentiment enters so largely into operations of this kind that any great upheaval within the Empire, even if it did not end in producing a suspension of payments by the Imperial Treasury, would certainly interfere with the power of the shipbuilders to realise money upon the bonds they accepted in payment for work done. And in any event these shipbuilders must finance the bonds taken by them until favourable opportunities for realisation arise. This means that they will have to lean upon the Scotch banks first, and secondly upon such other banks as may be willing to sustain them in their great adventure. That further implies heavy charges against the builders for interest, the provision of margins to secure the lending institutions against loss through depreciation in the prices of Russian securities, and this costly state of suspense might be prolonged for years.

From this point of view the project does not look so encouraging, and we cannot but feel a little nervous as to its outcome. Some of the Scotch banks are already deeply committed in directions where outlets are few, whence, indeed, they cannot readily get their money back, if at all. If they are further to be loaded up with Russian bonds which cannot be sold on English Stock Exchanges with any freedom, and which would certainly be kept out of Continental markets because of the hostility aroused in the minds of foreign bankers by this breach of faith, as it would be called, the position for some of them might become intolerably involved, and the shipbuilding firms themselves driven to suspend payment. We can quite understand the motives which impel these powerful firms and joint-stock corporations on the Clyde towards a scheme of

the kind, because they must feel their position threatened by the changing attitude of the people of the United Kingdom towards the monstrous naval programme initiated by the late Government, and apparently clung to by the present one. Some of them have built up enormous businesses and issued million after million of new capital solely upon the strength of an uninterrupted flow of Government orders upon the intolerable scale which has prevailed for the last five or six years; and now they see the artificial prosperity thus created threatened by a reassertion of the spirit of economy. Home orders for warships of all kinds are certain to be reduced in the next few years, if not by this Government, then by its successor, for the nation is not going at one and the same time diligently to cultivate friendship with its neighbours abroad and allow itself to be sweated to death in order to gratify the rage of the decadents, the blue funkists, for a stupendous Navy, the ambitions of shipbuilders and gun forgers, whose demands grow with every successful raid upon the nation's purse. The outlook for firms like the Fairfield Shipbuilding Company, John Brown and Co., Cammell, Laird, and Co., all now located on the Clyde, would be perilous in the extreme were £10,000,000 or £15,000,000 to be knocked off the annual demands of our Government for the Navy. With this prospect before them it may, therefore, look almost prudent for them to endeavour to find work elsewhere, and the gap created by the destruction of the Russian Navy in the war with Japan might seem to offer just the requisite opportunity, if only the rebuilding of the Russian Navy could be financed. All the same, we hope this project will not take being, because it is full of peril, as well as an unnecessary outlay for a crippled Empire to undertake. Russia requires peace, a far-reaching reduction of Imperial expenditure, the nursing of every resource the country possesses, instead of a continuance of the waste by which tens of millions of her people are kept in a state of poverty almost inconceivably abject.

A Group of Barnato Outcrops.

Four of the leading outcrop companies in the Barnato group have issued their reports for 1905, and with their results individually or collectively shareholders, except the easily pleased few, cannot be over well satisfied. Perhaps, though, Barnato finance still has its genuine admirers. This finance has destroyed more wealth than it has created; the public have, in one way or another, subscribed more millions of pounds to the many Barnato companies floated than these companies have returned shillings in dividends. Look back, for instance, at the careers of the Barnato Bank, the Barnato Consolidated, and the Johannesburg Investment Companies, to name but three, and try to estimate how much money has been lost since the first of these came into existence, money that can never be recovered. There is but one of these three left—the Johannesburg Investment, this having recently swallowed up the Barnato Consolidated—and he must be an enviably sanguine man who can hope the survivor will ever pay good and regular dividends. What kind of an income can it hope to receive from its holdings in the leading outcrops? One or two are paying tiny dividends, others pay none, despite all the advantages of Chinese labour. Yet the mines continue to turn out a fair quantity of gold each year, and every ounce so taken out diminishes their individual values and lessens the period of time during which dividends, should they be earned, can be paid. What do the controlling financiers make out of these in many senses "going" mines?

The chief outcrop company is the New Primrose, the most successful of the whole group, but it is paying only moderate dividends, and the mine is rapidly drawing to its end. In the 12 months to the end of December last the quantity of ore crushed amounted to 201,958 tons, an increase of 10,112 tons over 1904,

and despite higher working costs, the profit per ton improved from 14.80s. to 15.81s. This was due to the higher grade of ore milled, a rare experience on the Rand. The revenue from gold mining amounted to £371,871, and from other sources to £6,369, total £378,240, and as the costs were £212,132, the profit was £166,107. Only £5,868 was allowed for depreciation, compared with an additional capital expenditure of £26,660, and if this is not living on capital what is? Adding in £138,262 from the previous accounts, two dividends, aggregating 35 per cent., were paid out of the available balance of £304,342, and even then as much as £173,126 is carried forward. We have asked the question before, and we ask it again: Why is so large a balance carried forward? Why is not part of it divided amongst the shareholders? Doubtless a considerable portion consists indirectly of past premium money, and much more than this sum is represented by cash, but with what object do the directors husband it? If shareholders and others who have paid through the nose for their shares are not entitled to it, who are? The directors cannot spend all this money on the mine, as it may be exhausted in four or five years' time. Anyway, on current profits and dividends the price of the share is highly inflated, and would be inflated even if present distributions could be maintained for another 10 years. But there is little likelihood of the mine lasting so long, and less that it will do better than it is doing now.

The other dividend-payer is the Ginsberg. This company would probably have done a little better had it not been for the outbreak of a fire on October 1, 1905, which destroyed the mill and the engine-house. The effects of this upon the income were not very serious, as the mill on the Balmoral property, immediately to the north of the Ginsberg, was standing idle. Arrangements were accordingly made with the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company to put this mill in order, so that by the end of October it was crushing Ginsberg ore. The total ore milled was 86,418 tons, the assay value of which fell from 11.28 dwts. to 9.98 dwts., but the profit showed a reduction of only 1.69 dwts. per ton. Working costs were approximately the same as in 1904—that is about 24s. 6d. per ton. The gold won realised £156,533, the working profit was £42,170, the revenue from other sources gave £1,444, and a balance of £47,965 was brought in. A dividend of 12½ per cent. was paid, £9,188 is charged to profits for depreciation, and £58,145 is left to carry forward. The life of the Ginsberg Mine will also be comparatively short. At the meeting of the company four years ago, in April, 1902, the chairman, dealing with this point, said: "I went into this recently with the consulting engineer, and he is of opinion that, working full time with the 60-stamp mill, we have a life on the present reef at present being worked of between six and seven years as a minimum. There exists, however, on this mine a duplication of the reef which has been proved in the adjoining property, and Knight's, as well as in the Balmoral, lying to the north. This reef has been proved in the Ginsberg, and the tonnage, so far as it has been proved, gives an estimated minimum of another four years' life, and if the reef extends, as we have every reason to believe, a further four years' life will be ensured to us—a total in all of 15 years." According to this calculation, the mine is assured of another seven years' life from now, and possibly of 11 years, so at par or thereabouts the share does not look overpriced. But that depends upon the accuracy of these forecasts. Much also depends on intelligent and enlightened management.

The Glencairn Main Reef has not yet resumed dividend payments, but it may be in a position to do so soon. It seems to be progressing slowly towards this achievement, but should it hereafter distribute dividends their amounts cannot be stunning. Some 167,868 tons were crushed in 1905, the results showing little variation upon those for the preceding year. The gold

won realised £208,081, and as expenses came to £150,241, the gross profit was £57,840, to be added to £33,418 from the previous accounts, and £1,782 from other sources. Interest, &c., required £4,115, and depreciation absorbed £71,383, so £17,542 is left to carry forward.

Finally, the New Unified Main Reef is slowly diminishing its credit balance. In the past 12 months there was little or no change in the grade of the ore, but the working costs were reduced by about 1s. 9d. per ton, consequently the profit earned exceeded that for the preceding year. In all, 106,232 tons were milled, producing 37,047 fine ozs. of gold, with £156,898, and £635 represented sundry revenue. The nett profit was £21,710, which reduces the debit from £37,636 to £15,926. There is the possibility, therefore, that the deficit may be wiped out entirely in the current year, but the mine can never earn large dividends, as the ore is of too poor a quality. This is officially admitted. Taking the four mines in the lump, they have been anything but successful concerns so far, and shareholders are never likely to get much out of them, singly or in the aggregate. But the house of Barnato is understood to be very wealthy.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE LATE RICHARD JOHN SEDDON.

It is impossible to resist some speculation about what will happen in New Zealand now that its masterful Prime Minister for 13 years has passed away. Mr. Seddon's death could not have been unexpected, for his physical condition has for years portended the sudden end which came on board ship immediately after he left Sydney on his way home from a triumphant tour on the Australian mainland. Apparently it is expected that Sir J. G. Ward, whose escapades as a trader, or farmers' association, occupied a good deal of our space some years ago, will succeed to the Premiership, and in ability this politician undoubtedly stands head and shoulders above any of his colleagues. He, indeed, has been credited with the parentage of most of the measures carried through by the late head of the Government, his being the brain, Seddon's the tactical skill and adroitness in piloting the measures through the local Parliament. We have always opposed the policy of the deceased leader, believing it to be inimical to the best interests of the settlement, and likely to lead to financial embarrassments of the gravest character before the account is squared, but it is not necessary to dwell upon points of difference now. We must let the quarrel rest, and allow events to demonstrate which view was right. That Mr. Seddon was a masterful man of much cunning and unscrupulousness in political management his bitterest enemy would not deny, but that he was a great statesman in any sense may well be questioned. We, at any rate, cannot regard it as the highest statesmanship to have attempted to carry the functions of government into all departments of business. Under Mr. Seddon banking has tended to become a State monopoly in the colony. The Government also seized upon the insurance business, was actively engaged in shipping, and entered many years ago upon a grandiose scheme of land-owner expropriation and "small settlement" finance, into which many millions of money raised on loan here or in the colony have been poured. The Government also endeavoured to put labour in a commanding position as against capital, and if the same line of policy is pursued by the deceased leader's successors there will soon be less place for private enterprise in New Zealand than in the trust-ridden North American Union. Thanks to a steady inflow of borrowed capital, mainly raised in London, a degree of superficial prosperity has attended the development of the socialistic policy of the Seddon Governments, which would have been

impossible had the settlement depended upon its own resources. The day must come when this borrowed money will have to be paid back, but long before that day arrives we expect to see embarrassment overtake the finances of the Government and a change come over the temper of the inhabitants. Meanwhile the newspapers of this country and many politicians—including Sir Charles Dilke, whose presence on that galley we confess surprises us—have united in raising a sort of death wail—half lamentation, half exaggerated eulogy—over the deceased New Zealand politician. It is not for us to question the taste or expediency of such outbursts, but we cannot join in them. Now let the man sleep.

GUAYAQUIL AND QUITO RAILWAY.

For some reason not very easy to define a good deal of adverse criticism has lately been directed against this undertaking. Statements detrimental both to the position of the railway and the financial condition of the Republic of Ecuador have been freely bandied about, and in consequence "bears" in the Stock Exchange were encouraged to attack the company's securities. They did so to such purpose that prices fell to a really serious extent, and it is not improbable that some real holders were frightened into selling. A good deal of alarm has naturally been created amongst bondholders by the turn of events, and an official statement promised by the company has been anxiously awaited. This made its appearance at the end of last week, and is in no sense a remarkable document, favourable or otherwise. In fact, the condition of affairs is very much what we expected it to be, and is in accordance with the impression of the company's position generally prevailing. It is, of course, quite well known that the line is not earning the bond interest which up to the present has always been forthcoming. If it were the 6 per cent. bonds would not have been quoted considerably below par. To begin with, the system is not completed yet, although it will be in the autumn of the present year. From the date of completion into Quito the concession from the Government of Ecuador runs for 75 years, and besides being a fixed charge on the railway itself, the bonds are a first lien on all the Customs duties of the Republic. This is described as an increasingly valuable security. In 1897, when the contract with the railway was executed by the Government, it was declared that the Customs revenues then amounted to £400,000. By 1904 they had increased to £804,134, or sufficient to meet the annual service of the bonds about five times over. The detractors of the railway say that this means nothing, because the total expenditure of the Republic is much in excess of the revenue, and it is to be regretted that a more precise statement of the condition of the country's finance is not forthcoming. We should, however, note that Ecuador has no external debt besides these railway bonds, of which about \$1,226,000 have been purchased by the sinking fund. The sum available for these purchases is an amount automatically increasing every half-year, and by its operation the whole of the bonds will be purchased within 25 years. Much has been said regarding the physical condition of the road, the truth of which we have no means of judging, but the company's statements point to fairly good construction, and we gather that the Government is satisfied with the work put in. The gradients on the mountain section are steep; there is no denying that, as in 48 miles the line rises from sea-level to upwards of 10,000 ft. This means that very powerful and heavy locomotives must be used, and we confess there is much in the contention that 80-ton locomotives are too heavy for 56-lb. rails. We should think an 80-lb. rail is the lightest that should be used. At present 170 miles of the railway are in operation, from Duran to Louisa, and the grade masonry and bridges on the remaining 120 miles are completed. The company has on hand at Duran all the sleepers necessary to lay the track into Quito, and all the rails, fastenings, &c., except 3,000 tons, which,

together with eight new locomotives, will be sent up during the current month. On the arrival of the new locomotives the track will be rapidly laid into Quito. We believe the company has a very good manager, and in the opening five months of the current year the line gathered a gross revenue of about £41,000, or £14,000 more than in the corresponding period. That is at the rate of nearly £100,000 more a year; and although this amount would, perhaps, need to be trebled before the railway earned its bond interest, the present receipts are not so bad when we remember that a large portion of rolling stock is necessarily used for construction. After slumping badly in 1903, the trade of the country picked up wonderfully in the following year, and, on the whole, we are disposed to advise holders to keep their bonds. There is a certain amount of risk, but 6 per cent. bonds well under par always imply that. The whole of the money required for the service of interest on the bonds and sinking fund, due July 2, is now in hand, and Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co. will make the interest payments on the due date. The report and accounts will be ready for issue next month.

CHINESE LABOUR AND THE GOVERNMENT.

Independent members of the Government majority do well to keep the Chinese coolie question to the fore, for the forces behind all Governments, the inertia of the permanent departments, the prejudices of officialism, and the immense pecuniary interests at work to undermine all righteous legislation have been proving too much for Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's Cabinet. It has not tackled this Chinese question in a manful and determined way. The words have been good, the promises fair, but the deeds have not accorded therewith, and the worst of it is that the Government is in danger of being everywhere discredited by its slack behaviour. No popularity comes to it, but the reverse, because of its hesitation in grasping this yellow labour nettle. The City ascribes all its woes to the Government, just as truculently as if the new Cabinet had turned the Chinese out of the Witwatersrand neck and crop within a month of assuming office. A bold policy might have made enemies curse, but would probably have brought it many adherents, whereas it now stands in the position of sacrificing the support of its friends, while gaining nothing but obloquy from its enemies. We therefore hope that the members who met in one of the committee rooms of the House on Wednesday afternoon will persevere and endeavour to stiffen the administration, so that this economic iniquity may be put an end to. The Government talks of leaving everything to the new free Government to be established in the Transvaal at an early date. That is unfair; neither honest nor manly. How are the people of the Transvaal to overcome a difficulty which the Imperial Government is afraid to face? The whole position of Chinese labour ought to be definitely settled before self government in the Transvaal is instituted, else there will be a new series of disappointments and an addition to the discontent, it may be the disloyalty, of the white inhabitants of that much afflicted territory. It was decided at the gathering that a memorial should be drawn up for presentation to the Prime Minister, calling upon the Government first to redeem the pledges given in February regarding repatriation, secondly to put a stop to all further importation of Chinamen, thirdly to put a time limit upon the existing ordinance before self-government is granted to the Transvaal and the Orange River Colonies. This is an intelligent programme, and expresses the feeling of the great majority of the electorate.

EAST RAND PROPRIETARY MINES.

We have received the ponderous tome comprising the reports and accounts of the East Rand Proprietary Mines and its subsidiaries, which make up the principal members of the Farrar group. This week we

have space only to analyse the reports of the subsidiaries and to give briefly the results of the parent company, and must defer an extended analysis of the latter's position until next issue. This is the only group which does not issue the reports of the subsidiaries separately, and we can assure Sir George Farrar and his co-directors that the shareholders and the Press would appreciate an innovation on the lines adopted by the other great "houses." It is a little too much to give shareholders a mass of stuff, of some 175 pages, to swallow at a gulp. Dividends on shareholdings in the twelve months amounted to £261,492, £62,084 was the profit made on share selling, £39,829 came from interest and rents, and £2,497 from the sale of stands, making a total of £365,902. Administration expenses did not take much and the nett profit was £348,146, raised to the huge credit of £1,794,506 with £1,331,351 brought forward and £115,009 balance of dividend appropriation account at the end of December, 1904. Two dividends of 20 per cent. each took £397,800, sums reserved for various purposes amount to £6,038, and the appropriation account is debited with £1,312,861 "premium on shares account transferred to the balance-sheet," leaving the greatly shrunk sum of £77,806 to carry forward. Depreciation to the extent of £155,522 has been charged to premiums—in other words, to capital. By such financial jugglery the directors have made premiums a book liability, after using them as profits hitherto to bolster up the finances and give the company an illusive appearance of prosperity. So, if shareholders ever dreamed of getting a share of these "profits," amounting to over a million and a half, they have been rudely awakened to the insubstantiality of "wealth" the directors produce and make to disappear precisely after the fashion of music-hall conjurers. And had they charged depreciation to the real profits they could not have paid a dividend of 40 per cent. These are the men who want Chinese labour to benefit shareholders! Will Chinese labour induce them to stop this sort of financial hocus-pocus? Will it impel them to adopt a course of plain honesty in their dealings with the public? We think not. In other ways the accounts of this particular company have always been in a state of confusion and puzzling. For instance, the actual dividend for 1905 was only 20 per cent., the other 20 per cent. being on account of 1904, though no one would conclude thus from the way in which the accounts are presented.

American Business Notes.

Last week's return of the New York Associated Banks for a moment disquieted Wall Street, but its temper is too arrogant to be long dismayed by anything, and after staggering about for an hour or two the upward manipulation of prices was resumed with greater determination than ever. Still, the figures are not particularly encouraging in view of the unliquidated and excessive obligations of Wall Street financiers in Europe. Loans and discounts, for instance, expanded by £1,524,000 to a total of nearly £212,000,000, and although the surplus reserve was rather better, up about £68,000 to £1,433,000, the margin is still small, and very little would be necessary to bring the market again into a season of dear money and most difficult credit.

Moreover, this Beef Trust scandal threatens to damage the foreign commerce of the Union to a deadly extent. Up to now that foreign trade has been remarkably good, unusually good in the matter of exports, but if Europe refuses to be poisoned any longer by the abominations sent across the Atlantic for our consumption by the Chicago packing houses, there will be a gap in the exports of the Union which must increase to a serious extent the difficulties of New York financiers in the coming autumn, when their short term loans are supposed to become due. They owe us £70,000,000 to £80,000,000, it is said, they owe France many millions, the German banks are deeply

implicated in Yankee railroad and corporate finance, and it is only by a great increase in the export trade of the Union that means can be found to liquidate these temporary debts even in part. Some portion of them may be renewable, but unquestionably Europe will want its money released to the extent of many millions between now and the end of the year, and if the export of American canned and preserved foods of all kinds is interfered with, checked, or destroyed, what is to take its place as a means of creating credit or of paying debt?

This view does not appear to in any way affect the members of the United States House of Representatives. On the contrary, they seem determined to serve the Chicago banking houses to the last hour. What appears to be a tolerably satisfactory measure, providing for efficient inspection and public control, was introduced in the Senate, and quickly passed there. When it came to the Lower House obstruction immediately commenced, led by the Speaker, and it now looks as if no law at all would be passed, or only such a law as will be satisfactory to the criminals. It is this kind of thing which often causes us to despair of the moral stamina of the American Union.

A bulletin issued by the Department of Commerce and Labour at Washington says that the commerce of the Great Lakes during the first four months of the present year exceeds that of any previous year. Up to April 30 the total tonnage moved was 5,418,481 tons; that for April, the first month of the open season of navigation, was no less than 4,365,505 tons. This heavy movement, however, is partly accounted for by the heavy west-bound freightage of coal, due to storing in anticipation of a coal strike, while the general movement may have been caused by the fear of a general strike among steamship employees. It is possible that the similar activity noticed by Chicago railway men in the freight movement on the lines centring in that city may have been produced by apprehension of some disturbing cause such as a great coal strike, which was expected some time ago.

On May 31 the reports in New York from the Western States regarding the crops were excellent. The report from Iowa indicated the best prospects since 1900.

The balance-sheet of the New York Life Insurance Company submitted to the Fowler Committee and published May 31, marks a distinct advance in the character of the statements hitherto issued by the life insurance companies. Under the old system that was practically uniformly followed by all those companies, it was impossible to analyse their annual reports or to get at the distribution of outlays and appropriations. Real estate, for instance, was given in a lump sum; items under that head now appear under four different classifications. It is the same with loans, investments, and cash. In the cash item previous reports gave only the single item, "Deposits"; under the head "Cash" there now appear nine distinct classifications, giving a clear statement of the location of all such funds, and the conditions under which they are deposited. Thus the accountants show that \$10,682,699 is held in banks and trust companies subject to cheque, \$4,441,001 additional being placed to the account of branch offices, special deposits, obligatory deposits, in transit, and on hand at head office and branches. This new form of statement gives hope that the whole system of insurance reports for public information may be so simplified and extended, as to give policyholders the detailed information to which they have always been entitled, but which has hitherto always been persistently refused them.

At a meeting of the trustees of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, held May 31, the president, Charles A. Peabody, named the new committees. The finance committee consists of the President, Mr. Emory M'Clintock (vice-president), Messrs. George Baker, Frederick Cromwell, A. D. Juilliard, Adrian Iselin, jun., and James N. Jarvie. The names of two of the members of the old committee, which con-

sisted of eight members, do not appear on the new. They were Mr. Geo. C. Haven, who has been dropped out of all the committees, and Mr. Chas. R. Henderson, who has been transferred to the newly formed Real Estate Committee. The Armstrong inquiry showed that nearly all the members of the old finance committee had participated in subsidiary syndicates of the Mutual, and Mr. Baker and Mr. Juilliard were on the sub-committee that raised President McCurdy's salary from \$100,000 to \$150,000 a year, for which increase the Mutual Life is now suing Mr. McCurdy. The Expenditure Committee has been done away with altogether. Its members were Messrs. Robert Olyphant, James C. Holden, and Chas. E. Miller. They passed the irregular payments of the supply department and on the padded bills of Lawrence and Co., and the company has brought suit against them for recovery of the money so passed on and paid. The other committees are the Real Estate, Insurance and Agencies, and Mortuary Claims, on none of which do the names of those three gentlemen appear. The names of the president and vice-president appear on all three of these committees, but not those of any other members of the Finance Committee. The name of Mr. H. H. Rogers appears on the list of the Insurance and Agencies Committee.

Strong opposition was unexpectedly disclosed at the meeting of directors of the New York Equitable Life on May 31 to the scheme of partial mutualisation recently proposed, and it was only when put before the board that Mr. Ryan and Mr. Cleveland had committed the society to the policy, that it was voted. Many of the directors, however, stated that they concurred out of deference to Mr. Cleveland's opinion of its necessity. When the new Finance Committee had been named it was found that not one of those associated with the scandals exposed at the investigation into the company's affairs had a place on it. The men nominated are E. B. Thomas, president of the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company; T. de Witt Cuyler, lawyer, of Philadelphia; F. S. Witherbee, president of a large iron-ore operating company; and James McMahon, formerly president of the Emigrants' Industrial Savings' Bank. The new Executive Committee has a number of new members, though nearly half the committee is composed of men identified with the Ryan interests, or who were more or less associated with the old Equitable and its affiliated companies. The number of members is 15, including the president, Mr. Paul Morton, and Mr. William A. Day, first vice-president. The second and third vice-presidents are Mr. Gaze E. Tarbell and Mr. George T. Wilson, who are placed on the Agencies Committee. The 13 members of the Executive Committee, besides the president and vice-president, are all well-known business men in the State of New York, Boston, and Chicago. It does not appear that either in the case of the Equitable or Mutual is there any extravagant enthusiasm over the reorganised boards of directors or committees among the policyholders or the general public, though there is great interest as to how things may turn out.

The *New York Herald* of June 1 is responsible for the statement that President Roosevelt intends forcing the situation in the matter of the Beef Trust. He will, it says, insist on a rigorous system of inspection, the cost of which will be borne by the meat packers, and if these latter throw obstacles in the way or raise constitutional objections, the certificates of inspection now issued, and without which American meats cannot gain admission to foreign markets, especially the German, will be withheld. The Beveridge Bill, which is held over the packers, briefly described, provides for Government inspection, as the Secretary of Agriculture may direct, of all meats and meat products for interstate commerce, and also that in localities where the local inspection laws are adequate to ensure purity in the view of the Secretary of Agriculture, the local inspection label shall be accepted as equivalent to a Federal certificate and permit in interstate commerce.

This Bill, like the Railway Rate Bill, is obviously meant to serve as the entering wedge of a scheme for gradually bringing what may be called national services under direct Federal control, which means a conflict between State and Federal authority such as brought on the Civil War of 1860, the difference being that the questions involved are not sectional but personal, every citizen being individually affected by railway rates and unwholesome food. Such being the case, President Roosevelt can hardly fail to secure the support of the masses of American citizens against the offending special interests.

The later reports from the scene of the troubles at the mining camp of Cananea, on the Mexican side of the international boundary between the American State of Arizona and the Mexican State of Sonora, leave little doubt that the affair was concocted with a view to a filibustering occupation of a particularly rich mineral district by persons in the employ of the mining company of which Colonel W. C. Greene (not the one of the Venezuela Asphalt filibustering expedition) is head. The presumption is strong that way as the evidence is direct. The firing in the affair was begun by Americans in the company's employ who were all armed, while the Mexicans were not, but fought with sticks and stones and anything that came to hand. Then as soon as the trouble had started, the American consular agent, who is also the medical officer of the mining company, got into immediate communication with the officer in command of the United States cavalry regiment stationed near the frontier, calling on him to come on at once to the rescue of the Americans who were being attacked by Mexicans. The troops started, but were brought up at the frontier by orders from Washington and from the Governor of Arizona. At the same time a large body, three hundred, American border fighters, as they are described in the reports, crossed the lines to the scene of action. A check, however, was put on their enterprise by the Governor of Arizona, who sent a proclamation after them notifying them that everyone who had crossed the frontier with arms in his hand with the intention of taking part in the troubles did so on his own responsibility, and would not be protected against any consequences that might ensue. The result was that the body of filibusters who rose out of the earth, as it were, close to the boundary with such suspicious alacrity were sent back at once. The Mexican Government lost no time in despatching troops to Cananea, and order was restored. For some time back there have been indications that the American capitalists who have been developing the mineral territory of the State of Sonora are getting impatient with the slowness of the pacific and economic conquest of that part of Mexico, and would not be sorry to see international difficulties created with the object of finding occasion for a grab. The same sentiment exists with regard to Cuba, and explains the opposition by the United States Government to the ratification of the recently concluded reciprocity treaty between Cuba and Great Britain. Since the failure of the plan at Cananea the statement has been put out that it was the work of Socialists and revolutionists. A report in the *New York Herald*, however, pointed out that Cananea is separated by a chain of mountains from the rest of Mexico, and is, therefore, really more naturally part of the American State of Arizona.

A pitiful state of affairs appears to be arising in Chicago owing to the exposure of methods pursued by the all-powerful meat-packing houses. The workmen are being thrown out of employment in great numbers and the wages of those who remain are suffering reduction in various ways. Thus a striking letter has been received by Mr. Upton Sinclair, the author of "The Jungle," that remarkable novel which first drew public attention to the horrors of the stock-yards. In this letter the writer points out that the men's old overalls and aprons have been destroyed, and they have been obliged to acquire new at their own expense. This fine has been imposed by their millionaire masters in spite of the fact that the men's earnings have been reduced recently to

an average of 11s. 4d. per week, the writer explaining that out of 54 "pay envelopes" received by presumably an equal number of workers the highest sum distributed was £1 11s. and the lowest 71 cents. Much sympathy should be felt for these unfortunate people, but, at the same time, it is impossible to declare any truce in the opposition shown to the practices of these great manufacturers and distributors of diseased and rotten foods.

The directors of the Southern Pacific Railroad have declared a dividend of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the common stock, so the company has not suffered by the San Francisco fire. Vigorous efforts will probably now be made to market the stock here, and the dividend will come in handy for those who are carrying it on borrowed money.

Passing Events.

The debenture-holders' committee of the Beira Railway have signed a requisition to the trustees to convene a meeting of the debenture-holders to decide on the course to be adopted for the protection of their interests, in view of the continued default in payment of their coupons, notwithstanding that such coupons are more than covered by the receipts of the company. In default of some acceptable offer from the company, the committee wishes the meeting to consider the amended scheme submitted by it to the directors, which includes a demand for the appointment of proper representatives on the board so long as the interest is in arrear to look after the railway constructed with the debenture-holders' money. In response to this request the trustees, with a view to clearing up misunderstandings, have issued a circular containing audited accounts for the past five years, which shows that, although the interest was paid up to January, 1905, nothing was earned for the debenture-holders except in the year ended September, 1903. The deficiencies and capital expenditure on improvements to the line, amounting to £190,678, were met by the Chartered Company, and the trustees assert that the outlay of that company has in reality been larger, as the guaranteed prior lien charge of £42,500 is non-cumulative. Better times are promised, as the nett revenue since September 30 is estimated to be enough to cover the debenture-holders' interest, and the trustees deprecate hostile action against the Chartered Company, provided the nett revenue is paid to debenture-holders as earned, and the present policy continued of providing for necessary capital expenditures and pushing the extensions up country whose traffic may eventually make the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. debentures into a good security. The trustees wind up by hinting that they are endeavouring to obtain from the Chartered Company a more intelligible form of accounts, an undertaking not to press for repayment of its advances, the deposit of all nett revenue monthly in London, so that when audited and available it may be applied in payment of overdue coupons, and lastly the right to nominate a director who should be expert in traffic matters and free to pay periodical visits to the line, all which is nice and not too encouraging.

The Central Insurance Company has issued an attractive little booklet, setting forth the merits of its latest sickness and accident policy. Under this scheme, which is described as the "Foremost" policy, an annual premium of £7 will secure £6 per week for one year during temporary total disablement by accident or by any of 30 prevalent diseases, £3 per week during convalescence after recovery from these diseases, and 30s. per week for temporary partial disablement by accident. In addition, the policy secures £1,000, increasing by 5 per cent. yearly to £1,500, for death by accident, £1,000 for loss of two limbs or sight of both eyes, and half that amount for loss of one limb or eye, for total blindness or paralysis caused by disease. Nor do these exhaust the benefits to be obtained under the same policy, as the company will pay an annuity of £30 for permanent total disablement other than loss of limbs or eyesight, and further gives

free medical attendance of the insured's own doctor for accidents and 30 diseases up to certain specified amounts. The policy certainly seems good value for the money, and we presume the company's experience enables it to make these promises with safety.

Sir George Anderson, the Treasurer or general manager of the Bank of Scotland, had some interesting things to say in his speech the other day to the Scotch Institute of Bankers. Among other things, he dealt frankly with the lack of elasticity in banking deposits. They might naturally have hoped, he said, that, with increasing wealth in the country, the deposits in the banks would show a corresponding growth, but instead they had actually been diminishing, and he accounted for this by fairly enough pointing out that people had now many outlets for their moneys which were either not open to them formerly or of which they did not take advantage. The old class of depositors who brought all their savings to the banks and left them there, never thinking of doing anything else with them, was disappearing. People who had money tried to get greater interest upon it than the banks will allow. This is probably true enough, but it is hardly all the truth, and we should have liked if Sir George had entered into some general survey of the effect upon depositors of gambling in, say, South African securities. How much money have the customers of the Bank of Scotland lost during the past 10 years in that direction alone? The experience of men like Sir George Anderson would be extremely valuable on this point, and it might be supplemented by some general estimate of the losses incurred in distilleries and breweries throughout Scotland, in Australasian bank deposits, and land company mortgages. It is not altogether through the changed habits of the saving classes in Scotland that the deposits of the Scotch banks have been stagnant or shrinking in recent years. The decline must be largely represented by losses, by money clean gone for which the possessors have now nothing whatever to show.

The French Ministerial programme is an ambitious one, but it could hardly have formulated any smaller plan of legislation after the way in which the electorate endorsed its anti-clerical and socialist policy at the recent election. If half the outlined series of reforms and laws gets carried out in the next few years France will be the most socialistic State in the world, and also, let us hope, the most pacific. It is proposed to alter the relations of capital and labour, to take greater control over the mining industries, to provide old age pensions, to improve the system of public instruction in a more democratic sense, placing education within the reach of all children of the people according to the conditions of aptitude and not merely of fortune, and alongside such schemes of amelioration for the masses of the people there are projects of fresh taxation, including, we gather, a graduated income-tax. Most pleasant of all to us is the Ministerial endorsement of a policy of international disarmament, the hope being expressed that the pacific spirit now governing the policy of nations would permit them to regard as possible a reduction of military burdens, such as the States represented at the last Hague Conference declared to be highly desirable for the increase of the material and moral welfare of humanity. All this is excellent, and we hope some portion of the dream in this direction will be realised.

Deadlock continues between the Duma and the irresponsible Ministry of the bureaucracy in Petersburg, and yet that Ministry is showing itself sensible to the rain of criticism by which it is day by day assailed in the representative assembly. Not only is there hesitation in carrying out the executions of condemned political agitators, but the *entourage* of the Tsar and the Ministry have been so far impressed by the statements made regarding the internal condition of the country that a project for land settlement, as it might be called, after the New Zealand fashion, is said to be in course of elaboration. The Government is going

to reserve 50,000,000 acres, out of which 7,000,000 will be purchased through the Peasants' Bank, the remainder being composed of State lands and forests, and all this land is to be devoted to relieving the agrarian crisis. Where the money is to come from to carry out a scheme of this kind we cannot imagine, but there is considerable danger that in the meantime the peasants may take the law into their own hands and annex the soil without waiting for legal sanction, purchase, or anything else. The Ministry, in short, is busy compounding pills for the earthquake, and may be overwhelmed in the midst of its projects, for the agrarian agitation is increasing throughout Russia to an alarming extent, and the Duma is showing increased impatience with the triflers who are one day arrogant towards it and the next busy with schemes to try and avert the catastrophe which to outside observers seems inevitable.

We are glad to see that the worst fears about the costly battleship *Montagu* have not yet been realised. How much it is going to cost to save it from going to pieces and to the bottom of the sea nobody has thought it worth while to inquire, but Mr. Edmund Robertson says there is now good hope of saving the vessel, and the naval manœuvres have begun, so that there is the additional cheerful prospect of further work for the salvage corps, and probably enough for the surgeons.

The Johannesburg correspondent of the *Liberal Press* has sent an interesting message about the attitude of traders in the Transvaal towards the new tariff which has been imposed upon the colony by the Customs Convention sitting at Johannesburg. According to his statements, there are ample grounds for the complaint. The new tariff, he says, will increase the cost of the 2 lb. loaf by a halfpenny, and altogether the increases range up to 50 per cent. upon the old tariff. Some offset is given by the reduction of railway freights, but the opinion is strongly expressed that the tariff has been framed so as to obviate the necessity of taxing diamonds in Cape Colony, a step which the Jameson Government there—the De Beers Government of the Cape, that is to say—would naturally do its utmost to avoid. We hope the Colonial Office here will take note of the feeling thus expressed. In doing so may we also congratulate the *Liberal Press* of London on its enterprise in thus providing an independent source of information for citizens at home in regard to South African affairs. Reuter's Agency has not been faithful to its trust in this matter, has been far too submissive to the De Beers gang, and if the new agency will only continue as it has begun we shall have hope that an intelligent perception of South African affairs may gradually permeate the public mind at home. Has the Government power to veto this tariff?

In congratulating India upon possessing a Senior Wrangler it is impossible to avoid asking what that great dependency is going to do with him. Is there any career worth having open to Mr. Rajan in his native land? He has proved himself equal to the best home intellect, and a compatriot of his, if that term may be used, comes in a good third; but there is not much for either of these distinguished students to do when they get back to India. They may become lawyers, and rise in course of time to a place on the judicial bench, but they cannot become great administrators or devote their talents in an effective manner to public works, thus becoming benefactors to the Indian people. Does it not seem a pity that so much good talent should be allowed to go to waste, and that the overlords of India should neglect to enlist upon their side the educated youth of the country?

A meeting of shareholders of Cammell, Laird and Company is called for Monday next to consider a proposal for raising further funds. It is stated that the continued expansion of the business and important developments in various directions render it desirable that additional capital should be provided. The directors are of opinion that the money will be very profitably employed, and if satisfactory terms can be

arranged they intend to issue additional mortgage debentures in preference to increasing the share capital.

The fortunes of the various Argentine land companies have recovered in remarkable fashion during the last few years, thanks to the wonderful prosperity of the Republic, and the Argentine South Land Company can now command big prices for its properties. These are so extensive that separate organisations are necessary for their proper development, and it has therefore been arranged to dispose of 59 leagues of land to the Port Madryn (Argentina) Company for the sum of £52,000 in cash. This new company will be capitalised at £140,000 and the Argentine Southern directors are so impressed with the value and the low price of the property handed over, that they have insisted on the whole of the Port Madryn capital being reserved for subscription by their shareholders. This Port Madryn Company has acquired a controlling interest in the Central Railway of Chubut, which should put it in a position to deal with the property to the best advantage, so we are told. It will have a pretty large working capital, and the shares of £1 which are offered to Argentine Southern shareholders at £1 1s., stand at about £2 premium. So that it was hardly necessary to spend £3,500 on underwriting.

Nothing short of a complete monopoly will apparently satisfy the directors of the Calico Printers' Association. They have just acquired the Ferry Field Printing Company, said to be a fairly large business, and there is now only one Scottish calico-printing concern outside the combine. Several Lancashire firms still maintain an independent existence, including the big and influential business of F. Steiner and Co., and we know the Trust would much like to get a hold on this particular enterprise.

Without venturing any opinion on the financial aspect of the business, we may offer our congratulations to the directors of Waring and Gillow, Limited, on the enterprise which led to the erection of the wonderful premises in Oxford Street, thrown open to the public on Monday last. Some remarkable scenes have been witnessed there during the week, and the number of people who have attended to gaze on the extraordinary sights displayed can only be computed in tens of thousands. We cannot enter upon a description of all there is to be seen—that would occupy half this week's number of the REVIEW—but probably nothing like it has ever been attempted before by an ordinary commercial undertaking. Everything that the mind can conceive in the way of artistic furnishing is there, and a novelty is found in the system of arranging the articles for sale exactly as they would appear in the home. The new building is really made to contain twenty complete houses, represented by 150 fully furnished and equipped rooms of various styles and treatment, so that customers can purchase a houseful, a roomful or any single article. It is a unique display and well worth seeing, one, too, that should stimulate the business enormously.

Hungary's burdens are very heavy. The Budget for 1906 was only presented to the Parliament in Budapest on Wednesday, the delay having occurred through the prolonged deadlock arising from the conflict between Austria and Hungary. It shows a total expenditure of £54,156,783, and a surplus of £107. A 4 per cent. loan on account of expenditure for reproductive works is proposed, and it will amount to £9,633,333, or 231,200,000 kronen. Hungary is a poor country, and this Budget is excessive, but as long as the military load imposed by the Austrian connection has to be borne by the Hungarian people there is no prospect of its diminution.

If we are to believe the telegrams coming from various parts of Russia, the whole Empire is seething with discontent, and the peasant war in many parts of the country is in full swing. The houses of landlords are being burnt down, and the hungry masses are seizing everything they can lay hands on, stopping trains in order to abstract the grain they carry and striking wherever strikes are possible. There are said

to be 600,000 troops concentrated in the Southern provinces, and probably disaffection permeates the masses even of these. At any rate, the autocracy seems able to depend on the Cossacks alone in many parts of the country, and these fierce warriors are not equal to the task imposed upon them. All the remedy that the Imperial authorities seem able to conceive is repression, the hiding of facts, ruthless measures of every description, and the more they follow this course the more certain will their punishment be. It is a gloomy outlook indeed, and the only ray of light seems to come from the Duma, which, in spite of its loquacity, holds fast to the principles of free responsible government.

Mr. W. R. Lawson is pounding away at the Bank of England in the columns of the *Financial Times*, but sometimes misses the nail and hits his own thumb. At the same time the Bank occupies such a peculiar position that any discussion tending to enlighten the public as to its privileges and functions must do good, and in the article published on Thursday Mr. Lawson gives an exhibit of the balance-sheet issued by the Bank on February 29, 1832, contrasting it with the weekly return issued now, which suggests the line that certain reforms should follow. The weekly return is now much too summary, and might easily be enlarged to the advantage of the Bank and of the market. Other joint-stock banks are now powerful, and lean upon the Bank of England to an extent which doubtless augments their profits, but every now and again brings the market within sight of perfect cataclysms in credit. If these joint-stock banks would agree to allow the Bank to publish every week the aggregate amount of their balances a check would be given to their practices of running down these balances whenever the demand for money tempts them to do so. The window-dressing humbug perpetrated at the end of each month would then be stopped, because the public would see the result of the trick in the diminished balances held by the banks during the rest of the month. In the 1832 return particulars were given of the public and private securities held and of the public and private deposits, all being set forth in a clear and instructive way. Such full details could not be expected in a weekly account, although the Bank might issue an annual balance-sheet giving many particulars that its weekly figures could not with convenience embrace, but at least let us have the bankers' balances set forth, and on the opposite side of the account let us see the market borrowings separated from the private business done by the Bank.

The more we examine the *Financial Review of Reviews* the stronger grows our conviction that members of the Stock Exchange will have to put their pride in their pockets and cast their prejudices to the winds if they are to retain their business. An outside investment agency, ably and honestly conducted, has a great pull over members of the Stock Exchange, who are tied fast by rules against advertising which compel them to resort to many questionable devices to get business, or, if they are upright and self-respecting, to go without business altogether. Many of them are at the present time starving in their isolation, and yet Mr. Lowenfelt claims to have turned over capital to the amount of £10,000,000 for investors. Almost are we persuaded to become investment agents ourselves, instead of merely limiting our energies to the furnishing of carefully digested information and advice for fees that do not pay.

Greater prosperity last year attended the Gold Fields Water Supply scheme of Western Australia than was anticipated, for the nett earnings sufficed to pay all charges together with the interest and sinking fund upon the capital involved, leaving a balance of £300. Seeing that the average and maximum sales of water were smaller than the forecast, this is a remarkably good result—revenue £141,067, working expenses £42,835, gross profit £98,232. But how will it be when the mines are worked out? No less than

£71,000 of the income came from the Kalgoorlie and Boulder mines.

The latest addition to its fleet made by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company is the twin-screw steamer *Amazon*, built by Messrs. Harland and Wolff, which sailed on the 14th inst. for Brazil and the River Plate. It appears to be a magnificent vessel, with accommodation for over 200 first-class passengers in deck state-rooms, an arrangement which will add materially to their comfort, and a decided innovation is the provision of a large number of single bedrooms. The first saloon is arranged on the latest restaurant system, and in several other ways the ship is more like a high-class floating hotel than anything else. Its second and third class accommodation is likewise a great improvement on old methods, and as the motive power is supplied by a double set of Messrs. Harland and Wolff's latest balanced quadruple type of engine, which reduces vibration to a minimum, travelling by this vessel would appear to be a very desirable pleasure.

Critical Index To New Investments.

JOHN I. THORNYCROFT AND CO., LIMITED.

All has not been plain sailing with this business of builders of torpedo boats, shallow-draught steamers, &c., and the results for 1905 were not of a kind to make this seem a favourable time for raising further capital. More money, however, is urgently needed for the completion of the equipment of the Woolston Works, Southampton, for plant at Chiswick and Basingstoke to enable quicker delivery to be given of motors and motor vehicles, for the repayment of the bank loan, and for further working capital. The company has, therefore, created £150,000 5½ per cent. second mortgage debentures, secured by a specific charge on the freehold, leasehold, and copyhold property, buildings, and fixed plant, with a floating charge on all other property and assets except uncalled capital, and of these it offered £100,000 at par. Exclusive of goodwill the assets on December 31 were valued at £554,019, less first mortgage debentures, with accrued interest amounting to £163,804, and trade creditors of £86,709, while the present issue will provide £47,500 additional cash. Trading profits are set out for the past five years, together with the amounts allowed for depreciation, and the balances carried forward each year, but the prospectus is silent on the fact that dividends on the ordinary shares dropped from 7½ per cent. in 1903 to 3 per cent. in the following year, and to nothing at all in 1905, although this has an important bearing on the question as to the company being able to meet the interest charges on the new debt.

CANADIAN PACIFIC SULPHITE PULP CO., LIMITED.

The Canadian Finance Syndicate, which is selling the whole of the issued capital of the Oriental Power and Pulp Co., Limited, Vancouver, B.C., to this undertaking, has spent upwards of £18,000 in acquiring and developing the pulp timber lands on Princess Royal Island and the adjacent mainland, of which the Oriental company is the registered holder. This new company has a share capital of £107,000, divided into 75,000 "A" shares, and 30,000 "B" shares of £1 each, and 40,000 "C" shares of 1s. each, and the whole of the "A" shares were offered for subscription with 15,000 "C" shares, applicants for the first-named being entitled to apply at par for one "C" share in respect of every five "A" shares allotted. The "A" shares are to receive the whole of the profits until the distribution reaches 50 per cent. of the nominal amount issued, after which they will receive 10 per cent. per annum, and the "B" or vendors' shares 5 per cent. per annum, the remainder of the profits going to the "C" shares. This looks on the face of it a very fair offer, especially as the purchase price consists of the said "B" shares and £1,500 in cash, but the vendors

are safe enough as they are given 5 per cent. in cash and the right to allotment at par of the remaining 25,000 "C" shares for underwriting 50,000 of the "A" shares.

MORRIS AIMING TUBE AND AMMUNITION CO., LIMITED.

As announced in the report for the year ended December 31 the directors have issued £12,500 in 5 per cent. debenture stock to the executors of the late Mr. W. C. Watson, and now offer a similar amount for subscription at par. With the £15,000 issued in 1900 and 1901 this makes a total of £40,000, against a share capital of £50,000. The money is required mainly to provide further working capital for the Morris-Hawkins Electrical Company, whose business is said to be rapidly expanding, at a rate necessitating the provision of larger amounts than the directors originally contemplated. Since the company took over the business of its predecessor in 1900 dividends have ranged from 6 to 12½ per cent., touching high-water mark in 1902, and falling back to 10 per cent. in 1903 and 1904, and to 8 per cent. in 1905. Even at the lowest, however, the margin has been sufficient to cover the interest, and as the nett assets, including £20,000 for goodwill and patents, are valued at £88,979, the security also seems fairly satisfactory.

STUTCHBURY'S, LIMITED.

That egregious concern, the Japanese and Eastern Corporation, which earned a certain notoriety in October last by issuing debentures secured on nothing more tangible than a redemption policy, is at the back of this undertaking, and the prospectus is about as impudent a production as was that of the corporation. Mr. P. J. Stutchbury, late partner in the firm of Geen, Evison, Stutchbury and Co., claims to have bought up the principal assets, except the wholesale stocks, borrowing £4,220 from the corporation for the purpose, but Messrs. E. Evison and Co. deny that he has secured the business. For his trouble Mr. Stutchbury receives £7,000 in ordinary shares and the post of managing director at £1,000 a year, with 10 per cent. of the nett profits after 10 per cent. has been paid on the ordinary shares, truly a modest proposition. Then the Japan and Eastern Corporation asks £27,120, payable as to £4,220 in cash, £15,900 in cash or ordinary shares and the £7,000 in ordinary shares to be handed over to Mr. Stutchbury, as well as a sum of £10,914 advanced for the purchase of new stocks. The capital of the new company is £50,000, divided equally into 6 per cent. cumulative preference and ordinary shares of £1 each, of which 21,000 preference shares are offered for subscription, and have been underwritten for a commission of 10 per cent. in ordinary shares, the remaining preference shares being taken by Mr. Stutchbury. Profits for the three years ended December 31, after making such adjustments as the accountants consider necessary, are stated to have been £3,654, £3,915, and £3,808, but these figures were arrived at before making any provision for amortisation of the leases, which form a very large proportion of the assets handed over, and seem a slender basis on which to establish a company.

IRISH LAND 2½ PER CENT. GUARANTEED STOCK.

Applications will be received by the Bank of England for a further issue of £7,000,000 of the above stock, ranking *pari passu* with the stock already issued. The stock is redeemable at par on or after November 1, 1933, on three months' notice, and is offered at the fixed price of 89 per cent., payable in instalments of 5 per cent. on application, 14 per cent. on June 29, four of 15 per cent. each on July 23, August 21, September 18 and October 16, and a final one of 10 per cent. on November 13. A full six months' interest will be paid on January 1, affording a small reduction in the nominal price paid by instalments, which may also be secured by paying up in full on and after June 29 under discount at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum.

MAJOR AND CO., LIMITED.

This company is hardly likely to attract much public attention, as it is an expansion of an existing business of coal-tar distillers, tar and oil refiners and chemical manufacturers, and most of the shares go to the old holders. The business, which was founded more than half a century ago, was converted into a company in 1896, and owns freehold land, buildings and plant at Hull and Wolverhampton and a leasehold at Chester-ton in North Staffordshire, valued with barges and tank wagons at £51,000. What the original capital was we are not told, but the new company has a share capital of £100,000 divided into 6 per cent. cumulative preference and ordinary shares of £10 each, and a debenture debt of £20,000. Stocks and stores valued at £19,192 are handed over for £19,000, and with £5,000 for goodwill the total price is brought out at £75,000, payable as to £29,440 in ordinary shares, £20,000 in preference shares, £8,000 in cash, £4,900 in cash for the discharge of debentures and £12,660 in cash or preference shares. The present issue consists of £15,000 4½ per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, £40,000 preference shares and £29,440 ordinary shares, of which all the ordinary and half the preference shares are taken by the vendors and £4,900 of the debenture stock is exchanged for debentures in the old company. During the seven years to December 31, 1902, the annual profits after providing for depreciation at 6 per cent. on the buildings, plant and machinery averaged £6,227, for 1903 they were £5,753, for 1904 £6,732 and for 1905 £9,597, while the amount required to meet debenture interest and preference dividend is only £3,075.

FIRST GARDEN CITY, LIMITED.

In another part of this issue we print a letter from Mr. Justice Neville, chairman of this company, giving particulars of the progress made in developing the Letchworth Estate, and explaining why further funds are required. Of the share capital, originally fixed at £300,000, divided into 59,400 £5 and 3,000 £1 ordinary shares, £113,894 has been issued for cash and £20,278 allotted to the Pioneer Company, and the directors now offer all the remaining £5 shares, retaining 1,588 £1 shares unissued. In the opinion of the directors the operations to date have increased the value of the estate to an extent much beyond the amount of the expenditure incurred. Over 4½ miles of new roads have been made, 14½ miles of water mains, eight miles of gas mains, and eight miles of sewers have been laid, and water works and gas works constructed, while, in addition to ground rents already created to an amount exceeding £1,500 per annum, 100 acres have been developed for building purposes, and are ready to let without further serious expense. Dividends on the capital are limited to 5 per cent., but are to be cumulative, and after providing for these and for all proper reserves, any profits are to be retained for the benefit of the town and its inhabitants. The scheme is one well worthy of support, and when in full working order should easily meet the obligations undertaken.

THE EKENBERG MILK PRODUCTS CO., LIMITED.

It has been formed to manufacture and sell dried milk prepared by a process elaborated by Dr. Ekenberg, a Swedish gentleman whose invention has been utilised by a company in that country for some time back. The Swedish company becomes the property of the British one. The share capital is to be £250,000 in £1 shares, and for the present 200,000 shares only will be issued. Of these, 133,334 are offered for subscription at par, payable 1s. on application, 4s. on allotment, and in three further instalments of 5s. each two, three, and four months after allotment. Payment, however, may be made in full under discount at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum. Of the balance of this issue 66,666 shares, or the maximum amount fixed by the Stock Exchange, are to be allotted to the vendors in part payment of the purchase price of

£100,000. Three different kinds of powdered milk are prepared, and Messrs. Joseph Travers and Sons report that they have had no difficulty in disposing of four tons per week at £26 per ton. That they have done without special pushing. A much larger trade, however, is now estimated for. The enterprise appears to be a fair one and may very well prove successful, although the estimate of 30 per cent. on the capital seems rather sanguine. Being a clean-looking promotion of a straightforward undertaking, it seems a pity that London financiers should have required so much for underwriting the share issue. It is, however, the fashion nowadays to make things safe, and vendors have often no option in the matter. The directors will proceed to allotment if 88,000 shares only are applied for.

Letters to the Editors.

Sirs,—I have been a reader of your paper for a long time, and am much interested in the question of taxes.

Saturday's issue speaks of old age pensions, but does not suggest where the money is to come from to pay the pensions.

My view of the matter is old age pensions must come, and absentee landlords must be charged with the money necessary for that purpose.

So far as this village is concerned, and the adjoining villages, and most of the villages in this county, such a charge could easily be made and easily collected.

Many years ago all the landlords lived on their land, received their rents regularly, and spent them in their own villages, or within a few miles thereof. This created a turnover of a large amount of money. To-day the representatives of those same landlords receive those rents through an agent, who, in due course, sends those rents to London to be expended there, thus depleting the country villages of their turnover in money.

What do you think of my scheme? Is it feasible? If not, why not? Do you mind telling me?

Yours, etc.,

WM. W. WARTNABY.

Market Harborough,

June 10, 1906.

[We should not like to take sides. The subject is too intricate. If the taxed absentees sold out and the estates were split up among occupying owners, would they still be taxed?—Ed.]

THE FIRST GARDEN CITY.

SIRS,—The Garden City Company has been now in existence over two years, and I think all those interested in the undertaking are pleased, and not a few of them surprised, at the progress which has been made towards the realisation of its object.

That object was, as most of your readers are probably aware, to procure the building of an industrial and residential town on hygienic principles in accordance with the ideas promulgated by Mr. Ebenezer Howard in his book, "Garden Cities of Tomorrow."

The company has acquired a site of over 3,800 acres at Letchworth, near Hitchin. The Garden City has its own station provided by the Great Northern Railway; factories are at work; gas works and water works are in operation; about 150 acres of building sites have been let; over 400 houses are built, or in course of building; and we have already a population of over 1,600. This, by itself, is, I submit, not a bad record for two years' work; but much has been accomplished in addition, which I must not trespass on your space to describe. Our progress would, however, have been much more rapid if we had had more capital at our command. In some instances accommodation might profitably have been provided both for manufacturers and their workpeople had the capital been available. There are, moreover, at least 300 men at the present moment working on the estate who desire to live on it, but for whom no accommodation can be found, and the time has arrived when we have decided to come to the public for further financial support to enable us to push on with our enterprise, and to clear the estate from the mortgages which still affect it.

The capital of the company is £300,000, upon which the dividend is limited to 5 per cent. cumulative, all profit in excess going to the benefit of the town and its inhabitants. Of this about £134,000 has been allotted, and the balance is being offered for public subscription.

Now, sir, there are multitudes of people of means in this country who are alarmed at the symptoms of physical degeneration exhibited by our town populations, and who look to better housing and the redistribution of the people upon the land for remedy, and I am quite sure that they would not knowingly allow an enterprise such as ours to be crippled for want of financial support; but claims are so many that people are not likely to invest their money in an undertaking offering only a moderate return, unless they know that it is urgently needed, and we are, therefore, obliged to make a direct appeal.

In all human probability the Garden City Company will soon be a dividend-paying concern, and I append a letter received from Mr. Peat—a member of the well-known firm of accountants,

Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co., who act as auditors for the company—in answer to an inquiry from me as to how far, in his opinion, we were conducting this philanthropic enterprise on business lines.

The success of the company hitherto has been largely due to the kind and generous support which the Press has extended to the enterprise, and I hope I am not presuming too far upon your kindness in asking you to publish this appeal for further capital.

Any further information with regard to the aims and progress of the company may be obtained from Mr. Thomas Adams, the secretary of the First Garden City, Limited, 326A, High Holborn, W.C., who will also forward prospectuses to all applicants.

Yours truly,

RALPH NEVILLE.

[COPY.]

11, Ironmonger Lane, E.C., 1906.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter, I have no hesitation whatever in expressing my opinion that the First Garden City, Limited, is managed on strictly business and economical lines.

Its progress has been remarkable. Ground rents have been created, bringing in a substantial annual income. Gas works and water works have been constructed, and are owned by your company, and the nucleus of a considerable town is already in existence. I, therefore, conclude that the value of the estate by the developments I refer to has been substantially improved.

The object the directors have had in view has been to demonstrate that a garden city can be run on lines which will yield a reasonable but modest return on the funds invested, thus combining philanthropic and useful effort with a fair prospect of profit.

I consider that the scheme is on sound lines, although no dividend has yet been forthcoming, nor could one have been reasonably expected in the present stage of the company's operations.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) W. B. PEAT.

To the Chairman, First Garden City, Limited.

Answers to Correspondents.

H. H.—(1) Your application was evidently sent in too late, and there is, therefore, no way of compelling the directors to give you an allotment. (2) Selling just now would mean such a loss that if you are not obliged to realise, it might be better to wait a little on the chance of a recovery.

S.—Provided the commodity on which the company mainly relies for revenue continues to do well, there is a chance of further improvement in price. A good deal has been done in recent years to pull the company's affairs together, and it now seems to be fairly firmly established.

J. W. M. S.—Will write because we cannot enlarge here.

H. D. R.—It is impossible to give any such definite answer as you ask for, for how is it possible to foresee the future of the metal market, the profits the company is likely to earn, the sums the directors will distribute, and the course the share market will take? On immediate prospects the price may go much higher, but a rise of 50 or of 100 per cent. in the next few years is a forecast impossible to make. We only know the property to be in honest and capable hands.

CAPITAL AND COUNTIES BANK.—Liabilities on May 29 consisted of £32,236,805 on simple contracts and £811,896 on bills, and assets of £5,112,958 cash in hand and at Bank of England, £4,294,046 money at call and short notice, £4,959,792 Consols and other investments, and £19,374,273 bills of exchange, promissory notes and advances to customers.

LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK.—Liabilities on June 2 consisted of current accounts and deposits £24,981,304, acceptances and endorsements £1,135,241, and other liabilities £729,725, against which there were cash in hand and at Bank of England £4,550,718, money at call and short notice £6,149,700, Imperial Government securities £3,885,000, bills discounted, loans &c., £14,036,514, and other securities £1,289,096.

LOYDS BANK.—The balance-sheet for May shows liabilities consisting of current and deposit accounts £62,113,543, and bills accepted or endorsed £1,315,100, and assets of cash in hand and at Bank of England £10,090,597, cash at call and short notice £4,276,498, bills of exchange £6,479,012, Consols and other investments £12,427,803, and advances to customers and other securities £33,877,841.

LONDON AND COUNTY BANKING.—Liabilities on May 31 amounted to £43,261,928 on simple contracts and £1,839,650 on acceptances, against which the assets were £9,223,090 in investments, £7,995,631 in bills of exchange, £18,606,983 in loans and advances to customers, £6,893,460 in cash at the Bank of England and on hand, and £3,319,205 in money at call and notice.

Very widely have the literary fishers of the *World's Work* cast their nets this month, and they have caught quite an amazing quantity of interesting items. Always, we suppose, must the motor take first rank in its contents, but it does not now assume the proportions of a Juggernaut, and in this number can be easily ignored by those who wish, and who will still find plenty of other matter to read. Amidst the variety we should like to draw attention to P. T. McGrath's concise and lucid article on Newfoundland, and to Beatrice Grimshaw's brightly written one on the Hot Water Country of New Zealand, both finely illustrated. An *exposé* of patent medicine frauds is almost as cheerful reading as a Beef Trust scandal.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended June 7, \$2,855, increase \$222.
 Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 11, \$16,974, increase \$710; aggregate from January 1, \$342,588, decrease \$1,183.
 Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 12, Rs. 70,286, increase Rs. 25,800; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 13,29,097, increase Rs. 1,91,703.
 Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 7, \$134,300, increase \$51,900; total from July 1, \$5,085,300, increase \$1,520,000.
 Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 12, Rs. 38,342, increase Rs. 7,971.
 Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 15, £383, increase £44.
 Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 1st week of June, \$15,037, decrease \$94; aggregate from January 1, \$354,934, increase \$54,440.
 Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 12, Rs. 19,756, increase Rs. 10,270.
 White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended May 21 amounted to \$28,342.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending June 9, £1,025, decrease £290; aggregate from January 1, £28,169, decrease £129.
 Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending June 9, £1,087, increase £262; aggregate from January 1, £17,401, increase £1,148.
 East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for March, £4,206, decrease £188.
 East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending June 9, £202, decrease £104; aggregate from January 1, £9,776, increase £739.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 8, £2,008, increase £687; aggregate from January 1, £32,351, increase £4,749.
 Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 10, £51, increase £24; aggregate from January 1, £251, increase £18.
 Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 8, £7,451, increase £2,329; aggregate from January 1, £113,869, increase £6,292.
 British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending June 8, £40,890, increase £14,006; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £658,090, increase £105,403; 424½ miles, against 424½.
 Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 9, £1,580, increase £448; aggregate from January 1, £26,287, increase £2,284.
 Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 10, £203, increase £38; aggregate from January 1, £2,612, decrease £17.
 Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 8, £197, increase £52; aggregate from January 1, £2,397, decrease £82.
 Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 8, £6,378, increase £1,165; aggregate from January 1, £108,504, increase £1,827.
 Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 9, £5,843, increase £823; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £109,004, increase £2,930.
 Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 8, £183, decrease £94.
 Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 7, £1,057.
 Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 9, £961, increase £472; aggregate from October 1, £11,459, decrease £561.
 London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 2, £25,961, increase £10,010; aggregate from April 1, £235,508, increase £107,681. Miles 97½ against 46½.
 London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 9, £27,912, increase £3,855; aggregate from January 1, £502,941, decrease £25,509.
 London Motor Omnibus (Vanguard).—Traffic receipts for week ending June 9, £3,917, increase £3,316.
 London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 9, £10,161, increase £1,922; aggregate from January 1, £179,686, increase £3,138.
 Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 9, £238, increase £46.
 Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 10, £1,489, increase £686; aggregate from January 1, £18,473, increase £4,124.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 10, £15,048, increase £2,051; aggregate from January 1, £345,583, increase £37,070.
 Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.
 Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.
 Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.
 Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of May, 1906, £11,691, increase £776.
 British Columbia Electric.—Nett earnings for April, \$24,707, increase \$1,669. Nett earnings from July 1 to April 30, \$420,142, increase \$115,242.
 Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending June 11, £3,745, increase £430; aggregate from January 1, £82,498, increase £5,604.
 Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 12, £1,406, increase £237; aggregate from January 1, £26,865, increase £5,511.
 Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of May, \$308,800.
 Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 9, Rs. 43,895, increase Rs. 2,399; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 10,10,180, increase Rs. 102,271.
 Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.
 Cartagena and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of May, £3,684, increase £870. Total from January 1, £22,843, increase £8,690.
 Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.
 Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of April, \$415,413, increase \$60,200; aggregate from January 1, \$1,621,914, increase \$232,398. Net traffic receipts, \$218,256, increase \$33,852; aggregate from January 1, \$832,339, increase \$131,992.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			No. of Weeks.	Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.			Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	
Baker St. and Waterloo ..	June 9	1,444	+	13	13	18,847	—	
Brecon and Merthyr ..	" 10	1,840	—	203	23	46,482	+	2,132
Cambrian ..	" 10	6,529	+	110	23	123,381	—	575
Central London ..	" 9	6,096	—	741	23	154,819	—	5,734
City and South London ..	" 10	2,442	—	475	23	64,826	—	133
Furness ..	" 10	12,366	+	2,334	23	231,099	+	29,812
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 10	67,234	—	4,650	23	1,620,229	+	72,705
Great Eastern ..	" 10	109,800	+	1,000	23	2,213,000	+	33,400
Great Northern and City ..	" 9	1,746	+	143	23	41,285	+	2,148
Great Northern ..	" 9	105,800	—	5,964	23	2,405,400	+	64,088
Great Western ..	" 10	241,600	—	9,000	23	5,146,900	+	67,200
Hull and Barnsley ..	" 3	10,917	+	3,294	22	216,358	+	24,908
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 10	147,881	+	25,558	23	2,447,471	+	120,065
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 9	69,155	+	3,048	23	1,315,154	+	6,947
London & North Western ..	" 10	269,000	—	30,000	23	6,224,000	+	208,000
London & South Western ..	" 10	101,600	—	3,400	23	1,976,300	+	25,000
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 10	13,313	+	3,644	23	198,689	+	13,027
Metropolitan ..	" 10	16,769	—	1,859	23	375,312	—	23,665
Metropolitan District ..	" 10	8,274	—	409	23	184,312	+	12,612
Midland ..	" 9	198,448	—	36,792	23	5,035,804	+	130,273
North Eastern ..	" 9	217,862	+	29,486	23	4,077,164	+	248,095
North London ..	" 10	8,547	—	25	23	204,797	—	4,839
North Staffordshire ..	" 10	21,079	+	1,716	23	412,622	+	17,937
Rhymney ..	" 10	5,209	—	852	23	138,409	+	2,988
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 9	102,277	+	4,827	23	1,908,534	+	18,579
Taff Vale ..	" 10	16,222	—	1,729	23	438,246	+	13,370

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian ..	June 10	85,699	+	808	19	1,600,675	+	28,007
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 9	36,421	+	1,856	19	628,914	+	19,671
Great North of Scotland ..	" 9	9,530	—	40	19	166,285	+	946
Highland ..	" 10	9,954	—	4	19	164,389	+	698
North British ..	" 10	92,408	+	2,551	19	1,698,268	+	38,843

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	June 8	3,116	—	231	8	56,764	—	3,103
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 8	2,106	+	135	8	36,310	+	309
Great Northern ..	" 8	19,661	+	760	23	398,357	+	5,789
Midland Great Western ..	" 8	9,954	—	1,207	8	236,118	—	6,607

§ From January 1.

Established 1824.

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Assets over 4 MILLIONS Sterling.

The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

THE SURPLUS DIVIDED WAS **£597,415.**

Chief Office:

15, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,
LONDON, S.W.W. J. H. WHITTALL,
Actuary.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

TOTAL FUNDS NEARLY **£6,000,000**FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE
MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Please apply for particulars to

Edinburgh: 35, St. Andrew Square.
London: 3, King William Street, E.C.

PELICAN AND BRITISH EMPIRE LIFE OFFICE		
FOUNDED		1797.
1905 Bonus £1 12s. per cent. per annum.		
Total Assets exceed 5½ MILLIONS.	Head Office: 70, Lombard Street, London, E.C.	Claims Paid exceed 13½ MILLIONS.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE.

INCORPORATED A.D. 1720.

RE, LIFE, SEA, ANNUITIES, ACCIDENTS & EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY.

The Corporation is prepared to act as

EXECUTOR OF WILLS, TRUSTEE OF WILLS AND SETTLEMENTS.

SPECIAL TERMS TO ANNUITANTS WHEN HEALTH IS IMPAIRED.

FUNDS IN HAND EXCEED **£5,250,000.**

Apply for full Prospectus to the Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE: ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON, E.C.

The Central Insurance Company, Ltd.

CHAIRMAN: WALTER CHAMBERLAIN, J.P.

Total Security to Policy-Holders over **£1,000,000.**

FIRE. ACCIDENT. BURGLARY.

SHORT AND UP-TO-DATE CONDITIONS.

Head Office: 12-13, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.

HUGH LEWIS, General Manager

mid-monthly settlement payments caused additional demands upon the resources of the market. Day-to-day loans did go up once or twice to 3 per cent., but the more usual rate was $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and yesterday borrowers seldom paid more than $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. This higher rate was also the quotation for seven-day money in the early part of the week, but it has fallen within the last two days to $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and the India Council has been unable to get more than that for some renewals to the end of the month. To-day its broker has been a large lender into July at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., thanks to the £945,000 in gold transferred by the Simla Government from reserve to current account. Money has been $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for seven days in other parts of the market and $2\frac{1}{4}$ to 3 per cent. to the end of the month.

Discounts have been kept up with remarkable assiduity by the bill brokers, but they, too, are beginning to feel the influence of cheaper money. Some houses have struggled for $3\frac{1}{8}-\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on three months' remitted paper, but the usual rate has been $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. for bills of that and longer usances, while the rate for short paper has often been weak at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Without much change, the market was somewhat flabbier to-day—that is to say, discount houses hitherto clinging to $3\frac{7}{16}$ per cent. as their minimum rate on three months' bank bills to-day quoted $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., and it was difficult to get even that figure after eleven o'clock. Were it not for the fear of the market that the Bank would immediately borrow floating credits and drive up short loan rates were discounts to be allowed to slip away, we should soon see that three months' rate down to 3 per cent. As it is, special classes of remitted paper of all dates were taken this morning at $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., and holders of such expect to be able to sell to-morrow at $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

Some of the figures in the Bank return show the way the current is flowing. There is, for instance, a noticeable increase of £1,559,000 in the reserve, and this has enabled the market to repay £2,916,000 to the Bank, thus liquidating all its loans there, and leaving very little due on unexpired bills. It has done this and found £472,000 for the Exchequer, which is the amount added to the Government balances, and other deposits have fallen off by only £1,843,000, so that their total is still £42,741,000, not enough to ensure cheapness at the end of the month or complete exemption from the liability to be then driven to the Bank, but sufficient for current wants with something over. During the past week the Bank received £632,000 nett in imported gold, and as within the same period £570,000 in coin came back from the active circulation, as well as £356,000 in notes, the increase in the reserve is easily accounted for.

Very few calls on new issues fall to be paid next week, not more, in fact, than £120,250, of which £101,500 becomes due on Rhondda District Council stock. It looks almost certain that the Bank will get nearly all the gold, amounting to about £450,000, to be in the open bullion market on Monday, for Paris cannot take it at the present exchange, and has no motive to make sacrifices to get it as long as the position of the Bourse and Money market bars the way to a fresh issue of Government rente.

The market is pleased alike with the promptitude and equity displayed in issuing the allotments of Irish Land stock. Large applicants seem to have got about 11 per cent. of the amount applied for, but there was a slight discrimination in favour of the small applicant, nobody getting less than £100. That would seem, indeed, to have been the amount allotted to all applicants for £500 and under. The price of the scrip did not flinch much when the allotment letters were distributed. At one time it touched $\frac{1}{16}$ premium for cash, but the last price was $\frac{1}{8}$ premium.

SILVER.

Quotations for bars hardened slightly in the end of last week, on the news of a French Mint tender for

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE 4 PER CENT. (Advanced from $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on May 10.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

An easier Money market is in prospect. Up to the end of the month there may be no steady cheapness, but if the Bank continues to absorb and retain the bulk of the gold offering from week to week in the open market, the beginning of the second half of the year should witness further amelioration in the prices for short credits. Soon, too, the necessity American financiers are under of repaying some portion at least of the enormous credits they have raised here and on the Continent should at least bar the way to heavy autumn drafts by New York upon our stock of gold. If the Americans are in the position to repay, which is doubtful, we may even receive some millions from that quarter, and by the time the severest autumn pressure comes upon us be able one way or another to meet it with no violent wrench to the credit market. Call money has been easy all this week, and the Bank of England was not applied to even yesterday when the

20,000 kilos., but its effect was only transitory. Supplies came out freely, and with a very intermittent inquiry from the bazaars the market has gradually weakened until final prices are $\frac{1}{16}$ d. lower at $29\frac{1}{16}$ d. per oz. for spot and $\frac{1}{16}$ d. down at $29\frac{1}{16}$ d. per oz. for future shipments.

Tenders for the Rs. 30,00,000 India Council drafts on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 2,79,00,000 in bills and Rs. 34,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Of these, Rs. 27,07,000 were allotted in bills and Rs. 2,93,000 in transfers, applications at 1s. 4d. and 1s. 4 1-32d. per rupee respectively receiving about 9 per cent. Next week the amount to be offered is increased to Rs. 40,00,000.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, June 13, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued ..	£ 51,803,190	Government Debt ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	33,353,190
		Silver Bullion ..	—
	£51,803,190		£51,803,190

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,555,000	Government Securities ..	£ 15,977,133
Rest ..	3,251,045	Other Securities ..	29,125,443
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	9,050,109	Notes ..	23,169,450
Other Deposits ..	42,741,064	Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,414,736
Seven Day and other Bills ..	91,544		
	£69,686,762		£69,686,762

Dated June 14, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year, June, 14.		June 6, 1906.	June 13, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,119,667	Rest ..	3,244,991	3,251,045	6,054	—
13,037,780	Pub. Deposits ..	8,577,988	9,050,109	472,121	—
41,063,584	Other do. ..	44,584,481	42,741,064	—	1,843,417
121,968	7 Day Bills ..	83,666	91,544	8,478	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
16,171,319	Gov. Securities ..	15,977,133	15,977,133	—	—
28,118,819	Other do. ..	32,041,172	29,125,443	2,915,729	—
27,605,861	Total Reserve ..	23,025,221	24,584,186	—	1,558,965
				3,402,382	3,402,382
				Increase.	Decrease.
£		£	£	£	£
28,961,800	Note Circulation ..	28,990,150	28,633,740	—	356,410
38,117,661	Coin and Bullion ..	33,565,371	34,767,926	1,202,555	—
50½ p.c.	Proportion ..	43½ p.c.	47½ p.c.	—	—
2½ "	Bank Rate ..	4 "	4 "	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £632,000 in.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.		WITHDRAWALS.	
Tuesday, Bars ..	£156,000	Tuesday, Chili ..	£11,000
Tuesday, France ..	£5,000	Wednesday, S. America..	£56,000
Tuesday, Gibraltar ..	£5,000	Wednesday, W. Indies ..	£20,000
Wednesday, Bars ..	£199,000		
Friday, Bars ..	£15,000	Nett Influx ..	£1,238,000
Friday, India ..	£945,000		
Total ..	£1,325,000	Total ..	£1,325,000

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders will be received at the Bank of England on the 18th inst. for Treasury Bills to the amount of £2,413,000 in replacement of those falling due on the 24th inst. The bills will be dated June 23, and will be payable at six months after date.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
2,413,000	12 months	June 24	2 9 0
1,500,000	6 months	July 1	3 2 6
1,000,000	6 months	July 29	2 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 12	2 10 8
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 26	2 13 8
1,500,000	6 months	Sept. 16	2 11 5
2,000,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 10 0
1,500,000	6 months	Nov. 26	3 2 2
1,500,000	—	—	—
17,213,000			

† Issued privately.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1906.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Jan.	1,361,699,000	1,233,474,000	128,225,000	—
Feb.	1,007,233,000	967,181,000	40,052,000	—
Mar.	956,082,000	900,654,000	55,428,000	—
Week ending				
April 4	284,635,000	345,370,000	—	60,735,000
" 11	266,009,000	210,801,000	55,118,000	—
" 18	182,932,000	300,087,000	—	117,155,000
" 25	230,499,000	139,973,000	90,526,000	—
May 2	281,140,000	263,265,000	17,875,000	—
" 9	231,902,000	210,041,000	21,861,000	—
" 16	293,489,000	269,214,000	24,275,000	—
" 23	209,951,000	189,194,000	20,757,000	—
" 30	201,975,000	246,087,000	—	44,112,000
June 6	267,679,000	226,581,000	41,098,000	—
" 13	202,547,000	167,465,000	35,082,000	—
	5,977,772,000	5,669,481,000	308,291,000	—

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended June 9.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
	£
Customs	562,000
Excise	414,000
Estate, &c., Duties	217,000
Stamps	70,000
Land Tax and House Duty.	10,000
Property and Income Tax ..	70,000
Post Office	650,000
Telegraphs	150,000
Crown Lands	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—
Treasury Bills (net amount)	—
Miscellaneous	11,854
Bullion advances repaid ..	—
Uganda Railway	—
Unclaimed Dividends Account	—
Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds	—
Telegraph Acts	—
Naval Works Acts	—
Military Works Acts	—
Land Registry Acts	—
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	—
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	—
Issue of Exchequer Bonds under Cunard Agreement Act	—
Ways and Means	—
Temporary Advances Deficiency	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	—
Transvaal and Orange River Colony. Repayment of Temporary Advance ..	—
Adjustment of Local Taxation payments	—
Decrease in Exchequer balances	14,087
	£2,168,941
National Debt Services ..	—
Other Consolidated Fund Charges	7,500
Payments to Local Taxation	—
Supply Services	2,161,441
Bullion Advances	—
Treasury Bills (nett amount) Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds	—
Exchequer Bonds redeemed	—
Uganda Railway	—
Military Works	—
Naval Works	—
Telegraph Acts	—
Land Registry (New Buildings)	—
Public Buildings Expenses Act	—
Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act	—
Suez Canal drawn Shares in reduction of debt ..	—
Cunard Agreement	—
Surplus Revenue, 1905-6 ..	—
Deficiency Advances repaid	—
Ways and Means Advances repaid	—
Increase in Exchequer balances	—
	£2,168,941

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris ..	chqs	25 16½	25 18	Antwerp ..	short	25 23½	25 24
Brussels ..	chqs.	25 23	25 23½	Italy ..	sight	25 15	25 15
Amsterdam ..	sight	12 13½	12 13½	Constantinople	3 mths	110 02	110 02
Berlin ..	chqs.	20 49½	20 48½	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	16½d.	16½d.
Do. ..	3 mths	20 31	20 31	Calcutta ..	T.T.	1/4	1/4
Hamburg ..	chqs.	20 48	20 47½	Bombay ..	T.T.	1/4	1/4
Frankfort ..	short	20 46	20 46½	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	2 1½	2 1½
Vienna ..	sight	24 03½	24 02½	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2 10½	2 10½
St. Petersburg.	3 mths	94 10	94 10	Singapore ..	T.T.	2 14½	2 14½
New York ..	60 dys	4 82½	4 82½	Yokohama ..	4 mths	2 10½	2 10½
Lisbon ..	sight	51½	52				
Madrid ..	sight	27 80	27 68				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.
			Last Week. Latest.
Paris ..	3	May 25, 1900.	2½ 2½
Berlin ..	4½	May 23, 1906.	3½ 3½
Hamburg ..	4½	May 23, 1906.	3½ 3½
Frankfort ..	4½	May 23, 1906.	3½ 4½
Amsterdam ..	4½	May, 1906	3½ 3½
Brussels ..	3½	May 15, 1906	3½ 3½
Vienna ..	4	June, 1906	3½ 3½
Rome ..	5	September, 1904	4 4
St. Petersburg	7½	April 17, 1906	8 8
Madrid ..	4½	August 21, 1901	4 4
Lisbon ..	5½	January 11, 1899	5 5
Stockholm ..	5	January, 1906.	4½ 4½
Copenhagen ..	5	October, 1905	4½ 4½
Calcutta ..	5	June 7, 1906	—
Bombay ..	6	May 24, 1906	—
New York call money ..	3	—	—

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	June 7, 1906.	May 31, 1906.	May 24, 1906.	June 8, 1905.
£	£	£	£	£
Coin and bullion ..	5,000,560	4,848,280	4,852,320	4,834,360
Other securities ..	23,393,080	24,626,320	23,292,000	22,973,680
Note circulation ..	26,849,040	28,483,040	27,132,600	26,036,640
Deposits ..	3,869,360	3,224,200	3,147,280	3,595,080

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	June 14, 1906.	June 7, 1906.	May 31, 1906.	June 15, 1905.
Gold in hand ..	£117,677,760	£117,833,080	£117,647,080	£114,482,160
Silver in hand ..	42,642,560	42,578,360	42,531,360	44,317,660
Bills discounted ..	27,715,800	27,949,000	38,026,560	20,050,840
Advances ..	20,411,160	20,412,840	19,801,000	18,657,360
Note circulation ..	183,602,760	184,066,160	190,879,080	173,253,920
Public deposits ..	7,427,960	6,529,400	8,633,400	9,107,360
Private deposits ..	23,369,920	23,093,040	23,759,080	21,485,480

Proportion between bullion and circulation 87½ per cent. against 86½ per cent. a week ago.

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	May 23/June 5, 1906.	May 16/29, 1906.	May 8/21, 1906.	May 23/June 5, 1905.
Gold ..	£75,907,428	£75,710,478	£73,348,857	£90,900,879
Silver and subsidiary coin ..	57,251,993	5,712,265	5,572,108	6,349,401
Advances and bills discounted ..	42,625,914	43,273,806	45,258,599	36,029,170
Securities belonging to the Bank ..	8,583,854	8,554,789	8,366,729	5,942,075
Notes in circulation ..	112,347,009	112,519,505	113,281,415	90,350,218
Deposits and current account ..	48,979,355	47,481,217	47,171,257	48,046,626
Treasury account ..	2,614,251	1,609,942	6,158,650	13,934,642

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	June 7, 1906.	May 31, 1906.	May 23, 1906.	June 7, 1905.
Cash in hand ..	£49,919,700	£50,578,400	£52,686,850	£53,839,050
Bills discounted ..	41,131,500	43,840,750	40,373,200	42,597,100
Advances on stocks ..	3,315,550	3,854,350	3,124,100	3,250,650
Note circulation ..	64,407,916	66,170,600	63,439,600	62,570,600
Public deposits ..	27,120,750	27,935,300	31,155,100	30,340,100

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	June 7, 1906.	May 31, 1906.	May 23, 1906.	June 7, 1905.
Gold Reserve ..	£46,619,208	£46,560,375	£46,649,833	£47,700,583
Silver reserve ..	12,796,083	12,850,166	12,873,958	13,086,458
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	1,695,958	1,682,541	1,537,041	1,683,875
Note circulation ..	70,709,916	71,488,875	68,680,458	64,186,875
Bills discounted ..	18,193,066	18,828,916	11,654,166	11,233,666

BANK OF ITALY (25 lire to the £).

	May 20, 1906.	May 10, 1906.	April 20, 1906.	May 20, 1905.
Reserve ..	£32,538,840	£32,633,160	£32,445,560	£26,083,320
State notes and small changed	583,640	628,680	572,560	600,040
Discount and loans ..	13,104,560	12,782,840	12,901,760	10,427,160
Public stock and State loans ..	8,372,160	8,312,400	8,300,600	9,072,480
Credits ..	6,033,200	6,062,480	5,394,080	6,065,360
Note Circulation ..	37,465,960	38,015,560	38,860,400	33,597,000
Current account ..	3,488,640	3,305,680	2,679,880	3,820,600
Deposits ..	3,816,160	3,942,840	4,199,520	3,139,640

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	June 9, 1906.	June 2, 1906.	May 26, 1906.	June 10, 1905.
Gold ..	£15,139,973	£15,136,114	£15,133,775	£14,815,956
Silver ..	24,518,836	24,550,047	24,452,477	22,076,733
Foreign Bills ..	3,463,628	3,397,955	3,473,893	1,662,286
Discount and Short Bills ..	22,574,573	22,438,251	22,124,510	46,417,878
Treasury Account ..	36,619,831	36,625,506	36,580,497	21,213,818
Notes in circulation ..	61,621,330	61,585,180	61,649,940	62,604,830
Current Account deposits ..	23,784,895	23,336,871	23,536,963	22,787,438
Dividends Interests ..	1,028,055	1,130,532	1,333,853	1,835,914
Government Securities ..	6,681,547	7,172,444	6,005,746	4,440,825

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	June 9, 1906.	June 2, 1906.	May 26, 1906.	June 10, 1905.
Specie ..	£37,426,000	£36,622,000	£36,190,000	£41,098,000
Legal tenders ..	16,363,200	16,580,000	16,779,200	17,058,600
Loans and discounts ..	211,840,000	201,308,000	209,880,000	217,900,000
Circulation ..	9,786,200	9,747,000	9,967,000	9,315,000
Net deposits ..	209,420,000	207,350,000	206,540,000	224,760,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of net deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £1,434,200 against an excess last week of £1,364,000.

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	May 31	June 7	June 12	June 14
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12' 30	12' 27	12' 23	12' 23
Do. do.	3 months	12' 50	12' 50	12' 50	12' 50
Antwerp and Brussels	3 months	25' 50	25' 47	25' 40	25' 40
Hamburg ..	3 months	20' 72	20' 71	20' 71	20' 72
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20' 72	20' 71	20' 71	20' 72
Paris ..	cheques	25' 10	25' 18	25' 18	25' 20
Do. ..	3 months	25' 38	25' 37	25' 37	25' 37
Marseilles ..	3 months	25' 40	25' 37	25' 37	25' 37
Switzerland ..	3 months	25' 47	25' 43	25' 43	25' 43
Austria ..	3 months	24' 37	24' 35	24' 33	24' 33
St. Petersburg	3 months	24	24	24	24
Moscow ..	3 months	24	24	24	24
Indian Bank Places	3 months	25' 48	25' 45	25' 42	25' 42
New York ..	60 days	48	48	48	48
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	42	41	43	43
Lisbon ..	3 months	50	50	50	50
Oporto ..	3 months	50	50	50	50
Copenhagen ..	3 months	18' 45	18' 44	18' 44	18' 44
Christiana ..	3 months	18' 46	18' 45	18' 45	18' 45
Stockholm ..	3 months	18' 46	18' 45	18' 45	18' 45

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3 1/2 - 3 3/4
Three months	3 3/4 - 3 1/2
Four months	3 1/2 - 3 1/4
Six months	3 1/4 - 3 1/2
Three months fine inland bills	3 1/2 - 3 1/4
Four months	3 1/4 - 3 1/2
Six months	3 1/2 - 4

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	4
" short loan rates	4 1/2
Bankers' rate on deposits	2 1/2
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	2 1/2
" 7 and 14 days' notice	3
Current rates for 7 day loans	2 1/2
" for call loans	2 - 2 1/2

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

It cannot be said that business improves on the Stock Exchange, and prices never remain firm long. The market seems powerless to develop energy enough to create such a semblance of activity as might attract the attention of the public, and the public remains too poor or too indifferent to play of its own accord. That being so, we do not think it necessary to enter into any examination of market affairs this week, the leading facts being set forth elsewhere. Were we satisfied that the worst has been seen of the South African financial difficulties and that the Yankees will be able to surmount the next few months without a smash up of their top-heavy market structure, we should incline to regard the present as a buying time, but there are just these visible elements of uncertainty which determine us to think that there is really no hurry; few bargains will be missed by waiting a little while. There ought to be some improvement in Home Railway stocks, because the half-year is certain to be a good one, but we cannot be sure even of that, and the only prudent policy open to those who have money to invest is to invest sparingly and in securities carefully weighed before they are bought. But the time is good even now to buy well-secured stocks, especially on a heavy market. Consols, though, are not yet a good purchase, and cannot be so while the floating debt is untouched and the nation's expenditure is so excessive.

The Week's Stock Markets.

A little excitement was created this week by the issue of the long-deferred Irish Land loan. The prospectus appeared on Tuesday, £7,000,000 being offered at the fixed price of 89. This figure compared favourably enough with the existing quotation to ensure the success of the loan, and the number of times it has been subscribed was variously estimated at three to ten. Apparently the loan was covered about nine times, and when the list was closed on Thursday at noon the premium, which had been down to 1/8, promptly rose to about 1/4. Dealers also had the fortnightly settlement to engage their attention, so that, in a sense, rather more activity than usual has been displayed, although there is no increase in the volume of genuine business. The severe drop in Rhodesian mine and other shares during the account gave rise to some apprehensions as to the outcome of the adjustment, but all difficulties were smoothed over, and pay-day passed without any open defaults. Charges for loans were decidedly easier than on the last occasion, and money brokers were frequently supplied at 4 per cent. This caused the general rate to become 4 1/4-4 1/2 per cent., and the supply of money offering was ample for all purposes. Nevertheless prices did not improve. Instead there was a steady dribble of sales by people who cannot or will not hold on any longer, and it remains to be seen how long the steady process of exhaustion can go on without leading to no end of trouble. Consols dipped sharply when the Irish loan made its appearance, the weakness being attributed to sales for exchange purposes. Existing Irish Land stock also went back, but a steadier tone set in before the end, and nearly all British Funds finished above the worst. Bank of England stock sharply recovered. Little or

nothing happened in the Corporation and Colonial stock lists, and New Zealand issues were quite unaffected by the death of Mr. Seddon. Colonial securities were carried over at 4-5 per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS (Last year's dividends are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91	88	Consols (2½ p.c. Money) ..	89½	88½
91½	89	Do. Account (July 4) ..	89½	88½
90	87½	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	88	87½
100	99	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907 ..	100	100
93½	91	Irish Land (2½) ..	89½	89½
100	98½	Local Loans (3) ..	98½	98½
100	97½	National War Loan (2½ p.c.) ..	98½	98½
99½	98½	Do. Account (July 4) ..	98½	98½
101½	98½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	98½	98½
301	284	Bk. of England Stck. (9 p.c.) ..	286½	286
106½	103½	India 3½ p.c. Stck. red. 1931 ..	103½	103½
97½	94½	Do. 3 p.c. Stck. red. 1948 ..	94½	94½
82	79½	Do. 2½ p.c. Stck. red. 1926 ..	79½	79½
66½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	65½	65½

The weakness of Russian stocks was the most noteworthy incident in the Foreign bond market. For this several reasons may be advanced. The pending special settlement, which has been fixed for next Thursday, is forcing out weak holders, and the process is hastened by the attitude of the Russian Ministry towards the Duma. Stories were also current that the Russian authorities were endeavouring to induce the Clyde shipbuilders to construct warships in exchange for bonds, and although it is highly improbable that any such transaction can be carried out, the statements helped to accentuate the depression. The new 5 per cent. loan went to a considerable discount, and all other issues were decidedly flat. The weakness, however, did not spread to the rest of the Continental list, and Spanish, Turkish, and Greeks presented a fairly firm

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
103½	101½	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886 ..	103	103½
102½	100	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	102	102
103½	100½	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	102½	103
94½	89½	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	94½	94½
93	88½	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	93	89½
93½	89½	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	90	89½
104½	101½	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres ..	101½	101½
92	86	5 p.c. Debs. ..	90	90½
102½	97½	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	99½	99½
106	103½	Do. Western of Minas Rail ..	104	104½
91½	86½	5 p.c. Funding ..	91	91½
103½	99½	Do. 5 p.c. Rly. Guarantees ..	103	103
96½	95	1902 ..	95½	95½
97½	94	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	96	96
96½	93	Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885 ..	93½	93½
101½	98½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1886 ..	101	101
100½	96½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1895 ..	99	99
105½	103½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	105½	105½
105½	102	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	102½	102½
101½	96½	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	98½	98½
105½	100½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	102½	102½
53½	50½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	51½	51½
43½	41½	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	41½	41
47½	43½	Costa Rica A ..	46	45½
108½	105½	Do. B ..	106½	106½
106½	103½	Colombian External ..	104½	104½
103	100½	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	101	101
106	103½	Egypt Unified 4 p.c. ..	103xd	103
89	87½	Do. 3½ p.c. pref. ..	86	86
54	50	Do. 4½ p.c. State Domain ..	53½	53½
54½	50	German 3 p.c. ..	53½	53½
43½	39½	Greek, 1884 ..	41	41
53	49½	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	52½	52
98½	93	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	96½	96½
105	103½	Do. Funding ..	105	105
104½	100½	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	102½xd	101½
104	100½	Italian 5 p.c. ..	101½	101½
93½	88½	Japan 5 p.c. ..	93	92½
104½	100½	Do. 1901-2 ..	102	102
105½	101½	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	103½	103½
72½	68½	Do. 6 p.c. ..	71½	72
87	81	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	81	79½
83	79½	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	83	83
98½	90½	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	95½	96½
101	100	Servian 4 p.c. ..	100½	100½
105½	102½	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	103	103½
95½	90½	Turks 3½ p.c. Tribute ..	95½	95½
74	70½	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	72	72½
98½	94½	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	95	95½
54½	50½	Uruguay 3½ p.c. ..	52	51½
		Do. 5 p.c. ..		
		Venezuelan, Dip. (3) ..		

front. Japanese issues were very moderately dealt in, and after slightly improving, became dull. Chinese kept steady, and in the South American group Brazilians were firm, and Argentines recovered from a dull start, while Peruvians relapsed after being firmer. Buenos Ayres Cédulas picked up on the statement that the German Government had been

appealed to to take some action on bondholders' behalf, but amongst Central Americans Guatemalans, Costa Ricans, and Honduras declined. Making-up prices showed a general rise of ½ to 1 in Argentines, and Brazilians were ½ to 1 higher. Chinese were also slightly better, Japanese advanced ½ to 1, Portuguese were up ½, Spanish ¾ and Turkish, Unified 1½. On the other hand, Greeks were ½ to 1 lower, Guatemalans dropped 1 and Russian Nicholas Railway 1. The South American group of securities, Chinese and Japanese were continued at 4-6 per cent. and Central Americans cost ½ per cent. more. It was not possible, however, to get a good rate on Europeans as Russians could be carried over at 1-3 per cent. and Spanish and Turkish at 2-4 per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
141½	132½	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	135	134
157½	149½	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	153	152
130½	117½	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	119½	119
120½	108½	Caledonian Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	110½	110½
80	74½	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	76½	76½
42½	34½	Do. Def. (1 p.c.) ..	35½	35
96½	88	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	87	87
89	77½	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	78½	78½
16½	14½	Chatham Ordinary ..	15½	15
44½	39	City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	42	41
69½	63½	Furness (1½ p.c.) ..	66½	66½
40½	37½	Great Central Pref. ..	37½	37½
19½	17½	Do. Def. ..	17½	17½
91½	81½	Great Eastern (3½ p.c.) ..	82½	82½
105	100½	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	102	102
47½	43½	Do. Def. (1½) ..	46	45½
144	130½	Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	132	131½
52	47	Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	47½	47½
47½	42½	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	47½	47
109½	103½	Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.) ..	105	104½
89½	65½	Metropolitan (2½ p.c.) ..	67½	67
37½	22	Metropolitan District ..	26½	25½
70½	66	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	68	68
74½	66½	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	69	68½
78½	74	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	76½	76½
47½	43	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	44½	44½
147½	138½	North-Eastern (6½ p.c.) ..	140½	141
163½	154½	North-Western (6½ p.c.) ..	157	156½
90½	86½	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	87	86
132	123	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	124	123
55½	50½	Do. Def. ..	51½	50½
164	151½	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	153½	153½
108½	103½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	104	104
57½	50½	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	51½	51½

The commencement of a new account has not been followed by any revival of activity in the Home Railway market, where dealings remain on so insignificant a scale that even the excellent traffic returns published for last week failed to influence quotations to any appreciable extent. To such a low ebb has business dwindled that the movements from day to day have rarely reached as much as 10s., and on Wednesday such utter stagnation prevailed that not a single change was recorded in the official list. On the week South-Eastern ordinary and deferred, District, and City and South London were perhaps the heaviest, but Great Western, Hull and Barnsley, and Metropolitan all lost fairly large fractions, while North Eastern was exceptionally inclined to harden. Neath and Brecon "B" debenture stock came into some prominence, and was rushed up pounds at a time, but nobody knew why. Contangos on Tuesday were decidedly easier than at the last settlement, and 6 per cent. was quite an exceptional rate except in the case of South-Eastern deferred, where the charge rose to 8 per cent. Movements on the account were mostly fractional, and about evenly divided between gains and losses. Brighton ordinary and preferred fell 1 each, South-Eastern preferred and deferred were 1 and 1½ lower, and the ordinary, together with Chatham second preference, Great Central deferred, and South-Western ordinary dropped ½, while North-Western and Lancashire and Yorkshire rose ¾. Midland issues put on ½ and ¾, and North-Eastern ½. Underground stocks were firmer on the whole, District and City and South London improving 1½, and Metropolitans 1, against declines of 1 each in Central London ordinary and deferred.

American Railroad shares have been equally uninteresting so far as our market was concerned, and even in Wall Street the efforts of the "bulls" have not met with any great measure of success. Milwaukeees were bid up smartly in an attempt to compel "bears",

to cover before the issue of "rights" in the expected new issue; and Pennsylvanias were supported for a time on a statement that the company's loan in Paris had been definitely settled. Atchison and other wheat carriers were also bought freely after the publication of the Government crop report, but the market soon sagged on realisations prompted by a rise of 2 cents in the price of corn and a revival of the rumours of damage to crops. Baltimore were taken in hand on expectations of an increase to 6 per cent. in the dividend in July, and these, with Milwaukee, were the only shares to end the week with an improvement. In the making-up list Milwaukee showed a gain of 11, Illinois Central were 7 up, and Great Northern preference and Northern Pacific rose 6 each. Wabash "B" debentures advanced 3 on the rearrangement scheme, Denver improved $3\frac{1}{2}$, Union Pacific $2\frac{1}{2}$, Louisville $2\frac{1}{2}$, and Baltimore $2\frac{1}{2}$, and Atchison common, Missouri and Kansas, Reading and Southern Pacific were from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ higher. Against these there were declines of 1 in Norfolk common, and $\frac{1}{2}$ each in Erie ordinary, Ontario and Southern preference. The account to be carried in the market was said to be lighter, and the charge for money was about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. less at $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses).	Price last week.	Price this week.
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	Atchison Shares (4) ..	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	92 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5) ..	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
120	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (5) ..	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	115 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	97	97
66 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	61	59 $\frac{1}{2}$
195 $\frac{1}{2}$	162 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	180	186
52 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	Denver Shares ..	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
52 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	Erie Shares ..	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	78	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	82	82
77	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. and Pref. (4) ..	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	73
186 $\frac{1}{2}$	171	Illinois Central (7) ..	188 $\frac{1}{2}$	186
160 $\frac{1}{2}$	143 $\frac{1}{2}$	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	155	152
41 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	Missouri and Texas ..	37	35 $\frac{1}{2}$
159 $\frac{1}{2}$	137 $\frac{1}{2}$	New York Central (5) ..	145	144 $\frac{1}{2}$
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Norfolk and Western (4) ..	91 xd	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	92	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	94	94
57 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ontario Shares (3) ..	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
75 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	Pennsylvania (6) ..	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$
75 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	Reading Shares (1 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	74	72
74 $\frac{1}{2}$	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern Pacific ..	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$
43 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	Southern ..	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	103	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
164 $\frac{1}{2}$	145 $\frac{1}{2}$	Union Pacific (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	156 $\frac{1}{2}$	154 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (4) ..	98	98
20	20	Wabash ..	22	21 $\frac{1}{2}$
53 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. ..	52	50
89 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Income Debs. ..	87	88
182 $\frac{1}{2}$	165 $\frac{1}{2}$	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	165 $\frac{1}{2}$	164 $\frac{1}{2}$
206 $\frac{1}{2}$	194	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	194 $\frac{1}{2}$	194 $\frac{1}{2}$
212	199	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	111 $\frac{1}{2}$	110 xd
29 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	28	28 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Guar. (4) ..	102	102
120	114 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	118 $\frac{1}{2}$	119
110 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	109
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 3rd Pref. (2) ..	67	67
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$

Canadian Pacific shares have been very little dealt in all the week, and except for a brief rally on Tuesday, when the market put the price up \$1 on the Hudson's Bay dividend, the tendency has been downwards. On the other hand, Grand Trunk stocks, although almost as much neglected, were steady under the influence of the traffic return, which was considerably better than had been looked for. The firmness was maintained until near the end, when quotations relapsed in sympathy with the flatness of Yankees, and changes on balance were minute. As the result of the good traffics of recent weeks the making up prices of Grand Trunk ordinary and third preference stocks showed the substantial improvements of 1 and $1\frac{1}{2}$, while Canadian Pacific shares were $\frac{1}{2}$ harder. Money was in small demand in this section, and the charge for loans rarely exceeded 5 per cent.

The statement promised by the Guayaquil and Quito Railway was issued late on Friday afternoon last, and was followed by a little buying back of the company's railway bonds on the part of those who had hastened to realise their holdings. Since then the struggle between the "bears" and their opponents has been carried on with varying fortunes, a small rally one day being followed by a relapse the next, but on the whole the "bears" have had the worst of it, and the price

finishes round about 80. Paraguay Central debenture stock has also received a little attention from buyers, and United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock further advanced £2 or so, although the volume of business in it has now shrunk to very moderate proportions. A substantial improvement, too, was recorded in Argentine Great Western ordinary stock, but otherwise this group has been quiet and uninteresting throughout. Leopoldina stock was heavy, and other South American things were dull, but a revival of the inquiry for Mexican Railway ordinary stock sent the price up a fraction or two, and the two preferences hardened in sympathy. South Austrian shares and obligations have been in demand from the Continent, and finish a trifle higher. On the account the largest movement was the decline of 10 in Guayaquil and Quito Railway bonds, and this was followed by losses of 5 in Leopoldina and $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 in Colombian National debenture issues. Amongst Argentines Buenos Ayres Pacific rose $1\frac{1}{4}$, Bahia Blanca and North-Western preference 1, and Cordoba Central second preference 2, but Buenos Ayres and Rosario stocks were from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ down, and Great Western ordinary and preference fell $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1. The stocks of the old Mexican company gained $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$, but Mexican Southern ordinary and second debenture stocks lost the larger of these fractions. United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock relapsed 1, and Midland Uruguay debenture stock 4, but Paraguay Central debenture stock put on 1, and Antofagasta ordinary $1\frac{1}{2}$, and South Austrian shares rose $1\frac{1}{2}$. Carrying-over charges on South American stocks generally and on Mexican Railways were about $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
240	211 $\frac{1}{2}$	Antofagasta (10) ..	236	238
370 $\frac{1}{2}$	313	Do. Def. (15) ..	370	370
130 $\frac{1}{2}$	116 $\frac{1}{2}$	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	117	120
132	124 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefd. (5) ..	125	125
88	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	Bahia Blanca Prefd. ..	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	86
144 $\frac{1}{2}$	136	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	137	137 $\frac{1}{2}$
129 $\frac{1}{2}$	124 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Prefe (5) ..	128	129
136 $\frac{1}{2}$	128	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	131 $\frac{1}{2}$	132 $\frac{1}{2}$
120 $\frac{1}{2}$	115 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	119	119
110 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109	110
120 $\frac{1}{2}$	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	115 $\frac{1}{2}$	116
119	109	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$
170	160 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	166	165 $\frac{1}{2}$
109	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	105	104 xd
138 $\frac{1}{2}$	129 $\frac{1}{2}$	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	132 $\frac{1}{2}$	132 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	82	Central Uruguay (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	87	88
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	105	105
96	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
75 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	73	70 xd
59 $\frac{1}{4}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	Costa Rica ..	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
71 $\frac{1}{2}$	68	Cuban Central ..	78	72
111 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Pref. (5 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	11	11
108	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	105	105
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	90	Do. Deb. (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	93	88 xd
94	6	East Argentine (4 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	84	84
86 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	Inter-oceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	76 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	75
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	Leopoldina (4) ..	98	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. Deb. (A) (6) ..	109	109
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	107	107
28 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. "B" (6) ..	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$
130 $\frac{1}{2}$	118 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	127 $\frac{1}{2}$	127 $\frac{1}{2}$
59 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 1st Pref. (6 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	55	55
68 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	61	61
16 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mexican Southern (2 $\frac{1}{2}$) ..	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$
21 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nitrate Ord. (8) ..	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$
214 $\frac{1}{2}$	202 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (5) ..	202	202
193	168 $\frac{1}{2}$	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	183 xd	184
		United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..		

Miscellaneous markets were not entirely without interest, although business continues very small. English Brewery securities were dull, but amongst foreign issues Bieckerts had a big rise in anticipation of a very favourable report. Allsopps continue to fall steadily, and a good deal of opposition to the amalgamation proposal is fairly certain to be encountered. Meux's preference shares reacted after the important rise at the end of last week, and Colchester "A" debentures dropped $3\frac{1}{2}$. Catering things were moderately good with the exception of Slaters, which became depressed owing to the death of the chairman. The close was above the worst. Sweetmeats fell a few pence on the decrease in the receipts for May, Liptons and kindred shares kept steady and Meat companies' shares continue to benefit from the Chicago meat packing disclosures. Gordon Hotels were weak. Eastman Kodak common shares have been lifted to the big price

of 280, Motor companies' shares showed some irregularity, and Gramophones were quite a good market. Nitrates were quiet, but after showing further improvement Santa Rita's reacted on profit taking. Textiles were quietly firm and Iron and Steel shares were still supported in a quiet way. Hudson's Bays rallied sharply when the dividend was announced at £3 10s. making £4 for the year, but the best price was not held, and other Land and Exploration shares were inactive. Anglo-American Telegraphs were good, and amongst Tramways B.E.T. became easier on fears

out much selling, closed to-night $1\frac{1}{2}$ discount. Fears about that navy finance operation, described in another column, and nervousness about what is going to happen between autocracy and Duma prompt selling, and just at the present moment the market has no means to spare for propping any security. A good many weak holders of the loan are clearing out before the end of the half-year. Weakness extended to Paris, whose scrip, however, is still quite £2 above ours, but stock of all kinds has been much more plentiful at the Paris mid-monthly settlement than for a long time back, and money has been 4 per cent. on securities generally carried over for nothing, or next to nothing, on the Bourse. Such weakness interferes with the projected issue of a new French loan. Prices were also flat this afternoon in the Kaffir Circus, in spite of a little buying from Paris. No support was given here, and the Rand Mines dividend, declared this morning, is hardly big enough to recoup speculative holders their contango money. As for East Rand Proprietary, the parent company frankly admits its inability to issue shares, and has taken the profits of three of its subsidiaries, the Angelo, the Driefontein and the New Comet, for capital purposes instead of paying the expected dividends. All this had a depressing influence, but there was rather more business doing to-day than any other day this week. Dock stocks should be helped by the announcement made to-night that a working arrangement has been effected between the London and India Docks Company and Millwall Dock Company, and the Surrey Commercial Dock Company, in virtue of which the excessive competition of the last few weeks will now cease.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

* * Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

On the opening of the market last Monday dealers had the business of the carry-over to arrange, but the open account was, as it has been for long, of trifling volume, so it did not tax their energies overmuch. On the generality of South Africans the contango was again called 6—7 per cent., but this was quite a nominal figure, for lenders had difficulty even in getting 6 per cent. In the diamond section, De Beers and Jagers were both carried over at 4—5 per cent., whilst on Premiers the rate opened at 5 per cent., weakened to 3 per cent., and at the end hardened to 6—7 per cent., which was the ruling charge on Rhodesians, Chartered being continued at about the higher figure. On West Africans, Egyptians, and West Australians the prevailing rate was 6—8 per cent., but amongst the last mentioned the exceptions were 5—7 per cent. on Associated, Great Fingalls, and Oroya-Brownhill, and 5—6 per cent. on Golden Horseshoe. Sons of Gwalia were at first carried over "even," and 2 per cent., but later were quoted $\frac{3}{4}$ d.— $\frac{1}{4}$ d. "back."

The South African making-up list exhibited, of course, several big falls, the heaviest being 3½ on Premier Diamond deferred, which fell on sales by a "big pot" in the African magnate "group said to be in trouble." The other losses included ½ in South African Gold Mines and Tanganyikas, $\frac{7}{8}$ in Gedulds and Modderfonteins, ¾ in South African Gold Trust, 13-32 in "Bankets" and Rhodesia Explorations, 11-32 in H. E. Props, ¼ in Apex, Central Minings, Crown Deep, East Rand Mining Estate, Geldenhuis Deep, Northern Copper, Wolhuter, and Zambesia Exploring, and ⅞ in Gold Fields, East Rand Proprietary, Welgedacht Exploration, New Comet, Driefontein Consolidated, and Langlaagte Estate. There were several small losses in West African and Egyptian things, but in the Westralian group, on the other hand, there were two or three good gains, such as ⅞ in Kalgurli and 3-32 each in Lake View Consols and Ivanhoes. Amongst copper shares Rio Tintos rose 13½, Anacondas ¼, and Capes ⅞.

For the new account prices suddenly took an upward turn, not because a shade more genuine business was done, but because dealers merely marked them higher on the plea that the output for May was "a doocid fine record." This was an effort, too, directed to the squeezing of the "bears," one that partially and temporarily succeeded. For the advance was maintained for nearly two days, that is, on the afternoon of Monday and on Tuesday morning. In the afternoon of Tuesday prices commenced to give way, and though they were better in several instances than those of the preceding day, they did not close at the best. Wednesday saw an all-round recession, which has continued, so experience has repeated itself, and this incident has to be numbered amongst the numerous "false starts" in the

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.	
21	16	18	Allsopp Ordinary	19	16
51	44	—	City of London Ord. ..	45½	45½
551	533	—	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	540	550
192	168	—	Ohlsson's Cape (40) ..	17	17
51/3	40/7½	—	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22) ..	2½	2½
61/3	49/6	—	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	2½	2½
56	48	48½	Watney, Combe, Pf. Or. St. (4) ..	48½	48½
99½	92½	—	London & Ind. Docks Pf. St. (4) ..	94	94
6½	5½	6½	Aerated Bread (32½) ..	6½	6½
7½	6½	7	Apollinaris Ord. (5) ..	7	7
27½	21/3	25/3	Ass'd. Portland Cement Pf. (5½) ..	28	28
45½	40½	—	Bradford Dyers Ord. (7) ..	1½	1½
7½	5½	—	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	1½	1½
11½	10½	—	Brunner Mond (35) ..	5½ xd	5½
14/3	11/6	13/10½	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½) ..	11	11
58	5½	5½	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½) ..	1½	1½
500	482½	495	Coats Ordinary (20) ..	5½	5½ xd
26/9	19/9	25/3	Do. Pref. Ord. (20) ..	490	480 xd
25/6	22/9	25/3	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil) ..	1½	1½
6½	6	5½	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4) ..	1½ xd	1½
13½	12½	—	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	6	5½
89/1½	78/9	4½	Henley's Telegraph (15) ..	12½	12½
27/6	26½	27/3	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	4½	4½
108½	106½	108	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½) ..	18½	18½
24/3	20/6	1½	Do. Debenture (4½) ..	108	108
6½	5½	5½	Lipton Ordinary (7) ..	1½	1½
34½	22/6	26½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30) ..	5½	5½ xd & b
15/6	10/7½	8	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	1½	1½
7½	6½	—	Russian Petroleum ..	6½	6½
18½	13/9	1½	Savoy Hotel (5) ..	32	32
16½	14½	—	Sweetmeat Automatic ..	15	15
12/6	10/6	—	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10) ..	15	15
19½	17/3	—	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	10 xd	10 xd
103½	102½	103½	Do. Pref. Stock (6) ..	103½	104
92½	80½	84½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4) ..	86	85½
54½	42½	52½	Hudson's Bay Co. (58½) ..	51½	51½
110½	105½	105½	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. Pf. (1½) ..	105½	105½
9½	9	—	Do. Debentures (6) ..	9	9
13½	11½	—	National Discount (10) ..	11½	11½
6½	5	4½	Union Discount (11) ..	11½	11½
11½	10½	10½	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8) ..	10½	10½
104½	95½	—	City of London Elect. Ord. (6) ..	104½	104½
133½	125½	—	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (48) ..	97½	97½
66/3	58/6	3	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	128	128
85½	75½	48½	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	3	3
28/6	25/7½	38½	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	4	4
31/9	30/9	—	Brown, J. & Co. Ordinary (10) ..	13½	13½
14	12	12	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½) ..	13½	13½
47½	38½	42½	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3½) ..	12	12
117	107½	109½	United States Steel Ordinary ..	42½	42½
57½	49/9	2½	Do. Preference (7) ..	109½	108½
158	138	—	Vickers Ordinary (12½) ..	28	28
241	235	—	Cunard Steam ..	15	15
59½	57	—	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13) ..	23½ xd	23½
9	7½	—	Royal Mail ..	58 xd	58
115½	109½	114½	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5) ..	8½ xd	8½
27½	16½	26	Anglo-American Telegraph—	114½	114½
150½	143	145	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½) ..	26½	26½
15½	14½	14½	Do. Def. Ord. ..	144½	144½
113½	108½	109	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7) ..	142	142
14½	14½	14½	National Extension (7) ..	109	109
8½	6½	7½	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	142	142
9½	6½	7	Western Telegraph (7) ..	142	142
117	83½	—	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6) ..	7½	7½
10	8½	—	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8) ..	7½	7½
			London General Omnibus (7) ..	86½	86½
			London United Trams Pref. (5) ..	9½	9½

that the pending dividend announcement will not show more than 3 or 4 per cent. on the ordinary. British Westinghouse £5 preference shares dropped nearly £1 in the week, and are now down to 25s. The only incident in the Docks list was the heavy fall of 12 in Millwall 4½ per cent. preference, the stocks of the company being practically unsaleable. Carry-over rates were much the same, but making-up prices were mostly adverse. Gordon Hotels ordinary and preference fell ½ and ¾, Hope Brothers ordinary relapsed ½, New Explosives ½, Underground Electric notes 2½, Allsopps 1 to 4, Ebbw Vale Steel ½, Anglo "A" 1½ and Standard Bank of South Africa 1. B.E.T. ordinary however, made up ½ better, Eastmans rose ½, Niger Company's shares 1½, Santa Rita Nitrate 2, Bieckert's Brewery ordinary 1 and Eastern Telegraph stock 1.

The malarial calm of stock markets was disturbed to-day by the weakness of Russian scrip, which, with-

Kaffir Circus of the past few years. The following dividends have been declared, but have not assisted the market:—

	Dividends.	Issued Capitals.	Amount.	Approximate Yield.*
	Per Cent.	£	£	
New Heriot	15	115,000	17,250	10
May Consols	22½	288,750	64,958	18
Nigel	15	223,100	33,465	13½
Bonanza	22½	200,000	45,000	90
City and Suburban	6½	1,360,000	85,000	12½
Van Ryn	10	500,000	50,000	6½
Geldenhuis Deep	20	300,000	60,000	6½
Rose Deep	10	425,000	42,500	5½
Crown Deep	40	300,000	120,000	6½
Robinson Central Deep	35	440,000	154,000	13
Meyer and Charlton	30	100,000	30,000	14
Rand Mines	10	490,000	58,000	9½
Geldenhuis Estate	40	200,000	80,000	21½
Robinson	9	2,750,000	247,500	11
Ferreira	150	95,000	142,500	16
			1,660,173	

* Calculated on the rate of dividend per annum.

Premier Diamonds have again fluctuated considerably during the week, the "bears" at first having the best of it. Rumour subsequently stated that one of the biggest "bears" was in difficulties, and that a syndicate had been formed to protect the "bulls," but whether from this or another cause, the price has shown greater steadiness.

Rhodesians have been weak with Kaffirs, after a brief improvement, and all other sections have been neglected, including the copper, which has been quieter than usual.

TRANSVAAL GOLD OUTPUT.—The bosses can boast of another "record" gold output, the production for May being the highest so far established for the Transvaal, a height achieved, too, despite the fact that less blacks were employed. The total, as advised by the Chamber of Mines, amounted to 461,202 ozs., of a value of £1,959,062, and of this the Witwatersrand contributed 441,936 ozs. Compared with April these figures show increases of 21,959 ozs. in weight and of £93,277 in value, whilst the previous highest yield is exceeded by 17,479 ozs. This is a real improvement, as the daily record was 14,877 ozs., compared with 14,641 ozs., or 236 ozs. more. The labour returns showed a nett loss of 233 natives, the total at work at the end of May being 78,682. Did the extra yield per diem cover the cost of the extra Chinamen?

DRIEFONTEIN CONSOLIDATED MINES.—An average of 145 stamps crushed 233,735 tons last year—for a total yield of 104,614 ozs. of fine gold of a value of £445,209. The cost of getting it was £277,694, so the mine profit was £167,515. Compared with 1904 there was a saving of nearly 11d. per ton in the costs, but a decrease of over 5s. 3d. per ton in the profit, owing to a fall of 6s. 2d. per ton in the yield of the ore. This decline is attributed to the poor zone in the mine having to be drawn upon in order to supply ore for the mill. When this is passed through the directors hope future profits will equal those of the past. A sum of £127,033 was brought from 1904, and out of the total of £295,372 two dividends aggregating 22½ per cent. were paid, absorbing £140,625, and after deducting taxes, &c., £14,268 is carried forward. The financial position is strong enough, but the mining results must be considered disappointing and unsatisfactory for the reasons explained.

ANGELO GOLD MINES.—In the financial year ending December 31 146,867 tons were crushed and produced 85,651 ozs. of fine gold, realising £364,412, which gave a profit of £165,188, equal to 22s. 6d. per ton. Whilst working costs were reduced by close on 1s. per ton, the profit fell off by nearly 4s. 6d. per ton. The increase in the costs is officially attributed to the introduction of Chinese. After deducting £5,617 as the cost of the hire of the New Comet mill, the nett profit was £159,796, to which has to be added £183,953 from the 1904 accounts. This gave an available balance of £343,749, and the two dividends paid totalled 31½ per cent., requiring £146,563, and £24,834 is carried forward, after paying taxes, &c. The new mill of 220 stamps is practically completed. Officially, the falling off in the value of the ore is accounted for by the disposition of the stope faces, and the shortage in development which does not admit of poor or rich stopes being laid off during temporary fluctuations of the average grade. The balance-sheet shows the company to be in possession of a goodly amount of wealth, but shareholders must hope for higher dividends upon an improvement of the ore in depth.

NEW COMET GOLD MINING COMPANY.—An average of 107 stamps ran during 1905, and milled 169,887 tons of ore, at a cost of £223,803, equal to 26s. 4d. per ton. The total yield was 68,289 ozs. of a value of £290,416, or 34s. 2½d. per ton, leaving a profit of £66,613, equal to 7s. 10d. per ton. Compared with the previous year a reduction of 7s. 6d. per ton was effected in the working costs, whilst the average yield in fine gold per ton milled showed a trifling increase. A dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent. was paid, involving the sum of £37,500, and after transferring £36,301 to the balance-sheet as capital expenditure to December 31, in excess of the working capital provided, a credit of £16,680 is carried forward, inclusive of the sums brought in. The position of the mine, says the manager, has shown a distinct improvement during the year, and in the near future it will be able to supply higher grade ore than at present. Current liabilities are trifling, and the company can display as much as £79,315 in cash.

CASON GOLD MINES.—This company did not reach the crushing stage until recently, so the accounts still show no revenue

from gold winning. In fact, the directors as yet publish no profit and loss account, the expenditure being capitalised. In the 12 months ending December 31 this amounted to £9,139 against £308 received from interest, raising the total excess outlay on working capital account to date, £37,583. The sum against sundry creditors is £42,036, and cash is only £18,364, so dividends are hardly possible for some time to come. The guarantors took up the 68,295 reserve shares during the year, the funds being required as equipment was pushed forward, and the question of providing further money is said to be under consideration.

CINDERELLA GOLD MINING COMPANY.—Revenue in 1905 consisted of £176 from interest and £70 from rents, and as the expenditure was £561, the debit was increased to £2,465. Liabilities are only £12, and cash is £6,509.

NEW BLUE SKY GOLD MINING COMPANY.—Last year rents yielded £304 and the outgoings, with interest, absorbed £5,537, the deficit of £5,233 raising the debit balance to £64,980. The indebtedness to the East Rand Proprietary Mines amounts now to £78,783. In view of the proposed flotation into a new company of the company's claims, together with those of the Cinderella Gold Mining Company, and a number of claims of the East Rand Proprietary Mines, the ground has been exploited as a whole, but shortage of labour is said to have restricted development.

H. F. COMPANY.—The only income in 1905 was £38 from interest, and the debit was raised from £121 to £1,059. Cash and cash assets show a surplus of £2,134 over the liabilities.

NEW STEYN ESTATE GOLD MINES.—The revenue for the financial year to the end of December last from interest, rents and dividends amounted to £12,153, whilst the expenditure was £6,075, leaving a nett profit of £6,077. Adding to this the balance of £97,867 from 1904, the big credit of £103,944 is taken to the new account. The directors have little of importance to say in their report, as no active work has been undertaken on the property. Cash amounts to £187,384, and there are sundry shares valued at cost £138,760, including a substantial holding in that other deep level Albu company, the Cinderella Deep. The report says:—"Having regard to the intention of your directors to commence mining operations as soon as conditions permit and the desirability of keeping a large cash balance in hand for this purpose, it has not been thought advisable to invest the remainder of the funds in the purchase of additional securities."

ROODEPOORT UNITED MAIN REEF GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This Albu outcrop company ran 70 stamps last year out of 110, and these crushed 109,301 tons of ore for a yield of gold to the value of £208,274, equal to £1 18s. 1.3d. per ton. Working costs amounted to £146,318 at an average of £1 6s. 9.2d. per ton, leaving a mining profit of £61,956, equivalent to 11s. 4.03d. per ton. There was a slight fall in the yield from 9.73 dwts. per ton, to 9 dwts. per ton. Rents, commissions, and licences added £2,233 to the profit, and a balance of £59,169 was brought in. This gave a disposable sum of £133,891, out of which a dividend was paid at the rate of 10 per cent., and after deducting interest, profit tax, &c., £99,370 remains to be carried forward. It is to be noted that though development redemption is charged to revenue, depreciation is debited to the reserve fund. No dividend was distributed for the second half of the year for the reason we explained some time ago—the cost of engaging and housing Chinese labour. The directors say they could not get enough blacks, so they had to employ Chinese or suspend crushing—at any rate, postpone the starting of the new 40 stamps. And in California "pound ore," with labour costing 10s. per diem as a minimum, can be made to yield good dividends!

AKROKERRI (ASHANTI) MINES.—The report and accounts cover a period of 18 months, from July 1, 1904, to the end of last December. Milling was carried on during 11½ months, in which time 18,270 tons of ore were treated. Bullion sales, including estimated value of the bullion in transit, fetched £90,560, registration fees brought in £145, and interest, discount, &c., £154, making a total income of £90,858. Expenditure, including development redemption, depreciation, and debenture interest amounted to £81,986, so the nett profit was £8,872. This is one of the best West African reports we have seen for some time, both from the point of view of mining results and the financial policy, and we can only hope this late and partial success will be followed up by something better. The nett profit, it may be mentioned, is subject to the payment of a royalty of 5 per cent. to the Gold Coast Government, as well as to the assessment of income-tax. Cash amounts to £15,767, and liberally covers the current liabilities. So far only 20 stamps have been at work out of the 40 erected, and it is hoped the extra 20 will be ready for operations at the end of the present year or the beginning of next.

MOUNT LYELL MINING AND RAILWAY COMPANY.—The quantity of ore broken from this company's mines in the six months to March 31 was 210,030 tons, or 3,881 tons more than in the preceding six months. Smelting and converting operations resulted in an output of 4,621 tons of blister copper, containing 4,565 tons of copper, 374,762 ozs. of silver, and 12,342 ozs. of gold. The revenue amounted to £470,941, including £14,246 from the railway traffic and the working profit was £115, and the nett profit £255,048, after deducting administration and other expenditure. A dividend of 1s. 3d. per share and a bonus of 9d. per share were paid. Out of this £25,000 is put to the reserve fund, and £11,700 to other funds, leaving as much as £414,290 to carry forward, inclusive of £315,341 brought in. As usual, an exceedingly strong balance-sheet is issued. The profit is the highest earned by the new

company, which has benefited in the half-year from the high price of the metal.

KALGOORLIE ELECTRIC POWER AND LIGHTING CORPORATION.—Greater progress was made by this company in the twelve months ending December 31 than in preceding years, but, after all, it is still very slow, and prosperity seems far off. The gross revenue amounted to £20,446, and the profit was £14,630, increased to £15,449 with the sum brought in. Arrears of dividend are paid on the preferred shares to December, 1900, which take £3,363, and after reserving £6,750 for depreciation a balance of £5,336 is left to carry forward. The directors have very little to say upon the business done—merely that a further unit is being installed, that a new agreement with the Kalgoorlie Electric Tramways has been concluded for an extended period, and that other contracts have been made. A good balance-sheet is presented.

ZINC CORPORATION.—This company was formed last year for the purpose of acquiring a large tonnage of mill tailings, and the option of purchasing further quantities under favourable contracts with four of the principal Broken Hill companies. A contract has also been made for the sale of zinc concentrates with Aaron Hirsch and Sohn. This provides for the sale of from 10,000 to 20,000 tons of zinc concentrates during the current year, from 20,000 to 40,000 tons during 1907, and 40,000 tons per annum from 1908 to 1911, inclusive. The accounts deal with the results of the first half-year to February 13, and as the expenditure totalled £4,869 against an income of £370, there was a loss of £4,499, which is likely to be increased before the company can hope to earn profits.

NEW CRAVEN'S CALEDONIA GOLD MINING COMPANY.—During the half-year ending March 9 tributaries raised 336 tons for 481 ozs. of gold, worth £1,543, and residues realised £210. Receipts from tributaries totalled £429 against an expenditure of £1,351. The accounts show a small credit balance of £77, and prospects look rather dark.

QUEENSLAND GOLD RETURNS.—The Queensland gold returns for the month of May were:—Charters Towers, 18,300 ozs.; Croydon, 3,000 ozs.; Gympie, 8,800 ozs.; Mount Morgan, 11,100 ozs.; Ravenswood, 3,300 ozs.; other fields, 3,700 ozs.; alluvial, 1,400 ozs.; total, 48,600 ozs.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANY.

This company's capital expenditure during the half-year ended December 31 exceeded a crore of rupees, a very heavy sum even for an undertaking of such magnitude. No less than Rs. 52,47,513 went for rolling stock and works on the open line, while Rs. 57,21,263 was for extensions not yet open for traffic. Unfortunately this great outlay was not accompanied by an increase in revenue receipts for the six months, the company's experience being quite contrary to that of other lines. Gross earnings were Rs. 3,78,38,652 or Rs. 8,72,854 less than in the corresponding period, but the working expenses were heavier by Rs. 10,41,280 at Rs. 1,36,47,557, so that the net revenue shows the very considerable drop of Rs. 19,14,134 at Rs. 2,41,91,095. Ratio of working expenditure to gross revenue is larger by 3.51 per cent. at 36.07, probably a healthy increase. The number of passengers carried, excluding season ticket holders, was larger by 725,043, and the revenue therefrom showed an improvement of Rs. 6,74,633. There was some falling off in the receipts from coaching traffic interchanged with other lines, partly due to the fact that in the corresponding period a large military traffic augmented the receipts, and partly to the opening of the Agra-Delhi Chord line, which has tended to divert traffic that formerly came on to the East Indian at Agra and Delhi. From all descriptions of coaching traffic the earnings were Rs. 1,22,32,256, the highest yet recorded, and an increase of Rs. 6,55,269 over the receipts of the corresponding period of 1904. This increase, which was almost entirely in the third-class traffic, was general all over the system, and is attributed to the greater facilities for travelling which are now afforded to this class of passenger, to the reduction in the fare for long distances, and to the season being auspicious for pilgrimages. Goods earnings, however, show a nett decrease of Rs. 15,81,376, the chief declines being in wheat 14½ lakhs, seeds 9½ lakhs, sugar 1½ lakhs, and cotton piece goods 1 lakh. The advances were in coal 1½ lakhs, cotton 1¾ lakhs, rice 2½ lakhs, and miscellaneous 3½ lakhs. The aggregate tonnage in merchandise and coal, including stores and materials carried for the undertaking, was 5,901,849, or the comparatively small drop of 36,004 tons, against the corresponding period; but under general merchandise carried for the public, excluding military and revenue stores and coal, there was a decrease in weight of 219,078 tons, or over 10 per cent. Aggregate coal traffic was larger by 14,028 tons only, so that the company's own tonnage must have been much heavier. Traffic interchanged with foreign lines was less by 616,471 tons, the falling off being entirely in the inwards traffic, principally in coal from the Bengal Nagpur and in general merchandise from the Bengal and North-Western, and the Oudh and Rohilkhand railways due to poor crops. Regarding the heavy decline in wheat, the directors point out that in the second half of 1904 the traffic in this staple was enormous, when owing

to large crops and a good demand for export an unprecedented traffic was carried. In 1905 the circumstances were quite the reverse. As mentioned in the last report, the cold in the early part of 1905 severely damaged the crops, the result being a very poor return. Damage to crops was also responsible for the heavy decline in the traffic in oil seeds. Net revenue account shows a surplus of Rs. 78,00,570, divisible between the Government and the company, the company's share of which, after deducting Indian income-tax, is Rs. 8,39,868. This has produced £55,950, which, together with the amount brought forward, &c., enables the board to recommend a dividend for the six months at the rate of 17s. 3d. per cent. on the deferred annuity capital and class "D" stocks, making for the whole year £5 18s., against £6 2s. for 1904. Fresh arrangements have been made for the working of the South Behar Railway.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY COMPANY.

For the second half of 1905 the gross revenue of this great system was Rs. 2,78,59,536, or an increase of Rs. 17,04,796 over the corresponding period of the previous year. Allowing for the comparatively small advance of Rs. 4,30,191 to Rs. 1,49,49,968 in the working expenditure, there is an improvement in the net revenue of Rs. 12,74,605 at Rs. 1,29,09,568. The steady development which has characterised the coaching traffic during the last few years has been well maintained during the period under review, the receipts from ordinary passenger business, excluding season tickets, troops and police, being up Rs. 8,30,703, in consequence of carrying 1,425,588 more travellers. All classes of traffic contributed to these good figures, but third-class did best, as usual, and we may attribute the increase partly to the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Bombay and partly to the fact that the entire length of the Agra-Delhi Chord railway 120 miles, was worked for the complete half-year as against the section, Delhi to Kosi, 62½ miles, for only the last six weeks of the corresponding period. In July last the issue of week-end tickets between some of the most important stations was introduced, and the extent to which the public have availed themselves of the privilege has proved so satisfactory that a further extension to other stations is contemplated. We are very glad to hear this, because although travelling in India appears cheap enough, it is not so relatively, and the fares are often beyond the means of the impoverished and half-starved native. The pilgrim traffic was also greater than usual, and we gather that steps are taken to render the travelling easy and free from anxiety. All which it is a pleasure to put on record, because India's railways have not always been conducted in the interests of the people who have to bear the burden. Troops and police yielded rather less, but season tickets, luggage, parcels, &c., special trains, and miscellaneous, and extra Post Office services all yielded more, so that the total coaching revenue was larger by Rs. 10,31,225. Under goods there was an increase in the quantity handled of 239,323 tons at 2,494,845 tons, leading to a rise in revenue of Rs. 7,07,961. Public merchandise provided an additional revenue of Rs. 8,03,982, and there was a fair increase in the live stock traffic, but company's materials for construction and revenue stores each went down. The decreases, however, are not of consequence, as the company's own traffic is probably carried at cost price. Telegraph receipts were a little better, and sundries went back rather sharply. Both goods and passenger earnings were the highest ever reached for the second half of the year. The principal increases for the period now being reviewed were in cotton, coal, iron, and steel, and manganese ore. The cotton receipts are the highest since the amalgamation, being nearly 50 per cent. more than those of the corresponding six months of 1904. This increase is due not so much to a larger crop as to the active demand for export, chiefly to Europe, stimulated by the high prices ruling, and to the greater requirements of the local mills in the neighbourhood of Bombay. There was also an increase in the number of ginning mills opened in the cotton growing districts, which enabled the cotton to be despatched to Bombay earlier than has hitherto been the case. Larger through bookings from the Nizam's State and Bombay-Baroda Railways, following on the adoption of the new minimum rates authorised by the Railway Board, were responsible for the higher coal traffic. A big demand was experienced for imported sugar, notwithstanding the good crops in the united provinces, which annually produce more than half the sugar cane crop of India. And the advance under iron and steel was due to large consignments from Bombay of machinery for mills and ginning factories in the vicinity of up-country stations on the Nagpur branch, and the Indian Midland section. Traffic in manganese improved about 58 per cent., both in quantity and earnings. Under all heads showing increases there was an aggregate gain of Rs. 20,23,586, but on the other hand we have decreases under other items totalling Rs. 21,19,604. Wheat, linseed, rape and mustard and various oil seeds showed the principal declines due in all cases to crop failure caused by scarcity of rain. Ratio of working expenses to revenue was 53.66 per cent. against 55.52 per cent., and while most of the items were larger only carriage and wagon and traffic expenses went up to an important extent, due, in the one case, to heavier renewals and in the other to the greater traffic handled. A rather important decrease under special and miscellaneous was due to the smaller amount paid for hire and demurrage. After deducting from the net revenue of Rs. 1,29,09,568 the sum of Rs. 6,47,205, due to State lines, there remains a balance of Rs. 1,22,62,363, against which has to be set the amount of Rs. 1,04,04,780 for fixed charges under the contract, leaving a surplus of Rs. 17,67,782 to be carried forward to the next half-year, when the complete statement for the year is made up for the determination of surplus profits in accord-

ance with the provisions of the contract. The surplus exceeds that of the corresponding half of 1904 by the very satisfactory sum of Rs.8,94,089. Capital expenditure for the half-year was Rs.23,14,086, and a good deal of additional outlay is contemplated in connection with a proper installation of signals and interlocking at stations, important additions to the engine and rolling stock, and the provision of automatic brakes to the goods stock. Steady progress is reported with various extensions and other works.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY COMPANY, ANNUITY BRANCH.

For the half-year ended June 30, 1905, the net sum received on account of the annuity payment was £611,796, of which £116,636 was payable to annuitants Class "A" and £347,292 to annuitants Class "B," after deducting the sinking fund at 5s. 8d. in the £, or £145,301. A further £1,985 was absorbed by management expenses, and pensions required £581. In the second half of the year the annuity was a trifle larger at £611,930, owing to a smaller charge for income-tax, and after providing £116,653 for "A" class, £347,365 for the "B," £145,301 for the sinking fund, and £1,986 for management, a few pounds more at £625 is provided for pensions. Coming to the sinking fund accounts we find that for the last-named period there was a receipt of £20,551 for interest and £3 was brought forward, making, with the sinking fund allowance of £145,301, a total of £165,855. Of this £10,430 has been invested in India 3 per cent., £65,587 in "B" annuities of the railway, an excellent method of using the money, and £89,784 in Great Western Railway 4 per cent. debenture stock, leaving £53. This sum is brought into the account for the period from January 1 to May 31, making, with the sinking fund, interest, &c., a total of £168,391, which was used as follows:—India 3 per cent. £7,976, Great Indian Peninsula Railway "B" annuities £109,522, Great Western Railway 4 per cent. debenture stock £12,666, and North Eastern Railway 3 per cent. debenture stock £38,179. The balance remaining is £46. Up to May 31 the total sum invested on account of the "B" annuity sinking fund was £1,728,788, and the more the total grows the more we wonder what will happen when the capital which this sinking fund is designed to make good falls due for payment.

INDIAN MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY.

The separate accounts of this company which is worked as part of the G.I.P. system, show that the gross revenue amounted to Rs.48,80,465, or Rs.2,75,288 more than in the corresponding period. On the other hand the working expenditure rose Rs.62,049 to Rs.26,18,952, so that the net earnings are up nearly two lakhs to Rs.22,61,512. Ratio of expenditure to income is, of course, the same as on the working company. Earnings from coaching traffic show an increase of Rs.1,27,835, ordinary passenger business contributing Rs.1,22,985. Troops and police gave a good deal less, owing to a reduction in the number of troop trains run, but luggage and parcels, special trains, and miscellaneous all gave fairly substantial increases. Increase in the earnings from goods traffic was Rs.1,51,399, the principal gains being in coal for the public, raw cotton, jawar and bajra, public railway materials, til or jinjili, and refined sugar. There were, however, decreases in wheat, linseed, rape, and mustard seed, ghee and sugar unrefined. Working expenditure is calculated on the basis of the gross receipts, increases taking place in maintenance and carriage and wagon and traffic expenses, while locomotive outlay, general charges, and special and miscellaneous expenses absorbed less. For the opening half of 1905 the nett earnings were short of the amount required to pay the interest charges for the half-year by Rs.1,43,077, and for the period under review there was a shortage of Rs.4,90,567, making the deficiency for the whole year Rs.6,42,645. Consequently no surplus profits are available for division on account of the 12 months.

BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

During the half-year ended December 31 this company renewed £400,000 3 per cent. extension debentures for a period of five years, allowing a discount of $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. in some cases in substitution of commission. This discount meant a slight decrease in the amount of capital raised, but a further sum of £186,865 was advanced by the Secretary of State, and the total capital outstanding at the date of the accounts was £19,100,355. Expenditure for the past six months was £426,947, raising the total to £18,713,378, the balance of the capital being represented by stores and other amounts in suspense. Gross revenue receipts amounted to Rs.1,11,19,316, or Rs.23,21,337 more than in the corresponding period, while the working expenses were up only Rs.4,77,583 to Rs.52,85,126, leaving the nett earnings higher by the large sum of Rs.18,43,754 at Rs.58,34,190. Number of passengers carried increased by 429,874, and the revenue received rose Rs.2,29,011, all classes contributing to the improved figures. Quantity of goods handled showed an advance of 220,622 tons, and the rise in income of Rs.19,68,439 was no less than 47 per cent. Substantial increases were shown in nearly every item, the largest being in coal, cotton, myrabolams, wheat and wheat flour, grain and pulse, jute, iron and steel and other metals, largely manganese, til or jinjili, spices and timber. On the other hand the decreases were few in number and small in amount, the principal being fruits and fresh vegetables, linseed, rape and mustard seeds, paper and paste board. With the exception of maintenance, all the expenditure items showed moderate increases, but they were small compared with the gross gain, and the ratio between outgo and income was down by 7.11 per cent. to 47.53 per cent. Nett earnings for the year 1905 have exceeded the guaranteed interest, and the surplus profit payable to the company amount to Rs.6,49,728, which has been increased to Rs.6,63,735 by the collection of part of the outstand-

ing amounts. In sterling this sum produced £44,096, and £4,121 was brought forward, making £48,217. The directors recommend a dividend for the whole of 1905 of 1 per cent., in addition to the guaranteed interest of 2 per cent. for the half-year, leaving £18,217 to be carried forward.

SOUTHERN MAHARATTA RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

This company's gross earnings for the second half of 1905 were Rs.54,92,757, or an increase of Rs.6,12,147 over the corresponding period, and as the expenditure was actually Rs.1,45,566 smaller at Rs.34,35,240, the nett earnings show the great improvement of Rs.7,57,733 at Rs.20,57,517. An additional Rs.3,05,633 came from the passenger traffic, as the result of an advance of 723,154 in numbers and the goods traffic yielded Rs.2,97,839 more at Rs.32,35,063. Total tonnage was 657,054 against 602,252. Principal increases were in grains other than wheat, sugar, dyes and tans, and miscellaneous. A small gain under metals is attributable to the carriage of manganese ore, a new source of revenue. The only decreases of importance were in cotton, oil and oil seeds and provisions. The decline in expenditure was mainly due to a much smaller outlay on maintenance, not always a good sign, and we find that the railway was worked at 62.54 per cent. of the gross earnings against 73.37 per cent. The company's quarter share of the nett earnings of the Southern Mahratta and Mysore State Railways amounted to Rs.4,22,606, which has realised £28,229, and the directors propose a dividend of 15s. per cent. for the current half-year. In addition to the £1 15s. due from the Government making a total of 2½ per cent. Under the company's contract the Secretary of State for India is entitled to give notice on or before June 30 next of his intention to determine the present working contract. In that case he will, a year later, pay off at par the company's capital stock of £3,500,000 assuming at the same time the direct responsibility for the debentures and other liabilities. But the directors would very much like to continue the administration of the undertaking under the new contract, and refer to the success under the present staff. Should the present arrangement be terminated the last dividend will be payable in July, 1907, and as soon as possible after that date proprietors will be asked to authorise a final distribution from the reserve fund, which at present stands at £90,022.

CORDOBA CENTRAL RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

This undertaking makes a fairly creditable display for the 12 months ended December 31. On the original line the gross receipts amounted to \$1,831,431 or \$32,680 more than in the previous year. Working expenses, however, went up \$47,219 to \$800,108, leaving the nett earnings rather less at \$1,031,322. In sterling this means a drop of about £2,000 to £90,721. The Central Northern section shows gross receipts of \$4,003,427, an increase of \$416,141, while the working expenses were larger by \$353,082 at \$2,791,688, meaning a rise in the nett earnings of \$63,059 to \$1,211,738. Sterling receipts were larger by about £800. Coming finally to the North-West Argentine extension we find an increase in the gross receipts of \$181,085 to \$1,150,335, compared with a rise in the expenditure of \$31,462 to \$623,377, so that the nett revenue shows the very considerable gain of \$149,623 to \$526,958, the sterling equivalent being up £12,914 to £46,195. The rate of exchange has remained steady at 20.952 pence per dollar. Number of passengers carried and the receipts therefrom show increases on all sections, the improvement being considerable on the Central Northern section and the North-West Argentine extension. These two divisions also did well in goods traffic, practically every item giving an increase. The only exception was wines and liquors which fell off owing to damage caused to the vineyards by hailstorms. Hay and grain did poorly on the original line, thanks to the bad harvest in 1905. Working expenses were up all round, partly due to the larger traffic, higher rates of wages, and heavier rail renewals. On the Central Northern section and North-West Argentine extension the cost of fuel has been greater than in previous years, owing to the increasing scarcity of firewood. Coal had to be used on the Northern section, but the manager has now rented wood forests in order to obtain a cheaper supply of firewood for the future, the benefit of which will commence in the current year. Working expenses also included the cost of new works and improvements, and we find that on the original line the ratio went up from 41.86 per cent. to 43.69 per cent., and on the Central Northern from 67.98 per cent. to 69.73 per cent., but on the North-West Argentine extension there was a decline from 61.07 per cent. to 54.19 per cent. Earnings for the current year to date show considerable expansion on all sections, and the manager anticipates a general growth of traffic assisted by the good cereal harvest, and the prospect of a satisfactory sugar crop. On the Cordoba and North-Western Railway worked by the company there was an increase in both passenger and goods traffic, this company's one-fourth share of the nett profits being £2,048 against £899 in 1904. Nett revenue account of the North-West Argentine extension shows an available balance of £14,921, which has been transferred as to one-fourth to the nett revenue account, original line, and three-fourths to the Central Northern section. Nett revenue balance of the original line is £61,635, out of which the directors have decided to transfer £6,635 to the revenue reserve, increasing it to £31,061. This leaves £55,000, or £21,000 in excess of the amount required for a dividend of 5 per cent. on the original ordinary stock, and £7,000 payable to the Central Northern section. This £21,000 is divisible into three equal parts, of which two parts belong to the holders of first preference stock, and income debenture stock (Central Northern section) in the proportion of four-fifths, £11,200, and one-fifth

£2,800 respectively. The other part goes to the holders of ordinary stock. Nett revenue account of the Central Northern section shows an available balance of £80,832, to which must be added £9,800 as above indicated, making £90,632. From this, dividends of 7 per cent. on the first preference stock, 2½ per cent. on the second preference stock, and 8½ per cent. on the ordinary stock, have been provided, and the directors propose a final payment on the income debenture stock of £2 17s. 6d. per cent., making £3 17s. 6d. for the year, and leaving £1,967 to be carried forward. The concession for the construction of the railway from Rosario to Buenos Ayres has, with the approval of the Argentine Government, been transferred to the Cordoba Central Buenos Ayres Extension Railway for a consideration of £50,000 in cash, and £525,000 in shares of the Extension Company.

VILLA MARIA AND RUFINO RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

This company's system is now worked under guarantee by the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Company. Accounts are submitted for the 12 months to December 31 last, divided into two equal periods, the first showing the working under the old conditions and the second the result obtained under the new. For the half-year ended June 30 there was a balance from traffic account of £13,650, interest on rescission bonds gave £1,813, and balance of interest account yielded £175, bringing up the total to £15,638. From this interest on the 4 per cent. first debenture stock required £6,050 and interest on the second debenture stock £9,404, leaving £184, which was transferred to the Buenos Ayres and Pacific Company under agreement. In the second half of the year that company provided £18,226 under guarantee and £2,156 for management expenses in London and Buenos Ayres, a sum which pays the interest at 4 per cent. on the debenture stock and a dividend of 1½ per cent. on the guaranteed stock. When the scheme of arrangement was sanctioned by the Court, this payment of 1½ per cent. was made, together with ¾ per cent. on account of the first three months of the current financial year, making 2¼ per cent. in all. According to the report, the development of the district served by the company's railway is proceeding. Colonists continue to take up lands, and the increase of agriculture which has of recent years been in evidence is still noticeable. The policy of providing grain sheds and other facilities at stations where the area under cultivation promised returns has been justified by results. During 1905 the receipts of the railway improved by nearly £11,000.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, LIMITED.

After providing for bad and doubtful debts the gross profits of this bank for the twelve months ended March 31 were £36,309 or £1,348 more than in the previous year. Sum brought forward was £1,255, and after providing general working charges £25,979, rebate £1,211, depreciation of premises, and furniture £2,000, and placing £2,000 to reserve, the balance left is £6,374. This provides a dividend of 8 per cent., with an increase in the carry forward to £1,574. Reserve is now £30,000 or half as much as the paid-up capital. A considerable increase to £605,174 has taken place in the current and deposit accounts, drafts issued are up £8,329 to £95,903, and bills for collection £53,716 have a per contra entry. On the other side the cash balance, although somewhat smaller, is pretty good at £230,104, and we note that loans at short notice have reappeared, the amount being £60,000. Investments £165,214 are larger by £43,401, and bills of exchange have been increased by £24,750 to £238,237. Loans, advances, and current accounts are very moderate at £83,188, and show a further decline of £30,016. Premises and furniture are valued at £20,119.

EBBW VALE STEEL, IRON AND COAL CO., LIMITED.

The directors of this well-known enterprise, whose chairman is Mr. Joseph Brailsford, are of opinion that the accounts for the year ended March 31, 1906, show a satisfactory result. That, however, does not stand in the way of a repetition of the usual twaddle about dumping. The iron and steel works, say the directors, show a material improvement, notwithstanding the fact that the prices of steel products for the greater part of the 12 months under review suffered severe depression owing to insistent foreign competition. This reads rather quaintly, because the directors immediately proceed to give the whole show away. They say:—"During the year the old Bessemer shop has been entirely replaced by a new and up-to-date plant. This step had become imperative, and your directors are glad to report that the new plant is working satisfactorily." In other words, the directors have been endeavouring to fight the up-to-date methods and appliances of their rivals with an antiquated and feeble plant, and cry out for protection because they get beaten. Towards the end of the year, so runs the report, market conditions showed a decided change for the better—when the new and modern plant came into use? Decidedly instructive, is it not? The working of the collieries also produced good results in face of dreadfully adverse conditions, and this free-trade ridden enterprise wound up the year with a profit of £91,043, or £3,760 more than in the previous 12 months. With £10,468 brought in the disposable balance is £101,510, and after providing £8,556 for current and legal expenses, interest on mortgage debentures £21,905, interest on calls in advance £708, and expenditure on new works during the year £27,234, the balance over is £43,107. From this a dividend of 5 per cent. is again proposed with a sensible reduction in the carry forward to £5,870. Actual capital outlay for the year was £65,531, and after deducting £27,234 provided from revenue, there is a sum of £38,297 to be provided for. This is reduced to £21,924 by utilising the special reserve of £16,372 brought forward, and the former sum will be placed to a sus-

pense outlay account, with a view to the amount being written off future profits. Such plan is a wise one, because capital expenditure is quite heavy enough at £1,097,836. Against this there are no savings at all if we except the reserve against the West Somerset Mineral Railway Guarantee, reduced during the year by £6,207 to £81,622. Trade and other creditors are pretty heavy at £192,348, and on the other side we have debtors £184,231, invested funds, being advances to the Workmen's Building Clubs £40,155, and stocks £116,729, but cash is very small at £6,957. There is, however, a sum of £42,376 in the hands of the debenture-holders trustees, and the directors have used £38,100 of this to reduce the debenture debt to £400,000, meaning an annual saving of £1,905 in interest.

HEAD, WRIGHTSON, AND CO., LIMITED.

A satisfactory report is issued by this company for its business year ended April 30 last. The gross profit came to £44,703, giving with the £6,109 brought forward £50,812 for distribution. Out of this the board places £10,000 to capital depreciation, raising the reserve for this purpose to £70,000, and £4,000 to the general reserve, making it £37,000, or together £107,000 on a capital of £465,000, including £150,000 of debentures. Enough remains to meet debenture interest and the preference share dividend, as well as to pay 7 per cent. on the ordinary shares; and after paying £2,500 as directors' fees the balance left to carry forward is £6,562. Current debts due by the company, including £15,581 borrowed from its bankers, amount to £41,741, but finished goods, stocks, stores, &c., stand at an almost even amount of £41,593, and work in progress is valued at £99,673, while debts due to the company figure at £53,000. Thus although cash is small at £2,664, the position is tolerably healthy, but the capital expenditure during the year looks heavy at £18,057. The board prudently values the 19,535 £1 shares in the St. Leonard's Pier Co., Limited, held by the company at only £6,000.

TREDEGAR IRON AND COAL CO., LIMITED.

In their report for the year ended March 31 the directors of this company complain that the demand for coal during the first nine months showed a considerable falling off, and on more than one occasion prices touched the lowest point since 1899. Since January, however, the volume of business in South Wales has largely increased, prices have advanced, and have been well maintained. The output reached the great figure of 1,598,704 tons, the highest ever touched, and the directors think the repeal of the coal tax will stimulate business in the current year. The new battery of Coppée coke ovens at Ty Trist has been completed, and is now working with satisfactory results as regards yield. Prices of coke have fallen considerably, but large contracts having been entered into at higher figures, this department has shown a good return. Profit on working was £89,703, or £15,269 more than in the preceding 12 months, and with £1,354 brought in the disposable sum is £91,057. Interest on loans, &c., drew off £8,745, and after again providing a dividend of 5 per cent. on the "A" and "B" shares, the directors allow £20,000 in reduction of capital expenditure, and £20,000 as a reserve for new sinking, carrying forward £1,095. Actual capital expenditure for the year was £63,421, including £52,547 for new wagons as mentioned in the last report, but various credits amounted to £19,437, so that the nett addition was £43,983, making the total £1,053,281. Against this the reserve is very slender at £30,000. Debenture and loan indebtedness amounts to £206,270, and the floating liabilities are considerable at £88,908. On the other side sundry debtors reach £71,455, stocks are valued at £38,589, and cash and bills amount to £40,835. A sum of £7,322 is invested in other companies. Regarding the new coalfield the directors announce that the leases of all the important properties which it is proposed to acquire at present are in an advanced condition, and will shortly be completed. Plans and estimates have been prepared, and it is hoped that work on the surface will commence at an early date. The arrangements in connection with the formation of the separate company to work the new collieries will be communicated to the shareholders when completed.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE.

This old company, it was incorporated in 1720, carries on a variety of businesses—life, annuity, sinking-fund, fire, marine, accident, and the new trustee and executor department. Its accounts for the past year are not affected by the San Francisco fire, but the prosperity was not conspicuous in some of the departments, and the addition to the assets from the entire business of the year was little more than £100,000, raising the total to £5,398,968. In the life department the nett new premium income was £24,150, and after meeting all claims and expenses and commissions there was rather more than £103,000 left to be added to the life funds, the total income, including £106,000 from interest, being about £357,000. Working expenses and commissions took 14.29 per cent. of the premium income, and claims absorbed £145,000, while surrenders and cash bonuses took nearly £25,000 more. A considerable annuity business was done, and resulted in adding about £22,000 to the annuity fund, which now amounts to £467,956. Most interest will attach to the fire branch, and there claims and working expenses of all kinds took 92.80 per cent. of the premium income of the year, which was, at £634,510, £60,172 less than in the previous year. This reduction, however, appears to embrace the total incomes of the two years, including interest. The result was a nett profit of £26,023 on the year's business, but the company expects to lose something like £450,000 by the San Francisco fire, and before that occurred its United States fire business was clearly in an unsatisfactory position since a "complete change of the management" there was effected during the past year.

The fire fund now amounts to £300,000, not enough to meet this loss, but the company has a general reserve fund of £723,564, so that altogether it has upwards of £1,000,000 of surpluses on which to draw to meet the San Francisco losses. These paid, the weight remaining should not prove oppressive. In the marine department the year's business was bad, since the losses paid for 1905 and previous years took £205,109 against a net premium income of only £194,817, so that the outgo was about £20,000 more than the income, and expenses and bad debts absorbed about £17,000 additional, against interest, &c., received £4,795. In the accident department business was large but not very profitable, still £6,186 was left to transfer to profit and loss at the end of the year, leaving the accident fund at £45,375. There was also a profit of rather more than £120 on the new trustee and executor department. No mention is made in the report of the amount of dividend declared, but it was announced some days before the accounts were issued, and as the reduction for the year was 5 per cent., making 9 per cent. for the year against the usual 14 per cent., it is small wonder that the company's stock dropped back £40 in a few minutes. With all this the company has great resources, and should be rich, the only surprising thing about the business being that it has not attained larger proportions, looking at the great prestige the company enjoys and its wide ramification to many branches of business. Its immediate difficulty will be how to realise securities in order to provide the money necessary to meet the loss caused by the San Francisco fire, but the payments to be made in liquidation of this loss will probably be spread over a considerable period of time.

PEARKS, LIMITED.

This business of provision merchants made a gross trading profit of £83,813 during the year ended April 21, which was increased to £90,797 by receipts from rents, dividends and transfer fees. Administration expenses took £46,681, advertising absorbed £8,033, and repairs, &c., £4,104, and after providing for interest the nett revenue came to £30,377, or an increase of £1,344. Of this £5,000 was put to depreciation account, £2,000 to general reserve and £1,000 to reserve for doubtful debts, leaving a balance of £22,377, to which was added £9,521 brought in, making a total available of £31,898, and preference dividend having been paid, the ordinary shares again receive 5 per cent., and £11,898 is carried forward. The company is leaning far too heavily on credit for comfort, as it owes no less than £206,072 on open accounts and bills payable, in addition to £18,565 on bills payable special account and £11,000 for money borrowed, or a total of £235,637 against which sundry debtors and bills receivable come to £95,306, stocks to £112,121 and cash £14,092. Goodwill, trade marks, and trade names are valued at £105,102, and leasehold premises, &c., including £9,100 for additions during the year, at £275,106, while the general reserve now amounts to £72,309, and may be taken as represented by the investments of £72,301 in shares of subsidiary undertakings, &c., at cost.

SPIES PETROLEUM Co., LIMITED.

The experience of this Russian oil company during the year 1905 was in marked contrast to that of other enterprises operating in this distressed country. The company is fortunate to have its properties situate at Grozny where work proceeded smoothly almost throughout the year, only two interruptions being reported. How different were matters at Baku where the most appalling events it has ever been our misfortune to read about took place. The company's nett production was 6,837,768 poods, an increase of 909,567 poods, and after adding stocks on hand, 63,725 poods and oil purchased, 2,045 poods, we get a total of 6,903,538. Of this 5,713,251 poods were sold and delivered, and 1,044,817 used for fuel, leaving 145,470 poods on hand at the date of the balance-sheet. Average selling price was 20.34 copecks per pood, and the amount realised was £122,976. Crude oil used as fuel provides a credit of £5,499, interest in Russia gave £276, and stocks represented £501, making a total of £129,252. Against this we have a total outgo of £75,638, including cost of drilling and deepening, leaving £53,614. Other revenue items increase this to £54,188, and after providing general administration charges, &c., the available balance is £48,423. Out of this sum the directors provide £17,250 for general depreciation, and £2,000 for reserve against fire and employers' liability, leaving £31,270, including £2,097 brought forward. A dividend is now proposed of 7 per cent., with a balance carried forward of £8,520. The company has purchased a new plot known as Baskakoff, in the eastern part of the Grozny field, and has renewed the sale contract upon favourable terms for a further period of three years. The high prices of crude oil which prevailed during the greater portion of last year have continued up to the present time, the latest quotation being about 24 copecks, and there appears to be a probability that prices will continue at a remunerative level. Capital additions for the year were very moderate at £7,769, and the property valuation of £310,829 is now very moderate, the capital reorganisation having done the company much good. Sundry creditors £23,473 are not heavy, against debtors £27,556 and loans and cash £35,309, meaning a fair position, but we hope the directors are not overlooking the reserve fund question.

THE MINT, BIRMINGHAM, LIMITED.

This company's revenue for the year to March 31 of £51,405 was about £4,000 less than that of the previous 12 months, but the total can still be considered a very good one. After providing charges of £16,976, including salaries and commissions £8,341, general expenses, rates and taxes, &c., £3,304, and repairs and

renewals £4,048, the balance remaining is £34,729. From this debenture interest requires £2,375, premium on redemption £2,500, and depreciation £1,474 leaving £28,380. Add £4,066 brought in and the sum for disposal is £32,446. An interim dividend at 7½ per cent. per annum has been already paid, and the directors now bring the distribution up to 10 per cent., besides adding a bonus of 5 per cent., making 15 per cent. for the year, the same as before. Reserve then receives £5,000 and £5,446 is carried forward. The whole of the debentures, including the premium of £5 per cent., amounting to £52,500, were paid off during the year, and the total capital now consists of £80,000 only in £5 shares. And the reserve is actually £17,000 above this figure, viz., £97,000. Capital expenditure is £103,609, and against creditors of £5,576 the company has £25,715 owing by sundry debtors, stock £37,206, and high-class investments £31,115. Cash has been largely reduced by the debenture redemption, and now amounts to £148 only, while £663 is owing to bankers.

ASSAM COMPANY.

After deducting 3,047 acres of old and unremunerative tea abandoned, of which 1,264 acres were given up in the current year, this old company has no less than 9,379 acres under cultivation, in addition to about 9,070 acres of virgin land suitable for extensions. Its crop for the twelve months ended December 31 from 10,184 yielding acres amounted to 4,044,012 lbs. or 397 lbs. per acre, against 3,814,627 lbs. or 353 lbs. in the preceding year, and the average price realised showed an increase of 1d. per lb. at 9d., an improvement partly due to the better quality and partly to the advance of nearly ¾d. per lb. that has ruled for good Assam teas since the reduction in the tea tax took effect last year. The cost of production has been steadily reduced from 8.99d. in 1901 to 7.38d. last year, and the profit per lb. amounted to 1.62d., compared with 0.91d. in 1902, which was the last occasion on which a similar price was obtained. Gross proceeds, including £510 from compensation for damage by hail recovered from the underwriters and £113 from miscellaneous receipts, were £151,386, of which expenses in India and London took £119,560, and managers' commission and bonus £2,877, and £1,794 was spent on new cultivation, leaving a balance of £27,155. The balance brought forward from the previous account has been put to reserve, and the directors now set aside £10,000 to form a "new extensions fund," and after paying a dividend of 8½ per cent., carry forward £1,247. Liabilities on bills payable amount to £50,773, and in addition the company owes £4,766 to sundry creditors and £2,700 for commission to managers, but to meet these there are £64,417 in stocks of tea and £26,168 to come in from sundry debtors, while cash stands at the very respectable figure of £24,473. Against a capital outlay of £197,715 the company had a reserve fund of £49,932, employed as working capital, as well as a marine insurance fund of £4,000 invested in National War Loan stock, but since the closing of the accounts the directors have decided to underwrite their fire and hail risks in India. They have begun by taking £6,000 from the above-mentioned reserve and investing £4,000 against hail risks and £2,000 against fire, and these two funds are to be increased by the interest received and by the premiums which would otherwise have been payable. Experiments in the cultivation of hemp have proved that the soil is not suitable, and the directors also state that neither Para nor Castela rubber will grow to advantage so far north of the tropics, but rubber they apparently must have to be in the fashion, and a further 1,183 Assam rubber trees have therefore been planted.

W. H. CHAPLIN AND Co., LIMITED.

Conditions were again somewhat unfavourable during the year to March 31 for the kind of business carried on by this concern, so the directors tell us in their annual report, but the company managed to slightly improve its position. This was partly due to the fact that expenditure items were very carefully controlled. Trading account produced a profit of £11,746 or £412 more than in the previous twelve months, transfer fees gave £4, and £1,404 was brought in, making £13,150 in all. After making provision for depreciation of leases, income-tax, and auditors' fees, the sum remaining is £12,585, of which £3,375 was absorbed by interim dividends. The directors now propose to pay the final preference dividend and make a distribution at 11 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, increasing the return for the year to 8 per cent., the same as before. Debtors' fees then take £500, managing directors' remuneration amounts to £455, £683 is distributed amongst members of the staff, and £1,000 is placed to reserve, the balance carried forward being slightly reduced to £1,397. Reserve is now £14,000, against the property account valuation of £36,541. Sum due to creditors and on bills payable is £41,157, and on the other side we have debtors £59,543, bills receivable £2,256, stocks of wines, spirits, &c., £96,783, and cash £4,251.

MINING RETURNS.

Angelo.—Milled 21,741 tons, 6,574 ozs.; sands 12,255 tons, 3,321 ozs.; slimes, 10,738 tons, 1,813 ozs.; total, 11,708 ozs.
Anterior (Matabela).—Crushed 1,320 tons, 602 ozs.; cyanide 736 tons, producing 128 ozs.
Ayrshire.—1,425 ozs. from 8,166 tons crushed; 912 ozs. from 6,902 tons cyanided.
Briseis Tin.—Shipped 11 tons, including two tons for New Brothers Home No. 1
Broken Hill Proprietary.—Refinery products—fine silver, 284,963 ozs.; soft lead, 3,840 tons; antimonial lead (estimated), 42 tons.

Burbanks Birthday.—Crushed 1,158 tons, 1,321 ozs.
 Cape Copper.—O kiep, 1,025 tons of 16 per cent. equal to 164 tons fine copper; Nababep, 3,927 tons of 4.3 per cent. equal to 169 tons fine copper.
 Cecil Syndicate.—1,220 tons, 557 ozs.; average assay of tailings 3½ dwts. per ton.
 Chinese Engineering.—Output of coal for week ended June 2, 20,000 tons; sales, 20,500 tons; consumption, 1,225 tons.
 City and Suburban.—Crushed 25,500 tons, 9,565 ozs.
 Consolidated Goldfields of N.Z.—Progress of N.Z.—Crushed 4,912 tons; value £1,954. Wealth of Nations.—Crushed 1,095 tons; value £2,133.
 Consolidated Langlaagte.—17,809 tons, 5,516 ozs.
 Copper Cliff.—Shipment of ore 75 tons, averaging 18½ per cent. copper.
 Crown Reef.—Crushed, 20,426 tons; from mill 5,735 ozs.; from sands and concentrates, 3,251 ozs.; from slimes, 1,872 ozs.; from dump, 118 ozs.; total, 10,976 ozs.
 De Lamar.—Crushed 1,333 tons, yielding \$10,900.
 Driefontein Consolidated.—Milled 18,852 tons, 3,103 ozs.; sands 15,799 tons, 2,583 ozs.; slimes 5,928 tons, 758 ozs.; total, 6,444 ozs.
 Durham Prospect.—Crushed 1,294 tons, 106 ozs.
 Eaglehawk.—Crushed 960 tons, 335 ozs.; from cyanide 136 ozs.
 East Gwanda.—Crushed 4,870 tons, 2,130 ozs.; concentrates 213 tons, 868 ozs.; Geelong cyanide 3,400 tons, 166 ozs.; total 3,164 ozs.
 Ferreira.—Crushed 21,000 tons, 9,830 ozs.; sands 14,280 tons, 2,448 ozs.; slimes 7,063 tons, 775 ozs.; total 13,038 ozs.
 French Rand.—Crushed 19,000 tons, 4,031 ozs.; cyanide 20,058 tons, 2,160 ozs.; total 6,191 ozs.
 Forbes Rhodesia.—Dumbleton, 1,280 tons, 137 ozs.; Veracity, 634 tons, 339 ozs.
 Gaika.—Crushed 1,390 tons, 694 ozs.
 Giant Mines.—Treated 4,367 tons, 2,232 ozs.; slimes 4,367 tons, 159 ozs.; total, 2,391 ozs.
 Ginsberg Gold.—8,250 tons, 2,402 ozs.
 Glencairn Main Reef.—14,426 tons, 3,928 ozs.
 Globe and Phoenix.—Crushed 6,705 tons, 3,328 ozs.; cyanide 4,400 tons, 600 ozs.; total, 3,928 ozs.
 Golden Horseshoe.—Treated 20,590 tons, 13,215 ozs.
 Great Boulder Perseverance.—Treated 13,115 tons, 6,053 ozs. gold and 957 ozs. silver.
 Great Boulder Proprietary.—Sulphide mill, 12,899 tons, 12,202 ozs.; tailings, old, 2,155 tons, 300 ozs.; total, 12,502 ozs.
 Hannan's Reward and Mount Charlotte.—Crushed 1,770 tons, 501 ozs.; royalties from tributors, £301.
 Jubilee.—Mill, crushed 5,814 tons, 1,299 ozs.; cyanide, 3,889 tons, 605 ozs.
 Jumbo Gold.—Crushed 1,645 tons, 994 ozs.; cyanide, 608 tons, 211 ozs.
 Kamfersdam.—Diamonds recovered, 1,470 carats; 18,694 loads blue ground on floors.
 Killarney-Hibernia.—Crushed 4,383 tons, 1,576 ozs.
 Le Roi.—Shipments, 12,017 tons, containing 4,837 ozs. gold, 6,734 ozs. silver, 270,000 lbs. copper.
 Luipaard's Vlei Estate.—14,683 tons, 2,756 ozs.
 Matabele Reefs.—Blanket, 2,108 tons, 880 ozs.; Alice, 904 tons, 314 ozs.
 Meyer and Charlton.—2,103 ozs. from 11,111 tons crushed; 3,163 ozs. from cyanide; total, 5,266 ozs.
 Morven (Rhodesia).—Crushed 1,152 tons, 746 ozs.; 1,084 tons tailings by cyanide, 87 ozs.
 Mount Morgan (Queensland).—Chlorinated 17,364 tons, 8,619 ozs.
 Mungana.—1,751 tons crude ore, containing 94 tons copper, 25,198 ozs. silver, and 220 tons lead sent to smelting works.
 New Comet.—Milled 19,073 tons, 3,571 ozs.; sands 13,595 tons, 2,663 ozs.; slimes 7,812 tons, 1,063 ozs.; total, 7,297 ozs.
 New Goch.—2,858 ozs. from 19,010 tons crushed; 4,038 ozs. from cyanide; total, 6,896 ozs.
 New Heriot.—Crushed 9,260 tons, 3,816 ozs.
 New Kleinfontein.—Milled 31,980 tons, 7,764 ozs.; sands, 22,306 tons, 3,057 ozs.; slimes, 9,647 tons, 570 ozs.; total, 11,391 ozs.
 New Modderfontein.—Crushed 11,439 tons, 3,496 ozs.; tailings, 7,179 tons, 780 ozs.; total, 4,276 ozs.
 New Rietfontein Estate.—9,034 tons, 5,393 ozs.
 New Primrose.—17,559 tons, 7,378 ozs.
 New Unified Main Reef.—8,470 tons, 2,436 ozs.
 New Zealand Crown.—Crushed 1,693 tons, value £2,901.
 Nigel Deep.—3,000 tons, 1,775 ozs.
 Rice Hamilton.—Sabiwa: Crushed 5,375 tons, 900 ozs.; 2,975 tons by cyanide, 750 ozs.
 Robinson Central Deep.—Crushed 17,916 tons, 8,118 ozs.; 12,400 tons of sands and concentrates, 2,285 ozs.; 5,888 tons of slimes, 622 ozs.; total, 11,025 ozs.
 Robinson Deep.—29,631 tons, 15,623 ozs.
 Robinson Gold.—Crushed 29,416 tons, 12,873 ozs.; from tailings, 4,375 ozs.; from own concentrates, 579 ozs.; from slimes, 1,717 ozs.; total, 19,544 ozs.
 Roodepoort United.—3,261 ozs. from 9,690 tons crushed, 1,388 ozs. from cyanide; total, 4,649 ozs.
 Selukwe.—Crushed 6,691 tons, 1,300 ozs.; cyanide 4,698 tons, 478 ozs.; total, 1,778 ozs.
 Salisbury.—Crushed 5,600 tons, 1,500 ozs.
 Simmer and Jack East.—Crushed 24,979 tons, 6,523 ozs.
 Sons of Gwalia.—Crushed 10,746 tons, 2,782 ozs.; 6,120 tons tailings, 989 ozs.; 217 tons concentrates, 607 ozs.; total, 4,378 ozs.
 Surprise.—Crushed 2,984 tons, 1,011 ozs.; cyanide 509 ozs. from 3,984 tons.
 Tanganyika Concessions.—Ruwe output 100 ozs.

Theta.—Crushed 1,580 tons, 996 ozs.; 326 tons by cyanide, 85 ozs.; total, 1,081 ozs.
 Tyee Copper.—Smelted tyee ore, 1,915 tons; customs ore, 748 tons; matte produced, 266 tons; value of contents, \$38,177.
 Um Rus.—Crushed 610 tons, 360 ozs.; 488 tons tailings stored of an average assay value of 3 dwts. per ton.
 Van Ryn.—Crushed 22,250 tons, 6,489 ozs.; cyanide, 22,629 tons tailings, 2,674 ozs.
 Vereeniging Estates.—Coal sales, 22,125 tons.
 Village Deep.—Crushed 24,042 tons, 4,200 ozs.; sands and concentrates, 16,200 tons, 3,778 ozs.; slimes, 6,212 tons, 526 ozs.; total, 7,104 ozs.
 Village Main Reef.—Crushed 33,600 tons, 9,728 ozs.; sands and concentrates, 24,733 tons, 3,776 ozs.; slimes, 10,472 tons, 680 ozs.; total, 14,184 ozs.
 Vivien.—2,680 tons, 540 ozs.; tailings, 1,200 tons.
 Weardale Lead.—Ore raised 290 tons; pig lead smelted 23,15-20 tons; average price realised for lead sales, £16 13s. per ton net.
 West Rand Central Gold.—Crushed, 2,550 tons, 587 ozs.; by cyanide 1,815 tons, 533 ozs.
 Witwatersrand Gold.—32,360 tons, 9,769 ozs.
 Wolhuter.—Crushed 17,250 tons; sands and slimes treated 17,250 tons; total, 5,868 ozs.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

INSURANCE.

London and Lancashire Life.—Half-yearly to June 30 at the rate of 8s. 3d. per share.
 London and Provincial Marine and General.—At the rate of 10 per cent. for the half-year ending 30th inst.
 Reliance Marine.—Interim of 2s. per share.
 Sea.—Interim at the rate of 30 per cent.

BREWERIES.

St. Louis.—Interim of 4 per cent. on the preference shares, payable July 1.
 United States.—£3 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year to March 31.

MINES.

Bonanza.—Of 22½ per cent. for the half-year ending June 30, payable on or about August 4.
 City and Suburban Gold and Estate.—6¼ per cent., payable on or about August 4.
 Crown Deep.—Interim of 40 per cent. for the half-year ending June 30, payable August 4.
 Geldenhuis Deep.—Interim of 20 per cent. for the half-year ending June 30, payable August 4.
 Geldenhuis Estate and Gold.—Interim of 40 per cent., payable June 30.
 Great Fingall Consolidated.—Quarterly interim (No. 19) of 5s. per share, payable July 10.
 Hainault Gold.—Interim of 1s. per share, payable June 30.
 May Consolidated Gold.—22½ per cent., payable 30th inst.
 Meyer and Charlton Gold.—Interim of 30 per cent., payable August 1.
 New Heriot Gold.—15 per cent., payable June 30.
 Nigel Gold.—15 per cent.
 Rand Mines.—Interim of 120 per cent. for period ending June 30, payable August 11.
 Robinson Central Deep.—Interim of 35 per cent. for half-year ending June 30, payable August 4.
 Rose Deep.—Interim of 10 per cent. for half-year ending June 30, payable August 4.
 Esperanza.—Interim of 6d. per share, and an additional interim of 5s. for quarter ending June 30, payable July 20.
 Van Ryn Gold Estate.—Interim of 10 per cent., making 20 per cent. for year ending June 30, payable July 10.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Agua Santa Nitrate and Railway.—8 per cent. for half-year ended Dec. 31.
 Canadian General Electric.—Quarterly of 2½ per cent.
 Clayton Aniline.—6 per cent. on the preference shares for the year ending April 30, carrying £1,196 forward.
 Colonial and United States Mortgage.—6 per cent. on the ordinary shares for year ended March 31, carrying £6,183 forward.
 Daira Sanieh Sugar.—Interim at the rate of 3s. per share on the ordinary shares, payable June 15.
 De Keyser's Royal Hotel.—Interim on the ordinary shares for six months ending 30th inst. at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.
 Edward and John Burke.—After transferring £10,000 to the reserve fund, increasing it to £110,000, further of 4 per cent., and a bonus of 1 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 7½ per cent. for year ended April 30, placing £10,000 to reserve, and carrying £16,022 forward.
 Indian and General Investment Trust.—3 per cent. on the deferred stock for year to April 30.
 Kynoch.—For year ended March 31 at the rate of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares.
 Ladies' Dwellings.—Usual of 5 per cent., and the addition of £300 to reserve, leaving £74.
 London and Provincial Steam Laundry.—5 per cent. for year ended March 31, carrying forward £16.
 London Produce Clearing House.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on July 16.
 Lungla (Sylihet) Tea.—Final preference of 3 per cent. for 1905, payable July 1.

Natal Navigation Collieries and Estate.— $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for half-year ending the 30th inst.

National Model Dwellings.—At the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum for year ended April 30.

New Zealand and River Plate Land Mortgage.—Interim at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, for six months ended April 30, payable July 2.

Sao Paulo Tramway, Light, and Power.—Quarterly of 2 per cent. on capital stock, payable in Toronto on July 3.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—The firmness of the London cargo market has continued this week, but demand, which for a time showed some animation, has again fallen off. Nowhere has business been exactly brisk, though the Northern exchanges, varying in sympathy with American cables, had one or two good days, when values improved. English wheat has again been sparingly offered, and prices have tended in sellers' favour. Last week farmers' deliveries amounted to 22,999 qrs., averaging 30s. 3d., against 16,685 qrs., averaging 31s. 4d. a year ago. Imports from abroad were considerably less than the week before, and amounted to 496,217 qrs., while Dornbusch's estimates also show a small decrease in the quantities of wheat and flour on passage, 3,740,000 qrs., against 3,780,000 qrs. American markets have had a fluctuating week, but have been devoid of any special feature. "Bradstreets" give the quantities in sight East of the Rockies at 38,700,000 bushels, against 40,347,000 last week.

WOOL.—The firmness of tops is maintained, and markets seem to have accepted the high rates now without hesitation, but at present there is very little speculative business being done in colonial wools, and attention has been turned to the new clip of home produce, the first sale of which was held on Tuesday. Prices at the opening did not come up as high as sellers had hoped for, but even so were a good deal above last year's quotations—Oxfords, 33s. 6d.; Cheviots, 28s. 3d.; and crossbred lustre long wool, 33s. to 35s. 3d. per tod. Spinners are kept well employed, the shipping trade in particular being very active. In piece goods the colonial markets seem chiefly to demand cheap goods, but the Continent and South America are taking better class and medium good more freely.

LINEN.—As was anticipated, the weavers' strike ended on Monday of this week, and markets have resumed their ordinary routine, with prices very firm, spinners much oversold, and the usual difficulty in delivering contracts up to time. Large orders have come in from the United States to both Barnsley and Belfast for dress goods principally, and a very fair trade is also doing with South America.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The general tone of our market during the past week has been quiet. Buyers have not been stimulated to operate freely. Telegrams from most of our markets abroad do not lead shippers to enter the market to any important extent, and as a consequence transactions have been confined to odd sorting-up lots to meet present requirements. Stocks are still heavy in most of our outlets abroad, and there seems to be no anxiety on the part of shippers here to anticipate their requirements. The raw material has fluctuated from day to day, but the position of values is much the same as a week ago. In cloth for export India buyers have not had many orders to place. Makers of fine cloths are not selling their production at the moment, and some manufacturers could very well do with new orders. China buyers are not in the mood at present to purchase freely, the demand from Shanghai being unimportant. For the nearer markets of the Continent shippers have only operated in small lots. Business for South America has been restricted, owing to the difficulty of makers undertaking the delivery which buyers require. Printing cloths have continued steady, without very much new business. T-cloths and Mexicans continue well held at late rates. Makers have plenty of work to go on with. In coloured woven goods and sateens the general inquiry has been small, but makers, owing to their engagements, have not sought new business. In the home-trade houses a healthy feeling continues to prevail, and most departments are dealing with a remunerative trade. The present six months has been a time of satisfactory profit for most of our distributing houses. Home-trade American yarns have maintained their strength, principally owing to the scarcity of certain counts. The demand met with has not been important, users not purchasing freely, a hand-to-mouth policy showing itself in most quarters. Early delivery of good twists and fine wets can command extreme rates. In shipping bundles China business has been entered to a fair extent, but the difficulty of arranging transactions in this section is rather marked, spinners having order lists extending up to next March in several instances. Cops for the Continent have been rather quiet. In Egyptian yarns nothing particularly fresh has occurred. The commoner kinds are somewhat irregular in quotation, but the better qualities are pretty firmly held on the whole.

Cotton in New York opened steadily from 2 to 4 points lower, and continued to fall on disappointing cables and crop news, liquidation and "bear" pressure. Towards the end, however, there was a slight rally on better weather news and covering by the short interest.

COAL.—With the exception of house coals the condition of the trade seems very satisfactory, much more so than it was a year ago, not only in the larger output, but also in prices. The official returns of the tonnage sent to Hull in May this year gives

a total of 458,768 tons compared with 304,768 tons in May of 1905, and both home and foreign demand for steams and gas is steadily increasing. One gas company have distributed orders in the North of England for 300,000 tons at prices ranging about 8s. 10d. per ton or 1s. more than was paid last year, other companies coming in with orders for 35,000 or 40,000 tons. In Wales prices for best steams have at last touched 16s., with indications of going still higher, and the business done at the ports during May was larger than in any previous month. At Cardiff it amounted to 1,794,156 tons and at Swansea to 274,245 tons.

COPPER.—This market opened with a fair amount of activity, although prices did not show much movement. Offerings were small, and a few covering orders just about absorbed the supply. A slight reaction followed, but it was quickly recovered, and at one time the market seemed disposed to advance. Towards the end, however, quotations again gave way on bear selling and liquidation induced by unconfirmed rumours that a reduction had been made in the price for electrotype wire bars. Bears displayed considerable activity, and quotations receded to £84 cash and £82 15s. for three months.

TIN.—Speculators still largely control this market, but the position is thought to be more favourable for consumers, partly because the American canning scandals may reduce the demand for tin plates. The market was easier at the opening, despite firmer advices from the East, and prices weakened appreciably. Support at the lower figures soon gave place to fresh realisations, some aggressive selling taking place by leading operators. Moderate fluctuations ensued, and the tendency at the last was somewhat better on "bear" covering, prices being £175 5s. for cash and £174 15s. for future delivery.

IRON AND STEEL.—A fairly large business is still done in most branches of the iron and allied industries, and shipments continue brisk. In the North of England deliveries have been exceptionally heavy, but in respect to Cleveland pig-iron the production falls short of the requirements, and the deficit is being made up out of the stock in the public stores. A steady business is done in the hematite iron trade, most of the makers being well supplied with orders, and prices are slightly better here and there. Makers still quote 67s. per ton nett f.o.b. Satisfactory reports likewise come from the manufactured iron and steel branches, the general opinion being that buyers, who have for some time past been holding back, are again coming forward to purchase. In Scotland business is, if anything, a little quieter, but this is hardly surprising at this time of the year.

SUGAR.—After publishing exports of 60,000 tons between May 1 to 20 to the German Government, says Mr. Czarnikow, rather startled the sugar trade by giving the total May figures at 162,000 tons, which the trade believe will have to be corrected and it looks as if it will be a reduction. The market has been rather stimulated by the German figures, and by a return of the cool, wet weather. The roots are not progressing as well as during the warmer period of last year, so in Germany the advance gained up to May 25 has been partly lost during the past fortnight. The American market remains rather considerably below our parity, and the cane sugar which was diverted to this side may be wanted later on, especially for October-December arrival, as hitherto the Javas contracted for are few. Landings in the three ports for the week were 37,000 tons, and meltings 46,000 tons, reducing stocks to 344,000 tons.

TEA.—Wherever good and useful descriptions of tea were in question markets showed a firmer tendency, and quotations were from $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. dearer than before Whitsuntide, common teas alone showing continued depression. Indian offerings amounted to 22,816 packages, and the average price obtained on 16,349 packages sold was 6.54d. Ceylon auctions were heavy, 32,780 packages, and the quality only ordinary; but the market was active, and some improvement was noticeable in the export demand, particularly from Russia. Here also prices, except for the commonest, showed an advance, and the average obtained was 7.08d. Java sales amounted to 3,468 packages, and as in the other markets there was a better tone and advancing prices. Broken Orange Pekoes were quoted at 1s. $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb.

MAZAWATTEE

STILL HOLD

THE RECORD

FOR

DUTY PAYMENT ON

TEA

ACTUALLY BOUGHT AND CLEARED.

ALL LEADING GROCERS STOCK IT.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, June 11.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, June 11.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
3 1/2	Angelo	3 1/2	4	2 1/2	May Consolidated	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Anglo-French Ex.	1 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
3 1/2	Apex	4 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	Modderfontein	6 1/2	6 1/2
3 1/2	Aurora West	3 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. B.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bantjes	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	New Goch	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Block B.	1 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2
4	City and Suburban, £4	4	4 1/2	4 1/2	Nigel	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Comet (New)	2	2 1/2	2 1/2	North Randfontein	2 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Cons. Goldfields	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	15 1/2	16 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Pref.	22 1/2	22 1/2	22 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
10 1/2	Crown Reef	10 1/2	10 1/2	6 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Driefontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	3 1/2	3 1/2	8	Robinson Gold, £4	8	8
4 1/2	East Rand	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	East Rand Extension	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Roodepoort United	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Ferrelra	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Salisbury	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	French Rand	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Sheba (New)	6 1/2	6 1/2
2 1/2	Geduld	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Goldenhuis Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Ginsburg	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Steyn Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Glencairn	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Development	1 1/2	1 1/2
6 1/2	Harmony Proprietary	6 1/2	6 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates	1 1/2	1 1/2
8 1/2	Henderson's Transvaal	8 1/2	8 1/2	1 1/2	Treasury	1 1/2	1 1/2
3	Heriot	3	3 1/2	3 1/2	Van Ryn	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Johannesburg Con. In.	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Vereniging Estate	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Jubilee	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Welgedacht	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Jumpers	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	West Rand Consols	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Kleinfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Wolhuter, £4	3 1/2	3 1/2
3	Knight's	3	3	3 1/2	Worcester	3 1/2	3 1/2
2 1/2	Lancaster	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2			
2 1/2	Langlaagte Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2			

DEEP LEVELS.

1 1/2	Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
2 1/2	Bonanza	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Cinderella Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Robinson Deep (new)	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Crown Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Roodepoort Cn. Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Rose Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
6 1/2	Goldenhuis Deep	6 1/2	6 1/2	4	South Rose Deep	4	4
1 1/2	Knight's Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Village Main Reef	3 1/2	3 1/2
3 1/2	Nigel Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2

RHODESIANS.

2 1/2	Bechuanaland Ex.	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rhodesia Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Charter Trust and Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	4	Rice Hamilton	4	4
1 1/2	Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Selukwe	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Lomagunda Development	1 1/2	1 1/2	12	Tanganyika	12	12
1 1/2	Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Willoughby	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2

DIAMONDS.

17 1/2	De Beers Deferred	17 1/2	17 1/2	1 1/2	Koffyfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
17 1/2	Do. Preferred	17 1/2	17 1/2	2 1/2	Lace Diamond	2 1/2	2 1/2
2 1/2	Eland's Drift Diamond	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Orange Free State	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Frank Smith Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2
8 1/2	Jagersfontein Deferred	8 1/2	8 1/2	14	Premier Diamond Def.	14	14
4 1/2	Do. Preferred	4 1/2	4 1/2	8 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	Kamfersdam	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			

WEST AFRICAN.

1 1/2	Abontlakoon	1 1/2	15 1/2	1 1/2	Gold Coast Agency, new	1 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	2 1/2	2 1/2
3 1/2	Ankobra	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau)	2 1/2	2 1/2
9 1/2	Ashanti Consols, 2/- paid	9 1/2	3 1/2	5 1/2	Deep	5 1/2	5 1/2
6 1/2	Do. Goldfields	6 1/2	10 1/2	11 1/2	Himan Concessions	11 1/2	11 1/2
1 1/2	Sansu	1 1/2	8 1/2	1 1/2	Obbuasi Syndicate	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Prestea	1 1/2	1 1/2
23 1/2	British Gold Coast	23 1/2	24 1/2	1 1/2	Sekondi and Tarkwa	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Broomassie	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	Taqaah and Abosso	2 1/2	2 1/2
4 1/2	Effuata (Wassau)	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Wassau	1 1/2	1 1/2
11 1/2	Fanti Consolidated	11 1/2	11 1/2	1 1/2	W. A. Gold Trust	1 1/2	1 1/2

AUSTRALIAN.

1 1/2	Anglo-Aus. Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Ida H.	6 1/2	6 1/2
2 1/2	Associated	2 1/2	2 1/2	6 1/2	Ivanhoe, Gold Corp.	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	9 1/2	Ivanhoe South	9 1/2	9 1/2
2 1/2	Bellevue Proprietary	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Boulder Deep Levels	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Brownhill Extended	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Lancefield	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chaffers	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	London & W.A. Explor.	1 1/2	1 1/2
6 1/2	Cosmopol'n Pr'pr'ty	6 1/2	6 1/2	1 1/2	Mount Boppy	1 1/2	1 1/2
5 1/2	Golden Horseshoe, New Shares	5 1/2	5 1/2	1 1/2	North Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
3 1/2	Golden Links	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	3 1/2	3 1/2
7 1/2	Golden Pole	7 1/2	7 1/2	1 1/2	Peak Hill	1 1/2	1 1/2
25 1/2	Great Boulder, 2/-	25 1/2	25 1/2	1 1/2	South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
10 1/2	Do. Perseverance	10 1/2	10 1/2	1 1/2	Sons of Gwalla	1 1/2	1 1/2
4 1/2	Great Fingall	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	W'st'ria Mt Morgans	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			
1 1/2	Hampton Plains	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			
1 1/2	Hannan's Star	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			

MISCELLANEOUS.

1 1/2	Anaconda, 25 dols.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Libiola, £5	1 1/2	1 1/2
29 1/2	Brilliant, full paid	29 1/2	30 1/2	4 1/2	Linares, £3	4 1/2	4 1/2
3 1/2	Brilliant and St. George	3 1/2	7 1/2	3 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	3 1/2	3 1/2
3 1/2	Broken Hill, Prop.	3 1/2	3 1/2	45 1/2	Mount Lyell	45 1/2	45 1/2
24 1/2	Camp Bird	24 1/2	24 1/2	3 1/2	M't. Morgan	3 1/2	3 1/2
6	Cape Copper, £2	6	6	3 1/2	Mysore, £2	3 1/2	3 1/2
15 1/2	Champion Reef, 2/-	15 1/2	15 1/2	1 1/2	Mysore Goldfields, 15/-	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Clitters United	1 1/2	1 1/2	7 1/2	Do. West, 19/-	7 1/2	7 1/2
12 1/2	Con. Gold N.Z.	12 1/2	12 1/2	7 1/2	Do. Wynaad, 19/-	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Copapo, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Namaqua, £2	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Cornish C'n'ols	1 1/2	1 1/2	15 1/2	N'ndydroog, 10/- shares	15 1/2	15 1/2
1 1/2	Coromandel 19/6 pd.	1 1/2	1 1/2	15 1/2	Oo egum	15 1/2	15 1/2
1 1/2	Dolcoath	1 1/2	23 1/2	6 1/2	Do. Pref.	6 1/2	6 1/2
3 1/2	Esperanza	3 1/2	3 1/2	6 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	9 1/2	St. John del Rey	9 1/2	9 1/2
10 1/2	Frnc and Bolivia	10 1/2	10 1/2	7 1/2	Tharsis	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2	Waihi	8 1/2	8 1/2
2 1/2	L. J. (No. 2)	2 1/2	2 1/2	8 1/2	Ymir	8 1/2	8 1/2

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.
Alcoy and Gandia	June 9	Ps. 6,100	- Ps. 4,400	**	Ps. 328,000	+ P. 10,500	
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia	May 8	\$88,589	+ \$21,053	**	\$418,864	+ \$100,887	
Argentine Gt. Western	June 8	18,501	+ 2,814	**	684,771	+ 110,547	
Algeiras (Gibraltar)	" 10	Ps. 31,962	+ Ps. 161	**	P. 1,543,679	+ P. 121,619	
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	" 9	35,007	+ 8,688	**	1,533,837	+ 359,204	
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o and Cen. Argentine	" 9	90,525	+ 15,479	**	2,039,708	+ 289,140	
Buenos Ayres G. Sthn.	" 10	69,329	+ 5,337	**	3,694,244	+ 557,932	
Do. Western	" 10	37,251	+ 6,936	**	1,677,396	+ 232,692	
Do. Ensenada	" 10	345	+ 20	**	17,190	+ 560	
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	" 9	8,626	+ 1,549	**	147,251	+ 21,644	
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 9	1,914	+ 685	**	103,240	+ 3,616	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 9	1,307	+ 385	**	59,596	+ 4,780	
Do. Western Ex.	" 9	1,114	+ 278	**	58,526	+ 6,344	
Cordoba Central	" 10	3,320	+ 805	**	76,135	+ 15,300	
Do. Northern Ex.	" 10	7,515	+ 1,705	**	158,065	+ 38,105	
Do. N. W. Arg'n. Ex.	" 10	2,270	+ 1,015	**	42,040	+ 15,130	
Cordoba and Rosario	" 10	4,060	+ 5	**	208,275	+ 3,935	
Costa Rica	May 5	5,804	+ 2,248	**	215,062	+ 12,729	
Cuban Central	June 9	7,130	+ 1,728	**	383,641	+ 55,085	
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 9	6,330	+ 248	**	222,671	+ 34,307	
Entre Rios	" 9	3,594	+ 298	**	187,218	+ 7,430	
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico	" 7	\$115,600	+ \$1,500	**	\$5,908,880	+ \$219,750	
Leopoldina	" 9	20,350	+ 3,284	**	378,722	+ 55,020	
Mexican	April 7	\$551,300	+ \$89,700	**	\$2,283,200	+ \$213,600	
Do. Southern	June 7	\$122,700	+ \$11,300	**	\$3,020,900	+ \$285,600	
Do. Central	" 7	\$24,137	+ \$2,430	**	\$559,981	+ \$17,610	
Do. Do.	April 7	\$2,500,372	+ \$230,132	**	\$23,154,46	+ \$1,807,209	
Manila	" 9	\$893,239	+ \$14,906	**	\$7,123,432	+ \$235,447	
Nitrate	June 9	\$36,563	+ \$7,030	**	\$825,319	+ \$85,854	
Ottoman	May 31	21,553	+ 3,979	**	227,930	+ 12,155	
Peruvian Corporation	June 9	3,303	+ 360	**	94,853	+ 15,517	
San Paulo	May 3	\$666,100	+ \$84,225	**	\$7,156,540	+ \$1,368,800	
Salvador	June 3	22,678	+ 5,142	**	425,834	+ 2,663	
United of Havana	" 9	\$21,000	+ \$4,750	**	\$989,151	+ \$136,900	
Villa Maria & Rufino	" 9	16,697	+ 7,635	**	778,004	+ 265,355	
Western of Havana	" 9	1,237	+ 132	**	30,470	+ 2,520	
	" 9	4,032	+ 68	**	201,393	+ 3,589	

* Month ended. † Fortnight ended. ‡ Nett § From July 1, 1905.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.
Bengal Nagpur	May 19	Rs. 5,18,030	- R. 29,464	\$	R. 1,13,11,070	+ R. 10,22,857	
Bengal & N.-W.	" 12	Rs. 3,21,710	+ R. 64,355	\$	Rs. 54,08,467	+ R. 5,48,843	

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1906, and June 9, 1906:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.

		Total Receipts into the Ex- chequer from April 1, 1905, to June 9, 1906.	Total Receipts into the Ex- chequer from April 1, 1905, to June 10, 1905.
Balances, April 1:	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	9,334,212	6,352,909
Bank of Ireland	—	1,117,275	1,077,369
REVENUE.		10,451,487	7,430,278
Customs	—	6,540,000	6,189,000
Excise	—	5,009,000	5,072,000
Estate, &c., Duties	—	3,159,000	3,017,000
Stamps	—	1,467,000	1,622,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	—	320,000	370,000
Property and Income Tax	—	3,767,000	3,752,000
Post Office	—	2,360,000	2,250,000
Telegraph Service	—	790,000	740,000
Crown Lands	—	80,000	80,000
Receipts from Suez Canal	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	—	5,000	5,000
Miscellaneous	—	371,202	326,057
*Revenue	—	23,868,202	23,423,057
Total, including balance		34,319,689	30,053,335
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	100,000	100,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	—	—	100,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..	—	—	191,592
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..	—	—	410,408
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	—	—	13,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	—	35,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905	—	—	5,905,000
Total		34,419,689	37,608,335
*Revenue as above	—	23,868,202	23,423,057
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	—	28,699	38,872
Excise	—	349,000	349,000
Estate, &c., Duties	—	846,000	846,000
Total	—	1,223,699	1,233,872
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	—	25,091,901	24,656,929

EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.

		Total Issues out of the Ex- chequer to meet payments from April 1, 1906, to June 9, 1906.	Total Issues out of the Ex- chequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905 to June 10, 1905.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
National Debt Services	—	5,879,245	5,917,825
Other Consolidated Fund Services	—	256,495	267,907
Payments to Local Taxation	—	—	—
Accounts	—	90,000	90,000
Supply Services	—	17,800,410	18,662,321
Expenditure	—	24,026,150	24,938,053
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion	—	550,000	20,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	45,000	45,000
For Treasury Bills (net amount)	—	2,000,000	2,000,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	—	150,000	150,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905	—	—	940,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	—	—	13,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	25,000	35,000
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..	—	10,000	—
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..	—	219,959	—
Surplus Revenue 1905-1906 applied to reduce Debt	—	500,000	—
Total		27,526,119	28,141,053
Balances in Exchequer:—	1906. June 9. 1905. June 10.		
Bank of England	£ 5,821,888. £ 8,442,244		
Bank of Ireland	£ 1,068,682. £ 1,025,038		
Total		6,893,570	9,467,282
Total		34,419,689	37,608,335

Treasury, June 12, 1906.

Messrs. John Menzies and Co., newsagents and booksellers, of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Carlisle, and Dundee, announce that they have registered their business under the Companies Acts.

EAST RAND SUBSIDIARIES.—A cablegram has been received from Johannesburg to the following effect:—"In view of no arrangement having been made with regard to financial position, as stated at annual general meeting, the Angelo Gold Mines, Limited, and New Comet Gold Mining Co., Limited, board of directors have decided not to declare dividends for half-year. Money available. Driefontein Consolidated Mines, Limited, insufficient for distribution."

COMPANY MEETINGS.

ENGLISH CROWN SPELTER.

A PROSPEROUS YEAR'S WORKING.

The twenty-third ordinary general meeting of the English Crown Spelter Co., Limited, was held on the 12th inst., at 9, Queen Street Place, E.C., Mr. John E. Champney presiding. The secretary (Mr E. C. Leaver) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman: When we declared our interim dividend in December last we informed you that a serious falling off in the output from the mines had occurred. How serious that is you will be able to see from the reports, which show that only 8,911 tons of ore were produced from the mines and dressing works in 1905, as against 12,996 tons in the previous year. There has also been a gradual falling off in the assays, more particularly of the mine ore, the assay having diminished from 43.6 per cent. in 1904 to 41.7 per cent. in 1905. The assay of the mine ore in 1903 was 47.36 per cent. Fortunately, the rise in the price of spelter nearly compensates for this falling off in the production. The costs of ore delivered at Swansea show a considerable increase. This is mainly due to the decreased output. We have earned the very fair profit of close upon £18,000, after writing off £560 gs. 7d., a bad debt in respect to the Welsh Crown Spelter Co., Limited, and £2,000 depreciation. As I mentioned last year, we had left the writing down of stocks at the smelting works for another year. We have taken the opportunity of carrying this into effect in the present year, which makes a deduction in the balance we might have shown of some £7,000. You will find in the accounts an amount of £11,474, which is a further, and we believe final, commitment in respect to the Welsh Crown Spelter Co., Limited. Against this, however, we have the sum of £8,000 to the credit of the reserve fund and suspense account, and we are recommending that a further £3,000 be added to this out of the profits of the past year. In addition to this, the Manchester Syndicate, which has the property on option, will, if they exercise it, pay us the sum of £5,500, so that we are sufficiently covered against the liability. The cost of smelting has diminished by 5s. per ton, mainly due to the large output of metal; to the fixed charges being divided over a larger production, and to the economy in coal, both in the quantity used and the price. We are making extensive improvements at our smelting works at Swansea, which should result in considerable saving in cost of working.

A RECORD PRODUCTION OF METAL.

During the past year we treated at these works as much as 18,543 tons of furnace material, against 16,289 tons in 1904. We have made a record production of metal. When addressing you last year I told you that we might look forward to a better dividend than the 10 per cent. which we then recommended, and my forecast has been verified. We are now able to recommend you a final dividend of 10 per cent., making a total distribution of 17½ per cent., against 10 per cent. in the previous year, and I think that I may safely prophesy, inasmuch as nearly half the year is over, that we shall do well during the current year. With these remarks I beg to move: "That the reports and accounts, as presented, be received and adopted."

Captain Ernald Richardson seconded the motion.

Mr. Eden Richardson asked for some information concerning the option to the Manchester Syndicate in connection with the Welsh Crown Spelter. When would the option expire and the shareholders know definitely the position? He presumed the result would come into the present accounts if it were exercised.

The Chairman: No, because, according to the terms of the arrangement, they have an option which may end on July 9, but they have a further chance till October, and then they may have a further three months, which would bring it into January, so that we may or may not have it in this year's accounts.

Mr. Eden Richardson: I suppose it is not desirable to say what the option is exactly?

The Chairman: It is merely that they can take it over at a price which will be something beyond the value, as we took it, of the machinery. It will not be much beyond that, I think.

Mr. Eden Richardson: It will not cover the £10,000.

The Chairman: No; half of it, about, I should think. Of course, we were really glad at the time, and are now, to find anybody to work the mine in the hope of giving some value to the machinery.

Mr. Eden Richardson: Do we get the ore from the mine at our works?

The Chairman: They may send us the ore if they dress any, but I imagine what they will do is rather to mine and see what ore they can take out, without using the dressing works. I do not think they will spend their money over using the dressing works. If they are wise, what they will probably do is to spend their money on as much mining as they can do, and if they can take out a sufficient amount of ore they will, no doubt, float it as a larger company.

Mr. Eden Richardson: There was some lead found in our mines. Where does that come into the accounts? I think it amounted to something like seven tons. It would be interesting to know if it is likely to be of commercial value. Is it being sold?

The Secretary: It was sold.

Mr. Fox (of Messrs. Spain Brothers and Co., the auditors): Small sales of lead appear under spelter sales. They are so small that they are not shown separately.

The motion for the adoption of the report and accounts was carried unanimously.

Mr. Edmund A. Pontifex, in proposing the re-election of Mr. J. E. Champney, the retiring director, remarked that that gentleman was a very useful member of the board.

Mr. Eden Richardson seconded the motion, and it was carried.

The Chairman, in acknowledging his re-election, expressed the hope that during the time he would continue to hold office the company would enjoy as prosperous years as the last two had been, ever since they got rid of their incubus in Wales.

On the motion of Mr. Neems, seconded by Mr. Eden Richardson, Messrs. Spain Brothers and Co. were reappointed auditors of the company.

It was further resolved that a final dividend of 2s. per share, free of income-tax, be declared, payable on Wednesday, June 13, 1906.

The Chairman next moved: "That the registered offices of the company in Italy be transferred from Ponte di Nossà to the office of Signor Bergmann, Via Unione, Milano." He explained that the directors were desirous of this change being made as the company was now making a number of purchases in Italy of ores, ashes, and so on, and it was advisable to have an office in Milan, which was a central town for Italy, being also the great centre of manufacturing and finance. Such a central office would serve as a convenient focus for all their operations in Italy.

Mr. Reginald Francis seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman and directors closed the proceedings.

PEARKS, LIMITED.

The tenth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of Pearks, Limited, was held on Monday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. John Cansfield (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. John Dumphreys) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: In presenting you with a record of our stewardship for the last year we feel that the results have merited the confidence you placed in us. Those of you who have an interest in similar concerns or have read their reports will know that the year has not been a favourable one, partly owing to supply and demand, but principally to an attempt to inflate prices by speculative means. It has been impossible to make the same ratio of profit on provisions as could be done a year ago, because the retail prices cannot be advanced so rapidly as the markets justify, and even then the high prices have a tendency to divert the wants of the public to other articles. Competition does not get less, and the desire of a year ago on the part of the trade to get a profit on sugar has been abandoned in many districts, where sugar is being sold at 2s. to 3s. per cwt. below cost price. I am pleased, however, to state that, notwithstanding these drawbacks, the volume of our trade has been larger than in any previous year. The department for supplying public institutions, &c., which I mentioned last year, has made satisfactory progress. The tea trade has also increased in quantity and profit, and has made up for the less profit we have made on bacon, cheese, and sugar. The reduction of the tea duty from 8d. to 6d. in July last year has created a demand for better quality of tea, but it is too early for me to say what will be the effect of the further reduction last month from 6d. to 5d. Whilst we must recognise how necessary it is from an Imperial standpoint to reduce the taxation of an article grown within the Empire, these continual alterations in the rate of duty make it exceedingly difficult for those engaged in the trade to regulate the selling prices. Whilst there has also been a tendency to reduce the duty on tea in other countries—notably in Germany, where the duty has been reduced to 2d.—we must not forget that the retail price of tea is lower in England than anywhere else, largely due to the smaller profit earned by the retailer. Our business in milk-blended butter has also made satisfactory progress, and with respect to the controversy over this article, seeing that a Parliamentary Committee is now taking evidence on the butter trade, it would not be advisable for me to say much, but as proprietors you have a right to know how matters stand with us. The agitation against milk-blended butter is purely a trade agitation, and everything has been done by our competitors to inflame the public mind against us. We ask no favours, but simply to be left alone to conduct our business in the open, straightforward manner that we are doing, and which is appreciated by the public. (Hear, hear.) I do not believe that Parliament will be prepared to appoint a Standing Committee in order to watch Pearks and prevent them from supplying the public with goods at such a price that interferes with the trade and profit of their competitors, but I think we can rely on Parliament doing what is fair and just. (Hear, hear.) If you will kindly refer to the profit and loss account you will notice that the total earnings of your company are £90,796, or nearly £3,000 more than last year, and I have every reason to believe that this amount will be exceeded during the present year. Administrative expenses are less, while advertising is a little more, but several contracts having now run out, and Pearks being such a well-known name, I think we shall be able to reduce this amount without in any way interfering with the publicity of the business. We have spent £1,700 more in repairs, but that has been owing to our bringing some of the older stores more up to date, and extra expenditure owing to

the renewal of leases. I do not anticipate so large an outlay under this head during the coming year. The net result of the trading is a profit of £30,376, and if you take into account the amount of our capital this will compare favourably with any other company engaged in a similar trade. You will, therefore, see that with the increased income and less outgoings the progress during the present year is likely to equal, if not exceed, anything in the past. Respecting the balance-sheet, the reason the amount due to us is not less than last year is because the sum owing by the African business was not paid off till after the closing of the books. You will be interested to know that the African company has now sufficient capital to carry on its own business without any financial assistance from us, and as they are doing an increasingly satisfactory trade the unity of buying must be beneficial to both parent and offspring. Stocks are larger, but that is owing to our larger trade and our accounts being made up at the end of the Australian and New Zealand butter season, when we have to store sufficient to take us through the interval which exists before we can get our summer requirements from Canada. It is well known and appreciated by our customers that three-fourths of our trade is done in articles produced under the Union Jack. (Hear, hear.) On the debit side of our balance-sheet the item of special account is less by £2,849. When we have paid the last instalment of the purchase money we shall receive yearly from this business a substantial addition to the profits of the company. The amount owing by us has been reduced since making up the accounts by over £40,000. The reserve funds we have now brought into one account, which I am sure will be appreciated by those of you who like to keep in touch with the affairs of the company. Now, as to the division of profits. An ordinary shareholder writes me to say he thinks with the larger sum at our disposal instead of keeping the ordinary dividend at 5 per cent., we ought to have made it the same as the preference—6 per cent. I have full sympathy with him, but think a regular 5 per cent. which can be relied upon is not unsatisfactory, and I must ask the ordinary shareholders to wait till we have still further increased our reserve fund. In conclusion the Chairman formally moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. W. H. Lensh seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

TRUST UNION, LIMITED.

An ordinary general meeting of the Trust Union, Limited, was held on Tuesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. George A. Touche (chairman of the company) presiding.

The secretary (Mr. W. Wingfield) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said the company was started under conditions which were not unfavourable. There was no great inflation of values of securities, neither could it be said that values were unduly depressed. But the year which had passed since then had not been conspicuous for its money-making qualities. There had been long periods of dear money; the shadow of fresh borrowings had been continually upon the market; there were also political disturbances, menaces to capital, and the lack of that confidence which was essential to any sustained revival. These disturbing factors had been universal. In spite of this they had not been prevented from making substantial profits, nor had the condition of things which had generally prevailed materially affected the strength of their position. That, he thought, would be shown by a perusal of the report. Under the purchase agreements the Trust Union, Limited, took over the assets of the vendor companies at May 26, 1905. The principal agreement for the acquisition of these assets was ratified on May 22, so that no time was lost in carrying it into effect. Although they only took over the securities from May 26, all the transactions from April 1 until that date were on behalf of the Trust Union, and during that period a profit was made of £3,437. No part of that profit was available for distribution, because a company could not buy past profits and treat them as revenue. That money had to be treated as a receipt on capital account, and the directors had used it to reduce the book value of certain of the securities which they took over. The next paragraph of the report dealt with the subsequent profits from May 26, 1905, to May 15, 1906. These amounted to £23,805, which represented about 5¼ per cent. on the issued capital of £453,070, or 4¾ per cent. on the amount of the invested funds—namely, £501,000. A large part of the investments was at present of an unproductive character, so that it would be obvious that those which were revenue-producing had given them a substantially higher rate than that which he had just quoted. The profit which they had earned was not derived entirely from interest and dividends; he only wished they were in a position where they could point to a large and satisfactory profit entirely from that source. Interest and dividends, however, formed the chief part of the company's revenue; they amounted in all to £20,298, and they had also earned during the year substantial sums from other sources; but these were uncertain and fluctuating sources, and the directors did not want the shareholders' dividends to be dependent upon revenue of that sort, and that was why they were unwilling to distribute these profits in full. The first step, therefore, which they had taken in considering what they should do with the balance of revenue was to place the sum of £5,000 to reserve. The total amount payable in respect of the preference shares was £9,744, but that did not represent quite a full year's dividend. In future they would have to bear that charge for the full year, but it would only come to £10,000, or £10,500 without deducting income-tax. That amount was well covered!

A Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and is now being issued by the undermentioned Company which inter alia contains the following information:—The Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies. The SUBSCRIPTION LIST will OPEN on SATURDAY, the 16th day of June, 1906, and CLOSE on or before TUESDAY, the 19th day of June, 1906.

THE EKENBERG MILK PRODUCTS CO., LTD.

SHARE CAPITAL £250,000, divided into 250,000 SHARES of £1 EACH. ISSUE of 200,000 SHARES.

Subscriptions are invited for 133,334, part of the above-mentioned shares, payable as follows: On application, 1s per share; on allotment, 4s per share; two months after allotment, 5s per share; three months after allotment, 5s per share; four months after allotment, 5s. per share.—£1 per share.

Any allottee may pay up his shares in full on allotment, and will be allowed interest on the instalments for the time being paid in advance at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

Under the agreement for sale the remaining 66,666 shares of the present issue, being the maximum amount allowed by the rules of the London Stock Exchange, are to be allotted as fully paid up to the vendors in part payment of the purchase price.

Directors.

Sir WILLIAM TAYLOR, K.C.B., K.H.P. (Chairman), Director of the General Accident, Fire and Life Assurance Corporation (Limited), Queen Anne's Mansions, St. James's Park, London, S.W.

EDWARD BOWRON, Director of Joseph Travers and Sons (Ltd.), Waddon Court, Waddon, Surrey.

ALFRED CONSTANS MITCHELL, Gentleman, The Rookery, Chislehurst, Kent.

(The Directors propose to elect two other Directors from the body of shareholders after allotment.)

Technical Adviser.—Martin Ekenberg, M.A., D.Ph., M.S.Ch.I., 72 Victoria street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Bankers.—London City and Midland Bank (Limited), Threadneedle street, London, E.C., and Branches.

Solicitors.—Linklater, Addison, Brown and Jones, 2 Bond court, Walbrook, London, E.C.

Brokers.—T. & E. Halsted, 47 Cornhill, London, E.C., and Stock Exchange.

Auditors.—Ford, Rhodes & Ford, Chartered Accountants, 81 Cannon street, London, E.C.

Secretary and Offices (pro tem).—William Strachan (Martin Farlow & Co.), Incorporated Accountant, 4 King street, Cheapside, London, E.C.

This company has been formed for the purposes mentioned in the memorandum of association, and particularly to manufacture and sell a food article known as "Dry Milk." The company will acquire the whole of the shares and bonds of Martin Ekenberg's Aktiebolag, a company incorporated in Sweden (hereinafter referred to as "The Swedish Company"), which company has been working certain processes invented by Dr Martin Ekenberg, relating to the preparation of Dry Milk.

The Ekenberg Dry Milk is prepared in different grades to suit the requirements of the various uses to which it can be put.

The chief grades manufactured are:

1. Powdered Milk for Baking Purposes.—This is made from machine skimmed milk, and is chiefly applicable for use by confectioners, bakers, &c.

2. Powdered Milk for Household Use.—This is chiefly applicable for cooking purposes in private households, &c.

3. Powdered Milk containing about 17 per cent. Milk Fat (green label).—This is supplied in hermetically sealed tins, and is intended for use on ships, &c. When dissolved it yields a liquid milk containing about 2½ per cent. of cream. The Ekenberg Dry Milk is prepared by extracting the moisture from cows' milk, while retaining its solid and nutritive ingredients, which are ground to a fine powder and sifted. Dr. Ekenberg claims that the albumen and other constituents of the milk are not injured during the drying process, and that the dry milk possesses all the nutritive qualities of fresh milk, the evaporation of the moisture from the milk being effected rapidly at a low temperature, and it will be seen from the following reports by Mr Alf. Larson, R.V.O., M.S.C.J., the well-known Swedish chemist, and Messrs. Cross and Bevan, the well-known analytical chemists, that this claim is justified.

Gotenburg, 22nd Feb., 1902.

As requested by Philo Dr M. Ekenberg, I have attended the preparation of milk flour in accordance with his system; I had the opportunity during four days of taking notice of the details of the method of working his machine.

The milk is condensed in the "Exsiccator" under vacuum, arranged for working continuously, and in that way quick condensation, a great efficiency is obtained.

The milk is worked in the machine to solid consistence in less than a minute and at a temperature which during the condensation is scarcely higher than lukewarm. Absolute purity of the milk is obtained, and the working is so extremely quick that the milk cannot deteriorate, either through the influence of air, or through any chemical or bacterial action.

by the interest and dividends alone, so that the preference shareholders might have the satisfaction of feeling that in those preference shares they had a perfectly good, solid, and sound security. The payments and allocations which he had mentioned absorbed £16,362, leaving a balance of £7,443 still to be dealt with. Out of that balance the directors proposed to pay 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares, which would absorb £6,243, and to carry forward £1,199. Three per cent. was not a very high dividend, but it was well to remember the other sums which had been set aside this year out of profits—namely, £7,818, which was equal to another 3½ per cent. on the ordinary shares. Under the circumstances he thought that should be regarded as a satisfactory result, especially when they remembered that the profit which they had made was after providing for certain depreciations.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted; Mr. G. A. Touche and Mr. F. L. Govett—the retiring directors—were re-elected, and Mr. C. L. Nichols and Mr. F. G. Fedden were reappointed auditors.

A vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff concluded the proceedings.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, JUNE 18.

British Linen Company Bank—Edinburgh, 1 p.m.
Colombian National Railway—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Great Indian Peninsula Railway—Salisbury House, 12.15 p.m.
Indian Midland Railway—Salisbury House, 1 p.m.
Nile Valley Company—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.

My general opinion is that the method and apparatus of Dr Ekenberg are a simple and practical solution of the rational use of the skim milk.

ALF. LARSON.

4 New court, Lincoln's Inn,

London, W.C., February 20th, 1906.

Dear Sir,—We have analysed the samples of Ekenberg Dried Milks submitted to us.

In each case the description given on the labels is accurate.

The White Label brand contains 5.38 per cent. milk fat.

The Green Label brand contains 17.82 per cent. milk fat.

The Yellow Label brand, produced from machine-skimmed milk, contains practically no milk fat.

No foreign substances, such as sugar or preservatives, are present.

When prepared with water for use according to the directions given, the resulting products possess the characteristics of fresh milk.

The objection to the other dried milks that we have examined has been the difficulty of making a perfect mixture with water.

With the Ekenberg milk no such difficulty occurs.

We are, yours faithfully, (Signed) CROSS and BEVAN.

The following report by Mr Henry G. Harris (Messrs Harris & Co.), President of the British Confectioners' Association, is of great importance, as showing the commercial value of the company's products.

London, 12th of June, 1906.

Messrs J. Travers and Sons (Ltd.), 119 Cannon street, E.C.

Dear Sirs,—At your request I have carefully examined the Ekenberg Dried Milks with reference to its proposed use by confectioners and bakers. My company's previous trials of dried milks have not been of a satisfactory nature, and I approached the testing of your samples without much hope of success. I am, however, glad to be able to give you a most satisfactory report.

The powder was readily soluble in cold, and specially in warm, water, giving good milk of various richness in cream, according to the grade it was made from.

If the restored milk is left standing for a couple of hours no sediment of importance is formed, and, indeed, scarcely more is found than I have observed in pasteurised or boiled milk.

The natural flavour and taste of the milk are exceedingly well preserved, and seem in no way to have been affected by the drying process.

Compared with the milk preparations hitherto known in the trade, the qualities of the Ekenberg Dried Milks are very superior indeed.

I obtained satisfactory results from every practical test made, and found that this dried milk can favourably replace fresh milk for almost all purposes. The possibilities of having milk stored like flour, ready for immediate use, independently of season, offer so much convenience and saving of trouble and expense that I do not hesitate to predict a great commercial future for the Ekenberg Dried Milk.—I remain, dear Sirs, Yours faithfully, HENRY G. HARRIS.

The special advantages of dried milk over liquid milk are: 1. That it is hygienically safer; 2. That it is readily available for use; 3. That the bulk and weight are reduced to a minimum, thus decreasing the cost of transport; 4. That it will keep sweet for a long period.

These properties render it specially valuable for use by the Army and Navy, and in hospitals, public institutions, ships, bakeries, &c., and, in fact, in every place where milk is required at a distance from the source of supply.

Messrs Joseph Travers and Sons (Limited) have, by an agreement dated 13th June, 1906, agreed to act as, and have been appointed, sole selling agents of this company in the United Kingdom for a period of seven years, and have agreed not to sell any other dried milk products.

A brokerage of 6d per share will be paid by the company on all shares allotted in respect of applications made on forms bearing a broker's stamp, or made through bankers.

It is intended that an application shall be made in due course to the committee of the London Stock Exchange for quotation of and a settlement in the company's shares.

This notice is not issued for the purpose of inviting subscriptions, but by way of information only, and no applications will be entertained unless the same are made on the footing of and with reference to the full prospectus referred to, which prospectus contains particulars of contracts and much other information which is not included in this notice.

Copies of the full prospectus can be obtained from the Company's bankers, brokers, and solicitors, or at the Company's offices.

Tower Tea—Winchester House, noon.

Waygood and Co.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 19.

Bandarapola Ceylon Tea.—16, Philpot Lane, noon.

Bengal Nagpur Railway.—Gresham House, noon.

Carthage and Herrerias Steam Tramways.—Salisbury House 2.30 p.m.

Cordoba Central Railway.—Winchester House, noon.

Chadburn's (Ship) Telegraph.—Liverpool, noon.

Day Dawn P. C. Gold Mining.—Winchester House, noon.

Ebbw Vale Steel, Iron, and Coal.—Hotel Metropole, 2.30 p.m.

Lake Copper Proprietary.—Winchester House, 3 p.m.

Madras Railway.—1, Broad Street Place, 2.30 p.m.

Royal Insurance.—Liverpool, 11 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20.

Klerksdorp Gold Mines.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.

Law Life Association.—187, Fleet Street, 1 p.m.

Southern Mahratta Railway.—46, Queen Anne's Gate, noon.

South Australian Company.—54, London Wall, noon.

Taitapu Gold Estates.—Winchester House, noon.

Tasmanian Copper.—Winchester House, noon.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21.

Angela Nitrate.—Winchester House, 11.45 a.m.

French Guiana Mining.—Salisbury House, noon.

Martin Earle.—Cannon Street Hotel, 3 p.m.

Makum (Assam) Tea.—Blomfield House, 12.15 p.m.

Spies Petroleum.—London Chamber of Commerce, noon.

W. H. Chaplin.—Hotel Cecil, 2.30 p.m.

The Investors' Review

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CLEMENT WILSON,

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Questions about Public Securities will be answered each week in the **Investors' Review** on the following terms:—

For each question thus answered the charge will be **One Shilling**. Where more than One Question is put they should be numbered, and a copy kept. No Security is ever named in the Answers Printed.

Private Letters giving fuller answers can be had if desired. The minimum charge for such letters is **Ten Shillings** each; but for that Three Questions will be answered. For all additions beyond three the charge will be **Half-a-Crown** per query.

Lists of Investments furnished by correspondents will be annotated, or new sets of suggested investments will be supplied on the same terms, viz.:—**10s.** for the First Three, and **2s. 6d.** for each Additional one. But no group of securities forming a trust calculated to yield a given income will be supplied for less than **One Pound**.

The charge for Wires about New Issues appearing on days that prevent timely criticism in the **Investors' Review** will also be **2s. 6d.**, plus a prepaid telegram form.

The Editors cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

Letters from correspondents must, in every case, be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

The Investors' Review.

Indian Currency Inflation.

To us the most interesting portion of the current year's Indian budget statement, and one to which very little attention is paid in this country, is that dealing with the operations of the Indian mints, and the consequent inflation of the currency. Simla bureaucrats say nothing about inflation ever, but are full of smug self-congratulation over the success, as they call it, of their attempt to load up or stuff India with a depreciated currency at an excess valuation. They point to the remarkable steadiness of the exchange which averaged during the first 11 months of the past fiscal year at 1s. 4.647d., or .047d. above the standard, by fiat established, and they boast as a needy King John might have done of the "profit" which has accrued as the result of buying silver at the current low prices ruling on the London market and minting it into rupees which are put into circulation in India at this false standard as against gold—metal worth 9d. or so stamped, and palmed off as worth 16d. The result has been a wonderful amount of mintage "profit," they tell us, and part of this profit has been devoted to the accumulation of a gold reserve, which is very laudable no doubt, but as that reserve is covered by, or smothered under, a note circulation payable in inflated silver rupees, it does not seem very much to boast about. Its total, however, was augmented during the past year by £3,734,100, we are told by Mr. Baker, the Indian Finance Minister, in his budget essay. Of this imposing figure £3,488,700 represents what is called "profit on coinage," that is to say, the extent to which the recipients of the silver rupee are in the aggregate defrauded. Another £245,400 is interest for the fund already invested. It now stands at £12,262,700, of which the whole has been, or will very shortly be, invested in Consols, in National War Loan stock, Transvaal guarantee stock, Local Loans stock, and a portion of the Treasury bills—none of it you will observe is invested in the stocks of the Simla Government itself. But, then, in addition to this, there was gold to the amount of £11,575,400 held as "paper currency reserve," on March 15, and of this £7,045,000 was in the Secretary of State's "currency chest" in London, and the remainder in India. Surely we have here one of the most curious developments of the new currency arrangements. Why should gold be accumulated in London and not in India when the notes all circulate in India, unless the bureaucrats have a lingering doubt in their complacent minds that mischief may arise in consequence of flooding the Peninsula with debased rupees, and with paper money circulating on the same false valuation as these rupees. The growth of the Government paper money is indeed from many points of view ominous. In 1902-3 the average gross circulation was Rs.33,74,00,000, and in the 11 months expired of 1905-6 it was Rs.41,23,00,000, and the average nett circulation has risen to much the same extent, and is still expanding. This paper money doubtless economises the use of silver, but it also acts powerfully as an aid to the over-valued silver coinage in inflating prices, and here is where the danger to the Indian Government, more perhaps than to the Indian people themselves, comes in. It is not a matter of a year or ten years, half a century might elapse before the consequences

began to be felt to a dangerous extent, but whether the time is long or short, the operation of the Gresham Law is inevitable, and its destructive effects as relentless as fate. The more India is filled with currency—paper or metallic—forced into circulation upon a false valuation, the more will poverty of the masses of the people be increased, the greater in course of years will be its difficulties in collecting sufficient revenue to enable it to meet its obligations, and the more certain will be the ultimate bankruptcy of the public Treasury. It is as plain as daylight; inflated currency—currency circulation on a dishonest mint valuation—means a gradual rise in prices. The more the people are compelled to accept coins and notes issued upon false valuations the more reluctant they become to accept this currency at its face value. This reluctance is expressed perhaps unconsciously, but none the less ruthlessly, in a rise in prices, they give less and less of their goods in exchange for coin. A certain proportion of the people, those who have capital and something to vend, gains by this gradual advance in prices. They seem to grow rich because they get more in money for what they have to sell, but the consumers, the wage-earners, the great mass of the inhabitants, suffer in proportion as prices rise, and as their sufferings increase, their capacity to pay their way lessens, because their wages do not expand at the same ratio as prices rise. When all commodities become dearer the Government finds its capacity to pay its way more and more circumscribed simultaneously with a diminished elasticity of revenue. Ultimately, perhaps, by some accident—a sudden failure to raise further loans, a bad harvest or succession of bad harvests—the tax-gathering power of the Government becomes more or less paralysed, and when that day arrives it will have little or nothing to offer its creditors except a debased currency incapable of being exchanged for foreign coinage at anything like the internal exchange value forced upon it by law. Failing to “pass” this bad money, it will have no resource left but to dissipate the reserve accumulated out of the so-called profits created by the fraud—it is nothing but a fraud at bottom this currency device—perpetrated upon the people in its earlier stages. Then the end of the glory will not be far off, and we shall as a people become wise after the event in many things. For the present, however, we are only in the prosperous time of this appalling blunder, and our Simla bureaucrats cannot carry their noses too much in the air. “We have scored a great success,” they ever keep telling us, “defied experience and triumphed.” They have, and by and by the Government will begin to reap the fruits of its triumph. Were we here to be put in a position, though only temporarily, which would render it impossible for us to supply India with the £8,000,000 or £10,000,000 per annum of British capital which it demands under one guise or another, we should soon see what debased currency meant, not only to the population of India but to its alien Government. But that day may be afar off, and we must live in hope. India is a large country, and the mischief done so far need not be irreparable were we to revert to economy in administration, to cut down the military expenditure by one-half, reduce taxation, and allow the people to grow comfortable. But will we turn back?

The Illinois Central Railroad Co.

We have seldom read a railway report of greater interest than that submitted by Mr. Stuyvesant Fish, the president of this great American railroad, in commemoration of his nineteen years' occupancy of the chair. This railroad has always been one of the best and best managed in the United States, and Mr. Fish tells a story which is interesting not only because of its cleanliness, but because of the remarkable progress disclosed. As most people know, the main line of the Illinois Central travels south from Chicago to New Orleans, and consists mainly of lines worked under two names, the Illinois Central proper and the Yazoo and Mississippi

Valley line. For all purposes of comparison, these are taken as one property, since the Illinois Central controls the Yazoo and Mississippi. When Mr. Fish became president of the Illinois Central it worked 2,149 miles of road lying in the six States of Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana. On June 30, 1905, it worked 4,374 miles, all of which are virtually, although not in some cases technically, owned, and the Yazoo Company worked another 1,210 miles, so that altogether these two companies owned and controlled 5,584 miles of road lying in twelve States, the system having penetrated into Minnesota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Indiana, Arkansas, and Alabama, in addition to the States through which it ran at the earlier date. This expansion of roads has been accompanied by a most remarkable development of traffic, some idea of which may be obtained by giving a few percentages of growth. Thus the increase in the number of miles worked has been 167 per cent., comparing the first year of the nineteen with the last, but the gross receipts have gone up by 364.34 per cent., the number of locomotives by 246.30 per cent., the number of cars by 484.71 per cent., and the average number of tons paying freight in the train by 135.97 per cent. In almost all respects the Illinois Central shows greater expansion than twelve other selected roads with which Mr. Fish makes comparison, and it is significant that its double tracking also exceeds the average of these other roads, and while the gross amount paid by it in dividends on its common stock has increased by 227.72 per cent., the growth of the contrasted twelve roads is only 110.10 per cent. Its capital stock has gone up in precisely the same ratio as its dividends, but the common stock of the twelve roads with which a comparison is made has increased only 104.33 per cent. When comparison is made with all the railroads of the United States, whose figures have been tabulated on a uniform plan by the United States Inter-State Commerce Commission since 1900, the Illinois Central still comes out in favourable contrast.

All this progress has not been made without drawbacks and some of these may be enumerated. In the matter of taxes, for instance, the company paid \$142.17 per mile of railroad worked in 1886 and \$255.91 in 1905, the gross amount of its taxes having risen from \$196,744 to \$938,772. This, however, takes no account of the 7 per cent. of its gross receipts paid to the State of Illinois for the 706 miles of railway built and owned by the company within that State. In 1886 the State Treasury got only \$378,715 from its percentage, whereas in the year ended June 30, 1905, its quota was \$1,088,676. Thus in 18½ years the income of Illinois State from this source has nearly trebled, and it is estimated that if the revenue were capitalised on the basis of the average interest paid by the Illinois Central R.R. on its bonded debt—viz., 3⅓ per cent.—the capital value of this lien upon a small portion of the road would be \$29,688,465. What it will be a few years hence it is impossible to forecast. Working expenses, however, have also increased in a remarkable manner. In 1886 receipts and taxes together took 61.71 per cent. of the gross revenue, and after deducting 22.83 per cent. absorbed by fixed charges, rent and interest there was 15.46 per cent. available for dividends to the proprietors. In 1905 working expenses and taxes had risen to 74.32 per cent., while the fixed charges of all kinds took only 13.02 per cent. of the gross income, and even then there was but 12.66 per cent. left out of the entire gross revenue to pay dividends with. Every kind of expenditure, in fact, has increased; wages have gone up and the cost of working the lines has expanded in a variety of ways at the same time that freight and passenger fare charges have fallen off. Thus the average rate per passenger per mile was 2.208 cents in 1886 and only 1.839 cents in 1905. In the same way, the average revenue per ton in 1886 was \$2.06 and in 1905 only \$1.41. These reductions have been met by great improvements in the bearing capacity of the road-bed and in the weight of rolling-stock; in

the economy of handling freight and in other ways; but in spite of all the cost of working the business grows greater. In 1886 the company employed 8,516 individuals, who received an average income of \$580 each per annum. In 1905 its staff had gone up to 28,371 persons, whose average income was \$737. In other words, the number of employes had increased by 233.15 per cent. the average number employed per mile of railroad by 59.07 per cent., and the average annual salaries by 27.07 per cent.

In spite of its great prosperity and remarkably conservative management, the company has not been able to maintain the old 10 per cent. dividend which was paid on its stock from 1865 to 1873 inclusive, but for the whole 54½ years since its incorporation it has paid without failing dividends of some kind, 101 in all, and the average rate per cent. has been 6 6-10 per cent. per annum. In the lean years its distribution on the common stock has never fallen below 5 per cent., and for 1904-5 it paid 7 per cent. This renewed tendency to increase profits which began in 1900 has taken place notwithstanding the remarkable growth of the capital stock, for the Illinois Central has not followed the plan of some of its neighbours and thrown all or most of the burden of its expansion on to the bonded debt. On the contrary, its common stock has risen from \$29,000,000 in 1886 to \$95,040,000 on June 30 last, and it is on this larger stock that it was able to pay the increased dividend for the past fiscal year. But it has not divided "up to the hilt," for of the \$91,570,399 which might have been availed of for dividends \$27,601,000, or over 30 per cent., were devoted to permanent improvements and kindred purposes. The company's finances have therefore never been embarrassed by short-term obligations falling due and at times difficult to fund, or by any drawback of that description.

The number of the company's freight cars has risen from 14,201 in 1886 to 56,529 now, and the average capacity of the car has grown from 17.5 to 34.21 tons. In the same way the road-bed has been improved, ballasted and laid with heavier metal, the locomotives have been increased in weight and carrying power, and yet the Illinois Central has not at any time within thirty years issued car trust obligations of any kind nor are any such now outstanding in respect of the equipment of any railroad affiliated therewith. It has, moreover, now 668 miles of second line and is steadily pursuing the duplication throughout its whole main track, while its mileage of sidings has risen from 556 in 1890 to 1,559 now. At the same time, great reductions of grade have been made at different points, with the result that the tonnage rate of the engines—that is to say, their increased power to haul loads—has gone up sensibly at all these points. The lowest increase has been 32 per cent. and the highest 99 per cent., all these changes leading to increased economy in working the business. The company, thanks to its liberal provision of powerful locomotives and more capacious rolling-stock, is now in no way dependent upon foreign cars to help it in conducting its business. As recently as 1890 it had to pay \$137,772 as hire for the cars on other roads employed on its line, and last year it received \$122,236 for rent of its own cars working on neighbouring roads. These are but a few of the points of interest brought out in this remarkable history which is well worth detailed study. It is in many ways a gratification to come upon a document of this character. For one thing, it tends to restore and fortify the faith of British investors in the business capacity of the best railroad men of the United States, and to confirm the belief always latent, though often disturbed, that a country like the North American Union, whose population is increasing faster than that of any other territory in the world, is bound to afford many opportunities of favourable investment to the foreign capitalist.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY OF CHICAGO.

Over 50,000,000 people live within 24 hours' journey of Chicago, says Mr. Consul Finn, in his most interesting report recently issued by our Foreign Office. The account he gives of the magically rapid development of this region is most fascinating, and yet it leaves a sense of melancholy in the reader's mind. The people toil and slave continually to make money so that they have little or no leisure to enjoy that money, no outlook upon life except that involved in hunting the dollar. Thanks to their industry and to the enormous growth of population, the trade of Chicago expands at a greater rate than probably that of any other city in the world, and the place promises to become the greatest industrial and distributing centre in the whole North American Union. The great grass and meat lands of the west and north-west find their principal market in this city, notwithstanding the rapid expansion of other places like St. Louis, St. Paul, Kansas City, and, further south still, Denver. For the present we can only deal with the stock-yard section of the business, and there are some facts given about these which serve to show what a blow will be given to the prosperity not only of the city of Chicago, but to the whole of the west and middle States of the Union, should this industry be seriously interfered with and destroyed. Mr. Finn tells us, for example, that there were over 15,500,000 pigs killed in the yards in the city last year whose average weight was 222 lbs., or 2 lbs. more than in the previous year. It is interesting further to note that the health of the swine has improved, although "a good deal of tuberculosis has been found in the carcasses." Then about 11,000,000 sheep were brought into the yards, of which nearly 7,000,000 were killed, and as hardly any American mutton is exported, the inference is that the American people themselves eat this meat. The number of cattle—beeves—received at the eight principal stock-yards in Chicago was 9,365,894 last year, or 600,000 more than in 1904, and about 400,000 more were slaughtered, yet it is estimated that the number of cattle in the United States increased within the year by no less than 2,500,000, but then the nett increase in the population by immigration was quite 600,000 last year, after allowing for those who, having made money or tired of the experiment, went back to Europe. Our portion of the trade arising out of the stock-yard industry is an important one. We imported £7,416,376 worth of cattle last year, and almost £5,800,000 worth of preserved and fresh beef in various forms, fresh beef being the largest item, amounting alone to about £4,618,000. Also, we imported about £4,377,000 worth of bacon, £3,827,000 worth of ham, and £1,534,000 of pork. Our imports of lard came to £3,525,000, and there were smaller amounts in other commodities like tallow and oleomargarine products. It may be noted in this connection that the exports of butter from Chicago to the United Kingdom were valued at nearly £400,000 last year, the weight being 5,600 tons, and Mr. Finn significantly adds, "it is not known how much of this is process or renovated butter, but many of the meat packers who sell butter also manufacture process butter." Just so. But we shall have to help the American people in their conflict with the packers by closing our ports to all doubtful foods.

AMALGAMATED COPPER COMPANY.

The New York *Commercial Chronicle* does well to grumble about the report issued by the Amalgamated Copper Company. This is a "holding" company whose inception and remarkable finance formed the subject of so many revelations and preachments by the notorious Mr. Thomas Lawson, of Boston, and for some years after its creation no reports at all were issued. Last year, however, a sort of statement made its appearance, but without a profit and

loss account or any details worth perusing. This year the only noticeable improvement upon the first statement is a casual mention of the fact that the company's nett revenue in the past year amounted to \$9,161,537. As it paid dividends aggregating 5½ per cent. for its year ended April 30 last, there was only \$313,000 left as surplus for the year. The total surplus shown, however, is about \$9,256,000, and of this \$7,350,000 has been lent to the Washoe Copper Company, a creature of the Amalgamated, to enable it to build a smelter at Montana. The puzzle is why the profits should have been so small seeing that the directors boast of a great increase in the price of copper. The demand, they say, for electrolytic copper in 1905 was such that the price rose from 15¾ cents per lb. in April in that year to 18½ cents per lb. in December. They add that this higher price has been obtained for all the copper produced by the mine since that date, and that the companies owned wholly or in part by the Amalgamated Company produced in 1905 about 268,000,000 lbs. of refined copper, of which total the Amalgamated Company received benefit from about 216,000,000 lbs. An explanation of the comparatively poor results exhibited in the meagre balance-sheet issued by the board of this Standard Oil financial concoction is suggested by the *Chronicle*, and probably comes near the truth. Referring back to the balance-sheet of the Anaconda Copper Company, in which the Amalgamated holds a controlling interest, it finds that the nett profits there shown came to \$5,587,722, but that the amount distributed in dividends by the company was only \$3,450,000, so that it retained a considerable portion of the profits to add to its surplus. If other companies overshadowed by the Amalgamated did the same thing, the meagreness of its own gains would be explained, but clearly a fuller report ought to be issued. The share capital amounts to almost £31,000,000, probably nearly all in the hands of the public, and even if there is only 10 per cent. of it held by outsiders these people have the right to a full statement of the position.

NEW GOCH GOLD MINES.

Twelve months ago it looked as if this Albu company was making headway, slowly yet surely, towards dividend times, but in the past year it has lost considerable ground. This must be exceedingly disappointing to the shareholders, and will go far to exhaust the patience of those who have for years clung to the company in the hope that it would be as successful as several of the other outcrops in the same group. The year 1905 may be divided into three distinct periods, as regards the character of the operations carried on. From January to June 60 stamps were running, and the new plant was in course of erection; from July to October milling was suspended to permit of the additional 60 stamps and other equipment being completed and coupled up with the old plant, while in November and December the increased mill of 120 stamps was employed. It appears, however, that it was impossible to get a sufficient supply of native labour, so machine drills were used, and the stopes were carried too wide, with the result that a large quantity of waste rock was sent to the mill. This had an unfavourable effect upon the grade of the ore. At last, as the labour supply decreased, 30 of the stamps had to be hung up. The total quantity of ore treated in the 12 months was 105,650 tons, from which gold to the value of £127,072 was won, equal to 24s. per ton, while working costs amounted to £124,303, or 23s. 6d. per ton, so the gross profit was as tiny as £2,768, equivalent to 6d. per ton. Sundry revenue gave £2,720, making the total profit £5,488. There have been charged to the profit and loss account the 8 per cent. premium on £16,700 debentures redeemed, amounting to £1,336; interest on debentures, £15,522; interest on temporary loans, £25,297; debenture trustee fees, £250; and war expenditure in suspense, written off, £76,412, or £118,818 in the aggregate. Deducting from this the credit of £87,912

in the previous balance-sheet, and the profit earned in 1905, a debit of £25,418 is taken to the new accounts. The controlling concern, the General Mining and Finance Corporation, has advanced the sum of £483,081, including interest at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, to enable the company to complete the development and equipment of the property on the basis of 120 stamps, and the directors impress upon the shareholders the great advantages of being able to borrow so much from the parent "at a reasonable (sic) rate of interest to complete the work in hand during such times of stress and depression." When will the company be able to repay this big loan out of profits, as well as to get rid of the debit?

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY.

Doubts may exist in some minds regarding the wisdom of Stock Exchange speculators in appraising the value of this company's £10 shares at 86 or thereabouts, but there can be no question of the magnificence of the company's position. The report for the year ended May 31 gives evidence of remarkable prosperity, and the directors are able to provide aggregate dividends of £4 per share or 22s. more than for the previous twelve months. This means a return of 40 per cent. on the £10 share, and if we allow for accrued dividend and take the price of the shares at 83, the yield to a buyer now would be 4½ per cent. That seems rather slender compared with the risks involved, and although the dividend next year may be even greater, the uncertainties of trading and the almost inevitable fluctuations in the land department may result in a sharp decline. We have no desire to be pessimistic, that indeed would be impossible with such a splendid business, but a tremendous lot of future prosperity is discounted in the current quotation. After showing a rather severe drop in the previous twelve months, business in the land department improved again during the period under review, the quantity of farm land sold advancing about 100 per cent. to 226,197 acres. At the same time the average price per acre was almost a dollar higher, so that the value of the property disposed of was \$1,611,627, against \$705,690. Sales of town lots also had the gratifying increase of \$219,605 to \$342,317, but excellent though these figures are, it may be as well to glance at the subjoined table and contrast them with the returns for 1903. Altogether the sales in the land department amounted to £401,495 as compared with £170,219, and the receipts to £297,000 against £235,740.

LAND SALES.

Year Ending March 31.	Farm.		Town Lots.
	Acres.	Average Price.	
1899.....	61,546	\$ 4'88	\$ 26,330
1900.....	64,598	4'98	54,470
1901.....	71,703	4'90	60,177
1902.....	196,844	5'08	57,082
1903.....	368,678	5'66	686,765.
1904.....	180,414	6'15	255,700
1905.....	114,298	6'17	122,712
1906.....	226,197	7'12	342,317

Including £25,000 transferred to credit of buildings account, and £15,000 provided for irrigation expenditure, the total outgo in the land department was £74,966, leaving £222,035 nett. This is transferred to the income and expenditures account, which includes the "results of trade of outfit 1904." Altogether the credits which came into this department reached the enormous sum of £1,706,097, but that is not all revenue. The account shows the complete operations of the year, and therefore includes a vast quantity of goods and other property on hand at the commencement of the financial year. The necessary debits appear on the other side, and the actual excess is brought out at £412,242. To this is added

£94,064 brought forward, making £506,306, of which £400,000 is absorbed by the dividend. £10,000 is added to the employees' benefit fund, and £96,307 is carried forward. The directors say that good prices were realised at the fur sales, a marked advance taking place in the values of several descriptions of skins. Quantities offered were also much larger than usual, the barque *Stork* having safely returned with her cargo after being detained by ice for a whole season in Hudson's Bay. There was, however, one little misfortune, the *Pelican*, engaged in the transport of the Labrador district, York Factory, and Churchill, striking on a rock on the coast of Labrador, on her voyage out, and sustaining serious damage. As a result she was unable to proceed to the posts in Hudson's Bay, and the furs remain there to be brought home in the present year. This may again help to swell profits, and the directors show their faith in the future by saying that the steady and continued influx of settlers, together with the great increase of new railways under construction, are contributing largely to the development and prosperity of the north-west of Canada.

Year Ending May 31.	Profits from Trading.	Profits from Land.	Total Nett Revenue.	Dividend per Share.
	£	£	£	s. d.
1897	55,780	5,137	60,917	13 0
1898	59,873	9,500	69,773	13 0
1899	105,285	20,310	125,595	20 0
1900	125,796	29,249	155,045	25 0
1901	40,042	28,495	68,537	15 0
1902	68,503	69,695	138,198	22 6
1903	142,001	177,857	319,858	22 6*
1904	98,934	216,191	315,125	35 0†
1905	102,969	207,364	310,333	58 0
1906	190,207	222,035	412,242	80 0

* In addition capital return of £2 per share.

† Capital return of £1 per share.

The balance-sheet is a rather remarkable document in one sense because the value of the company's property, apart from the trading business, is entered at the nominal figure of £100,000. This represents the huge land holding of the company, which must bring in many millions if the present valuation of the company's shares is to be justified. The money invested in the fur trade is £1,189,398, and the fact that about £100,000 is owing on sundry accounts is of small consequence because the company has the splendid cash balance of £361,874. Insurance and reserve fund may seem small at £70,000, but this is hardly the kind of enterprise which requires heavy accumulations, and we must remember the enormous hidden reserves in the shape of unrealised land.

STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE FINANCE.

Some friends have complained that we did not "take the gloves off" in dealing with this big Scotch insurance office the other week. That may be true, but we are always reluctant to adopt an attitude of critical puritanism towards any British life office of repute, and there are so many good elements in the Standard Life that its management ought to be capable of pulling the business round without having to be trounced into doing so. The position is serious enough to cause any body of directors and officials to pause of their own accord, and mend their ways. Details in the accounts are not sufficiently complete to enable one to say how much money the office has drawn from its policy-holders each year in the form of with-profit loadings on the premiums. Its total premium income, however, considerably exceeds £900,000, and a shrewd critic informs us that it would not be unfair to assume the proportion of with-profit premiums in this income to be about £500,000 per annum. Now it is well known, or should be, that "profits" are not made haphazard by any life office. They represent a definite addition to the loading put upon the premiums to cover working expenses, and can be calculated with great exactitude provided the portion assigned to profits is

not dissipated in ordinary working expenses. Mr. John Coles, at the meeting of the Clerical, Medical, and General Life Assurance Society, in November last, hinted at 12½ per cent. as the sort of fair average charge or loading upon premiums for working expenses, and we agree with that view. It is one indeed that we have put forward times without number, but the Standard Life Office has been spending about 20 per cent. of its premium income in current working expenses, and it therefore follows that if 12½ per cent. should be enough for this purpose, it has been eating up the greater part of the extra premiums charged to "with-profit" policyholders, really their property, and has accordingly lost this money and landed itself in an unpleasant dilemma.

Put the matter another way. Assume that 10 per cent. is the amount added to the ordinary life policy premium in order to create "profits." On £500,000 of such premiums annually paid by policy-holders, this means a loading of £50,000. In the past five years, therefore, the Standard Life Company, which is now unable to declare any bonus whatever on these with-profit policies, has absorbed, at the rate of £50,000 per annum, £250,000 of policy-holders' money, for which it has nothing whatever to show. This is rather an ugly statement to make, but we fear it is unpleasantly true, and the Board will have to bestir itself to stop the waste if worse is not to follow. Not only have the with-profit policy-holders lost all this money, but the accumulative interest upon it. If £50,000 a year is realised through charging extra premiums, and put aside as "profits" each year the interest upon that money should be available at the end of five years to increase the bonuses distributed, but the Standard Life Office has no money whatever to give these policy-holders, who have lost both principal and interest. They may have been robbed, in other words, of between £250,000 and £300,000 in the past five years, and the question is where has the money gone? No light whatever is thrown upon that point in the report we lately dealt with, and the silence is in some respects more eloquent than speech, but we are entitled to ask whether this money has been squandered in fighting for business in Canada and other countries outside the United Kingdom, or has it been lost in bad investments? How many brewery debentures, for example, does the Standard Life Office hold? Has it any investments in depreciated Colonial securities, or does it hold bad mortgages? Silence must never be permitted upon grave matters of this kind. The failure to pay any bonus for the last quinquennium has already damaged the position of the Standard Life Company, and its reputation adversely affects life business all round. Those who are appealed to by insurance canvassers will be only too ready to excuse themselves from entering into policy contracts when the results shown in this instance can be emphasised. Why should anybody throw away money in feeding the untutored ambition of insurance managers to show huge figures after the fashion set by those corrupt American life offices with whose misdoings we have worried readers for so many years? If speculation is to enter into the business, if it is to become a gamble too often of the type of "heads I win, tails you lose," then the public would be much wiser to spend its money or to put it into Consols, and give "life policies" a wide berth. There will have to be an overhaul then of this Standard Life Office, and reformation lest worse happens. It comes to this:—Have the managers of a life insurance business any right to appropriate the moneys belonging to old policy-holders to pay for the wasteful cost of capturing new?

JOHN BROWN AND CO.

The recovery in profits of this huge shipbuilding and engineering business, which began in 1904-5, made further progress during the year to March 31 last. The construction of the magnificent turbine liner *Carmania* for the Cunard Company was no doubt very helpful, and there is probably a good deal of profit

still to be made out of the *Lusitania*. This is one of the two giant vessels for which the late Tory Government, in one of its spasms of blue funk, provided the money. The ship was launched on June 7, and when completed about a year hence will be the largest and fastest vessel in the world. Good progress is also reported with a large cruiser for the British Government and a troop ship for the Indian Government. Several smaller steam vessels for cross-Channel service are on the point of completion, and two have been delivered during the past year. The machinery for H.M.S. *Africa* has also been delivered. In other directions the board reports trade as fairly good during the period under review, saying that better prices have been obtained at the Atlas works for most of the company's manufactures. There is no material change to announce in the coal trade generally, but coke values have been somewhat higher, and it is hoped that the export business in coal will be stimulated by the repeal of the coal tax. It was mentioned in the last report that negotiations were proceeding for the acquisition of one-half share in the Coventry Ordnance works of Cammell Laird and Co., and the announcement is now made that the transaction has been completed. Considerable expenditure is being incurred to enable the company to furnish naval ordnance of the largest calibre, and the sum of £296,000 standing to the credit of share premium account has been appropriated towards the outlay already incurred in this branch of the business. Satisfactory headway is being made with the work on hand. The result of all this is an increase in the property account of £396,359 to £3,001,632, but deducting the share premium account of £296,000, which is specifically written off capital expenditure and disappears from the debit side of the account, the increase on the year is about £100,000 at £2,705,632. This one item consists of land, buildings, iron and steel works, blast furnaces, &c., at Sheffield; shipyard and engineering works, Clydebank; collieries at Aldwarke, Car House and Rotherham; shares in Spanish mines and other companies, and a host of additional assets.

Would any harm result if this great mass of material was given in greater detail? As it stands it conveys no useful information at all. We are unable to get at the allowance for depreciation, and while the sum written off is probably sufficient shareholders would be more pleased with actual knowledge. Neither is anything provided in the shape of a profit and loss account, and while we should be the last to advocate the publication of information which might prove useful to rivals, the balance-sheet could be made much more intelligible without risk of any kind. A company which has a share capital of £2,200,000, and a fixed and floating debt of £700,000, or thereby incurs big responsibilities, especially when it so largely depends upon the expenditure of public money for its prosperity. We note that the company owes £378,204 to sundry creditors, or about £38,000 less than the sum due by debtors, not a large balance to the good. Moreover, cash and bills in hand are remarkably poor at £15,923, against an undivided profit of £230,732, and if the company presently has to ask for more capital, none need be surprised. Stock of work in progress, materials, tools, and duplicates constitute a big item at £573,706, but shareholders can hardly wish to see that reduced because a drop might imply a decrease in contracts in hand. Nett profit for the year is returned at £245,323, compared with £218,556 in the previous 12 months, £175,240 in the year before that, and £452,625 in 1900-01, the latter the best period ever experienced. Balance brought forward was about £10,000 better at £61,851, so that after providing £21,441 or £1,822 more for debenture interest, the sum for disposal is £285,732 or a gain of £35,215. Preference share dividend requires £37,000, and besides raising the ordinary dividend from 8½ per cent. to 10, the directors can provide an extra £10,000 at £40,000 for extensions and altera-

tions, carrying forward the rather larger credit of £62,732.

SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD TRUST.

A shareholder, by name Mr. Russell H. Monro, has addressed a circular to his fellow sufferers in the South African Gold Trust, appealing to them to put all their heads and brains together to improve the position of this particular company. This is a formidable task, for how a mere handful of men can hope to render impotent inexorable economic laws is inconceivable. If they could accomplish this they could speedily end all our miseries by creating wealth out of nothing. For this great money-lending and bucket-shop keeping concern, the ally of the illustrious Consolidated Gold Fields, is finding its income dwindling because the penurious can no longer be drained, because it cannot speculate to advantage, because dividends and interest are diminishing, and because its wealth, in the shape of its share assets, is becoming, as it were, vaporised. The problem is complex:—How to make the poor rich, to multiply market gamblers possessed of money, to replenish the empty coffers of numberless mining companies, and to inflate quotations. Mr. Monro evidently imagines such feats to be practicable, even in these South African days of anathema and swearing at Governments. So far from the meeting being antagonistic to the board, Mr. Monro says it has been convened after full discussion with it, "in a friendly spirit." This we can fully believe, nor would it astonish us to hear that the suggestion had originated in the board room. For the directors must be at their wits' end to know what to do, the prospect is too cheerless to be borne, and more money must be had from somewhere. If they could only get the shareholders into a pleasant, amenable mood, what might they not be able to do with them, particularly in coaxing more money out of them? We are full of pity for the poor fellows, and should be glad to help them to an honest job. It is such weary work this of "very artificially extracting foul gases from the dead carcass of an ass." No wonder the directors are tired of it. "Our board find some difficulty," runs the letter, "in continuing their dual position as directors of this company as well as of the Gold Fields, and an important point for our discussion is how to mend their present fiduciary position to the two companies." Might we suggest resignation? "Some drastic measures must also be adopted to reduce our expenditure during these depressed times." Quite so; and what easier than to reduce the fees of the directors, as well as their numbers? "It was all very well when our company was making £200,000 a year profit to pay the Gold Fields Company £10,000 a year for their advice and the use of their staff and offices, but it is quite another matter now, when we are literally doing nothing but looking at the dwindling away of the value of our investments in some 39 securities." Surely a split is not contemplated? And surely all this extravagance might have been considered in the past, in the interests of the shareholders! No wonder that Mr. Monro actually makes, in the concluding portion of his epistle, one or two suggestions on the lines we have hinted at:—

We should, I think, offer to pay the Gold Fields by results, and not by a fixed annual sum. Again, there is a strong feeling that a practical board of some four directors should be substituted for the present unwieldy directorate, by which means there would be a considerable saving in the expenses of the management. Further, our chairman has told us, the time has passed for investing our reserve fund of £500,000 in Consols and such like, and we should look out for safe 5 per cent. securities in our own line of business, such as the redeemable debentures of the great South African mines. The result of such changes in our management should be a saving of some £20,000 a year, for we should save at least £8,000 out of the £10,000 we now pay the Gold Fields in these times for practically nothing. We should also save some £2,000 a year in our directors' fees, and we should make in interest on our reserve fund an additional £10,000 a year with perfect safety. Such savings would yield a dividend on our ordinary capital of over 4 per cent. This circular has only been sent to holders of 500 ordinary shares and upwards.

If the directors are really willing to agree to some such economies and to make the necessary personal sacrifices it will be commendable, but this we cannot be assured of until their actual feelings are known. But a saving even of £20,000 a year is not going to the root of the trouble; it will merely prolong the period of distress and suspense. It will not put money into the pockets of the shareholders, will not improve and strengthen the position of the South African market, nor revive and justify public confidence in the mine bosses and create new wealth to replace that lost. It is analogous to giving physic to a doomed person to prolong a life of agony. Such saving may postpone reconstruction, but can it avert it?

THE FINANCES OF URUGUAY.

Three issues of the *Montevideo Times* have recently come to hand, and afford a striking contrast in points of view. The earliest of the three is dated May 16, and contains a rather eulogistic description of the Budget message sent to the Chambers by the Government. It shows a surplus which the *Times* describes as genuine, although some portion of it seems to have come from proceeds of the new Conversion Loan. The revenue, however, has been growing in a most encouraging fashion during recent months, so that the Customs receipts in particular have yielded much more than the estimate. Therefore the Government should be in an excellent position to frame its forecast for the year ended June 30 next. Unfortunately, and here the note changes, we find in later issues of the paper a melancholy history of fresh projects, all designed to waste public money and portending further dipping into loan funds. New legations and consulates are to be established, involving considerable additions to the burdens upon the people, and from the posts thus created the party called Nationalist is to be rigorously excluded. It is a case of to the victors belong the spoil. Not only are new posts to be created, involving large additions to the load borne by the small population, but the discounts hitherto taken from salaries in order to effect economies are to be abolished, and that will add some \$600,000 to the Budget. Worse even than this, ostentatious projects are hatching, and the total estimate of expenditure for 1906-7 is put at \$18,200,000, or \$1,104,300 more than the estimates for the year just closing. But this is by no means all. Another \$1,000,000, consisting of the surplus from last year and a slice out of the war indemnity loan, is to be devoted to transit works, raising the amount assigned to this purpose to \$4,000,000. Then another \$1,000,000 of borrowed money is to be put into school buildings. About \$691,000 further will be appropriated to establish veterinary and agricultural schools, and no less than \$100,000 to provide a monument in memory of General Artigas, "founder of the national independence." Also the Government is said to be contemplating the erection of a new Government House and permanent Presidential residence, the cost of which no man can foreshadow, and a national museum and library is talked of, towards which \$100,000 will be abstracted from the Conversion Loan, and the ultimate cost of which may well exceed \$500,000. Thus a prospect the reverse of pleasant lies before the inhabitants of this afflicted State, and an independent newspaper like the *Montevideo Times* does well to protest, but what can be expected so long as Uruguay finds the European money markets open to it and can issue loan after loan?

BOLIVIA.

It was recently announced that the Republic of Bolivia has entered into a contract with several American houses, the object of which is to construct railways throughout the country at a cost of £5,000,000. When the statement first appeared it was commonly remarked, "How on earth can Bolivia give any security for this money?" Some answer to this ques-

tion is to be found in a recent consular report issued by the Foreign Office. Bolivia as a State is not prosperous, and cannot offer any direct security for a loan in present circumstances. The budget for the current year shows a deficit of almost £93,000, taking the Bolivian dollar or bolivar at 1s. 8d. How, then, are the American contractors to make sure of getting back their money? They will probably do as the projectors of the Antofagasta Railway did, develop some further portion of the incalculably rich mineral resources of the country. In all probability their railway projects are connected with other schemes for opening up mineral regions, the development of which is certain to result in prosperity to the railways if not directly to the country and people. There is no reason, however, why Bolivia should not emerge from a position of discredit and become a prosperous State, for the resources of the country in other things than minerals are practically inexhaustible and to a great degree untouched. The rubber industry, for instance, is capable of enormous extension if attention be paid to the cultivation of the plantations which at present are left completely wild. Bolivia has large areas of copper deposits, and tin is also found and worked. It would do better than it has hitherto done were it not for the scarcity of labour. New mines are constantly being discovered, Mr. Consul Harrison says, and their lucky possessors are losing no time in putting up the necessary concentrating plant in order to ensure as large a production as possible so as to participate to the utmost extent in the high prices now ruling. There is also gold in the country, but we are glad to notice that this industry has lost favour, having made no progress during the past year, and it would be a pity if a gold rush spoiled development in other directions. People forget that the great Huanchaca mine is in Bolivia, out of whose fabulous wealth the prosperity of the Antofagasta Railway has grown. As yet the trade of the republic, apart from its minerals, is quite insignificant, but it will grow when markets are opened up. So the security to be created by the expenditure of capital in Bolivia ought to be ample.

FINLAND.

Most people in this country have the idea that Finland is a barren country mostly in the grip of frost and snow, and only the few are aware that it is a beautiful land full of lakes, rivers, sombre pine forests, and also of farms, and possessed of an enterprising, go-ahead population capable of extending the trade of their country in many directions if they are only left free to control their own destinies. Finland has even a National Debt, but it has been incurred for railways which more than balance its amount. The financial position of the Grand Duchy is, therefore, good, and it is strong enough to bear the projected increase of about £8,000,000 in this National Debt. At present the debt amounts to £5,665,290, but that is only £2 16s. per head of the population as against £6 10s. per head in Norway, £5 10s. in Denmark, and £3 13s. in Sweden. It is doubtful whether investors in the United Kingdom know anything whatever about this public security which has mostly been placed in Germany, but if Finland is going to raise another £8,000,000, all for public works, there ought to be no good reason why some of our money should not find lodgment in the new securities offered. The present value of the Finnish Railways is said to be about £13,000,000, and although the nett revenue yielded by them is not yet large, it is bound to grow, for Finland has in her forests alone an enormous and, with proper management, inexhaustible source of wealth. With an annual growth of 12,000,000 cubic metres about 9,000,000 cubic metres of large and 6,000,000 of small timber could be advantageously taken from the State forests each year. This would mean an increase of about 5,000,000 cubic metres in Finnish exports of timber, wood pulp, &c., over the total for 1903, and that would give a revenue of £1,600,000, or about 40 per cent. of

the present total ordinary annual revenue of the Government. This is the revenue, moreover, from the Government forests alone, but there are many private properties which would also furnish their quota to the exports, and Finland has other commodities for which foreign markets could be found. It exports oats, butter, eggs, gums of various descriptions, cheese, and so on. Probably no marked extension could take place in the output of some of these commodities, but there is no knowing, for the people are enterprising, and amongst other things own a large mercantile marine, large that is looking at the smallness of the population and its sparseness. Finland's commercial fleet, counting only vessels above 19 tons, numbered 2,465 sailing vessels in 1904, of a total capacity of 289,532 register tons, and 334 steamers of a capacity of 56,663 register tons, and this fleet is always increasing. The percentage of steamers is now 16.4 of the total. Steam communication, in fact, goes on all the year round between Hull and Helsingfors, while much of the carrying trade of the Baltic is in Finnish hands.

American Business Notes.

It must be a great disappointment to operators for the rise on Wall Street to find the New York Associated Banks so helpless against their commitments. A substantial increase in the reserve was confidently expected last week, something like £3,000,000 in gold having been returned from first to last from San Francisco. Instead of that the banks actually lost specie, and although there was a gain of nearly £400,000 in legal tenders, the actual excess of the reserve over the legal minimum was about £18,000 down at only £1,415,000. The banks, too, instead of reducing their advances to the market had actually increased them by about £200,000, that being the amount of the expansion in loans and discount. This is not a pleasant position from any point of view, and least of all in view of the commitments of American financiers in Europe. These haunt the imagination of the players, and no wonder, for they may imply unbearable drafts upon New York for gold in the autumn.

On June 7 there was laid the last rail of the new Union road which connects the Wabash railway system with 50 of the largest plants in the Pittsburgh district, and raises the greatest rival to the Pennsylvania railroad it has yet had. The amount of freight already assured the Wabash will, it is said, be about ten millions of tons yearly, on which the returns to the Gould lines for the Pittsburgh district will be a trifle under a dollar per ton. The completion of this Union railroad marks the closing of the agreement entered into five years ago between the Carnegie and Gould interests, when Mr. Carnegie promised that if the Wabash would come into Pittsburgh the Carnegie Steel Company would give it one-fourth of its business, and through the connecting Union road assure it access to all the works in the Pittsburgh district.

It is understood that the Gould and other interests in the management of the Wabash Railroad Company have practically decided on a scheme for financing the company, which will enable it to meet all demands in the immediate future, and for a long time to come. The plan is somewhat similar to that adopted not long ago by the Southern Railroad Company, when it authorised the issue of bonds for \$200,000,000, secured by a general mortgage on all the lines, to be used in retiring other bonds and for improvements and extensions to the system. The Wabash issue, however, will not be so large, probably about half that amount, but having regard to the relative importance of the two systems, it will constitute about an equal liability. The new bonds will bear interest at 5 per cent., and mature in 50 years. Of the issue \$21,000,000 will be used to retire the "A" and "B" series of Wabash debentures. The "A" debentures amounting to \$3,500,000 will be called in at par in accordance with the provisions governing their issue, which allows their retirement at par on four weeks' notice. The "B" debentures, of which there are \$26,500,000 outstanding, will be retired on a basis of 70 per cent. in new 4 per cent. bonds; 50 per cent. in preferred stock, and 50 per cent. in common stock. A syndicate which has been formed will underwrite the new securities, and will offer debenture-holders 90 per cent. of their holdings in cash should they prefer it to securities, but it is not thought many will ask for the cash, the securities offering more attraction. The new 4 per cent. bonds are expected by the syndicate to stand at about 80 or 85, but assuming that they would sell at only 80, the holder of every \$1,000 "B" debenture would get a new bond salable at \$560. The allotment of common stock at present prices would net \$105, and that of preferred \$250, or \$915 for each "B" debenture. The Goulds were known a short time ago to be large holders of these securities, and it is believed they have since largely increased them, and it is said also that there is a considerable amount of them in the Wabash Treasury. There will be no need, so it is said, to make a new issue of common stock to carry out the plan, as there is in the company's treasury \$48,000,000 of common stock, but there will have to be a new issue of preferred to the amount of \$13,250,000. It is not anticipated that there will be any opposition to the plan as outlined, the Gould interest being so strong as practically to control the issue.

According to a bulletin issued by the Director of the United States Census early in June, the value of the steel and rolling mill products turned out in the United States in 1905 was \$673,965,026. Compared with 1900, the value had increased 13 per cent., and the capital invested more than 76 per cent. The amount of capital was in 1900 \$429,960,043; in 1905, \$760,182,310.

The North Atlantic Trading Company scandal in Canada seems likely to become a political issue, and not in the interests of the Laurier Government. The *Toronto Sun*, which speaks as the organ of an influential part of the population of Ontario, the premier province of the Dominion, points out with great force that though this company has received some half million dollars in bonuses on emigrants brought to Canada through its agency, neither the Parliament at Ottawa nor the Canadian public know the names of a single member of the company. When examined before the Committee of the Canadian House of Commons on matters that had become notorious in connection with it, Mr. Preston, Canadian immigration agent abroad, flatly refused to divulge the names, and the Canadian Parliament, at the dictation of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Premier, sustained him, and Mr. Preston showed that Lord Strathcona approved of secrecy on the subject. As the *Sun* argues, the Canadian taxpayer has a right to know not only the purposes for which every dollar is taken out of the Federal Treasury, but also who gets it. This is a trite saying, but the Canadian taxpayer seems to have abdicated all his rights since he has become the victim of a senseless imperialism.

The reopening of the inquiry into the charges against the Pennsylvania Railroad before the Interstate Commerce Commission at Philadelphia on June 6 brought out additional evidence, which one report says almost stupefied the commissioners by its matter of fact yet startling admissions. Joseph Bayer, chief clerk in the office of the Superintendent of Motive Power, acknowledged having received gifts of stock amounting to \$11,000, and more than \$46,000 in money from coal mining companies during three years. He named five companies that had allowed him from three to five cents a ton on coal sold to his company. At first, Mr. Bayer said he had been disinclined to accept these gifts, but, on consideration, decided that he would be doing nothing unusual in taking them. He apparently acted on the principle that "they all do it"; but so soon as the matter was brought to the notice of Mr. Cassatt, the president, Mr. Bayer was discharged from the service of the company. Another clerk, Joseph K. Aiken, confessed to having

purchased stock in different coal companies to the tune of nearly \$75,000 on a salary that varied from \$30 to \$120 a month. Gifts of cash were made him by coal-owners on the Pennsylvania lines, and he had received \$50 a month for several months from a company store. Some of the details regarding discrimination for or against certain coal companies which were brought out in the evidence told heavily against other officials of the Pennsylvania Railroad. The enquiry commission will now go thoroughly into the relations between the railways and the soft coal and oil industries, as a consequence of the relations showing corporate and individual corruption on the part of the former.

The directors of the new New York Interborough Metropolitan Company met on June 7 and declared a quarterly dividend of $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on its \$55,000,000 cumulative preferred stock. This action is said to have much mystified Wall Street, as the recently published earnings of the subway, elevated, and surface lines of the company for the March quarter showed that the $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on the preferred stock had not been earned. A circular issued by the directors attracted much attention. According to it the $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. dividend declared on June 6 on the \$35,000,000 Interborough Rapid Transit Company will just pay the interest on the \$70,000,000 $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. collateral trust bonds, and the \$740,741 to be received from the surface lines will pay the $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on the \$55,000,000 preferred stock, leaving \$174,140 to meet the $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. fixed charges on the \$9,500,000 outstanding guaranteed 7 per cent. Metropolitan Street Railway stock. As \$166,250 is the amount required to cancel that obligation the surplus over the $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. dividend declared June 7 on the Interborough Metropolitan preferred stock would be \$7,890. In view of the figures given out with the announcement of the dividend of $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. Wall Street was at a loss to make the showing harmonize with the official statement given out May 17, in which it was stated that with \$2,182,240 surplus for the nine months the subway and elevated lines would end the fiscal year June 30 with a surplus of about \$2,800,000.

The inquiry into the doings of the Mutual Life Insurance Co. continues to bring out piquant exposures. It appears that the New York District Attorney Jerome has promised full immunity to several of the persons concerned in the robberies practised on the company, including Andrew C. Fields, Lysander W. Lawrence, George McKibbin, and others concerned in the "padded" bills matter, but will allow Robert Olyphant, James C. Holden, and Chas. E. Miller, members of the Expenditures Committee, who passed them, and drew a voucher for \$25,000 quarterly in favour of Olyphant, who turned over money amounting to almost \$600,000 for the "yellow dog," or legislature corrupting firm, to go free. The object of all this is said to be to obtain evidence against the mysterious "men higher up," who up to now have escaped detection, or at least open accusation. The Grand Jury has discovered many false entries, some which, it is said, will justify indictments for forgery against prominent persons in the old management; while the list of bribe-takers will include governors of States and members of legislatures from which favours had to be obtained by the Mutual. Mr. Joseph Choate, lately Ambassador from Washington, has advised bringing these suits.

The question of the issuing of free passes by railway companies in the United States to members of Congress, State legislatures, and private persons of wealth and social prominence, and to the families and friends of railway officials, as also to Press men, has been up before the Senate in connection with the Railway Rate Bill. During the discussion Senator La Follette, of Wisconsin, stated that the issuance of such passes was a discrimination against the entire travelling public, and quoted the assertion of the auditor of one of the largest railway companies to the effect that 10 per cent. of the entire passenger traffic of the country was on free passes. This he said meant that some

\$50,000,000 a year were illegitimately drawn out of the pockets of the paying travelling public.

As was to be expected, the beef packers of Chicago are putting up a stiff fight against anything like drastic legislation, looking to the enforcement of adulteration and restriction of the use of noxious preservatives laws in their business, and are drawing all kinds of red herrings across the trail to baffle their pursuers. They are offering to provide proper ventilation and greater cleanliness in their works, and to keep the windows clean, but object to such degree of inspection as will ensure that the consumer will not still be liable to have unwholesome stuff and potted refuse pawned off on him. The discussion before the House Committee on Agriculture at Washington on June 6 consisted mainly of recriminations and hair-splitting cross-examination of witnesses, and attempts to confuse the issue all round. The packers declared they had lost half their business, and that it would cost them at least a million dollars to put their factories into a condition to satisfy the demands of the present hysteria. Some of the conditions described by witnesses were repulsive in the last degree, so much so that it would justify the authorities in destroying the whole of the stocks of meat products turned out of such establishments as Nelson, Morris and Co., one of the chief offenders up to date. A *resumé* of the evidence given before the commission on this meat question in the United States in the form of a Parliamentary blue-book would afford interesting reading to the British public.

The Inter-State Commerce Commission, sitting at Philadelphia on June 5, opened the enquiry into the business methods of the New York Central Railroad. The reports of the first day's investigation do not show personal "grafting" by officials, but as a corporation it was admitted by Mr. E. V. W. Hallister, one of the vice-presidents, that it accepted a gratification of \$1,500,000 on one occasion from the Beech Creek Coal and Coke Co. The coal company had presented the New York Central with \$500,000 of free stock in order to get cars and quick transportation for its coal to the seaboard. Later, through merger, this stock grew to \$1,500,000 of Pennsylvania Coal and Coke Co. stocks and bonds, for which the Central paid nothing. The Central also owns the Clearfield Bituminous Coal Corporation, which supplies its locomotives with fuel. The coal company is bound by contract not to compete in the general market with the Beech Creek Co., but to turn over its surplus production to the company. Who the owners and stockholders of these coal companies are does not appear, but it is interesting to know that when these mining concerns get hard up the New York Central lends them money, which they pay back by instalments. In the matter of rebates, Vice-President Rossiter acknowledged that, as treasurer of the Central some year ago, he had paid vouchers which might have been for oil rebates.

A new gold strike is reported from Nevada in the Tonopah district, which is described as carrying in gold and silver an average of \$500 to the ton in one part of the former metal, and two parts of the latter. The aggregate shipment over the Tonopah railway for the week ending June 2 were 3,286 tons of concentrated ore.

There seems to be no longer any doubt that the trouble at Cananea, in Mexico, near the Arizona-Mexico boundary line, was the work of filibusterers in the interest of the American mining company. The matter has been amicably arranged between the United States and Mexican Governments, and the latest reports say that the greater number of the Americans employed at the mines have left and gone back to American territory, the Mexican general in command of the 2,000 Mexican troops sent to the scene of disorder having taken energetic steps to restore peace after arresting the Mexican Governor of the district, who had invited American assistance.

According to Messrs. Kuhn, Loeb, and Co.'s statement, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company has placed a mere £10,000,000 of its $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. 1906 loan in

Paris. This loan is redeemable in from twelve to fifteen years. A French financial group, headed by the Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas and the Crédit Lyonnais, has bought the bonds, but they have not yet been issued to the public, and may not be so for some time, as the Paris Bourse is in no mood at present to buy any new securities. So the subscribing bankers will have to finance the loan until the favourable moment arrives, and to pay up the money, which is to be called in equal instalments divided over the present year. The proposed issue price is between 99 and par.

To help this and other issues Mr. A. J. Cassatt, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, has been giving some particulars about the financial engagements of his corporation, the essential part of which is that the amount realised by the recent sales of £10,000,000 of short notes created by the company will be sufficient to complete all the improvements on the main line and branches now authorised, and also to carry on the construction of the New York tunnels and terminal stations to the end of the present year. It is estimated that another £8,000,000 will be required to complete the New York tunnels and terminals. The company, however, will not be called upon to repay any of its capital issues until November 1, 1907, when £10,000,000 worth of notes mature. Its finances are none the less in a somewhat involved condition, as may be supposed when it has had to issue quite £40,000,000 of new capital within a comparatively short space of time.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company has increased its dividend by $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 3 per cent. for the past half-year, and its directors are, apparently warranted in taking this step by the splendid exhibit published. The earnings for the year, presumably ending on the 30th inst., are put at \$77,220,000, an increase of \$9,530,000, and of this increase \$4,622,000 are left to add to the nett income, making it \$27,601,000 for the year. After adding in \$3,465,000 received from other sources than traffic, or an increase of \$488,000, it is estimated that the surplus at the year's end will be \$4,436,000 larger at \$8,725,000. This is a fine exhibit, and yet it hardly enabled the Wall Street market to sustain prices. But is any portion of the earnings represented by paper, or is it all genuine cash? The entire surplus, it should be added, is \$409,000 down after paying the dividend, but it still figures at \$8,726,000.

Passing Events.

Not many weeks pass without a blast of triumph from New South Wales. The present Prime Minister of that colony, Mr. Carruthers, never tires of boasting about its splendid position, and really he seems to have grounds for his optimism. Speaking on the 18th inst., he declared that the surplus for the current fiscal year ending next Saturday will be £1,000,000 after paying £432,000 to the sinking fund. The surplus, in fact, would equal the year's loan expenditure, which would be the lowest per head of the population in the history of the State. He therefore proposes to provide free education and to create a public works fund out of revenue from which "fully reproductive" works would be executed; also a renewal fund to be devoted to "business undertakings" such as water and sewerage works, thus enabling the Government to limit borrowing for works that actually paid interest on the capital expended upon them. This is indeed good news, and we hope it will not be followed by the issue of another large New South Wales loan.

So the latest war against the blacks is over in Natal and bands of the unfortunate wretches are being despatched to Kimberley to work in the diamond mine compounds there. This seems rather a pity, and the controllers of De Beers would have done well to refrain from availing themselves of this kind of forced labour. However, it is well that the killing and kraal burning should show signs of coming to an end. It

will have done so sooner than we expected, and we hope that there will be no renewal of revolts on the part of the unfortunate Zulus, lest the end be their complete enslavement and our utter demoralisation.

We do not like that news about the attack of villagers near Cairo upon some officers who went there to shoot. It has an ugly look even at this distance, and the impression left upon the mind of the *Times* correspondent who telegraphed from Alexandria on the 18th inst. is suggestive of much more than appears on the surface. He thinks that the Denshaweh fellahs are "quite capable of attacking strangers at any time," but that the unrest of this year made their attack more vicious than it would otherwise have been. What is the meaning of this unrest? Are things less rose-water in Egypt than official statements have led us to suppose?

What sane motive can the bureaucrats of Russia have for massacring the Jews? They will permanently alienate the sympathies of all Christian Europe by infamies like that perpetrated at Bialystok in imitation of the abominable Kischineff massacres of last year. Details increase rather than diminish the horror excited by this latest revealed sinister outbreak, and we cannot be surprised that sundry Jewish members of the Duma should have gone to Helsingfors and telegraphed to Mr. Lucian Wolff pleading for intervention on the part of England. Sir Edward Grey was unable to meet this demand, because it is impossible for any foreign State to intervene with effect in the internal affairs of another when that other is not a weakling. There is one way, however, by which even the Russian bureaucrat, blind in his long immunity from punishment for his crimes, can be brought to some perception of his guilt. If the Christian populations of Western Europe will absolutely refuse to subscribe to any further Russian loans, as all the better class of Jews have already done, then the autocratic fabric of Russia, with its irresponsible bureaucracy, will soon tumble to the ground. Russia ought not to have been permitted to issue that last loan until a formal pledge had been given that constitutional government would be honestly introduced, and if any other loans are offered on behalf of the autocracy without the direct sanction of the Duma they ought not to be subscribed. No doubt the motives governing Christian subscriptions are not without show of justification. Bankers in particular dread the consequences to themselves should Russia default, but the interests of humanity stand above those of any financial group or of any private investor.

The Chinese are rapidly making themselves impossible in the Transvaal. Day by day almost the special correspondent sent out by a group of Liberal papers, headed by the *Daily Chronicle* and including the *Morning Leader*, the *Daily News*, *Manchester Guardian*, and some other papers, is letting daylight in upon the disgusting state of affairs on the Witwatersrand. On Monday last he telegraphed that 400 Chinese had wrecked the house of the compound manager at the Nourse Mine, who, however, escaped from their fury. Next day they attacked the night watchman, who defended himself vigorously, wounding four of his assailants with his revolver. Ultimately the police came and put down the riot. Then he speaks about a gambling affray amongst 60 Chinese on the Princess Mine on Sunday, resulting in several being sent to the hospital. The wrath of the whites at the outrages to which they are continually being subjected by these unhappy wretches, imported and kept in a state of bondage, completely at the mercy of the mine boss, will soon be at a white heat, and desperate events may happen.

Surely the Government is not going to grudge the Scottish Geographical Society the little help it asks to enable it to continue its good work. It was founded, according to a memorial which it has submitted to the Treasury, in October, 1884, and has at present about 2,000 members. Four centres have been established by it in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen, at which lectures are regularly given from November to May, and 36,000 persons attended the lectures last

session. In Edinburgh it has a library of over 8,000 books, and it publishes the *Scottish Geographical Magazine*. It is also a society which has assisted in exploration expeditions to various parts of the world and in many other ways does good work. This has not prevented it from being put in danger of losing its present offices in the Scottish National Gallery buildings in Edinburgh. Hitherto it has paid a rent of £125 per annum for its rooms there, but the lease has just expired, and it is now a tenant on sufferance, with a prospect of being evicted. Hence its present petition, which is a modest one enough. It asks to be guaranteed the permanent tenancy of its present offices, to be granted a remission of its rent and to have bestowed upon it an annual grant of £300 per annum. We do not know about the remission of the rent, but the grant of an annuity is surely well within the competence of the Government to bestow, and we hope it will listen to this prayer because, although its financial position is sound, the work of the Scottish Geographical Society is impeded both by the rent it has to pay and by the absence of a grant, so that, among other drawbacks, it is unable to publish adequately important geographical papers or to add valuable works of geography to its library.

A correspondent invites us to expose the "International Library" business, but surely that is hardly necessary. The public has had experience enough in the "Encyclopædia Britannica" "haze," dead-stock, or "remainder" sale, whatever you like to call it, to be able to take care of itself. What, however, has excited the displeasure of the gentleman who writes to us is the receipt of a private letter urging him to at once subscribe for the "Library," as "we are going to melt down the printing plates in a very short time." The sale, in fact, will terminate finally and positively on July 9, this letter says, and the existing subscribers are to be absolutely protected—so that they may not have to suffer depreciation in the property, we may presume the inference to be, but the property is already depreciated. In the terms of the public announcements of the Americans behind this business, 20 volumes bound in full morocco are offered at about £15, or if bound in three-quarters levant at about £12, but new copies in full morocco are offered at £6 6s. and in the three-quarters levant at £5 5s. by a large Midland bookseller, our correspondent says. How arises this discrepancy, and why should the public be pestered with urgency to buy a book at more than twice the money it can be obtained at in the open market? Will our Yankee friends please explain?

The most interesting news we have received from Johannesburg for a long time is that sent by their special correspondent to the Liberal newspapers in London and the provinces on Tuesday last to the effect that the mine bosses are at last giving work to the unemployed whites, paying them 7s. 6d. a day. A hundred men are engaged on the Crown Reef, and large numbers of Boers are applying for work. This is probably a consequence of the determined general opposition in this country by the great majority of electors to the continued employment of Chinese serfs at the mines. Probably enough the cosmopolite gentry by whom the mining industry has been throttled and well nigh ruined, so insatiable is their greed, would have disregarded the public opinion of the United Kingdom now, as they have always hitherto done, if they had not begun to discover that the Chinese experiment was involving them in serious loss. They will soon find it cheaper to pay white labourers 7s. 6d. a day than to herd untractable Chinese coolies in compounds, out of which predatory raids are constantly made to the loss and dismay of the peaceable white inhabitants.

Last week another £500,000 drawn from the surplus left over at the end of the last fiscal year was applied in redemption of debt. This brings the total so dealt with in the current financial year up to £1,000,000, and we should like to know what kind of debt Mr. Asquith is busy paying off. It is not float-

ing debt in the form of Treasury bills, for the amount of these outstanding appears to be £1,700,000 more now than it was at the beginning of the present Exchequer year. Perhaps some Member will ask a question on this point, as it is important that the Treasury bill debt should be brought down well within manageable compass before the autumn stress comes upon our money market.

Those Members of the House of Commons who were moved to make representations to the Prime Minister about the Chinese labour plague on the Witwatersrand have no reason to be dissatisfied with the result of their interview with him. Nobody has ever believed that Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman was capable of any trickery in dealing with this threatening invasion of a sorely afflicted country. He has been overborne by some of his colleagues, and the whole Ministry, we suspect, has been played with somewhat insolently by the staff of alien officials we have imposed upon the Transvaal. Sir Henry, however, made it clear to those who waited upon him that he is fully of their mind, and just as determined as they are to remove this source of misery, unrest, poverty, and social disorder from the Transvaal. His words were emphatic on this point, and we should not be surprised were they to be followed by considerable changes in the personnel of the present South African Government. At least, there need be now no hesitation in exposing the subterfuges and misdeeds of those by whom this social and economic blunder, to put it at no worse, has been perpetrated.

Mr. Asquith is always lucid, and in his speech at the Mansion House dinner on Wednesday evening his review of the economic position of the country was interesting, though not particularly fresh or original. He, however, does not profess to be as yet an expert in City finance, however great an authority he may be, and unquestionably is, on the broad aspects of political economy, but he did endorse one suggestion which has cropped up from time to time in other quarters. Speaking of the habit of "window-dressing" indulged in by the joint-stock banks at the end of each month, whereby they present in their monthly balance-sheets an unreal exhibit of their reserves, he said that it might be a good thing if these banks imitated the Bank of England, and issued their summary balance-sheets once a week. Window-dressing was a very easy thing to practise every six months, perhaps every month, but he thought it would become difficult to the point of impossibility if the joint-stock banks made weekly returns. That is true enough, but would not the same end be attained if the Bank of England itself were authorised to spread out its weekly return, as we suggested last week, so that it would show bankers' balances under a distinct heading? These balances could not run down in the aggregate between one month's end and another without the fact being at once visible in the weekly Bank of England return. It might be an occasional hardship upon some of the joint-stock banks were they to be compelled each to issue a separate account every week. At any rate, this arrangement would involve all concerned in much less trouble and clerical work than the one suggested by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The letters from South Africa written by Sir William Butler to the *Tribune* are most interesting reading, and lose nothing by the admirable literary style in which his facts and conclusions are presented. The third letter deals with the subject of yellow versus white labour, and presents a gruesome picture of the conditions under which the yellow serf now toils in the Witwatersrand mines. Also he presents in a vivid fashion the difficulties in which the controllers of the mines have involved themselves by this dangerous experiment, and yet the advent of the coolies in Johannesburg "has improved the level of animal life in the compounds," Sir William says. The rooms are better built, the food is more generous than it used to be, but with all these changes the compound system is and must remain a horrible system. "Tainted with

slavery? Aye, even steeped in some things that formed the most brutalising features of that once cherished institution which our less fastidious-speaking forefathers called slavery." The worst of it is that these men cannot be suddenly got rid of, as so many people in this country demand without understanding the circumstances. "The Chinese are at present to the Witwatersrand what the administration of oxygen is to the sick man. Stop it and he sinks," and at the root of it all lies the frantic over-capitalisation of the mines. This drove the people who created the "boom," the false values of mining properties on purely speculative data, to clutch at whatever expedient seems to promise a chance of a rise in the market. Nevertheless, it is "devilish work," as a high official in the Native Department told Sir William, and the men hate it. Hence their desertions, their wanderings away to the north in the belief that by going steadily northward they will reach their native country. Hence the brutalities, for if men are inhumanly treated, they themselves become bestial.

The *Municipal Journal* does well to take the *Times* to task for the articles it is printing in its "Engineering Supplement." Mr. Emile Garcke began well, but soon degenerated, and the recent articles have been charged with anti-municipalism of the kind we should expect alike from a paper edited by Mr. Robert P. Porter and from the creator of the British Electric Traction Company. But the British public is not going to be converted to trust in inflated company finance by either of these gentlemen or both of them together, and one's dominant feeling in reading the hotch-potch is one of regret that the *Times* should have fallen so far as to lend itself to a rather discreditable system of special pleading on behalf of interests in the main hostile to democratic progress and honest finance. The developments of the "B.E.T." are not calculated to help this propaganda.

RHODESIAN MINING RETURNS.

For the month of May the Rhodesian mining output amounted to 46,729 ozs., boasted of as another "record" for this marvellously wealthy country, where more sovereigns have been buried than it has yielded in weight of metal. But these "records" seem powerless to improve the financial positions of the various companies, and to enable them to earn profits. This is no mystery. Compared with April the increase was 4,306 ozs., but May was a longer month.

Name of Company.	Jan. Tons.	Jan. Ozs.	Feb. Tons.	Feb. Ozs.	March Tons.	March Ozs.	April Tons.	April Ozs.	May Tons.	May Ozs.
Anterior (Matabel)	1,370	1,067	1,130	904	1,230	852	1,338	965	1,320	730
Ayrshire	10,050	3,091	8,722	2,903	9,257	2,842	7,954	2,340	8,166	2,337
Battlefields..	820	1,180	682	840	—	—	—	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	1,824	338	2,300	342	1,640	600	1,294	406
Prospect..	—	—	—	1,213	4,514	1,672	—	1,934	—	3,164
East Gwanda	5,287	8,140	4,571	606	1,619	691	1,336	667	1,914	476
Gaika	1,389	650	1,254	2,111	4,699	2,545	4,518	2,372	4,367	2,391
Giant	4,335	2,207	4,051	3,639	6,225	3,799	6,193	3,890	6,705	3,928
Globe and Phoenix..	6,435	4,010	5,653	703	1,120	673	1,040	598	—	—
Golden Valley	1,050	713	1,060	1,555	4,196	1,561	4,275	1,575	4,383	1,576
Killarney	—	—	—	805	1,430	658	1,455	579	1,152	746
Hibernia..	3,938	1,551	3,914	1,000	6,600	1,365	6,400	1,357	6,400	1,374
Morven	1,015	700	2,101	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Penhalonga..	4,950	991	4,600	3,100	1,033	2,900	985	2,700	853	—
Rezende	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rhodesia Consolidated...	2,497	1,445	1,970	1,290	2,307	1,764	1,700	1,186	2,559	1,595
Rhodesia Mines	722	313	640	349	—	—	447	327	—	—
Selukwe	6,322	2,274	5,844	2,026	6,781	2,077	6,154	2,036	6,691	1,778
Surprise	3,002	1,086	2,743	1,632	3,000	1,625	3,000	1,625	2,984	1,520
Theta	1,475	885	1,205	1,456	1,073	1,456	1,073	1,580	1,081	—
Wanderer	16,162	2,597	14,322	2,015	17,112	2,704	16,368	2,171	16,182	2,121
Willoughby's	1,307	717	1,376	900	1,574	874	1,272	978	1,490	724

The following table gives the total monthly return since the commencement of crushing :—

	1902. Ozs.	1903. Ozs.	1904. Ozs.	1905. Ozs.	1906. Ozs.
January ..	15,955	16,245	19,359	32,531	42,950
February ..	13,204	17,090	18,673	30,131	38,037
March ..	16,801	19,626	17,756	34,927	44,574
April ..	17,559	20,727	17,862	33,268	42,423
May ..	19,098	22,137	19,424	31,332	46,729
June ..	15,842	22,166	20,402	35,256	—
July ..	15,226	23,571	24,339	34,693	—
August ..	15,747	19,187	24,669	35,765	—
September ..	15,164	18,741	26,039	35,785	—
October ..	16,849	17,918	24,919	33,383	—
November ..	15,923	15,714	26,183	32,861	—
December ..	16,210	18,796	28,160	37,116	—
Total ..	194,268	231,872	267,715	407,048	214,713

Letters to the Editors.

SOUTH WALES ELECTRICAL POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY.

SIRS,—I would like to call your attention to the enclosed circular—which reached me this morning, and to the underlined words at the top of same, namely, "Private and Confidential," and also to the last paragraph but one, in connection therewith. Suggestive to my mind. The debenture stock of this company is described in Burdett's as—"5 per cent. debentures, secured by a trust deed, as a first charge on the undertaking, property, and assets, and uncalled capital." I have seen the stock described elsewhere as a first mortgage debenture stock; and as the directors state—paragraph 10 of the circular—that the sanction of Parliament, and also the consent of at least three-fourths of the debenture stockholders, will be necessary before this prior lien debenture stock can be created, it appears to me that the existing debenture holders ought, before deciding to sign, or not, the form of consent enclosed with the circular, to form a committee and discuss the matter thoroughly, and see whether it would not be better to appoint a receiver, should they have the power under the debenture deeds, with the intention of realising the assets later on.

To my mind these "prior lien" debentures, proposed to be issued over the head of the stock at present having a first charge on the property, savour too much of Yankee wild-cat finance. Also the "deferred debenture warrants," provision for the payment of which the directors have not forgotten, and worth about as much, at the present time, as the paper on which they will be printed. It is stated that they will be issued for a period of three years; in reality indefinitely, or just until the company has made enough profit with which to pay them in cash. To sum up this ingenious proposition, in regard to principal, or security for same, the existing holders are asked to consent to be ousted from the position, or security, which they hold at present, with a first charge on the property, &c., by having £500,000 of a prior lien debenture stock placed over their heads; and in regard to interest, they are asked to consent to accept, when due, bits of paper instead of solid cash; and to undertake to accept these pieces of paper indefinitely; and to give up the power of enforcing, if advisable, or necessary, the payment of such interest by legal means. I see that even if the directors can get the power to raise this £500,000 in prior lien debenture stock, it will not be enough to satisfy requirements, but more is to be created in preference shares—if they can get anyone to take the stuff, I suppose they mean.

I cannot say that, speaking for myself, I have much confidence in the future of this concern—under its present management. Too much capital is being raised, and there is not enough to show for it by a long way; and the directors do not appear—from, may be, want of time, other irons in the fire, &c.—to have a sufficient grasp of the company's requirements for advancement. At all events, it is a painful contrast to, say, the Newcastle-on-Tyne Electric Supply Company, so far.

The statement, as regards further expenditure, appears to me to be at variance with that in the last report, December 31, 1905; there the directors state:—"It will not be possible to connect a total of 16,000 h.p. to our mains without some further capital expenditure, but there is every promise of getting such an amount connected without anything like a proportionate expenditure to that which has been necessary up to date, &c." In the circular:—"That investigation, while encouraging as to the future, shows that a further large expenditure will be necessary in order to put down the additional plant required for supplying customers, and to bring the company into a condition in which it will be able regularly to pay the interest on its debenture stock." In the previous report the 16,000-h.p., when connected, in all probability would be sufficient to leave enough profit to pay the debenture interest with; but now £500,000 is required before this can be accomplished.

To my mind the directors are too much taken up with viewing the fine prospects of the concern, and waiting for business to come to them instead of going and turning it up.

Yours truly,

MORTGAGEE.

EAST RAND PROPRIETARY MINES.

In the year 1905 the East Rand Proprietary Mines, the parent of the Farrar group of companies, received a larger genuine income than in any preceding fiscal period. By genuine we mean dividend money from the shareholdings in its subsidiaries, for it had always treated as "profits" premiums on share issues. This is why, though it exhibited enormous credits, it could distribute none of the money and why it has not been a remunerative concern to those who put their money into it. In all it has paid 65 per cent., 25 per cent. in 1903, 20 per cent. in 1904, and 20 per cent. in 1905, but even this could not be achieved without a little ingenious manœuvring with the accounts. In 1903 £258,000 was received as dividends on shareholdings, and the dividend absorbed £247,000, leaving a balance on "dividend account" of £11,000. Next year £172,000 came from dividends on income investments, but the company's own 20 per cent. required £108,000, the deficiency of £26,000 being made up of the £11,000 balance brought forward, and £15,700 from ordinary revenue. These transactions were not set forth lucidly in the accounts, the dividend revenue not appearing in the profit and loss account at all, but only entered as a liability in the balance-sheet. Yet premiums were credited to

profit and loss, a somewhat original but perplexing way of presenting accounts. Probably the directors were actuated by the high motive of giving their shareholders in dull times profitable mental discipline in trying to decipher the accounts, and get an approximate grasp of the finances. Some might have appreciated the compliment, others not, but the majority would undoubtedly have preferred lucidity. (The accounts for 1905 show a complete contrast to those previously issued, for not only is the profit and loss account credited with the dividends received last year, but also with the final dividends for 1904, payable in the following February, likewise with others declared in 1905 to be received in 1906. As an appropriation account is also presented, the accounts are for the first time set forth with fullness and clearness, but it is obvious that a comparison between the statements as actually issued in the past two years might lead to erroneous conclusions.

For 1905 the credits in the profit and loss account total £365,902, made up as follows:—Dividends received and to be received, £261,492; sundry revenue, £39,829; profit on stands sold, £2,497, and profit on shares sold, £62,084. As administration expenses, French taxes, and licences took only £17,756, a nett profit of £348,146 is shown and is taken to the appropriation account. To this the directors add £115,009, which they describe as balance of dividend appropriation account, December 31, 1904; also the accumulated credit from previous years, £1,331,351, largely made up of premiums. On the other side, the following debits are deducted:—Two dividends of 20 per cent. each, £397,800; amounts reserved, £6,038; premium on shares account, balance transferred to balance-sheet, £1,312,861; amount carried forward, £77,806. From these entries it might be inferred that the two dividends were paid in 1905, whereas, as we explained last week, one is on account of 1904. Again, the premium money is the balance remaining after deducting £38,900 paid in commission to the guarantors and £155,522 written off for depreciation, &c. The charging of depreciation to premiums makes the profit look larger than it should be were it properly debited to revenue, but, then, if taken out of profits, even tiny dividends of 20 per cent. could not be paid. If shareholders do not mind providing for depreciation losses out of their own pockets why should the directors mind it? They could not be expected to rise to the magnanimity of refusing it if the shareholders generously and prodigally offered it. By splitting up the accumulated profit (?) into its constituent elements the directors reduce the forward balance to £77,806, but having gone so far in the interests of honesty or of something else best known to themselves, why did they not go further and charge depreciation to the real profits, and take a debit to the next accounts? This would have been a step towards straightforward equity, and would be far more beneficial to shareholders and the public than employing coolies. As it is, is it a terminological inexactitude to say dividends have been paid out of capital? And if the directors now tacitly admit that premiums are not genuine profits, why have they hitherto treated them as profits? Surely not to deceive?

In the balance-sheet there are not many important changes. Ordinary current liabilities are quite moderate at £6,958, and on the other side much wealth is displayed, the result of the abundant share issues aforesaid. Thus there is £158,689 against £170,572, on fixed deposit, and £23,348, compared with £73,321, on current account, but the dividend declared at the end of the year was unpaid. This would require £108,900, but against it are dividends due amounting to £124,485, loans totalling £101,006, and debtors £15,169. Shares in subsidiaries have a book value of £1,554,367, in contrast with £1,570,979, the directors having sold 7,367 Driefontein Consolidated and 6,567 Angelo shares in the past twelve months. The holdings and the percentages are shown in the following table:—

Company.	Issued Capital.	Shares Held.	Percentage.
Driefontein Consols	625,000	427,635	68.42
Angelo	625,000	427,589	68.41
New Comet	500,000	297,909	59.58
Cason Gold Mines	500,000	279,365	55.87
Cinderella Gold	100,000	78,417	78.41
New Blue Sky	150,000	105,100	70.07

(The results from the subsidiary companies in 1905 were anything but satisfactory and promising. From the producing mines the total value of the yield was £1,100,037, and the cost £700,721, leaving a profit of £399,316, equal to 14s. 6.09d. per ton. This shows a decrease of over 5s. per ton, "in spite of the fact," to quote the official words, "that 5,400 Chinese were received and started to work during the year." This decline was due largely to the fall in the value of the ore from the Driefontein mine. At the Angelo the development on the north reef has exposed almost entirely unpayable ore, though the south reef shows no falling off in value. It is admitted that the cost of production is still high, but a reduction is promised, though the redemption of the promise may be beyond the power of the directors. The yield per ton was nearly 40s., against 46s. per ton in the preceding year, whilst the costs averaged 26s. 4d. compared with 25s. 5d. In his report the consulting engineer writes:—"The position of the Driefontein is a source of some uneasiness with regard to the ultimate future. The immediate future is assured." Since the reports of the parent company and of the subsidiaries were issued shareholders have learnt that the three leading companies, the Angelo, the Driefontein, and the New Comet cannot pay dividends for the first half of 1906. In the case of the Driefontein this is not astonishing, despite the

dictum of the consulting engineer that "its immediate future is assured." The money is not available for distribution, is the official message, but in the cases of the other two the money is wanted for capital outlay on development and equipment. At the annual meeting of the parent company the chairman said "the question of providing this money (about £200,000) is now having the consideration of the board." As the money cannot be raised or borrowed, even from the East Rand Proprietary itself, there is no help for it but to stop dividends. If shareholders will not subscribe for additional shares, then they must provide the money indirectly. They must submit to the sacrifice, if not in one way then in another. And all this they must endure for the privilege of enriching the mine bosses. It is a grand consolation.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1906, and June 16, 1906:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.		Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to June 16, 1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to June 17, 1905.
Balances, April 1:	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	9,334,212	6,352,909
Bank of Ireland	—	1,117,275	1,077,369
REVENUE.	—	10,451,487	7,430,278
Customs	—	7,200,000	6,664,000
Excise	—	5,409,000	5,449,000
Estate, &c., Duties	—	3,309,000	3,227,000
Stamps	—	1,548,000	1,692,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	—	330,000	380,000
Property and Income Tax....	—	3,785,000	3,844,000
Post Office	—	2,860,000	2,730,000
Telegraph Service	—	790,000	740,000
Crown Lands	—	110,000	80,000
Receipts from Suez Canal ..	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans..	—	5,000	5,000
Miscellaneous	—	535,500	349,001
*Revenue	—	25,881,500	25,160,001
Total, including balance.....	—	36,332,987	32,590,279
OTHER RECEIPTS.	—	—	—
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	—	200,000	100,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	—	—	100,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..	—	—	191,592
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..	—	—	410,408
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900	—	—	13,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	—	35,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905	—	—	5,945,000
Total	—	36,532,987	39,385,279
*Revenue as above	—	25,881,500	25,160,001
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—	—	—	—
Customs	—	43,126	38,872
Excise	—	392,788	488,642
Estate, &c., Duties	—	866,000	899,466
Total	—	1,301,914	1,426,980
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	—	27,183,414	26,586,981
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.		Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1906, to June 16, 1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905 to June 17, 1905.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
National Debt Services	—	6,216,605	6,255,185
Other Consolidated Fund Services	—	256,495	267,907
Payments to Local Taxation Accounts	—	90,000	222,175
Supply Services	—	18,710,410	19,762,321
Expenditure	—	25,273,510	26,507,588
OTHER ISSUES.	—	—	—
For Advances for Bullion	—	550,000	220,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904	—	45,000	45,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amount)	—	2,000,000	2,000,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904	—	300,000	150,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905	—	972,000	940,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901	—	—	400,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	—	—	13,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	25,000	35,000
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..	—	10,000	—
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..	—	219,969	—
Surplus Revenue 1905-1906 applied to reduce Debt	—	1,000,000	—
1906. June 16. 1905. June 17.	£	£	£
Balances in Exchequer:—	—	—	—
Bank of England	5,064,594	8,194,828	—
Bank of Ireland	1,072,914	879,863	—
Total	6,137,508	9,074,691	—
Treasury, June 19, 1906.	—	36,532,987	39,385,279

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended June 14, \$2,473, increase \$61.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 18, \$19,532, decrease \$2,959; aggregate from January 1, \$362,120, decrease \$4,142.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 19, Rs. 69,128, increase Rs. 19,981; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 13,96,320, increase Rs. 2,09,779.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 14, \$138,900, increase \$54,100; total from July 1, \$5,224,200, increase \$1,574,100.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 19, Rs. 39,046, increase Rs. 13,432.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 15, £383, increase £44.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 2nd week of June, \$18,061, increase \$2,288; aggregate from January 1, \$372,995, increase \$56,728.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 19, Rs. 19,461, increase Rs. 8,372.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended June 7 amounted to \$65,190.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending June 16, £1,325, increase £56; aggregate from January 1, £29,494, decrease £73.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending June 16, £890, decrease £204; aggregate from January 1, £18,292, increase £944.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for March, £4,206, decrease £188.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending June 16, £352, increase £138; aggregate from January 1, £10,128, increase £877.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 15, £1,393, decrease £519; aggregate from January 1, £33,744, increase £4,230.

Blessington and Poulaphouca.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 17, £18, decrease £37; aggregate from January 1, £269, decrease £19.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 15, £5,273, decrease £1,195; aggregate from January 1, £119,142, increase £5,097.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending June 15, £30,405, decrease £7,116; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £689,344, increase £99,135; 431½ miles, against 428.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 16, £1,207, decrease £79; aggregate from January 1, £27,494, increase £2,205.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 17, £164, decrease £53; aggregate from January 1, £2,776, decrease £70.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 15, £125, decrease £68; aggregate from January 1, £2,523, decrease £149.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 15, £5,659, decrease £862; aggregate from January 1, £114,164, increase £1,001.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 16, £5,355, increase £176; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £114,359, increase £3,107.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 15, £150, decrease £105.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 14, £683.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 16, £605, decrease £324; aggregate from October 1, £12,064, decrease £885.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 9, £30,719, increase £16,304; aggregate from April 1, £266,228, increase £123,986. Miles 95½ against 46½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 16, £25,230, decrease £2,229; aggregate from January 1, £528,171, decrease £27,738.

London Motor Omnibus (Vanguard).—Traffic receipts for week ending June 16, £3,595, increase £2,804.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 16, £9,112, decrease £401; aggregate from January 1, £188,798, increase £2,823.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 16, £255, increase £28.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 17, £768, decrease £595; aggregate from January 1, £19,241, increase £3,529.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 17, £13,686, increase £1,435; aggregate from January 1, £359,269, increase £38,505.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of May, 1906, £11,691, increase £776.

British Columbia Electric.—Nett earnings for April, \$24,707, increase \$1,669. Nett earnings from July 1 to April 30, \$420,142, increase \$115,242.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending June 11, £3,745, increase £430; aggregate from January 1, £82,498, increase £5,604.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending May 12, £1,406, increase £237; aggregate from January 1, £26,865, increase £5,511.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of May, \$308,800.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 16, Rs. 42,642, decrease Rs. 1,923; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 10,52,822, increase Rs. 1,00,348.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of May, £3,684, increase £870. Total from January 1, £22,843, increase £8,690.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of April, \$415,413, increase \$60,200; aggregate from January 1, \$1,621,914, increase \$232,398. Nett traffic receipts, \$218,256, increase \$33,852; aggregate from January 1, \$832,339, increase \$131,992.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	
Baker St. and Waterloo ..	June 16	£ 1,489	+	45	£ 20,336	—	
Brecon and Merthyr ..	" 17	1,938	—	34	48,420	+	2,097
Cambrian	" 17	6,574	—	54	129,655	—	1,115
Central London ..	" 16	6,557	+	141	161,376	—	5,593
City and South London ..	" 17	2,604	+	217	67,430	—	84
Furness	" 17	11,146	+	199	242,245	+	30,011
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 17	72,849	+	10,243	1,693,978	+	82,348
Great Eastern	" 17	94,400	—	11,400	2,307,400	+	22,000
Great Northern and City ..	" 16	1,743	+	201	43,028	—	2,349
Great Northern	" 16	108,900	+	7,049	2,574,300	+	71,437
Great Western	" 17	247,000	+	11,300	5,393,900	+	78,500
Hull and Barnsley	" 17	13,005	+	5,695	238,578	+	30,528
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 17	115,665	—	21,160	2,562,936	+	98,905
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 16	61,434	—	6,128	1,376,588	—	819
London & North Western ..	" 17	284,000	+	20,000	6,508,000	+	228,000
London & South Western ..	" 17	97,900	—	7,700	2,074,200	+	17,300
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 17	9,644	—	2,432	208,333	+	10,595
Metropolitan	" 17	16,326	—	2,839	391,638	—	26,504
Metropolitan District ..	" 17	8,309	+	708	192,821	+	13,880
Midland	" 16	215,873	+	17,133	5,251,677	+	147,406
North Eastern	" 16	169,971	—	38,912	4,238,135	+	209,183
North London	" 17	8,325	—	97	213,122	—	4,742
North Staffordshire	" 17	15,621	—	3,656	428,243	+	14,281
Rhymney	" 17	6,274	+	1,172	144,683	+	4,160
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 16	92,995	—	1,949	2,001,549	+	16,630
Taff Vale	" 17	19,004	+	2,891	457,250	+	16,261

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian	June 17	87,244	+	302	1,687,919	+	28,399
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 16	37,194	+	1,579	666,108	+	21,250
Great North of Scotland ..	" 16	9,510	—	290	175,795	+	656
Highland	" 17	10,226	—	108	174,615	+	590
North British	" 17	93,759	+	1,470	1,792,027	+	40,311

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	June 15	3,377	—	80	60,141	—	3,123
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 15	2,202	+	369	38,512	+	678
Great Northern	" 15	19,127	—	1,005	417,484	+	4,784
Midland Great Western ..	" 15	11,481	—	456	247,599	—	7,063

§ From January 1.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

Making Up Price, June 11.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	Making Up Price, June 11.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
SOUTH AFRICAN.							
1 3/4	Angelo	4	3 1/2	2 1/2	May Consolidated	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Anglo-French Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
3 1/2	Aper	4 1/2	3 1/2	6 1/2	Modderfontein	6 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Aurora West	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. B.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bantjes	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	New Goch	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Block B.	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	City and Suburban, £4	4 1/2	4 1/2	2 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Comet (New)	2	1 1/2	1 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Cons. Goldfields	2 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Pref.	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Crown Reef	10 1/2	10 1/2	6 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Driefontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	East Rand	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	East Rand Extension	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rodepoort United	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Ferreira	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sallsbury	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	French Rand	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Sheba (New)	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Geduld	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Geldenhuis Estate	3 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Glenburg	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Steyn Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Glencairn	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Development	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Harmony Proprietary	6 1/2	5 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Gold Estates	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Henderson's Transvaal	8 1/2	7 1/2	1 1/2	Treasury	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Jerol	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	Van Ryn	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Kleinfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Knight's	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Vogelstruis	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Lancaster	3	2 1/2	3 1/2	Welgedacht	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Langlaagte Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2	3 1/2	West Rand Consols	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2				3 1/2	Wolhuter, £4	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2				3 1/2	Worcester	3 1/2	3 1/2

DEEP LEVELS.

1 1/2	Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bonanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Cinderella Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2	4 1/2	Robinson Deep (new)	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Crown Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rodepoort Cn. Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Rose Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	South Rose Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Geldenhuis Deep	6 1/2	6 1/2	4 1/2	Village Main Reef	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Knight's Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2			

RHODESIANS.

1 1/2	Bechuanaland Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rhodesia Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Charter Trust and Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Selkwe	4 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Lomagunda Development	1 1/2	1 1/2	3 1/2	Tanganyika	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Willoughby	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2

DIAMONDS.

1 1/2	De Beers Deferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Koffyfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Preferred	1 1/2	1 1/2	2	Lace Diamond	2	2
1 1/2	Eland's Drift Diamond	2 1/2	2 1/2	2	Orange Free State	2	2
1 1/2	Frank Smith Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Jagersfontein Deferred	8 1/2	8 1/2	1 1/2	Premier Diamond Def.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Preferred	4 1/2	4 1/2	8 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	Kamfersdam	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			

WEST AFRICAN.

1 1/2	Abbotiakoon	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Gold Coast Agency, new	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Abooso	1 1/2	1 1/2	2 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Ankobra	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau)	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Ashanti Consols, 2 1/2 paid 3/6d	3 1/2	3 1/2	5 1/2	Deep	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Goldfields	10 1/2	11 1/2	1 1/2	Himan Concessions	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Sansu	8 1/2	8 1/2	1 1/2	Obbuss Syndicate	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Prestea	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	British Gold Coast	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sekondi and Tarkwa	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Broomiasse	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	Taquaah and Abooso	2 1/2	2 1/2
1 1/2	Effueta (Wassau)	4 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/2	Wassau	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Fanti Consolidated	11 1/2	11 1/2	1 1/2	W. A. Gold Trust	1 1/2	1 1/2

AUSTRALIAN.

1 1/2	Anglo-Aus. Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ida H.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Associated	1 1/2	1 1/2	6 1/2	Ivanhoe Gold Corp.	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ivanhoe South	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Bellevue Proprietary	1 1/2	1 1/2	9 1/2	Kalgurli	9 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Boulder Deep Levels	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Brownhill Extended	11 1/2	12 1/2	1 1/2	Lancefield	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Chaffers	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	London & W.A. Explor.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Cosmopol'n Pr'p'ty	6 1/2	5 1/2	1 1/2	Mount Boppy	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Horseshoe, New Shares	6	6	1 1/2	North Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Links	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 1/2	Oroya-Brownhill	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Golden Pole	8 1/2	8 1/2	1 1/2	Peak Hill	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Great Boulder, 2 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	1 1/2	South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Do. Perseverance	10 1/2	10 1/2	1 1/2	Sons of Gwalia	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Great Fingall	4 1/2	4 1/2	3 1/2	W'st'ra Mt Morgans	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			
1 1/2	Hampton Plains	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			
1 1/2	Hannan's Star	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2			

MISCELLANEOUS.

1 1/2	Anaconda, 25 dols.	13 1/2	13 1/2	1 1/2	Libiola, £5	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Balaghat, full paid	30 1/2	30 1/2	4 1/2	Linares, £3	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Brilliant and St. George	7 1/2	7 1/2	3 1/2	Mason & Barry, £1	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Broken Hill, Prop.	3 1/2	3 1/2	4 1/2	Mount Lyell	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Camp Bird	24 1/2	25 1/2	3 1/2	M't. Morgan	3 1/2	3 1/2
1 1/2	Cape Copper, £2	6 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2	Mysore, 10s.	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Champion Reef, 2 1/2	19 1/2	19 1/2	1 1/2	Mysore Goldfields, 1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Cliffers United	22 1/2	22 1/2	7 1/2	Do. West, 1 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Con. Gold N.Z.	12 1/2	11 1/2	7 1/2	Do. Wynad, 1 1/2	7 1/2	7 1/2
1 1/2	Copapo, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	4 1/2	Namaqua, £2	4 1/2	4 1/2
1 1/2	Cornish C'n's	3 1/2	3 1/2	26 1/2	N'ndydroog, 10 shares	26 1/2	26 1/2
1 1/2	Coromandel 1 1/2 pd.	1 1/2	1 1/2	15 1/2	Ooregum	15 1/2	15 1/2
1 1/2	Dolcoath	23 1/2	23 1/2	1 1/2	Do Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
1 1/2	Esperanza	3 1/2	3 1/2	6 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	6 1/2	6 1/2
1 1/2	Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	9 1/2	St. John del Rey	9 1/2	9 1/2
1 1/2	Frontino and Bolivia	10 1/2	10 1/2	5 1/2	Tharsis	5 1/2	5 1/2
1 1/2	Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	8 1/2	Waihi	8 1/2	8 1/2
1 1/2	Do. (No. 2)	2 1/2	2 1/2	7 1/2	Ymir	7 1/2	7 1/2

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	
Alcoy and Gandia	June 16	Ps. 6,000	-Ps. 14,000	**	Ps. 334,000	-P. 3,500
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia	May 11	\$88,580	+ \$21,053	**	\$418,864	+ \$100,887
Argentine Gt. Western	June 15	16,842	- 2,688	**	701,613	+ 113,213
Algebras (Gibraltar)	June 17	27,714	+ Ps. 36	**	1,571,422	- P121,583
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	June 16	33,036	+ 4,739	**	1,566,843	+ 363,943
Buenos Ayres & Ros'ro and Cen. Argentine	June 16	86,389	+ 10,893	**	2,126,097	+ 300,033
Buenos Ayres G. Sthn.	June 17	67,703	+ 5,785	**	3,761,947	+ 553,717
Do. Western	June 17	36,012	+ 7,333	**	1,713,408	+ 240,025
Do. Ensenada	June 17	328	+ 23	**	17,518	+ 583
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	June 16	8,217	+ 1,853	**	425,468	+ 23,497
Do. Eastern Ex.	June 16	1,291	+ 30	**	104,534	+ 3,586
Do. Northern Ex.	June 16	1,166	+ 172	**	60,762	+ 4,203
Do. Western Ex.	June 16	1,130	+ 255	**	59,656	+ 6,999
Cordoba Central	June 17	2,795	+ 160	**	78,830	+ 14,870
Do. Northern Ex.	June 17	7,075	+ 390	**	105,240	+ 38,495
Do. N. W. Argtn. Ex.	June 17	2,270	+ 110	**	44,310	+ 15,270
Cordoba and Rosario	June 17	3,840	+ 485	**	212,115	+ 4,120
Costa Rica	May 5	5,134	+ 2,248	**	215,062	+ 12,729
Cuban Central	June 9	7,800	+ 1,728	**	383,641	+ 55,085
Gt. West. of Brazil	June 16	6,447	+ 739	**	220,118	+ 34,776
Entre Rios	June 16	3,550	+ 898	**	190,768	+ 8,328
Int. Oceanic of Mexico	June 14	\$127,300	+ \$9,550	**	\$6,036,180	+ \$229,300
Leopoldina	June 16	18,424	+ 1,692	**	307,146	+ 56,712
Mexican	April 14	\$551,300	+ \$89,700	**	\$2,283,200	+ \$213,600
Do. Southern	June 14	\$145,000	+ \$25,800	**	\$3,165,900	+ \$311,400
Do. Central	April 7	\$24,137	+ \$2,430	**	\$559,981	+ \$7,610
Do. Do.	April 10	\$2,500,372	+ \$230,132	**	\$23,154,461	+ \$2,707,209
Manila	June 16	\$893,239	+ \$14,900	**	\$7,123,432	+ \$235,447
Nitrato	June 16	\$37,886	+ \$174	**	\$863,205	+ \$86,048
Otomani	June 15	22,329	+ 470	**	250,459	+ 11,685
Peruvian Corporation	June 16	3,397	+ 422	**	93,250	+ 15,999
San Paulo	May 5	\$666,100	+ \$84,225	**	\$7,156,450	+ \$113,680
Salvador	June 10	24,291	+ 2,279	**	450,125	+ 384
United of Havana	June 16	\$25,120	+ \$12,500	**	\$1,014,271	+ \$149,406
Villa Maria & Rufino	June 16	14,275	+ 5,688	**	792,279	+ 278,623
Western of Havana	June 16	1,314	+ 200	**	31,784	+ 2,720
	June 16	4,211	+ 429	**	205,604	+ 3,151

* Month ended. † Fortnight ended. ‡ Net § From July 1, 1905.

** From January 1, 1906.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

NAME	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.			GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.		
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	Amount.	In. or Dec on 1905.	
Bengal Nagpur.	May 26	Rs. 5,07,251	- R.28,608	R.1,18,18,690	+ R.9,28,010	
Bengal & N.-W.	" 19	Rs. 3,15,440	+ R.43,208	Rs. 57,30,721	+ R.5,98,865	
Bombay & Baroda	June 9	R.4,26,000	- R.20,000	R.98,20,000	+ R.6,06,000	
Do. State Lines	" 9	Rs. 6,18,000	+ R.49,000	R.1,31,60,000	+ R.2,02,000	
Burma	May 19	Rs. 3,08,374	- Rs.7,058	R.1,39,21,901	+ R.4,15,377	
Delhi Umballa ..	June 9	Rs. 39,600	- Rs.3,361	R.1,38,38,925	- Rs.29,589	
East Indian	" 16	Rs. 15,12,000	- R.14,000	R.3,88,82,000	+ R.2,14,000	
Gt. Indian Penin.	" 16	Rs. 9,93,300	- R.8,205	R.3,29,39,334	- R.1,47,184	
Indian Midland	" 16	Rs. 2,30,600	- R.5,35,305	Rs. 50,80,932	+ R.11,62,902	
Madras	" 16	£26,125	+ £2,560	£621,042	+ £64,197	
South Indian	May 19	Rs. 2,54,772	- Rs.14,735	Rs. 50,3,114	+ R.1,96,572	
South Behar	" 12	Rs. 12,155	- Rs.1,094	Rs.2,28,680	+ Rs.21,531	
S'thern. Mahratta	" 26	R.4,77,530	+ Rs.3,724	Rs.55,48,780	+ Rs.8,60,980	
Southern Punjab	June 9	Rs.64,175	- Rs.3,747	Rs.17,05,570	+ R.1,51,091	

NOTICE is hereby given for information only, and not for the purpose of inviting subscriptions, that a Prospectus, copies of which are obtainable at the offices of the Company, the Bankers, the Brokers, and the Solicitor, is now being issued by the undermentioned Company, which (inter alia) contains the following:—

This Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

No Promotion Money or Underwriting Commission has been or will be paid.

BRITISH AND ARGENTINE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

(Registered under the Companies Act, 1862 to 1900.)

Capital - - £250,000,

DIVIDED INTO

248,750 PREFERRED AND PARTICIPATING SHARES OF £1 EACH

AND

25,000 ORDINARY SHARES OF 1s. EACH.

Present Issue of 50,000 Preferred and Participating Shares,

PAYABLE: 2s. 6d. on Application, 2s. 6d. on Allotment,

And the balance in Calls not exceeding 5s. at intervals of not less than two months from the date of the preceding Call. The Shares may be paid up in full on and after Allotment. Share Warrants to Bearer will be issued if required.

Directors.

The Rt. Hon. LORD TEYNHAM, Ravensdale House, Ascot (Director, Porto Alegre and New Hamburg (Brazilian) Railway Company Limited), Chairman.

The Rt. Hon. LORD ARMSTRONG, 93, Eaton Square, S.W. (Director, Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Limited, Newcastle-on-Tyne).

Sir CHARLES J. FOLLETT, C.B. (late Solicitor of His Majesty's Customs), Blatchfeld, Chilworth, Surrey.

Colonel W. D. BURRARD (late R.F.A.), 4, Culford Gardens, S.W.

A. J. RUSSELL, A.M.I.C.E., 83, Inverness Terrace, W., and Honda, Republic of Colombia.

Advisory Committee in the Argentine Republic.

Dr. BENITO VILLANUEVA, Buenos Ayres (Senator).

Senator DON MANUEL LAINEZ, 660, Avenida de Mayo, Buenos Ayres, Proprietor of "El Diario."

Dr. BENJAMIN DUPONT, 822, Avenida de Mayo, Buenos Ayres.

Senor J. CARLOS CALASTREME, M.Inst.Mech.E., A.M.I.E.E., 586, Avenida de Mayo, Buenos Ayres.

Bankers.

PARR'S BANK LIMITED, Head Office and Branches.

Brokers.

FREMANTLE & RIGG, 77/80, Palmerston House, Old Broad Street, and Stock Exchange, E.C.

HEINEMANN & PERSHOUSE, 6, Drapers' Gardens, and Stock Exchange, E.C.

Solicitor.

RALPH C. LEACH, 10, Serjeants' Inn, Fleet Street, E.C.

Auditors.

GEORGE A. TOUCHE & CO., Basildon House, Moorgate Street, E.C., Chartered Accountants.

Consulting Engineers.

J. NORTON GRIFFITHS & CO., 62, London Wall, E.C.

Consulting Electrical Engineers.

HARPER BROS. & CO., 13, St. Helen's Place, E.C.

Secretary and Offices (*pro tem.*).

T. W. GILBERT, Worcester House, Walbrook, E.C.

This Company has been formed for the purpose (*inter alia*) of developing the resources of the Argentine Republic and the other countries of South and Central America, and of obtaining options on properties and undertakings, and forming subsidiary Companies to develop same, and of generally turning to account opportunities for the investment of capital in these countries.

The commercial and industrial progress of the Argentine Republic during the last few years has been little short of phenomenal, and the opportunities for the employment of British capital have increased correspondingly.

The present prosperity of the Argentine is shown by the increase of imports and exports, the extension of various railways and tramways, the large building operations that are either contemplated or in course of completion, and the opening up of new fields for colonisation.

The large amount of capital which is now profitably invested in the Railways, Land and Commercial Companies of the Republic is sufficient evidence of the energetic development of the country. In the acquisition and development of new industries the opportunities for investment of capital at remunerative rates are practically unlimited.

It is, however, difficult in many cases for the foreign investor to obtain reliable information about affairs in the Argentine Republic to enable him to invest profitably, but it is felt that this Company, through its Advisory Committee, which is composed of gentlemen of the highest standing in the Argentine Republic and of wide business experience, will be able to meet this difficulty and secure favourable opportunities for profitable investment.

The Company contemplates the acquisition of concessions or options for the construction of railways, harbours, docks, electric tramways, electric supply and power, and other industrial undertakings. It is also proposed to employ experts to report on mining properties, and to obtain options thereon, and otherwise to take advantage of the mineral wealth of South America.

The objects of this Company comprise also the purchase of or securing options on timber forests, which are reputed to be rich in quebracho wood, and to establish mills for the purpose of obtaining the extract from this wood for which there is such a great demand in the leather and other trades in Germany and the United States.

The Company does not intend to confine itself entirely to the Argentine Republic, as, in the opinion of the Directors, there are also opportunities for the profitable investment of capital in Chili, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and other parts of Central and South America.

It is proposed to direct attention to the extensive rubber forests in the State of Matto Grosso, Brazil, which are reputed to be at present virtually undeveloped. The Directors are advised that the exploration and working of these forests can be conducted at a low cost owing to the country being possessed of one of the greatest waterways in the world by means of which many remote parts of the State are accessible to steamers and river craft, and in direct river communication with Buenos Ayres. In view of the reported recent discoveries of valuable Diamond Fields in the same State, the Directors will consider the advisability of securing interests in this branch of mining.

The Company also proposes to undertake Arbitrage business, and will be prepared to assist Companies requiring financial support, and to act as Agent for other Companies.

The Preferred and Participating Shares are preferred as to capital and entitled to a preferential dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum in each year on the amounts paid up thereon out of the profits available for dividend, and they are also entitled to share in the surplus profits of the Company in the proportions and manner more particularly defined in the prospectus.

The Company will pay a brokerage of 6d. per share on all shares applied for and allotted on forms bearing brokers' stamps.

It is intended to make application in due course to the Committee of the London Stock Exchange for a settlement and quotation for the shares of the Company.

It is also intended to make application in due course to the Bolsa de Comercio, Buenos Ayres, for a quotation for the Company's Shares.

No applications will be entertained unless the same are made on the footing of and with reference to the prospectus and upon the forms of application which can only be obtained with such prospectus.

Prospectuses with Application Forms can be obtained at the Offices of the Company, the Bankers, the Brokers and the Solicitor.

MARINE & GENERAL**MUTUAL LIFE OFFICE.**

ESTABLISHED 1852.

Funds - - £1,382,382.

ALL WHOLE LIFE and ENDOWMENT ASSURANCES receive the same liberal treatment in PRIVILEGES and BONUS ADDITIONS, and are granted at average premiums.

Apply for Prospectus to Head Office,
14, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, or to any of the Branches throughout the Country.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE.

INCORPORATED A.D. 1720.

RE, LIFE, SEA, ANNUITIES. ACCIDENTS & EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY.

The Corporation is prepared to act as
ECUTOR OF WILLS, TRUSTEE OF WILLS AND SETTLEMENTS.

SPECIAL TERMS TO ANNUITANTS WHEN HEALTH IS IMPAIRED.

FUNDS IN HAND EXCEED £5,250,000.

Apply for full Prospectus to the Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE: ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON, E.C.

The Investors' Review.**The Week's Money Market.**

BANK RATE $3\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT. (Reduced from 4 per cent. on June 21.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

It was undoubtedly a relief to the discount market when the Bank rate was reduced on Thursday from 4 per cent. to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Many in the City doubted the expediency of the change, and yet there was probably no help for it. The banking reserve has risen so much during the week, thanks principally to the receipt of £1,593,000 in gold, of which the greater part represented coin released from stock by the India Council. With a total reserve of £26,668,000 the Bank directors could hardly refuse to ease things a little for the market at the end of the half-year. Nevertheless, the market continues comparatively poor, measured by the aggregate of other deposits, which actually fell off over £8,000 last week to a total of £42,733,000. And after all the stock of bullion at £37,173,000 is nothing so formidable in view of the stupendous financial commitments on all great money markets, European and American. Nor are foreign exchanges so favourable to us as to make the market safe from sudden export demands for gold. We consequently lean to the view that the present comparative ease in short loan and discount rates may not continue long, and that the cheap money now is quite as likely as not to be merely a prelude to high rates towards the end of the year. Throughout the week call loans have seldom been more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and generally only 2 per cent., while seven-day money has declined from $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{3}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Rates, however, hardened up slightly after the change in the Bank rate was announced, and some people were frightened a little by the increase in the other securities. It is a mere £418,000, but it looked like market borrowing. In reality it is probably the effect of advances to municipalities or corporation borrowers of some kind, and not due to advances made to discount houses.

All this Friday morning money was wanted at $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on call, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the most part on seven days' notice, but this afternoon, for the reason given below, call money became unlendable. This will not prevent the market from being hard up and compelled to lean on the Bank next week. Money over the end of the month is quoted at 3 per cent., now more often than at $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., and the India Council renewed a fair amount this morning for a fortnight at 3 per cent.

No effect was produced on discount rates by the reduction in the Bank rate, for the market had anticipated the change by putting the quotation for remitted paper of practically all dates above 60 days to $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., with a tendency to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. by the middle of the week. Some keen traders indeed got their bills of mixed usances done at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on Wednesday, but most of the principal discount houses were disinclined to work below $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the general market, and yesterday afternoon the weakness of the French

cheque and the drop in the New York exchange made the bill brokers more unwilling than ever to take bills at so fine a rate as $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. One house has been holding out to-day for $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on remitted bills of all dates, but that was because it did not see its way to work, and actually $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. was still about the best of it. In fact, $3\frac{1}{8}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was given this afternoon as the range upon 60 and 90-day bank bills, but long paper was a little less easy to do under $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent., yet the finest paper was taken in mixed usances at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. plus the running broker's commission of 1-32.

Money eased down sharply this afternoon, owing, it is said, to the discovery by the discount market that the Japanese have after all acquired by purchase at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount so much of the renewal Treasury bills to be paid for to-morrow as will relieve the open market of the necessity to find much of the money. There will, however, be large demands on account of new capital commitments next week, the aggregate calls reaching £2,789,000. Of this the City Corporation requires £375,000 on its latest issue next Monday, and on Friday £400,000 is due on Anglo-Argentine Tramways ordinary shares, while the calls payable on the 30th inst. aggregate £1,620,000, the largest individual item being £750,000 on Buenos Ayres Great Southern Extension shares. The Argentine Great Western Railway also takes £262,500 on its new shares, and the Buenos Ayres and Pacific £200,000 on its new issue. The strain upon the open market is probably likely to be severe next week for many reasons.

The Paris cheque is down to 25.16 $\frac{1}{2}$ -17, and there will probably be competition by Paris for the small supply of gold in the open market next week. There is only about £350,000 of it, so that it is hardly worth fighting over, but the effect of the easier rates all round will unquestionably be to bring foreign buyers of the metal into our market. As long, however, as they do not withdraw any of the present stock in the Bank of England, credit dealers will probably view the competition with equanimity.

SILVER.

In addition to a fair demand for bars on bazaar account, there was a very good inquiry from the Far East, and as supplies available were small, quotations advanced sharply last Saturday by $\frac{1}{16}$ d. to $30\frac{3}{8}$ d. per oz. for cash and $\frac{5}{8}$ d. to $29\frac{1}{8}$ d. per oz. for future delivery. The improvement was carried a little further on Monday, when prices touched $30\frac{3}{8}$ d. and $30\frac{1}{2}$ d. per oz. respectively, but since then business has fallen away, and closing values are below the best at $30\frac{3}{8}$ d. and $29\frac{1}{8}$ d.

Applications for the Rs. 40,00,000 of Council drafts on India on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 2,84,60,000 in bills, and Rs. 75,00,000 in telegraphic transfers. Of these Rs. 30,61,000 were accepted in bills and Rs. 9,39,000 in transfers, tenders at 1s. 4d. and 1s. 4 1-32d. per rupee, receiving about 12 per cent. Next week another Rs. 40,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, June 20, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued ..	£ 54,166,290	Government Debt ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	35,716,290
		Silver Bullion ..	—
	£54,166,290		£54,166,290

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 15,977,133
Reserve ..	3,262,150	Other Securities ..	29,543,325
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	11,526,252	Notes ..	25,211,175
Other Deposits ..	42,732,652	Gold and Silver Coin ..	1,456,862
Seven Day and other Bills ..	114,441		
	£72,188,495		£72,188,495

Dated June 21, 1906.

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier.

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. June, 21.		June 13, 1906.	June 20, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,127,099	Rest ..	3,251,045	3,262,150	11,105	—
13,761,711	Pub. Deposits ..	9,050,100	11,526,252	2,476,143	—
41,742,045	Other do. ..	42,741,064	42,732,652	—	8,412
94,888	7 Day Bills ..	91,544	114,441	22,897	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
16,171,319	Gov. Securities ..	15,977,133	15,977,133	—	—
28,718,723	Other do. ..	29,125,443	29,543,325	417,882	—
28,388,701	Total Reserve ..	24,547,180	26,668,937	2,121,757	—
				2,510,145	2,510,145
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
26,922,215		28,633,740	28,955,115	321,375	—
38,860,916	Coin and Bullion	34,767,926	37,173,152	2,405,226	—
51 p.c.	Proportion ..	478 p.c.	49 p.c.	18 p.c.	—
2 1/2 "	Bank Rate ..	4 "	3 1/2 "	—	1/2 p.c.

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £1,593,000 in.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders for £2,413,000 in six months' Treasury Bills were opened on Monday at the Bank of England, when the total amount applied for was £6,247,000. Tenders at £98 9s. 9d. received about 13 per cent. of the amount applied for, and the average rate of allotment was £2 19s. 9d. per cent.

Tenders will be received at the Bank of England on the 25th inst. for Treasury Bills to the amount of £1,800,000 in replacement of those falling due on July 1. The bills will be dated June 30, and will be payable at six months after date.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
1,800,000	6 months	July 1	3 2 6
1,500,000	—	—	—
1,000,000	6 months	July 29	2 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 12	2 10 8
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 26	2 13 8
1,500,000	6 months	Sept. 16	2 11 5
1,000,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 10 0
2,000,000	6 months	Nov. 26	3 2 2
1,500,000	—	—	—
2,413,000	6 months	Dec. 23	2 19 9
17,213,000			

† Issued privately.

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1906.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Jan.	1,361,699,000	1,233,474,000	128,225,000	—
Feb.	1,007,233,000	967,181,000	40,052,000	—
Mar.	956,082,000	900,654,000	55,428,000	—
Week ending				
April 4	281,635,000	345,170,000	—	60,735,000
" 11	266,009,000	210,891,000	55,118,000	—
" 18	182,932,000	300,087,000	—	117,155,000
" 25	230,499,000	139,073,000	90,526,000	—
May 2	281,140,000	263,265,000	17,875,000	—
" 9	231,902,000	210,041,000	21,861,000	—
" 16	293,489,000	269,214,000	24,275,000	—
" 23	209,951,000	189,108,000	20,753,000	—
" 30	201,075,000	246,687,000	—	44,112,000
June 6	267,679,000	226,581,000	41,098,000	—
" 13	202,547,000	167,465,000	35,082,000	—
" 20	249,335,000	238,039,000	11,296,000	—
	6,227,107,000	5,907,520,000	319,587,000	—

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Monday, Bars	£31,000
Monday, Egypt	£150,000
Monday, Australia	£100,000
Tuesday, Bars	£93,000
Wednesday, Bars	£163,000
Thursday, Bars	£99,000
Friday, Bars	£30,000
Total	£666,000
	Nett Influx £666,000

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	June 21, 1906.	June 14, 1906.	June 7, 1906.	June 22, 1905.
Gold in hand ..	117,949,320	117,677,760	117,833,080	115,305,520
Silver in hand ..	42,744,040	42,642,560	42,528,360	44,497,640
Bills discounted ..	26,625,920	27,713,800	27,949,000	19,305,180
Advances ..	20,977,286	20,411,160	20,412,840	19,197,760
Note circulation ..	180,917,120	183,602,760	184,666,160	170,769,040
Public deposits ..	8,810,260	7,427,960	6,529,400	10,938,240
Private deposits ..	24,219,400	27,369,020	23,071,040	23,501,400

Proportion between bullion and circulation 88 1/2 per cent. against 8 1/4 per cent. a week ago.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.
(For week ended June 16.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs	£660,000
Excise	£400,000
Estate, &c., Duties	£150,000
Stamps	£81,000
Land Tax and Horse Duty ..	£10,000
Property and Income Tax ..	£18,000
Post Office	£500,000
Telegraphs	—
Crown Lands	£30,000
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares ..	—
Treasury Bills (net amount) ..	—
Miscellaneous	£164,298
Bullion advances repaid	£100,000
Uganda Railway	—
Unclaimed Dividends Account ..	—
Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds	—
Telegraph Acts	—
Naval Works Acts	—
Military Works Acts	—
Land Registry Acts	—
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act ..	—
Public Offices Site (Dublin) ..	—
Issue of Exchequer Bonds under Cornard Agreement Act ..	—
Ways and Means	—
Temporary Advances Deficiency	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares ..	—
Issue of Exchequer Bonds ..	—
Transvaal and Orange River Colony. Repayment of Temporary Advance ..	—
Adjustment of Local Taxation payments	—
Decrease in Exchequer balances	£756,062
	£2,869,360
	£2,869,360

* Exclusive of £78,215 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure, making the total of such payments to date £1,301,914.

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris	chqs.	25'18	25'16 1/2	Antwerp	short	25'24	25'25
Brussels	chqs.	25'23 1/2	25'23 1/2	Italy	sight	25'15	25'14 1/2
Amsterdam	sight	12'13 1/2	12'12 1/2	Constantinople ..	3 mths	110'02	110'01
Berlin	chqs.	20'48 1/2	20'45	Rio de Janeiro ..	90 dys	16'10 1/2	16'10 1/2
Do.	3 mths	20'31	20'30 1/2	Calcutta	T.T.	1/4	1/4
Hamburg	chqs.	20'47 1/2	20'47	Bombay	T.T.	1/4	1/4
Frankfurt	short	20'46 1/2	20'46	Hong Kong	T.T.	2'11 1/2	2'11 1/2
Vienna	sight	24'02 1/2	24'03 1/2	Shanghai	T.T.	2'10 1/2	2'10 1/2
St. Petersburg ..	3 mths	94'10	94'10	Singapore	T.T.	2'4 1/2	2'4 1/2
New York	60 dys	4'82 1/2	4'82 1/2	Yokohama	4 mths	2'0 1/2	2'0 1/2
Lisbon	sight	52	51 1/2				
Madrid	sight	27'68	27'60				

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.	
			Last Week.	Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1900.	2 1/2	2 1/2
Berlin	4 1/2	May 23, 1906.	3 1/2	3 1/2
Hamburg	4 1/2	May 23, 1906.	3 1/2	3 1/2
Frankfurt	4 1/2	May 23, 1906.	3 1/2	3 1/2
Amsterdam	4 1/2	May, 1906	3 1/2	3 1/2
Brussels	3 1/2	May 15, 1906	3 1/2	3 1/2
Vienna	4	June, 1906	3 1/2	3 1/2
Rome	5	September, 1904	4	4
St. Petersburg ..	6 1/2	June, 1906	8	nom.
Madrid	4 1/2	August 21, 1901	4	4
Lisbon	5 1/2	January 11, 1899	5	5
Stockholm	11	January, 1906.	4 1/2	4 1/2
Copenhagen	5	October, 1905	4 1/2	4 1/2
Calcutta	5	June 7, 1906	—	—
Bombay	5	June 21, 1906	—	—
New York call money ..	3	—	—	—

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	June 6, 1906.	June 9, 1906.	June 2, 1906.	June 17, 1905.
Specie	£37,072,000	£37,420,000	£36,622,000	£41,172,000
Legal tenders	16,752,200	16,303,200	16,580,000	17,284,400
Loans and discounts ..	212,020,000	211,840,000	201,308,000	220,980,000
Circulation	9,697,430	9,786,200	9,747,000	9,471,800
Nett deposits	209,040,000	209,420,000	207,350,000	228,000,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of nett deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £1,414,200 against an excess last week of £1,434,200.

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	June 16, 1906.	June 9, 1906.	June 2, 1906.	June 17, 1905.
Gold	£15,145,602	£15,130,971	£15,130,114	£14,823,874
Silver	24,020,820	24,518,330	24,550,047	22,238,954
Foreign Bills	3,413,733	3,401,028	3,397,955	1,685,664
Discount and Short Bills ..	25,580,004	25,574,573	22,438,251	46,078,602
Treasury Account	36,670,607	36,619,831	36,635,506	21,204,042
Notes in circulation	61,495,918	61,621,430	61,585,180	62,337,131
Current Account deposits ..	23,050,725	23,784,805	23,310,871	22,201,898
Dividends Interests	1,007,921	1,028,055	1,130,532	1,848,774
Government Securities	6,075,621	6,081,547	7,172,444	4,749,590

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	June 15, 1906.	June 7, 1906.	May 31, 1906.	June 15, 1905.
Cash in hand ..	£ 51,170,600	£ 49,919,700	£ 50,578,400	£ 54,731,300
Bills discounted ..	42,582,900	41,131,100	43,840,750	42,473,300
Advances on stocks ..	3,362,150	3,315,550	3,854,350	3,667,300
Note circulation ..	63,825,450	64,407,300	66,170,600	61,399,850
Public deposits ..	31,529,800	27,120,750	27,915,300	33,003,400

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	June 15, 1906.	June 7, 1906.	May 31, 1906.	June 15, 1905.
Gold Reserve ..	£ 46,779,333	£ 46,619,208	£ 46,560,375	£ 47,785,250
Silver reserve ..	12,776,375	12,796,083	12,850,166	13,078,900
Foreign bills ..	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances ..	1,799,666	1,695,053	1,682,541	1,728,708
Note circulation ..	69,499,709	70,709,916	71,488,875	63,724,291
Bills discounted ..	16,962,166	18,193,666	18,828,916	19,280,916

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	June 14, 1906	June 7, 1906	May 31, 1906	June 15, 1905
Coin and bullion ..	£ 4,868,240	£ 5,009,560	£ 4,848,280	£ 4,804,480
Other securities ..	23,299,960	23,393,080	24,626,320	21,611,000
Note circulation ..	27,070,200	26,849,040	28,483,040	26,235,840
Deposits ..	3,381,840	3,869,360	3,224,200	2,887,320

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	June 12	June 14	June 19	June 21
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'22	12'22	12'22	12'22
Do. do.	3 months	12'58	12'52	12'58	12'58
Antwerp and Brussels ..	3 months	25'46½	25'46½	25'47½	25'47½
Hamburg ..	3 months	20'71	20'72	20'71	20'70
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'71	20'72	20'71	20'70
Paris ..	cheques	25'18½	25'20	25'17½	25'17½
Do. ..	3 months	25'37½	25'37½	25'37½	25'37½
Marseilles ..	3 months	25'37½	25'37½	25'37½	25'37½
Switzerland ..	3 months	25'43½	25'43½	25'43½	25'43½
Austria ..	3 months	24'33	24'33	24'34	24'34
St. Petersburg ..	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow ..	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places	3 months	25'46½	25'46½	25'46½	25'46½
New York ..	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	43	43	42½	42½
Lisbon ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Oporto ..	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen ..	3 months	18'44	18'44	18'44	18'44
Christiania ..	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'45	18'45
Stockholm ..	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'45	18'45

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

	Per cent.
Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3½-3½
Three months ..	3½-3½
Four months ..	3½-3½
Six months ..	3½-3½
Three months fine inland bills	3½
Four months ..	3½-3½
Six months ..	3½-3½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

	Per cent.
Bank of England minimum discount rate	3½
" short loan rates	3½
Bankers' rate on deposits ..	2
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	2½
" 7 and 14 days' notice	2½
Current rates for 7 day loans	2½-2½
" for call loans ..	2-2½

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

At the present moment the question of questions in all stock markets is, Will Russia default? And extreme views are being freely ventilated. We stand astonished at the depths of pessimism into which the average writer on financial subjects can plunge when he gets what seems a good chance to display his talents in that direction. To read most of the deliverances recently printed in financial and other newspapers upon the prospects of Russian finance, one might easily persuade one's self that the July coupons upon the various debts created by the autocracy will not be met. Certainly if one held Russian bonds it would seem reasonable to sell them before they sink to the level of the bonds of Honduras or some other defaulting Central American State. Is there ground for this ghastly view of the prospects of Russian finance? There is and there is not. Amid the present conflict between the rudimentary constitutional powers of the Duma and an autocracy desperately fighting to retain its irresponsibility there is a possibility that the finances of the Russian Empire might fall into such disorder as would involve, at any rate, temporary suspension of payments. It is possible also that if the Duma were to get the upper hand, which

it must do in time, however reactionaries may seem to triumph for the moment, the newer debts, especially the last loan, would be in serious danger of open repudiation. This, however, is, we think, the worst that could possibly happen, and in any event default could not be prolonged, because it would involve the dissolution of the Empire, if not the extinction of Russian society. In judging of a problem of this description one must never forget the incalculable resources of a nation when put to the test. Russia might be one of the wealthiest countries in the world, and were an orderly and reasonably upright Government to be established, based on popular control, there can be no doubt that the Russian Empire would be able to meet all the charges of its present debt, heavy as that debt is, with comparative ease. And there is almost as little doubt that the charges would be met, because default might involve disintegration, because the tame multitude can be made to pay without knowing what it does.

The power of the financial potentates of the modern world is, from some points of view, insignificant. They cannot overmaster or spirit away the consequences of abject poverty amongst the people upon whom they have imposed great public debts. If they exhaust a country by their exactions, by the recklessness with which they load burden after burden upon the backs of the workers, then no expedient of borrowing and paying interest out of new debt can do more than postpone the ultimate reckoning, the day when the whole structure they have elaborately reared will tumble to the ground. On the other hand, no modern country has ever yet been brought to this state of complete economic paralysis. It may not be due to the discretion or reasonableness shown by the usurers that this has not happened, but it remains true that the capacity of communities to endure the drain of their resources through debt interest charges, sinking funds, and so on has never yet reached the point of inanition, utter paralysis. There is no reason to believe that Russia would be near this point now, given a tolerable Government. Put an end to the vile massacres of the Jews, the continual persecution of every citizen who displays some degree of enlightenment or some resentment against the tyranny under which the whole nation groans or grovels, and the Russian population—free to work, at liberty to enjoy the fruits of their labour without official robberies and the excessive cost of the autocracy with its corrupt administrative organisation and its equally corrupt and extensive military system—would in a few years become prosperous enough to be able to regard the burden of the debt inherited from this autocracy as an incident in their social condition scarcely worth grumbling about.

This is only another way of saying that the great support of the State usurer in all countries lies in the ignorance and indifference of the community. Next to this comes the self interest of the well-to-do classes. In Russia, perhaps, this second influence is less powerful than it would be in any other European country or in any other country claiming to be civilised. Most of the Russian debt is held abroad, and in that fact lies the greatest danger of repudiation. Still, the wealth of Russia, narrow and congested though it may be, congested in the sense of being gathered into a few places and into comparatively few hands, is much bound up with the debt. All banking institutions in Russia and the leading mercantile and manufacturing companies and firms are, therefore, interested in the maintenance of Russian credit. It would be ruin to many of them if the debt were defaulted upon. From this point of view, therefore, we do not think that the extreme pessimism about Russia now fashionable is warranted. In the last resort even the most democratic of representative assemblies would hesitate and draw back before the widespread ruin which would follow any default upon the debts of the Empire. Such default would paralyse industry in all directions, cripple not only the banks, whose profits are drawn from the agricultural industries of Russia, but every credit institution, from the Imperial Bank

downwards. Therefore we cannot join in the alarmist outcry, although quite recognising that we are in the midst of most critical times, and willing also to believe that these outcries and forecasts of default may serve at least one good purpose—they will tend to intimidate the *entourage* of the Tsar, and keep it from laying violent hands upon the Duma, thus giving constitutionalism a chance.

The Week's Stock Markets.

The Stock Exchange has again been deadlly dull this week, and dealers are beginning to ask how it is all going to end. Jobbers complain bitterly of the persistent depreciation of stock on their books, stock which is being steadily piled up because nearly every broker who comes to deal wants to sell and not to buy. If prices rally a little one day they promptly go back the next, and it is no wonder that members are becoming disheartened. The public does absolutely nothing, and next week we shall have an additional excuse for professional inactivity, as the fortnightly account will be in process of settlement. Hopes were expressed that if the Bank rate went down, some little revival might result, but when the decision to reduce the official minimum was announced markets actually became duller than ever. Consols started in the dumps, then braced up, and finally closed slightly under the best. Most other British funds receded fractionally, Corporation stocks kept steady, and Colonial Inscribed issues were disposed to improve.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS (Last year's dividends are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91	88½	Consols (2½ p.c. Money)	88½	88½
91½	89½	Do. Account (July 4)	88½	88½
90	87½	2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905 ..	87½	87½
100½	99½	Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907 ..	100	100
93½	92½	Irish Land (2½) ..	89½	89½
100½	99½	Local Loans (3) ..	98½	98½
100½	99½	National War Loan (2½ p.c.) ..	98	98
99½	98½	Do. Account (July 4)	98½	98½
101½	99½	Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.) ..	98½	98½
301	284½	Bk. of England Stock. (9 p.c.) ..	286	285
106½	103½	India 3½ p.c. Stock. red. 1931 ..	103½	103½
97½	94½	Do. 3 p.c. Stock. red. 1948 ..	94½	94½
82	79	Do. 2½ p.c. Stock. red. 1926 ..	79½	79
66½	65½	Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper ..	65½	65½

The growing seriousness of the position in Russia is creating a good deal of anxiety on Continental bourses, especially Paris, and prices for interbourse securities naturally reflect the nervousness. At the start the foreign bond market was exceedingly dull, and a fairly general decline took place in quotations, embracing Russians, Japanese, Peruvians, Cédulas, and other active stocks. At the carry over on Tuesday for the special settlement new Russian Fives made up at 2½ discount, but the continuation charge was stiff at 4½—5 per cent., and the quotation soon relapsed. Before the day was over the discount rose to as much as 3½, but a little buying drove it down again to 2½. Other Continental securities also became slightly better as the week advanced, and despite the early dullness, Spanish and Turkish closed better. Hungarians remained easy to the end, but Japanese picked up, and Peruvians managed to rally in a small way. Cédulas were always heavy, and lower prices were seen for one or two Brazilians and Argentines, and for Columbians and Guatemalans.

Home Railway markets still fail to attract public interest, and the market has consequently remained dull and uninteresting. Traffic returns, with the exception of the Great Eastern and Metropolitan, were again regarded as satisfactory, considering that the comparison was with Whit Monday week a year ago, but they had no influence, and in the absence of any outside demand quotations continued to dwindle. Although the declines each day were not important, the movements were persistently downwards throughout the earlier part of the week, and the aggregate losses in some cases reached fair amounts. A big drop in Central London issues was ascribed to selling from Paris, where these stocks are largely held, in order to

meet losses arising in Russians and South Africans, while the sharp fall in Caledonian ordinary and deferred was due to the fire at the company's premises in Glasgow. On Wednesday a rather more hopeful feeling was apparent, chiefly because the Consol

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
103½	101½	Argentine 5 p.c. 1886 ..	103½	104
102½	100	Do. 5 p.c. N. Cent. Rly. ..	102	103
103½	100½	Do. B. A. Water 5 p.c. ..	103	103½
94½	89½	Do. 4 p.c. Rescission ..	94½	94½
93	88½	Do. 4 p.c. 1897 ..	89½	89½
93½	89½	Do. 4 p.c. 1899 ..	89½	89½
104½	101½	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres 5 p.c. Debs. ..	101½	101½
92½	85	Brazil 4 p.c. 1889 ..	90½	89½
102½	99½	Do. Western of Minas Rail 5 p.c. ..	99½	99½
106	103½	Do. 5 p.c. Funding ..	104½	105
91½	86½	Do. 4 p.c. Rly. Guarantees 1902 ..	91½	91
103½	99½	Bulgarian 6 p.c. Bonds 1892 ..	103	103
96½	95	Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885 ..	95½	95½
97½	94	Do. 4½ p.c. 1886 ..	96	96
96½	93	Do. 4½ p.c. 1895 ..	93½	93½
101½	98½	Do. 5 p.c. 1896 ..	101	101
100½	96½	Chinese 7 p.c. 1894, Silver ..	99	99
105½	103½	Do. 6 p.c. 1895, Gold ..	105½	105½
105½	102	Do. 5 p.c. 1896, Gold ..	102½	102½
101½	96½	Do. 4½ p.c. 1898, Gold ..	98½	99
105½	100½	Do. 5 p.c. Imp. Rail. ..	102½	102½
53½	50½	Costa Rica A ..	51½	51½
43½	41½	Do. B ..	41	41
47½	43½	Colombian External ..	45½	45½
108½	105½	Cuba 5 p.c. 1904 ..	106½	107
106½	103½	Egypt United 4 p.c. ..	104½	105
103	100½	Do. 3½ p.c. pref. ..	101	101½
106	103½	Do. 4½ p.c. State Domain ..	103	103
89	87½	German 3 p.c. ..	86	86½
54	50	Greek, 1884 ..	53½	53½
54½	50	Do. Monopoly Loan ..	53½	53½
43½	39½	Do. 4 p.c. Rentes ..	41	41
53	49½	Do. Funding ..	52	52
98½	93	Hungarian 4 p.c. 1881 ..	96½	96
105	103½	Italian 5 p.c. ..	105	105
104½	101½	Japan 5 p.c. ..	101½	101½
104	100½	Do. 1901-2 ..	101½	101½
93½	88½	Do. 4 p.c. sterling ..	92½	92½
104½	100½	Do. 6 p.c. ..	102	102
105½	101½	Mexican 5 p.c. 1899 ..	103½	103½
72½	68½	Portuguese 3 p.c. New ..	72	72
87	78½	Russian 4 p.c. 1889 ..	79½	78½
83	79½	Servian 4 p.c. ..	83	83
98½	90½	Spanish 4 p.c. (Sealed) ..	90½	90½
101	100	Turks 3½ p.c. Tribute ..	100½	101
105½	102½	Do. 4 p.c. Defence ..	103½	103½
95½	90½	Do. 4 p.c. Unified ..	95½	95½
74	70½	Uruguay 3½ p.c. ..	72½	72½
98½	94½	Do. 5 p.c. ..	95½	95½
54½	50½	Venezuelan, Dip. (3) ..	51½	52

market was harder, and prices in a few instances recovered a fraction or two. The improvement made a little further progress on Thursday morning, in anticipation of the reduction in the Bank rate, but that event seemed to have been fully discounted, and the announcement had no additional effect. Even with this recovery, however, most of the changes on the week were still adverse.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
141½	132½	Brighton Ord. (5½ p.c.) ..	134	133
157½	149½	Do. Pref. (6 p.c.) ..	152	152
130½	117½	Do. Def. (5½ p.c.) ..	119	118
120½	108½	Caledonian Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	110½	109½
80	74½	Do. Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	76½	76½
42½	34½	Do. Def. (1 p.c.) ..	35	34½
96½	86	Central London (4 p.c.) ..	87	85½
89	77½	Do. Def. (4 p.c.) ..	78½	75½
168½	148½	Chatham Ordinary ..	15	15
44½	39	City and South London (2½ p.c.) ..	41	41
69½	63½	Furness (1½ p.c.) ..	66½	66½
40½	37½	Great Central Pref. ..	37½	37½
19½	17½	Do. Def. ..	17½	17½
91½	82½	Great Eastern (3½ p.c.) ..	82½	81½
105	100½	Gt. Northern Pref. Ord. (4 p.c.) ..	102	102
47½	43½	Do. Def. (1½) ..	45½	45½
144	130½	Great Western (5½ p.c.) ..	131½	131
52	47	Highland (1½ p.c.) ..	47½	46½
47½	42½	Hull and Barnsley (1½ p.c.) ..	47	47
109½	103½	Lanc. and Yorks. (3½ p.c.) ..	104½	105
89½	85½	Metropolitan (2½ p.c.) ..	87	86½
37½	33½	Metropolitan District ..	25½	25
70½	66	Midland Pref. (2½ p.c.) ..	68	67½
74½	66½	Do. Def. (2½ p.c.) ..	68½	68
78½	74	North British Pref. (3 p.c.) ..	76½	76½
47½	43	Do. Def. (1½ p.c.) ..	44½	43½
147½	138½	North-Eastern (6½ p.c.) ..	141	140½
163½	154½	North-Western (6½ p.c.) ..	156½	157
90½	86½	South-Eastern Ord. (2½ p.c.) ..	86	85
132	123	Do. Pref. (4½ p.c.) ..	123	121
55½	50½	Do. Def. ..	50½	50½
164	151½	South-Western Ord. (6 p.c.) ..	153½	153½
108½	103½	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	104	104
57½	50½	Do. Def. (2 p.c.) ..	51½	51½

Prices for Yankee Railroad shares broke badly in Wall Street last Saturday, as the professionals were

disappointed that the public did not come in to relieve them of stocks bought in anticipation of a good crop report, and tried to unload. Our market opened on Monday slightly above the low levels touched, and after a slight set back just before New York came in hardened on purchases from that side of Atchison,

better, but the rest of the list was heavy, with declines ranging from a fraction or two up to several dollars, Reading and N.Y. Central being amongst those which lost most.

Once again the Grand Trunk Co. agreeably surprised the market with its traffic return, as the increase of nearly £20,000 was fully double what had been looked for. The figures, however, had wonderfully little effect on quotations, which moved up and down within very narrow limits from day to day, and finish practically unchanged. Canadian Pacific shares, after sagging in a listless fashion during the greater part of the week, sprang into prominence on Thursday, and as the result of the active support which was then forthcoming show a very decided improvement.

For the first time for several weeks business on Thursday became decidedly active in Mexican Railway

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses).	Price last week.	Price this week.
99½	89½	Atchison Shares (4) ..	92½	93½
105½	104½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	106½	106½
123	109½	Baltimore & Ohio (New) (5) ..	115½	123
101½	96	Do. Pref. (4) ..	97	97
63½	55½	Chesapeake & Ohio (1) ..	59½	61½
295½	162½	Chic. Mil. & St. Paul (7) ..	186	185½
52½	38½	Denver Shares ..	47½	46½
93½	88½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	91½	91
52½	40½	Erie Shares ..	46½	45½
8½	78	Do. Pref. (4) ..	82	81
77	65½	Do. and Pref. (4) ..	73	73
116½	171	Illinois Central (7) ..	186	185
106½	143½	Louisville & Nashville (6) ..	152	152½
41½	31½	Missouri and Texas ..	35½	35½
156½	137½	New York Central (5) ..	144½	142
95½	87½	Norfolk and Western (4) ..	90½	93½
96½	92	Do. Pref. (4) ..	94	94
57½	45½	Ontario Shares (3) ..	52½	51½
75½	67½	Pennsylvania (6) ..	68½	68½
85½	59½	Reading Shares (1½) ..	72	69½
74½	64½	Southern Pacific ..	67½	70½
45½	36½	Southern ..	38½	38½
105	101½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	102½	102½
264½	145½	Union Pacific (5½) ..	154½	154½
101½	97½	Do. Pref. (4) ..	98	98
20½	20	Wabash ..	21½	21
53½	42½	Do. Pref. ..	50	48½
87½	78½	Do. Income Debs. ..	88	86
182½	165½	Canadian Pacific (6) ..	164½	167
206½	104	Do. Pref. (4 p.c.) ..	104½	104½
112	109	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	110½	110½
25½	25½	Grand Trunk Cons. Stk. ..	28½	28
105½	101½	Do. Guar. (4) ..	102	102
120	114½	Do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	119	119
111½	105½	Do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	109	109
7½	60½	Do. 3rd Pref. (2) ..	67	67
109½	107½	Do. Deb. (4 p.c.) ..	108½	108½

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
21	16	Allsopp Ordinary ..	18	16
51	44	City of London Ord. ..	—	45½
55½	53½	Guinness Ord. Stock (20) ..	—	550
19½	10½	Ohlsson's Cape (40) ..	—	17
51/3	40/7½	S. African Brew. Ord. Sh. (22) ..	—	2½
61/3	49/6	Threlfall's Ord. Shares (20) ..	—	2½
56	48	Watney, Combe, P. Or. St. (4) ..	48½	48½
99½	92½	London & Ind. Docks P. St. (4) ..	—	94
6½	5½	Aerated Bread (32½) ..	6½	6½
7½	6½	Apollinaris Ord. (5) ..	7	7
7½	6½	Ass'd. Portland Cement P. St. (5½) ..	7½	7½
27/1	21/3	Bradford Dymers Ord. (7) ..	25/3	1½
45/-	40/-	British Westinghouse Pref. ..	—	1½
7½	5½	Brunner Mond (35) ..	—	58
11½	10½	Callender's Cable Ord. (12½) ..	—	11
14/3	11/6	Calico Printers Ordinary (2½) ..	13/10½	1½
58	5½	Coats Ordinary (20) ..	5½	5½
500	482½	Do. Pref. Ord. (20) ..	495	480½
26/9	19/9	Eng. Sewing Cotton Ord. (nil) ..	25/3	1½
25/6	22/9	Fine Cotton Spinners Ord. (4) ..	25/3	1½
6½	6	Gordon Hotels Ordinary (3) ..	5½	5½
13½	12½	Henley's Telegraph (15) ..	—	12½
89/1½	78/9	Harrod's Stores Ord. (20) ..	47½	4½
27/6	26/-	Imp. Tobacco Preference (5½) ..	27/3	1½
108½	106½	Do. Debenture (42½) ..	108	108
24/3	20/6	Lipton Ordinary (7) ..	1½	1½
6½	5½	Lyons, J. & Co. (30) ..	5½	5½
34/-	22/6	Nelson James Ordinary (10) ..	26/-	1½
15/6	10/7½	Russian Petroleum ..	8	1½
7½	6½	Savoy Hotel (5) ..	—	6½
18/-	13/9	Sweetmeat Automatic ..	1½	1½
16½	14½	Short's Deferred Ordinary (10) ..	—	15
12/6	10/6	Welsbach Ordinary Stock ..	—	14½
19/-	17/3	Do. Pref. Stock (6) ..	—	17½
103½	102½	Egyptian Irrigation Certs. (4) ..	103½	104
92½	80½	Hudson's Bay Co. (58/-) ..	84½	86
54½	42½	Peruvian Cor. 4 p.c. Cum. P. St. (1½) ..	52½	52
110½	105½	Do. Debentures (6) ..	105½	105½
9½	9	National Discount (10) ..	—	9
13½	11½	Union Discount (11) ..	—	11½
6½	5	Charing Cross & Strand Elec. (8) ..	4½	4½
11½	10½	City of London Elect. Ord. (6) ..	10½	10½
104½	95½	Gas Light & Coke Ord. Stk. (4½) ..	97½	97½
133½	125½	South Metro. Gas Ord. (5½) ..	128	129
66/3	58/6	Armstrong, Whitworth (15) ..	3	2½
85/-	75/-	Babcock & Wilcox Ord. (20) ..	4	3½
28/6	25/7½	Brown, J. & Co. Ordinary (10) ..	38/1	1½
31/9	30/9	Howard & Bullough Ord. (7½) ..	—	1½
14	12	Pease & Partners Ordinary (3) ..	12	12
47½	38½	United States Steel Ordinary ..	42½	41½
117	107½	Do. Preference (7) ..	109½	108½
57/-	49/9	Vickers Ordinary (12½) ..	2½	2½
15½	13½	Cunard Steam ..	—	15
241	235	Peninsular & Oriental Def. (13) ..	—	231½
59½	57½	Royal Mail ..	—	58
9	7½	Union-Castle Mail Steamship Ordinary (5) ..	—	8½
115½	109½	Anglo-American Telegraph—	114½	113½
27½	16½	Do. Pref. Ord. (2½) ..	—	26½
150½	143	Do. Def. Ord. ..	145	258
157½	14½	East. Telegraph Ord. Stock (7) ..	144½	144½
113½	108½	Eastern Extension (7) ..	109	142
14½	14½	National Telephone Def. (5) ..	109	109
14½	14½	Western Telegraph (7) ..	14½	14½
8½	6½	British Elect. Traction Ord. (6) ..	6½	6½
9½	6½	Anglo-Argentine Trams Ord. (8) ..	6½	7½
117	83½	London General Omnibus (7) ..	86½	86½
10	8½	London United Trams Pref. (5) ..	—	9

first preference, and the price shot up to 129, carrying the second preference up to 55½. Other Mexican things, however, were still neglected, and Interoceanic preferred shares dropped back a little. The public has quite deserted the Argentine group for the present, and quotations were mostly steady because undisturbed, but a few of the leading issues like Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary and deferred were ½ to 1 lower, while Cordoba and Rosario first preferred stock lost as much as 3, and Cordoba and North-Western debentures fell 2. South American stocks generally were heavy, San Paulo ordinary and Central Uruguay ordinary dropping 2 each, Antofagasta ordinary receding 1, Nitrate Railways ordinary shares ½, but the

Union Pacific, and Baltimore. Pennsylvanian, however, were sold in the absence of any news regarding the outcome of the negotiations for a loan in Paris, and although they rallied sharply when the definite statement was made that the company had succeeded in placing £5,000,000 of its bonds, profit taking fol-

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
240	211½	Antofagasta (10) ..	238	236
370½	313	Do. Def. (15) ..	370	370
130½	116½	Argentine Gt. West. (6) ..	120	119
132	124½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	125	125
88	84½	Bahia Blanca Pref. ..	88	86½
144½	136	B. Ay. Gt. Southern Ord. (7) ..	137½	137½
129½	124½	Do. Pref. (5) ..	129	128
236½	127	B. A. and Pacific Ord. (7) ..	132½	127
120½	115½	Do. do. 1st Pref. (5) ..	119	119
110½	107½	Do. do. 2nd Pref. (5) ..	110	110
120½	113½	B. Ay. and Rosario Ord. (6) ..	116	115
119	108½	Do. do. Deferred (6) ..	109½	108½
170	160½	Do. do. Pref. Stk. (7) ..	165½	165
109	104	Do. Rosario Deb. Stk. (4) ..	104½	104½
438½	129½	B. Ay. Western Ord. (7) ..	132½	131½
92½	82	Central Uruguay (4½) ..	88	86
109½	104	Cordoba and Rosario Deb. (6) ..	105	105
96	91½	Cordoba Central Deb. (4) (Cen. Nth. Sec.) ..	93½	93½
75½	69½	Do. Income Deb. Stk. (3½) ..	70½	69½
59/4½	50/-	Costa Rica ..	2½	2½
71½	68	Cuban Central ..	7½	7½
11½	10½	Do. Pref. (5½) ..	11	11
108	103½	Do. Deb. (4½) ..	105	105
93½	88	East Argentine (4½) ..	88½	88½
92	6	Interoceanic of Mexico Pref. ..	9½	8
86½	74½	Leopoldina (4) ..	75	74½
98½	94½	Do. Deb. (4) ..	97½	97½
109½	107½	Manila Bonds "A" (6) ..	109	109
107	103½	Do. "B" (6) ..	107	107
28½	23½	Mexican Ord. Stk. ..	25½	25½
130½	118½	Do. 1st Pref. (6½) ..	127½	129
59½	49½	Do. 2nd Pref. ..	55	55½
68½	54½	Mexican Southern (2½) ..	61	61
16½	14½	Nitrate Ord. (8) ..	15½	14½
21½	19½	Ottoman (Smyrna to Aidin) (5) ..	21½	21½
214½	200	San Paulo Brazilian (12) ..	202	200
493	168½	United of Havana Ord. Stk. (10) ..	184	183

lowed, and the gain was not altogether held. A considerable business was done in Baltimore on the announcement that the company had increased its dividend by ½ per cent., putting it on a 6 per cent. basis. A fair amount of activity likewise developed in Southern Pacific and Chesapeake on dividend prospects, and Norfolk Common met with a good deal of support. All of these finished with substantial gains on the week, and Atchison and Louisville were also

pany in 1901 it has been engaged in extending its railway bonds of the Guayaquil and Quito Railway recovered another $\frac{1}{2}$. United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock, too, has been somewhat out of favour, relapsing 1, and Western of Havana shares dropped $\frac{1}{2}$. Russian Railways have been decidedly weak in sympathy with the Government issues, and amongst other European securities South Austrian lost part of last week's advance.

There was not much activity in the Miscellaneous markets, and the tone generally was dull. Hudson's Bays opened well, and after losing ground a little, despite the issue of the report dealt with elsewhere, rallied and closed firm. Other land shares were a little easier. Anglo "A" has fluctuated sharply, but advanced steadily late in the week and closed strong on a somewhat mild story that an arrangement had been made with the Steel Trust by which the Telegraph company would benefit to the extent of £40,000 per annum. Insurance shares were weak, and it would be quite impossible to sell them in any quantity. Textiles were inclined to be good and Coats finished strongly, but English Cottons were subjected to considerable profit-taking and closed offered. Slaters were firm in the Catering list; Lyons slightly recovered and Gordon Hotels picked up $\frac{1}{2}$. Breweries, as usual, were falling, and Bieckert's ordinary reacted sharply. The "bull" campaign in this company's stock has been somewhat overdone, and a set-back will do no harm. The report is analysed in another column. Dock stocks were still advancing, but Cunards were dull in the Shipping list. British Westinghouse preference shares were harder on the announcement that the company had obtained some good contracts in Russia. Nitrates were a little dull. River Plate Fresh Meat shares went down on the disappointing dividend of 5 per cent. against 10, and other similar shares, like Nelsons and Eastmans, sympathised. Cements were dull, and Alkali shares were inclined to ease off. Russian Oil shares came on offer, and Entertainment Companies' shares were lower here and there. B.E.T. issues were somewhat harder, as the 3 per cent. dividend announced on the ordinary shares was no worse than had been expected.

Why are the Stock markets in the dumps so soon after the reduction in the Bank rate? They opened cheerfully this morning, but to-night everything is gloomy. It is not Paris, for Paris bought rather than sold, so people blame New York, where the "bears" are having a new innings. There must be domestic causes for the mischief, however, and the weakness of our market is a sure indication of hidden danger in the apparently sound and well-ordered credit fabric of the City. The fall in Consols was ascribed to a new issue of Local Loans stock or new County Council stock, neither being likely just as the half-year is closing, when money is sure to be scarce enough. Others said the insurance companies were selling Consols, but few of them have much to sell, and it would be cheaper to pawn what they have than to fling it on the market just now. However, the Yankee market has been under parity most of the day and very sick, and the other things have been shrinking. New Russian scrip is 3 discount, new Great Western stock only $\frac{7}{8}$ to 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ premium, and new Irish stock $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ premium. The Copper share market is amongst the wobbly corners.

British Electric Traction Company.

At the close of its year, which ended March 31 last, the total capital commitments of this company amounted to £4,949,969. In the course of the year £175,146 of new capital had been issued, £25,000 of it in the form of 5 per cent. perpetual debenture stock, and the remainder in 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. second debenture stock. The nett discount resulting from these issues, £4,437, was charged against the reserve, otherwise paid for out of capital, since the reserve of £575,137, as it now stands at, is almost entirely made up of

premiums on share issues. In the past year the business does not seem to have been remarkably profitable, at any rate within the United Kingdom, for the nett profit of £281,734 is only £14,559 greater, in spite of £77,172, being half the profits on the Bombay undertaking, which, although received in shares, is included in the year's profits. Deduct this, and there would have been nothing at all to pay a dividend on the ordinary shares with. As it is the company meets all its preferential charges, including the 6 per cent. dividend on the preference shares, and the board bestows 3 per cent. upon the ordinary shares, with £17,136 left to carry forward, against £14,996 brought in. Two years ago, however, the amount brought forward was upwards of £38,000, and as such a large portion of the profits are in paper, it is clear that the ordinary dividend disbursed, the carry forward and a good deal besides is not "cash." The dividend is a finance one in more ways than this, as we shall presently show. Nothing was written off for depreciation in 1904-5, but this year £35,000 was put aside on account of "undertakings worked by the company, stores, doubtful debts, and undertakings not proceeded with," which is something meritorious as far as it goes. What does the board propose to do in regard to the maintenance and renewal of the lines of tramway worked by it? Does it intend to sell them all to separate companies, and leave these companies and their shareholders to make good the neglect of the parent in the early years?

It is really impossible to criticise the balance-sheet with effect, because one cannot tell how much of it is solid. We have already instanced the "profits" of the Bombay undertaking—promotion profits?—which amount to £154,344 taken in ordinary shares of that company, this being the British Electric Traction Company's share and the Brush Company taking the rest. But there are other statements in the report or entries in the balance-sheet which fail to satisfy close scrutiny. For instance, investments of the board in debentures, stocks and shares of its offspring and dependants, amounting to £2,947,390, are taken at par in the balance-sheet, and another batch of investments of the par value of £1,691,024 are taken in at £1,401,062. Are either of these totals real? We have no means of judging, but we know that there is depreciation on part of the other investments held because that is frankly stated in the report. Investments other than Consols, the directors say, whose par value reaches £478,652 are officially quoted on the Stock Exchange, and included in the above figures at £391,880. "Their value at middle public prices on March 31 was £359,494." This is a depreciation of upwards of £30,000 on one small portion of the assets, and the remainder of the securities have not been valued. That is surely a confession which shareholders will do well to note. But there is something more. Administration charges or "management and general expenses" are set forth in fair detail, and attain the solid total of £54,467. All but £3,593 of this, however, is charged off to other accounts, so that the income of the year does not appear to be burdened with it. Thus £8,440 is charged to other companies, £3,891 goes against the capital account of "undertakings and works in progress," and £38,543 is put as "proportion of expenses charged to undertakings and works in progress." What is this but another way of saying "charged to capital"? Had the expenses of the year been squarely paid out of the real earnings of the year, and had the company left out the Bombay promoting profit in paper, there would have been little or no money with which to pay the dividend on the preference shares. Such are the fruits of company promotion mainly for the gain of the promoter.

The *Wine Trade Review* dwells on the fact that the consumption of wine has fallen off 50 per cent. in this country during the past six years. In 1873, with a population of 32,000,000, we drank over 18,000,000 gallons, and in the past fiscal year 43,000,000 people swallowed only 11,800,000 gallons. Spain has suffered most.

Critical Index To New Investments.

CLAYTON AND SHUTTLEWORTH, LIMITED.

Ever since this business of agricultural and general engineers was converted into a limited liability company in 1901, it has been engaged in extending its operations, and has spent £52,845 on new plant and £279,312 on additional freehold land and the erection of buildings, of which upwards of £241,500 was on the new manufactory established at Floridsdorf, near Vienna. The greater part of these funds were advanced by Mr. Alfred Shuttleworth, who has lent in all £215,000, and in order to repay £115,000 of this, as well as loans from the bankers, an issue of £400,000 4½ per cent. "B" mortgage debenture stock was offered for subscription at par. Ample justification for the expenditure is to be found in the steady improvement in profits, which have risen from £34,865 in 1901 to £90,978 in 1905, and as the assets, exclusive of goodwill, are valued at £1,443,452, while the only charge on the property in front of this issue is the £250,000 4 per cent. first mortgage debenture stock, the security seems good. Share and debenture holders in the company have a preferential right to allotment of the amounts of new stock applied for by them.

LONDON GENERAL OMNIBUS CO., LIMITED.

Out of a total capital of £1,500,000, divided into £1,000,000 ordinary stock and £500,000 in 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £10 each, this old company has issued £773,592 ordinary stock and £100,000 preference shares, together with £300,000 4 per cent. mortgage debentures redeemable in 1934. The preference shares were subscribed for by and allotted to existing holders of ordinary stock, and a further 15,000 shares were this week offered for subscription to provide a considerable number of motor omnibuses so that the company can compete on terms of equality with the new undertakings which have sprung into being with such rapidity. It is stated that the outlay in connection with the change to motor traction will reach about £1,000,000, of which half will be available from the appropriations from revenue now devoted annually to the maintenance of the horse and rolling stock, a statement which seems to imply that the directors have overlooked the fact that depreciation on the new vehicles will, in all probability, have to be on a considerably higher scale than that required for the horse omnibuses. The assets on December 31 were valued in the balance-sheet at £1,424,997, and the directors claim that this valuation is very conservative, but readers of this journal know that we hold a very different opinion on that point.

MATALE CEYLON RUBBER CO., LIMITED.

Without venturing on an opinion with regard to the profits to be earned from the properties sold to this company, the vendors ask £10,000 in cash and £15,000 in shares out of a total capital of £30,000 in £1 shares, for three estates in the Matale North District of Ceylon. The area of these estates is stated to be 695 acres, of which 458 acres have been planted with rubber, or rubber and cocoa, and stress is laid on the fact that the price works out at about £40 per cultivated acre. For 1906 a crop of 75 cwts. of cocoa is all that is looked for, and indeed the prospect of any return for the next three or four years seems more than doubtful. The shares, therefore, can only be regarded as a speculative lock up, and considering the narrowness of the market not an over-promising one at that.

CASTLEFIELD (KLANG) RUBBER ESTATE, LIMITED.

Formed with a capital of £35,000 in £1 shares, of which 30,000 are at present issued, this company acquires an estate of 1,000 acres in Selangor, Federated Malay States. The vendors have not been long in endeavouring to dispose of their property, as they only commenced planting last December with 55 acres, and by the end of April had no more than 270 acres planted, but the balance of the land is to be planted by March next. For this very immature property the company

is asked to pay £6,000 in shares and £5,300 in cash, including £1,000 in shares and £300 in cash for the promoters' profit, and considering that it will be six or seven years before the smallest return can be looked for, the venture seems far from attractive. The vendors, it is true, estimate that when the area is fully planted with 150 trees to the acre and producing even 1 lb. of rubber per tree, the nett profits at a selling price of 3s. per lb. would be at least £12,500.

RUSSIAN PETROLEUM AND LIQUID FUEL CO., LIMITED.

At the general meeting of this company in May powers were granted to raise £300,000 for the purpose of clearing off the existing floating debt, and of making good the unexpected losses of last year, and seemingly £500,000 6 per cent. "B" debentures were created. These, it is to be presumed, were disposed of privately, as Messrs. Robarts, Lubbock and Co., on behalf of the present holders, offer £400,000 at the price of 83½ per cent., payable 10 per cent. on application, 30 per cent. on allotment, and 43½ per cent. on July 19. The debentures are redeemable at par by 10 annual drawings commencing April 1, 1914, or may be repaid earlier at 105 on six months' notice. It has also been provided that whenever the position of the company enables a dividend to be paid on the preference shares, whether on account of arrears or not, these debentures are entitled to additional interest at half the rate per cent. per annum of such dividend up to 3½ per cent. per annum. Holders of the debentures have the option of converting them at any time within the first five years into ordinary shares at the rate of 75 ordinary shares of £1 each for £100 debentures, subject to the necessary increase of capital being sanctioned by the shareholders. As the result of this issue the directors consider the company will again be placed in a sound financial condition, last year's exceptional losses having been written off. They have also stated that the earnings for the current year are calculated to be sufficient to provide for the interest on the 5½ per cent. debentures, and the new issue as well as for the redemption of the due proportion of the 5½ per cent. debentures on January 1, after making full provision for depreciation and current expenses. The debentures are offered for sale simultaneously in Amsterdam, and applications from preference and ordinary shareholders will receive favourable consideration. The issue is highly speculative, but as the company's business is improving the prospects are hopeful. Much, however, depends on the political developments in Russia.

MOTOR RICKSHA CO., LIMITED.

The craze for motor vehicles has brought forth many fantastic schemes, but we have come across few more fantastic than the project put forward in this prospectus. A contrivance described as a twin ricksha attachment is to be fixed to a motor bicycle, from which the saddle, pedals, and handlebars have been removed in order to convert the machine into a sociable car for two persons at a cost of about half the price of the cheapest motor car in the market. For this contrivance the inventor modestly asks £25,000, or half the capital of the company. Of this he will take £10,000 in cash and £15,000 in shares, although he might have kept to himself all the huge profits to be realised by accepting the offers by "well-known manufacturers" to make the attachments and supply 5 h.p. motor bicycles for driving same on terms which will have a substantial margin. Estimates of profits are based mainly on figures taken from the *Daily Mail* Year Book as to the approximate number of motor cycles in use in the United Kingdom during 1905, and it is assumed that 10 per cent. of these will buy the attachment. To clinch the arguments, statistics are given of the development of the motor car industry in France, and the profits of the Daimler Motor Co., Limited, and A. Darracq and Co., Limited, are also dragged into service.

BRITISH AND ARGENTINE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

This company proposes to obtain options on properties and undertakings in the Argentine Republic and the other countries of South and Central America, to form subsidiary companies to develop same and generally to turn to account opportunities for the investment of capital in those countries. With this object the capital has been fixed at £250,000 divided into 248,750 preferred and participating shares of £1 each and 25,000 ordinary shares of 1s. each, of which 50,000 preferred shares are offered for subscription. The ordinary shares are allotted to Western Issues, Limited, and that venture is also given the option to subscribe within two years for 50,000 preferred shares at par as well as the right to nominate two of the five directors, all these benefits being apparently the consideration for underwriting 10,000 of the shares offered, as the preliminary expenses, estimated at £4,000, are to be borne by the company itself. No mention is made of any tangible assets having been acquired, but the directors presumably have some good things up their sleeve, else the issue would hardly attract. The reticence on this point is to be regretted because in the present condition of Argentina there should be ample opportunities for profitable business on the lines sketched out in the prospectus. All depends upon the judgment and care with which the properties are selected and handled.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

* * Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

There is still little to say about the Kaffir market, for it continues to be neglected by the public, and the professional players can no longer feed on each other. Measured by the liquidation of real stock, the past week has been one of the most distressing of the present year, and the inevitable decline in prices has been one of the most serious "bulls" have had to face for a long time. Jobbers themselves, disgusted with the immovable apathy of the public, have thrown stock overboard in chunks where possible, quite despairing of any active support in the near future. The news from the mines is not very exhilarating, and it is not amazing to learn that the non-payment of dividends by the leading companies of the East Rand group has made a painful impression, especially in regard to the poor outlook for some of the mines. Not only do the shareholders in these particular companies suffer, but the lapse will affect the revenue of the parent company itself during the current year, and maybe incapacitate it from paying a dividend.

The declarations since our last issue are set forth in the following table:—

Company.	Div.	Issued Capitals.	Amount.	Probable Life.	Approx. Yield.*	Yield After Allowing for Amortization.
	Per Cent.	£	£	Years.	per Cent.	Per Cent.
New Primrose	20	325,000	65,000	6	16	1
Knight's	10	425,000	42,500	20	6.6	3
New Rietfontein	10	612,000	61,200	20	11.4	7.8
Langlaagte Estate	10	470,000	47,000	25	8.4	5.8
Simmer and Jack	5	3,000,000	150,000	25	8.0	5.4
Robinson Deep	17½	980,000	171,500	23	7.3	4.4
Village Main Reef	20	400,000	80,000	15	10.7	5.5
Knight's Deep	5	643,500	32,175	30	5.7	3.7
			649,375			

* Calculated on the rate of dividend per annum.

Diamond shares have been quieter than usual, particularly Premiers, the excitement in which has died down. In this connection we hear that one of the principal "bears," a member of a firm of prominent outside brokers, is in a bad way, but then who isn't?

The directors of De Beers have paid the usual dividends of 10s. per share on both the preferred and deferred shares, but it has made little or no difference to the share market.

Rhodesians have weakened in sympathy with Kaffirs, whilst West Africans and Egyptians are as somnolent as ever.

West Australians have likewise been neglected. In the early part of the week prices scarcely moved, but were steady. Later, however, some selling in connection with the maturing of end-June options sent quotations lower, dealers realising stock in order to protect themselves. Great Fingalls were the heaviest sufferers, but Ivanhoes improved a trifle on a good cable, and Golden Horseshoes hardened.

Copper shares have strengthened in sympathy with the rise in the price of the metal.

AURORA WEST UNITED GOLD MINING COMPANY.—This Albu company is still carrying on development work, and during 1905 the main shaft was sunk to a depth of 1,142 ft., and the east shaft to 746 ft. The consulting engineer reports that the mine is now in such a position that rapid development work can be done east and west of the main shaft on both the South Reef and the Main Reef Leader. "A period of four or five months' sinking in the main shaft," he adds, "would give so many points of attack for development purposes that thereafter sinking could be suspended for a period of 12 months, and still give ample margin for development to keep well ahead of mill requirements." Originally, the policy was to complete the enlargement and renovation of the plant and extend the scope of the ore reserves, so that crushing with 60 stamps could be resumed early in 1906, but as labour was insufficient the directors, as we announced some weeks ago, stopped all work and closed down the mine. Revenue consisted of £268 from rents and £70 from commission, and a loss of £20,128 has to be added to the former debit, making it £60,677. Loan liabilities now amount to the huge sum of £219,699.

SACKE ESTATES AND MINING COMPANY.—For the financial period ending December 31 the income from interest, licences, rents, &c., amounted to £4,005, whilst the cost of administration and income-tax totalled £2,679, leaving a profit of £1,326, which increases the company's credit balance to £22,126 carried forward. In view of the small profit and the depreciation in the value of the shares, the directors say they have not considered it advisable to pay a dividend for the past year. Sundry creditors are owed £1,131 only against which cash amounts to £35,756, loans and interest aggregate £20,762, and debtors owe £1,592.

WANKIE (RHODESIA) COAL, RAILWAY, AND EXPLORATION COMPANY.—The prosperity predicted for this company has not yet been attained, and though the company is turning out and selling a fairish quantity of coal, the profit earned is insignificant. The output for 1905 was 97,191 tons, the saleable quantity being 72,444 tons, which is nothing to boast of after seven years of existence. Sales realised £53,243, rents brought in £919, sundry receipts £812, transfer fees and interest £158, total £55,132, the nett profit on which, after allowing for all outgoings, including depreciation, was £4,455. As the deficiency in the last balance-sheet was £61,411, it is reduced to £56,956, a sum it will, to all appearances, take the company a few years to wipe out. Liabilities also are very heavy, no less than £112,038, including two loans of £30,013 and £76,350. In respect of the smaller loan, a first mortgage bond has been created over the coal concession of 400 square miles, plant, machinery, and other fixed assets, whilst the company has given the lender an option to "call" 20,000 shares at £2 each, with an undertaking not to distribute any profits or issue other shares without the consent of the creditor. As regards the larger loan the company has agreed to execute a power of attorney for creating a first mortgage bond over the same assets, as soon as the first loan has been repaid. The lenders have also an option to call for an allotment of shares at par for three years from the date of the agreements, but no shares can be issued without the consent of the first creditor. The company has entered into an agreement to sell its 200 square miles coal concession north of the Zambesi for £22,000, payable in shares of the North Zambesi Coal Syndicate, and the company has undertaken to subscribe for £8,132 of the working capital. But it is a dreary look-out for the company, the shareholders, the Chartered Company, and Rhodesia generally.

ANGLO-FRENCH (TRANSVAAL) NAVIGATION COAL ESTATES.—The directors of this concern are able to report that after some years of inactivity the company has started working, but there is no revenue from coal winning, neither is any probable for years to come, for development work is still in its earliest stages. During the past year further funds had to be raised by the issue of 120,000 7 per cent. cumulative preference shares. These were offered to the shareholders pro rata to their holdings at £1 each, the interest on them being deferred for a period of 18 months from February 17, 1905. There was no eager rush for these shares, the shareholders taking up 200 only, the balance going to the guarantors for a commission of £12,000. The ordinary expenditure was £5,574 against an income of £592 from interest, and the deficit now amounts to £45,272.

WEST RAND MINES.—It has been impossible, owing to the difficulty of getting labour, to carry out the extensive programme of development sketched out by the directors 12 months ago. Financial conditions also counselled a modification of the scheme, as money is hard to get in these times for any Rand mining company. So operations were confined to surface work in the financial year ending December 31. Revenue from interest, rents and commissions totalled £1,285 against an outlay of £13,469 on administration, licences, maintenance, pumping and general charges. Some commandeered gold valued at £3,511 has been written off. The West Rand Consolidated Mines has agreed to advance such sums as may be necessary to enable the company to carry out the initial scheme of development.

TALISMAN CONSOLIDATED.—In the financial year ending February 28 the mill crushed a total of 45,520 tons for a yield of 27,170 ozs. of fine gold and 270,243 ozs. of fine silver. The value of the whole was £145,777, equal to £3 4s. per ton. Interest and discount gave £80, exchange £18, and transfer fees £285, for during the greater part of the past year there was considerable activity in these shares. The gross profit was £72,238, and the net profit £49,911, after allowing for depreciation. A couple of dividends of 1s. per share were paid in August and December, absorbing £31,500, leaving a balance of £30,347, including the credit brought in. A third dividend was paid in March, and a fourth is payable on the 2nd prox., making 4s. for the year, which will absorb the whole of the surplus should the

directors take their commission, which is dividing right up to the hilt. Ore reserves have largely increased, the general manager estimating these at 65,942 tons at the end of February. Last year was much the best in the company's career, and the general managers promise still better results.

PROGRESS MINES OF NEW ZEALAND.—Another good report is issued by the directors of this New Zealand company, covering the year 1905, in which period 60,000 tons were milled for a working profit of £44,325, equal to a little over 14s. 9d. per ton. The entire cost of the development and depreciation was charged to revenue, together with the tax here and in New Zealand, and after allowing for these sums the nett profit was £29,595 to be added to the balance of £34,042 from 1904. Two dividends were paid of 1s. and 1s. 6d. per share and the sum taken forward is £29,262, which is more than represented by actual cash in hand. Since the closing of the accounts another distribution of 1s. per share has been made. At the end of the year the manager estimated the ore reserves at 96,000 tons.

CONSOLIDATED GOLDFIELDS OF NEW ZEALAND.—For some reason or other the directors of this company have not sent us a copy of their report and accounts for the year 1905, but from the meagre particulars we have seen the company has had another fairly successful year. After writing off £12,123 for depreciation the nett profit was £23,935, giving the directors an available surplus of £45,857 with the amount brought in. A dividend of 1s. per share was paid in the course of the year and £33,738 is carried forward. The debenture issue of £50,000 has been reduced by the redemption of a further £4,000, and the balance of £42,350, redeemable at par on January 1 last, has since been paid off, thus saving the company £3,000 per annum in interest.

PEAK HILL GOLDFIELD.—A circular to the shareholders states that the petition for the reduction of this company's capital was duly presented to the Court, and has been duly sanctioned. Under the new scheme the capital will be:—300,000 deferred shares of 4s. each (£60,000), and 50,000 £1 ordinary shares to be issued forthwith. The directors, however, recommend that 50,000 additional ordinary shares of £1 each should be created and held in reserve to provide the share capital necessary should the debenture holders exercise their right to convert their stock into ordinary shares. This would make the total capital £160,000 in place of £300,000. The directors strongly appeal to the shareholders to take up the shares, but looking to the company's unsuccessful past the temptation to do this is anything but irresistible.

TASMANIAN COPPER COMPANY.—During the year 1905 operations at the Blinman mine were again hampered by drought and the scarcity of transport teams, which restricted smelting work to practically eight months, and production to 1,798 tons of matte and metallics containing an average of 59.43 per cent. of copper. The balance to the credit of the profit and loss account, after deducting interest, taxes, &c., is £11,876. Under the conditions of the debenture issue three-fourths of the nett profits derived from Blinman are payable to that fund. The amount payable is £10,410, out of which it is proposed to redeem 694 debentures of £10 each at 50 per cent. premium, leaving 556 debentures outstanding. This leaves £1,466, which reduces the balance to the debit of general expenses account to £37,574. For the first time in the company's history the year's operations have paid all expenses and left a margin of profit.

TAITAPU GOLD ESTATES.—In their report for the 15 months ending December 31, the directors say a considerable amount of development work has been done in the mines, but with unsatisfactory results, the amount of ore won being very small. In all 210 tons were crushed, yielding slightly over 178 ozs. of gold. The Anthill mine has been tested thoroughly at depth without discovering anything payable, and the chairman subsequently paid a visit to the mines. On his advice prospecting and development work was concentrated on block 4, and general boring operations are to be undertaken in the coal formation to prove the quality at depth; also for the exploitation of the reef formations on the estate. On the other hand, the mining operations of the Golden Blocks (Taitapu) still give good results, the company milling 2,725 tons for a yield of 2,959 ozs., and paying a dividend of 1s. 6d. per share. The Taitapu has a large holding in the Golden Blocks.

DAY DAWN BLOCK AND WYNDHAM GOLD MINING Co.—Receipts from all sources in 1905 amounted to £111,096 and the expenditure absorbed £67,912, so the profit was £43,184. After charging this with the debit of £7,568 in the previous balance-sheet and the two interim dividends of 6d. each, also colonial tax, a credit of £9,449 is left to carry forward. The returns from the mine show a material improvement over those for 1904, for though the stone treated was less in quantity it was more remunerative. Diamond drill borings carried out are said to have proved very encouraging. With the abandonment of grinding and the substitution of one of the latest improvements in concentrating machinery, a more efficient and economical treatment of the stone has been effected.

DHARWAR GOLD MINES.—The report and accounts for the financial year ending March 31 show that the expenditure in India and England amounted to £3,622, whilst the receipts from transfer fees, rents, rebates, and profit on sales of shares totalled £613, leaving a deficiency of £3,008. At the end of March, 1905, the profit and loss account showed a credit of £44,433, out of which a dividend at the rate of 133 1/3 per cent. was paid, represented by 40,000 fully-paid shares of the Dharwar Reefs Company, £2,000 was paid in shares to the directors and managers as their percentage, and income-tax took £2,181. After allowing £120

for depreciation, and including the £3,008 loss last year, there is now a debit of £2,876 taken to the balance-sheet. The report says the mining operations are now centred on two distinct undertakings, where the indications of success are highly promising.

CAMP BIRD.—The directors now inform shareholders that the estimated cost of the reconstruction of the plant, including mine maintenance and mining machinery, current expenses, taxes, &c., will be about £70,000, and the manager says he has collected about £6,600 from the insurance companies. At the time of the accident it was reported the company had cash in the bank and on short loan amounting to £120,000. It has been decided to rebuild a 60-stamp mill on the site of the old mill, to make provision for a further 20 stamps, and to erect snow barriers as a protection against possible future snowslides, and it is expected that crushing will be resumed in December. As the auditors have completed their work at the mine the annual report and accounts will be issued at once. The directors hope, they say, to resume payment of at least small dividends during the time required for rebuilding the mill.

ETRUSCAN COPPER ESTATES.—The directors of this concern have issued the report of Messrs. Alexander Hill and Stewart upon the work they have recently done at the property, and this document should assure the intelligent amongst the shareholders that prospects of dividends are dark indeed. During the next seven or eight months these experts calculate that the profit per month will average from £6,000 to £7,000, which is all they can look forward to "with any degree of certainty as being producible from the property." They have carried out prospecting operations, but have to report that their search for more ore has ended in disappointment. Having accomplished certain work, Messrs. Hill and Stewart consider it their duty to resign their appointment as managers, adding:—"We have (1) reorganised the staff; (2) obtained the services of a good mining and smelting man as resident manager; (3) proved that some ore could still be obtained which could be mined and smelted at a profit; (4) tested the formation in depth, and continued the search for it in other directions. . . . We do not feel that we can be of very much more service to you in directing operations at the mine, and by our resignation a substantial economy will have been effected, which, in your present financial position, seems to us to be of considerable importance." These words and this step cannot be regarded as reassuring.

ST. JOHN DEL REY MINING COMPANY.—In the 12 months ending February 28, 148,280 tons were crushed from the Morro Velho mine, and the yield of gold realised £289,133, whilst the Cuiaba bullion fetched £11,315, total £300,448. Interest gave £787, and transfer fees £848, and the nett profit was £28,859, including £7,447 brought in. Two dividends of 3d. and 4d. per share each were paid and a sum of £2,565 is carried forward. The capital outlay amounted to £37,080, chiefly on the third portion of the scheme for conveying power to the mine by electric current from the falls of the Peixe river.

MOZAMBIQUE MACQUEQUE.—Operations at the mine were resumed in August, 1905, when, after a long suspension of work, it was let on tribute to a local tributer, and probably this is better than doing nothing. Meanwhile expenses are being cut down, the directors still drawing only half fees, and waiving all claim to the balance. Liabilities are only £682, and cash amounts to £6,282.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

BOMBAY, BARODA, AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY COMPANY.

The half-yearly report of this undertaking is a voluminous production, running to 41 pages. It contains not only the complete results for the six months to December 31, but details of the new contract with the Secretary of State for India, a brief history by decades of the operations of the railway, including the State lines, and coloured diagrams presenting particulars of capital outlay, receipts, working expenses, mileage, and so forth for 20 years to the end of 1905. All the information is highly interesting, and illustrates fully the remarkable growth which has taken place in Indian railway enterprise during the last 40 years. We fear it has not always been to the good of the people of India, the burden at times thrown on their backs by unproductive lines being exceedingly heavy. We are not in any way condemning the principle of railway construction, because railways are absolutely essential for the development of the land, but the policy has often been carried to extreme lengths to the exclusion of every other consideration. The ghastly famine history, particularly in the Bombay presidency, makes us think that some of the money if spent in irrigation and in other ways would have been better used. But the railway business has been a grand thing for British investors, come of India what may. Terms for the acquisition of the railway by the Secretary of State were published as far back as October last, and without recapitulating them, it may be briefly said that of the purchase price of £154 15s. 5d. as settled, per £100 stock, proprietors will receive £133 12s. 6d. in new India 3 per cent. stock, and £26 9s. 9d. in the capital of a new company to be formed to continue the working of the line. This capital amounts to £2,000,000, receiving a guarantee of interest of 3

per cent., and repayable at par at the end of the contract. The company will take over the working of the present company's broad gauge system, together with the present contracts of the subsidiary broad gauge lines now worked. Any funds required for capital expenditure after the date of reconstruction will be provided at the Secretary of State's option, either by him at a rate of interest to be agreed upon, or by further issues of stock created by the Secretary's authority. In addition to the 3 per cent. interest, the company will be entitled to 1-10th of the excess nett earnings of the Bombay, Baroda and Rajputana-Malwa lines (exclusive of lines worked for native States or other companies) over (A) 200 lakhs a year, and (B) the interest charges in respect of additional capital provided after purchase. If the Rajputana-Malwa line is taken away, the same conditions will hold, except that 70 lakhs will be substituted for 200 lakhs. After the additional interest of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. has been provided, the surplus for the company will be lowered to 1-15 instead of 1-10. The contract will run for 25 years, and thereafter will be terminable at intervals of five years on 12 months' notice. For the three years ending in 1908 the Secretary guarantees that the supplemental dividend in excess of 3 per cent. shall not be less than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., but after that earnings must be depended upon. The directors think that during the opening years of the contract the average nett earnings will be sufficient to add, on the average, about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to the 3 per cent. guarantee, but with the plague and unclimatic conditions prevailing in the years 1897 and 1903 in mind they remind the proprietors that until a reserve fund is established, the distribution of surplus profits for any particular year after 1908 is uncertain. In future surplus profits will depend on the result of a whole year's working, so that the first distribution will be made along with the half-yearly guaranteed interest in July, 1907. The board naturally hopes that in later years the distribution of surplus profits may be larger than they can at present look forward to, but evidently feel it necessary to give the mentioned warning. Coming to the results for the half-year to December 31 last, we find that the gross earnings amounted to Rs.88,68,300, or an increase of Rs.7,91,164 over the corresponding period. Working expenditure, however, was up Rs.1,43,125 only to Rs.41,26,391, so that nett revenue improves to the extent of Rs.6,48,039 at Rs.47,41,909. Ratio between expenditure and income shows a decline of 2.79 per cent. at 46.53 per cent. Coaching traffic shows an improvement of Rs.3,22,432, passengers being up Rs.2,51,538, numbers rising 571,258, season tickets gave an additional Rs.19,084, and parcels, luggage, horses, &c., advanced Rs.51,810. In the goods traffic there was a gain of Rs.4,66,833, and sundries produced Rs.2,661 more, but telegraphs showed a decline of Rs.762. Tonnage of goods carried was up 87,063, and we find the principal increases in railway plant and rolling stock, coal and coke, raw cotton, fodder, fruit and vegetables, stone and lime, sugar and wood. Against these there were big decreases in food grains, wheat and wheat flour and oil seeds. Working expenses nowhere showed exceptional movement, but maintenance, locomotive expenses, and miscellaneous charges were heavier, while carriage and wagon, traffic and general charges were slightly less. On the State lines gross earnings increased Rs.17,82,028 to Rs.1,36,33,037, and working expenses rose Rs.4,11,328 to Rs.61,58,807, leaving the nett earnings larger by Rs.13,70,700 at Rs.74,74,230. Receipts from coaching traffic were larger by Rs.9,31,843, goods rose Rs.8,47,828, telegraph Rs.2,232, and sundries Rs.125. A huge increase of over 100,000 tons took place in food grains, railway plant and rolling stock rose 31,995 tons, raw cotton 11,334, metals 16,157, fodder 17,291, and stone and lime 6,350 tons. On the other hand coal and coke, firewood, oil seeds, and wheat and wheat flour all produced less tonnage. All the items of expenditure went up particularly locomotive and maintenance charges. Company's share of surplus profits is Rs.8,66,941 against Rs.6,27,799, of which Rs.7,80,000 has been brought home, the balance being retained in India to meet any unforeseen liabilities or unsettled claims under the old contract. From these profits and other credits the directors propose a dividend of £1, absorbing £79,278, leaving a small balance in hand. A final distribution of assets will be made when the liabilities of the old company have been fully ascertained.

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

During the six months ended December 31 the gross revenue of this system amounted to Rs. 64,25,751 or an increase against the corresponding period of Rs. 83,920, but the expenses showed the considerable advance of Rs. 2,35,052 to Rs. 30,24,888, leaving the nett earnings about 1½ lakhs lower at Rs. 34,00,862. After making adjustments for expenses and credits appertaining to this and previous half-years, the amount to the credit of nett revenue account is Rs. 33,95,607 or Rs. 1,59,120 less. Deducting interest charges and contribution to provident fund and the surplus divisible between the Government and the company is Rs. 16,67,780. Company's share is Rs. 3,17,914, after providing Rs. 6,006 as share of the loss on the Travancore branch, and has realised £17,607. To that must be added £13,614 brought forward and £264 interest on deposits making £31,486, which permits a dividend for the half-year of £2 5s. in addition to the guaranteed interest, increasing the total return to 3¾ per cent. or at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum. This will absorb £21,175 leaving £10,311 to be carried forward. Coaching traffic decreased by Rs. 85,723, business being restricted somewhat by plague regulations and a partial failure of the monsoon. Exclusive of season ticket-holders the number of passengers carried was 7,606,644, third-class contributing more than 99 per cent. of the number and nearly 95 per cent. of the receipts. In

the goods traffic there was an improvement of Rs. 1,90,291 and the total earnings of Rs. 29,89,146 were again the highest ever recorded. A big increase in grain and pulse was chiefly responsible for the improvement, as no other commodity gave an important advance, while manufactured cotton, metals, oilseeds, spices, and sugar all produced less. The continuation of the work of renewals and repairs of bridges accounts for a large proportion of the additional expenditure, and may be expected to add considerably to the working cost in the immediate future. Carriage and wagon expenses, general charges and traffic outlay also went up and the principal decrease occurs in locomotive expenses, due to the expenditure for the corresponding period having included the replacement of four locomotives. Construction of extension is making satisfactory progress.

WEST OF INDIA, PORTUGUESE GUARANTEED RAILWAY CO.,
LIMITED.

This company has been doing so well since the working of the line was taken over by the Southern Mahratta Company, that a slight set-back is not remarkable. For the year 1905 the gross earnings were Rs.6,22,125 or Rs.62,265 less than in the preceding 12 months, but there was a decrease in the expenditure of Rs.34,728 at Rs.4,01,284, so that the nett earnings are only Rs.27,537 smaller at Rs2,20,840. There was again a moderate improvement in the coaching traffic, but goods yielded about Rs.50,000 less, miscellaneous revenue fell Rs.9,045, and a decline of Rs.6,623 took place in the harbour receipts. Imports of coal from Calcutta were less at 21,640 tons, kerosene oil from Calcutta to Bombay fell to 6,865 tons, and railway material to 17,577 tons. Exports of grain and seeds direct to Europe also showed a falling off at 15,746 tons, and the directors point out that droughts in the Deccan caused a partial failure of the cotton and seed crops. Manganese ore gave a new traffic amounting to 1,200 tons, and it is stated that the discovery of this mineral on the Southern Mahratta railway and also in Portuguese territory is likely to prove of permanent advantage to the railway and harbour. The improvements at the harbour are in progress. Negotiations referred to in the last report resulted in the Portuguese Government giving their sanction to most of the improvements, and allowing the cost to be defrayed from accumulations of nett revenue, in the meanwhile meeting the entire guarantee of interest from other sources. The board has already retained £15,949 from nett revenue for these works which will extend over at least 1906 and 1907.

ANGLO-CHILIAN NITRATE AND RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

Shareholders of this undertaking have every reason to be satisfied with the report and accounts for the year ended December 31 last just submitted. As foreshadowed a year ago, there was a slight decrease in the railway business, and a further diminution must be expected owing to the large number of new oficinas erected in other districts, the effect of which will be to reduce the quotas of existing oficinas, including those served by this company's railway. On the other hand, the production of nitrate increased by 113,000 quintals to 955,000 quintals and the company returns a revenue of £172,290 or £52,590 more. This is arrived at after allowing for difference in exchange and providing for depreciation, renewals, and fire insurance. On the present occasion, however, the debenture charges are a lot higher, service of the 6 per cent. first mortgage bonds requiring £9,843, and of the 4½ per cent. bonds £43,645, or £53,488 in all. Then £21,962 is allowed for discount and expenses of the new issue of 4½ per cent. consolidated mortgage bonds and premium on railway bonds redeemed, income-tax requires £5,493, and administration, &c., £7,033, leaving £84,313 as the nett balance. From this the directors propose to pay dividends of 10 per cent. on both preference and ordinary shares, the same as before, adding another £30,000 to reserve, and carrying forward £10,751 against £6,437 brought in. The sinking fund of the 4½ per cent. consolidated mortgage bonds has been duly provided by the purchase and cancellation of £27,100 of bonds, while an additional sum of £5,600 has been cancelled on account of the future operation of the fund. The outstanding 6 per cent. first mortgage bonds have been redeemed and replaced by an issue of an equal amount of 4½ per cent. consolidated mortgage bonds, and, as above noted, the whole cost of the operation has been charged to revenue. Of the authorised creation of 4½ per cent. mortgage bonds to the amount of £600,000, the issue to date reaches £571,800, of which £84,100 has been paid off by operation of the sinking fund, leaving the amount outstanding at £487,700. The balance-sheet also shows the provision made for the redemption of the balance of 6 per cent. bonds, amounting with the premiums to £110,230. This operation took place on January 1 last. Including the addition now proposed, the reserve fund reaches £60,000, making, with sundry other accumulations, aggregate savings of £127,100. This is against a property valuation of £876,735, a nett decrease on the year of £64,328. Working stocks on hand are valued at £78,165, and against floating liabilities of £65,430 there are debtors £31,433, stocks £40,103, investments £138,891, bills receivable £79,951, and cash £74,315. Part of these resources were absorbed in the payment of £110,230, mortgage bonds, but making allowance for that, the financial position is still a very excellent one. The usual reference is made to the renewal of the restrictive combination for a further period of three years.

AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION, LIMITED.

After the heavy drop of £19,817 shown in the gross profits of this bank for the half-year to March, 1905, it is only natural to find some improvement for the corresponding period just

closed. The recovery is not very startling, only £3,315 at £93,398, but the sum brought in was also larger at £6,380, so that the total credit is £5,051 up at £99,778. On the other hand, the general charges were moderately reduced to £68,943, so that after providing £8,686 for rebate, £1,053 for depreciation of furniture, and adding £2,000 to the staff guarantee and savings fund, the balance over is £19,095, a gain of £4,141 against the corresponding period when the staff fund got nothing. The directors, therefore, propose the usual dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, carrying forward £7,095. Reserve fund must again be passed over, and will remain at £140,000 against the paid-up capital of £400,000. Current and deposit accounts are down again to £4,599,971, a decline of £542,524, but drafts, acceptances, and endorsements show an increase of £92,205 to £302,102, and the note circulation is larger by £114,029 at £311,398. Total cash holding, including money at call and short notice, reflects the drop in liabilities, being £1,241,750 against £1,320,863, and bills of exchange are £335,964 less at £1,225,864. There is, however, an increase in the investments of £49,404 to £423,170, and bills discounted, loans, and advances have risen £55,129 to £2,686,007. Liabilities on endorsements amount to £43,958, and premises, furniture, &c., £43,958, complete a balance-sheet total of £5,772,254. It may be useful to note that of the seven directors one is connected with the Consolidated Gold Fields Company and another with Messrs. S. Neumann and Co.

BIECKERT'S BREWERY CO. (1900), LIMITED.

A really remarkable transformation has come over the fortunes of this Argentine brewery business during the last two or three years. Its stock has provided the chief excitement in the brewery section of the Stock Exchange within the past 12 months, and a rise of 10 or 15 points in a single day was not an infrequent occurrence. Time was when the business was in a very poor way, and as recently as 1900 the capital account was subjected to a severe writing down. Even that did not have an immediate influence for good, and up to the close of the financial year in 1902 only the preference dividend was paid. About this time, however, the company began to feel the benefit of the wonderful prosperity prevailing in Argentina, and the position seemed inclined to improve. No immediate attempt was made to pay anything on the ordinary stock, but a year ago the directors announced a dividend of 6 per cent. on this part of the capital, the first return since the reorganisation. That was a very good start, but the achievement has been easily eclipsed by the results for the year to March 31 now displayed. Quite lately the market value of the ordinary stock mounted to the fine figure of 225, but the rather sharp reaction to the neighbourhood of 210 which has since taken place is all to the good, because the stock was being played with in a rather unreasoning fashion. From the report we learn that the trading profit was £83,086 or £28,731 more than in the previous 12 months. Discount, interest, and transfer fees gave a further amount of £3,385, and £3,821 was brought forward making £90,292 in all. This is an improvement of nearly £30,000 over the previous year, and after providing £3,282 for administration and £22,321 for debenture interest, the balance over is £64,688. This is handled with much good sense. The 5 per cent. dividend on the preference stock requires £9,000, and although the dividend on the ordinary stock is no less than 12 per cent., the amount required to pay it, £21,600, is £5,900 less than the £27,500 allocated to reserve. In addition the directors liquidate the balance of debenture issue expenses £2,500, and carry forward the rather larger sum of £4,088. It may be recalled that in February last the directors offered at par 10,000 new shares of £10 each to the stockholders, providing a nice little bonus, because at that time the stock stood at 200 or thereabouts. Apparently, however, all the proprietors entitled to do so did not take up their allotments, and a small part of the issue was sold in the market, realising a good premium. This defrayed all expenses of the issue, and left a credit of £1,380, which is also carried to reserve, making a total addition for the year of £28,880. While on the subject of capital we may as well refer to the directors' proposals for converting the 6 per cent. debenture stock. It can be paid off at any time now at six months' notice, and as the financial position of the company is so much improved, 6 per cent. interest is naturally considered too high. The amount of stock outstanding is £205,353, and holders are given the option of converting it at par into equal proportions of 5 per cent. irredeemable debenture stock and 5 per cent. preference stock to be specially created for the purpose. In addition a cash payment of 1½ will be made upon the amount of 6 per cent. debenture stock so exchanged so that a holder of £1,000 will receive £500 5 per cent. irredeemable debenture stock and £500 preference stock besides £15 in cash. The last-named is apparently the compensation payable for the slight loss of interest involved, as the exchange will take place at once, so that actually holders will lose ½ per cent., being the difference between 6 and 5 per cent. per annum for six months, and gain 1½ per cent., a margin in favour of 1 per cent. Holders must intimate their wishes by July 2, and a practically unanimous consent may be expected, because the stocks to be handed over should form reasonably good investments. It may, however, not be possible for the board to allot to existing debenture holders the full amounts asked for, as a substantial portion of both stocks has already been sold in equal amounts at par. The new £100,000 debenture stock, which may be increased to £150,000, will form a charge on the entire assets of the company, subject only to the 4 per cent. debenture stock, and is irredeemable, except that, in the event of voluntary liquidation for

the purposes of reconstruction or amalgamation, it may be paid off at a premium of 12½ per cent. The £100,000 of further preference stock to be created will rank *pari passu* in all respects with the existing £180,000 preference stock, and in April next, when the new shares created last February to provide for the building of the new brewery at Lavallo, are converted into preference and ordinary stock, the total preference issue of the company will stand at £310,000. Present preference holders have no cause for complaint, because the fixed charge in front of them will be considerably less, even should the extra £50,000 of new 5 per cent. debenture stock be issued. Moreover, beginning with the next financial year, the board will apply £2,500 per annum as a sinking fund to purchase and cancel 4 per cent. debenture stock so long as it can be obtained below par. Nett capital additions for the year were £4,766, raising the property valuation to £747,771 against which the reserve now amounts to £47,835. Up to date £3,459 has been spent on the new brewery, and while floating liabilities are light, the company has an excellent display of liquid assets.

OHLSSON'S CAPE BREWERIES, LIMITED.

We fancy that when the annual meeting of this big South African brewery is held on Friday next the directors will be called upon to considerably amplify the statements made in the report. Something very serious has happened during the year to March 31, and as shareholders must suffer directly for it they will want to get at all the facts. The directors say that "the acute depression which has prevailed in South Africa throughout the year inevitably affected the brewing profits, against which, moreover, a large sum had to be charged to cover trade losses incurred in Johannesburg, where the late manager involved the company in very considerable obligations, which have been a source of great anxiety to the managing directors and the board and for which it is believed that the provision made out of the year's accounts will prove sufficient." We hope it will, but as the mischief has been done and provided for, no harm can result from divulging the amount. There can be no question of trade secrets or anything of that sort, and since it is shareholders' money that has been lost we hope that no attempt will be made at concealment. The position is much too serious for that, because the trading profit after providing for these losses has slumped away from £200,560 to £128,137. Deducting £7,000 or £3,000 less for depreciation, the balance left is £121,137, to which can be added a few hundred pounds for interest and transfer fees, making £121,580. We next note a very important point. A year ago the company showed a nett receipt of £1,956 for interest on deposits and dividends and interest on investments after providing for interest on loans. Now, however, interest on loans appears as a debit for £5,055, so that on last year's reckoning the company is some thousands to the bad. Is this connected with the Johannesburg troubles, and what precisely does it mean? Other charges are for debenture interest £19,877, London expenses £6,259, income-tax £5,721 and proportion of debenture issue expenses written off £3,082, leaving £81,584 or less than half the amount of a year ago. Sum brought in was £35,223, increasing the disposable credit to £116,807, and after meeting the preference dividends the ordinary dividend is reduced from 40 per cent. to 22½. The directors then set aside a sum of £10,000 as a special reserve against doubtful debts, pass over the ordinary reserve, which last year received £45,000, and carry forward £27,807. Capital additions during the year were heavy at £146,041, chiefly on the new Johannesburg brewery, and raise the total cost of properties to £1,403,438. Against this, however, there is the big reserve of £730,000, largely consisting of contributions from profits, and we can at least commend the directors for meeting the serious losses referred to from profits instead of from this fund, as so many would be tempted to do. The new issue of £350,000 debenture stock made last autumn has enabled the directors to pay off the temporary loans, and floating liabilities are now very light. Among the assets we note sundry debtors, loans, trade investments and mortgages £256,037, after deducting the special allowance of £10,000, plant and machinery £149,793, stock £162,328, and cash £53,412. The position, therefore, is still quite strong—so good, in fact, that the directors need have no fear about speaking the truth.

RIVER PLATE FRESH MEAT CO., LIMITED.

The annual report of this company made up to April 30 caused considerable disappointment to the small band of Stock Exchange speculators who now dabble in the shares. Doubtless, too, it will not come up to shareholders' expectations. During the past two or three years the profits have moved in unison with those of the big Nelson business, so that the comparatively good results displayed by that concern a little while back led to the hope that this enterprise would do pretty well. Instead there is a reduction in the profits of £26,086 to £29,658 to be faced, a really serious falling off, for which the directorial explanation does not seem quite adequate. Markets on this side have been fairly good during the greater portion of the year, we are told, but prices were not so high as during the previous 12 months, on account of the additional competition caused by the increased quantity of beef and mutton brought over from the Plate and elsewhere. Moreover, prices in the Plate of both live sheep and cattle have been high during the year. To the nett profit must be added £1,343 brought in, making £31,001, and after paying the 10 per cent. preference dividend, the ordinary dividend is reduced by 5 per cent. to 5, carrying £5,000, or the same amount less to reserve, and £1,000 to next account. Capital expenditure during the year was fairly extensive at

£44,892, chiefly on additions to buildings and machinery at Campana station, and facilities at this end for the purpose of extending the general business, beside developing and improving the means of dealing with the company's different products. Total capital outlay has now reached £549,397, and as working balances have now been reduced to a rather low figure, the directors propose an issue of 100,000 new ordinary £1 shares at par. Not a very pleasing recommendation on top of heavily decreased profits and dividends. But the company undoubtedly wants the money. At the date of the balance-sheet it owed no less than £386,206 on bills payable, and £51,999 to sundry creditors. Against this we have shipments in transit and on hand, £255,726, working assets in London £54,466 and in the River Plate £159,623, no great part of which would be available for liquidating indebtedness. Cash, too, is poor at £24,994 and is hardly sufficient to provide the dividends. The reserves are pretty good, £85,000 on general account and £45,000 for insurance, but the whole is involved in the business. As the value of land in the Plate has considerably increased in recent years, the board proposes to sell some outlying portions which experience has shown are not of much benefit to the company. It is also proposed to change the date of closing the accounts from April 30 to December 31, so that for the next two years proper comparison of results will be difficult. They ought to be better though, because companies of this sort should benefit from the revolting Chicago disclosures.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COMPANY.

The seventieth annual report of this fine company made up to December 31 in Adelaide, and April 30 in London, states that a most successful year has been experienced in the districts surrounding Adelaide, adding largely to the resources of the farmers and graziers. The harvest reaped in the latter part of the year 1905, though somewhat late, produced a larger quantity of grain than any previous crop. Much wheat will in consequence be available for export, and should realise a very considerable sum, present prices being favourable—without the addition of a preferential duty. Moreover, the latest news from South Australia per cable represents the opening of the season as most favourable, very fine rains having fallen, especially in the northern pastoral district. During the year the company made a profit on sales of land of £2,267, rents produced £33,759, receipts from wharfs gave £16,564, and interest on balances due for land sold and on investments in London were £6,785. A further small sum of £41 came in from transfer fees, and £3,161 was brought forward, so that altogether the company has a total credit of £62,577. Against this there were aggregate charges of £23,706 leaving £38,871, or a little less than for the previous year. Not sufficiently so, however, to affect the dividend, which will again be 50s. per share, payable as usual, in half-yearly moieties on July 14 and January 15 next, with £2,000 to reserve and £1,371 to next account. Inventories of the company's property on December 31 produced a total value of £950,034 or an increase over the previous year of £1,666, the value of the land sold having been deducted, and the sums spent on buildings, &c., in the City of Adelaide and at the port put in. The directors do not anticipate that much will be spent on capital account during the present year, the policy of the board being against such expenditure, except under very special circumstances. About £1,500 was laid out on the wharfs during the period under review in making necessary renewals and alterations, as the directors have always been anxious to keep the property in the highest state of efficiency. The sum mentioned was charged to wharf renewal account, leaving it at £5,703. As previously pointed out, the company's position is one of great strength, the total assets being worth £1,124,546 against total liabilities, including capital account, of £375,937, meaning a surplus of £748,609. The report makes somewhat extended reference to colonial legislation and the advance of the Labour party in the councils of the nation. An attempt to impose a heavy progressive land tax proved abortive, but the directors seem a little alarmed, and have deemed it right to instruct the colonial manager to realise the company's property as opportunities occur, and to offer especially favourable terms to old tenants desirous of purchasing their holdings. As individual holdings we assume the land would not be subject to the land taxes were they passed.

CANADA CO.

Although the land sales for the period from January 1 to May 31 only amounted to 83¾ acres against 92½ acres in the corresponding period of 1905 the average price realised jumped from \$1.62 to no less than \$70.91 owing to the inclusion of nine acres of "park lots" at an average of \$522.19 per acre. Land leased with right of purchase fell off in both area and price, the figures being 2,838¼ acres at \$13.28 compared with 3,896¾ acres at \$14.12, while no town lots were disposed of. The total transactions showed a reduction of 1,069 acres and a trifling increase of 82 cents at \$14.93 per acre, but this represented an increase of \$3 per acre on the 1894 valuation compared with \$1.66 a year ago. In spite of a decrease from 10,093 acres to 3,170¼ acres in land leased without option of purchase the rental received was only \$234.50 lower at \$746. Purchase money of land sold or converted to freehold rose by £1,132 to £13,112, but rent, interest and lease transfer fees were £272 down at £5,837, lumber produced £222 less at £304 and minerals and prospecting fees £326 less at £170, and the total revenue consequently showed an improvement of no more than £312 at £19,423. The finance statement shows an increase of £731 to £25,641 in the funds in hand, while liabilities are £223 higher

at £10,877 leaving the credit balance £508 up at £14,764 and the dividend for the half-year ending July 10 is again to be £1 15s. per share.

BIBI-EYBAT PETROLEUM CO., LIMITED.

This company's business was very seriously interfered with by the riots and strikes which prevailed during a considerable part of last year, as not only was the output smaller but expenses were heavily increased. Up to August 20 the production was fairly satisfactory and amounted to 7,378,300 poods or about 31,666 poods per day, but owing to the complete and prolonged stoppage of work which followed the wells got out of order and the production from September 1 to December 31 only averaged 12,041 poods per day. The total output for the 12 months consequently fell short of the previous year's by 3,154,200 poods at 8,848,300 poods, and with 122,494 poods in stock the total quantity available was 8,970,794 poods compared with 12,047,669 poods. Of this 845,100 poods were used for fuel and 7,731,489 poods were sold, including the Government's 40 per cent. royalty, leaving a stock of 390,784 poods. Gross profits of the Russian company, after charging Rs. 34,275 for loss by fires in August, fell Rs. 335,560 to Rs. 176,831, and of this Rs. 77,490 or Rs. 134,396 less was put to reserve and depreciation, taxes, &c., leaving, with Rs. 596 brought in, a nett profit of Rs. 100,027. The dividend paid to the English company absorbed Rs. 100,000 or £10,543 against £31,612 for the previous year, to which was added £2,342 from interest on loans, &c., but debenture interest and sinking fund required £9,153 and London office expenses took £3,335, so that all the directors can do is to reduce the debit balance brought forward by a further £397 to £8,762.

SPENCER, SANTO AND CO., LIMITED.

This building company seems to be pretty well supplied with work just now, but much of its business is of a somewhat speculative nature. Contracts like that for the erection of the new public offices at Westminster ought to turn out all right, but where the company acquires sites and puts up buildings at its own risk the outcome is not so assured. Still, the directors are confident that their operations "will prove of a highly remunerative character," and we assuredly do not wish otherwise. In the 12 months to December 30 the income from all sources, after providing for depreciation and doubtful debts, was £25,805, which is a substantial increase over the preceding year. Add £1,193 brought in, and the total credit is £26,998, from which general expenses, including directors' fees, require £2,152, and income-tax £690, leaving £24,156. Debenture interest and interim dividends on the preference and ordinary shares have been already provided, and the directors now propose to complete the preference dividend, and to make a final payment at 12 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, making 10 per cent. for the year, and leaving the substantial balance of £4,396 to be carried forward. This means no addition to the reserve, which will remain at £10,006, apart from the reserve for redemption of leases, £2,867, and fund for contingent liabilities £5,895. Floating liabilities are decidedly heavy, the company having sundry creditors £28,473, loans against security £52,141, and deposits £38,089. On the other side there is the heavy item of "balance of uncompleted work, £83,733," representing money spent on contracts in hand, debtors £24,255, sundry investments and loans £5,937, stock £12,964, and cash £9,682. Freehold and copyhold estates, leasehold premises and goodwill are valued at £231,971, and considering the risky nature of the enterprise the directors would do better to build up the reserves than strive after big dividends.

CHADBURN'S (SHIP) TELEGRAPH CO., LIMITED.

Business fell off in a somewhat alarming fashion during the 12 months ended March 31, and trading profits showed a decrease of £5,672 at £20,593, but the directors offer not a word of comment on this severe shrinkage. Instead of entering into explanations, they saved a little in expenditure, including a reduction of £586 in repairs, &c., sufficient to bring the decline in nett revenue down to £4,204 at £13,616. With £739 from interest and transfer fees, the total income was £3,741 lower at £14,354, but by cutting down the allowance for depreciation by £2,990 to £3,810, and carrying forward £870 less at £6,717, the directors contrive not only to avoid a reduction of the dividend, but to increase it from 10 per cent. to 11 per cent. Surely this was far from being a wise step to take, especially as the only reserve against goodwill, patents, and premises, valued at £83,312 after deducting depreciation, is the special sum of £1,000 set aside a year ago. The position, however, apart from this, is a very spindly one, as with only £3,361 due to sundry creditors, the company has £9,417 due from debtors and £4,001 in cash, while investments at cost are valued at £23,914, and stocks and work in progress at £16,241.

CARTHAGENA AND HERRERIAS STEAM TRAMWAYS CO., LIMITED.

This company had a rather better experience during the year ended December 31. Gross revenue improved nearly £7,000 to £35,606, most of which came from the mineral traffic. The total up traffic was rather smaller at 74,614 tons, on account of the smaller importation of lead ores and fuel, but the iron ore sent down for shipment was 358,321 tons against 284,068 tons, and the pig-lead transported amounted to 36,562 tons. Number of passengers carried improved from 286,330 to 306,050. The additional traffic was handled at an increased cost of £1,674 at £29,174, leaving the nett revenue £5,173 larger at £6,432. The

accounts are now set forth with all the items converted at the current rate of exchange taken for each month, and the entry "loss on exchange" no longer appears in the revenue account as every item of receipt and expenditure is stated at its actual sterling value. Nett balance is struck after providing £8,234 for interest and sinking fund, and with £301 brought in, a greatly reduced sum, together with £4 for transfer fees, the available credit is £6,733. From this the directors apply £1,000 against nothing to the renewal fund, and propose a dividend of 3½ per cent. or 1½ more, carrying forward £483. A slight addition was made to the property account during the year increasing it to £255,868, against which the renewal fund seems terribly slender at £3,500. In addition there are debenture sinking funds aggregating £15,397, besides which £3,872 of 6 per cent. debentures have been redeemed to date, but at best the financial position is a very poor one, and hardly justifies the dividend proposed.

A. J. WHITE, LIMITED.

"Mother Siegel's" bounded into favour again during the year ended March 31, and a portion of the community, sick nigh unto death probably with the awful prospect of the Kaffir Circus, dosed itself liberally with the wonderful cure-all. The effect on the health of the patients need not be inquired into, and shareholders will hardly care much so long as profits are influenced in the right direction. Happily this was the case, and enough of the nostrum was swallowed or sold to produce a nett profit of £30,244. True this is a lot below the £60,000 or so which the company used to earn, but it is an advance of the tidy sum of £17,257 compared with the preceding 12 months. Thus, according to the report, "the policy which was referred to in last year's report has resulted in a gratifying increase in business, and also in profits, and your directors have reason to hope that its continuance will lead to still better results." We hope so, too, but cannot promise to give assistance. We may here mention that the gross profit on trading was £30,272, raised to £31,349 by the balance brought forward. Deducting directors' fees, £1,000, and auditors' fees, £105, the nett balance is left at £30,244, as mentioned. Credit brought forward was £7,000, making £37,245, and after providing £30,000 to meet the preference dividend, there is a sum of £7,245 to be carried forward. For the third year in succession the ordinary shareholders have to go empty away with the consoling thought that they are public benefactors, the syrup being sold so cheap that it does not yield a decent profit. The balance sheet is an alarming looking production to anyone with an idea of financial stability, and we should not care to have to put a value on the goodwill and trade marks standing at £914,398. Sum due to creditors is not very terrifying at £21,154, and on the other side we have stock, plant, machinery, &c., £29,996, debtors £23,046, interest in subsidiary companies £10,296, investments £42,606 and cash £15,803. The securities representing the investments are a bit depreciated, but that is not wonderful or unexpected.

KELLY'S DIRECTORIES, LIMITED.

This is a very excellent business, but fluctuations in profits are inevitable, and for the year to March 31 there is a drop in the trading revenue of £3,003 to £45,084 compared with the preceding 12 months. Balance forward, however, was over £2,000 larger at £10,841, so that the sum for disposal is £55,926 against £56,751. Payments already provided for income-tax, depreciation, interim dividend, and interest payments, directors' fees, &c., required £24,279, leaving £31,647. The directors now propose to pay a further ordinary dividend of 13s. per share, making 9 per cent. for the year, together with a bonus of 3s. per share, carrying £4,000 to reserve, and £10,087 to next account. The distribution is the same as for the previous year. Reserve fund will now reach £26,000, and we have no doubt that the directors will steadily build up this fund as the copyrights and goodwill constitute a very heavy item. With works in progress they have a balance-sheet value of £330,729, a figure which needs a strong backing, be the business never so good. In other respects the position is very sound, as the floating liabilities are small, and are exceeded by sundry debtors alone. In addition cash and bills amount to £22,945, trade and other investments, Consols, &c., are entered at £73,202, loan with interest amounts to £3,087, and £4,392 is represented by stock. Freehold premises account stands for £58,531, and after providing depreciation the printing plant is in at £57,640, and the publishing plant at £1,574. During the year the directors have cancelled £44,600 of the company's debenture stock, and the investment account is reduced by a corresponding amount. This should mean a moderate saving in interest.

INDIAN AND GENERAL INVESTMENT TRUST, LIMITED.

This undertaking further improved its position in a small way during the year to April 30, and returns a gross revenue of £29,769, or £411 more than for the previous 12 months. From this management expenses require £2,890, debenture interest amounts to £10,687, and £6,256 is put to reserve from profits, leaving £9,935. This provides the preferred dividend and 3 per cent. on the deferred stock, the contribution to reserve being regulated, so as to admit of these payments. This fund also receives £2,306 nett surplus on sales of investments, raising it to £38,336, but £6,121 is written off investments and £1,989 is set aside as loss on exchange of rupee securities into sterling, leaving the account at £30,226. This exchange loss is apparently due to the fact that the average rate of exchange at which the money employed in India stands on the books of the company is 1s. 4½d. per rupee, against the arbitrary fixing of 1s. 4d. The auditors point out that, on the whole, and so far as they can judge, the securities of the company are still depreciated in

value, but they show an improvement over last year. The investments are in 109 different securities, which will, as usual, be open for inspection up to June 27. Why not publish a list?

ANGELA NITRATE CO., LIMITED.

During 1905 this company made a profit on sales of nitrate and iodine of £30,591, or £1,756 more than in the preceding twelve months. To that is added £56 for transfer fees, making £30,641, and after providing London expenses, debenture interest, &c., and writing off £3,000 for depreciation of plant and machinery there is a balance remaining of £22,707. Of this sum only £7,000 is paid in dividends, meaning a distribution of 10 per cent., so that the directors can provide £6,300 for amortisation of debentures, allow a further £7,000 against machinery and plant account, add £2,000 to reserve and carry forward £1,918 against £1,511 brought in. It may be mentioned that the stocks are taken into the balance-sheet at their selling figure, which is rather anticipating profits in a sense, but we suppose the company is sold well ahead. The method, however, is a little risky, and might entail difficulties were the market for nitrate less stable. These stocks actually amounted to £62,760 at the date of the accounts, but there were advances and bills drawn against them of £29,175, so that they appear at a nett sum of £33,585. Other stocks and stores are valued at £10,558, sundry debtors owe £1,191, and cash is £2,218. On the other side the company has sundry creditors of £4,588, bills payable £11,619, and owes £20,558 to Valparaiso bankers. Reserve is small at £4,000, but that is not really of consequence because the directors are using the profits to extinguish debentures. The original issue was £60,000, and it has now been halved, leaving the fixed debt at £30,000. This includes the £6,000 provided from the past year's profits, and will reduce the property account from £105,000 to £70,000, including a transfer of £5,000 from reserve. Including £8,007 added during the past year, the buildings, plant, and machinery, &c., originally cost £67,012, but they have been written down by £33,000, so that all round the position is pretty good.

YOUNG'S PARAFFIN LIGHT AND MINERAL OIL CO., LIMITED.

The directors report that during the twelve months ended April 30 a general reduction took place in the prices of shale products which caused a difference in revenue of £29,500, and although they claim that the loss was met by certain advantages the company did little more than hold its own. With £5,213 or £1,424 more brought in, the nett profits, after providing for maintenance of works and mines, were only £2,299 up at £103,412, and out of this £20,000 is again written off for general depreciation, another £20,000 is put to retort reserve and £5,286 is added to the fire insurance fund. Then debenture interest is met, and the dividends of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares and "B" debenture bonds are repeated, leaving £5,226 to be carried to the new account. An additional set of vitriol chambers with auxiliary plant was erected at Bathgate at a cost of £7,246, and capital outlay on mine openings and plant amounted to £8,658, while £1,652 was spent on the renewal of buildings on the company's London wharf. Total capital expenditure to date, therefore, after deducting the depreciation allowance for 1904-5, shows a reduction of no more than £3,196 at £652,881, and although the retort reserve and fire insurance fund, &c., will with the present addition stand at £47,826, this seems far from adequate in view of the wasting nature of the property, and it is ominous that the auditors only certify to the correctness of the account subject to provision for depreciation. So far as the current position is concerned there is not much to cavil at. Liabilities to sundry creditors are £1,245 up at £45,783, but against these sundry debtors have risen by £4,897 to £62,273, and cash, including £50,000 or £20,000 more on deposit, is £16,353 higher at £70,014. Stock-in-trade shows a decrease of £5,615 at £46,712, but stocks of shale, coal, timber, &c., at works and mines are £11,863 larger at £74,942.

METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION FOR IMPROVING THE DWELLINGS OF THE INDUSTRIOUS CLASSES.

A larger number of tenements was unoccupied during the 12 months ended March 31, and gross rents showed a further shrinkage of £178 at £26,620, but a saving of £288 at £14,044 in expenses left the profits at £12,576 or £110 more. Interest on investments again produced £287 and £10 came in from transfer fees, but with £50 less at £58 brought forward the total income was only £62 up at £12,931. Of this administration charges took £1,250 and interest on debenture stock, mortgages and temporary loans came to £2,944 against £2,915, leaving the nett balance available £30 larger at £8,737, out of which the usual dividend of 4½ per cent. is paid and £88 is carried forward. Capital expenditure in the year amounted to £111, but by the operation of the sinking fund the debit balance was reduced by £625 to £10,016, and against this there is a guarantee fund of £14,000, of which £10,124 is invested in ground rents and other securities and £3,875 is employed on capital account. Other liabilities consist of interest accrued on debenture stock £465, unclaimed dividends £878, overdraft at the bankers £1,500, and, of course, the dividend just declared, requiring £4,324, and to meet these there is only £1,115 in cash.

CHANNEL TUNNEL CO., LIMITED.

It is not uninteresting to recall the fierce opposition to which the construction of the Channel Tunnel at one time gave rise. In a certain degree this antagonism still exists, and when the directors of the company again submit their scheme to the consideration of Parliament we may expect the proposal to be stoutly opposed by the military geniuses whose minds are obsessed with fears of invasion. The establishment of cordial relations with France will not be allowed to weigh on the other

side of the scale. In saying this we are by no means committing ourselves to the view that the construction of the tunnel is either practicable or necessary. The plan may be feasible, probably enough is, but the enterprise would be long and costly, and if the question of finance could be got over, we doubt very much if the undertaking could be made to pay. Turbine steamers now render the Channel crossing much less troublesome, and if greater facilities are still required, as perhaps they are, the solution is most likely to be found in the construction of a Channel ferry. If memory serves us, the Paris Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution about two years ago strongly favouring the tunnel scheme, and the dream may yet be realised. Our own Channel Tunnel Company was formed as far back as 1886, and a certain amount of boring has taken place on either side. The company's report for the year ended December 31 has just been issued, and is naturally a rather meagre document, the enterprise being in a condition of suspended animation. The capital account shows an issued share capital of £79,565 against an expenditure of £55,710 leaving £23,855 in hand. This, together with balance at credit of income and expenditure account £3,534 is represented by a temporary loan of £21,000, high-class investments £5,856, cash £96, and a trading account balance of £337. The interest on this money suffices to keep the company going with something to spare. Last year the income was £919, and the outlay £358, including directors' remuneration for the year 1904 of £210, so that a credit was left of £561. This added to previous balances makes up the total of £3,534 above mentioned. A short while ago dealings in the company's fully-paid 4s. shares took place at a shilling apiece, whereas two or three years back the price was about 3d. nominal.

NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.

Last year this big fire office received £1,169,568 in premiums and paid losses to the amount of £575,289, which was 49.19 per cent. of the premium income. Expenses and commissions, together with colonial and foreign taxes, took another 34.78 per cent., and after adding in £44,352 received for interest and £35 for transfer fees, the balance left was £231,670. One-third of the premiums, however, or £389,856, was set aside against unexpired risks, but this was really a slight reduction on the reserve for the preceding year, which was £391,024. An unappropriated balance of £275,606 was brought forward, and adding the current profit this gives £498,241 as the distributable balance for the year. Out of this the board paid an interim dividend of £2 per share in January last, and now distributes a further dividend of the same amount, together with a bonus of £1 per share, making £5 for the year in all on the share £12 paid, or nearly 42 per cent. In regard to the San Francisco disaster, the directors point out that the society has a clause in its policies protecting it against fire losses occasioned by or through earthquake. We fear, however, this will not avail it much, so it is well to learn that in any event the balance at the credit of profit and loss at the end of last year will be sufficient without encroaching either on the capital or the reserves to cover all possible commitments in the area devastated by the recent calamity.

NAHALMA TEA ESTATE CO., LIMITED.

While most of the Ceylon tea companies showed more satisfactory results for the year ended December 31, this unfortunate concern had a very poor year, owing, the directors say, to the steady falling market for teas of the class produced. This, however, was not the only reason, as along with the drop of 0.72d. to 5.07d. per lb. in the average price, the crop was 10,451 lbs. smaller at 200,294 lbs., and the gross proceeds consequently came to £851 less at £4,237. At the same time, London account sale charges, freight, &c., rose from £86 to £364, and with only £2 from interest the total revenue was £3,876 compared with £1,138. Small savings were effected in Ceylon expenditure and in London office charges, but even so, after paying debenture and other interest, and allowing for the balance of £62 brought in, the nett result was a loss of £309. The company's history has been one long wail of misfortune, the ordinary shares having received no return since 1897, when an interim dividend of 2 per cent. was paid, and under these circumstances it is unnecessary to point out that no reserve has been possible, while the only sign of any allowance for depreciation is the £130 written off the turbine installation of 1895 a year ago. Liabilities, including a half-year's interest on debentures and deposit loans, amount to £1,087 or an increase of about £500, and although stocks of tea are £425 larger at £1,259 this merely means that sundry debtors owe £262 less at £151, and that cash is £331 down at £26. In spite of all their lessons in the past, the directors persist in estimating the crop at a much higher figure than has ever been realised, and one which they have no reasonable grounds for expecting to secure. For instance, the crop for the current year is put at 223,500 lbs., to cost 26.74 cents per lb. f.o.b. Colombo, although the cultivated area is the same, and until they learn to base their expenditure on calculations more in accordance with known results the prospect of prosperity attending their efforts would seem to be poor.

MOABUND TEA CO., LIMITED.

With a more favourable season the crop for 1905 increased by 268,042 lbs. to 1,645,168 lbs., and as at the same time the market conditions were better, the average price obtained came to 0.49d. more at 8.74d., with the result that the gross revenue showed an improvement of as much as £13,663 at £60,018. Expenses were heavier at £43,288 and the balance brought in

was £165 smaller at £684, but the nett revenue, nevertheless, after paying managers' commission and meeting debenture interest and preference dividend, was £10,451 higher at £13,135. The directors, therefore, are able to write off £3,000 for depreciation in addition to setting aside a similar amount to reserve, and even then have sufficient to raise the dividend on the ordinary shares from 2 per cent. to 6 per cent., and carry forward £1,135. After providing for depreciation the permanent buildings, machinery and railway stand in the books at £2,815 or a decrease of £3,095, but the estates are still valued at their old figure of £161,000, and against these the reserve amounts to no more than £4,000. The current position, however, has been considerably improved as bills payable and sundry creditors are down £5,324 to £16,684, and the overdraft at the bankers has been reduced to a trifle of £131, while on the other hand stocks of tea are £1,744 larger at £23,460, and sundry debtors owe £1,634 more at £5,362, but cash is £70 smaller at £178.

RAJMAI TEA CO., LIMITED.

The crop for the year ended December 31 fell short of the previous season's output by 73,357 lbs. at 919,457 lbs., but an advance of 1d. at 8.71d. per lb. was secured, and the gross proceeds were £1,366 larger. Including £2,092 from sales of tea seed, and sundry small items, the total revenue came to £35,419, and after providing for all expenses and paying managers' commission of £872, the nett profits were £1,733 up at £10,067. With £276 brought forward and £787 from interest on investments the total available came to £11,132 or £1,256 more, and the directors distribute a bonus of 3s. per share, in addition to the usual dividend of 10 per cent., but instead of putting anything to reserve increase the balance to the new account by £4,416 to £4,692. No doubt the decision not to add anything to reserve was due to the fact that the fund stands at £20,000, apart from a sum of £10,000 held as reserve for working capital. These go against an outlay on estates of £55,814, and as investments representing them are valued at £25,667 the company appears to be in an exceptionally strong position. Reductions of £618 to £2,699 in sundry creditors and £403 to £3,000 in the overdraft at the bank are accompanied by decreases of £1,237 to £178 in cash, and £716 to £13,852 in stocks, and although drafts in transit and wages unpaid are slightly higher at £521 and £774 respectively, sundry debtors owe £1,258 more at £3,855.

Answers to Correspondents.

A. B. C.—We are extremely sorry for you, and only regret that we cannot give you much comfort. However, you seem resigned to the fact that all shares in your list are likely to go lower. On the other hand, there is a possibility of recovery later on for each share, and rather than realise at so great a sacrifice in the present slump you may as well hang on to them a little longer in the hope eventually of reducing your loss a little. Of your shares, Nos. 1 and 2 have, on the whole, the best gambling chance, but the whole market will probably rise together if it does rally. No. 3 has some substance in it. We fear No. 4 has next to none. Still, if you can endure the strain, do not throw away at the bottom.

R. S. A.—(1) The company is doing an excellent business, and so long as the present fashion continues the shares should be safe, but as the interest is fixed we doubt whether there is much prospect of improvement in price. (2) We know of nothing wrong with this company, which is one of the best of its class. The fall is probably due to some one trying to sell on an unwilling market. Insurance companies, for instance, are realising what they can.

Mithra.—This is such a fluctuating business that even the payment of the preference dividend must be considered somewhat uncertain. Moreover you could not get the shares under 16s. at the lowest. Regarded very speculatively, a few shares might be bought. (2) Rubbish sometimes pays to hold, and because of that a turn might be made out of these debentures. But the thing could only be regarded as an absolute gamble. (3) This company usually manages to pay a small dividend, but the shares are a very "dead" security, and never likely to attract much attention. Hardly worth touching. (4) We do not at all like the people connected with this concern. The financial position is very poor, and the company cannot meet the preference dividend in full. There are big arrears already, and although this increases the speculative flavour the shares hardly look desirable. Balance as stated is correct.

B. M.—(1) We have not heard of the rumour, but as it stands the security is quite good, and should be kept. (2) Rather too high on immediate prospects, but keep an eye on the shares and buy on any sharp reaction. (3) These should form a very fair investment. Present price is par. (4) Very good, but much too dear. The yield is well under 4 per cent.

B. W. J.—We see no reason to change our opinion of this security. The discount is, no doubt, due to market considerations. No need to sell, but do not increase. (2) So far as we can judge the security for this issue is fairly good, and the interest should be reasonably safe. In a sense what you say holds good, but it would be much better to get the finances in order.

O. E. A.—For several months past the ore in this mine has been falling off in value. There is, of course, a possibility that it will improve at greater depth, but this seems so uncertain that we would rather not advise a permanent holding, though the company's management is honest enough, and though reports of "strikes" are nearly sure to stir the market a bit.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Darjeeling Himalayan.—At the rate of 16 per cent. per annum, carrying Rs.1,72,318 forward.

West Flanders.—For year ended Dec. 31 at the rate of 11s. 10d. per share, payable July 2.

BREWERIES.

Commercial.—30s. per fully-paid share on the ordinary shares, carrying £1,420 forward.

South African.—10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 20 per cent. for year.

MINES.

De Beers Consolidated.—20 per cent. on the preference and deferred shares for half year ended June 30.

Ferreira Gold.—150 per cent., payable Aug. 4.

Knight's Deep.—5 per cent., payable Aug. 13.

Langlaagte Estate and Gold.—20 per cent. per annum, for half-year to June 30, payable Aug. 7.

Mount Zeehan (Tasmania) Silver-Lead.—Interim of 9d. per ordinary share, payable July 25.

Mysore Gold.—Interim of 4s. per share on the old shares, and 1s. 4d. per share on the new shares allotted, upon which the sum of 3s. 4d. per rcs. share has been called up, payable July 12.

New Primrose Gold.—Interim of 20 per cent.

New Rietfontein Estate.—Interim of 10 per cent.

No. 2 South Great Eastern.—(No. 95) of 6d. per share payable June 27.

Robinson Deep Gold.—17½ per cent. payable July 31.

Robinson Gold.—Interim of 9 per cent. for half-year ending June 30, payable Aug. 4.

Simmer and Jack Proprietary.—5 per cent., payable Aug. 7.

Tronoh.—Interim of 2s. per share.

Village Main Reef Gold.—4s. per share.

Witwatersrand Gold.—Interim of 10 per cent.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A. Darracq (1905).—Interim on the Ordinary shares at the rate of 2s. per share.

Blaenavon Co.—Interim of 5 per cent. on the Ordinary shares for the half-year ended March 24.

Bristol Wagon and Carriage.—Further of 4 per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent. on the called-up Preference and Ordinary share capital, making 10 per cent. for year ended March 31, carrying £8,929 forward.

British Electric Traction.—3 per cent. on the ordinary shares for year ended March 31.

Brooke, Bond and Co.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, placing £100 to provident fund, and carrying forward £840.

Canada Company.—£1 15s. per share for half-year ending July 10.

Clerical, Medical, and General Life Assurance.—2s. 6d. per share, which, together with the interim bonus of 5s. per share, will make a total payment of 7s. 6d. per share.

Cleveland Bridge and Engineering.—Interim of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary shares for half-year ended March 31.

Cotton Powder.—Final of 1½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 5 per cent. for year ended April 30, carrying £766 forward.

Distillers' Company.—Final on the ordinary shares of 12s. per share, making 10 per cent. for the year, placing £30,000 to depreciation and reserve, and carrying £12,859 forward.

E. Rich and Co.—Interim of 2 per cent. for the half-year ended March 31.

Glencoe (Natal) Collieries.—Interim of 6d. per share.

Goldsbrough, Mort, and Co.—An additional 1 per cent. to the "B" stockholders payable 2nd prox.; also a dividend of 5 per cent. on the shares, payable 27th inst.

Harris and Sheldon.—Interim at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum on the preference shares, and at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, for half-year ending June 30.

Ingersoll-Rand.—Semi-annual on the 6 per cent. preferred stock.

Jokai (Assam) Tea.—Final of 4½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 7 per cent. for year.

Kinahan and Co.—12 months' interest on the 5½ per cent. preference shares to April 30, 1905, carrying £736 forward.

London and Provincial Steam Laundry.—At the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for year ended March 31 last, carrying £163 forward.

Mond Nickel.—10 per cent. on the ordinary shares and 18 per cent. on the deferred shares for year ended April 30, carrying forward £10,634.

National Mortgage and Agency of N.Z.—Interim at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum for six months to March 31, payable July 6.

Patent Victoria Stone.—Interim at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for half-year ending June 30.

Rio de Janeiro Flour Mills and Granaries.—Interim at the rate of 1s. 3d. per share.

S. P. Austin and Son.—8 per cent. on the ordinary shares for year ended April 30, carrying £18,136 forward.

Sao Paulo Tramway Light and Power.—Quarterly of 2 per cent. on capital stock.

W. and T. Avery.—For second half of the year dividends at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preference shares, and at the rate of 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making with interim 5 per cent. on preference and 10 per cent. on ordinary for year ended March 31.

William Hancock and Co.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the preferred ordinary shares and of 10 per cent. on the deferred ordinary shares for year ended May 31, placing £2,000 to reserve, and carrying £619 forward.

MINING RETURNS.

Alaska Treadwell.—Crushed 89,055 tons ore, value \$93,250; saved 1,671 tons sulphurets, value \$85,406.

Alaska Mexican.—Crushed 20,074 tons ore, value \$41,337; saved 429 tons sulphurets, value \$40,467.

Alaska United.—Crushed 20,260 tons ore, value \$26,477; saved 428 tons sulphurets, value \$16,961.

Brilliant Block.—Crushed 723 tons, 328 ozs.; residues (tailings and concentrates) £2,200.

Briseis Tin.—Shipped 19 tons.

British Broken Hill.—4,312 tons crude ore produced 767 tons concentrates, containing 476 tons lead and 22,243 ozs. silver.

Carrington's Lion.—Crushed 325 tons for £575.

Central Chili Copper.—Production of regulus contained 139 tons fine copper, also gold and silver value of £470.

Chinese Engineering.—Output of coal, 20,000 tons; sales, 17,500 tons; consumption, 1,350 tons.

Copiapo.—Production: 580 tons copper ores, averaging 11 per cent.

Durban-Roodepoort.—Milled 11,095 tons, 3,315 ozs.; tailings 6,685 tons, 780 ozs.; slimes 3,245 tons, 203 ozs.; total, 4,298 ozs.

El Oro.—Crushed 21,883 tons of ore, producing U.S. \$274,897.

Indarama Co.—Milled 2,050 tons, 492 ozs.

Kelantan Gold Dredging.—Recovered 79 ozs. gold.

Mills's Day Dawn United.—Crushed 1,699 tons, value £5,400.

Mount Roudny.—Ore crushed 3,630 tons, 325 ozs.; concentrates 132 tons, 300 ozs.; tailings (cyanide) 1,980 tons, 40 ozs.; total, 665 ozs.

No. 2 South Great Eastern.—Crushed 5,110 tons, 2,809 ozs., including 536 ozs. from plates.

Ouro Preto of Brazil.—Crushed 7,051 tons, 2,341 ozs.

Palmarejo and Mexican.—"Zapote," crushed 3,485 tons, treated 2,900 tons, producing \$15,240 gold, \$49,100 silver.

Raub, Malay Peninsula.—Crushed 5,810 tons, 780 ozs. gold.

Rhodesia-Matabeleland.—Crushed 170 tons, 86.6 ozs.

Tasmanian Consols.—Crushed 682 tons, 397 ozs.

Victorian Cornish.—Crushed 2,000 tons, 1,096 ozs.

Victorian Proprietary (1903).—Crushed 145 tons, 59 ozs.; 29 tons concentrates, 23 ozs.

Westralian Mount Morgan.—Crushed 5,500 tons, 728 ozs.; cyaniding 346 ozs., slimes 200 ozs.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, JUNE 25.

Glasgow Tramway and Omnibus.—Cannon Street Hotel, 11 a.m.
London and Lisbon Cork Wood.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Murchison Proprietary (Transvaal).—Winchester House, noon.
Sutherland Reef.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
Talisman Consolidated.—Winchester House, noon.

TUESDAY, JUNE 26.

Central Zinc.—Winchester House, 4.15 p.m.
Day Dawn Block and Wyndham.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Hood and Moore's Stores.—Winchester House, 11 a.m.
Lake Copais.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
Mozambique Macequece.—Cannon Street Hotel, 11.30 p.m.
Santa Rita Nitrate.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
South Indian Railway.—55, Gracechurch Street, E.C., noon.
Wankie (Rhodesia) Ccal.—Salisbury House, 2.30 p.m.
White, A. J.—Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C., noon.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27.

Amazon Steam Navigation.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
East Indian Railway.—Cannon Street Hotel, 1 p.m.
Dharwar Gold Mines.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
Imperial Ottoman Bank.—Winchester House, 1 p.m.
Jhanzie Tea.—14, St. Mary Axe, 2.30 p.m.
Jetinga Valley Tea.—Winchester House, noon.
Mashonaland Agency.—Salisbury House, noon.
Vogelstruis Estate.—Winchester House, noon.

THURSDAY, JUNE 28.

African Banking Corporation.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
Bibi-Eybat Petroleum.—28, Bishopsgate Street, noon.
Broomassie Mines.—Winchester House, noon.
Indian and General Investment Trust.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Kelly's Directories.—182, High Holborn, noon.
Manitoba Mortgage Investment.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.
North Pembroke Water and Gas.—Salisbury House, 2.30 p.m.
River Plate Fresh Meat.—River Plate House, 11 p.m.
St. John Del Rey.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.
United States Brewing.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 29.

Bombay and Baroda Railway.—Cannon Street Hotel, 1 p.m.
British Electric Traction.—Winchester House, noon.
Brooke, Bond, and Company.—Winchester House, noon.
Golden Links.—Salisbury House, 12.30 p.m.
John Brown and Co.—Sheffield, noon.
Merchant Banking.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Ohlsson's Cape Brewery.—Cannon Street Hotel, 3 p.m.
Rex Arms.—20, Cockspur Street, S.W., noon.
Venesta.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30.

Greenwood and Batley.—16, Great George Street, S.W., noon.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Markets this week have again not been very active, but wheat generally has been firmly held, foreign especially, and occasionally buyers had to pay 3d. over last week's rates to obtain it. Not much attention has been given to English wheat, for the simple reason that very little of it has been placed on the market, but values have been steadily maintained. Farmers' deliveries amounted to 18,447 qrs., averaging 30s. 4d., against 12,819 qrs., averaging 31s. 7d. a year ago. Supplies on passage this week have also been smaller, giving a firmness to markets, though to some extent this has been counterbalanced by heavier stock returns. Imports during the week amounted to 594,277 qrs., and Dornbusch estimates the quantities of wheat and flour on passage to the United Kingdom at 3,715,000 qrs. American markets were depressed early in the week under favourable crop reports, but a decrease in the visible supply and Bradstreet's estimates of 36,670,000 bushels in sight east of the Rockies against 38,700,000 bushels last week helped to steady them for a time, but later contradictory weather reports and a bearish Prices Current gave a feverish tone to business and markets fluctuated considerably.

WOOL.—The sales of home-grown products this week has fixed the value of the same for the next few months at least. Prices did not rule as high as was anticipated, but for all that they went to about 3s. to 3s. 6d. per tod higher than those of last year, and when compared with as recent a year as 1902 are more than double. The highest gain was for Shropshire hogs, about 15d. per lb., but the bulk of the sale went for from 13½d. to 14½d., and the average obtained was 13¾d. Colonial wool prices remain very firm, and consumption of them is steady without showing any remarkable activity. The yarn market, too, is fairly active, though here and there spinners complain that they have not sufficient orders on hand to enable them to run looms full time, but as a rule they are very well employed. The piece trade is for the moment quiet, not to say dull.

LINEN.—An uneventful week, and the rather quieter demand is welcomed by spinners, as it gives them a little breathing space in which to get on with existing contracts. They are so well booked ahead that prices of flax for the moment do not interest them much. Values are unmistakably tending higher, but are not yet up to the level of foreign yarns, quotations for which are too high to be thought of here. Transactions in manufactured goods amount to about the average, and prices, though tending higher, are not quotably so. Foreign is good on the whole, orders coming in regularly and from some quarters increasingly. The value of May exports from the United Kingdom to the United States show an increase of 11.9 per cent. over May of last year.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—During the past week the business doing in our market has been generally unimportant. A quiet time has been experienced by most sellers of cloth and yarn. The raw material has fluctuated as usual, but values show very little change on the week, and raw American cotton at the moment does not have very great effect on prices in this market. Shippers of cloth are not disposed to operate freely, advices from abroad not being of a very encouraging character. Until stocks are further reduced in our outlets of India, there seems to be little prospect of active purchasing for our Dependency. Fine fabrics such as mull dhooties have continued dull in demand. Certain makers in the Blackburn district are running down in order lists, and fairly early deliveries are now to be secured. Occasional offers for shirtings have come through from Calcutta, but most of them have been considerably out. Only sorting up lots have been dealt in for Bombay and Madras. Isolated cases of orders being placed for China are reported, but owing to the large stocks in Shanghai and the heavy shipments which are likely to continue for some time, there seems to be no likelihood of free buying for China for some little time. Buyers for the Levant and Egypt have shown few signs of activity, and the outlets of South America have only occasionally given support. In home trade cloths a fair number of repeat orders have been received by the home trade houses in light fancy materials. In heavy goods, however, not much has been done this week, but the outlook for the autumn trade is not unsatisfactory. Both Burnley and Cheshire printing cloths continue steady at late rates. T-cloths and Mexicans have not been dealt in to a large extent, the offers reported being too low for acceptance by producers. Coloured woven good and sateens have presented scarcely any new feature of moment. With the exception of fine fabrics in which Egyptian yarns are used most goods are deeply sold, and early delivery is not easily obtained. Home trade American yarns have well maintained their strength, the tendency all round being for quotations to harden. Spinners have not met with a large amount of new business, but the margin of profit for anything sold may be described as decidedly satisfactory. The scarcity of those counts which are most in favour helps spinners to maintain their position. In export kinds only a retail business has occurred, offers from China are not easily transferred into business, and there are also difficulties in the matter of delivery. Some sellers have done a fair business for the Continent in cops. Egyptian yarns show scarcely any change. Rates for the commoner kinds are rather irregular, owing to order lists being reduced. The superior spinnings, however, are fairly held on the whole.

In New York the market opened with a steady tendency, then went off temporarily on weak cables and heavy liquidation of

July. A recovery ensued on the publication of a bullish weekly Government report, and covering by shorts. Irregularity then characterised the market, followed by a drop in values, but towards the end of the week the market again shows indications of recovery.

COAL.—This week has seen a boom in Welsh steams and great activity at all the ports. Cardiff received the heaviest share of the work, but Swansea alone dispatched 84,000 tons, 35,000 of them to France, and Newport, Mon., sent 84,546 tons to foreign countries and 11,000 tons on coastwise trade. Prices naturally are very firm, and at Cardiff best steams are quoted at from 15s. 9d. to 16s. 3d. per ton. Elsewhere there is little change to note. Hull ports are also doing a large trade in steams, and in the North output is fully equal to production. The market for coke also shows a better position, and sellers are asking 6d. per ton increase, foundry coke being quoted at 18s. to 18s. 6d. f.o.b. Gas coal contracts are now mostly completed, and, except where companies secured on their old contracts the power to renew at the same figure, the rates extracted are from 6d. to 9d. per ton over those of last year.

COPPER.—Leading dealers think that "bulls" have been rendered a little nervous by the fall in the price of tin, speculative stagnation, and the unsatisfactory state of affairs in Russia, but the position is still considered sound. Consumption is good, and both the British and American Governments have been in the market. The market opened rather heavy, and being deprived of strong support a good deal of realising took place, so that prices went back sharply. Further weakness followed, but a moderate amount of buying was forthcoming at the lower levels. "Bear" covering helped the upward movement, and although some irregularity followed, the market closed distinctly better, prices being £84 for cash and £82 for three months forward. Messrs. Henry R. Merton and Co., Limited, give the visible supply on June 15 as 11,563 tons, against 9,986 tons at the end of May. The supply for the first half of June amounted to 16,164 tons, and the deliveries 14,587 tons. Stocks in England and France were 5,338 tons, against 5,461 tons at the end of May, and the Chile Charters totalled 1,700 tons.

TIN.—This market was decidedly stronger during the first few days. Eastern holders refused to sell at prices considerably above the London level, and a vigorous demand to cover, together with better forward support, sent prices higher. A slight reaction followed, but the market was soon moving up again, only to give way once more on absence of speculation. This encouraged "bear" selling, but after moderate fluctuations prices once more firmed up to £178 5s. cash and £177 10s. for future delivery.

IRON AND STEEL.—In several directions a good business is still being done, and the tendency is very promising. There are few or no new developments to report, but activity is observable everywhere, some districts, of course, doing more than others. In the Midlands the feeling continues very hopeful and even cheerful, and though inquiries have been numerous the actual amount of business done has been moderate. This relates particularly to the pig-iron trade. In the North brisk business has been done in hematite pig-iron, although the outlook is considered not quite so satisfactory as it has recently been. Buying of Cleveland pig-iron has also been very slow, but makers are generally well off for orders. Shipments from this district this month are larger than they have been in any preceding month, exceeding even the "record" in April. Producers are so well sold ahead as to be practically independent of buyers. In Scotland there is steady employment in all the great branches of industry, but orders are not coming to hand as freely as would be liked.

SUGAR.—There is very little to say about the sugar market. Mr. Czarnikow, in his weekly circular, remarks that the German Statistical Office has acknowledged the May export figure to be wrong, and reduced it to 99,300 tons. In eight months Europe has consumed and exported about 901,000 tons more than last season, and even at the reduced May figure it is 96,000 tons better for the month. German refiners bought largely last week, thus contributing to the improvement, and imports continue satisfactory. Hamburg shipped 12,000 tons more this week than a year ago, being 10,000 tons more (15,000 tons in three weeks) to non-convention countries. The weather has turned more favourable. In America the market has been firm, with a further fractional advance. Landings in the three ports for the week were 56,000 tons and meltings 46,000 tons, increasing stocks to 355,000 tons.

TEA.—The season's imports of all teas, as given in Messrs. Gow, Wilson and Stanton's, Limited, circular show an increase of five millions over those of last year, in spite of the fact that China's contribution was about 8½ millions less. Ceylon was responsible for most of this increase, as it shipped 11 millions more than last season to this country. Markets this week were again satisfactory for all but the commonest teas. Indian auctions amounted to 23,311 packages, including 657 packages of new season's tea, 15,923 packages of last season's selling at an average of 6.53d. and 526 packages of the new tea at an average of 8.88d. against 234 packages sold last year at the same period, averaging 10.25d. Ceylon sales were the largest held for some years, 36,571 packages, but in spite of the quantity competition was keen, and the week's average price came to 6.95d. against 6.50d. in 1905. Java sales included some excellent teas in the 3,781 packages put up to auction. Competition and prices were alike good, as much as 1s. 5d. being paid for some "Ardja Sarie."

COMPANY MEETINGS.

MIDDLEBURG STEAM COAL AND COKE.

A meeting of shareholders in the Middleburg Steam Coal and Coke Co., Limited, was held on Thursday at the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moorgate Place, E.C. Mr. Alan Cadell, C.S.I. (the chairman of the company), presided.

The Chairman said: As you are aware, this is an informal meeting, the general meetings of the company being held in South Africa, but the directors thought it well to call a meeting in this country, where the bulk of the capital is held, in order that they might have an opportunity of discussing with the shareholders the accounts of the past two years and of conferring with them regarding the future of the undertaking. I may remark that the members of the London board held between £14,000 and £15,000 of the capital, so that their interests and those of the shareholders are necessarily identical. The report which has been circulated sets forth the progress which has been made during the last two years, and is, I think, satisfactory. If we had known at the beginning all that we know now, and if we had had unlimited funds at our disposal, it might have been better to erect forthwith the permanent plant which we now possess and to have launched our coal upon the market. But we were compelled to proceed on more cautious lines. We proved our property, we developed the mine, and with the aid of a temporary plant we placed our coal upon the market. Eventually we erected an up-to-date permanent plant, which was not, however, completed until after the close of the period dealt with in the report. And, looking back on the period which has passed since the inception of the company, we have reason to congratulate ourselves on the way in which the statements contained in the original prospectus have been borne out by experience. There is no doubt now as to the abundance of coal and its nearness to the surface, of the thickness of the seam and of the good and uniform quality of the coal. In dealing with the development and equipment of a colliery such as we have, we have to bear in mind the necessity of keeping the cost at as low a figure as possible, so that the undertaking may be in a position to face any competition which may arise. You will see that our average selling price for the last two years has been 5s. 6d. per ton, while Mr. Robertson in his report estimated that with an output of 20,000 tons the cost should not exceed 3s. 9d. per ton. It is very satisfactory to us to be able to tell you that in the month of May—the month immediately following Mr. Ronaldson's inspection—not only has the output exceeded the 20,000 by 460 tons, but that on June 16 our manager telegraphed, "The total costs during the entire month of May were 3s. 6d. per ton." The rapidly increased output which is shown at page four of the report, and which was necessary in order to meet our new contract obligations, has involved a considerable strain on the resources of the company and on the skill and energy of our staff at the mine. A considerable capital expenditure had to be incurred, a large outlay on railway freight had to be arranged for, raw and inexperienced labourers had to be collected and trained, and within two months the monthly output had to be increased by 150 per cent. The fact that this feat has been successfully accomplished says a great deal for the skill and energy of our manager—Mr. Goodwin—and for the loyal support and hard work which his subordinates have given him, and our hearty thanks are due to the men on the spot for the good work which they have accomplished. Turning to the balance-sheet, I may observe that since the end of the year the item, "calls in arrear," has been reduced from over £4,000 to about £1,600. We have issued for cash a portion of the debentures, which now stand at £16,000, leaving £4,000 with the bank. The effect of this is to wipe off the overdraft shown as owing to the bank in South Africa. The item "undry creditors," which is put down as £12,199, looks at first sight a very large amount, but it has to be remembered that, while we are debited with railway freight on the last day of the month, we do not receive the price of our coal, including freight, until a fortnight later. Deducting the "undry debtors" item on the other side, the net amount due is reduced to a little over £2,000. On the other side of the account our property stands at £90,762, which, considering the development and the large reserve of coal opened up, is a moderate valuation and well within the intrinsic value of the property. As our plant is for the most part new, and our buildings recently erected, we think that the depreciation written off is sufficient. When we come to the profit and loss account there are two considerations which have to be kept in mind: one, that several items are not normal, and will not be repeated on the same scale; and the other, that items such as office expenses and directors' fees, are for two and three years respectively, and, therefore, those items have to be divided by two and three respectively in order to obtain a year's expenditure. I have now gone into all the details which I think need explanation, but our managing director, Mr. Macer, will be glad to elucidate any points regarding which shareholders may desire fuller information, and he will at the same time expound a scheme which he has prepared for reorganising the company with a view to placing it on a thoroughly satisfactory basis financially and effecting very considerable administrative economies.

Mr. Alfred T. Macer then made an optimistic statement upon the present and future of the company, and spoke of the formation of a selling trust which would have a good effect in the wholesale trade on the selling price of coal generally. At 7s. per ton the possible profits would show an enormous return on the capital of the new company. Upon an ordinary paid-up share capital of £87,500 only, and on a basis of 40,000 tons a month, they would make at that price a profit of £7,500 a month,

or £90,000 a year. That was the scheme he had to put before them to approve or disapprove of, as they thought fit.

The question was afterwards put to the meeting, and a unanimous vote was given in favour of the scheme.

W. H. CHAPLIN AND CO., LIMITED.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders in W. H. Chaplin and Co., Limited, was held on the 21st inst., at the Hotel Cecil, London, Mr. William H. Chaplin (the chairman and managing director) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. S. Godfrey) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman observed that, in considering the accounts, they might again congratulate themselves. During the past year the wine and spirit trade in general had not had a good time, and, being able to secure, as they had done, a small increase in their turnover, he thought they had a testimony to the fact that their system of business filled a want. Their margin of profit was necessarily very small, but they did not attempt to attract trade by selling well-known articles at a loss, nor by giving undue credits, which might frequently lead to heavy bad debts. In looking at the accounts, there was little calling for comment. The one point which had been noted by some was the increase in stocks held of £4,460. That was in the main only a temporary increase. They must not, however, look for great things. There was no doubt that the habits of the people had greatly altered in the matter of wine drinking. This was partly due to the spread of teetotal views; but it also came from other causes, one of which was the need for economy, there being an all-round agreement that there was little money about for luxury. Another cause was the feeling of distrust as to drinks—and to some extent foods also, especially since the Chicago revelations—engendered by the constant attacks of the public analyst. The analyst was a very useful person so long as he confined his work to detecting deleterious or fraudulent additions to food and drinks, but it became very dangerous when he attempted to set up chemical definitions of what they should be. The desire to have exact definitions of various articles of drink seemed to be spreading, attempts being made to define some wines, for example, by their territorial original alone. This would be as unsatisfactory almost as a chemical definition. Where they could all do service to their trade in general, as well as to the company's business, was by propagating sound views on this subject, and educating their friends to the fact that good and bad wine and good and bad spirits could be made from the same materials by different makers, and that consequently it was well to pay a fair price to respectable dealers who knew their business, and then good articles could be obtained. In former years he had had to refer to the increasing illegitimate competition of so-called foreign wines, which were now manufactured in England from condensed must, raisins, sugar, &c. This trade, he was sorry to say, was still increasing in volume, and he hoped that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would soon see his way to tax grape-juice and wines at similar rates. In conclusion, the Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. H. W. Hawkins seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

IMPERIAL JAPANESE GOVERNMENT
4 PER CENT. STERLING LOAN OF 1905.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Coupons due 1st July, 1906, attached to the Scrip issued by Parr's Bank, Limited, 4, Bartholomew Lane, E.C., the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, 31, Lombard Street, E.C., and the Yokohama Specie Bank (Limited), 120, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C., will be paid on and after Monday the 2nd July, 1906 (Saturdays excepted), at the respective Banks indicated on the Scrip, between the hours of 11 and 3. Coupons must be left three clear days (excluding Saturdays) for examination previous to payment, and be entered in numerical order upon lists, which may be obtained on application.

Provincial holders should forward Coupons through their Bankers for collection, as they will not be paid through the post. London, 18th June, 1906.

MAZAWATTEE

STILL HOLD

THE RECORD

FOR

DUTY PAYMENT ON

TEA

ACTUALLY BOUGHT AND CLEARED.

ALL LEADING GROCERS STOCK IT.

BANK RATE NOTICES.

THE UNION OF LONDON & SMITHS BANK, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on Deposits at the Head Office and Metropolitan Branches, repayable on seven days' notice, will be TWO per Cent. per annum from this date until further notice, which will be given by advertisement only.

R. H. NUNN, General Manager.

No. 2, Princes Street, E.C.,
21st June, 1906.

BIRKBECK BANK.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on Deposit Receipts at seven days' notice of withdrawal will be TWO per Cent. per annum from this date until further notice. The Rate of Interest on Deposit Accounts repayable on demand will remain as hitherto at Two and-a-Half per Cent., and on Current Accounts at Two per Cent. when the minimum monthly balances are not drawn below £100.

C. F. RAVENSCROFT, Secretary.

Southampton Buildings, W.C.,
21st June, 1906.

LONDON & SOUTH-WESTERN BANK, Limited.

Head Office: 168, 169 & 170, FENCHURCH STREET, E.C.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed at the Head Office and Metropolitan Branches of this Bank on Deposits repayable at seven days' notice is this day REDUCED to TWO per Cent. per annum.

JOHN WILLIAMS, General Manager.

21st June, 1906.

WILLIAMS DEACON'S BANK, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed by this Bank on Deposits at seven days' notice at this Office and Metropolitan Branches will be TWO per Cent. per annum from this date until further notice.

WILLIAM FRANCIS COURTHOPE, } Managers.
GEORGE HENRY POWNALL, }

20, Birchin Lane, London, E.C.,
21st June, 1906.

THE CAPITAL AND COUNTIES BANK, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at the Head Office and Metropolitan Branches the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on Deposits, repayable on Seven Days' Notice, is this day reduced to TWO per Cent. per annum.

G. A. HARVEY, } Joint
E. D. VAISEY, } General Managers.

No. 39, Threadneedle Street, E.C.,
21st June, 1906.

BANK OF SCOTLAND (LONDON OFFICE).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on Deposit Accounts will be TWO per Cent. until further notice by advertisement.

THOMAS AITKEN, Manager.

No. 19, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C.,
21st June, 1906.

THE CLYDESDALE BANK, LIMITED (LONDON OFFICE).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on Deposits at this Office will be TWO per Cent. per annum until further notice.

JOHN CRAGG, Manager.

30, Lombard Street, London, E.C.,
21st June, 1906.

PARR'S BANK, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed by this Bank at the Head Office and Metropolitan Branches on Deposit at seven days' call is TWO per Cent. per annum until further notice.

R. W. WHALLEY, General Manager.

Bartholomew Lane, E.C.,
21st June, 1906.

THE LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK (Limited).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on Deposits at seven days' call at the Head Office and London Branches will be TWO per Cent. until further notice.

J. M. MADDERS, } Joint
S. B. MURRAY, } General
D. G. H. POLLOCK, } Managers.

No. 5, Threadneedle Street, E.C.,
21st June, 1906.

NATIONAL DISCOUNT COMPANY, LIMITED.

Subscribed Capital £4,233,325
Paid Up 846,665
Reserve Fund 400,000

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATES OF INTEREST allowed for money on Deposit are REDUCED as follows:—To TWO AND A-QUARTER per Cent. per annum at call; to TWO AND A-HALF per Cent. at seven and 14 days' notice.

PHILIP HAROLD WADE, Manager.

WATKIN W. WILLIAMS, Sub-Manager.

Approved mercantile bills discounted. Loans granted upon negotiable securities. Money received on deposit at call and short notice at the current market rates, and for longer periods upon specially agreed terms.

No. 35, Cornhill, E.C.,
21st June, 1906.

THE UNION DISCOUNT COMPANY OF LONDON, LIMITED, 39, Cornhill, 21st June, 1906.

Capital Subscribed £1,500,000
Paid up 750,000
Reserve Fund 430,000

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATES OF INTEREST allowed on money on Deposit are this day REDUCED as follows:—At call, to TWO AND A-QUARTER per cent.; at seven and 14 days' or longer notice, to TWO AND A-HALF per cent. The Company discounts approved bank and mercantile acceptances, receives money on deposit at rates advertised from time to time in the London daily papers, and grants loans on approved negotiable securities.

CHRISTOPHER R. NUGENT, Manager.

THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF SCOTLAND, LIMITED (LONDON OFFICE).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed on Deposits at this Office will be TWO per Cent. until further notice by advertisement.

AND. WHITLIE, Manager.

No. 62, Lombard Street, London,
21st June, 1906.

MARTIN'S BANK, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST on Deposits with the Head Office of this Bank, subject to seven days' notice, will be TWO per Cent. per annum from this date until further notice.

LUKE HANSARD, Managing Director.

No. 68, Lombard Street, E.C.,
21st June, 1906.

THE LONDON JOINT STOCK BANK, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the RATE OF INTEREST allowed at the Head Office and Branches of this Bank on Deposits, subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal, is this day reduced to TWO per Cent. per annum.

CHARLES GOW, General Manager.

5, Princes Street, Mansion House,
21st June, 1906.

NATIONAL MORTGAGE & AGENCY COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an INTERIM DIVIDEND at the rate of Seven and a Half per cent. per annum (free of Income Tax), for the six months ending 31st March last, will be paid at the Bank of Scotland, London, on the 6th day of July next to the Shareholders whose names stand on the Register on the 26th inst.

Notice is also given that the Transfer Books will be Closed from the 26th inst. to the 6th proximo, both days inclusive.

By Order,
WALTER BRODIE,
Manager.

8, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.
20th June, 1906.

NEW PRIMROSE GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an INTERIM DIVIDEND of Twenty per Cent. (20%) has been DECLARED PAYABLE to all Shareholders registered on the Company's books on or before the 30th June, 1906.

The TRANSFER BOOKS will be CLOSED from the 1st to 7th July, 1906, both days inclusive.

The Dividend Warrants will be posted as soon as the London and Johannesburg Share Registers have been agreed.

By Order,
Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company,
Limited, London Agents,

THOS. HONEY, Secretary,
10 and 11, Austin Friars, London, E.C.,
18th June, 1906.

The Investors' Review

EDITED BY A. J. WILSON AND SON.

Vol. XVII.—No. 443.
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The *Investors' Review* is a Subscription Journal, and will be delivered to subscribers in London by the first post, or sent to the country and abroad by the first mail, on Saturday Mornings on the following terms:—

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Investment Queries.

Questions about Public Securities will be answered each week in the *Investors' Review* on the following terms:—

For each question thus answered the charge will be **One Shilling**. Where more than One Question is put they should be numbered, and a copy kept. No Security is ever named in the Answers Printed.

Private Letters giving fuller answers can be had if desired. The minimum charge for such letters is **Ten Shillings** each; but for that Three Questions will be answered. For all additions beyond three the charge will be **Half-a-Crown** per query.

Lists of Investments furnished by correspondents will be annotated, or new sets of suggested investments will be supplied on the same terms, viz.:—**10s.** for the First Three, and **2s. 6d.** for each Additional one. But no group of securities forming a trust calculated to yield a given income will be supplied for less than **One Pound**.

The charge for Wires about New Issues appearing on days that prevent timely criticism in the *Investors' Review* will also be **2s. 6d.**, plus a prepaid telegram form.

The Editors cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

Letters from correspondents must, in every case, be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.

The Editors desire it to be understood that a charge is made for the insertion of reports under the heading of Company Meetings, and they cannot accept responsibility for statements made therein.

The Investors' Review.

Ceylon Tea Companies.

The first thing to strike the student of the reports of the Ceylon tea companies for 1905 is the extent to which planters have adopted the fashion of cultivating rubber either by interplanting it in the tea or by devoting special areas to that product alone. Out of the 24 companies under review there are only nine which do not appear to have added the new string to their bow, while the operations of the other 15 range from the thoroughgoing adoption of rubber and partial abandonment of tea by the Sunnigama down to the modest experiment by the Burnside. The Bandarapola has 470 acres planted during 1903 and 1905, and is preparing to bring its area up to a round 1,000 acres, for which purpose it proposes to issue the remaining £15,000 of its capital, the Dimbula Valley has bought an estate solely for the cultivation of rubber at a cost of £4,745, which has apparently been provided out of the reserve, and the Kelani Valley intends to raise further capital to carry out its programme. Quite a proportion of the companies have large areas of rubber interplanted with the tea, as well as clearings devoted to rubber alone, the Eastern Produce and Estates, for instance, having 1,084 acres of the former and 555 acres of the latter, and the General Ceylon 1930 and 553 acres respectively. The Yatiyantota has not been backward in the work, and can show nearly 3,200 acres interplanted, of which 487 acres are to be worked primarily for rubber, but its experiments so far do not appear to have met with much encouragement, as a good many trees planted in 1903 proved a failure, and large gaps have had to be filled in. Yet another company to adopt this plan is the Ceylon Tea Plantations, which has 422

Company.	Plucking Area.		Crop.		Price per lb.	
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.
	Acres.	Acres.	Lbs.	Lbs.	d.	d.
Alliance.....	2,711	2,721	1,110,663	1,269,724	6 86*	6 80*
Bandarapola.....	1,088	1,089*	694,599†	697,404†	5 3	—
Burnside.....	9,080	8,406	421,872	425,290	7 41	7 43
Ceylon Tea Plantations....	2,185	2,185	3,749,477	4,068,269	8 59	8 94
Dimbula Valley.....	10,987	11,014	1,074,446	1,215,304	6 68	6 69
Eastern Produce & Estates	1,057	1,057	4,182,193	4,511,852	5 57	5 57
Ederapola.....	5,589	5,639	510,261	557,539	6 08	5 96
General Ceylon.....	591	591	2,549,237	2,846,700	6 55	5 97
Highland.....	1,782	1,770	264,858	311,856	6 33	6 39†
Imperial Ceylon.....	1,241	1,241	703,768	782,972	6 08	4 92*
Kelani Valley.....	755	755	558,293	554,260	7 32*	7 33*
Mount Vernon.....	446	446	359,547	414,894	5 79	5 07
Nahalma.....	2,582	2,597	210,745	200,294	7 78	8 41
Nuwara Eliya.....	543	543	1,512,399	1,417,887	—	—
Panawal.....	1,273	1,273	272,242	310,030	8 64	8 67
Poonagalla.....	1,612	1,612	490,623	499,078	23 54	23 54
Portmore.....	716	716	222,416	238,542	6 68	7 29
Ragalla.....	1,720	1,720	663,536	734,543	5 91	6 19
Rangalla.....	1,169	1,169	267,356	253,829	5 56	5 64
Scottish Ceylon.....	—	2,497	784,718	760,899	5 43	5 43
South Wanaarajah.....	—	—	699,361	714,143	7 4*	7 4*
Standard.....	1,752	1,752	1,085,230	1,175,359	35 35†	5 43
Sunnigama.....	3,040	3,040	1,162,714	1,177,686	4 86	4 72
Yatiyantota.....	—	—	1,488,129	1,603,619	—	—

* Net sale price.

† Includes Gansarapola Estate.

‡ Cents.

acres in rubber only, and 2,847 in tea and rubber. On the other hand, the Sunnigama appears to be contemplating the abandonment of tea cultivation in favour of rubber, and the directors will certainly be influenced in their decision by the report of Mr. F. J. Holloway, an acknowledged expert in rubber. That gentleman asserts that the choice must be made between tea and rubber, and plumps for rubber on the plea that the profit from a single rubber tree at a selling price of 6s. per lb. is equal to that from 500 lbs. made tea per acre at a profit of 3 cents per lb. So far very few of the rub-

ber trees have reached the producing stage, and it is therefore too early yet to form a reliable opinion regarding the effect the new industry will have on the fortunes of the various undertakings. Four companies, however, derived some revenue from this source, the Eastern Produce and Estates having sold 12,515 lbs. at a gross price of 6s. per lb., the General Ceylon 4,194 lbs. at an average of 5s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and the Yatiyantota 8,212 lbs. at 5s. 3d. nett, while the Ceylon Tea Plantations announces that it harvested 3,685 lbs. against 520 lbs. in the previous year. These results may, perhaps, be considered as fairly encouraging, although it is far from likely that the present high values will be maintained for many years in face of the ever-increasing host of competitors now preparing to enter the field.

Company.	Nett Profits.		Sum put to Depreciation, &c.		Dividends.	
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.
Alliance.....	£ 5,411	£ 7,713	£ 2,000	£ 3,000*	% 6	% 7
Bandarapola	2,427	2,638	384	500	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Burnside	119	85	—	—	—	—
Ceylon Tea Plantations	32,914	39,205	2,500	10,000	15	15
Dimbula Valley	12,780	16,782	500	3,962†	8	8
Eastern Produce & Estates	19,529	27,102	7,785	9,164	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	6
Ederapolla	1,403	1,760	133	406	5	3
General Ceylon	106	232	—	—	—	—
Highland	1,801	1,761	200	200	5	5
Imperial Ceylon	3,257	4,158	500	2,000	3	3
Kelani Valley	186	651‡	410†	—	—	—
Mount Vernon	2,691	3,906	300	400	6	9
Nahalma	1,511	371	130	—	—	—
Nuwara Eliya.....	16,254	14,627	2,000	2,000	2	7
Panawal	1,095	952	—	106	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	3
Poonagalla	914	264	—	—	5	—
Portmore	3,422	3,834	—	—	9	10
Ragalla	2,959	6,233	400	1,400	2	5
Rangalla	677	1,760	250	500	2	5
Scottish Ceylon	2,779	2,427	—	—	5	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
South Wanarajah.....	2,506	3,382	850	1,050	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Standard	9,655	11,950	1,000	2,800	15	15
Sunnygama.....	5,964	4,102	1,000	—	7	5
Yatiyantota	6,727	8,125	1,000	1,000	4	5

* Including £2,000 debentures paid off.

† Withdrawn from reserve to meet special expenditure.

‡ Including £462 off investment.

† Loss.

Turning back to the original purposes of the companies, we find that most of them had a rather more successful year with tea than in 1904, although even yet there is a good deal of grumbling over the unsatisfactory condition of the market, and the consequent falling off in prices. The majority of the companies in our list secured larger crops, and in a few cases they were able to dispose of them at an enhanced price, but this good fortune was by no means universal, and in a number of instances the directors have to express their regret at the unsatisfactory result of the year's working. Amongst the latter were the General Ceylon, Highland, Poonagalla Valley, and Sunnygama which all had larger crops, accompanied by a reduction in price, while the South Wanarajah managed to offset a smaller return by savings in expenditure and the Yatiyantota escaped having to show a decrease by the help of its revenue from rubber. Against these the Mount Vernon, Portmore, Ragalla, and Rangalla rejoiced in an improved price on a greater yield of tea, and the Nuwara Eliya found ample compensation for a decrease in output in the higher average realised. Exceptionally unfortunate, however, were the Kelani Valley and Nahalma, as, owing to smaller crops and lower prices, both showed losses on the year's working. The methods adopted for dealing with the surplus revenues are, of course, varied, but they have one thing in common, and that is the desire shown to increase the dividend whenever there is the least opportunity, and in too many cases the need for reserves or depreciation is consequently ignored. The Mount Vernon is a glaring example of this haste, as with an increase of about £1,200 in nett profits, it has raised its distribution from 6 to 9 per cent., putting a paltry £400 to reserve and factory extension account, although the estates stand in the books at over £47 10s. per acre, cultivated and uncultivated, and the reserve amounts to no more than £600. Another is the Rangalla, which pays 5 per cent. against 2 per cent., and contents itself with writing £500 off buildings and machinery, in spite of the fact that in the 14 years of its existence no attempt

has been made to establish a reserve. The South Wanarajah is a much younger company, dating from 1897, but it, too, while raising the dividend from 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., is far from liberal in its appropriations to reserve, and can only show 7.05 per cent. of its outlay amounting to just under £47 10s. per acre. Still another undertaking with high-priced estates and trifling reserves is the Portmore, which paid an extra 1 per cent., and yet can only show a reserve of 0.93 per cent. on a cost of £45 10s. per acre. In honourable contrast to these is the Eastern Produce and Estates, which, with an increase of about £7,500 in nett revenue, added 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to its dividend at 6 per cent., but applied nearly £9,500, or £1,700 more, to reserve or depreciation allowance, but even it has not always been so generous, and after 17 years has only 9.74 per cent. on the cost of its estates set aside. The Ceylon Tea Plantations paid a dividend of 15 per cent. for the 19th consecutive year, but was in so much better a condition that it was able not only to increase its allowance for depreciation from £2,500 to £4,000, but also to resume its provision for reserve after a hiatus of five years with £6,000, bringing the fund up to 38.34 per cent. On the surface the Yatiyantota display seems almost as satisfactory, as that company has a reserve of £45,000, or 26.22 per cent., but this is by no means so creditable as it looks, as the amount is derived entirely from premiums on shares, without the help of a penny piece from revenue, which is only drawn upon to

Company.	When Established.	Total Acreage Owned, including Forest Reserves, &c.	Capital Outlay on Estates.	Value per Acre after Deducting Depreciation.	Reserve.	Per Cent. on Nett Capital Outlay.
Alliance.....	1895	3,602	113,247*	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	7,632†	6.74
Bandarapola	1892	2,489	34,188	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,000	5.85
Burnside	1896	8	34,065*	—	—	—
Ceylon Tea Plantations	1886	12,247†	276,459*	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	106,000	38.34
Dimbula Valley	1896	2,444	179,698†	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	9,000	5.00
Eastern Produce and Estates	1888	16,841	359,184	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	35,000	9.74
Ederapolla	1895	1,342‡	28,950*	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,300	4.49
General Ceylon	1897	6,410	259,035*	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	5,000	1.93
Highland	1896	699	29,421	42	700	2.38
Imperial Ceylon	1895	2,521	96,567	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—
Kelani Valley	1886	1,709	28,481	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	4,090	14.36
Mount Vernon	1901	840	40,000	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	600	1.50
Nahalma	1894	692	24,000	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,000	4.17
Nuwara Eliya.....	1895	3,037	233,760	77	9,400¶	8.71
Panawal	1893	931	20,656*	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,800	—
Poonagalla	1895	2,827	41,190	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—
Portmore	1896	8	40,000*	—	—	—
Ragalla	1893	2,370	107,483	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,000	0.93
Rangalla	1891	1,241	21,825*	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—
Scottish Ceylon	1889	1,963	51,866*	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	7,000	13.49
South Wanarajah.....	1897	1,257	59,588†	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	4,200	7.05
Standard	1891	3,466	84,110*	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	14,400	17.12
Sunnygama	1893	3,257	77,121*	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,000	2.59
Yatiyantota	1896	4,396	171,611	39	45,000¶	26.22

* Including machinery.

† Tea estates only.

‡ £4,632 from premiums on shares and debentures.

§ No particulars given.

¶ Premiums on shares issued.

the extent of £1,000 per annum for depreciation, or at the rate of 0.58 per cent. of the value of the estates.

Although at the time the reduction in the duty was announced there was a great cry about its being inadequate, and therefore unlikely to benefit the tea market, this does not seem to be the case. Planters producing the better class teas, at any rate, will probably benefit from the course adopted by so many dealers of giving their customers a better quality for the same money instead of reducing the price, while those estates yielding large crops of a lower grade tea should find less difficulty in disposing of their output. This, however, can only give partial relief, so long as the outturn of tea continues to increase at the present rapid rate, and new outlets must be diligently sought. What is now being done in this direction we have not heard, but we do know that the manufacture of green tea which was hailed with so much jubilation as likely to relieve the congestion of the home markets, has been quietly dropped, and is not mentioned in a single report. Surely the matter of pushing the Ceylon product has not been allowed to fall, neglected, into the back-

ground, while the planters run after their new fancy—rubber—which may or may not prove a veritable will-o'-the-wisp after all?

The International Mercantile Marine Company.

We still know this company best as the Morgan Shipping Combine. Its report has just been issued for the year ended December 31 last, and shows some improvement upon the previous year's results. The income was \$4,516,000 more, and the nett earnings \$4,100,000 more than in 1904, administration and general expenses having been reduced by about \$590,000. These figures do not include the results for the Leyland and National lines, which are stated separately, but it is mentioned that the Leyland line last year showed a profit of £88,418, and the National one of £12,076, all of which was written off for depreciation. As it stands, however, the balance-sheet shows a profit, the nett earnings being \$5,907,000 as compared with \$1,806,000 in the previous year. It follows that the whole of the interest on bonds and loans together with income-tax amounting in all to \$3,880,000 has been met out of income, leaving \$2,027,000 as "surplus." To this \$864,000 has been added from the insurance account, being the profit thereon for the past year. Thus the new year began with a surplus of \$2,891,000. This is not enough to give the stock of the company any dividends worth mentioning, and none are declared, but if a combination can be effected amongst all the Atlantic shipping companies now fighting against each other, there is no knowing what might happen a few years hence. And the company does appear to be clearing the ground a little since the floating liabilities, loans, bills payable, and foreign bank overdrafts were reduced during the year from \$10,311,000 to \$6,327,000, at the same time that current liabilities were brought down from \$5,555,000 to \$4,829,000. There was also a reduction of over \$326,000 in the outstanding debenture bonds of the companies forming the combine, and \$2,000,000 has been transferred from profits or "surplus" to the credit of depreciation fund, making the total aggregate in insurance and depreciation funds \$3,139,000.

It is impossible to gather from the accounts whether anything like adequate provision is being made for the rapid depreciation of the fleet. How important this matter is may be judged from the fact that, including the new steamers about to be added, the "combine" and its subsidiaries will own a gross tonnage of 1,063,269 tons. What is the book value of this enormous aggregate of shipping? Is it £30 per ton still, or more? Nothing in the report gives the slightest hint upon this point which is one of great importance. The balance-sheet simply sets forth the "cost of properties," which is put at rather over \$171,000,000, exclusive of investments amounting to \$11,965,000 in the Leyland line, and of \$404,000 in the National line. Upon the whole of this capital except the bonded debt no interest is paid. That bonded debt consists of about \$20,000,000 of 5 per cent. first mortgage bonds and \$52,744,000 of 4½ per cent. collateral trust bonds, the debt in this form having been increased last year by \$2,744,000 nominal in 4½ per cent. bonds, which were sold at 88½ plus interest to reimburse the company for additions and betterments paid for out of current earnings. It is from this source partly that the floating obligations have been reduced, and we do not see in the meagre accounts furnished any indication whatever that real provision for depreciation is being made. It is extremely doubtful, indeed, whether the abstraction of \$864,000 as profit or "surplus" from the insurance account is warranted, seeing that this account is left at a mere \$1,000,000, a sum which might be swept away by the loss of one ship, for the combine owns three steamers of between 15,000 and 20,000 tons, and three of over 20,000 tons gross. Until fuller accounts, therefore, are presented, it is impossible to put any

confidence in the company's future. A depreciation allowance of merely 5 per cent. on its entire capitalisation would require about \$9,000,000 per annum.

However, a large business is done, and the directors are doubtless proud to record the fact that out of the total number of passengers of all classes carried to and from the United States and Europe, 24.77 per cent. was conveyed in the steamers of the combine. In first-class passengers carried to and from Mediterranean ports its share was 34.56 per cent., but the total number was under 8,000, and when the new Cunard ships are on the route we shall expect to find a diminution in the proportion of the entire European trade falling to the Morgan shipping combine. On the other hand, it may be that combination amongst the various competing companies will result in the constitution of a shipping "ring," and an increase in the passenger fares and freight charges. The directors of the combine say that the reciprocal agreement with the Hamburg-American and North German Lloyd companies has resulted advantageously to the combine this year, and "consequent upon the very satisfactory dividends declared by those companies a substantial payment has been received from each of them." We infer from this that one principle of the compact is a sharing of profits between the companies, and if this can be arranged with the German companies why not with the British? The prospect from this point of view is not altogether reassuring, for the irresistible temptation of an excessively capitalised shipping trust like this International Marine Company must be to endeavour to force rivals into subjection to its sway. These trusts, in fact, are always perfectly reckless in pursuit of a neck-or-nothing policy, and one result of the Morgan combine's first struggle for supremacy was that rate war by which the Atlantic carrying trade was brought to the verge of ruin in 1904. We shall have to be vigilant lest one disagreeable consequence of the late Government's generosity to the Cunard Company may not be a fusion of interests between it and the Morgan combine, to the permanent detriment of trade between the United Kingdom and the North American continent.

Economic and Financial Notes and Correspondence.

ELECTRIC AND GENERAL INVESTMENT CO., LIMITED.

We wonder how much B.E.T. stuff this company has got packed away in its safes. It has done a rare lot of financing for Mr. Garcke's much loaded up giant, and it would be nice to discover the constitution of the "investments at cost, £232,494." Compared with the previous year this total shows a trifling decline, which we hope is to the good, although the provision for contingencies account, £40,852, has an ominous look. The company lives to an important extent on credit, and has loans of £64,000, besides sundry creditors of £26,993. Against this sundry debtors are only £25,527, and the cash balance is terribly small at £718. Business seems to have been a bit better in the year to May 31, and a profit of £15,924 is returned, an increase of £2,795 against the previous 12 months. General charges took a little more at £2,093, preference dividend requires £5,970, and an interim dividend of 1s. per share already paid on the ordinary shares amounted to £1,000, leaving £6,862. The directors now propose another dividend of 1s. per share, placing the whole of the balance left, £5,862, to the contingency fund, which gives the impression that those investments need a deal of fortifying. Yet another shilling is gathered from an ordinary share reserve fund, which no one knows anything about, and from the founders' shares reserve fund, another mystery, each £5 founders' share receives £10 or 200 per cent. In fact, the whole business is the most extraordinary jumble which we have ever encountered, but it is useless to ask for explana-

tions because the board consists of Messrs. George Herring, J. B. Braithwaite, and Emile Garcke.

THE CONFUSION IN RUSSIA.

No one expected the triumph of constitutional government in the empire of the Tsar to be accomplished within a few months. Progress is none the less visible as far as we can judge, and the Duma will win in the end. It must win, for there is no going back upon the step taken when it was called into existence. The Tsar and his surroundings might perhaps get together enough obedient troops to disperse the present assembly, and to uphold the bureaucratic autocracy for a little longer, but another parliament would have to be summoned soon, for the turmoil would be so irrepressible from one end of the Empire to the other, and the destruction of Russian credit upon the money markets of Western Europe would be so complete that paralysis must almost immediately ensue, and the autocracy finally perish of impotence. That the bureaucrats and the Court party are obstinately resisting the demands of the Duma for a responsible ministry, for subdivision of the great estates, for personal liberty, the cessation of outrages against the Jews, of arbitrary arrests, and suppressions of public meetings and opinion, is just what we should expect, but because these reactionary influences are now sullenly and vengefully resisting the will of the nation, however imperfectly expressed that will may be, it does not follow at all that they are going to triumph. They cannot put back the clock. Russia has taken a step forward which must lead to others—a step towards liberty and enlightened government—and behind the Duma there will soon be felt the irresistible will of a rapidly awakening nation, or group of nations, determined to be free. Meanwhile, the autocracy seems to be once more in a tight corner for want of money. We infer this from the optimistic story of "prosperity" put out by the officials. This story, the *Times* Petersburg correspondent states, is laconically headed "Official Optimism" in the Russian newspapers, and that is about all there is to say in reference to it. To read the parade of figures one might suppose Russia to be the most prosperous country in Europe. Railway returns for the five months show increases in spite of the diminution in January and February, owing to what is described as "revolution," and the foreign trade is bounding forward, exports between January 14 and June 15 showing an increase of about £13,129,000, taking the rouble roughly at 2s. Moreover, the surplus of exports over imports in 1905 rose to £16,430,000 as against only £6,473,400 in 1904, and £11,157,300 in 1903. Not only is the trade improving in this fashion, if we are to believe this fine story, but the Customs receipts for the first five months of 1906 have risen to over £9,090,000 compared with £7,489,000 estimated and £7,691,000 received within the same period in 1905. The savings bank deposits, too, are mounting up, and show an increase of nearly £2,500,000 on the corresponding half of 1905, while the cash reserves in the Imperial Bank at £119,735,000 represent fully 100 per cent. of the note circulation. This is all so good—a picture so devoid of shadow—that nobody will accept it as the whole truth. Meantime, the Government is unable to raise any loan abroad, and about £8,000,000 will have to be found by it to keep the people from dying of famine in large areas of the empire. And the best hope for liberty lies in the impecuniosity of the dying autocratic Government.

FRENCH LOCAL TAXATION AND DEBT.

An impression prevails in this country that the local debts of France, as well as the local taxation, are growing at a considerable speed. Official statistics do not bear out this view. No doubt fresh debts are being created, and each year sees some increase in the local rates, as we should call them, but the progress is not nearly so large as many would expect. This is due in part to the extent to which local public works are a charge upon the central Government, but also, so

far at least as the debts are concerned, to the steady operation of sinking funds by which old debts are diminishing each year at an accelerated speed. An official return just issued by the Ministry of Finance shows that in 1905 the total number of Communes in France and Algeria was 36,210, an increase of 8 on the previous year. The population remains stationary at 38,961,975. The income, however, from octroi and other sources increased by about £333,000 in 1905, according to the budgets of the Communes, to a total of about £9,000,000, and the increase in the debt was nearly £6,500,000, most of it ascribable to Paris. Altogether the debt of the communes, including Paris, amounted on December 31 last to upwards of 3,922,000,000 fr., or about £160,000,000, and of this aggregate Paris alone accounted for about £97,000,000. In the course of ten years, however, the total debt of the Communes, including Paris, has not increased much more than £19,000,000, of which fully £14,000,000 is ascribable to the increased burdens laid upon the Parisians. Compared with our local burdens, the Communal debts outside Paris must be considered light, nor is the local taxation at all excessive looking. What is called ordinary income was estimated at about £34,000,000 for 1905, and the ordinary expenditure was put at upwards of £32,600,000. In this income Paris figures for nearly £13,250,000, and the expenditure there is made to balance the receipts. Taking Paris alone we find that the details of the budget for 1906 show an increase of £450,000 on the total for 1905. This means that the total burden upon the inhabitants of the capital will be about £16,000,000 in the current year, and of this about £4,350,000 is provided by the octrois alone; that is to say, by indirect taxes, chiefly upon the food of the inhabitants, a most objectionable form of revenue. Still, it is less than Paris formerly had to bear, for as recently as 1900 the total receipts from octroi exceeded £6,650,000. It follows that the larger total revenue now collected is obtained from other sources—communal centimes, taxes on dogs, interest on invested funds, markets, abattoirs, cemetery taxes, public conveyances, &c. A larger income is also obtained by the city under the new contract with the gas company, the increase for the current year from this source alone being put at £165,000. Altogether the exhibit is much less gloomy than prepossessions would lead one to expect.

THE FRENCH BUDGET DEFICIT.

The French Minister of Finance, M. Poincaré, is thorough in his determination to adjust revenue to expenditure. Altogether it seems he requires about £16,000,000 in order to make ends meet in the current year, but £10,000,000 of this is in the nature of temporary expenditure provoked by the Moroccan scare last year and will be provided by the issue of new debt. The remaining £6,000,000 is to be regarded as a permanent addition to the national outlay, and is to be provided by sundry new duties, first a 30 per cent. addition to the already existing death duties on all inheritances above £400, a surtax expected to produce £2,800,000 per annum. Then additional taxes are to be levied upon alcoholic drinks and mineral waters, from which £640,000 is looked for. Further, a 10 per cent. additional duty is to be levied on the transfer of bearers' securities, and the frauds upon the revenue in connection with the distillation of spirits are to be put a stop to. Finally, a Customs duty of 20 per cent. *ad valorem* is to be imposed upon works of art imported from abroad, and is expected to yield £60,000. From these various sources M. Poincaré expects to get 150,000,000 fr. of additional taxation, and so to balance his budget. We fear he is sanguine, because the taxation of France is already so heavy, that an increase of burdens in one direction causes a diminution in the income from other sources, and as regards the attempt to put down the fraud committed by the private distiller, this, we fear, will be an almost impossible task so long as the *bouilleurs de cru* are

allowed to distil for their own use. They are in a position somewhat analogous to that of the farmer in this country who brews his own beer, only more exempt than he is from excise burdens, and there can be no doubt that they not only distil spirits for themselves, but sell to their friends the overplus, thus cheating the revenue. As the Paris correspondent of the *Times* says, "there are constantly circulating in France thousands of gallons of liquor that have not paid the ordinary tax on alcohol," and until the privilege is abolished altogether it will be difficult to put a stop to this fraud. None the less are the Finance Minister's efforts to square the account laudable, and we trust he will be backed up by the Chamber, for only by bringing home to the people the full meaning of modern militarism, by squeezing them in all ways, can we hope to see a better spirit of economy grow up, and grow strong enough to cut expenditure down.

ESTATE, FINANCE, AND MINES CORPORATION.

This is a concern in which shareholders have lost vast sums of money since it originally came into existence, some 16 years ago, as the African Estate Co., Limited. In 1895 it was reconstructed, when it joined forces with the Transvaal Estate and Trust Co. Since then its losses year by year have been enormous, especially in the past two or three years. In order to wipe out the colossal debit in the balance-sheet of 1904 the shareholders gave the directors permission to reduce the capital by writing down the face value of the shares from £1 to 12s. 6d. each, the sanction of the Court to the scheme being given in April of the present year. So the accounts now presented are brought up to the end of May. In all, the amount so written off is £254,617, including the debit of £110,567. The principal deductions are:—£21,000 on Buluwayo Estate and Trust shares, £3,000 on Napier and Weir Co. shares, £2,200 on Roodeval Option, £20,000 on Canons Park shares, £9,500 on South Hill Park shares, £29,000 on Walmer Estates shares and debentures, £5,800 on J. R. Exploration Syndicate, £23,000 on Kamfersdam Mines shares, and £22,000 on Randfontein Deep shares. During the 16 months covered by the accounts the total income was £43,134, derived from a variety of sources, such as rents, interest, profit on sales of shares, land and buildings, commission, contangos, fees, &c., and the nett profit was £30,567. Out of this the directors place £10,000 to reserve, pay a dividend of 3 per cent., and carry forward £5,953. Pleasant as it may be to see the company earn a profit at last, it is impossible to feel assured that prolonged prosperity will attend it. It has disencumbered itself of heavy burdens, but its paper assets cannot impress one as being of considerable value. They make up a strange mixture, including highly speculative South African mining ventures and estate enterprises in London and Johannesburg. In the last-mentioned place the deepest depression and distress prevail, ruin is spreading, and the despair of the commercial classes is deepening. The company has abundant cash resources, and may be able for a time to obtain a goodly revenue from its money-lending business. But the experience of its past and the present condition of things on the Stock Exchange and in South Africa especially hardly justify hopeful forecasts.

American Business Notes.

A slight improvement was shown by the figures of the New York Associated Banks issued on Saturday last, and the most prominent change was a decline of about £460,000 under the total of loans and discounts. This was accompanied by a small increase of £260,000 in the nett deposits, and the total reserve was also up about £830,000, so that its proportion in spite of the slight increase in liabilities was about £766,000 better, although still only \$10,902,000 as against \$15,005,000 in the corresponding week of last

year. The margin, in fact, remains small, but it is something to see any improvement.

A number of reports of telephone companies in the United States subsidiary to the American "Bell" Telephone and Telegraph Company have recently made their appearance, and show on the whole steady prosperity. There are accounts of one sort or other issued by 22 of these companies in a recent New York *Commercial Chronicle*, and from these we gather that they mostly pay dividends of from 5 to 8 per cent. upon their share capital. Some of them, too, have a very large amount of such capital. The Chicago Company, for instance, has \$14,000,000 of stock outstanding, the Cumberland Company nearly \$13,500,000 and the New England Company \$24,245,000. Also the New York and New Jersey Company has a share capital of \$17,360,000, an increase of \$3,443,000 on the previous year, and the Western Company, which is a sort of "holding" company under the Bell over-riding company, has a share capital of no less than \$32,000,000, half in preferred, half in common stock, besides a bonded debt of nearly \$10,000,000. From these examples it will be seen that the amount of money invested in telephone companies throughout the American Union is enormous, and the American people submit to the arbitrary domination of the parent Bell Company over the whole of its business without a murmur.

An additional \$14,000,000 of "B" preferred stock has been listed on the New York Stock Exchange by the Chicago Great Western Railway. Much of this represents paper of the company exchanged for paper of subsidiaries taken over.

The Erie Railroad is busy electrifying its Rochester division, and when the latest addition has been made 150 miles of line will be worked by electric power.

Subsidiaries of the great Pennsylvania Railroad Company have lately been increasing their dividends, and it is uncharitably inferred that this has been done to facilitate the sale of securities issued by the parent company and its dependency, the Pennsylvania Company. The latest example of this sprat-to-catch-a-whale policy was the additional dividend declared by the board of the Baltimore and Ohio Company, but the Pittsburg, C.C. and St. Louis has also raised its preferred stock dividend, payable on the 16th prox., to 2½ per cent., by which action the stock is placed "upon a 5 per cent. basis." The Pennsylvania Company itself owns \$22,471,000 of this preferred stock and \$14,588,000 of the common stock. When the common stock gets 3 per cent., which it has done for the last four years, the dividend on the non-cumulative preferred stock can be raised to 5 per cent., as has now been done; and when both classes get 5 per cent. any surplus is divided equally between them.

Another \$1,000,000 has been added to the capital of the Diamond Match Company, making the total \$16,000,000, and the money is all apparently wanted for extensions—to buy lands on which pine trees are growing, with other necessary expenditures.

A big electric power company has been started in Colorado, and proposes first of all to buy up a few existing companies in the northern part of the State, and next to extend the business so as to be able to distribute electricity over a great range of country. In fact, its electricity will be transmitted by lines aggregating about 167 miles south and west to Louisville, the mines and mills of Gilpin County, and so on, as well as east to Brighton, and north to Loveland, Fort Collins and other points in the State. The new company, which has raised its capital from \$50,000 to \$3,000,000, of which \$1,000,000 is in 6 per cent. preferred shares, has given out contracts to the Westinghouse people for the construction of a new power station, and quite possibly it had its origin in the imperative necessity that work should be found for this big American monopolising industrial company.

It will be of interest to British meat eaters to know that one of the big Chicago beef packers is about to take over and build up one of the existing meat packing plants in Winnipeg, in Canada, and that another

firm in the same business is negotiating for a site in one of the eastern Canadian cities. Whether they will drop American methods, such as have been described in the reports made on the Chicago horrors, when they start business across the frontier, or whether the Canadian Government, in the interest of Canadian industry, will see to it that they are not practised in Canada, remains to be seen. In any case, forewarned is forearmed, and it will be the fault of British consumers of American meat and its products, whether coming from one side or the other of the Canadian-United States boundary line, if they are again caught buying the indescribable stuff turned out by the unspeakable Chicago meat packers. These latter may change the sky under which they will carry on their operations, but not necessarily their minds.

The *Kansas City Star* has an article on United States Government inspection of meat which, if it were possible, adds emphasis to all that has been reported and printed during the past fortnight on the Chicago meat atrocities. It publishes a statement made by Dr. W. P. Cutler, the Kansas City food inspector, who was for several years United States bacteriologist and inspector in the Kansas City packing houses, and this is what he says:—"Government inspection of meat is a farce so far as the home consumer is concerned. I have taken diseased meats bearing the Government stamp from wagons. The small independent packers have to be watched more closely than others. In order to make it pay they deal in 'crips' and 'downers.' If an independent butcher will start on the Missouri side of the line, I will give him an inspection that will ensure good meat. . . . I have stood six hours alongside one carcass in a Kansas City packing house when that plant was running here. I did so to make sure that the carcass reached the tank. One day in another packing house I and one of my 'taggers' were going through a line of hogs on the export side. We found a trichinæ carcass. 'Put it over on the American side,' said the 'tagger,' and over it went. There is no law requiring trichinæ inspection for home trade. That is how Government inspection works, and what does a plumber or steam fitter know about tuberculosis? You'll find them inspecting cattle and meat."

There is a whole volume in the foregoing remarks of Dr. Cutler. They depict a system that will only end when the foreign boycott of American meat and its products becomes so general and strict that the export market will no longer be open to them.

Some interesting facts were brought out before the Inter-State Commerce Commission at Philadelphia on June 12 regarding the relations between the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. and the Berwind-White Coal Co. They went to show that when every shipper of bituminous coal was begging the Pennsylvania Railroad for cars with which to fulfil contracts the railway company withdrew 700 cars from the service of ordinary shippers and sold them to the Berwind-White Co. for the exclusive use of that company, and at a price about \$100 a car less than cars could be bought for at that time. Other advantages given the Coal Co. enabled it to establish a practical monopoly of the steamship coal business in the harbour of New York.

An important decision in regard to railway freights was made June 12 by the Indiana State Railway Commission. A coal merchant of New Albany, Indiana, complained to the Commission that the charges on the Southern Railroad Co. were excessive. The Commission investigated the matter, with the result that the complaint was declared valid, and the rates were reduced 40 per cent. This action by the State of Indiana is within its prerogatives, and is one of the things to be borne in mind in connection with the marketing of American railroad bonds in foreign countries in the future. Whenever American State legislatures cease to be merely creatures of the great corporations and monopolies the rights they possess under the constitution to control them in the public interest will put an end to the extortion that enables the companies

to pay interest on issues of watered securities, the proceeds of which are not always applied to legitimate purposes.

A scheme for the consolidation of three of the Chicago elevated railway lines is taking shape, and is expected to be shortly completed. The three lines to be merged are the North-Western, the Chicago and Oak Park, and the South Side; the Metropolitan not being included.

It is reported that the interests controlling the Rock Island-Frisco combination are negotiating the purchase of the Texas Midland Railroad, which is the property of the famous millionairess, Mrs. Hetty Green. The Texas Midland connects with the Frisco line at Paris, Texas, and runs to Ennis, about 130 miles, from where it will be extended south to connect with the Trinity and Brazas Valley at Hubbard City, about 50 miles. The announcement that the St. Louis, Brownsville, and Mexico line has become a part of the enlarged system is shortly expected.

The way in which judges' injunctions are superseding law in the United States is very well exemplified in the case of the Consolidated Gas Co. of New York. After a long agitation a Bill was put through the State legislature at Albany, reducing the price of gas to the citizens of New York from one dollar to 80 cents per 1,000 ft. The company named immediately made application for, and obtained, an injunction from the United States Circuit Court, suspending the operation of the law pending a decision in the Federal Courts. Shortly after a private citizen applied for, and obtained, an injunction restraining the gas company from cutting off his supply of gas unless he continued to pay at the old rate of one dollar, instead of the new rate of 80 cents. This injunction was granted by a judge of the Supreme Court of the State of New York. The result of this will be that an indefinite time will perhaps pass before a final decision is arrived at, and costs will be heaped up merely for the benefit of a bunch out of the 27,000 odd lawyers who prey upon the citizens of the State of New York, while the 100 long-suffering inhabitants of the city will be subject to every kind of expense and annoyance.

Another instance of corporation interference with popular rights in the United States was witnessed the other day in the State of New York. Fifteen months ago the inhabitants of the village of Potsdam in that State voted to raise \$40,000 for a plant to supply light for the streets and residences. The Potsdam Electric Light and Power Co., now lighting the village, procured a perpetual injunction restraining the village from proceeding with the construction of the village plant. Meantime the Municipal Ownership Party in the village, finding it had the power to carry out its scheme for strictly municipal purposes, lodged an appeal, which is now before the Appeals Court, against the injunction in restraint. At the same time it brought about a special election on June 14 at which the right of the village to own and apply its own lighting plant was affirmed. One of the interesting circumstances about this incident was that it was the votes of the women property holders that carried the day. In view of the fact that the tyranny of the corporations is raising a revolt against them all over the country, and has given birth to the idea of municipal ownership on an extensive scale, this village victory is not without significance.

The Delaware and Hudson Railroad Co. has increased its capital stock by \$7,000,000, making the total amount authorised \$55,711,500.

At the first annual meeting of the United Shoe Machinery Co. of Paterson, in the State of New Jersey, the management reported that at the end of February the value of the company's assets was \$30,143,955, against \$28,025,561 in 1905. The total surplus was \$8,774,605, an increase of \$2,264,000, and \$222,219 was written off during the year for depreciation. Dividends amounting to \$1,381,135 have been paid since the first dividend in October, 1905. The number of machines under lease on March 1 were 38,000, an increase of 6,764 over the same date in 1905. The

vice-president, who presided at the meeting, said that the business had steadily increased both at home and abroad, and that extensive additions were being made to their factory at Beverley, Mass. The factories in England and Germany are being enlarged, and recently acquired manufacturing facilities in France will have to be increased.

A great step has been taken in opening up Central South America to the commerce of the world. Under an international arrangement Argentina is extending her Northern Central Railway across the Bolivian frontier to Tupisa. The system, for which plans have been made and a contract signed, will bring Buenos Ayres into direct communication *via* Tupisa with Potosi, Uyuni, Sucre, Oruro, and La Paz, from which places branch lines will be carried into the most fertile and productive districts of Bolivia. About the end of March the President of Chile signed a decree authorising a loan of £2,500,000, to be placed in Germany, for the construction of a railway from Arica on the coast to La Paz. This with the new main and local lines to be built will give Bolivia, hitherto isolated, outlets to the east, west, and south, one of the local lines being designed to run from La Paz to Puerto Pando, where communication will be established by water by way of the Beni River with the Amazon. A 30-inch gauge line from Oruro, the present railhead of the railway from Antofagasta on the Chilean coast, will connect La Paz with that port. The financing of these different lines will be in the hands of American houses, which will probably arrange to supply them with rails, rolling stock, and other material of American manufacture only. The districts to be served by the various lines projected abound in minerals of all kinds, including tin, and contain large areas producing rubber, a variety of gums, coca, cinchona, and other articles of value in commerce, including coffee of superior quality.

Reports from the cobalt mineral region north of Lake Nipissing, in the Canadian province of Ontario, continue to show extraordinary results. New veins are being found in the most unexpected localities, and the facilities for the extraction of the ores are exceptional. Silver is the principal metal found, running up to as much as 2,300 ounces to the ton, with nickel ranging from 4 to over 8 per cent. Agriculturally it is one of the most sterile regions in that part of Canada, but in minerals it seems hardly to have an equal. The mining population is increasing rapidly, as fresh finds of mineral are of almost weekly occurrence.

Great increase of traffic is reported on the railways of Minnesota and Wisconsin from the carriage of sawlogs. The lumbermen of those States have found that it is cheaper to transport their logs by rail to the sawmills than by the old method of driving on the streams, which, owing to the denudation of the soil by the cutting down of the forests, are becoming every year more uncertain as carriers of lumber.

The agitation in the country and in Congress over the railway rates question has, it is reported from Chicago, been the means of bringing into the coffers of the railway companies at least a million of dollars saved by the cessation of illegal rebates. The Interstate Commerce Commission has only scratched the surface of things as yet, but enough has been revealed to show that the bondholders and shareholders of railways have been the victims of double dealing in the management of many lines whose officials were connected with subsidiary and other companies receiving heavy rebates on the carriage of their freights. The investigations had not proceeded very far before it was discovered that secret rates and rebates were extensively granted to grain, lumber, provision, coal, and steel companies. One of the eastern railways is said to have "discovered" the other day a secret rate by the cancelling of which its freight income has been raised fully \$300 a day. This rate is described as having been in effect for years unknown to the railway officials. The question arises to whom then was it known, and what were the directors and the respon-

sible officials of the company doing that they were not acquainted with the business of their line?

At the meeting of the stockholders of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, held in New York on June 18, for the purpose of deciding on the mutualisation plan approved of by the Ryan trustees, the resolution was carried by 667 votes to 80. The number of stockholders present, the report says, was about 12, and Mr. Grover Cleveland voted on 501 shares as representative of the trustees of the Ryan majority stock. About 30 shares represented at the meeting were not voted. All that is now needed to make the mutualisation as voted effective is the vote of the directors and the approval of the State Superintendent of Insurance, after which the measure goes to Albany for legalisation by the State legislature. During the discussion on the subject Mr. Franklin B. Lord, a minority stockholder, practically accused the majority of the society's directors of being dummies, and not legally qualified to act as owners of five shares of stock each. He contended that they had been qualified fictitiously as in the days of the James Hazen Hyde *régime*, through a book transfer to their names of the five shares each. Mr. Paul Morton, ex-member of President Roosevelt's cabinet, and present President of the Equitable, after the meeting, emphatically denied any knowledge of there being any dummy directors. In any case, the minority stockholders made it plain that they intend to contest the majority decision on constitutional grounds, holding that it deprives them of a right of property. An action is now before the Court of Appeals, on whose decision will depend whether the new law providing for the mutualisation of stock companies will stand. Several other minority stockholders besides Mr. Lord protested against the decision as voted, and Mr. Lord put in a formal written document, generally protesting on the ground of the illegality of the proceedings. Messrs. Alfonso de Navarro, Chas. W. Morse, H. van R. Kennedy, and Zabriskie filed similar protests. Mr. Hyde still retains 55 shares of the original Equitable stock, but they were not represented at the meeting. General feeling in regard to the new *régime* in the Equitable is not one of confidence in the more prominent men in it, Messrs. Ryan, Morton, and Grover Cleveland; and the opinion of the man in the street in New York appears to be that expressed in the old French adage, that the more it changes the more it is the same thing.

A syndicate of New York, London, and Paris banks has been formed for the purpose of establishing a Bank of Havana under the laws of Cuba, with a paid-in capital of \$2,500,000. The Standard Oil National City Bank of New York is at the head of the affair, and Mr. J. C. Martine, the assistant manager of its bond department, and a Cuban by birth, has charge of the details of its organisation. The bank will open for business in September.

A Bill amending the National Banking laws was passed by the American Senate on June 14, which will be of great advantage to speculators. It provides that 30 per cent. of a bank's capital may be loaned to one corporation or individual. It also permits loans to be made from a surplus to one-tenth of its unimpaired funds. The law heretofore has been that only one-tenth of a bank's capital stock could be loaned, and none of its surplus. The Bill originally placed the limit at 20 per cent. of the capital stock, but this was eliminated by the Senate Finance Committee, leaving no limitation. Senator Bailey vigorously opposed the step, and pointed out that it would induce banks to organise with a small capital and accumulate a large surplus in order to avoid liability in case of failure. As a result the limitation of liability was reinserted, and the figure placed at 30 per cent. The Bill has also passed the House of Representatives.

On June 19, while operators on the New York Stock Exchange were driving Pennsylvania Railroad stock down to low level on a false rumour, actively circulated that the Paris negotiations had failed, lawyers and bankers representing Kuhn, Loeb, and Co., the Crédit Lyonnais, and the Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas were in a room in 49, Wall Street completing the details

of the loan. At a late hour in the afternoon all arrangements were concluded, and the final documents having been signed by Kuhn, Loeb, and Co., of New York, the issue of the loan in France, with the sanction of the Paris Bourse authorities, became an accomplished fact. Payments on the loan will, it was announced, be made in about equal monthly instalments divided over the remainder of the present year or earlier, at the option of the French banks.

Passing Events.

As was expected the board of Guinness's Brewery has decided to redeem its debenture stock on January 1 next. The total amount of this stock is £1,500,000, and holders will receive a 10 per cent. bonus in cash on redemption, together with interest to date. They may take the whole of the money in cash if they like, but the directors propose to issue £1,000,000 of new 3½ per cent. stock redeemable 20 years after issue on six months' notice given, but with power to redeem at par on three months' notice on and after January 1, 1912. Holders of the existing 5 per cent. stock may convert into this new stock bearing a lower rate of interest, and will receive the 10 per cent. bonus in cash just the same. Those who wish to retain their stock in the new form should fill up the document authorising the trustees to modify the terms and provisions of the trust of 1887, and send it to Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co., Limited, not later than August 1, but outsiders may apply for the new stock, and there is no doubt that it will be readily taken up.

An exceedingly doleful letter appeared in Monday's *Manchester Guardian* from a correspondent in Johannesburg, setting forth the miserable condition of affairs there. Liquidations and meetings of creditors, he says, are going on everywhere, and the air is full of alarmist reports about the stability of this institution and that financier. The writer affirms that the position is worse under a Liberal Government than it was under Lord Milner, the mine-owners being more securely entrenched behind Lord Selborne than they were when Lord Milner openly did their work. He thinks that a strong administrator like Sir William Butler should have been sent out at once, a man capable of ending the Chinese mischief by administrative methods. He could, for instance, have enforced the ordinance against the mine-owners until they would be glad to be quit of their serfs. In many ways this ordinance is ignored in the most callous fashion, but Lord Selborne does not seem able to free himself from the ensnaring bonds that capitalists know how to twine round him. Perhaps one of the most ominous statements relates to the dread of the labour men, lest Chinese or no Chinese be left as an issue at the elections. The correspondent affirms that opponents of Chinese labour will not dare to stand along the reefs as their meetings would be smashed up by hired bullies, and very likely they will not dare to vote either. Thus, if the issue is left to the decision of the Transvaal "it may end in civil strife," and he calls on the Government to act with courage and foresight. At present "it is being 'bluffed' by the discredited Stock Exchange gang to such an extent as to be an object of contempt." These are strong words, but we fear there is far too much truth in them, and have always deprecated a policy which seems to us cowardly, the policy, viz., of leaving the settlement of the Chinese question to the Transvaal electorate, the majority of which are helpless and dependent upon the controllers of the mines. Perhaps, if some of these controllers go bankrupt, as they may quite likely do before long, the air will clear a little and the Downing Street atmosphere become less obscured by the malarial influences so long dominant there.

Some weeks ago the directors of the African Land and Exploration Company issued a circular announcing serious discrepancies in assay results, but we have heard nothing officially since. The "South Africa Mines," however, in its issue of June 2, gives the substance of an investigation committee's report. Messrs.

Corstorphine and Ronaldson, the well-known experts, were appointed by the directors to investigate the circumstances, but it appears they have not been able to do this thoroughly, because most of the ore heaps on the property have been removed. However, their researches, so far as they have been carried, have led them to the conclusion that there has been no "salting" or other deliberate deception, and that the whole trouble has arisen through "gross miscalculations" both as to the extent and value of the ore at dump. If this opinion is well-founded, and it apparently is on the evidence taken, it will no more tend to make the minds of shareholders and of the public easy than if the discrepancies were the results of fraud. On the contrary, if "gross miscalculators" can make these arithmetical "mistakes" with impunity, others may not mind being similarly incautious. Miscalculations, whether intentional or unwitting, involve shareholders in losses and if these are new dangers—for this is not a solitary incident of the kind—how can one expect confidence to be restored, and to generate a revival in the Kaffir Circus?

A correspondent has made an ingenious calculation of the values of the assets of the East Rand Proprietary Mines in order to show the disparity between them and the market value of the shares. This table was printed in Tuesday's *Pall Mall Gazette*, and we take the liberty of reproducing it:—

427,000 Driefontein at 1½	£693,000
427,000 Angelo at 3½	1,548,000
297,000 Comets at 1¾	520,000
280,000 Casons at 4	1,120,000
470 unfloat claims at £1,500 each	705,000
Cash in hand after paying dividend at December 31, 1905	78,000
	£4,664,000
Deduct dividend due before "H. F." Co. ranks (equals 5s. 5d. per share)	270,000
	4,394,000
Deduct 25 per cent. to "H. F." Co.	1,098,500
	3,295,500
Restore sum deducted above	270,000
	£3,565,500

This compares with the recent making-up price of 4½, and during the week the shares have further declined. Since the accounts were published there has been a further heavy fall in the quotations of the subsidiary shares, consequent upon the announcement that they would pay no dividends for the past half-year. Every fall or rise has, of course, a corresponding effect upon the market values of the share assets, and though the table is interesting it should not be overlooked that prices were considerably higher at the time the accounts were made up than they are now. The depreciation that has taken place since the beginning of the year only foreshadows heavy losses for the parent concern during the current year, to say nothing of a greatly diminished income from dividends. Still, what do the bosses care? They are quite content with their coolies and their fame.

The Johannesburg correspondent of the *Liberal Press* is informed that Lord Elgin has instructed Lord Selborne to urge the Government of Mozambique to grant licences for the recruiting of natives by the Transvaal Mine-Workers' Association. In the event of any delay Lord Selborne is to inform the Home Government, which will then bring pressure to bear at Lisbon in order to overcome the influence exercised there by the magnates with a view to prevent the issue of licences. He learns that the controller of the leading group of mines has notified the Chamber of Mines that when licences are issued he will surrender all the Chinese, numbering 1,700, employed by his group. "This," says he, "will cause a revulsion of public feeling, and will be taken as evidence that the mine-owners obtained the Chinese under the false pretence of necessity. It is generally considered that the future of the Chinese question depends on whether the Home Government will be able to break the recruiting monopoly." This confirms all we have ourselves said upon this recruiting

business. The bosses do not want blacks, and have put every obstacle in the way of getting them ever since the war ended. Thus the scarcity of natives is the result of deliberate design, is used as an excuse to get coolies and to keep out the white man with all his civilised ideas of political and economic liberty. He would be the cheapest miner for the shareholders, but who cares for shareholders?

We are glad to see that Lord Strathcona clears himself fully from any complicity in the North Atlantic Trading Company intrigues, whose somewhat scandalous story has been recently unfolded before a Parliamentary Committee in Ottawa. He says he emphatically disclaims having originated or carried through negotiations with the company for immigration work on the Continent, and rather throws the blame upon the Dominion Department of the Interior, which seemed to favour the scheme, so that he, although disliking it, did not feel justified in assuming towards it an attitude of opposition. This is what we should expect, for Lord Strathcona is much too able as well as too wealthy a man to ever dream of mixing himself up in projects of the kind. Moreover, he is the paid servant and representative here of the Dominion.

A correspondent asks us if we can throw any further light upon the Ceylon pearl fishing concession about which there has lately been too much gossip in the newspapers. We cannot. All the facts, or alleged facts, were printed in last Sunday's issue of *Reynolds's Newspaper*, and many of them have appeared in other journals within the last two or three weeks, but we have not cared to attempt to pronounce any judgment upon the case because we have only had one side of the story. As presented it looks unwholesome from many aspects, and not least from that presented by Sir West Ridgway's active participation in the negotiations, which resulted in the lease at what looks like a very insufficient rent. But we must at least wait until that gentleman returns to this country. He is now on his way home, the labours of the Commission sent to the Transvaal on the franchise question over which he presided being now completed. When he comes back, and with Mr. Alfred Lyttelton again in Parliament, we may expect to have the other side of the story set forth, and until then must reserve comment.

A good deal of the short loan indebtedness incurred by the Mexican Central Railway Company a little while back will fall due within a very brief period, the 6 per cent. notes maturing on January 1, 1907, the 4½ per cent. collateral trust bonds on February 1, 1907, and the 5 per cent. notes on September 1, 1908. The company is, therefore, making arrangements for the redemption of these bonds, and proposes to issue a series of four-year 5 per cent. gold notes of the par value of \$1,000 each, maturing July 1, 1910, to the amount of \$35,000,000. Stocks to the par value of \$54,700,000 will be deposited on security for \$33,000,000 of the new gold notes, and the remaining \$2,000,000 can only be issued against the deposit of additional security. Holders of the above-named obligations are now given the opportunity of exchanging their bonds for the four-year notes on the following basis:—For each \$5,000 6 per cent. note with the coupon maturing January 1, 1907, attached, \$5,000 par value in new notes and \$125 in cash. For each \$1,000 4½ per cent. collateral trust bond with the coupon maturing February 1, 1907, attached, \$1,000 par value in new notes and \$13.33 in cash. For each \$5,000 5 per cent. note with the coupon maturing September 1, 1906, and all subsequent coupons attached, \$5,000 par value in new notes and \$108.33 in cash. The notes given in exchange are to bear the coupon of \$25 maturing January 1, 1907, and all subsequent coupons, so that the operation gives holders sufficient advantages to induce them to convert.

It did look unreasonable that the board of the Birmingham Small Arms Company should seek power to build up a secret reserve for which it would not have to account in any way to the shareholders, and we are glad that Mr. Justice Buckley has granted an injunction to

restrain it from doing any such thing. If balance-sheets can be doctored in one way, they may be in another, and a succession of honest boards cannot be guaranteed to any company. In their own interest directors should avoid such dangerous responsibilities as the board of the Small Arms Company proposed, all too lightly, to assume.

We, too, like the *Pall Mall Gazette*, congratulate the directors of the Peak Hill Goldfield Company on its victory over Mr. George Darlington Simpson. That gentleman, while the company's servant, acquired a lease in Western Australia "vital to the company's interests," and when he ceased to be connected with the company he claimed the property as his own, refusing to surrender it to his employers. The claim was impudent to a degree, though not unprecedented by any means. Mr. Justice Warrington has, therefore, done more by his judgment than bring Mr. Simpson to some just perception of his position, he has helped not a little to put an end to a very reprehensible habit among the company promoting and "bossing" fraternity.

We venture to congratulate the venerable House of Lords on its new members. To none of the six Peers whose creation was made public yesterday morning could the most ardent Free Trader raise an objection, for they have all been loyal patriots in this respect, not least Sir J. J. Jackson. Mr. Shaw-Lefevre has been an energetic worker for the Cobden Club, and every one of the others possesses a legitimate claim upon the party. But we may be forgiven if we rejoice most over the honour bestowed on Mr. Leonard Courtney, the maligned "pro-Boer," the man who can always be counted on to stand up courageously for his convictions, to champion just causes no matter how unpopular they may be with the multitude. He will be invaluable as a supporter of the Government in the Lords.

Hitherto, relying upon the glowing official accounts of the unparalleled success obtained by the English administration of Egypt, we have been rather free in recommending this and the other Egyptian security to correspondents in search of safe investments yielding a moderately good rate of interest. But now we are in doubt. There must, in other words, be something wrong with the English Government of Egypt if it requires to be maintained by a brutal severity such as that exhibited in the trial and punishment of those village rioters who attacked sundry officers out shooting pigeons apparently in defiance of the laws. In the disturbance one native woman was killed and several natives wounded. The officers also had to flee for their lives after giving up their arms, and one of them, Captain Bull, after being wounded, died of syncope, product of the heat and over-exertion. To hang four men for this crime which, at the worst, could not have been premeditated, which was probably in the English law merely manslaughter, and to give the savage punishment of life imprisonment sentences to others, to subject many villagers to the lash also, and all in sight of the villages where the disturbance arose, is surely a mark of weakness not of strength. We must be afraid for ourselves in Egypt, in dread lest our authority should be brought to a sudden end, when events of this kind occur. It will therefore be necessary to revise all our conclusions about the quality of Egyptian securities as investments.

A Reuter's telegram from Buenos Ayres conveys the idea that the defaulting City of Cordoba has fixed up yet another arrangement with its foreign creditors. It appears that an agreement has been signed reducing the outstanding debt to 4,000,000 piastres, which will bear interest for the first six years at 2½ per cent., increasing by steps every six years to 2½, 3½, 3½, and 4 per cent. The sinking fund has been fixed at ½ per cent. No doubt the Argentine Municipal Loans Committee will shortly have a more explicit statement to make, and meanwhile, bondholders need not become too enthusiastic. Whatever happens do not lend the City of Cordoba any more money, because this city is hardly more honest than the City of Rosario, which talked of asking for a less onerous agreement after borrowing money on the strength of a settlement.

The half-yearly report of the Southern Mahratta Railway recently issued and dealt with in these columns contained a reference to the question and possibility of purchase, and the company now intimates that on the 21st inst. formal notice was given by the Secretary of State of his intention to acquire the company's railway under the powers conferred by Clause 65 of the contract dated June 1, 1882, and subsequent contracts. The agreement provides for payment of the company's stock at par, and the date of purchase is June 30, 1907.

There were £1,500,000 4 per cent. bonds issued on behalf of the Northern Railway of the late South African Republic, familiarly known as the Selati Railway, and the pleasant announcement is now made by the Crown Agents of the Colonies that arrears of interest on this loan will be paid from the date of the annexation of the Transvaal, viz., September 1, 1900, and that the bonds will be redeemed at 96 per cent. These steps are taken by the Government without admission by it of any liability. At present, however, the funds available for redemption only amount to £410,000, so redemption will be made gradually by drawings, the first of which will take place on July 16 at 11 a.m. at the office of the said agents.

Critical Index To New Investments.

CAMMELL LAIRD AND CO., LIMITED.

In March, 1905, this great engineering company issued £400,000 4½ per cent. mortgage debenture stock to provide for extensions and improvements of the works, including a new armour-plate mill and a new shell manufacturing department. Still more money is needed for other important developments and additional working capital, and, following the same course as on the last occasion, the directors have sold to Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son £750,000 5 per cent. mortgage debenture stock at the price of 98½. This stock which is secured by a specific charge upon certain freehold, copyhold, and leasehold property, and by a floating charge on all the other assets subject to the £1,000,000 in debentures and debenture stock already issued, was offered by the purchasers at 103½ per cent. It is redeemable at that figure on April 1, 1947, but may be repaid on six months' notice at any time after April 1, 1920. According to the balance-sheet of December 31 last, the assets of the company, after extinguishing goodwill, showed a surplus over liabilities of £2,412,870, and the auditors certify that the profits for the past 10 years after charging depreciation and debentures and other interest, which are set out in detail in the prospectus, have averaged £195,631 per annum. The company's business is undoubtedly a sound one, and as the writing down of unremunerative holdings in foreign undertakings during the past few years has been of a very drastic character, the position is strong enough to warrant this stock being regarded as a good investment.

RUSTON, PROCTOR AND CO., LIMITED.

This fine business of agricultural, mechanical, and general engineers is also in need of further capital to pay off its overdraft at the bank and supply funds to meet the requirements of the increased trade. Accordingly 150,000 5 per cent. cumulative preference shares of £1 each have been created, and were offered at par, existing shareholders being given a preferential right to the allotment of three preference shares for each £10 ordinary share held. Nett profits for the whole of the 17 years of the company's existence, after payment of debenture interest and administration charges and providing for depreciation, are certified to have averaged over 9 per cent. per annum, and for the three years ended March 31, 1906, the results were £38,219, £31,543, and £41,237 respectively. Out of these £13,000, £10,000, and £13,500 were put to equalisation of dividend account, and dividends of 6 per cent. for 1904 and 1905, and of 7½ per cent. for 1906, were paid. Before arriving at these results £11,304,

£12,119, and £11,819 were allowed for depreciation, while goodwill valued at £82,693 has been entirely written off. It is estimated that the present issue will ensure a saving of about £7,000 per annum in bank interest, cost of discounting bills, and discount gained by paying cash instead of giving acceptances for purchases of materials, and this added to the average of the three years would give a nett revenue of £43,999.

GEO. G. BUSSEY AND CO., LIMITED.

This is the well-known business of manufacturers of appliances for sports and games, &c., established more than 50 years ago, and now converted into a limited liability company with a capital of £175,000 in 55,000 5½ per cent. cumulative preference and 120,000 ordinary shares of £1 each. Of these the preference shares were offered for subscription and the vendor took 75,000 ordinary shares, the remaining 44,993 ordinary shares being reserved for future issue. The company takes over the new manufactory adjoining Peckham Rye Station, timber mills at Elmswell, Suffolk, and depots in the City and in Paris, valued at £41,400, plant and machinery, &c., valued at £12,924, and stocks certified to be worth £27,768. For these and for goodwill, trade marks, patents, &c., it pays £110,000, of which £75,000 is in ordinary shares and the balance in cash or preference shares. The auditors state that they have examined the books for the five years ended December 31, 1905, but that they have been unable to ascertain the profits for each year separately as the stocks were taken carefully at the commencement and end of the period, but at certain intervening dates during building operations they were not so carefully taken. They, however, certify that the profits for the whole period before charging any amount for depreciation, income-tax, interest on borrowed money, and partners' drawings were £37,419, or an average of £7,484. No allowance was made in these figures for the cost of material used and labour employed in the construction of the new premises, and the directors put this down with the saving in future manufacturing costs as likely to yield not less than another £1,000 per annum. Even so, the income expected is not more than £8,484, and on this basis the company would appear to be over-capitalised, so it is just as well that only the preference shares were offered for subscription. So far as they are concerned, the margin of security for both principal and dividend seems fairly good.

HANCOCK AND CO. (NEW ZEALAND), LIMITED.

A brewery business in Auckland, New Zealand, founded in 1862 under the style of Hancock and Co., and sold to the Captain Cook Brewery, Limited, in 1895, is now handed over to this company, the reasons given being the desire to consolidate the debenture debts and mortgages, to reduce expenses and to acquire the right to the sale of wines and spirits. The share capital is fixed at £150,000, divided equally into 6 per cent. cumulative preference and ordinary shares of £1 each, and of these 65,888 preference shares and 74,990 ordinary shares are issued as fully paid, with £83,432 in cash, in payment of the purchase price of £224,310, this figure including £12,385 for goodwill. The cash portion is to be used to pay off existing mortgages for £81,600, and in order to provide for this and for the repayment of certain specific mortgages on hotels amounting to £27,843 an issue of £130,000 5½ per cent. debenture stock was offered at par through the National Bank of New Zealand. On March 31, 1905, the freehold and leasehold properties stood in the books at £200,273, and with fixed and loose plant and other items the total assets came to £269,671, against which there were liabilities of £57,746, but the freeholds and leaseholds have recently been valued at £215,864. Profits for the ten years to March 31, 1905, are set out, and show a nett average, after deducting premiums on leases and depreciation, of £18,652, while for 1905-6 the profits

were £24,312. These results are exclusive of any profits to be earned on the sale of wine and spirits, which are estimated at not less than £3,000 per annum under the contract which it is proposed to enter into with J. Lyons and Co., Limited, for the supply of these commodities. Of the debenture stock offered £100,000 was underwritten for a commission of 5 per cent.

THE PENN-WYOMING COPPER COMPANY.

A quite fascinating, *Times* book club sort of document has been issued in connection with this United States enterprise. It is a company incorporated under the laws of the State of Wyoming, one of the youngest in the Union, and has an authorised capital of \$10,000,000, all in \$1 shares. Of this capital \$6,000,000 has been issued and paid up, and the London and South-Western Bank, Limited, as agent, is now receiving subscriptions for half the remainder, viz., 2,000,000 shares of \$1 each offered at par. For the purpose of this circular, we are told, the dollar is taken at 4s. What strikes us most forcibly about the production is its modesty. There does not appear to be any substantial revenue accruing to the company except the proceeds of the sale of about 3,000,000 lbs. of blister copper, which gave the shareholders of the Ferris-Haggarty mine a 6 per cent. dividend, but work there was only begun in the end of May last year, and this Penn-Wyoming "holding" company is in control or ownership of ten companies, the Haggarty Copper Mining Company being only one of the ten. Doubtless such a long list of possessions implies awful potential wealth, and this is where the modesty of the compilers of the circular comes in. They say that the company should be in a position to pay dividends of at least 12 per cent. per annum on the issued capital. That seems to us a very poor sort of dividend when the whole matter is one of estimates, or nearly so. Perhaps 12 per cent. is not enough to tempt American investors, and hence the offer of these one dollar shares at 2d. discount to the London public. Certainly if the statements about the ore reserves at the various mines mentioned are accurate, the venture ought to be prosperous enough to tempt a Rockefeller, since "on a conservative estimate" 8 per cent. of copper is shown by the whole body of reserve ore disclosed in the Ferris-Haggarty mine, and the Doane-Rambler mine is said to be just as good. So the production of these two companies alone "should" in the ensuing year be not less than 10,000,000 lbs. of blister copper, and it is on this basis that the plebeian or back-garden sort of cheap dividend is worked out. Twelve per cent. ! It should have been twelve hundred per cent. We shall follow the history of the company with interest, and note meantime that the National Provincial Bank of England has associated itself with the London and South-Western Bank as a receiver of subscriptions at its branches, while in Scotland this absorbing duty is taken up by the British Linen Company Bank. They, of course, know well what they are doing; but how Rogers, or Heintze, or the great Haggin missed this chance we cannot divine. Shareholders may by and by.

DELAHAYE AND CO., LIMITED.

This French business of motor manufacturers, carried on by Messrs. Léon Desmarais and Morane, has grown to such an extent that it has become necessary to extend and enlarge the workshops. Accordingly the present company has been formed with a capital of £165,000, divided into 105,000 ordinary and 60,000 7 per cent. preferred ordinary shares of £1 each, entitled to a further 3 per cent. in any year when 7 per cent. is paid on the ordinary shares, of which the preferred ordinary are offered for subscription. The assets acquired consist of plant and machinery, materials, stock and work in progress, &c., valued at £52,913, book debts guaranteed at not less than £24,216, and cash, bills receivable, &c., £8,317, or £85,446 in all, subject to £13,366 for trade liabilities. Adding £32,913 for goodwill, the purchase price is brought out at £104,993, and the whole of this is satis-

fied by the issue of the ordinary shares. Nett profits after providing for reserves and depreciation have risen from £8,418 in 1903 to £14,403 in 1905, but the vendors state that with the additional capital now provided the present output will be greatly increased, and they estimate that on the completion of the extension of the works the future profits should exceed £30,000 per annum.

SOUTH AFRICAN MINE RETURNS.

The output of gold from the Transvaal crushing mines for the month of May was trumpeted as another "record," accomplished despite all the groaning about the scarcity of labour and the talk

MINE.	March.			April.			May.		
	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.	Ore Treated.	Total Yield.	Profit.
Angelo	16,088	7,800	10,678	19,044	9,980	15,345	21,741	11,708	..
Barrett .....	..	435	..	..	381	..	..	413	550
Bonanza	6,800	4,218	8,684	6,550	4,256	8,202	7,240	3,977	6,671
Buifelsdoorn Estate ..	..	461	926	..	332	523	..	..	..
City and Suburban ..	25,000	9,478	17,273	24,800	9,339	17,279	25,500	9,565	17,142
Comet, New	17,500	6,354	4,289	18,077	6,596	5,616	19,073	7,297	..
Cons. Langlaagte	17,474	5,811	5,321	17,696	5,609	4,046	17,809	5,616	3,149
Cons. Main Reef	17,715	6,077	7,173	17,141	6,132	7,890	17,703	6,398	7,959
Crown Deep	27,310	11,120	21,200	27,076	11,342	22,250	27,795	11,882	20,350
Crown Reef	20,298	10,987	23,030	20,375	10,728	23,079	20,426	10,976	23,056
Driefontein	19,639	8,711	3,318	17,539	5,993	..	18,852	6,444	..
Durban Roodepoort ..	10,785	4,517	6,250	10,030	4,199	6,650	11,095	4,298	..
Do. Deep	11,040	4,023	2,200	10,080	3,709	1,050	10,790	3,885	1,050
Ferreira	21,400	12,703	29,049	2,950	12,715	29,215	21,000	13,033	29,022
Do Deep	19,744	12,275	30,300	20,426	12,279	30,700	21,124	12,462	30,700
French Rand	18,500	5,807	3,057	17,600	5,820	3,105	19,000	6,191	3,578
Geldenhuis Deep	23,860	9,913	14,850	21,240	9,193	14,700	23,790	9,708	14,200
Geldenhuis Estate ..	17,165	7,271	15,012	16,953	6,996	15,318	17,250	7,185	15,340
Ginsberg	7,759	3,300	2,729	7,709	2,949	3,296	8,250	2,402	991
Glencairn	13,226	4,122	7,564	13,400	6,336	4,505	14,426	3,928	4,503
Glen Deep	13,940	6,090	7,000	15,860	6,136	7,050	18,680	6,801	8,650
Glynn's Lydenberg ..	2,200	1,411	..	2,140	1,360	..	2,350	1,452	..
Goch New	14,492	5,609	4,762	15,805	5,900	4,628	19,010	6,896	5,528
Heriot	9,260	3,813	3,853	9,200	3,756	3,714	9,260	3,816	3,572
Jubilee	5,544	1,806	..	5,563	1,753	..	5,814	1,904	..
Jumpers	11,200	4,447	4,300	10,650	4,398	5,057	11,900	4,720	5,510
Jumpers Deep	15,741	5,870	2,000	15,143	5,331	1,607	17,527	6,141	1,959
Knight's	28,300	9,151	9,505	30,310	9,236	10,971	32,360	9,769	11,103
Knight's Deep	22,375	7,753	8,593	20,902	7,620	9,360	22,309	7,988	9,266
Lancaster	14,660	7,658	1,022	13,600	4,230	2,452	15,450	4,758	2,70
Lancaster West	6,572	2,204	1,646	6,341	2,111	1,686	6,669	2,042	1,467
Langlaagte Deep	19,652	7,098	6,450	19,447	6,694	6,250	23,010	7,782	8,150
Do Estate	29,075	9,000	10,000	27,960	9,250	14,000	29,370	9,500	13,000
May Consolidated	14,210	6,088	12,244	13,820	5,906	12,017	14,170	5,908	12,310
Meyer and Charlton ..	10,740	4,856	8,499	13,505	4,853	9,033	11,111	5,266	10,138
Modderfontein	11,317	4,351	3,358	11,209	4,157	3,033	11,439	4,276	3,310
New Kleinfontein	31,218	10,841	12,022	31,102	11,103	13,329	31,980	11,391	14,073
New Unified	8,888	2,242	..	8,334	2,405	459	8,470	2,436	67
Nigel	7,480	3,028	5,044	7,400	3,678	5,134	8,200	3,624	4,093
Nigel Deep	3,139	1,771	7,011	3,255	2,122	2,436	3,000	1,775	1,026
North Randfontein ..	14,886	6,000	7,100	14,951	6,000	7,200	15,054	5,970	6,700
Nourse Deep	26,440	11,877	6,000	26,730	11,324	14,900	28,070	11,945	15,150
Porges Randfontein ..	13,927	6,000	8,400	13,419	6,000	8,600	14,249	5,901	8,500
Prinsess	16,115	6,865	13,545	16,124	6,478	13,587	15,559	7,378	15,729
Prinsess Estate	6,585	3,111	2,346	6,108	2,954	1,680	6,952	3,072	1,568
Rietfontein New	8,800	4,958	..	8,436	5,033	9,253	9,034	5,393	9,380
Robinson	30,500	19,843	8,083	30,148	19,711	50,474	29,476	19,544	50,496
Robinson Cent. Deep ..	16,705	10,483	30,396	16,155	10,710	39,928	17,916	11,025	31,175
Robinson Deep	30,604	16,121	36,787	28,239	15,251	34,325	29,631	15,623	34,082
Robins'n R'ndfontein ..	13,199	5,500	4,000	14,841	5,750	5,750	15,029	5,827	5,800
Roodepoort Central ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do Deep	7,527	2,883	2,355	6,835	2,697	2,164	7,763	3,113	2,606
Roodepoort United ..	10,030	4,445	4,010	8,756	4,356	4,780	9,690	4,649	4,856
Rose Deep	25,100	8,943	11,050	21,300	8,353	10,300	23,500	8,821	11,150
Salisbury	5,500	1,770	1,640	5,200	1,520	1,390	5,600	1,500	720
Sheba .....	..	3,250	..	..	3,468	..	..	3,713	..
Simmer East	16,463	5,680	1,211	15,532	5,677	2,083	29,479	6,583	9,868
Simmer and Jack	53,200	20,010	29,742	51,900	19,874	30,978	53,250	20,104	35,910
South Randfontein ..	14,689	6,000	5,900	14,022	6,000	7,000	14,792	5,937	6,200
Transvaal Gold	8,899	3,867	..	8,926	3,887	..	6,618	4,073	..
Treasury	8,276	2,489	1,023	7,500	2,242	621	8,900	2,665	765
Van Ryn	22,540	8,725	12,505	21,710	8,520	13,251	22,450	9,163	16,066
Village Deep	20,440	6,931	5,276	21,838	6,806	6,315	24,042	7,104	5,082
Village Main Reef	23,800	9,680	14,527	22,008	13,441	20,012	33,600	14,184	20,274
Vogelstruis Estates ..	..	..	..	5,300	1,895	..	5,800	2,198	..
W. Rand Central	2,525	1,106	1,050	2,475	1,100	..	2,550	1,120	..
Windsor	5,120	1,450	7	5,174	1,474	233	5,050	1,447	10
Wt. Deep	26,940	10,763	16,105	27,270	10,850	16,532	28,810	11,312	17,746
Woluter .....	..	..	18,150	..	5,728	5,306	17,250	5,668	6,499
Worcester .....	..	764	..	..	966	..	..	940	..

* Loss.

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
January	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.	oz.
February	—	70,340	199,279	288,824	369,258	428,638
March	—	81,405	196,513	289,502	363,811	407,668
April	—	104,127	217,465	308,242	399,823	443,723
May	—	119,588	227,871	305,946	399,166	439,243
June	7,488	138,602	234,125	314,480	416,395	461,202
July	19,779	142,780	238,320	308,219	412,317	—
August	25,060	149,179	251,643	307,840	419,505	—
September	28,474	162,750	279,181	312,277	428,581	—
October	31,936	170,802	276,197	312,286	416,487	—
November	33,393	181,439	284,544	325,625	415,527	—
December	39,075	187,375	279,813	336,167	424,757	—
Total	52,897	196,023	286,061	362,264	431,594	—
Total ..	238,992	1,704,410	2,963,749	3,779,621*	4,897,221	2,180,474

* Includes 7,949 ozs. not previously declared.

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
January	293,786	846,489	1,226,846	1,568,508	1,820,739	
February	345,782	834,739	1,229,726	1,545,371	1,731,664	
March	442,303	923,739	1,309,329	1,698,340	1,884,815	
April	507,980	967,936	1,299,576	1,695,550	1,865,785	
May	31,271	588,746	994,505	1,335,826	1,768,734	1,959,062
June	84,014	606,493	1,012,322	1,309,231	1,751,412	
July	110,269	663,674	1,068,917	1,307,621	1,781,944	
August	120,953	691,322	1,155,039	1,326,468	1,820,496	
September	135,654	725,522	1,173,211	1,326,506	1,769,124	
October	141,848	770,706	1,208,669	1,383,167	1,765,047	
November	165,986	795,922	1,188,571	1,427,947	1,804,253	
December	224,692	832,652	1,215,110	1,538,800	1,833,295	
Total	1,014,687	7,259,888	12,589,247	16,054,809*	20,802,074	9,262,065

* Includes £33,766 not declared previously.

of suspending work. As advised by the Chamber of Mines, the total was 461,202 ozs. of a value of £1,059,062, to which the Rand itself contributed 441,936, the balance coming from the outside mines. Compared with April the increases were 21,959 ozs. in weight and £93,277 in value, whilst the previous highest return was exceeded by 17,479 ozs. The daily average was 14,877 ozs. compared with 14,641 ozs., or 236 ozs. in favour of May, though there was a nett loss of 233 natives at 78,682. Three or four mines exhibited smaller returns, the reduced profit of the Crown Deep being attributed to a falling off in the grade of the ore and to increased working costs. In contrast with this the higher profits of the Langlaagte Deep and the Glen Deep are stated to be due to lower costs, the effect of using tube mills.

WEST AUSTRALIAN CRUSHINGS.

The gold exported and received at the Perth branch of the Royal Mint during the month of May amounted to 157,022 fine ozs. of a value of £666,983 against £157,685 ozs. worth £669,804 for the corresponding month of 1905.

Name of Company.	March.		April.		May.	
	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.	Battery.	Total yield.
Associated G. M. of W. A. ..	8,912	£20,933	8,668	£20,237	9,041	£20,000
Associated Northern Blocks	3,370	£15,303	3,274	£15,077	3,365	£15,457
Bellevue Proprietary ..	3,810	1,941	3,664	1,851	3,750	1,828
Burbank's Birthday ..						
Cosmopolitan Proprietary ..	8,590	£9,230	8,518	£8,783	8,815	8,781
Golden Horseshoe ..	20,335	£3,319*	19,272	£2,910*	20,590	£3,215
Golden Pole ..	1,120	1,201	1,190	1,193	1,400	1,343
Great Boulder Perseverance.	12,990	5,541	12,603	5,672*	13,115	6,063*
Great Boulder Proprietary ..	12,619	12,546	12,530	12,438	12,899	12,502
Great Fingall ..	20,160	10,609*	19,806	10,623*	20,778	10,618*
Hainault ..	4,697	1,681	4,667	1,771*	4,817	1,661*
Hansen's Reward ..	567	221	1,430	355	1,770	501
Ida H. ..	1,500	1,093	1,500	1,052*	1,530	1,000
Ivanhoe ..	17,640	10,474*	16,960	10,055*	17,200	10,548
Kalgooli ..	9,764	7,109*	10,039	7,399*	10,793	7,937
Lake View Consols ..	10,905	3,695*	10,820	3,614*	11,006	3,611*
Menzies Consolidated ..	1,470	£3,310	1,421	£3,353	1,496	£3,094
Merton's Reward ..						
North Kalgooli ..			441	272		
North White-Feather ..	1,860	860*	1,600	8,091	1,780	921*
Oroya, Brownhill ..	10,460	12,572*	10,735	12,569*	10,610	12,953*
Peak Hill Goldfield ..						
Red Hill ..	1,617	720	1,820	707	1,831	709
Sons of Gwalia ..	10,872	5,572	10,898	5,204*	10,746	4,378*
South Kalgooli ..	7,710	3,222*	8,012	3,330	8,318	3,346
Vivian ..	1,500	514	1,606	484*	2,680	611
Westralia and East Extension	3,218	1,571	2,731	1,341	3,350	£3,100
Westralia Mount Morgans ..						

* Fine Gold.

Answers to Correspondents.

G. R.—(1) It is difficult to advise you what to do. Prospects seem so speculative that your chance of getting 10s. for your shares looks remote. Perhaps you had better try to get what you can for the shares and end all worry. It was a great pity you took them up. (2) You might hold to these a little longer in the hope of getting a higher price for them.

P. V. D.—There is nothing the matter except fears of legislation—probably in great part groundless—and the general depression. The business is one of the best and most honestly conducted of its kind in existence.

MINERO (Taltal).—It is really impossible to form any opinion as to the prospects of this company, for it has done very little so far, and very few particulars are officially published. A smelter has yet to be erected, and matters appear to be proceeding rather lackadaisically.

I. R. Tolmie.—We cannot answer six separate questions for a shilling, but may say that we do not think much of your list as a whole.

H. D. R.—The company's position is dealt with in the present issue. We cannot advise you to buy the shares even at the price you mention.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following are the receipts into and issues out of the Exchequer between April 1, 1906, and June 23, 1906:—

REVENUE AND OTHER RECEIPTS.			
		Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1906, to June 23, 1906.	Total Receipts into the Exchequer from April 1, 1905, to June 24, 1905.
Balances, April 1:—	£	£	£
Bank of England	—	9,334,212	6,352,909
Bank of Ireland	—	1,117,275	1,077,369
		10,451,487	7,430,278
REVENUE.			
Customs	32,230,000	7,851,000	7,262,000
Excise	30,200,000	6,505,000	6,542,000
Estate, &c., Duties	13,200,000	3,549,000	3,437,000
Stamps	8,150,000	1,693,000	1,786,000
Land Tax and House Duty ..	2,650,000	330,000	380,000
Property and Income Tax ..	31,500,000	3,803,000	3,873,000
Post Office	17,305,000	3,060,000	2,930,000
Telegraph Service	4,350,000	970,000	920,000
Crown Lands	480,000	110,000	110,000
Receipts from Suez Canal ..	—	—	—
Shares and Sundry Loans ..	1,100,000	5,000	5,000
Miscellaneous	1,500,000	538,500	387,279
* Revenue	142,755,000	28,414,500	27,632,279
Total, including balance		38,865,987	35,062,557
OTHER RECEIPTS.			
Repayment of Advances for Bullion	200,000	200,000	200,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904 ..	—	—	100,000
Under Uganda Railway Acts, 1896 to 1902 ..	—	—	191,592
Under Naval Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..	500,000	—	—
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..	—	—	410,408
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..	—	—	13,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..	—	—	35,000
By Issue of Exchequer Bonds under the Finance Act, 1905 ..	—	—	5,945,000
Total		39,565,987	41,957,557
* Revenue as above	142,755,000	28,414,500	27,632,279
Payments in relief of Local Taxation:—			
Customs	165,000	43,126	38,872
Excise	5,321,000	649,689	679,952
Estate, &c., Duties	4,349,000	1,022,493	1,134,839
Total	9,835,000	1,715,308	1,853,663
Total Revenue, including Payments in relief of Local Taxation	152,590,000	30,129,808	29,485,942
EXPENDITURE AND OTHER ISSUES.			
		Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1906, to June 23, 1906.	Total Issues out of the Exchequer to meet payments from April 1, 1905, to June 24, 1905.
EXPENDITURE.	£	£	£
National Debt Services	28,500,000	6,252,634	6,314,303
Other Consolidated Fund	1,685,000	310,245	321,657
Payments to Local Taxation ..	1,160,000	222,492	222,175
Accounts	111,076,000	19,710,410	21,077,321
Supply Services			
Expenditure	142,421,000	26,495,781	27,935,456
OTHER ISSUES.			
For Advances for Bullion		550,000	220,000
For Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904 ..		45,000	45,000
For Treasury Bills (nett amount) ..		2,000,000	2,000,000
Under Telegraph Acts, 1892 to 1904 ..		300,000	150,000
Under Naval Works Acts, 1895 to 1905 ..		972,000	940,000
Under Military Works Acts, 1897 to 1901 ..		—	400,000
Under Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900 ..		—	13,000
Under Public Buildings Expenses Act, 1903 ..		25,000	35,000
Under Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903 ..		10,000	—
Under Cunard Agreement (Money) Act, 1904 ..		219,969	—
Surplus Revenue 1905-1906 applied to reduce Debt ..		1,000,000	—
		31,617,750	31,738,456
Balances in Exchequer:—	1906. June 23. 1905. June 24.		
Bank of England	7,081,815	9,412,238	
Bank of Ireland	866,422	806,863	
		7,948,257	10,219,101
Total		39,565,987	41,957,557
Treasury, June 26, 1906.			

BROKEN HILL JUNCTION MINING COMPANY.—In the half-year ending March 31 this company suffered from the outbreak of a fire in the mine on February 15, and the fire was still burning at the end of March. It was resolved to flood the mine, and to resume the treatment of tailings on the surface. Over 800 feet of diamond drilling was done in the hope of finding fresh ore bodies, but though ore was struck in several places, the results on the whole were disappointing. During the half-year a call of 6d. per share was made. The directors have sold the old Junction Consolidated leases.

TRADE AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Business was a little more active towards the end of the week, and under the influence of American cables prices went appreciably in favour of the seller. English wheat is still very scarce, and prices for red range from 30s. to 34s. and for white from 31s. to 34s. 6d. The average obtained for farmers' deliveries last week of 19,235 qrs. was 30s. 5d. against 11,575 qrs. averaging 31s. 7d. a year ago. Imports amounted to 654,220 qrs. and the estimate given by Dornbusch of quantities of wheat and flour on passage is 300,000 qrs. less than last week at 3,410,000 qrs.; American markets were weak at the beginning and afterwards rallied, caused by Bradstreet's figures, giving the quantities in sight east of the Rockies at 35,124,000 bushels against 36,670,000 bushels last week, a fair export trade and increased speculative buying. Later they were disturbed by rather wide fluctuations, due chiefly to conflicting crop news.

WOOL.—Demand has slackened off a little, and quotations during the last few days have been easier. Merinos and cross-bred tops are now about $\frac{1}{2}$ d. cheaper, and as in some quarters it is thought likely that the London sales will bring a still further decline, operators are keeping out of the market as much as possible. Home-grown wools are selling more freely at rates rather lower than farmers expected, but that does not necessarily imply that market rates for them are weakening. Users, however, have covered all immediate requirements, and can afford to wait a little to see how values trend. Manufacturers are busy, chiefly on medium and cheap woollen goods for foreign markets.

LINEN.—The business of the past week has again been uneventful, merely a repetition of other weeks with, if anything, a quieter tone, a state of affairs which commends itself to spinners and manufacturers alike, as it enables them to work existing contracts. Foreign yarns are said to have touched their highest point, and are little sought for here on that account, though spinners are not troubling themselves much about prices at all, which keep firm and are not likely to weaken. Prices for manufactured goods are still considered too low compared with the value of raw material. The markets for bleached and finished goods is rather slack, and will be likely to remain so till after stocktaking is over, but foreign markets mostly keep up a good demand.

COTTON (from our Manchester correspondent).—The general tone of our market throughout the past week has continued quiet. Few transactions of importance have been arranged, and the demand which sellers have met with has been disappointing. The business offering at the moment seems to tend towards being further reduced, and some sellers of cloth during the past week who are usually not idle, report a very slow time. The raw material in Liverpool has not shown much alteration, but values have been well maintained. In cotton piece goods for export India shippers have only bought sorting up lots to meet immediate requirements. Certain fine goods, such as mull dhooties, continue neglected, and producers are steadily running down in engagements. China buyers have not done much, staple cloths being decidedly quiet, and fancy goods only being dealt in to a small extent. The minor markets of the Continent continue healthy, but there is considerable difficulty in arranging transactions, both price and delivery being against buyers. Some demand has shown itself for printing cloths for South American markets, but the question of delivery is not easily settled. Sateens as made in Nelson and coloured woven goods have moved slowly. Printing cloths of both Burnley and Cheshire makes have continued fairly steady with a fair demand. T-cloths and Mexicans have been firm at late rates, offers reported being on the whole too low to be entertained by makers. In home trade goods only occasional orders are mentioned. The demand at the moment seems to have fallen off, but prices are well maintained. The outlook for the autumn trade is considered encouraging. Home trade American yarns have continued strong, especially in the superior qualities. The demand continues to run on small lots for quick delivery. Very little forward business is reported. Cop twist, comparatively speaking, is stronger than weft, but the finer numbers of weft are not at all plentiful. Coarse weft lags behind in demand, and the margin of profit is not satisfactory. In export descriptions China offers have come through, but producers have not been able to undertake the required delivery. Cops for the Continent have been in fair request. Egyptian yarns are rather irregular in quotation when tested, especially the commoner qualities. Order lists tend to run down, users not being prepared to purchase freely.

In New York the cotton market opened with a weak tendency 3 to 7 points lower on the daily weather report presaging beneficial rains; also on bearish crop advices. Subsequently prices rallied on covering by the short interest, but the recovery was short-lived, for all months fell away on a favourable looking weather forecast. The market has, however, become a little steadier at the close.

COAL.—The heavy demand for shipments of steams still continues in Wales and South Yorkshire, Humber ports last week exporting 12,000 tons in excess of the corresponding week of last year. All the principal Welsh ports are busy, Newport despatching 90,000 tons and Swansea nearly 60,000 tons, and in this last district also an improvement is noticed in anthracite coals. Best malting is quoted at 17s. 6d. to 18s.; seconds, 16s. to 17s. Steam prices remain without change from last week. In the North of England the usual slack season is being bridged over by unusual activity in gas coals, and satisfactory orders

are coming from the Continent. Lancashire alone, depending as it does chiefly on house coals, has a dull trade.

COPPER.—The market has become exceedingly quiet, and consumers seem to be rather alarmed at the serious collapse in speculative positions. Evidently the bull movement had been a good deal overdone, and it is said that production is even outstripping the growing consumption. Visible stocks, however, are still small, and the market is easily manipulated. Renewed weakness set in at the opening this week, liquidations by nervous holders and bear sales sending prices appreciably lower. The break in the New York stock market was also a depressing influence, but after going down further values picked up on the sharp recovery in copper shares, prices being £81 2s. 6d. cash and £81 7s. 6d. for future delivery.

TIN.—The tin-plate trade is very inactive just now, and the demand for this metal is anything but brisk. There is a fair inquiry for the Continent, but English consumers are only just providing for current needs. Prices opened weak, owing to lack of support, and soon broke sharply on fair offerings, especially for forward metal. A slight rally was followed by renewed flatness, bear operations being encouraged by the unprotected condition of the market, but the tendency was better again before the close on short covering and good speculative support, prices being £177 10s. for cash and £176 5s. for three months forward.

IRON AND STEEL.—Conditions in the iron and steel trades are about the same as they were a week ago. Business is fairly brisk in some branches, and rather quiet in others. In the north, at Middlesbrough especially, demand is slackish and prices are easier, consumers showing no disposition to buy for forward delivery. Business in manufactured iron and steel in the same quarter shows a falling off. Exports of pig-iron from the Tees to date total over 100,000 tons, a quantity much in excess of last year's, whilst the exports of manufactured iron and steel are likewise satisfactory. In the Midlands the trade done in finished iron is good, a fair proportion of the orders being for early execution. Home demand in many departments is said to be above the recent average, and foreign buying shows little or no falling off. Best pig-iron is firm with a steady demand. Though business in pig-iron warrants in Scotland has been sluggish, the condition of the market generally remains firm, sellers being scarce on reports of further inquiries from Germany for Cleveland iron.

SUGAR.—Business has been anything but active during the past week. The trade, says Mr. Czarnikow, are digesting large purchases made in the preceding week, but they are not overstocked, and any slight movement in the speculative market brings in some orders from consumers, necessitating purchases by refiners, which again are covered in paper. June statistics should compare well with the figures of a year ago. Western Java exports will be comparatively very small, probably 15,000 tons against 85,000 tons, but America will want Javass only for later shipment, and even if the crop were 100,000 tons short there should be sufficient to fill that demand. The expectation that the American consumption would necessitate further purchases has been realised in some measure, and prices in New York have further hardened. Landings in the three ports for the week were 34,000 tons and meltings 46,000 tons, reducing stocks to 342,000 tons.

TEA.—The outlook, says Messrs. W. J. and H. Thompson's circular, for teas of the commonest descriptions is not a hopeful one. Public taste seems to be educating itself up to a higher standard, and buyers consequently are showing more and more disinclination to speculation in varieties the demands for which are decreasing. This was especially noticeable in Indian teas, but demand continued good for all useful parcels, and of the 21,065 packages offered 2,225 packages of new season's crop sold at an average of 8.36d., and 10,629 packages of last season's at an average of 6.04d.; some of the new tea selling at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. Ceylon auctions amounted to 32,980 packages, and when quality showed improvement prices showed a proportionate advance, as in best broken Pekoes, which sometimes improved $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1d. per lb. The average for the week was 7.10d. against 6.39d. in 1905. Java market brought forward 2,606 packages of which the medium and better grades obtained a good demand.

Letters to the Editors.

NEWSPAPER SERVICES, LONDON (KING'S CROSS) TO THE NORTH.

Dear Sir,—The new Special Newspaper Express, leaving King's Cross at 3.15 a.m. for Leeds, York, and the North of England generally, having proved a success, the weight of traffic to be conveyed by the 5.15 and 5.20 a.m. trains from King's Cross has been so reduced that it has been decided, commencing July 2, to amalgamate the two latter trains, and run a train which will leave King's Cross at 5.0 a.m. and serve the same stations as are now covered by the 5.15 and 5.20 a.m. trains.

The 3.15 a.m. train will be further accelerated so as to reach Doncaster in time to connect with the 6.10 a.m. train to Gainsboro', Lincoln, &c., giving an arrival at Gainsboro' and Lincoln respectively at 6.50 and 7.20 a.m., against the present arrivals of 10.12 and 8.17 a.m. respectively.

Yours faithfully,

E. H. HILEY,
Chief Passenger Agent.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RETURNS.

FOREIGN.

Alberta Railway and Irrigation.—Earnings for week ended June 21, \$2,781, decrease \$71.

Argentine North Eastern.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 25, \$23,614, increase \$9,427; aggregate from January 1, \$385,734, increase \$5,284.

Assam Bengal.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 26, Rs. 67,127, increase Rs. 14,086; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 14,62,756, increase Rs. 2,23,174.

Canadian Northern Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended June 21, \$144,700, increase \$54,800; total from July 1, \$5,368,900, increase \$1,628,900.

Lucknow Bareilly Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 26, Rs. 42,292, increase Rs. 5,677.

Mersina Tarsus and Adana Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended April 15, £383, increase £44.

Quebec Central Railway.—Traffic receipts for the 3rd week of June, \$20,742, increase \$2,282; aggregate from January 1, \$393,737, increase \$59,010.

Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.—Traffic receipts for week ended May 26, Rs. 23,800, increase Rs. 9,773.

White Pass and Yukon Railway.—Traffic receipts for the week ended June 7 amounted to \$65,190.

ENGLISH.

Cleator and Workington Junction.—Receipts for week ending June 23, £1,205, decrease £110; aggregate from January 1, £30,699, decrease £183.

Cockermouth and Keswick Railway.—Receipts for week ending June 23, £892, decrease £46; aggregate from January 1, £19,184, increase £898.

East London Railway.—Traffic receipts for March, £4,206, decrease £188.

East and West Yorkshire Union Railways.—Traffic receipts for the week ending June 23, £288, decrease £17; aggregate from January 1, £10,416, increase £860.

TRAMWAY AND OMNIBUS RECEIPTS.

HOME.

Birmingham and Midland.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 22, £1,403, increase £144; aggregate from January 1, £35,147, increase £4,374.

Blessington and Poulaphuca.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, £16, decrease £3; aggregate from January 1, £285, decrease £22.

Bristol Tramways and Carriage.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 22, £5,038, decrease £223; aggregate from January 1, £124,180, increase £4,874.

British Electric Traction.—Receipts of all the Associated Companies for the week ending June 22, £29,924, increase £2,576; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £719,269, increase £101,711; 43½ miles, against 42½.

Burnley Corporation.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 23, £1,173, increase £94; aggregate from January 1, £28,667, increase £2,299.

Dublin and Blessington.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, £143; aggregate from January 1, £2,919, decrease £70.

Dublin and Lucan.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 22, £135, decrease £4; aggregate from January 1, £2,658, decrease £153.

Dublin United.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 22, £5,479, decrease £57; aggregate from January 1, £119,643, increase £922.

Edinburgh and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 23, £5,292, decrease £82; aggregate from January 1, 1906, £119,652, increase £3,025.

Harrow Road and Paddington.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 22, £141, decrease £146.

Hastings and District.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 21, £765.

Isle of Thanet.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 23, £849, increase £50; aggregate from October 1, £12,913, decrease £835.

London County Council.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 16, £25,982, increase £8,755; aggregate from April 1, £292,210, increase £132,741. Miles 95½ against 51½.

London General Omnibus.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 23, £26,506, decrease £727; aggregate from January 1, £554,677, decrease £28,465.

London Motor Omnibus (Vanguard).—Traffic receipts for week ending June 16, £3,595, increase £2,804.

London Road Car.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 23, £9,599, increase £325; aggregate from January 1, £198,397, increase £3,259.

Rossendale Valley.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 23, £216, decrease £21.

Yorkshire (West Riding) Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, £850, decrease £10; aggregate from January 1, £20,091, increase £3,519.

FOREIGN.

Anglo-Argentine.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 24, £13,756, increase £1,363; aggregate from January 1, £373,025, increase £39,868.

Barcelona.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £2,114, decrease £85; aggregate from January 1, £83,687, increase £9,669.

Barcelona, Ensanche y Gracia.—Traffic receipts for week ending September 23, £293, increase £11; aggregate from January 1, £11,458, increase £1,441.

Brazilian Street.—Traffic receipts for the month of January, Rs. 43,391, increase Rs. 303. Total receipts from August 1, 1903, Rs. 2,47,609, increase Rs. 3,737.

Brisbane.—Traffic receipts for month of May, 1906, £11,691, increase £776.

British Columbia Electric.—Nett earnings for May, \$33,489, increase \$5,297. Nett earnings from July 1 to May 31, \$453,631, increase \$120,539.

Buenos Ayres and Belgrano.—Traffic receipts for the week ending June 11, £3,745, increase £430; aggregate from January 1, £82,498, increase £5,604.

Buenos Ayres Electric.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 2, £1,257, increase £165; aggregate from January 1, £30,835, increase £6,182.

Buenos Ayres Grand National.—Traffic receipts for month of May, £308,800.

Calcutta.—Traffic receipts for week ending June 23, Rs. 42,342, increase Rs. 1,316; aggregate from January 1, Rs. 10,95,164, increase Rs. 1,01,664.

Cape Electric Tramway.—Total receipts for July: Cape Town, £12,590; Port Elizabeth, £3,478.

Carthage and Herrerias.—Traffic receipts for the month of May, £3,684, increase £870. Total from January 1, £22,843, increase £8,690.

Lombardy Road.—Traffic receipts for the month of July, £1,356, increase £16; aggregate from January 1, £8,795, increase £144.

Twin City Rapid.—Traffic receipts for the month of April, \$415,413, increase \$60,200; aggregate from January 1, \$1,621,914, increase \$232,398. Nett traffic receipts, \$218,256, increase \$33,852; aggregate from January 1, \$832,339, increase \$131,992.

ENGLISH RAILWAYS.

NAME.	Date.	Gross Traffic for week.			Gross Traffic for year to date.		
		Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	No. of Weeks.	Amt.	In. or dec. on 1905.	
Baker St. and Waterloo ..	June 23	£ 1,358	— 131	15	£ 21,694	—	
Brecon and Merthyr ..	" 24	2,036	+ 205	25	50,456	+ 2,302	
Cambrian ..	" 24	5,900	— 355	25	135,555	— 1,470	
Central London ..	" 23	5,959	— 442	25	167,335	— 6,035	
City and South London ..	" 24	2,395	+ 96	25	69,795	+ 180	
Furness ..	" 24	10,674	+ 1,012	25	252,919	+ 31,023	
Gt. Central (late M., S., & L.) ..	" 24	73,984	+ 4,512	25	1,767,062	+ 87,460	
Great Eastern ..	" 24	100,900	+ 3,400	25	2,408,300	+ 25,400	
Great Northern and City ..	" 23	1,697	+ 180	25	44,725	+ 2,529	
Great Northern ..	" 23	107,600	+ 2,045	25	2,681,900	+ 73,182	
Great Western ..	" 24	250,300	+ 9,700	25	5,644,200	+ 88,200	
Hull and Barnsley ..	" 24	9,650	+ 1,675	25	248,258	+ 32,203	
Lancashire and Yorkshire ..	" 24	113,978	+ 2,278	25	2,676,914	+ 101,183	
Lon. Brighton & S. Coast ..	" 23	61,036	— 1,927	25	1,437,624	— 1,108	
London & North Western ..	" 24	287,000	+ 14,000	25	6,795,000	+ 242,000	
London & South Western ..	" 24	112,100	+ 2,200	25	2,186,300	+ 19,500	
Lon., Tilbury & Southend ..	" 24	10,385	— 167	25	218,718	+ 10,428	
Metropolitan ..	" 24	15,780	— 2,477	25	407,418	— 28,981	
Metropolitan District ..	" 24	8,038	+ 348	25	200,859	+ 14,228	
Midland ..	" 23	220,464	+ 5,704	25	5,472,141	+ 153,170	
North Eastern ..	" 23	194,450	+ 35,798	25	4,432,585	+ 244,981	
North London ..	" 24	8,383	— 191	25	221,305	— 4,933	
North Staffordshire ..	" 24	17,392	+ 2,181	25	445,035	+ 16,402	
Rhymney ..	" 24	6,211	+ 150	25	150,894	+ 4,310	
South Eastern & London, Chatham & Dover ..	" 23	94,637	+ 3,333	25	2,096,156	+ 19,963	
Taff Vale ..	" 24	19,378	+ 344	25	476,628	+ 16,595	

SCOTCH RAILWAYS.

Caledonian ..	June 24	85,037	+ 2,514	21	1,772,956	+ 30,823
Glasgow & South-Western ..	" 23	37,830	+ 661	21	703,938	+ 21,911
Great North of Scotland ..	" 23	9,430	— 160	21	185,225	+ 496
Highland ..	" 24	10,504	+ 150	21	185,179	+ 740
North British ..	" 24	92,514	+ 1,714	21	1,884,541	+ 42,027

IRISH RAILWAYS.

Belfast and County Down ..	June 22	3,154	— 114	§	63,295	— 3,237
Cork, Bandon, & S. Coast ..	" 22	2,124	+ 112	§	40,636	+ 790
Great Northern ..	" 22	20,634	+ 358	25	438,118	+ 5,142
Midland Great Western ..	" 22	14,085	+ 822	§	261,684	— 6,241

§ From January 1.

Prices of Mine and Mining Finance Companies Shares.

Shares £1 each, except where otherwise stated.

NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.	NAME.	Closing Price last week.	Closing Price this week.
SOUTH AFRICAN.					
Angelo	3 1/2	3 1/2	May Consolidated	2 1/2	2 1/2
Anglo-French Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Meyer and Charlton	4 1/2	4 1/2
Apex	3 1/2	3 1/2	Modderfontein	5 1/2	5 1/2
Aurora West	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. B.	1 1/2	1 1/2
Bantjes	1 1/2	1 1/2	New Goch	1 1/2	1 1/2
Block B.	1 1/2	1 1/2	New Primrose	2 1/2	2 1/2
City and Suburban, £4 ..	4 1/2	4 1/2	Nigel	2 1/2	2 1/2
Comet (New)	1 1/2	1 1/2	North Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
Cons. Goldfields	3 1/2	3 1/2	Oceana Consolidated	15/9	15/9
Do. Pref.	22/6	22/6	Porges-Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
Crown Reef	10 1/2	10 1/2	Rand Mines (New)	6 1/2	6 1/2
Driefontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
Durban Roodepoort	3 1/2	3 1/2	Robinson Gold, £4	8 1/2	8 1/2
East Rand	4 1/2	4 1/2	Do. Randfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2
East Rand Extension	1 1/2	1 1/2	Roodepoort United	1 1/2	1 1/2
Ferreira	10 1/2	10 1/2	Salsbury	1 1/2	1 1/2
French Rand	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sheba (New)	6/6	6/6
Geduld	2 1/2	2 1/2	Simmer and Jack, £1 ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
Goldenhuis Estate	3 1/2	3 1/2	S.A. Gold Trust	2 1/2	2 1/2
Ginsburg	1 1/2	1 1/2	Steyn Estate	1 1/2	1 1/2
Glencairn	1 1/2	1 1/2	Transvaal Development ..	10/6	10/6
Harmony Proprietary	5/5	5/6	Transvaal Gold Estates ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
Henderson's Transvaal ..	7/9	7/9	Treasury	1 1/2	1 1/2
Heriot	3 1/2	3 1/2	Van Ryn	3 1/2	3 1/2
Johannesburg Con. In. ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	Vereeniging Estate	3 1/2	3 1/2
Jubilee	2 1/2	2 1/2	Vogelstruis	3 1/2	3 1/2
Lumpers	1 1/2	1 1/2	Welgedacht	3 1/2	3 1/2
Kleinfontein	1 1/2	1 1/2	West Rand Consols	3 1/2	3 1/2
Knight's	2 1/2	2 1/2	Woluhuter, £4	3 1/2	3 1/2
Lancaster	1 1/2	1 1/2	Worcester	3 1/2	3 1/2
Langlaagte Estate	2 1/2	2 1/2			
DEEP LEVELS.					
Angelo Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Mines Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2
Bonanza	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rand Victoria	1 1/2	1 1/2
Cinderella Deep	2 1/2	2 1/2	Robinson Deep (new) ..	4 1/2	4 1/2
Crown Deep	11 1/2	11 1/2	Roodepoort Cn. Deep ..	5 1/2	5 1/2
Durban Roodepoort	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rose Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	South Rose Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
Goldenhuis Deep	6 1/2	6 1/2	Village Main Reef	3 1/2	3 1/2
Knight's Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2	Witwatersrand Deep	3 1/2	3 1/2
Nigel Deep	1 1/2	1 1/2			
RHODESIANS.					
Bechuanaand Ex.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Northern Copper	1 1/2	1 1/2
Chartered B. S. A.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Rhodesia Exploration ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
Charter Trust and Agency	10/6	9/9	Rice Hamilton	1 1/2	1 1/2
Globe and Phoenix	1 1/2	1 1/2	Selukwe	3/6	2/6
Lomagunda Develop-ment	1 1/2	1 1/2	Tanganyika	3 1/2	3 1/2
Mashonaland Agency	1 1/2	1 1/2	Willoughby	11/10	10/10
Mayo (Rhodesia)	1 1/2	1 1/2	Zambesia Exploring	1 1/2	1 1/2
DIAMONDS.					
De Beers Deferred	17 1/2	17 1/2	Koffyfontein	7 1/2	7 1/2
Do. Preferred	17 1/2	17 1/2	Lace Diamond	2 1/2	1 1/2
Eland's Drift Diamond ..	2/6	2/6	Orange Free State	1 1/2	1 1/2
Frank Smith Diamond ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	Diamond	1 1/2	1 1/2
Jagersfontein Deferred ..	8 1/2	8 1/2	Premier Diamond Def. ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do. Preferred	4 1/2	4 1/2	Do. do. Pref.	8 1/2	8 1/2
Kamlersdam	1 1/2	1 1/2			
WEST AFRICAN.					
Abbottiakoon	16/3	7/6	Gold Coast Agency, new ..	3 1/2	7/6
Abosso	1 1/2	1 1/2	Do. Amalgamated	2 1/2	2 1/2
Ankobra	1 1/2	1 1/2	Gold Coast (Wassau) ..	5/1	5/1
Ashanti Consols, 2/- paid ..	3/6d	3/6d	Deep	5/6	5/6
Do. Goldfields	11/10	10/6	Himan Concessions	11/10	10/6
Sansu	7/6	6/6	Obbuss Syndicate	1 1/2	1 1/2
Bibiani, fully paid	1 1/2	1 1/2	Prestea	5/1	5/1
British Gold Coast	1 1/2	1 1/2	Sekondi and Tarkwa	1 1/2	1 1/2
Broomassie	22/6	20/6	Taquaah and Abosso	2 1/2	2 1/2
Effuanta (Wassau)	4/6	4/6	Wassau	1 1/2	1 1/2
Fanti Consolidated	11/6	11/6	W. A. Gold Trust	1 1/2	1 1/2
AUSTRALIAN.					
Anglo-Aus. Exploration ..	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ida H.	6/9	1 1/2
Associated	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ivanhoe Gold Corp. ..	6 1/2	7 1/2
Do. Nrn. Blocks	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ivanhoe South	6 1/2	7 1/2
Bellevue Proprietary	1/9	1/9	Kalgurli	9 1/2	9 1/2
Boulder Deep Levels	1/9	1/9	Lake View Cons.	1 1/2	1 1/2
Brownhill Extended	12/6	11/6	Lancefield	1 1/2	1 1/2
Chaffers 4/-	1/6	1/6	London & W.A. Explor-ation	9/6	10/1
Cosmopol'n Pr' p'ty	5/9	5/6	Mount Boppy	3 1/2	3 1/2
Golden Horseshoe, New Shares	6	5 1/2	North Kalgurli	1/3	1/3
Golden Links	3/1	3/1	Oroya-Brownhill	3 1/2	2 1/2
Golden Pole	8/6	7/6	Peak Hill	1 1/2	1 1/2
Great Boulder, 2/-	25/1	25/1	South Kalgurli	1 1/2	1 1/2
Do. Perseverance	10/1	9/9	Sons of Gwalla	1 1/2	1 1/2
Great Fingall	4 1/2	4 1/2	W'strlia Mt Morgans ..	3/3	3/6
Hainault	1 1/2	1 1/2			
Hampton Plains	1/3	1/3			
Hannan's Star	1/3	1/3			
MISCELLANEOUS.					
Anaconda, 25 dols.	13 1/2	12 1/2	Libiola, £5	1 1/2	1 1/2
Balahat, fully paid	30/1	30/1	Linarex £3	4 1/2	4 1/2
Brilliant and St. George ..	7/6	7/1	Mason & Barry, £1	3 1/2	3 1/2
Broken Hill, Prop.	3 1/2	3 1/2	Mount Lyell	44 1/2	40 1/2
Camp Bird	25/6	24/6	M't. Morgan	3 1/2	3 1/2
Cape Copper, £2	6 1/2	6 1/2	Mysore, toa.	6 1/2	6 1/2
Champion Reef, 2/6	19/3	19/1	Mysore Goldfields, 15/6 ..	1 1/2	1 1/2
Clitters United	22/6	22/6	Do. West, 10/-	6/6	6/6
Con. Gold N.Z.	11/6	11/6	Do. Wynaad, 19/-	7/1	6/6
Copiapo, £2	1 1/2	1 1/2	Namaqua, £2	26/6	26/6
Cornish C'n'ols	1 1/2	1 1/2	N'ndydroog, 10/- shares ..	26/6	26/6
Coromandel 19/6 pd.	1 1/2	1 1/2	Ooegum	15/1	15/1
Dolcoath	23/1	23/1	Do Pref.	1 1/2	1 1/2
Esperanza	3 1/2	3 1/2	Rio Tinto, £5	6 1/2	6 1/2
Exploration	1 1/2	1 1/2	St. John del Rey	9/1	9/1
Frontino and Bolivia	10/6	10/6	Tharsis	6 1/2	6 1/2
Le Roi	1 1/2	1 1/2	Waihi	8 1/2	8 1/2
Do. (No. 2)	2 1/2	2 1/2	Ymir	7/6	7/6

FOREIGN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.		GROSS TRAFFIC TO	
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	Amount.
Alcoy and Gandia	June 23	Ps. 15,000	- Ps. 5,000	Ps. 349,000 - P. 8,500
Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia	May *	\$88,589 + \$21,053	**	\$418,861 + \$100,887
Argentine Gt. Western	June 22	16,463 + 2,983	**	718,076 + 116,216
Algeiras (Gibraltar) ..	" 23	Ps. 31,418 + Ps. 435	**	P. 1,002,840 - P. 22,018
Buenos Ayres & Pacific	" 23	33,303 + 4,927	**	1,600,146 + 368,870
Buenos Ayres & Ros'o and Cen. Argentine	" 23	67,775 + 13,730	**	213,872 + 313,763
Buenos Ayres G. Sthn.	" 24	67,000 + 2,633	**	3,828,947 + 561,350
Do. Western	" 24	32,118 + 6,198	**	1,745,526 + 246,223
Do. Ensenada	" 24	278 - 5	**	17,706 + 578
C. Ur'g'ay of Mte. Vid.	" 23	8,209 + 1,566	**	433,677 + 25,057
Do. Eastern Ex.	" 23	1,790 + 548	**	105,334 + 4,134
Do. Northern Ex.	" 23	1,428 + 403	**	62,190 + 3,805
Do. Western Ex.	" 23	1,239 + 321	**	60,895 + 7,320
Cordoba Central	" 24	3,930 + 630	**	82,760 + 15,500
Do. Northern Ex.	" 24	8,385 + 1,265	**	173,625 + 39,760
Do. N. W. Argtn. Ex.	" 24	3,185 + 530	**	47,495 + 10,800
Cordoba and Rosario	" 24	4,280 + 130	**	216,395 + 13,603
Costa Rica	May 26	5,071 + 482	**	230,439 + 4,827
Cuban Central	June 23	5,158 + 153	**	393,761 + 54,827
Gt. West. of Brazil	" 23	6,498 + 1,190	**	233,616 + 35,667
Entre Rios	" 23	4,057 + 939	**	184,225 + 29,257
Int.-Oceanic of Mexico	" 21	\$150,000 + \$11,360	**	\$618,180 + \$240,660
Leopoldina	" 16	18,424 + 1,692	**	397,146 + 56,712
Mexican	April *	\$551,300 + \$89,700	**	\$2,283,400 + \$213,600
Do. Southern	June 21	\$149,000 + \$34,400	**	\$3,314,800 + \$343,800
Do. Central	" 21	\$24,653 + \$673	**	\$603,389 + \$13,554
Do. Do.	April *	\$2,500,372 + \$230,132	**	\$23,544,461 + \$2,207,209
Manila	June 23	\$3,343 + \$504	**	\$3,123,432 + \$235,447
Nitrate	" 15	22,329 + 470	**	\$897,548 + \$86,534
Ottoman	" 23	3,916 + 162	**	102,166 + 16,161
Peruvian Corporation ..	May *	\$666,100 + \$84,225	**	\$7,156,450 + \$113,680
San Paulo	June 17	21,751 + 10,580	**	471,871 + 10,196
Salvador	" 23	\$22,000 + \$4,500	**	\$1,054,276 + \$153,906
United of Havana	" 23	12,054 + 2,778	**	804,333 + 273,401
Villa Maria & Rufino ..	" 23	1,351 + 188	**	33,135 + 2,908
Western of Havana	" 23	4,691 + 191	**	210,295 + 3,342

* Month ended. † Fortnight ended. ‡ Nett § From July 1, 1905.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.		GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.	
	Week ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	Amount.
Bengal Nagpur	June 2	Rs. 5,09,791 - R. 51,377	§	R. 1,22,01,111 + R. 7,49,262
Bengal & N.-W.	May 26	Rs. 3,24,000 + R. 58,193	§	R. 60,71,039 + R. 6,73,376
Bombay & Baroda	June 23	Rs. 3,58,000 - R. 63,000	§	R. 1,05,48,000 + R. 5,32,000
Do. State Lines	" 23	Rs. 5,73,000 - R. 1,000	§	R. 1,43,74,000 + R. 2,38,000
Burma	May 26	Rs. 3,41,079 - Rs. 19,494	§	R. 1,42,70,742 + R. 33,405
Delhi Umballa	June 16	Rs. 41,300 - Rs. 3,896	§	Rs. 8,85,416 - Rs. 28,294
East Indian	" 27	Rs. 15,89,000 + R. 92,000	§	R. 4,04,71,000 + R. 22,34,000
Gt. Indian Penin.	" 23	Rs. 9,06,800 - R. 1,31,335	§	R. 3,39,74,094 - R. 30,559
Indian Midland	" 23	Rs. 2,38,900 + R. 19,212	§	Rs. 59,85,152 + R. 12,38,434
Madras	" 23	Rs. 23,650 + Rs. 5,368	§	Rs. 616,433 + Rs. 60,571
South Indian	May 26	Rs. 2,56,094 - Rs. 28,169	§	Rs. 52,90,052 + R. 1,70,247
South Behar	" 12	Rs. 12,155 - Rs. 1,094	§	Rs. 2,28,680 + R. 21,531
S'hrn. Mahratta	June 2	Rs. 2,66,760 - Rs. 3,150	§	Rs. 58,16,956 + Rs. 8,63,255
Southern Punjab	" 16	Rs. 66,725 - Rs. 4,385	§	Rs. 17,72,295 + R. 1,46,712

* Thirteen days. † From July 1, 1905. ‡ From Jan. 1, 1906.

UNITED STATES AND CANADIAN RAILWAYS.

NAME.	GROSS TRAFFIC FOR WEEK.		GROSS TRAFFIC TO DATE.	
	Period ending	Amount.	In. or Dec. on 1905.	Amount.
Canadian Pacific	June 21	dols. 1,288,000 + 266,000	§	59,882,000 + 1,084,000
Canada Atlantic	" 21	dols. 9,770 + 1,428	§	£ 177,278 + £ 12,399
Chicago Gt. Western	" 21	dols. 163,602 + 16,777	§	£ 5,592,586 + £ 1,191,643
Denver & Rio Grande ..	" 14	dols. 401,200 + 57,200	§	18,314,300 + 2,445,500
Gr. Trk., Main Line	" 21	dols. £ 131,375 + £ 8,100	§	£ 2,834,015 + £ 281,178
Gr. Trk., Western	" 21	dols. £ 20,209 + £ 6,291	§	£ 188,627 + £ 43,197
Do. Det., G.H. & Mil.	" 21	dols. £ 6,754 + £ 2,203	§	£ 147,828 + £ 25,115
Louisville & Nashvle.	" 7	dols. 801,000 + 85,000	§	39,936,000 + 3,395,000
Miss., K., & Texas	" 21	dols. 373,252 + 32,638	§	20,662,648 + 988,499
Southern	" 7	dols. 993,000 + 144,000	§	50,221,000 + 5,056,000
Wabash	" 7	dols. 514,000 + 81,000	§	23,203,0

CLERICAL, MEDICAL AND GENERAL

LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

Assets over 4 MILLIONS Sterling.

The Results of the 1902 Valuation showed—

- 1.—INCREASED RESERVES.
- 2.—INCREASED PROFITS.

THE SURPLUS DIVIDED WAS **£597,415.**

Chief Office:

15, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE,
LONDON, S.W.

W. J. H. WHITTALL,
Actuary.

SCOTTISH UNION & NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

ESTABLISHED 1824.

TOTAL FUNDS NEARLY **£8,000,000**

FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCES EFFECTED ON THE
MOST FAVOURABLE TERMS.

Please apply for particulars to

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PELICAN AND BRITISH EMPIRE LIFE OFFICE		
FOUNDED		1797.
1905 Bonus £1 12s. per cent. per annum.		
Total Assets exceed 5½ MILLIONS.	Head Office: 70, Lombard Street, London, E.C.	Claims Paid exceed 13½ MILLIONS.

ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE.

INCORPORATED A.D. 1720.

RE, LIFE, SEA, ANNUITIES. ACCIDENTS & EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY.

The Corporation is prepared to act as
EXECUTOR OF WILLS, TRUSTEE OF WILLS AND SETTLEMENTS.

SPECIAL TERMS TO ANNUITANTS WHEN HEALTH IS IMPAIRED.

FUNDS IN HAND EXCEED **£5,250,000.**

Apply for full Prospectus to the Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE: ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON, E.C.

The CENTRAL Insurance Company, Ltd.	
CHAIRMAN: WALTER CHAMBERLAIN, J.P.	
Subscribed Capital over £1,000,000.	
FIRE.	ACCIDENT. BURGLARY.
SHORT AND UP-TO-DATE CONDITIONS.	
Head Office: 12-13, Nicholas Lane, London, E.C.	
HUGH LEWIS, General Manager.	

The Investors' Review.

The Week's Money Market.

BANK RATE $3\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT. (Reduced from 4 per cent.
on June 21.)

Norfolk House, Friday Evening.

Probably the Money market was less difficult this week than many people expected, but it has not been easy. The credit jobber has been compelled to go to the Bank for large sums, mostly in seven-day loans at 4 per cent., in order both to provide for the end of the half-year expansion in the currency and the general liquidation of accounts, and also to enable the joint-stock banks to make up strong-looking balance-sheets. Because of these necessities, seven-day money has gradually gone up from $2\frac{1}{4}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to $3\frac{1}{4}$ and $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in the open market. Call money, however, has been cheap all the time, rarely costing so much as 3 per cent., and often only $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 per cent. The India Council, too, has not secured more than 3 per cent. upon renewals for a fortnight, and next week it is the universal expectation that balances will be abundant and obtainable at very low rates.

This will be the case, not only because all the money now being gathered in by the banks to make a good display of "cash in hand and at the Bank of England" will be let loose again, but because the Bank is really becoming stronger.

Thanks to the steady increase in the stock of gold the total reserve is now up to £26,648,000, and there is every probability that it will be still further increased next month, in spite of the holiday withdrawals now beginning to tell upon the currency. Competition, however, is likely to arise both on New York and Paris account for the new supplies of gold coming to hand, and as long as the risk of these exists, no great reliance can be placed upon a continuance of ease in the money market. There is about £1,000,000 of new gold to be disposed of next week, and to-day's New York exchange indicates that the Americans might easily become formidable competitors for this metal, taking away a portion of it. The Bank sold £102,000 in eagles to-day for export. We are also liable to demands from Paris, the cheque having fallen to 25.15, and it would therefore be unwise to allow the discount rate to slip away much. It has not been particularly strong this week; the brokers have often had difficulty in keeping it at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for remitted paper of all dates, and much of the business has actually been done at $\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. under that figure. Speculative transactions have also taken place at $3\frac{1}{8}$ in mixed bills of fine quality to be paid for in the new month. The market rate thus tends to become a 3 per cent. one, but it will not be steady at any figure, and the moment foreign buyers take away important amounts in gold it will sharply harden again.

This morning, for example, while the keener class of trader was still quoting $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. as the working rate for bank bills of all dates, the leading bill brokers would not admit anything under $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., and the market steadied towards that figure in the afternoon, owing to the above-mentioned withdrawal of eagles and the prospect of competition for the gold to be in the market next week. One bank was said to have bought bills up to three months from the brokers at $3\frac{3}{8}$ per cent., and the market will not hold up amid the doubtless temporary cheapness of short credits unless kept in fear of bullion exports. A very heavy business was done at the Bank to-day again, chiefly in seven-day loans at 4 per cent., but it also discounted a few bills at its minimum, and to-morrow, owing to the very heavy withdrawals of credit by the India Council from the market, it is certain that the applications to the Bank will be formidable in amount, causing the short loan market to be much over-supplied next week.

We hope discount rates will not be allowed to fall back much, in spite of the temporary cheapness of loans because what may be called the universal credit market is carrying a great deal of unsaleable paper of all descriptions, and notwithstanding the continued increase in the stock of gold provided by the mines, the position everywhere is so over-strained that unpleasant surprises must be taken as well within the bounds of probability. The worst catastrophe, indeed, can only be averted by vigilance, care in handling market resources, and a slow reduction in the unwieldy mass of commitments. Quite large calls upon new issues, mostly of small amount, but aggregating £1,631,000, become payable to-morrow, and will increase the pressure upon the Bank. The largest individual item is £750,000 upon Buenos Ayres Great Southern Extension shares. In fact, the Argentine Republic will take rather more than £1,200,000 altogether, including the calls due upon Argentine Great Western and Buenos Ayres and Pacific shares. There is nothing to be said about the Bank return this week, the changes in which are plainly the mere product of the end-of-the-half-year-balance-sheet preparations and current market requirements.

SILVER.

Business in bars has been on an exceedingly minute scale, and quotations relapsed early in the week to

30¹/₈d. per oz. for cash and 29¹/₈d. per oz. for delivery two months forward. Even at these levels there was no particular desire to buy shown in any direction, and with only small supplies offering prices remained unchanged for three days. On Thursday, however, a demand sprang up on account of the Far East, which brought about a recovery of ¹/₈d. in both positions, leaving prices as they were at the end of last week. Tenders for the Rs. 40,00,000 of Council drafts in India offered on Wednesday amounted to Rs. 3,44,40,000 all in bills and applications at 1s. 4d. per rupee received about 14 per cent. Next week another Rs. 40,00,000 will be offered.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

AN ACCOUNT pursuant to the Act 7 and 8 Vict. cap. 32, for the Week ending on Wednesday, June 27, 1906.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes Issued ..	£ 54,585,645	Government Debt ..	£ 11,015,100
		Other Securities ..	£ 7,434,900
		Gold Coin and Bullion ..	£ 36,135,645
		Silver Bullion ..	—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital ..	£ 14,553,000	Government Securities ..	£ 15,977,133
Rest ..	£ 3,271,323	Other Securities ..	£ 31,363,458
Public Deposits (including Exchequer, Savings Banks, Commissioners of National Debt, and Dividend Accounts) ..	£ 11,410,809	Notes ..	£ 25,216,175
Other Deposits ..	£ 44,637,161	Gold and Silver Coin ..	£ 1,431,857
Seven Day and other Bills ..	£ 116,328		

Dated June 28, 1906.

£73,988,623

£73,988,623

J. G. NAIRNE, Chief Cashier

In the following table will be found the movements compared with the previous week, and also the totals for that week and the corresponding return last year:—

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Last Year. June, 28.		June 20, 1906.	June 27, 1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
£	Liabilities.	£	£	£	£
3,136,403	Rest ..	3,262,150	3,271,323	9,173	—
14,455,952	Pub. Deposits ..	11,526,252	11,410,809	—	115,443
44,697,510	Other do. ..	42,732,652	44,637,161	1,904,511	—
91,147	7 Day Bills ..	114,441	116,328	1,887	—
	Assets.			Decrease.	Increase.
16,171,319	Gov. Securities ..	15,977,133	15,977,133	—	—
33,395,941	Other do. ..	29,543,325	31,363,458	—	1,820,133
27,367,052	Total Reserve ..	26,668,037	26,646,032	20,005	—
				Increase.	Decrease.
£	Note Circulation	£	£	£	£
30,131,730	Coin and Bullion ..	28,955,115	29,369,470	414,355	—
39,048,782	Proportion ..	37,173,152	37,567,502	394,350	—
46 ¹ / ₈ p.c.	49 p.c.	47 ¹ / ₈ p.c.	47 ¹ / ₈ p.c.	—	1 ¹ / ₈ p.c.
2 ¹ / ₈ „	Bank Rate ..	3 ¹ / ₈ „	3 ¹ / ₈ „	—	—

Foreign Bullion movement for week, £505,000 in.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

Tenders for £1,800,000 in six months' Treasury Bills were opened on Monday at the Bank of England, when the total amount applied for was £6,549,000. Tenders at £98 10s. 7d. received about 22 per cent. of the amount applied for, and the average rate of allotment was £2 16s. 10d. per cent.

Amount.	Duration.	When repayable.	Rate per cent.
£		1906.	
11,500,000	—	—	—
1,000,000	6 months	July 29	2 17 6
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 12	2 10 8
2,000,000	6 months	Aug. 26	2 13 8
1,500,000	6 months	Sept. 16	2 11 5
1,000,000	6 months	Sept. 28	2 10 0
2,000,000	6 months	Nov. 26	3 2 2
11,500,000	—	—	—
1500,000	—	—	—
2,413,000	6 months	Dec. 23	2 10 9
1,800,000	6 months	Dec. 30	2 16 10
17,213,000			

† Issued privately.

The following bullion movements on foreign account have taken place at the Bank of England since our last issue.

ARRIVALS.	WITHDRAWALS.
Monday, Bars ..	Tuesday, Chili ..
Monday, Australia ..	Wednesday, South America ..
Tuesday, Bars ..	Thursday, South America ..
Wednesday, Bars ..	Friday, United States ..
Thursday, Bars ..	
Friday, Bars ..	Nett Influx ..
Total ..	Total ..

LONDON BANKERS' CLEARING.

Month.	1906.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Jan.	1,361,699,000	1,233,474,000	128,225,000	—
Feb.	1,007,233,000	967,181,000	40,052,000	—
Mar.	956,082,000	900,654,000	55,428,000	—
Week ending				
April 4	284,635,000	345,370,000	—	60,735,000
11	266,009,000	210,891,000	55,118,000	—
18	182,932,000	300,087,000	—	117,155,000
25	230,495,000	139,973,000	90,526,000	—
May 2	281,140,000	263,265,000	17,875,000	—
9	231,902,000	210,041,000	21,861,000	—
16	293,489,000	269,214,000	24,275,000	—
23	209,951,000	189,198,000	20,753,000	—
30	201,975,000	246,087,000	—	44,112,000
June 6	267,679,000	226,581,000	41,098,000	—
13	202,547,000	167,465,000	35,082,000	—
20	249,335,000	238,039,000	11,296,000	—
27	196,201,000	190,283,000	5,918,000	—
	6,423,308,000	6,097,803,000	325,505,000	—

BANK OF FRANCE (25 francs to the £).

	June 28, 1906.	June 21, 1906.	June 14, 1906.	June 29, 1905.
Gold in hand ..	£ 117,969,680	£ 117,949,320	£ 117,677,760	£ 115,355,840
Silver in hand ..	£ 42,720,640	£ 42,714,040	£ 42,642,560	£ 44,415,440
Bills discounted ..	£ 30,495,440	£ 26,625,920	£ 27,715,800	£ 25,170,080
Advances ..	£ 20,556,360	£ 20,373,286	£ 20,411,160	£ 19,134,560
Note circulation ..	£ 181,767,360	£ 180,917,120	£ 183,602,760	£ 174,327,160
Public deposits ..	£ 10,616,160	£ 8,810,200	£ 7,427,960	£ 11,476,320
Private deposits ..	£ 27,196,680	£ 24,219,400	£ 23,369,920	£ 26,549,200

Proportion between bullion and circulation 88¹/₂ per cent. against 88¹/₂ per cent. a week ago.

PUBLIC INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

(For week ended June 23.)

REVENUE.	EXPENDITURE.
Customs ..	£ 651,000
Excise ..	£ 1,096,000
Estate, &c., Duties ..	£ 240,000
Stamps ..	£ 145,000
Land Tax and House Duty.	—
Property and Income Tax ..	£ 18,000
Post Office ..	£ 200,000
Telegraphs ..	£ 130,000
Crown Lands ..	—
Suez Canal & Sundry Shares	—
Treasury Bills (net amount)	—
Miscellaneous ..	£ 3,000
Bullion advances repaid ..	—
Uganda Railway ..	—
Unclaimed Dividends Account ..	—
Advances for Interest on Exchequer Bonds ..	—
Telegraph Acts ..	—
Naval Works Acts ..	£ 500,000
Military Works Acts ..	—
Land Registry Acts ..	—
Public Bldgs. Expenses Act	—
Public Offices Site (Dublin).	—
Issue of Exchequer Bonds under Cunard Agreement Act	—
Ways and Means ..	—
Temporary Advances Deficiency ..	—
Suez Canal Drawn Shares..	—
Issue of Exchequer Bonds..	—
Transvaal and Orange River Colony. Repayment of Temporary Advance ..	—
Adjustment of Local Taxation payments ..	—
Decrease in Exchequer balances ..	—
£3,033,000	£3,033,000

* Exclusive of £413,394 last week paid over in aid of local expenditure, making the total of such payments to date £1,715,308.

FOREIGN RATES OF EXCHANGE ON LONDON.

Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.	Place.	Usance.	Last week's.	Latest.
Paris ..	chqs.	25'16 ¹ / ₂	25'15	Antwerp ..	short	25'25	25'23 ¹ / ₂
Brussels ..	chqs.	25'23 ¹ / ₂	25'23 ¹ / ₂	Italy ..	sight	25'14 ¹ / ₂	25'13 ¹ / ₂
Amsterdam ..	sight	12'12 ¹ / ₂	12'11 ¹ / ₂	Constantinople	3 mths	110'02	110'02
Berlin ..	chqs.	20'48	20'48	Rio de Janeiro.	90 dys	16 ¹ / ₂ d.	16 ¹ / ₂ d.
Do. ..	3 mths	20'30 ¹ / ₂	20'31	Calcutta ..	T.T.	1/4	1/4
Hamburg ..	chqs.	20'47	20'46 ¹ / ₂	Bombay ..	T.T.	1/4	1/4
Frankfurt ..	short	20'46	20'47 ¹ / ₂	Hong Kong ..	T.T.	2/1 ¹ / ₂	2/1 ¹ / ₂
Vienna ..	sight	24'03 ¹ / ₂	24'04 ¹ / ₂	Shanghai ..	T.T.	2/1 ¹ / ₂	2/1 ¹ / ₂
St. Petersburg.	3 mths	94'10	94'10	Singapore ..	T.T.	2/4 ¹ / ₂	2/4 ¹ / ₂
New York ..	60 dys	4'82 ¹ / ₂	4'81 ¹ / ₂	Yokohama ..	4 mths	2/0 ¹ / ₂	2/0 ¹ / ₂
Lisbon ..	sight	51'1 ¹ / ₂	51'1 ¹ / ₂				
Madrid ..	sight	27'60	27'73				

IMPERIAL BANK OF GERMANY (20 marks to the £).

	June 23, 1906.	June 15, 1906.	June 7, 1906.	June 23, 1905.
Cash in hand ..	£ 50,084,800	£ 51,170,600	£ 49,919,700	£ 54,350,950
Bills discounted ..	£ 44,663,600	£ 42,582,900	£ 41,131,300	£ 44,062,600
Advances on stocks ..	£ 2,875,250	£ 3,362,150	£ 3,315,550	£ 1,307,400
Note circulation ..	£ 65,366,500	£ 63,825,450	£ 64,407,300	£ 62,895,000
Public deposits ..	£ 32,034,000	£ 31,529,800	£ 27,120,750	£ 33,139,750

BANK AND DISCOUNT RATES ABROAD.

	Bank Rate.	Altered.	Open Market.	
			Last Week.	Latest.
Paris	3	May 25, 1906.	2½	2½
Berlin	4½	May 23, 1906.	3½	3½
Hamburg	4½	May 23, 1906.	3½	3½
Frankfort	4½	May 23, 1906.	3½	3½
Amsterdam	4½	May, 1906	3½	4½
Brussels	5½	May 15, 1906	3½	3½
Vienna	4	June, 1906	3½	3½
Rome	5	September, 1904	4	4
St. Petersburg	6½	June, 1906	nom.	nom.
Madrid	4½	August 21, 1901	4	4
Lisbon	5½	January 11, 1899	5	5
Stockholm	5	January, 1906.	4½	4½
Copenhagen	5	October, 1905	4½	4½
Calcutta	4	June 28, 1906	—	—
Bombay	5	June 21, 1906	—	—
New York call money	5½	—	—	—

NEW YORK ASSOCIATED BANKS (dollar at 4s.)

	June 23, 1906	June 16, 1906.	June 9, 1906.	June 24, 1905.
Specie	£ 37,776,000	£ 37,072,000	£ 37,426,000	£ 42,874,000
Legal tenders	16,879,400	16,752,200	16,363,200	17,484,600
Loans and discounts	211,560,000	212,020,000	211,840,000	220,560,000
Circulation	9,694,200	9,697,400	9,786,200	9,612,200
Nett deposits	209,900,000	209,640,000	209,420,000	229,360,000

Legal reserve is 25 per cent. of nett deposits; but this reserve (specie and legal tenders) exceeds this sum by £2,180,400 against an excess last week of £1,144,200.

BANK OF SPAIN (25 pesetas to the £).

	June 23, 1906	June 16, 1906	June 9, 1906.	June 24, 1905
Gold	£ 15,148,200	£ 15,145,602	£ 15,139,973	£ 14,833,123
Silver	24,789,600	24,626,820	24,518,836	22,389,600
Foreign Bills	3,069,455	3,443,733	3,463,628	1,697,730
Discount and Short Bills	25,514,413	22,580,004	22,574,573	46,098,370
Treasury Account	36,693,865	36,676,607	36,619,831	21,251,948
Notes in circulation	61,160,554	61,405,948	61,621,330	62,251,102
Current Account deposits	23,510,702	23,650,725	23,784,895	22,764,022
Dividends Interests	1,013,945	1,067,921	1,028,055	1,910,094
Government Securities	7,407,975	6,975,623	6,681,547	4,789,624

AUSTRIAN-HUNGARIAN BANK (24 crowns to the £).

	June 23, 1906.	June 15, 1906.	June 7, 1906.	June 23, 1905.
Gold Reserve	£ 46,887,583	£ 46,779,333	£ 46,619,208	£ 47,457,625
Silver reserve	12,781,375	12,776,375	12,796,083	13,128,750
Foreign bills	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Advances	1,708,166	1,799,666	1,695,958	1,727,500
Net circulation	68,662,250	69,499,709	70,709,916	62,861,708
Bills discounted	17,066,166	16,962,166	18,193,666	10,200,500

NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM (25 francs to the £).

	June 14, 1906	June 7, 1906	May 31, 1906	June 15, 1905
Coin and bullion	£ 4,868,240	£ 5,000,560	£ 4,848,280	£ 4,804,480
Other securities	23,299,960	23,393,080	24,626,320	21,611,000
Net circulation	27,070,200	26,849,040	28,483,040	26,235,840
Deposits	3,381,840	3,869,360	3,224,200	2,887,320

BANK OF RUSSIA (10 roubles to the £).

	June 8/21, 1906.	June 1/14, 1906.	May 23/June 5, 1906.	June 1/14, 1905.
Gold	£ 77,198,578	£ 76,757,468	£ 75,997,428	£ 94,559,435
Silver and subsidiary coin	5,944,695	5,901,374	57,251,993	6,290,233
Advances and bills discounted	42,591,141	42,048,030	42,625,914	36,262,276
Securities belonging to the Bank	8,772,064	8,903,958	8,583,854	5,894,161
Notes in circulation	111,104,649	111,857,266	112,847,009	99,556,902
Deposits and current account	50,236,466	49,276,458	48,979,355	49,466,091
Treasury account	1,097,497	3,701,344	2,614,251	8,951,316

LONDON COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

Place.	Usance.	June 19	June 21	June 26	June 28
Amsterdam and Rotterdam	short	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½	12'2½
Do. do.	3 months	12'5½	12'5½	12'5½	12'5½
Antwerp and Brussels	3 months	25'4½	25'4½	25'4½	25'4½
Hamburg	3 months	20'71	20'70	20'72	20'72
Berlin & German B. Places	3 months	20'71	20'70	20'72	20'72
Paris	cheques	25'17½	25'17½	25'16½	25'16½
Do. do.	3 months	25'37½	25'37½	25'37½	25'37½
Marseilles	3 months	25'37½	25'37½	25'37½	25'37½
Switzerland	3 months	25'43½	25'43½	25'42½	25'41½
Austria	3 months	24'34	24'34	24'34	24'34
St. Petersburg	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Moscow	3 months	24½	24½	24½	24½
Italian Bank Places	3 months	25'40½	25'40½	25'40½	25'40½
New York	60 days	48½	48½	48½	48½
Madrid and Spanish B.P.	3 months	42½	42½	42½	42½
Lisbon	3 months	50½	50½	50½	50½
Copenhagen	3 months	50½	50½	51	50½
Stockholm	3 months	18'44	18'44	18'45	18'45
Christiana	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'46	18'46
Stockholm	3 months	18'45	18'45	18'46	18'46

OPEN MARKET DISCOUNT.

Per cent.

Thirty and sixty day remitted bills	3½—3½
Three months	3½—3½
Four months	3½—3½
Six months	3½—3½
Three months fine inland bills	3½
Four months	3½—3½
Six months	3½—3½

BANK AND DEPOSIT RATES.

Per cent.

Bank of England minimum discount rate	3½
" " short loan rates	4
Bankers' rate on deposits	½
Bill brokers' deposit rate (call)	2½
" 7 and 14 days' notice	2½
Current rates for 7 day loans	3½—4
" for call loans	2—3

Stock Market Notes and Comments.

A dreary week has been passed on the Stock Exchange, and in spite of a slight rally towards the end of it, there is really no sensible improvement in its affairs. On several days the market looked as if some great blow was about to fall upon it. Consols were declining, business had come nigh to an end, and everybody was dropping money, dropping also into an attitude of gloomy expectation, ready for any calamity. If a bank or two had stopped payment there would have been a murmur of surprise, but few would have been really astonished, so ugly and ominous did the whole position seem to be. It may improve a little now, the dividends will be out next week, fresh props or trestles have been shoved under the market load, and there will be some money seeking re-investment soon in spite of the, we fear prolonged, absence of the fire insurance companies as buyers and of the larger absorption of available resources in the trade of the country. Nevertheless business will not really improve, and after every little rally the dwindle in markets will be renewed, and sickness come over them all, until the liquidation is complete or the market fabric collapses. It must be thus for several reasons.

First of all there is the overburden of unplaced new securities lying on all markets and locking up capital everywhere. Bankers in Paris are unable to sell their latest contracted for Russian loan to the investing classes, and they have many other securities in their safes which they would be glad to dispose of to the investor and cannot. Our own finance houses and banks are also burdened with unsaleable securities of all kinds. There are large slices of the Japanese loans still in the hands of middlemen. These loans came out much too fast for the absorbing capacity of the public, and these and many minor securities of all qualities are to-day in the hands of their underwriters, pawned with the banks, unmarketable in any bulk, if at all. It is just as bad in the United States where we cannot hope to see a genuine development of public interest in stock markets until there has been something like a panic, a sweeping away of the "rigged" and rotting finance by which the people of the United States have been cursed these many years back. Everything is too dear in the estimation of the public, both in Europe and America, especially everything speculative, and therefore the "bull" and "bear" have the arena all to themselves.

Wherever we turn on the Continent, in America, or at home, we encounter an artificial state of markets which precludes the hope of an active resumption of business, of buying and selling in public securities by investors and speculators in the mass. Meantime the cost of maintaining markets in a semblance of strength, of preventing quotations from sinking much lower than they have yet done, and of every now and again giving a sort of simulated prosperity or activity to particular securities or groups of securities, is gnawing at the vitals of financiers everywhere. They can only prosper when the public comes along with its earnings and relieves them at a profit of the wares they traffic in, or have manufactured for general consumption. When they are left with these wares and have to borrow capital to prevent a collapse in prices, they must stand to lose, because little or nothing is coming in, and everything going out. This is the position in the

Kaffir Circus to a very large extent, in spite of the expansion in the yield of gold. Dividends are not adequate, or anything like adequate, to compensate the "holding" houses for the strain put upon them by the lock up of their capital, and by the interest they have to pay on money borrowed in order to avert a general liquidation, amid which some of them would disappear—for the good of the City and of South Africa. And in proportion, as the contango money fails to come in, because of the reduction in the speculative account formed by the outside operator, the strain upon the big houses increases. We all can understand an example of this description, but the same sort of strain is upon every section of the market for one reason or another, and on the Continent the disturbed condition of Russia is undoubtedly threatening a far-reaching credit overturn.

This is not exactly a cheerful outlook, but it is well to gaze at the facts with open eyes, and nothing will so much conduce to prevent our market from sinking into the abyss when the world credit crisis breaks out as a foreknowledge of the dangers and careful preparation against the worst possible contingencies. Not the least of these dangers arises from the "helping over" system by which creditors conceal insolvencies. There have been several of these arrangements in progress this settlement affecting big and other speculators in the Kaffir Circus, it is said, and they rarely end in any good. The creditors of a cleaned out operator meet, see great loss or perhaps ruin to themselves if they allow the defeated gambler or trader to fail, and to avoid a smash up and exposure agree to "take over" the account. Securities are then transferred at prices agreed on—generally well under the nominal or publicly quoted market figures—the ruined player disappears, and his substitutes endeavour to unload the stuff they have reluctantly fallen heirs to. For a long time past this unloading process has become more and more perilous and difficult; the substitutes have had to stick to what they took over, and in doing so have too often seen their losses increase. Thus the rottenness spreads—and yet the gossips were cheering themselves this week with the story that the Barnato firm has lately made a round £1,000,000 in Kaffirs lately by "going on the bear tack." Perhaps it would like the public to believe the story, but we do not. And yet the public, enamoured of Kaffir shares, has lost much more than £35,000,000 since it bought for the post-war boom at the bidding of the Johannesburg cosmopolites, in defiance of the warnings we gave week by week, amid cursing, until we grew sick of contemplating the ruin to follow. "But things are at the bottom now and will rally soon." Oh, no they are not, and will not. Spurts of recovery there may be, will be, but that is all. The corruption is too deep-seated, the losses too irremediable and far-reaching to be buried or obliterated by "a vigorous" "bull" campaign. Besides, who is to start it? Not the Consolidated Gold Fields Company you may be sure.

The Week's Stock Markets.

The outlook in the Stock Exchange seems dismal as ever. Dealers appear quite demoralised for the time being, and take a very gloomy view of immediate prospects. It is very difficult to point to any particular spot as the source of the present unrest, but the slump in the Kaffir Circus has much to answer for, and the Yankee market is continuing its inevitable downward course. The persistent weakness of gilt-edged securities, in face of the excellent domestic political and industrial outlook, is one of the most disturbing influences, but selling by insurance companies who usually afford such powerful support to the market goes far to explain the steady depreciation. Destruction of solid wealth, whether it be by earthquake, war, or any other cause, is bound to have an adverse effect on the world's markets sooner or later, and it is as well to always keep in mind this elementary economic truth. A rare lot of Consols was sold on one or two days this week causing pro-

nounced flatness in quotations, and although there was a brisk recovery on Wednesday the spurt was a mere flash in the pan, as weakness immediately supervened. Other gilt-edged stocks followed the lead of the premier security, the premium entirely running off Irish Land stock at one time, and Home County and Corporation stocks lost ground in a few instances. Colonial inscribed stocks were fairly steady, and amongst Colonial and Foreign Corporation stocks Cordoba bonds went up on a telegram to the effect that a new debt settlement scheme had been fixed up. The fortnightly adjustment was carried through during the week, and bankers had no difficulty in securing fairly good rates for loans. Money brokers were not supplied at less than 4 per cent., and the general rate was 4-4½ per cent. A good deal of trouble was disclosed by the settlement, and the names of two outside South African houses were mentioned as being in difficulties, but assistance was liberally given where required, and open default of a serious kind averted.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	BRITISH FUNDS (Last year's dividends are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
91	88	—	88½	88
91½	88	89½	88½	88
90	86½	88½	87½	86½
100½	99½	—	100	100
93½	89	91	89½	89
100½	98	99½	98½	98
100½	97½	—	98½	98½
99½	98½	98½	98½	98½
101½	98	98½	98½	98
301	284	—	285	284
106½	103	104½	103½	103
97½	94½	95½	94½	94½
82	79	80	79	79
66½	65½	65½	65½	65½
		Consols (2½ p.c. Money)	88½	88
		Do. Account (July 4)	88½	88
		2½ p.c. Stock red. 1905	87½	86½
		Excheqr. Bonds, 3 p.c., 1907	100	100
		Irish Land (2½)	89½	89
		Local Loans (3)	98½	98
		National War Loan (2½ p.c.)	98½	98½
		Do. Account (July 4)	98½	98½
		Transvaal Loan (3 p.c.)	98½	98
		Bk. of England Stk. (9 p.c.)	285	284
		India 3½ p.c. Stk. red. 1931	103½	103
		Do. 3 p.c. Stk. red. 1948	94½	94½
		Do. 2½ p.c. Stk. red. 1926	79	79
		Do. 3½ p.c. Rupee Paper	65½	65½

Dealing in the Foreign bond market was still very limited, and the tendency continued downward. Russian bonds moved in irregular fashion, and the discount on the new 5 per cent. loan fluctuated between 2½ and 4, closing round 3½. Other Continental stocks were exceedingly quiet, and leading counters like Turkish and Spanish moved within the narrowest limits. Japanese, after being irregular, steadied near the end, and Chinese bonds were firm. In the South American division, Argentines and Brazilians maintained previous figures, but Peruvians mostly moved down and Cédulas were weak throughout. Amongst Central Americans, Costa Ricas, Honduras, and Venezuelans all improved fractionally, but the last-named receded again before the end, and were accompanied downward by Guatemalan and Colombian. Carry-over charges in this department showed practically no change, the South American group, together with Chinese bonds, being continued at 4-6 per cent., and Central Americans at 5-6 per cent. Japanese 4 per cent. were a little scarce, the 1902 issue was continued at 2-4 per cent., and the rest at 3 to 4 or 5 per cent. On Russians the rate was no more than 1-3 per cent., Turkish were carried over "even," and Spanish at 2½ to 3½ per cent. The making-up list showed only fractional changes either way, with the exception of Russians, which fell 2 to 3.

Dividend estimates are making their appearance in the Home Railway market, and with the exception of the Brighton company, which is not expected to do more than maintain the rate paid for the first half of 1905, if it manages that, the calculations point to increases ranging from ½ to 1 per cent. The forecasts brought in a few investment orders for the heavy stocks, and most of these have risen from £1 to 30s., but business in other directions has shown no signs of broadening out. Prices, however, were generally firmer towards the end, and North-Western alone of those which advanced failed to keep all the earlier improvement. Lancashire and Yorkshire has been extremely dull throughout the week, and Brighton deferred was depressed by a disappointing traffic return, while Great Central issues gave way a fraction or two in spite of the satisfactory receipts. The accident on the Caledonian line in the end of last week caused quotations to flinch a little, but the loss has been made good since

and the deferred closes slightly higher in sympathy with the strength shown by other Scotch things. Although the market now seems inclined to take a turn for the better, the favourable movement did not commence in time to influence making-up prices on Tuesday, and beyond trifling improvements of $\frac{1}{4}$ in North-Eastern, South-Western preferred, and North British preferred, the changes on the account were adverse. South-Eastern issues headed the list with falls of 2 in the ordinary and preferred and $1\frac{1}{2}$ in the deferred. Brighton ordinary and deferred, Lancashire and Yorkshire, and Chatham first preference lost 1 each and Central London ordinary and deferred 2. Great Eastern and Metropolitan dropped $\frac{3}{4}$, and Great Central, Great Northern deferred, Midland deferred and District $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$. Caledonian deferred, too, declined $1\frac{1}{2}$, and North British deferred was $\frac{3}{8}$ lower. Including the usual allowance for stamps and fees, the charge for money ranged from 5 to 6 per cent., with a higher contango on South-Eastern deferred and comparatively light rates on North-Eastern, Great Eastern and Caledonian deferred.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN BONDS.	Price last week.	Price this week.
104	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	104	104
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	100	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
94	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	94	94	94
93	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	93	93	93
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	86	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
106	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	106	106	106
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
103 $\frac{1}{2}$	99 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	95	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
97 $\frac{1}{2}$	94	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	93	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
100 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$
106	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	106	106	106
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	102	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	96 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
53 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	53 $\frac{1}{2}$
43 $\frac{1}{2}$	41	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$
103	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	103	103	103
106	103	106	106	106
89	86	89	89	89
54	50	54	54	54
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$
43 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$
53	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	53	53	53
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	93	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	105	105	105
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
104	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	104	104
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
102 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
72 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	72 $\frac{1}{2}$	72 $\frac{1}{2}$
87	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	87	87	87
83	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	83	83	83
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
101	100	101	101	101
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$
74	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	74	74	74
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$	98 $\frac{1}{2}$
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$

Wall Street has been thrown into a state of ferment by the announcement that the Standard Oil Trust and various railroads were to be prosecuted for breaches of the anti-rebate law, and that the grain elevator business was also to be made the subject of an inquiry. The Standard Oil Company is credited with an attempt to intimidate the Department of Justice and cause it to abandon its attack by heavy sales of securities to depress prices. 'Wherever the selling came from,' it was so persistent and severe that hundreds of small speculators are said to have been forced to throw over their stocks through inability to find further margins, while even the large operators have had to submit to heavy losses. Strong support was said to be forthcoming at the lower levels touched, but the rally merely led to profit-taking, and the bears were not long in recommencing their attack. Their efforts were assisted by various reports, including one of further proceedings by the Attorney-General against prominent companies. The announcement that the Milwaukee

issue had been postponed, and rumours that the Southern Pacific common would pay no dividend on its common stock also helped to drive the market down. Milwaukeees were the chief object of attack, and relapsed no less than \$8, while Louisville, Union Pacific, Reading, and Illinois Central were 5 or more dollars lower, and the rest of the principal stocks showed losses ranging from \$1 to \$3. On the account Baltimore ordinary were $8\frac{1}{2}$ up on the larger divi-

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	HOME RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
141 $\frac{1}{2}$	132 $\frac{1}{2}$	133	133	133
157 $\frac{1}{2}$	149 $\frac{1}{2}$	152	152	152
130 $\frac{1}{2}$	117	117 $\frac{1}{2}$	118	117
120 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	109	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$
80	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$
42 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$	88	88	86
89	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	76	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	75 $\frac{1}{2}$
16 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	15	15
44 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	41	41	41
69 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	67	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$
40 $\frac{1}{2}$	37	37	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	37
19 $\frac{1}{2}$	17	17	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	17
91 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	81 $\frac{1}{2}$	82 $\frac{1}{2}$
105	100 $\frac{1}{2}$	102	102	102
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	45	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$
144	130 $\frac{1}{2}$	131	131	131
52	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	47
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	105	103 $\frac{1}{2}$
89 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$
37 $\frac{1}{2}$	22	25	25	25
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	66	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{1}{2}$
74 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	83	68	69
78 $\frac{1}{2}$	74	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	43	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
147 $\frac{1}{2}$	138 $\frac{1}{2}$	140 $\frac{1}{2}$	142 $\frac{1}{2}$	142
163 $\frac{1}{2}$	154 $\frac{1}{2}$	156 $\frac{1}{2}$	157	158
90 $\frac{1}{2}$	84	84	85	84
132	121	120 $\frac{1}{2}$	121	121
55 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	49	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$
164	154 $\frac{1}{2}$	153	153 $\frac{1}{2}$	154 $\frac{1}{2}$
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	105
57 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$

dend paid, Southern Pacific rose $1\frac{1}{2}$ and Norfolk common gained $\frac{1}{2}$, but with these exceptions the bears had it all their own way. Reading were knocked down $7\frac{1}{2}$, Union Pacific $5\frac{1}{2}$, and Denver common $4\frac{1}{2}$. Erie ordinary, Ontario, and Wabash preferred relapsed $3\frac{1}{2}$, Illinois Central and New York Central 4, and losses of $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{3}{4}$ struck Atchison common, Erie second preference, Missouri, and Kansas, Pennsylvania, and Southern common. In such things as Great Northern

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	CANADIAN AND U.S. RAILWAYS. (Last Dividends paid are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
99 $\frac{1}{2}$	89 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
123	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	121 $\frac{1}{2}$	123	120 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	96	97	97	97
63 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	58 $\frac{1}{2}$
195 $\frac{1}{2}$	162 $\frac{1}{2}$	183	183 $\frac{1}{2}$	177 $\frac{1}{2}$
52 $\frac{1}{2}$	38	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	42	42 $\frac{1}{2}$
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	88	90 $\frac{1}{2}$	91	88xd
52 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	78	81	81	81
55 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	71	73	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
186 $\frac{1}{2}$	171	183	185	180 $\frac{1}{2}$
160 $\frac{1}{2}$	143 $\frac{1}{2}$	147	152 $\frac{1}{2}$	146 $\frac{1}{2}$
41 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	32 $\frac{1}{2}$
159 $\frac{1}{2}$	137 $\frac{1}{2}$	140 $\frac{1}{2}$	142	139 $\frac{1}{2}$
95 $\frac{1}{2}$	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	90 $\frac{1}{2}$
96 $\frac{1}{2}$	92	94	94	94
57 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$
75 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$
85 $\frac{1}{2}$	59 $\frac{1}{2}$	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$
74 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	69 $\frac{1}{2}$	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$
43 $\frac{1}{2}$	36	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	36
105	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	102 $\frac{1}{2}$
164 $\frac{1}{2}$	145 $\frac{1}{2}$	150 $\frac{1}{2}$	154 $\frac{1}{2}$	147 $\frac{1}{2}$
101 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	98	98	98
26 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	21	20 $\frac{1}{2}$
53 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	47	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	46 $\frac{1}{2}$
87 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	86	86	86
182 $\frac{1}{2}$	165 $\frac{1}{2}$	165	167	164 $\frac{1}{2}$
106 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	—	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
112	109	110	110xd	110
29 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	28	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
105 $\frac{1}{2}$	101 $\frac{1}{2}$	102	102	102
120	114 $\frac{1}{2}$	119	119	119
110 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	109	109	109
70 $\frac{1}{2}$	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{1}{2}$	67	66 $\frac{1}{2}$
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd

preferred and Northern Pacific common, which are less well known on this side, the declines amounted to 12 and 9. Money as a rule cost from $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., or about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. less than at the previous settlement.

After a trifling improvement in the end of last week, Canadian Pacific shares felt the eddy of the turmoil

in New York, and notwithstanding a satisfactory increase of \$266,000 in the traffic return, the price fell back sharply. It recovered part of the loss on Wednesday in sympathy with the better feeling which prevailed for a short time in Yankees, but soon went to pieces again, and at the end was over \$2 lower. Grand Trunk stocks were less influenced by Wall Street happenings, and fluctuated within very narrow limits, but they, too, gave way before the close. Movements during the past fortnight have been trifling, and making-up prices show improvements of no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ each in Canadian Pacific shares, and Grand Trunk firsts and second preferences against losses of $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{8}$ in the ordinary and third preference stocks of the latter company. Canadian Pacific debenture stock, however, fell $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Alberta debenture stocks were $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ down, while Quebec Central new income bonds rose 2. Contangos on Grand Trunk stocks were easy enough at 4 to $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	FOREIGN RAILWAYS. (Dividends paid for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
240	211 $\frac{1}{2}$	235	236	235
370 $\frac{1}{2}$	313	—	370	370
130 $\frac{1}{2}$	116 $\frac{1}{2}$	118 $\frac{1}{2}$	119	119
132	124 $\frac{1}{2}$	124 $\frac{1}{2}$	125	124
88	84 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$
144 $\frac{1}{2}$	136	137 $\frac{1}{2}$	137 $\frac{1}{2}$	138
120 $\frac{1}{2}$	124 $\frac{1}{2}$	124 $\frac{1}{2}$	128	129
136 $\frac{1}{2}$	127	126	127	126
120 $\frac{1}{2}$	115 $\frac{1}{2}$	118	119	118
110 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	109	109
120 $\frac{1}{2}$	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	114 $\frac{1}{2}$	115	113 $\frac{1}{2}$
119	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	108	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$
170	160 $\frac{1}{2}$	164 $\frac{1}{2}$	165	165
109	104	104	104xd	104
128 $\frac{1}{2}$	120 $\frac{1}{2}$	130	131 $\frac{1}{2}$	131
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	82	85	86	85
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	104	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	105	105
90	91 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$	93 $\frac{1}{2}$
75 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$	68 $\frac{1}{2}$
71 $\frac{1}{2}$	68	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
111 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	11	11	11
108	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	105	105
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	88	87 $\frac{1}{2}$	88xd	88
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	8	8	8
86 $\frac{1}{2}$	74	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	74 $\frac{1}{2}$	74
98 $\frac{1}{2}$	94 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	96xd
109 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	109	109
108	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	107	108
280	233 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
130 $\frac{1}{2}$	118 $\frac{1}{2}$	120 $\frac{1}{2}$	129	130 $\frac{1}{2}$
59 $\frac{1}{2}$	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	52 $\frac{1}{2}$	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	56 $\frac{1}{2}$
68 $\frac{1}{2}$	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	59	61	59
16 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
21 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$
214 $\frac{1}{2}$	200	200	200	200
193	163 $\frac{1}{2}$	179 $\frac{1}{2}$	183	180

The traffic return published by the Mexican Railway on Monday last was said to be the largest ever announced by the company, but so little interest is taken in this market at present that the immediate effect was to lift the first preference stock by no more than $\frac{1}{4}$. Later, however, a little inquiry sprang up for that stock, and with a fair amount of buying the price was lifted to $131\frac{1}{2}$, carrying the ordinary and second preference up about $\frac{3}{4}$ each, but the best figures were not altogether maintained. Argentine Railways are still left pretty much to themselves, but selling has been somewhat persistent in Buenos Ayres and Rosario ordinary, sending it down to $113\frac{1}{2}$, and the preference stocks of the Cordoba and Rosario and Cordoba Central companies have been marked down considerably. Apart from a fall of $\frac{1}{2}$ in Leopoldina ordinary stock the Brazilian group was steady, but amongst other South American things Antofagasta ordinary and Guayaquil and Quito Railway bonds show fairly heavy losses. United Railways of the Havana ordinary stock has also been heavy, and other Cuban issues were fractionally lower. Carrying over charges on Tuesday were a shade lighter at $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on most stocks in this section, but on Mexican Railways the rate was seldom more than 4 per cent. Argentine issues continued neglected throughout the account, and prices generally have given way steadily. Buenos Ayres and Pacific ordinary was as much as $5\frac{1}{2}$ down, Cordoba Central first preference declined 6, and the second preference and income debenture stocks 2 and $4\frac{1}{2}$; East Argentine fell 5, and Cordoba and Rosario first preference 4. Buenos Ayres Western ordinary and debenture issues lost $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Buenos Ayres and Rosario stocks from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$.

the only gain of any importance being in Argentine Great Western ordinary, which was 2 up. Brazilian things were likewise lower, San Paulo dropping 2 and Leopoldina ordinary $1\frac{1}{2}$. Central Uruguay relapsed $2\frac{1}{2}$ and Colombian National debentures $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $3\frac{1}{2}$. United Railways of the Havana ordinary was $1\frac{1}{2}$ down, but the railway bonds of the Guayaquil and Quito Company showed a recovery of $2\frac{1}{2}$. The revival of activity in Mexican Railway stocks was reflected in improvements of $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$ in the preferences and $3\frac{1}{2}$ in the ordinary, but the 6 per cent. debenture stock receded 2 and Mexican Southern ordinary was $1\frac{1}{2}$ down.

Highest and Lowest this Year.	Last Carrying over Price.	MISCELLANEOUS. (Dividends for last completed year are given in parentheses.)	Price last week.	Price this week.
21	16	16	16	16
51	44	—	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$
580	533	—	550	580
192	153	—	164	153
513	401 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
613	491 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
56	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	48 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$
992	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	95	95
68	58	63	62	63
78	67 $\frac{1}{2}$	63	7	63
73	64	73	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	74
27	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	13	13
45	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	53	53
77 $\frac{1}{2}$	55	—	53	53
113	102	—	11	11
143	111 $\frac{1}{2}$	131 $\frac{1}{2}$	11	11
58	57 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	54xd	57 $\frac{1}{2}$
500	432 $\frac{1}{2}$	495	490	500
209	191 $\frac{1}{2}$	271	18	18
256	221 $\frac{1}{2}$	246	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	5	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5
132	122	—	123	123
891 $\frac{1}{2}$	781 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$
276	261	—	130	130
108 $\frac{1}{2}$	106	108	108	106xd
243	201	—	104xd	1
6 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd & b	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
341	221 $\frac{1}{2}$	201	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
156	101	—	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
77 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
181	131 $\frac{1}{2}$	13	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
162	149	—	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
126	101	99	104	104
191	171 $\frac{1}{2}$	173	86	86 $\frac{1}{2}$
104	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	103 $\frac{1}{2}$	52	51 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$
54 $\frac{1}{2}$	42 $\frac{1}{2}$	51	9	9
110 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	105 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
92 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	—	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
133 $\frac{1}{2}$	111	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	106	106
62	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	97 $\frac{1}{2}$	98
112	108	—	129	129
104 $\frac{1}{2}$	95 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$
133 $\frac{1}{2}$	125 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	34	34
663	581 $\frac{1}{2}$	591	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
851	751	—	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
281 $\frac{1}{2}$	251 $\frac{1}{2}$	18	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
319	309	—	12	12
14	12	—	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
47 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
117	104 $\frac{1}{2}$	106 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	104 $\frac{1}{2}$
571	491 $\frac{1}{2}$	24	23	23
158	138	—	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
241	229 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	231 $\frac{1}{2}$	229 $\frac{1}{2}$
592	57	—	58	58
9	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
115 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	113 $\frac{1}{2}$	113 $\frac{1}{2}$
271	164	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	24 $\frac{1}{2}$
150 $\frac{1}{2}$	143	143 $\frac{1}{2}$	144 $\frac{1}{2}$	143 $\frac{1}{2}$
157 $\frac{1}{2}$	142	148	142	142
113 $\frac{1}{2}$	108	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	109	108
143 $\frac{1}{2}$	143 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	143 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd	143 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd
83	58	58	62	58
93 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	71 $\frac{1}{2}$
117	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	86 $\frac{1}{2}$	86 $\frac{1}{2}$
10	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	9	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ xd

A few interesting movements occurred in the Miscellaneous market, but it is not yet possible to point to any improvement in business. The continued flatness of Royal Exchange Assurance shares was a noteworthy incident, and during the week the price has dropped about 35, a decline of no less than 25 taking place on one day. Holders are evidently becoming somewhat frightened, but the shares should not be thrown away on the bad market. Other Insurance issues were weak and a considerable number of declines again took place. Gas and Trust stocks were fairly steady as a rule, and investment securities generally kept firm, but several of the more speculative things gave way. B. E. T. issues were particularly flat, which is not surprising. Anglo "A" still showed dulness after its long rise, and in the Catering groups Spiers and Pond preference fell to 3, and Lyons' shares were lower.

Russian oil shares were dull. Motor shares gave way when they moved, and Nitrates lost ground in one or two cases. Alkali shares showed a tendency to improve, but Iron and Steel issues were generally dull, and the Textile group was not so strong as usual. Eastman Kodak lost part of an early rise. Westinghouse shares again went down, and Meat shares were lower. Cements were also heavy. In the Brewery division Guinness' ordinary stock rose 30 on the announcement regarding the conversion of debentures, and Bieckerts were strong on the statements at the meeting, but Bank shares were heavy on the approach of dividend time. Hudson's Bays kept pretty firm, and Docks showed no particular movement, but P. and O. deferred lost 1. Furness Withys were good on the report. Rates in this section were much as usual, but a bear account was disclosed in Slaters, and the shares commanded a "back." In the making-up list falls preponderated. Cement preferred was down $\frac{3}{8}$, and the ordinary $\frac{1}{8}$; B. E. T. ordinary showed a loss of $1\frac{1}{8}$, and the preferred of $\frac{1}{8}$. Eastmans dropped $\frac{1}{4}$, Gordon Hotels ordinary and preferred $\frac{1}{4}$, Hope Bros. preferred $\frac{1}{4}$, J. Lyons $\frac{3}{8}$, River Plate Meat $\frac{1}{8}$, several Nitrates $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$, Allsopps 1 to 3, Bieckerts Brewery ordinary 4, Anglo "A" $\frac{3}{4}$, Eastern Telegraph $1\frac{1}{2}$, and Commercial Union Assurance 2. On the other hand, Californian Oilfields were up $\frac{1}{4}$, St. James' Electric ordinary rose $\frac{1}{4}$, U. S. Brewing $\frac{3}{4}$, Hudson's Bays 2, and Standard Bank of South Africa $5\frac{1}{2}$.

If anything, Stock markets left off a little better this afternoon, although they were idle enough, and in the morning, at least, disposed to pessimism. Paris seems to have been flat to the very end, and all Russian issues consequently suffered, so that the scrip of the French portion of the new loan has fallen to $\frac{3}{8}$ premium on the issue price of 88. Our portion of the Russian loan closed to-night at 4 discount, but there was a shade more cheerfulness in the Kaffir Circus, and American Railroad shares were somewhat steadier. There was also a little rise in Grand Trunk stocks, product of the fine monthly statement. French Rentes suffer from the new taxation proposals and the coming loan.

A Batch of Rhodesian Reports.

Within the past week several Rhodesian companies have issued reports which must convince the least wary intelligence that the outlook for the mining industry in Charterland is not merely dark, but pitch dark. The facts disclosed in these documents give the lie to all the rodomontade one has to listen to from Chartered and other directors about the vast mineral wealth of this wilderness, its "record" outputs and the good time that has been coming ever since Cecil, the stupendous, and his robbers turned out the Matabeles. Scores of mines have been opened by companies and have never yielded an ounce of payable gold; money has been spent upon them without stint and irrecoverably lost, but the players keep up the farce in London Wall, for fees and feeds are still to be had there for "boards," &c. The Dunraven company leased 30 of its 75 claims in May, 1904, at a royalty of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the gross output, and the tributary worked them until July of last year, when they failed to find new payable ore bodies. At the end of September they handed the claims back to the company. The total royalty received in 1905 was £2,222, and sundry receipts amounted to £206, but the whole barely sufficed for ordinary expenditure. Cash in hand amounts to about £4,000, and instead of dividing it amongst the shareholders, the directors are on the look out for another property on which to waste it. Their search so far has been fruitless, and no wonder, seeing the many thousands of claims other companies are continually abandoning as worthless. Of course, a large number of properties have been inspected, but the consulting engineer does not consider them worth developing. What has the board drawn in fees?

The Chicago Gaika Development Company belongs to the same group, and its experience is in many re-

spects similar. In the past 12 months no less than 133 mining claims were abandoned by it on the advice of the consulting engineer, whilst the tributer who took over the claims on the Primrose reef gave them up owing, it is said, to the scarcity of water. A certain amount of prospecting work has been done on the remaining claims, but no definite values have so far been obtained. Other properties have been examined, but none taken up, and the directors believe it will be to the benefit of the shareholders "to wait until an advantageous opportunity arises to make use of the working capital at present available." We cannot accept this view, and believe the most beneficial policy would be to wind up the company and divide the remaining assets amongst the shareholders. Otherwise they might have to wait until Doomsday for this nebulous "advantageous opportunity" to materialise. A loss of £1,553 was the result of the year's operations, and on December 31 the company had £18,841 out on loan, and £297 in cash, with shares in subsidiaries of a cost price of £75,923. Both companies were formed in 1897, have never paid dividends, and are members of Sir John Willoughby's brilliant group. But the directors, we fear, will never suggest final liquidation, so long as there is any money left that they can draw.

Another depressing report is that issued by the directors of the Mashonaland Agency, which also covers the year 1905. In this period a gross profit of £13,730 resulted from the sale of shares and from dividends and interest—we do not know the proportions of each. Rentals brought in £3,737, and transfer fees £109, so the various credits totalled £17,576, the nett profit on which was £8,226. Against this the directors have deemed it advisable to write £622 off certain "investments," which, in their opinion, have permanently depreciated, whilst a further reduction of £2,156 has been made for interest accrued on the company's loan to its subsidiary, the Beatrice (Rhodesia) Company. This interest had not been received up to the date of the accounts, and has been transferred to a reserve for bad and doubtful debts. The balance of £5,448 is added to the previous year's credit of £24,383, making £29,832 to carry forward. The company is not exactly hard up for ready resources, but its shares are valued at £307,407, against a market price of £296,224, including £137,494, cost of shares not quoted. And since the end of last year there has been a heavier slump in the Rhodesian market. Yet, despite their knowledge of dozens of failures, of "Banket" rigs, and the despair and disgust of an impoverished public, the directors write in this strain:—"It is confidently anticipated that the value of the share assets will greatly increase immediately there is a revival in the Rhodesian market. The whole of the company's assets are being carefully nursed, and when markets again become more active opportunity will be taken to realise certain of the investments at prices which, having regard to the extent to which they have been written down in the company's books, should show satisfactory profits." Who can hope for such a miracle as an active Rhodesian market until some of the companies repay a portion of the millions spent on them? And this they cannot possibly do, for practically the whole country has now been exploited and found worthless, as a company promoter's heaven. It has been, and is, a hell to thousands.

MINING NEWS AND NOTES.

* * Frank and unbiased answers are given to all questions relating to Mines. Address Editor Mining Section and enclose ONE SHILLING for each question asked. No bucket shop circular or advertisement should ever be responded to without first consulting the INVESTORS' REVIEW.

Another dismal week, during which prices have continued to fall, opened with the carry-over, and this gave dealers something more to do than thumb-twiddling. Rates were a trifle lighter than at the preceding settlement, the general charge being about $5\frac{1}{2}$ -6% per cent., though, as usual, on some of the favourites it was less than this. For instance, Rand Mines were carried over at 4-5 per cent., and East Rands, Modderfontains, and Randfontains at $4\frac{1}{2}$ -5% per cent. Of the diamond shares, De Beers and Jagers were again continued at 4-5 per cent., whilst the rate on Premiers went off from 6 per cent. to 4 per cent. On Rhodesians,

including Chartered, the rate ranged from 6 to 7 per cent. Charges on West Australian shares were again irregular, such things as Associated, Great Fingalls, Ivanhoses, Golden Horseshoes, and Oroyas finding givers of 5-7 per cent. Northern Blocks, Great Boulders, Kalgurliis, Lake Views, and Perseverance were done at 6-8 per cent., and Sons of Gwalia at 1-3 per cent. Most miscellaneous assortments were continued at 6-8 per cent.

The recessions shown in the South African making-up prices were numerous, and in those of the leading counters mostly severe. Did these falls occur only in the past account they would be serious enough, but they are simply the continuance of an uninterrupted course of sagging. Modderfonteins were the heaviest sufferers, for they lost as much as $1\frac{1}{4}$, the other chief relapses comprising $\frac{5}{8}$ in East Rand Proprietary, $\frac{3}{8}$ in Gold Fields, $\frac{7}{8}$ in Apex, 11-32 in H. E. Props., $\frac{1}{4}$ in East Rand Mining Estates, Geldenhuis Deeps, Modder "B's," and Gold Trusts, $\frac{7}{8}$ in Anglo-French, Angelos, De Beers Deferred, New Goch, Northern Coppers, and Tanganyikas, and 5-32 in Bankets. This sad procession of declines was relieved here and there by a gain, such as a recovery of $\frac{3}{4}$ in Premier deferred, $\frac{1}{4}$ in Ferreira's, $\frac{3}{8}$ in Afrikanders, and advances in shares little known outside the market and the "shop," namely, $\frac{3}{8}$ in African Concessions and New Brightons, $\frac{7}{8}$ in Sanellas, and $\frac{1}{8}$ in Messina Development. West Africans and Egyptians scarcely moved, but in the West Australian list there were rises of $\frac{7}{8}$ in Golden Horseshoes and $\frac{3}{8}$ in Kalgurliis, which contrasted with losses of $\frac{3}{8}$ in Great Fingalls, $\frac{7}{8}$ in Associated, and 3-32 in Lake View Consols. Copper shares were also mostly lower on the fortnight, Anacondas as much as $2\frac{3}{4}$, Rio Tintos $1\frac{1}{4}$, Cape Coppers and Tharsis $\frac{1}{8}$ each.

The new account promises to be almost as gloomy as the past, for liquidation has continued. Paris especially has been a determined seller, but in the last day or so support has come from some quarter, and this has partly arrested the slump. Who are the buyers no one knows nor can imagine, and the suggestion that they may be some of the leading "houses" is scouted as highly improbable. In the first place, these are all either impoverished or choked up with masses of depreciated paper, and in order to keep their cash they have to suspend dividends. Indeed, rumours are persistent that more than one firm is in serious financial difficulties, and this is quite conceivable, even probable. The support is mainly of that unstable character called "bear" covering. Still, the falls on the week are numerous and serious enough coming on the steady decline of weeks past, and the losses thereby suffered by speculators and investors alike may partly account for the weakness in most markets.

Rhodesians have naturally accompanied Kaffirs on the downward path, for they have no inherent strength to resist the pressure. On the contrary, the outlook for this unhappy country, particularly for its mining industry, grows darker daily, ample testimony of which we give in our present issue in the shape of reports published in the past few days. Mine after mine is found to be unpayable, even tributaries having to give them up, and as for the various beleaguered copper properties, it may be ages before they can earn dividends. No wonder Rhodesian shares of all kinds are still being sold. Even the "Banket" discoverers seem convinced that it would be waste of money and energy to publish more cables, for we have not been thrilled with vague conjectures and estimates for many weeks now.

Whilst diamond shares have been quiet and steady, Premier deferred continue gradually to recover.

West Africans and Egyptians are still neglected, but prices for the most part are steady. West Australians are also very dull. Associated have been bought on a cable announcing that the Iron Duke lode has been cut at a fresh point, assaying 39 dwts. over 10 ft., but other leading shares are easier.

A fair amount of attention has been given to copper shares, Anacondas gaining substantially on the quarterly dividend of $\$1.37\frac{1}{2}$ per $\$25$ share, an increase of 25 cents on the previous dividend; in fact, it is the largest distribution since 1901. Rio Tintos are also appreciably higher on balance.

CINDERELLA DEEP.—Shaft sinking on the property of this Albu company was continued throughout 1905, and in March of the present year a reef was encountered at a depth of 4,003 feet, and a second reef at 4,021 feet. It is stated that the reefs are identical in appearance with the ore bodies in the overlying outcrop mine, the Cason, and that "the occurrence of reefs of such width and value at a depth of 4,000 feet is not only of importance to your company, but also to deep level mining on the Rand generally, since it affords further evidence of the permanence and continuity of the reefs and their gold contents at great depths." This may be so, but the public are seeking also for evidence of honesty and principled conduct on the part of the mine bosses. The plan to be adopted for the future development and equipment of the mine is now under consideration, and this may involve the raising of additional capital. On the other hand it may not, as the company has at call with the General Mining and Finance Corporation no less than £210,980, and at current account £1,186. Only £1,571 is owing to sundry creditors.

WEST RAND CONSOLIDATED MINES.—The directors of this recently-formed Albu parent company have nothing much to say in their report for 1905. It appears that the consulting engineers have recommended a joint scheme of development for the three properties, viz., that of the Violet Consolidated, of the West Rand Mines and the Luipaardsvlei ground, which, it is estimated, will develop 492,205 tons of ore and place in sight a further 664,366 tons. The total cost will be £160,000, £20,000 of which will be borne by the West Rand Consolidated. An amalgamation between the last-mentioned, the Violet Con-

solidated, and the West Rand Mines is also advised by the experts, and a scheme is now being formulated which, if approved by the directors, will in due course be submitted to the shareholders. No profit and loss account is issued, but the balance-sheet shows that the general expenditure for the year was £13,062, raising the cost from the company's inception to £28,980. The concern has plenty of wealth, including over £303,600 in cash.

ROODERAND GOLD MINING COMPANY.—The directors of this South African company have nothing further to say in their report for 1905 than that the property, buildings, machinery, &c., are still in charge of a caretaker. Revenue from interest, estate, and dividends totalled £2,178, and as the directors have had to write down the "investments" by no less than £13,063, the expenditure amounted to £15,781, so there was a further loss of £13,603, raising the debit balance to £23,052. Another misfortune was a loss of £8,523, representing defalcations by the late secretary, which has been placed to a suspense account pending the termination of the trial.

RAND COLLIERIES.—The results set forth in the accounts for the period from October 1, 1904, to December 31, 1905, are anything but brilliant. Revenue from rents, interest, and commission totalled £6,438, and the directors raise this to £8,682 by crediting the profit and loss account with £2,244 from premiums. By doing this they cut down the loss to £4,251, without providing for depreciation. Since the making up of the accounts the General Mining and Finance Corporation—the controlling concern—has exercised the option to purchase 50,000 shares at par to provide further working capital. Of course, the company is only shaft-sinking, and shareholders must be patient for a long time to come.

NORTHERN COPPER (B.S.A.).—The directors have not been over-eager to issue their report and accounts for the year to June 30. But then they have so little to say, and that of trifling importance. The principal operation seems to have been the transferring to the Kafue Copper Development Company of three areas of 10 square miles each. No development work was done on the six 10 square mile areas held by the company itself, prospecting operations having been directed to locating and pegging out the above-mentioned mining claims prior to throwing open the country for public pegging. It is stated that several blocks have been pegged and are being examined by the company's engineers before being definitely accepted on behalf of the company. And this practically exhausts all the information the directors can give. The year's revenue totalled £25,042, and of this £24,676 was the profit made on share selling, the balance coming from interest and transfer fees. Administrative expenditure took £2,444, but as the directors have written off the sum of £5,994 spent on claims in Southern Rhodesia—which is a dead loss—and as debenture interest requires £3,947, the net profit was £12,657, which, of course, is utilised in reducing the debit to £8,313. The company is fairly well off for cash resources.

BROOMASSIE MINES.—Here is a Jungle company that continues to make progress towards dividend-paying, but though it is earning a goodly revenue from gold winning, the directors have not yet issued a profit and loss account. In 1905 7,123 tons were treated for a recovery of 12,372 ozs. of gold, yielding as high as 34.7 dwts. per ton. London office expenses and debenture interest took £6,010, against £48,727, from gold, transfer fees, and rents, but the excess was more than absorbed by the outlay of £58,899 in West Africa, so the deficit in the balance-sheet is raised to £57,340 from £41,157. Part, however, of the above outlay was chargeable to capital. The new crushing plant and 20 heads of the new 40-stamp mill were completed during the year, but the directors are limiting the output pending the development "of the important ore bodies now definitely proved to exist in all three sections of the property."

COSMOPOLITAN PROPRIETARY.—The amount obtained by this company from gold and royalties in 1905 was £133,877, and after writing off depreciation, renewals, &c., the profit was £10,440, to be added to the previous year's surplus of £64,462, making the available balance £74,902, out of which the directors pay a dividend of 6d. per share. An encouraging result of the year's work has been the improvement at the lowest level in the width of the reef, and development has proceeded on this new body. Tributes have again been granted on certain leases owned by the company. Although many mining propositions have been submitted to the directors, they have not so far seen their way to advise the acquisition of any of them, but several promising properties are, it is added, being investigated. At the end of December last the ore reserves amounted to 30,700 tons, of an average value of 25.45s. per ton. Prospects seem very vague, and this is tacitly admitted by the directors, who say that their policy has been to push on the development of the property, also to endeavour to acquire other mining interests "which will ensure a profitable return to this company, whilst involving a minimum of risk, and thus form the best basis for securing a regular and satisfactory return upon the shares." An excellent balance-sheet is issued, showing a really strong financial position.

CARRINGTON LION P. C. MINING COMPANY.—Owing to an abnormal drought in the past half-year the water supply was so diminished that crushing was only possible at wide intervals. The output for the term ending March 29 was 1,508 tons for 2,411 ozs.; two tons of concentrates realised £28, and four tons of residues £16, total £5,379, equal to £3 11s. 4rd. per ton, with the bulk of residues stacked untreated at the mill. A call of 2d. per share was made by the directors, which, with the profit earned, reduced the debit balance to £100. The directors say they are convinced that the property has great possibilities

as an auriferous copper mine, but the best treatment of the sulphide ore and the scope of prospecting the whole width of the lease are now demanding their consideration.

BRILLIANT CENTRAL GOLD MINING COMPANY.—In the half-year ending March 10 the output was 14,199 tons of stone for 8,024 ozs., worth £28,753, with 13,084 tons of residues, value £2,182, and 288 tons of concentrates, valued at £7,700, total £38,635, equal to an average of £2 14s. 5.04d. per ton, comparing with £2 14s. 10.5d. per ton in the preceding half-year. The nett profit was £12,817, and £12,500 of this was disbursed in dividends, equal to 2s. 6d. per share. The directors have not much that is encouraging to say. It appears that the reduced size of the reef has necessitated an increase in the proportion of development work and exploration, with the result that the No. 2 hanging wall crosscut has disclosed a fairly strong reef to the east of the fault. As soon as ventilation connection is made with the Bonnie Dundee workings operations will be enlarged to fully exploit the area which is practically virgin in the north-eastern section on both the hanging and footwall reefs. Otherwise stopes on the main hanging wall reef in the body of the older workings show short runs of reef averaging small in size. The crosscut at 1,440 ft. in the vertical shaft is regarded as a very important prospecting work in connection with the hanging wall reef, as it will test the reef in the centre of an area 5 acres in extent above the No. 1 level. The area is also practically unworked on the footwall reef. But in consequence of the smaller bodies of stone the output shows a reduction. Fair prospects are said to be assured, though the programme of prospecting work to be carried out will prevent the regular monthly payment of dividends, at least during the next few months.

BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY BLOCK 14.—The nett profit for the half-year ending March 31 amounts to £17,812, to be added to £16,798 brought in from the September balance-sheet, making £34,610. Interest on the preference shares takes £1,500, and £218 is set apart for royalty to the New South Wales Government, leaving £32,892 to carry forward. In the half-year the total tons of crude ore milled was 17,806, yielding 2,336 tons of concentrates, containing 1,549 tons of lead and 66,370 ozs. of silver. When the mill is running to its full capacity the promise is held out that general costs will be reduced and better financial results obtained. Of carbonate ore 3,541 tons were sold for £12,487, and fair supplies of a highly payable character are still being mined.

ROYAL OAK OF HAURAKI.—The secretary announces that, in consequence of the continued satisfactory news from the North Mount Boppy Mine, the directors have completed the purchase; the balance of the money has been paid, and the property duly transferred. The latest cable runs, he says:—"Everything is most favourable. Drilling on eastern lode north and south. It has the appearance of making large mine."

TOPULDONI (NIZAM'S) GOLD MINES.—The report for the 12 months to February 28 states that satisfactory indications have been revealed at Ravine shaft, and no doubt is felt that the work done at this shaft by the "old men" was deep mining for those days, and not in the nature of mere prospecting shafts or shallow excavations. The old workings must have been at least 250 feet deep on the underlie of the lode, "a quite sufficient reason," say the directors, "for prosecuting the work at this shaft as quickly as possible; also bearing in mind that lately some very rich stringers of quartz have been met with close to the point where the old workings were broken into at the 212 ft. level." It has, therefore, been decided to at once send out an air compressor plant for driving rock drills, and the order for this machinery is now in the hands of the consulting engineers.

MONTANA MINING COMPANY.—Disappointing are the results of the past year's working of this company. The total value of the produce from the Marysville and Edgemont properties was £63,643, in addition to which £1,191 was received from interest, rent, and other sources, making a total income of £64,834. As the expenditure came to £66,767, the nett result was a loss of £1,933, which reduces the credit balance to £2,136. At the Drumlummon Mine, Marysville, the developments above water level did not lead to the discovery of any new body of payable ore. The directors are cherishing the belief that better results may be looked for in the future from the Nevada property, but prospects generally do not look very hopeful.

EAGLEHAWK CONSOLIDATED GOLD MINING COMPANY.—In a report, without audited accounts, issued by the directors for the half-year ending March 31, the directors say 11,832 tons were treated for a yield of 4,725 ozs., and 17,880 tons of slimes were dealt with by the cyanide process for 1,763 ozs., making a total of 6,487 ozs., against 5,785 ozs., realising £25,859, inclusive of £19 profit from the tributors. Disbursements came to £7,945 and dividends paid amounted to £6,000. In speaking of the outlook the directors say they feel satisfied that with continued judicious exploiting they will yet develop "shoots of payable stone" that will give fair returns and generally improve matters.

MEXICAN GOLD AND SILVER RECOVERY COMPANY.—The accounts for 1905, after writing off the usual amounts for depreciation and a special sum of £2,143 from the value of patents as represented by the shares of the MacArthur Forrest Mexican Syndicate, show a nett profit of £5,044, which enables the directors to reduce the debit in last year's balance-sheet to £2,161.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOLD YIELD.—The gold yield of New South Wales for May amounted to 19,456 ozs., valued at £72,998, compared with 31,952 ozs., worth £120,947, in May, 1905. For the five months the output amounts to 145,451 ozs. against 124,116 ozs., of a value of £599,334 and £447,123 respectively.

BRITISH COLUMBIA MINING IN 1905.—According to the annual report of the Minister of Mines of British Columbia for 1905, the

gross value of the mineral output in that period was \$22,461,325, the largest ever made by the mines of the province, an increase over 1904 of \$3,483,966, or 18.4 per cent., and over 1903 of 28 per cent. According to the returns this increase was confined to certain leading districts, viz., South-East Kootenay, the Boundary, and Nelson and Yale divisions, the other districts showing a more or less marked decrease. The greater part of the increase was in the South-East Kootenay and Boundary districts, whilst Slocan showed the largest decline, the output being about half that of 1904. Rossland just held its own; its tonnage of ore increased about 5 per cent., but the values per ton diminished somewhat on the average, owing to the working of the low grade ore by concentration methods. The tonnage of ore mined in the whole province, inclusive of coal, was 1,706,679 tons, some 245,870 tons, or 16 per cent. greater than in 1904 and 85 per cent. greater than in 1901. Mines from which shipments were made numbered 146, and only 79 properties shipped over 100 tons each and 38 in excess of 1,000 tons. The number of men employed in 146 metalliferous shipping mines was 3,596—2,394 below and 1,202 above ground, and in 24 non-shipping mines 114, making a total of 3,710. The following table gives the production of the various minerals for the past three years:—

	1903.		1904.		1905.
	\$		\$		\$
Gold, placer	1,060,420	..	1,115,300	..	969,300
Gold, lode	4,812,616	..	4,589,608	..	4,933,102
Total gold	5,873,036	..	5,704,908	..	5,902,402
Silver	1,521,472	..	1,719,516	..	1,971,818
Lead	689,744	..	1,421,874	..	2,399,022
Copper	4,547,535	..	4,578,037	..	5,876,222
Coal	3,504,582	..	3,760,884	..	4,152,936
Coke	827,715	..	1,192,140	..	1,358,925
Other materials	531,870	..	600,000	..	800,000
Totals	17,495,954	..	18,977,359	..	22,461,325

According to the districts the figures were:—

	1903.		1904.		1905.
	\$		\$		\$
Cariboo District....	475,200	..	474,600	..	406,000
Cassiar District	480,668	..	558,573	..	504,372
East Kootenay Dist.	1,951,128	..	3,210,573	..	5,339,154
West Kootenay Dist.	6,603,981	..	5,806,070	..	5,421,859
Lillooet District....	31,283	..	34,583	..	32,584
Yale District	3,714,422	..	4,190,281	..	6,483,504
Coast Districts	4,239,572	..	4,702,679	..	4,273,852
	17,495,954	..	18,977,359	..	22,461,325

The production of placer gold was the smallest for seven years, the falling off being attributed to a very dry summer followed by a winter with very little snow, this decreasing the supply of water for hydraulicking. The increase in the quantity of lode gold was due entirely to the larger tonnage of gold-bearing copper ore smelted in the Boundary district.

DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY.—The income in the year 1905 amounted to £2,482 and the expenditure to £58,952, so there was a loss of £56,470, and after allowing for the credit of £1,245 brought in a debit of £55,225 is carried forward. The profit and loss account is charged with £53,944, by which sum the directors have written down the East Rand Extension shares to 1½.

Company Reports and Balance Sheets.

* * The Editors will be much obliged to Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies if they would kindly forward copies of Reports and Balance-sheets direct to the Office of the INVESTORS' REVIEW, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C., so as to insure prompt notice in these columns.

NATIONAL BANK OF NEW ZEALAND, LIMITED.

When dealing with the report of this bank a year ago we referred to a pending rearrangement of the capital account and gave the facts, at the same time asking if an important new issue of capital was contemplated. This question has been answered since, as in March last 50,000 new shares were offered to proprietors at a premium of £1 per share in the proportion of one new for every two held. These new shares have now been allotted and will rank for dividend as from October 1 next. The paid-up capital will then be £375,000, out of the authorised amount of £1,725,000, and the reserve fund will be raised to £280,000, apart from the allocation from last year's profits. Gross revenue for the year to March 31 was £144,930, from which expenses of management and general charges absorbed £77,072 leaving £67,857 nett. With £8,310 brought in the disposable sum is £76,167, and after providing dividends aggregating 10 per cent., together with a bonus of 2 per cent., the directors add £20,000 to reserve, write off £10,000 from premises account, give a bonus of £3,500 to the staff, and add a similar sum to the officers' pension fund, leaving £9,167 to be carried forward. This is a very fair allocation of the profits, and the position all round looks a good one. Note circulation has moved up slightly to £268,872, current and deposit accounts are larger by £221,975 at £3,440,456, and bills payable and other liabilities amount to £489,908 against £415,309. On the other side the coin and cash balances are in excellent proportion at £916,824, being an increase of £43,786. An addition of £28,411 at £231,799 has been made to the investments, and bills dis-

counted and advances have gone up by £306,288 to £3,532,972. Premises and other property have been reduced from £80,616 to £72,999, and the total of the balance-sheet is £4,753,696 against £4,386,727.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

It is comforting to know that at least one institution finds the exploitation of the Sultan's dominions a profitable business. This bank has always been very carefully conducted, and fully deserves the marked success which has attended its operations in the Turkish Empire. Banking business there must be fraught with considerable difficulties, because it must be more troublesome to do a profitable trade in a badly misgoverned country, where the natural resources are allowed to lie latent, than in one where enlightenment prevails and wealth abounds. Business in the 12 months to December 31 last seems to have been exceptionally good, and the bank returns a nett profit of £464,200, or an advance of the large sum of £66,740 compared with the preceding year. The balance brought forward was £20,977 making £485,177, and after providing £63,198 for the statutory reserve and percentages in accordance with the statutes, the directors propose to raise the dividend another 1 per cent. to 8, carrying £21,979 to the next account. The dividend recommended requires a sum of £400,000, the paid-up capital being half the subscribed amount of £10,000,000. Note circulation does not show much movement at £1,142,004, but the bills payable exhibit the important decline of about one million at a total of £1,863,456. Deposits for fixed terms £1,270,664 are larger by £153,950, and the current accounts moved up again from £8,601,537 to £9,184,280. A further increase of £253,054 to £2,709,369 has taken place in the cash in hand at Constantinople and branches, and a decline shown in the money at call a year ago has given place to a still larger increase in the present balance-sheet, the amount being up £475,260 to £1,910,248. Bills receivable are also considerably higher at £6,797,198, while the investments are much the same at £4,344,763. Advances on current accounts show a small decline to £2,788,347, but advances on security are less by £821,695 at £3,921,367. Statutory advance to the Turkish Government amounts to £909,091, but the participation in other advances to the Government is smaller by £264,223 at £692,775. Current account with the authorities is also lower at £107,147, and bank premises and real estate are entered at £232,342.

ARGENTINE NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY CO., LIMITED.

Further progress was made by this company during the year to December 31 last. Gross earnings amounted to £85,686, or £17,358 more than in the previous 12 months, against which the working expenses rose only £5,450 to £60,608, so that the nett profit is £25,078, compared with £13,170. Balance shown by the nett revenue account, including return from investments, is £37,703, so that the directors are able to increase the distribution on the ordinary debenture stock by 1 per cent. to 2½, carrying forward £494. Number of passengers carried was 88,985, or an improvement of 13,495, meaning an increase in revenue of about £4,000. Parcels and luggage were also better, and we find that the increase in all kinds of goods traffic was 35,948 tons. Important increases were shown in maize, tobacco, lime, fencing posts, firewood, logs, fencing wire, flour and bran, sundries, and general goods and live stock. There were no really important decreases, but wool and hides and skins showed small declines. The improvement in public goods traffic alone was 25,696 tons, meaning a gain in revenue of £11,186, but there was a decline in miscellaneous receipts of £1,056. With the exception of maintenance of rolling stock, all expenditure items went up, and a new charge appears for maritime services. Expenditure on capital account was £17,630, which includes £8,069 for additions to or improvements of the line and rolling stock and £9,561 for fencing. As is probably well known, the company's general manager has also been appointed general manager of the East Argentine Railway, which this company virtually controls, so that the two lines will henceforward be worked in combination. Negotiations, moreover, are on foot for a complete amalgamation of the two companies, but before any scheme can be submitted to the proprietors it will be necessary to obtain the consent of the Argentine Government to the principle of amalgamation. Proposals to this effect are now being discussed, and matters would doubtless have been further advanced but for the death of President Quintana, followed, as it was, by a change of Ministry. The directors, however, have every reason to hope that the consent of the Argentine Government will be granted without much delay. The policy initiated in 1902 of reducing the prior fixed charges has been continued, and a further amount of £11,797 prior lien debenture stock has been acquired and cancelled.

TRUSTEES, EXECUTORS, AND SECURITIES' INSURANCE CORPORATION, LIMITED.

In their report for the year ended May 31 the directors of this enterprise say that the scheme for rearranging the capital of the corporation was successfully carried into effect during the past financial year, and the proprietors were thereby relieved from the liability of £3 per share. The new preference and ordinary shares into which the old partly-paid ordinary shares were divided have practically all been paid up in full and converted into preference and ordinary stocks as provided by the scheme. An official quotation for both these stocks has been granted by the Stock Exchange, and we hope the directors will rest content with their achievement for a considerable time to come. The capital provided by the scheme was received in instalments falling due in the months of August and November, 1905, and February, 1906, so that the company had the use of the new money for a portion only of the year. As a good deal of

the revenue arising from the employment of this money, although accrued at May 31 last, was not receivable until a later date, the result of its employment is only partially reflected in the accounts now submitted. Revenue from all sources, however, reached £99,524, and after providing £17,167 for debenture interest and all other charges, the balance over is £69,502. Sum brought forward, after providing special dividend of £100,000 and the expenses incidental to the rearrangement of capital, was £523, making £70,024, so that the directors can meet the preference dividends and make distributions aggregating 5½ per cent. on the ordinary stock. A sum of £15,000 is then carried to reserve and £14,147 to next account. Capital of the company now amounts to £1,050,000 in equal amounts of fully-paid preference and ordinary stock, besides which there is a debenture debt of £400,000. Investments, which are supported by present value, amount to £1,130,830, and Winchester House, including £48,422 expended to date on rebuilding, is valued at £268,422. Sundry other assets or investments are entered at £92,958, and the reserve, which is always kept in high-class securities, now amounts to £130,000. The cash balance is also good at £95,208 apart from sums held for clients, and ordinary liabilities amount to £95,185, including £59,070 due for securities purchased. The rebuilding of the London Wall section of Winchester House is approaching completion, and it is anticipated that the new offices will be ready for occupation in the course of the present summer. During the period of reconstruction the revenue account has necessarily suffered from loss of rentals, but the income from this source may be expected to show, the directors say, a substantial improvement when the new offices are let.

FURNESS, WITHEY, AND CO., LIMITED.

The year ended April 30 was a period of very important developments for this big Christopher Furness enterprise. Within the 12 months the company purchased the Baltimore-Rotterdam trade of the Neptune Steam Navigation Company, together with seven steamers. Four steamers were added to the fleet in the ordinary way, besides two steam colliers for the London coal trade, and the company also acquired the whole of the shares of the Chesapeake Railway Company in the Chesapeake and Ohio Steamship Company, to say nothing of the services between Newport News and London and Newport News and Liverpool. Moreover, contracts have been entered into with the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company, the Norfolk and Western Railway, and the Southern Railway, which have enabled this company to increase its services to London and Liverpool, combining in addition the Port of Norfolk. The increase in the services has necessitated the addition of further tonnage, for which purpose two steamers have been purchased, in addition to those mentioned. To meet the growing Continental trade, the company has established its own house at Rotterdam, with satisfactory results, so the directors tell us, and we can only hope that all these heavy commitments will not prove too much for the undertaking's strength. According to the report, the past year was one of improvement in most of the industries in which the company is interested. The steamship lines have been well employed, the shipbuilding yard again shows the large amount of 44,311 tons completed, and the dry dock and ship repairing departments continue well employed. The effect of all this on the revenue account was most striking. Profits at head office, branches, and shipyard amounted to £198,301, being an increase of the big sum of £113,206 compared with the preceding year. Dividends on investments, however, were less by £17,296 at £101,805, interest on advances gave £1,912, Government subsidy for postal services £8,995, and transfer fees £323, or a total of £311,336, compared with £219,693. From this directors' fees absorb £5,800, income-tax £4,815, and interest on debentures and preference dividend £26,617, leaving £274,103, which is increased to £310,486 by the sum of £36,382 brought forward. On this occasion £50,000 is allowed for depreciation, against a similar sum put to special reserve a year ago, and £40,000, or about £15,000 more, is provided for insurance and repairs account. Sum still left is £220,486, which enables the board to raise the ordinary distribution by 5 per cent. to 15, with an increase in the carry forward of £4,000 to £40,486. Further progress has been made with the redemption of debentures, and while by April 30 the amount had been brought down to £281,400, the present total is no more than £279,500. Floating liabilities, however, are enormous at £607,092, no less than £400,183 being due on bills payable and the balance on open accounts. Property valuation is now £2,096,113, against £1,910,432, consisting of an immense variety of assets, and the total is arrived at after providing depreciation and deducting the amounts recovered on account of work in progress. This huge item is protected by a reserve fund of £500,000, all separately invested, and there is in addition an insurance and repairs account of £130,101. Loans at interest, cash, and bills in hand amount to £248,316, cash at bankers amounts to £116,378, and sundry debtors owe £218,271. The share capital is £1,500,000 in 300,000 preference and 1,200,000 ordinary shares of £1 each. It may be noted that of the reserve fund investments £100,000 consists of first mortgage debentures of the British Maritime Trust, an enterprise which is just making an important new issue under a Furness Withey guarantee.

KYNOCHE, LIMITED.

This well-known Birmingham company, which has just successfully sued a Liberal M.P. for slander, again did well in the year to March 31 last. The high prices of copper, spelter, tin, lead, and nitrate of soda seriously curtailed the profits, in some cases by reducing demand, in others by raising the cost of articles for which it was impossible or impolitic to obtain

a corresponding advance from the customers. None the less did the business done turn out well. The directors say that the improvement referred to in the previous report continued, and became more marked during the period under review, the sales again being the highest ever reached. Nett profit is returned at £93,040, or £616 more than in 1904-5, and there was an increase of £15,907 at £55,907 in the sum brought forward, making £148,946. From this directors' fees take £5,000, and after meeting debenture interest and preference dividend the distribution on the ordinary shares will again be 10 per cent., with £8,000 written off capital expenditure and £62,278 carried forward. So far as can be traced, this £8,000 is the only sum provided for depreciation on the capital outlay of little less than a million, £981,160, to be exact. There may be some hidden accumulations somewhere, but we do not know of them. Reserve, however, is fairly substantial at £150,000, and the pension fund amounts to £14,833. A reserve for bad debts and other accounts has been reduced from £8,454 to £7,803. Sundry creditors of £132,022 are larger by £11,743, exclusive of a contingent liability of £46,229 in respect of the Forward Engineering Co., and of which details might have been supplied, but the advance on mortgage of certain property is a trifle lower at £20,700. Notwithstanding the increase in floating liabilities, debtors owe £27,322 less at £185,453, and investments and cash have been reduced by £10,419 to £84,662, but the stock-in-trade is larger by £63,192 at £369,615. The auditors' certificate does not on this occasion contain a reservation regarding the item of debtors, so it is to be assumed that all the debts are good. We are sorry the directors do not see fit to publish a profit and loss account, but they adopt one good plan, and that is the presentation of two years' figures in the balance-sheet.

BAKU RUSSIAN PETROLEUM COMPANY.

The year to December 31 last was a period of continuous turmoil for this unfortunate company. Quite apart from the appalling and devastating events in Russia, the internal administration has been hotly assailed by a section of the shareholders, headed by Mr. Paul Dvorkovitz. The agitators, too, have scored a signal victory, and the company's board has been entirely reconstituted, with the appointment of five new directors. When their election has been confirmed, Mr. H. N. Gladstone, who has been specially singled out for attack, will retire. It is unnecessary to refer in detail to the many causes which upset the business during the period under review; the harrowing story has been written many times, and we need only say that whereas the gross production of crude oil from January 1 to August 21, counting only the days when it was possible to work full time, averaged 401,849 poods per week, from August 22 to the end of the year the average was no more than 141,957 poods. Total production for the 12 months, therefore, was only 15,728,253 poods as compared with 26,223,207 poods in 1904. Boring work was also greatly interfered with, the total depth bored during the year amounting to 1,310 sagesas as against 2,920 sagesas. Moreover, the wells have not recovered the full productivity shown previous to the strike, and as the completion of the new borings has been delayed, the output at the present time compares unfavourably even with 1904. But other companies at Baku are evidently suffering from the same causes, as the official figures published for the first four months of this year show a decrease in the total production of the oil fields of about 30 per cent. compared with the previous year's average. Sales and deliveries of oil produced a revenue of £238,304, which other items built to £245,665, and after providing a total outgo of £190,334, the balance remaining is £55,331. Principal expenditure items were wells account £109,183, oil purchases £35,743, administration £20,198, and interest and discount £14,647. The credit mentioned, £55,331, is carried to "losses by fire and disturbances account," which has a credit of £1,223 brought forward, so that the total sum is £56,554. Of this, £27,267 has been expended, leaving £29,287, and if, as the general manager says, the material losses, including loss of production, run up to £200,000, a good deal of money has yet to be found. Apart from all this, there is a debit to profit and loss account of £168,143, and as no depreciation seems to have been written off for the period under review we fear a pretty good case for reconstruction could be made out. Capital expenditure for the year under notice was important at £48,317, and after allowing for £1,846 written off leases account, the total stands at £1,428,995. Loan indebtedness, including £125,000 secured on an issue of debentures, amounts to £155,000, sundry creditors reach £48,908, advances on account of forward sales amount to £71,098, and £38,180 is owing on bills payable. This makes up the formidable total of £313,187, and the only important assets on the other side, apart from the capital account, are materials in store or in transit £05,871, stocks £5,471, securities deposited with the Government and public bodies and bonds held £7,961, debtors and bills receivable £18,485 and cash £16,332.

SOUTH AFRICAN BREWERIES, LIMITED.

This undertaking came through the very trying year to March 31 last wonderfully well, but the directors had taken the precaution to fortify the company with a big creation of fresh capital. Early last year the company raised an additional £500,000 by means of a preference share issue, and while profits have increased a little, the growth is not by any means proportionate to the extra dividend charge involved. After providing all local expenses, freight, depreciation, and bad and doubtful debts, the profits in South Africa are returned at £242,896 or £4,598 more than in the previous period. Dividends on investments, interest on bank deposit and commission, less interest on loans, reached £17,845, or an addition of £8,013, and transfer fees produced

£182 so that we have a total income of £260,924 against £248,333. General charges, including £3,000 for directors' fees, drew off £8,333 leaving £252,591, but as the balance brought forward was £13,703 worse at £6,291 the credit for disposal is rather less at £258,882. Chairman's visit to South Africa to go thoroughly into the affairs of the company cost the nice little sum of £1,266, a sum of £7,086 was added to the reserve fund, and balance of interest on instalments of new preference capital absorbed £2,985. Preference dividend then takes twice as much at £50,000 and the ordinary dividend must be further reduced by 2 per cent. to 20, with a balance carried forward of £7,544. In their report the directors once more refer to the continued depression in South Africa, and talk a certain amount of twaddle in saying that "the uncertainty with regard to the future Government of the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies has seriously affected business generally," although in one sense this might be true. Under the circumstances they think "it is hardly surprising that the increase in trade is not so large as might reasonably have been looked for, while provision for bad debts has been necessarily heavy." The last is rather an important admission and shareholders will doubtless press for details at the meeting next Wednesday. During the year the directors have purchased the assets of Morgans Brewery Company, of Port Elizabeth, and arranged to acquire the whole of the shares of the Durban Breweries, in both cases at a considerable discount on the cost. They believe that the result of these acquisitions will be of great advantage, and we hope so, too, although the discount is not necessarily a good point. Rather the reverse we should think. Another £88,000 odd nett was added to the capital account during the year, increasing the total to £1,470,229, while the machinery, tools, live stock, &c., have been increased by £18,440 to £251,178. Trade loans and mortgages £323,273 and investments at cost £212,502 each show moderate increases, and stocks are slightly higher at £151,873. Sundry creditors £50,977 compare very favourably with debtors £133,239, and the company has the big cash balance of £192,204. Reserve fund £620,000 seems a very excellent accumulation, but it is largely composed of share premiums.

BACKUS AND JOHNSTON'S BREWERY CO., LIMITED.

The results displayed by this Peruvian brewery are in striking contrast to those of its Argentine neighbour, Bieckert's. In the report for the year ended December 31 the directors again complain of the increase in the cost of materials and say that the company's output has been checked by the fact that new constructions have been in course of erection during the greater part of the year. Trading profit in Lima was only £12,506, or £2,274 less than in the previous twelve months, to which is added £5 for transfer fees, making £12,591. London expenses require £1,591, debenture interest £7,188, and income-tax £119, leaving £3,691 nett. With £817 brought in the sum for disposal is £4,508, and the directors propose to apply £1,000 in reduction of repairs and renewals account and £500 as a reserve against bad debts. A dividend of 2½ per cent. is then proposed on the ordinary shares, with a drop in the carry forward to £258. For the previous year the dividend was 3 per cent., with £2,000 allowed for depreciation, and £347 written off against earthquake expenses, so that the showing is very poor. Absolutely no wastage allowance is made this time, and there is an addition to the capital account of £9,372 for plant and machinery, making the total outlay £222,187. Moreover, the directors contemplate further expenditure in the same direction, and think the time has arrived for a further debenture issue. Not altogether a cheerful prospect, but the money is necessary, because £5,328 is already owing to bankers and trading accounts, a long way adverse. Repairs and renewals and balance of earthquake accounts stand in the balance-sheet at £2,312, but have been reduced to £1,312 by the allocation from last year's profits.

TAMPLIN AND SONS' BREWERY, BRIGHTON, LIMITED.

The small recovery noted a year ago was not followed up during the 12 months ended May 17, and the directors blame the general trade depression for the decrease of £4,407 to £76,285 in gross profits. Against this they were only able to save £1,010 at £27,742 in expenses, and as in addition to writing off £78 more at £4,775 for depreciation of leases, &c., £543 had to be found for proportion of compensation tax to date, the nett profits were £4,018 smaller at £43,225. Part of this falling off was neutralised by the increases of £1,393 to £8,855 in the balance brought forward and £68 to £166 in receipts from interest, giving a total available of £52,246 compared with £54,804. The decrease, however, was still substantial enough to force the directors to reduce the dividend and bonus from 12½ per cent. to 11 per cent., and after putting another £1,000 to general reserve, £8,585 or £279 less is carried forward. Licences given up, property sold and depreciation of leases during the year amounted to £2,780, but £1,938 was spent on new purchases and improvements so that the nett reduction in capital account was no more than £841 at £767,972. In addition, plant, utensils, &c., were valued at £23,460, and against these two items the reserves come to £114,746 or £698 less than a year ago, the transfer from revenue having been accompanied by a reduction of £1,608 in the property reserve. Trade liabilities and deposits are comparatively trifling at £4,274 or a decrease of £293, while book debts, rents, and loans are £336 down at £22,355, stocks have been reduced by £1,329 to £24,423, and cash is £180 lower at £17,028.

DISTILLERS' CO., LIMITED.

This great Scotch "combine" does not appear to have acquired any additional businesses during the year to May 15, and the slowing down is all to the good, because expansion was

going on at a really terrifying rate. As it is, the ordinary share capital amounts to £1,220,100, the preference shares to £199,250, and the debenture debt to £750,000. Ordinary sundry creditors, moreover, have gone up from £3,095 to £78,689, against a decline of £4,500 only in the sundry creditors and carriage on spirits in bond under "distillery accounts." On the assets side, land and buildings show a reduction of £20,524 to £524,596, and plant and utensils have been written down from £245,360 to £238,002, while the Ardgowan Distillery £87,034, John and Robert Harvey and Co. £44,812, and the United Distilleries £120,100 all remain at previous figures. On this side under "distillery accounts" we have sundry debtors larger by £16,170 at £380,365, cash £42,510 against £35,154, and stock of grain, spirits, &c., £987,512, an increase of £12,600, truly an enormous figure. Bills receivable on hand £84,563, showing a drop of £28,866, complete the total of the "distillery accounts" assets at £1,494,950. Under registered office accounts sundry debtors and other assets have increased by £95,688 to £155,323, reflecting the increase in creditors, while the cash balance is somewhat lower at £36,462, the total of the balance-sheet being up by £71,667 at £2,701,279. Profit for the year was £210,187 or a trifling decline compared with the previous 12 months, and after adding £90 for transfer fees and the rather smaller sum of £12,273 brought in, the disposable sum is £222,551, against £226,342. Income-tax £7,638 and general charges £8,992 were each rather higher, so that after providing interest on debentures, the directors cut down the allocation to depreciation and reserve by £5,000 to £30,000. Balance still left is £144,334, which meets the preference dividend and 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, the same as before, with a slight increase in the carry forward to £12,859.

REXER ARMS CO., LIMITED.

The joint stock company formed to exploit the Rexer machine gun was formed in April of last year, with somewhat qualified success apparently so far as public subscriptions were concerned. A first report covering the year to May 15 is now issued, and while the profit produced may be all right, readers will be able to judge when we have supplied the details. The profit and loss account shows a total revenue of £17,610 made up as follows:—Profit on the resale of guns to vendor £2,525, amount payable under the terms of the contract for the manufacture and sale of guns, dated April 3, 1905, £14,975, transfer fees, &c., £29, and interest £81, total £17,610. Against this we must deduct £2,932 for general expenses, and £1,400 for directors' fees, leaving £13,278 as the net profit. From this one-fifth of the preliminary expenses, £1,458, has been written off, and an interim dividend of 1s. per share paid on the ordinary shares. The directors now propose a final dividend of 1s. 6d. per share, making 12½ per cent. for the year, and a distribution of 3d., or 25 per cent., on the one shilling deferred shares. Rather more than one-half of the authorised ordinary shares amounting to £100,000 has been issued, and nearly all the £5,000 worth of one shilling deferred shares, so that the total issued capital is £55,883. Patent rights, specimen guns, equipment, &c., stand for £30,993, and machinery, tools, &c., are valued at £4,170. Sundry creditors owe £1,653, against debtors £10,184, cash £6,207, and stock £300, the last being remarkably small. Preliminary expenses, after deducting the sum now written off, will still stand at £5,831, a very considerable sum, but then the company paid an underwriting commission of 7½ per cent. on 30,000 shares.

GREENWOOD AND BATLEY, LIMITED.

A severe set-back took place in the profits of this engineering firm during the 12 months to March 31 last. For the two previous years revenue had steadily recovered, but now it is back almost to the level of 1902-3. Against the previous 12 months the total for the period under review is down £11,478 to £20,713, this sum being arrived at after providing debenture interest, expenses of management, and allowing for doubtful accounts. In allocating the reduced income, for which no explanation is given in the report, the directors begin by allowing £5,000 only against £7,500 for depreciation of plant. The 7 per cent. preference dividend having been provided, the dividend on the ordinary shares is cut down by 1 per cent. to 5, nothing is placed to reserve, compared with £5,000 a year ago, and the carry forward is very slightly increased from £6,026 to £6,124. Additions on capital account during the year amounted to £8,038, increasing the total to £281,890, against which £9,000 is written off, being £4,000 on account of sales and £5,000 for depreciation. Other capital commitments consist of investments in shares and debentures of other companies £37,741, advances to the English De Laval Steam Turbine Company £9,759, and expenditure on Electric Light Railways and on patents £5,039. Actually the outlay on the last-named is £49,269, but a bank loan of £44,231 has been obtained secured by deposit of warrants and debentures issued by the Light Railways Company. We should like to know what revenue these interests bring in, and the directors might consider the propriety of publishing a profit and loss account. In addition to the sum named, bankers have advanced the company £19,647, of which £9,919 remained on hand at the date of the balance-sheet, and it is worth noting that trading accounts are only just favourable. Bills recoverable represent a further sum of £4,878 and stocks and stores on hand are valued at £81,799.

S. P. AUSTIN AND SON, LIMITED.

Although this company did rather better during the 12 months ended April 30, when the net profits rose by £1,996 to £15,520, the improvement has not been utilised in a manner likely to prove of ultimate benefit. The directors have never been noted

for liberality in the matter of depreciation, and on this occasion, all they can spare is an additional £61 at £2,833, in spite of the steady growth in capital expenditure. This is equal to about 1½ per cent. on the outlay as at April 30, 1905, and as the spendings for the year came to £3,544, the nett result is to leave the asset of property after deducting the sinking fund of £1,245 for renewal of pontoon dock £678 higher at £159,906. Another £200 is written off the suspense account for expenses of the issue of capital in connection with the new dock, and at the present rate of progress it will take seven years to wipe out this item. That, however, seems to be a matter of little importance in the eyes of the directors, and they prefer to increase the dividend to 8 per cent. against 5 per cent. and 7 per cent. for the two previous years, leaving £346 to be added to the balance of £17,790 brought in. In other respects the position shows very little change. Liabilities are a trifle smaller at £6,291, while increases of £6,075 to £17,538 in sundry debtors and £4,898 to £24,969 in stocks and work in progress are counterbalanced by a reduction of £10,750 to £31,899 in cash.

HOWARD AND BULLOUGH, LIMITED.

There can be no doubt about the flourishing condition of the Lancashire trades when a company such as this, which manufactures spinning machinery of all kinds, can make a profit of £125,528 in a single year. This was the achievement for the 12 months to May 31, after providing for depreciation, bad and doubtful debts, and directors' remuneration, and it shows an improvement compared with 1904-5 of £35,085. The directors have already provided debenture interest and interim dividends on the preference and ordinary shares, and now have £98,926 at their disposal, including £9,648 brought forward. From this £7,500 is required to complete the preference dividend, and the board proposes to raise the ordinary dividend to 8 per cent., or ½ per cent. more, giving the reserve, which receives £40,000 against £10,000, the benefit of practically all the additional profit. Credit carried forward is then moderately increased to £10,176. The balance-sheet looks good, but we should better be able to judge if more details were available. Shares in Howard and Bullough (American Machine Company), investments, loans, &c., including interest, £258,820, is an item that might usefully be segregated, and we should like to be told the depreciation allowance, although in fairness it must be pointed out that the auditors tell us that due provision has been made for bad and doubtful debts, depreciation of buildings, plant and machinery, &c., and for possible losses on realisation of securities. Nett additions on capital account for the year were £5,563 making the total £868,565, and as the reserve is now £240,000 there is probably not much fault to be found with the finances. Sundry creditors £62,998 are much more than eclipsed by debtors £232,415, besides which cash and bills reach £90,782, and the stock-in-trade is entered at £155,479.

LAUTARO NITRATE CO., LIMITED.

In their report for the year ended December 31 the directors state that in spite of the many new companies and great competition for labour, &c., now prevailing on the coast this company is fairly holding its own, and they are fully justified in making this assertion. Gross profits, including interest and dividends received, amounted to £195,195 compared with £169,315 in the previous 12 months and £98,358 in 1903, and after meeting administration charges and interest and writing off £19,315 or £13,315 more for depreciation, the nett profits showed an improvement of £13,174 at £158,284. With £1,610 brought in the balance available was £13,940 larger at £159,894, but the directors prefer to use this surplus in strengthening the position of the company, and therefore make no further addition to the dividend, which was raised from 10 per cent. to 16 per cent. a year ago. First of all they apply £15,960 or £5,280 more to the redemption of the outstanding debentures, then £35,000 is used to complete the writing down of the Oficina Ballena, and after putting another £15,000 to new works account and £4,000 to fire insurance fund, £1,934 is carried forward. The value of the property in Chili has now been reduced to £465,362, while the reserve and fire insurance fund together amount to £45,392, of which £41,013 or an increase of £11,277 is invested outside the business, and on this £2,900 has been provided against depreciation. Liabilities on bills payable and to sundry creditors have been reduced by £7,536 to £204,612, and although stocks in hand are £25,969 down at £149,087, nitrate in transit is practically unaltered at £163,841, sundry debtors come to £1,411 more at £21,534, and cash and bills receivable have risen by £49,008 and £15,530 to £85,188 and £18,138 respectively.

BROOKE, BOND, AND CO., LIMITED.

This well-known tea dealing business had a rather better experience during the 12 months ended May 31 than in the previous year, but there is still a lot of leeway to be made up before the company returns to its one time prosperous condition. The further reduction in the tea duty, however, should prove helpful in the current year, and shareholders have always the satisfaction of knowing that the financial position is very strong. After providing £3,500 for directors' fees and their salaries as departmental managers, depreciation and all other charges and expenses the nett balance is returned at £15,491 or £4,475 more than in the previous year. That is a substantial improvement, but last year there was a drop of £13,308, and in the year before that a decline of £8,401, so that matters are not rosy yet. Adding the considerably reduced balance of £1,219 brought forward, the sum for disposal is £16,710, and the directors propose to raise the dividend by 2 per cent. to 10, adding £100 to the provident fund, providing £769 for com-

missions to themselves, and carrying forward the much smaller sum of £841. No addition is made to the reserve, but as that fund stands at £144,000, or only £6,000 less than the total capital, this is of no consequence. Moreover, the company has £134,217 invested in tip-top securities, besides £20,826 in trading companies, and the £100,000 of goodwill has been already written off. Sundry creditors are considerably exceeded by debtors, in addition to which the company has stock £81,715 and cash £14,355. Freehold premises are valued at £38,952, leaseholds at £3,841, and the fixtures, furniture, plant, &c., at £5,389. Provident fund now stands at £2,465, and the insurance and contingency fund at £871.

EAST INDIA AND CEYLON TEA CO., LIMITED.

The crop from this company's Indian estates for the year ended November 30 was reduced by generally unfavourable weather, but realised good prices, while the Ceylon gardens, on the contrary, yielded larger quantities, but of only medium grade which fetched a low figure in the market. From all sources the output was 1,667,935 lbs. or 144,132 lbs. less, and of this 1,182,096 lbs. were sold in London at an average of 6.15d. against 5.91d., 377,945 lbs. of black teas were disposed of in India and Ceylon, and 107,894 lbs. of green teas sold in Colombo, the last-named realising the equivalent of 5.13d. in London. The market in green teas has not been good, and the directors state that, as they do not anticipate any immediate improvement, they have instructed the agents to discontinue the manufacture. Including £60 from rubber the trading profits for the 12 months were £3,267 down at £6,844, and with £10,244 or £2,884 less brought in, the amount available came to £17,088 against £23,239 a year ago, out of which arrears of preference dividend for the two and a-half years to May 31, 1905, have been paid and £1,088 is carried forward. Estates account stands at £169,139, apart from the Hopewell Tea Company investment, which still figures as an asset for £52,989, owing to difficulties having arisen in connection with the proposal to write down the capital by £50,000. A special resolution authorising this reduction was passed by the ordinary shareholders in July last, and this was considered to be all that was required, but on taking the necessary steps to get the resolution confirmed by the Court of Chancery counsel advised that it would be necessary to convene a further meeting of both classes of shareholders. The matter, therefore, was allowed to drop for the time being, but will be settled at an extraordinary meeting to be held on July 3. With regard to the current position, liabilities on bills payable show an increase of £3,668 at £9,303, and sundry creditors are £5,016 up at £7,488, but outstanding charges on tea unsold on November 30 were £1,102 lower at £1,303. On the other hand, stocks are £6,890 smaller at £14,819, sundry debtors, including a heavy item of £2,932 for garden advances outstanding, come to £443 more at £3,043, and cash is £6,120 up at £9,506.

LUNGLA (SYLHET) TEA CO., LIMITED.

Unfavourable weather and rather finer plucking are the reasons given for the reduction in the crop for 1905, which was 19,886 lbs. under the estimate and 168,806 lbs. less than the previous year's output at 2,365,714 lbs. The average price realised showed a small recovery of 0.21d. to 6.37d. per lb., but the cost rose by 0.14d. to 4.67d., and the profits came to £2,587 less at £14,229. Against this the balance brought forward including adjustments was £1,468 larger at £1,608, interest and miscellaneous receipts gave £48 more at £115, and the sale of sisal plants consequent on the abandonment of this experiment yielded £534, so that after providing for debenture interest, managers' commission, &c., the amount available was only £325 down at £12,135. The directors, therefore, are able to maintain the dividend at 3 per cent., and to transfer another £2,500 to reserve, leaving £935 or £319 less to be carried to the new account. During the year another £4,700 debentures were purchased, making £5,000 in hand, and these have been cancelled reducing the amount outstanding to £55,000. This and the allocation to reserve are the only provision made against depreciation, and they cannot be considered any too liberal seeing that block account with extensions and new buildings and machinery stand at the old figure of £263,200. Current liabilities in London and India have been reduced by £4,232 to £23,530, and on the other hand the various assets, including temporary loans of £2,667 in India and £2,018 in London, are £858 down at £33,238, while cash has fallen from £7,788 to £3,065.

BORELLI TEA CO., LIMITED.

Both estates of this company produced considerably larger crops in the year ended December 31, the Phoolbari yielding 103,343 lbs. more and the Hanchurah 57,747 lbs. more, making a total output of 820,071 lbs. against 585,096 lbs. in 1904. Prices, too, showed improvements of 0.75d. and 0.66d. per lb. at 8.19d. and 7.86d. respectively, and the gross proceeds consequently rose by £7,427 to £27,702. Expenses were £3,805 up at £24,026, and as managers' commission took £302 compared with no more than £4 a year ago, the increase in nett profits was £3,323 at £3,374. Adding £72 for underestimates in 1904, £67 from dividends, and an old debt of £33 recovered, the amount available was £3,547, from which were deducted the debit balance of £744 brought forward and £208 loss incurred in writing down the Indian assets to 1s. 4d. per rupee. Debenture interest having been paid, a surplus of £2,026 was left, and out of this the directors pay arrears of preference dividend from June 16, 1901, to June 16, 1906, carrying £100 to the new account. Notwithstanding this improvement the company's position is not an enviable one. It has been in existence since 1874, but has paid no dividend on the £8,170 of ordinary shares since 1897, while

the estates stand in the books at £85,840 or the exact amount the issued share capital, and are obviously enormously overvalued—especially as no reserves of any kind have been accumulated. Some attempt, however, has apparently been made to provide for depreciation of machinery and permanent buildings, as the item is £809 down at £6,710, and the investment in Tezpur Tramways shares is £210 smaller at £1,680, owing, no doubt, to the loss on the writing down to 1s. 4d. per rupee. Liabilities to sundry creditors are practically unaltered at £1,428, drafts in transit come to £179 less at £972, but bills payable have increased by £2,600 to £10,450, and although, on the other hand, stocks are £1,380 up at £11,381, sundry debtors owe £1,443 more at £1,977 and cash is £695 higher at £84, the margin of free assets, after deducting the preference dividends now paid, is none too good.

JHANZIE TEA ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

The big crops of 1903 and 1904 could not be repeated in the year ended December 31 owing, the agents say, to the rainfalls having been unevenly distributed in the district where the association's gardens are situated. Not only was the crop 308,900 lbs. short of the estimate, but it was 344,980 lbs. below that of the previous season, and in spite of an improvement of 1.64d. to 9.26d. per lb. in the average price, the gross proceeds were £4,536 down at £35,788. Economy in working has never been a strong point with the company, and although the expenditure was reduced by £2,384 to £35,530, the cost per lb. worked out at 9.16d. or 2.06d. more, and the nett profits, after providing manager's commission, came to £268 only compared with £2,420. An underestimate of £162 in the revenue for 1904 increased the balance brought forward to £313, and the agents again refunded £500 of their commission, so that with £95 from interest the total available was £1,177. Of this income-tax totalling £124, and donations of £10 10s. each were made to the Anti-Traffic League and the Buckingham Testimonial Fund, leaving £1,032, which the directors have decided to carry forward. Liabilities on bills payable and to sundry creditors have been reduced by £522 to £15,561, but the loan from the bank has increased to £6,000, while an advance of £3,098 to £5,378 to sundry debtors is more than offset by decreases of £3,847 to £15,046 in stocks of tea, and £460 to £743 in cash. Factory advances stand at £2,270 and advances on the crop for the current year at £2,306, but even with these assets reckoned in the position is not very satisfactory. Block account at £102,800, reserve at £14,000, and investments of £6,319 are all unaltered, and the only allowance for depreciation is a sum of £431, 5 per cent., written off the cost of the Boisa tea house. By way of inducing the shareholders to accept patiently the absence of dividend, the directors state that a representative of the Cutch agents, who has recently visited the gardens, reports a distinct improvement in their condition since 1904, and they hold out a hope that the results will be more encouraging in 1906 when a crop of 1,160,000 lbs. is expected.

DOOARS TEA CO., LIMITED.

The experiences of 1904, when the crop was the largest ever gathered by this company, could not be repeated in the 12 months ended December 31, and owing to frosts in the early part of the season and other causes, the output was 259,812 lbs. down at 4,299,057 lbs. Market conditions, however, were better, and although the price realised did not quite come up to the average for the whole district, it was 0.33d. higher at 6.21d. Apparently the directors had counted on getting at least as large a crop when planning their outlay, and in spite of some saving having been effected, the cost per lb. rose by 0.17d. to 4.02d., and nett profits consequently only increased by £2,546 to £27,138. To this was added £16,703, or £3,892 more, brought forward, giving a total to be dealt with of £43,841, against £37,403, and the directors promptly pay a dividend and bonus of 12½ per cent. compare with 10 per cent., and take £675, or £225 more, for their own extra remuneration. They then make up for their shortcoming in the matter of reserve a year ago by transferring £10,000 to that fund, but in so doing have to reduce the amount carried to the new account by £7,537 to £9,166. The question of depreciation has never yet been tackled by them, and the estates still stand at their old figure of £286,573, or £61,573 more than the paid-up capital, so that the reserve, which now amounts to £60,000, has had to be utilised to cover the difference. Liabilities on trading account have been reduced by £6,937 to £8,708, and advances by brokers are a trifle smaller at £13,205, but the loan from the bankers is £2,683 up at £7,046, leaving a nett decrease of £4,300 at £28,959. Against this stocks have risen by £2,352 to £46,841, but sundry debtors are £971 lower at £2,331, and cash has dropped by £1,838 to £2,595. Expenditure in advance, which seemingly includes loans to coolies, has further increased by £2,597 to £9,170, and it seems high time that shareholders were given particulars of this item with a statement as to what proportion is considered recoverable.

SINGLO TEA CO., LIMITED.

A year ago the directors expressed a hope that a considerable increase in crop would be secured from the Dooars estate but unfortunately the improvement at one of the gardens was more than lost at the other, and the total output dropped to 22,841 lbs. to 631,866 lbs. The quantity produced at the Assam gardens was 383,496 lbs. smaller at 1,109,305 lbs., owing chiefly to the finer plucking, but the reduction was amply compensated for by an advance of no less than 2.27d. to 9.69d. per lb. the average price obtained. On one of the gardens the average rose by 2.74d. to 10.49d., with the result that that division earned a profit of £3 13s. 3d. per acre notwithstanding the smaller yield and the nett profits from these estates amount

to £8,381. The Doonars tea realised 6.13d. or 0.71d. per lb. more but the year's working nevertheless resulted in a loss of £735, reducing the nett profits from the whole of the property to £7,646. London expenses, managers' commission and sundry charges having been paid, a balance of £5,555 was left compared with a loss of £2,772, and after meeting debenture interest and transfer fees the directors had £2,450 in hand. The directors have relinquished their fees for the five and a-half years to December 31, and the resulting credit in the accounts for £3,239 is utilised, together with the above-mentioned surplus on working, to reduce the debit balance from £18,709 to £13,020. Although the results obtained are better than in previous years, the directors claim that they are not equal to the capabilities of the gardens, and if the current season is favourable to the maintenance of the quality, greatly improved results may be looked for. The improvement would be decidedly welcome, as the estates stand at the old figure of £239,165, and the auditors not unnaturally consider it their duty to draw attention in their certificate to the lack of any provision for depreciation. Bills payable have been reduced by £4,824 to £23,050, and the amounts due to other creditors are also lower, so that trading liabilities are £6,864 down at £30,434. Against these, however, stocks have fallen £3,742 to £27,029, sundry debtors are £1,609 down at £6,327, and cash has shrunk from £3,266 to £836.

ATTAREE KHAT TEA CO., LIMITED.

The crop for the year ended December 31 did not come up to the estimate, and was only 26,369 lbs. larger than that of the previous season at 1,023,809 lbs., but the average price showed a decided improvement of 1.18d. at 8.91d. per lb. Gross receipts, including £25 from rubber, were consequently £5,942 up at £38,141, but expenses were heavier, and after allowing £298 for difference in exchange and paying £521 for managers' commission, nett profits showed an increase of £3,718 at £7,465. To this was added £1,197 or £430 less brought forward and £64 from interest, making £8,725 against £5,534, and advantage is taken of this improvement to put £2,000, or double last year's amount, to reserve, and to raise the dividend from 5 per cent. to 8 per cent., leaving £2,183 to be carried forward. With this transfer the reserve is brought up to £12,000, or about 17½ per cent. of the cost of the estates, without taking into account the £3,786 from premiums on shares which is treated in the proper manner and considered as part of the capital account. Sundry creditors and bills payable have been reduced by £7,241 to £7,344, in addition to which there are liabilities of £911 for factory wages unpaid and £276 for an overdraft at the bank. Against these stocks of tea are only £717 down at £19,563, but cash has fallen £3,257 to £1,055, a decrease which is only partly compensated for by the rise of £1,945 to £3,330 in sundry debtors. Factory advances, instead of being reduced, have been increased by £117 to the unduly heavy figure of £2,183, and we should like to feel sure that this sum is all recoverable.

MAJULI TEA CO., LIMITED.

The Mijica Jan division of this company's estate gave the best results in the year ended December 31, the crop from that section being 135,752 lbs. larger at 408,677 lbs., and yielding 9.48d. against 8.86d. With smaller increases on the other two estates the total output came to 214,997 lbs. more at 1,376,763 lbs., and the general average price was 0.45d. up at 8.40d., giving a gross revenue of £48,266. Including £909 brought in and £133 from a bad debt recovered, which had been outstanding since 1895, the amount available after providing for preference dividend and making sundry adjustments was £7,727 compared with £3,713, so the directors resume their transfers to reserve with £1,500, and raise the dividend on the ordinary shares from 2½ to 5 per cent., carrying forward £1,232 or £323 more. In December the directors issued the remainder of the preference shares, bringing the total capital up to £115,970, and the new funds thus raised have enabled the company to pay off its overdraft of £1,360 and to add £1,830 at £2.046 to its cash balances. Bills payable are £500 down at £9,800, but this is offset by an increase of £459 to £3,966 in sundry creditors, while stocks are £1,357 larger at £18,111 and sundry debtors have risen by £2,397 to £4,347. The estates are valued at £107,500, and the buildings and machinery at £3,310, against which there is a reserve of only £9,000. Trading advances, although £455 less, are still heavy enough at £2,284.

MINING RETURNS.

Brilliant Central.—Crushed 1,700 tons quartz; value, including residues and concentrates, £3,600.

Brilliant Extended.—Crushed 4,140 tons, £9,245; cyanide, £850; tailings, £665; total, £10,760.

Broken Hill Proprietary, Block 10.—Treated 8,809 tons, producing 1,246 tons concentrates, containing 772 tons 6 cwt. lead, and 39,872 ozs. silver.

Broken Hill Proprietary, Block 14.—Treated 5,437 tons, producing 685 tons concentrates, containing 428 tons lead, and 20,304 ozs. silver.

Kelantan Gold Dredging.—Recovered 105 ozs. gold.

Komata Reefs.—Crushed 1,710 tons; bullion £3,325.

Lachlan.—Crushed 720 tons; result, £930.

Mount Lyell.—30,400 tons of ore treated. In addition 1,563 tons of purchased ore and metal-bearing fluxes. Converters produced 719 tons blister copper, containing:—Copper, 711 tons; silver, 53,162 ozs.; gold, 1,827 ozs.

St. John Del Rey.—Gold produce, £7,360; yield per ton, 55 of an oz. troy.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED.

RAILWAYS.

Louisville and Nashville.—3 per cent., payable Aug. 10.
White Pass and Yukon.—Interim of 2 per cent. on account of the year ending June 30.

INSURANCE.

General Life.—Half-yearly at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

Trustees, Executors and Securities.—At the rate of 6 per cent. per annum for half-year to May 31, making 5½ per cent. for the year, placing £15,000 to reserve and carrying forward £14,147.

MINES.

Anaconda Copper (New York).—No. 23, of \$1.37½c. per share, payable July 18.

Anglo-Australian Exploration.—Interim of 1s. per share.

Balaghat Gold.—2s. per share for current year on the preference shares, and in respect of profits made during the four months ended April 30, 1906, an interim of 6d. per share on both preference and ordinary shares, payable July 25.

El Oro Mining and Railway.—1s. 6d. per share, payable July 16.

Mount Morgan Gold.—3d. a share for June, payable July 2.

New Centillo Lead.—Further 14 per cent., making 17 per cent. on the ordinary shares for year ended Dec. 31.

Nundydroog.—Interim of 1s. 2d. per share for the four months ended April 30, payable July 20.

Pusing Lama Tin.—Fifth interim of 2s. per share, payable July 3.

Sons of Gwalia.—Interim quarterly (No. 12) at the rate of 1s. per share, payable July 26.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Assets Realisation.—Interim of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for half-year ending the 30th inst.

Australian Agricultural.—35s. per share, making £3 10s. per share for 1905.

Bowhill Coal.—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for half-year ended May 31.

Crane and Sons.—10 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the year ended Dec. 31, placing £3,000 to reserve and carrying £344 forward.

Debenture Corp.—Interim on the ordinary stock at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for half-year ending 30th inst., payable July 2.

Eastern Extension Telegraph.—Interim for quarter ended March 31 of 2s. 6d. per share, payable July 14.

Electrical Power Storage.—6 per cent. on the ordinary shares for year ended May 31.

Elliott's Metal.—2½ per cent. for the year ended March 31, placing £4,000 to reserve and carrying forward £2,277.

Fraser and Chalmers.—Interim of 4 per cent. on the ordinary shares, payable July 10.

Globe Telegraph and Trust.—Interim quarterly of 2s. per share.

Holbeach Gas and Coke.—8 per cent. for past year.

Howard and Bullough.—Further 5½ per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 8 per cent. for year ended May 31.

Humphreys.—Interim of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for half-year ended May 31.

J. Cawthra and Co.—Interim at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for half-year ended May 31.

Johannesburg Estate.—No. 23 of 10 per cent.

John Crossley and Sons.—Interim for half-year ended June 9, of 1s. per share on ordinary shares.

Liverpool Grain Storage and Transit.—Interim of 2 per cent. for half-year ending June 30.

Measures Brothers.—Interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for half-year ending June 30.

Melbourne Tramway and Omnibus.—For half-year ending the 30th inst. at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, payable July 2.

O. C. Hawkes.—Usual interim at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on both preference and ordinary shares for half-year ending June 30.

Parke's Drug Stores.—Interim at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on ordinary shares for half-year ended March 31.

Peark's Stores (Africa).—At the rate of 10 per cent. per annum for year ended Feb. 28.

Provincial Tramways.—Interim at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum for half-year ended March 31.

Raphael Tuck and Sons.—10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, making 8 per cent. for the year, placing £15,000 to reserve, and carrying £3,064 forward.

Rhymney Iron.—2 per cent. on the share capital for year ended March 31.

Richmond Gas Stove and Meter.—Interim for six months ending June 30 at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the cumulative preference shares and at the rate of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares.

Scottish Savings Investment.—Interim at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended May 28.

United Indigo and Chemical.—Interim of 3 per cent. on the preference shares, payable June 30, which will complete the preference dividend to Dec. 31 last.

United River Plate Telephone.—Final of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares, making 8 per cent. for past year.

Virginia-Carolina Chemical.—No. 43, of \$2 per share on the preference stock, payable on July 15.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

CARTAGENA (COLOMBIA) RAILWAY.

The statutory general meeting of the Cartagena (Colombia) Railway Company, Limited, was held on June 22 at the offices, 110, Cannon Street, E.C., under the presidency of Lieut.-Col. G. W. Forbes, J.P. (the chairman).

The Chairman said: As you know, the Legislature requires that the shareholders of a company incorporated under the Companies Acts shall meet within the first three months of the existence of the company, and this is our meeting to comply with that requirement. The statute also requires us to report certain matters to you, and that report has been duly made, and you, I anticipate, will not require any explanation of it. It is too early to offer you any details of working, as our managing director and managers in Colombia are too recently in the positions they respectively occupy to be able to give such definite reliable information of the operations of the company as I hope to offer you at future meetings. I am not, however, without some statistics, which I offer for your consideration, as they will give you a better idea of the undertaking of the company than any information yet made public. The company was incorporated on March 24, 1906. The share capital is £750,000, all of which was allotted. There is a debenture issue of £600,000, with power to issue a further £150,000 to rank *pari passu* as part of the first issue. This issue of £600,000 of debentures has been taken up, and I want to tell you one feature of this issue which, perhaps, is not yet fully appreciated. These debentures are redeemable at £110 in 1990, but there are provisions for redemption by means of a sinking fund to be hereafter set apart and to be used in redeeming debentures by annual drawings, if they are at £110; but the trustees have power to redeem by buying on the market, if they can purchase them at less than £110. Against these issues of shares and debentures we have acquired the following properties:—(1) A lease for the residue of a term of 99 years, granted in 1891, of what I can best describe in popular language as the Port of Cartagena, with pier, docks, wharves, warehouses, and railway connections; (2) the railway, 105 kilometres in length, from Cartagena to Calamar, on the River Magdalena, the great main artery of communication of Colombia, for the residue of the term of 99 years from 1890, with all rolling stock, plant, &c.; (3) the wharves, docks, shipways, fitting shops, and other establishments and equipment at or near Calamar, including freehold lands in the area of the town; (4) the fleet of seven river steamers with lighters, warehouses, and other plant, acquired from the *Compania Fluvial de Cartagena*; (5) the fleet of four river steamers and five steel lighters acquired from, and formerly worked by, Messrs. Martinez, Bossio, and Co.; (6) that firm's interests, equivalent to one-third of the total capital of the *Compania Antioquia de Transporto*.

Having dealt with some of the principal divisible, tangible assets acquired by this company, I wish to read to you some extracts from a letter recently received as a personal communication from an English engineer, now in Colombia, who is in no way interested in your company: "On the 27th ult. I had the pleasure of taking a short trip up the line with Mr. Ford (the Governor of this department), Mr. Tippetts, and several other gentlemen interested in the waterworks project. Yesterday I had the further pleasure of going to Calamar with Mr. Ford and the 'Master Mechanic,' as they call the superintendent engineer. Knowing something of railways in South America, I must express my unqualified admiration of the Cartagena-Magdalena line. The new company has every reason to be proud of the property they have just acquired for a better made, better kept line could hardly be found on the South American continent. Materials for the making of a good road-bed exist right alongside the track in vast abundance, such for instance, as limestone of such excellent quality that it hardens naturally, almost like cement; fine marl-pits, and a plentiful supply of water at convenient points. Full use has been made of these materials, so that it is easy to imagine the excellent and durable character of the road-bed. While the strength of the line may be gauged by the fact that there are over 3,500 sleepers to the mile—not soft wood sleepers, such as most English railways use, but good *lignum vitae* sleepers, whose durability extends to the back of beyond. On the way up to Calamar I carefully noted every yard of the track, and found it equally good throughout. I did not notice a single worn, scaled, or uneven rail, and to look along the long stretches of finely-graded track was a real pleasure to the eye. The running is fairly smooth, and the rolling stock (without any kind of superfluous ornamentation, but strictly utilitarian) seems to me all well built and well kept; indeed, the same general excellence is apparent throughout the system, talleres, or workshops, where neatness, cleanliness, and good order appear to be the prevalent conditions. Mr. Ford is doing splendid work all along the line, filling up or removing wooden trestles and putting in strong stone culverts and bridges. The wooden trestles have served their chief purposes, which was to locate possible washouts. Where there is any possibility of such wash-outs occurring, the openings will be left, or stone culverts put in; where no such possibility exists, the trestles will be filled in and the line banked up and packed. When all this work is completed the new company will have a perfect model of a railroad.

"The station building at Cartagena is a fine, solid structure, located at the principal gate of the city, and yet delightfully cool. They are now building the walls which are to support the projected single-span roof which will cover over the lines and plat-

form, and make the station quite a handsome and imposing building, with plenty of space for car-sheds, &c. When this and other improvements now in progress are finished, I understand the local traffic will be centralised within the precincts of the station—a very desirable departure, as it appears to me. The bodegas and almacenes are all right, especially those at Calamar, which are strong and spacious. The stores at both Cartagena and Calamar appear to be very well arranged and cleanly kept. At Calamar I was chiefly and exceedingly interested in our inspection of the dock. The slipway, with its separate cradles worked by steam, and each independent of the other, is a first-class affair; indeed, everything about it looks spick-span new. I saw on all sides abundant evidence of first-class work now being done on the *Margarita*, *Dios Hermanos*, and other vessels. When the former is turned out of hand, about the middle of June, she will be, to all intents and purposes, a fine, new boat. The dock or slipway is advantageously situated a short distance up the Dique Nuevo, and therefore the operations carried on there are not hampered by the swift current and other inconveniences of the river; and I understand that as the trade develops outward-bound vessels will load in the dock, and inward-bound boats will discharge on the banks of the river, alongside the bodegas, which seems to me to be an admirable arrangement." I think you will agree with me that such a statement on your property, coming from one who has had the experience necessary to make him a competent observer, and having no purpose to serve other than to record his impressions, is distinctly pleasant. I now resume the list of assets acquired: (7) The benefit of an agreement for pooling the river traffic from Barranquilla, whereby your flotilla is entitled to 14 per cent. of the traffic from that port. Of course, we hope to have, and keep, all the traffic of Calamar, which, we trust, will at least equal that of any other port on the river; (8) £100,000 "Vales des Extranjeros." These may be described as Colombian Government bonds or bills carrying interest at 6 per cent. per annum, the principal of which we can use as and when we think fit, in payment of a portion of the Customs duty on goods imported; and, as we expect to handle large quantities of goods at Cartagena, you will appreciate that we value these bonds or bills at par; for when used they are accepted at face value as gold, and meanwhile they are earning 6 per cent. per annum; (9) £10,000 in Colombian Government subsidy bonds. This sum represents a balance due from the Government on the subsidies on the building of the railway. Since the incorporation of this company £6,000 of these bonds has been paid off, and the money is in hand, to be applied for the purposes of the company; (10) 5,000 acres of freehold land on the railway; and (11) the right to select and take as freehold land 250,000 acres of any of the unappropriated land of the Republic. I have given you this list of assets at some length, because it is desirable that you should know what your debentures are secured upon and what your shares represent. It must be obvious to you that we are concerned in no petty undertaking, and that, to attain success, time and well-directed energy must be given to the affairs of the company. The board are confident that in their colleague, Mr. J. T. Ford, they have the right man in Colombia.

A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

AFRICAN BANKING CORPORATION.

The thirty-first ordinary general meeting of the members of the African Banking Corporation, Limited, was held on Thursday at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. J. D. Alexander presiding.

The chief manager (Mr. George W. Thomson) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, alluded feelingly to the deaths of Mr. Edmund Webb and Major Wynne Finch. Analysing the balance-sheet he said: The first point to which I would draw your attention is the increase in our note circulation. During the six months under review it has risen from £254,000 to £311,000. At a general meeting held on June 25, 1903, it was decided that the note limit should be fixed at the amount of the paid-up capital. As our capital is £400,000, we can still issue nearly £100,000 more in notes, and I trust that the requirements of an improving business will soon necessitate this further increase. Current accounts and deposits are £4,590,000, coin and cash £1,241,000, securities £423,000, bills of exchange purchased £1,225,000, and discounts £2,686,000. The profit for the half-year after, of course, making provision for bad and doubtful debts, is £93,398, and the charges £68,943. Both these totals are rather less than in the last account. After the usual deductions £19,095 is left, which enables us to carry forward £7,095 and pay a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, which we have now done for the last eight half-years. I need scarcely say that the directors would be glad to find themselves in a position which would justify the declaration of a higher dividend, but, considering the unsettled state of South African business, we ought perhaps to congratulate ourselves that we have not had to reduce it. Commercial business in Johannesburg is in a depressed condition. This is largely explained by increased competition. In 1905 there were in Johannesburg more than double the number of general dealers than carried on business there in 1899. In Cape Colony the depression has been most marked at the coast ports, but even now the volume of trade is greater than in the year before the war. The money spent over the war in German South-West Africa has been of service to the colony in tiding over the present difficult times. The wine trade is said to be improving. The mining industry is prosperous while mohair, ostrich feathers, tobacco, and wool have been doing well. In Natal the native rebellion has recently caused some anxiety, but trade statistics are distinctly encouraging. There has

been a considerable increase in the export of sugar and also of wool. The cultivation of tea has been extended, the total area planted in the colony being now nearly 6,000 acres. The output of coal is increasing annually, and last year the Government caused a series of independent tests to be made which proved that the average Natal coal is of excellent quality, and occasionally even better than Welsh coal. In the Orange River Colony there has been great progress made in restocking farms and in laying the foundation of a great agricultural community, but as in Johannesburg ordinary mercantile business in Bloemfontein is suffering from excessive competition. In Rhodesia the gold output shows a steady increase, and we are advised that the outlook for agriculture and stock-raising is good, but progress must necessarily be slow. A friend of mine who recently attended the meeting of the British Association in South Africa has returned home much impressed with the prospects of Rhodesia. To sum up broadly, on the one hand the large towns in South Africa have been overbuilt and suburban land speculation overdone, which has resulted in a lock-up of capital, while there has been a heavy and continuous fall in investments in gold mining and industrial companies, and the number of the unemployed is causing anxiety. On the other hand, there seems ample evidence that the balance of trade is increasingly favourable, the improved gold output is beginning to stimulate trade generally, and the condition of agriculture is extremely good. All the South African colonies recognise the importance of pushing on railways. The new and more direct communication between Cape Town and Johannesburg *via* Klerksdorp and Fourteen Streams has lately been completed. It is bound to be an advantage to Kimberley in placing it on the main line. I am not going to prophesy. The future of the bank depends to a very large extent, as you can easily imagine, on the prosperity of the country in which our business is conducted. South Africa seems to be the victim of disappointment. During the last 10 years it has suffered alternately from booms and slumps, from dangerously inflated values and the inevitable reactions, and now from the effects of a war which was expected to bring about prosperity, but which has brought about instead an unsettled condition of affairs accentuated by the want of labour and the difference of opinions as to the employment of Chinese coolies. The native question threatens further trouble in future. Farmers have lost greatly by locusts, rinderpest, drought and cattle coast fever. Still, with all these disadvantages there is every reason to be hopeful. This may be seen from the statistics to which I have already briefly referred. I will not trouble you with any more figures, but I may take this opportunity to say that at our London office complete statistics are kept with regard to South African business, and if any shareholder should happen to require specific information we shall be happy to supply it. We have an influential *clientèle*, our relations with the other South African banks are entirely harmonious, and I am glad to say we have a body of sympathetic shareholders who have from the very beginning of the bank appreciated the difficulties with which we have had to contend. We cannot expect any great improvement in the larger South African industries until the political situation has materially improved and the Constitution of the new colonies has been definitely settled. In my opinion the colonies must be left to a large extent to manage their own affairs without interference from home, while colonists themselves, with all their enterprise and pluck and independence, must not forget that without British protection the future of their scattered communities would be very uncertain. I need not dwell at greater length on subjects with which you are already fully familiar. Without further words I beg to propose that the report and balance-sheet be received and adopted. (Applause.)

Mr. A. Durant seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring directors and auditors were then re-elected, and the meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, directors, and staff in London and South Africa.

OHLSSON'S CAPE BREWERIES.

The ordinary general meeting of Ohlsson's Cape Breweries, Limited, was held yesterday, at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. Algernon L. Elwes, the chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. W. D. Buxton) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that for many years it had been the pleasant duty of the late chairman and himself to congratulate the shareholders of the company upon the constantly increasing profits. Last year, however, it had not been his pleasure to do so, nor was it this year, as their accounts on this occasion showed a heavy shrinkage of profit, and also in the volume of business, as compared with the previous year. One of the reasons for this shrinkage they had not far to look for. As they all knew, the state of affairs in South Africa at the present moment was what it had been for many months past, and was a condition of affairs which had caused heavy depreciations in property in all South Africa, as well as in all kinds of securities, and this had been accompanied by a very heavy fall in the value of land and real property, and had impaired the credit of every class of trader, and brought about a most acute general depression. Naturally, this company had been amongst the first to suffer from such a state of affairs as this, and under the circumstances they could not be surprised that some of their customers had been unable to meet their obligations. This was inevitable in such a country as South Africa, and under the circumstances they considered that their accounts had come out quite as well as anyone could have reasonably expected. (Hear, hear.) But for such a state of affairs, it would not have been necessary to write off, as they had had to

out of their profits this year, a sum close upon £37,000 for the loss of their trade in Johannesburg. In addition to this they had thought it wise to take a further sum of £10,000 and transfer it to a special reserve to provide for any further loss which might arise. Their late local manager at Johannesburg had allowed certain of his customers to get very heavily in the company's debt, and, although he had succeeded in satisfying the local auditor and the managing directors and the board for some considerable time as to the state of his accounts, matters reached such a point that it had been found necessary for Mr. Axel Ohlsson to go to Johannesburg and manage the business temporarily. As a result, it had been found necessary to dispense with the services of the manager and head brewer, but as these gentlemen were instituting actions against the company, he could not say more on the subject. They had made ample provision for all actual losses and all possible losses at Johannesburg, and had secured as manager a gentleman who had had a lengthy experience in the North of England, and they congratulated themselves on having secured his services. With regard to the immediate outlook they failed to see any prospect of an improvement in the general business at Johannesburg, but they were advised that things were better at Cape Town, that was in connection with the general trade of the districts. Profits for the year, after making the large writings off referred to, amounted to £128,137 and adding the interest on investments and transfer fees £443, the amount brought forward from last year £35,222, the total was brought up to £163,803. From this they had deducted the interest on debenture stocks £19,877, directors' fees, auditors' fees and other charges amounting in all to £88,495, which left a balance available of £75,307. Out of that they proposed to place £10,000 to a special reserve against doubtful debts in Johannesburg and to pay a final dividend and bonus at the rate of 12½ per cent., which, with the dividend paid last December, made a total dividend of 22½ per cent. for the year. The amount carried forward was £27,807. They had applied for power to issue £350,000 more capital, and had succeeded in placing an issue of £350,000 "B" debenture stock.

Mr. J. H. Brodie seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

DHARWAR GOLD MINES.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Dharwar Gold Mines, Limited, was held on Wednesday at Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C., Captain Wm. Bell McTaggart (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. John Ponsford) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: There are several features to which I should like to call your attention. The expenditure in India and England during the year chargeable to revenue account amounted to £3,621 15s. 5d., whilst the receipts for transfer fees, rents, rebates and profit on sales of shares equalled £613 7s. 10d., leaving a balance of £3,008 10s. 7d., which has been carried to profit and loss account. At March 31, 1905, the profit and loss account showed a credit balance of £44,435 8s. 6d., out of which the following payments have been made:—A dividend at the rate of 133 1-3 per cent., represented by 40,000 fully-paid shares of the Dharwar Reefs Co., Limited, equal to £40,000, the percentage thereon to the directors and managers in shares under the articles of association, equal to £2,000; income-tax, £2,161 3s.; and after charging the following items, namely, amount written off depreciation of buildings, machinery, and plant £120 4s. 4d., balance of income and expenditure account as above mentioned £3,008 10s. 7d., there is a balance of £2,876 9s. 5d. now standing at the debit of profit and loss account. That is at the date of making up the accounts. The expenditure on capital account amounted to £857 1s. 4d., and comprised buildings £90 5s. 2d., machinery and plant £630 8s. 1d., and furniture, materials, &c., £180 8s. 1d. At the date of the balance-sheet the company still possessed 19,666 shares of £1 each in the Dharwar Reefs Co., Limited, but in April last, in order to provide for the cash requirements of the company and to meet the increasing expenditure caused by the recent enlargement of the scope of mining operations, it became desirable that funds should be raised, and it was decided to offer the said shares to members of this company and also of the Dharwar Reefs Co., Limited, for sale by tender. The directors considered this a wiser course than to ask you to increase your capital and subscribe for more shares. We have increased your funds by this policy and thereby your power of active operations. It is with pleasure the board are able to report that as a result 12,175 shares have been sold, producing the sum of £13,505 7s. 6d., and the company still retains 7,491 shares. After dwelling upon the extent of the company's mining area and the ample cash resources in hand, the chairman, in forecasting the future, said:—The last time I met you in this room I ventured to express the hope that the 133 1-3 per cent. dividend would not be the last that you would receive, and that perhaps the same process of successful sales might be carried out in the future. Of course, you are aware that you gave an option to the Dharwar Reefs Company over a block lying next to their principal workings on the deep levels. The price was fixed at 25,000 shares, if the option was exercised. It is an open secret, however, that this option will be exercised. I cannot quite say when, but I should say that it will be exercised very likely before the end of the year, and that will mean, in the first place, an influx into your till of 25,000 more shares in that successful company. I do not want you to think that the whole of these will be distributed as dividends, because we certainly shall probably think it wiser to retain part of that total in your coffers in order to enable you to do more and more prospecting

work. Still, at all events, whatever may eventually be decided upon, a very handsome proportion of the purchase price will come to you as dividend. With regard to the future, I think those shareholders who have studied the reports of the successful workings of the Dharwar Reefs Company, especially, and of the promising results of the Sangli and the Dharwar Goldfields, will agree with me that I am not over-sanguine when I say that I hope for a repetition of successful sales and continued large dividends. It gives me great pleasure to move the adoption of the report and accounts.

This was seconded and carried unanimously, after which the retiring directors and auditors were re-appointed.

BRITISH ELECTRIC TRACTION.

The 10th ordinary general meeting of the British Electric Traction, Limited, was held yesterday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Sir Charles Rivers Wilson, G.C.M.G., C.B., the chairman of the company, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Charles H. Dade) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that shareholders would no doubt wish to hear from him first of all the reasons for the decline in the dividend, a statement as to the position of the company, and a statement as to the future prospects of the company. As regarded the first question, there had been a reduction in the profits amounting to £38,063, this accounting for the reduction in the dividend, which no doubt had caused a certain amount of disappointment. There were three causes which had led to that result. In the first place, he might say their earnings were in excess of those of last year, but they had taken the very prudent measure of writing off a much larger amount for depreciation than in the preceding year. They had written off £35,000, as against £11,500 in the preceding year, a difference of £23,500. Again, they had brought forward into the year's accounts only £14,996, as compared with £38,148 in the previous year, and they had also to meet prior charges to the amount of £17,411 in respect of additional capital raised in the shape of debentures and preference shares. The amount thus accounted for represented a 3 per cent. dividend. There appeared to be some misapprehension with regard to an item of the management and general expenses which appeared on the debit side of the profit and loss account to the amount of £3,593. The total management and general expenses amounted to £54,467, which was reduced by £50,874, of which £8,440 had been recovered from other companies, and £38,542 had already been debited to profit and loss account. That was to say that they might, by following a different method of book-keeping, have made the management expenses appear at £8,542 more, but in that case some of the profits on the credit side would appear as £38,343 larger. It made no difference to the net result. The most interesting point was the steady reduction in the expenses. In 1903 they amounted to £82,095, or 25 per cent. of the gross profits; in 1904 they were £61,436, or 20 per cent. of the profit; and for the past year they were £54,467, or 17.2 per cent. of the gross profit. Of course, they had not been doing so much pioneer work, and altogether the business had become more standardised, and shareholders must not be surprised if the figures went up slightly as the result of renewed activity, but the figures showed that every effort was being successfully made to carry on the business with the utmost economy. There was an interesting figure on the credit side of the profit and loss account, and that was the profit on the Bombay undertaking. For some years they had, in conjunction with the Brush Electrical Engineering Company, been engaged in negotiating the concessions and contracts for this important business. It had involved very heavy responsibilities, and at one time they felt apprehensive that the enterprise might not be successfully established, owing to various obstacles which stood in the way, but last year he was able to state that all the difficulties had been overcome, and that they had formed a company with a capital of close upon a million and a-half to carry out the conversion of the tramways to electric traction and make important extensions of the line, and also to undertake the supply of electricity for light and power in Bombay. They had now recovered the whole of their expenses, and had been able to make a substantial profit, but only commensurate with the important work which was done in building up the enterprise. The profit amounted to £154,344, which was taken in shares. They had thought it prudent to hold one-half of these profits in reserve, to be dealt with as assets credited to the accounts of the current year. During the last two years they had felt it to be their duty to largely reduce their capital commitments, and they had given up a certain number of large schemes to which they were not already committed. The result of this was that their promotion profits were less, but, on the other hand, their financial position had been sensibly strengthened, and they would probably take advantage of opportunities to procure good lucrative business in the immediate future.

Mr. E. Garcke, M.I.E.E., seconded the resolution for the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Tuckett criticised the past financial policy of the company, and had no hesitation in saying that the 3 per cent. dividend had not been earned, and he therefore moved as an amendment that the report and accounts should be adopted, but that the dividend should not be paid.

Mr. Nicholls said it seemed to him that for the company to keep on raising money at a cost of 5 per cent. and investing it

in speculative investments which did not yield an immediate dividend did not seem to him sound finance.

After some discussion the amendment was put to the meeting and lost, and the motion for the adoption of the report was agreed to.

REXER ARMS COMPANY.

The first annual general meeting of the Rexer Arms Company, Limited, was held yesterday at the registered offices of the company, 20, Cockspur-street, S.W., Baron George de Reuter, chairman of the company, presiding.

The manager and secretary (Mr. Walter H. Thelwall, M.I.C.E.), having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: During the year we have given a considerable number of demonstrations of the capabilities and efficiency of the Rexer Automatic Machine Gun at Runymede, Bisley, and elsewhere. These demonstrations have been witnessed by officers and officials of the British and various colonial and foreign Governments, and in every case they gave complete satisfaction. The guns have been subjected to very severe firing tests by the military authorities. We are not in actual possession of the report of these tests, but we have good reason to believe them to be satisfactory. The economy effected by the Rexer gun is undoubtedly appreciated. This I may explain by saying that it requires no gun carriage, and can be easily carried by infantry or cavalry soldiers. We feel justified in expecting that orders will be received, and that, as the superiority of our weapon becomes more generally known, large numbers will be required. With regard to that, I may mention that a few days ago we received a telegram from one of our agents abroad stating that there was every prospect of business in the near future. You may have seen in the newspapers that on May 10 a meeting of Natal colonists was held for the purpose of devising some means of assisting the colonists in the present crisis. The result was that the meeting subscribed a considerable sum for the purchase of Rexer guns to be sent out immediately. This sum has since been increased, and General Sir John Dartnell has gone out to Natal, taking some guns with him. He is one of the highest authorities on bush fighting, and is convinced that our gun is the best weapon to be employed. (Applause.) Representatives and naval and military attachés from various countries have been to inspect the gun, and have witnessed trials at Bisley and elsewhere, with the invariable result that they have been greatly impressed with the value and efficiency of the weapon. Besides the Rexer machine gun, the company owns two other weapons—an automatic rifle and an automatic pistol. Many military authorities believe that the automatic rifle is the weapon of the future, and will take the place of the magazine rifle now universally used, while there is an acknowledged field for a good automatic pistol. We intend to devote our attention during the current year to these two weapons, with a view to bringing them to the notice of the military authorities. In conclusion, he moved "that the report and accounts of the company for the period ending May 15, 1906, be received and adopted."

Col. Sir Thomas H. Holdich, K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., C.B., seconded the motion. No questions being asked or remarks made by shareholders, the motion was then put and carried unanimously.

The Chairman then moved "that a dividend of 2s. 6d. per share on the ordinary shares of the company, of which 1s. was paid in November last, and also a dividend of 3d. per share on the deferred shares of the company, be and they are hereby declared."

Admiral Sir Albert Markham, K.C.B., seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

J. G. WHITE AND CO.

The seventh ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of J. G. White and Co., Limited, was held on Thursday at the offices, 22A, College Hill, Cannon Street, E.C., Lord Arthur Butler presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. A. H. Beatty) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—In the absence of your Chairman, Mr. J. G. White, who is prevented from attending the meeting by important business, which has detained him in the United States, I have been asked to take the chair, and it gives me pleasure to meet you and to be able to give you a favourable report as to the position of the company's business. The report and accounts speak for themselves, and there is very little that I can add which would be of interest to you. The works which the company is carrying out continue to progress satisfactorily, and negotiations for procuring new business are progressing favourably. It is true that the field for work in the United Kingdom may be somewhat restricted at the moment, due to competition and other causes, but, on the other hand, the company's business has expanded to a marked degree in connection with foreign contracts, and you will see from the report that we are represented in a good many parts of the world. Generally, I may say that we look forward with confidence to future progress; and, judging from the present aspect of affairs, we have every reason to hope that the company's operations during the present year will be as successful as during the past year. To return to the accounts, there is possibly one item—namely, that of "Investments," to which I may briefly allude. It may have occurred to you

that the amount is somewhat large for a company of this nature, and in explanation I may say that the first item, "Waring White Building Company, Limited, £25,000," is only another method of carrying on the building construction business which, in the ordinary course, would have been carried out by a department of this company. I may say that the Waring White Building Company has, since its inception, carried out contracts aggregating over half a million pounds, with success, and now has work in hand amounting to upwards of £800,000. Its prospects are decidedly favourable, and the investment should prove a valuable asset in the future. The other securities represent to a large extent shares in sound undertakings which have been acquired in connection with the carrying out of works, and these are shown on the balance-sheet at a figure less than could be secured if the shares were sold at their current values. There are no other points which occur to me, but I shall be very pleased to answer the questions of any shareholder before putting the motion for adopting the report and accounts.

No questions being asked or comments made,

The Chairman moved, "That the report and accounts, as submitted, be, and they are, hereby received and adopted."

Mr. W. C. Burton seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman then moved that the retiring directors, Messrs. A. N. Connett and John B. White, be re-elected.

Mr. Burton seconded the motion, and it was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. McCrosky proposed that Messrs. Monkhouse, Stoneham, and Co., the retiring auditors, be re-elected at a fee of 200 guineas.

Mr. Ernest Polden seconded the motion, which was carried.

The Chairman then moved: "That dividends and bonus be sanctioned, and declared as under: A dividend, free of tax, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the cumulative preferred shares for the half-year to February 28, 1906; a dividend, free of tax, at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares for the year to February 28, 1906; and a bonus of 1 per cent. on the full amount of the preferred and ordinary share capital."

Mr. Burton seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman and directors.

THE MORTGAGE AND DEBENTURE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The annual general meeting of the Mortgage and Debenture Company, Limited, was held on the 29th inst., at the offices, 7-11, Moorgate-street, London, Mr. W. B. Close (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. R. R. Nelson) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—The directors' report and the accounts for the company's financial year, ended on March 31 last, have been circulated amongst the shareholders, and I presume that it is your pleasure that they be taken as read. I feel that the remarks that I have to address to you on these occasions have become almost a matter of "common form," for the progress of the company is so steadily good that there is really little that I can say by way of variation from one year to another. The year just closed has again been a year of success, and nothing has occurred to mar the even tenor of our way. The profit for the year—viz., £24,110 rs. 9d.—is about £900 more than the profit for the preceding year. The amount that is now represented in the balance-sheet under the items "Foreclosure" and "Real Estate" is less than one-third of 1 per cent. of the invested capital of the company, and I think I am not stretching the meaning of the word when I say that this amount is insignificant, especially in the light of our past experience, which shows that such amounts have always been ultimately realised without loss to the company. With regard to the company's investments in America, shareholders will no doubt be interested once more to have the statistics that it has been my custom in the past to give. The average rate of interest that we obtained on mortgage loans during the past financial year was again 6·51 per cent.; the percentage of the amounts loaned to the value of the security was 25·06 per cent. The average amount of each loan was £168 2s. 8d.; the average acreage covered by each loan was 159·63 acres; and the average valuation per acre was £4 3s. 4d. There is only one other matter upon which I think that shareholders may wish me to touch. Shortly after the close of the financial year covered by the accounts now submitted the world was shocked by the news of the terrible disaster that befell the town of San Francisco in the earthquake and consequent fire that occurred on April 18th. Seeing that our company's business is so closely identified with American prosperity, I am sure that the shareholders generally will join in an expression of sympathy for the sufferers in that terrible disaster. I have been asked once or twice by people interested in this company, either as shareholders or debenture-holders, if we had any investments in that city or district. Happily for us, we had not, our business having been confined to the agricultural districts of the great prairie States and our special assessment warrants business to towns east of the Rocky Mountains, which, so far at least, have not been subject to seismic disturbances. Gentlemen, I have nothing more to say to you. I beg, therefore, to move that the report and accounts presented to the meeting, and taken as read, be received and adopted, and if Mr. Keyser will second that; I shall be happy to answer any questions that any shareholders may have to ask before formally putting the resolution to the meeting.

Mr. C. E. Keyser seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved that a dividend of 10 per cent. be paid on the ordinary shares, that £7,000 be transferred to reserve account, and that £771 3s. 8d. be carried forward.

Mr. E. F. North seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Stevens, Mr. North was re-elected a director of the company.

The auditors, Messrs. Woodthorpe, Bevan, and Co., were, on the motion of Mr. J. A. Robertson, seconded by Mr. C. G. Gadd, reappointed.

A vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding terminated the proceedings.

NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.

MONDAY, JULY 2.

Chicago-Gaika Development.—Salisbury House, 12.30 p.m.
Dunraven Gold Mining.—Salisbury House, 2.30 p.m.
Frank Jones Brewing.—Winchester House, noon.
Hudson's Bay Company.—Cannon Street Hotel, 12.30 p.m.
Northern Copper Company.—Salisbury House, noon.
Tredegar Iron and Coal.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 3.

Attaree Khat Tea.—138, Leadenhall Street, E.C., noon.
British North Borneo.—Cannon Street Hotel, 2.30 p.m.
East India and Ceylon Tea.—River Plate House, noon.
Egyptian Gold and Gem Syndicate.—Winchester House, noon.
Kynoch.—Birmingham, 2.30 p.m.
National Bank of New Zealand.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4.

Backus and Johnston's Brewery.—Winchester House, noon.
Baku Russian Petroleum.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Electric and General Investment.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.
Liebig's Extract of Meat Company.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea.—5, Fenchurch Street, 1 p.m.
New Centenillo Silver Lead Mines.—Winchester House, noon.
New Tamarugal Nitrate.—Winchester House, noon.
North Metropolitan Tramways.—Cannon Street Hotel, noon.
Rhymney Iron.—Cannon Street Hotel, 11 a.m.
Single Tea.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
South African Breweries.—Winchester House, noon.
Trustees, Executors, and Securities Insurance Corporation.—Winchester House, noon.

THURSDAY, JULY 5.

Argentine North-Eastern Railway.—Salisbury House, 2 p.m.
Alabama Coal, Iron and Land.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
British Darjeeling Tea.—Winchester House, 12.30 p.m.
British Transvaal Mines.—Salisbury House, noon.
Dooars Tea.—Winchester House, 2 p.m.
Howard and Bullough.—Accrington, noon.
Tamplin and Sons' Brewery.—Brighton, 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 6.

Hardebeck and Bornhardt.—Winchester House, 2.30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 7.

Farmers and Cleveland Dairies.—Winchester House, 11 a.m.

AUX CLASSES LABORIEUSES, LIMITED.

Business, it is claimed, continues to increase with this company, as net trading profits showed an advance of £1,278 at £85,286, but the improvement was more apparent than real, as after providing for difference in exchange and adding interest and dividends received, the income was only £144 larger at £85,591. A saving in outgoings brought the balance up to £67,785 or £952 more, but the amount brought forward was only £16,221 against £18,032, and of this management commission absorbed £6,427 or £1,365 more so that after putting the usual £10,000 to debenture redemption fund and £3,511 to reserve, the directors have to cut down the sum carried forward to £9,783 in order to maintain the dividend at the reduced rate of 9 per cent. paid a year ago. The item of sundry debtors is naturally a very heavy burden to carry in businesses of this kind, and during the past year has increased by £14,959 to what looks like an unwieldy total of £326,538, against which there is a reserve for contingencies of £6,531. This increase, however, may mean little more than that outstanding accounts have come in less readily than usual, as cash shows a decrease of £14,006 to £3,036. Sundry creditors are down by £9,514 to £44,532, and stocks are £4,979 lower at £31,779, while the receipt of the balance on shares in Au Petit St. Thomas, Limited, sold has apparently enabled the company to pay off £8,579 of its borrowings, leaving £2,510 still due, and to add £6,486 to its investments, making them £25,698. Outlay on buildings, &c., during the year amounted to about £4,500, and the total expenditure to date on freeholds, leaseholds, and buildings is now £521,556, on which no depreciation has been allowed. The reserve fund, however, was increased by £3,420, and the debenture redemption fund by £9,524 nett, making the total accumulations £58,720 or about 11½ per cent. of the capital expenditure.

BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY.—The Directors announce that with the sanction of the Secretary of State, they are prepared to renew the £109,300 debenture bonds to bearer maturing on July 10, for a further period of four years. The terms offered are 3½ per cent. per annum interest, and a discount of 5s. per £100, provided holders intimate their acceptance and send their bonds to the office for endorsement by or before noon on July 4.

INSURANCE.

PRUDENTIAL

ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HOLBORN BARS, LONDON.

Invested Funds £60,000,000.

NOTICES.

LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK, LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ORDINARY HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING of the London and Westminster Bank, Limited, will be held at the Head Office of the Bank, No. 41, Lothbury, in the City of London, on WEDNESDAY, the 25th day of July next, at one o'clock precisely, for the following purposes:

1. To receive the Directors' Report declaring a Dividend and the profit and loss account and balance-sheet for the half-year ending 30th June, 1906, and the Auditors' Report thereon.
2. To approve the election, as Director, of the Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, K.C., who has been appointed by the Board in the place of Charles Edward Johnston, Esquire, resigned.
3. To transact all such other business as can be transacted at Ordinary General Meetings of the Company.

A. E. MANN, Secretary.

13th June, 1906.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED, to prepare for the dividend, on the 2nd July next, and will be REOPENED on the 5th July.

Proprietors registered in the books of the Company on the 30th June will be entitled to the Dividend for the current half-year on the number of shares then standing in their respective names.

Great opportunity to Purchase from Mortgagee.—A Building Estate in a rising South Coast watering place, over 60 acres, full view of the sea, sloping south, main drainage, water mains, &c., with 8 minutes' service electric tramway through centre of estate. £15,000 cash if sold at once.—Apply by post for full particulars to H., c/o E. G. Monkes, West Street, Eastbourne.

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"THE INVESTORS' REVIEW" Office,
NORFOLK HOUSE, NORFOLK STREET, STRAND, W.C.

NOTICES.

MEXICAN CENTRAL RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

To the Holders of

8 % Notes maturing 1st January, 1907.

4½ % Collateral Trust Bonds maturing 1st February, 1907.

8 % Notes maturing 1st September, 1908.

For the payment of the above-mentioned obligations at or before their maturity and for other corporate purposes, the Mexican Central Railway Company, Limited, herein called the Railway, under a collateral trust agreement dated 2nd July, 1906, has made provision to issue a series of four-year 5% Gold Notes of the par value of \$1,000 each, maturing 1st July, 1910, limited as to principal to an amount not to exceed 35,000,000 Dollars, with interest payable semi-annually on the first day of January and July, and redeemable, at the option of the Railway, at par and accrued interest on any interest date. The trust agreement, copies of which are open for inspection at the offices of the undersigned and of the several depositaries, provides among other things that upon the issuance of 33,000,000 Dollars of said notes and the cancellation of the agreement securing the above-mentioned obligations, there will be deposited under the terms and subject to the provisions of said trust agreement, to the precise details of which reference is hereby made, the following securities:—

\$1,200,000 5% Priority Bonds of the Railway.

\$5,000,000 Mexican Pacific Railway Company 5% First Mortgage Bonds guaranteed.

\$2,500,000 Tampico Harbor Company 5% First Mortgage Bonds guaranteed.

\$41,000,000 Consolidated 4% Mortgage Bonds of the Railway, and

\$3,000,000 First Consolidated Income Bonds of the Railway.

The remaining \$2,000,000 of notes can only be issued upon the deposit of additional Security in accordance with the terms of the trust agreement. For the purposes aforesaid the Railway has sold said \$33,000,000 of four-year notes to a syndicate managed by the undersigned and the Bank für Handel und Industrie and the Berliner Handelsgesellschaft, Berlin, and has requested that an opportunity be afforded the holders of the above-mentioned obligations to exchange their respective holdings for new four-year notes. Pursuant to such request the undersigned, on behalf of said syndicate, offer to the holders of such obligations, who shall deposit the same in the manner herein provided, an opportunity to make such exchange on the following basis:—

For each 5,000 Dollars 6% note, with the coupon maturing 1st January, 1907, thereto attached, 5,000 Dollars par value in new notes and 125 Dollars in cash.

For each 1,000 Dollars 4½% Collateral Trust Bond, with the coupon maturing 1st February, 1907, attached, 1,000 Dollars par value in new notes and \$13.33 in cash.

For each 5,000 Dollars 8% note, with the coupon maturing September 1st, 1906, and all subsequent coupons thereto attached, 5,000 Dollars par value in new notes and \$108.33 in cash.

The new notes are to bear the coupon \$25 maturing January 1st, 1907, and all subsequent coupons.

Holders of the above-mentioned obligations desiring to accept this offer must deposit their securities on or prior to July 10th, 1906, with the undersigned in the City of New York, or with either of the following depositaries as their Agents:

J. HENRY SCRÖDER & Co., LONDON;

SWISS BANKVEREIN, LONDON,

BANK FÜR HANDEL UND INDUSTRIE, BERLIN,

BERLINER HANDELSGESELLSCHAFT, BERLIN,

HOPE & Co., AMSTERDAM,

who will be prepared to receive the securities for the purpose of transmission to the undersigned in New York, to be exchanged for new notes and cash on the above basis as soon after August 1st, 1906, as may be practicable. The exchange will be effected without expense to the holders for Insurance and Postage.

LADENBURG, THALMANN & Co.
HALLGARTEN & Co.

NEW YORK, June 25th, 1906.

THE BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the holders of the Company's Bonds to bearer, of this Company, amounting to £1,000,000, and falling due on the 10th July, 1906, that the Directors, with the sanction of the Secretary of State for India in Council, have resolved to renew such Debentures for a further period of four years at the rate of three and a-quarter per cent. per annum interest, with a discount of five shillings per £100, provided the Holders of the said Debentures intimate their acceptance of this offer to their Bonds to this Office for endorsement by or before Wednesday, the 4th July, 1906.

A Commission of five shillings per £100 will be paid to Brokers and other Agents.

By Order of the Board,

ROBERT MILLER,

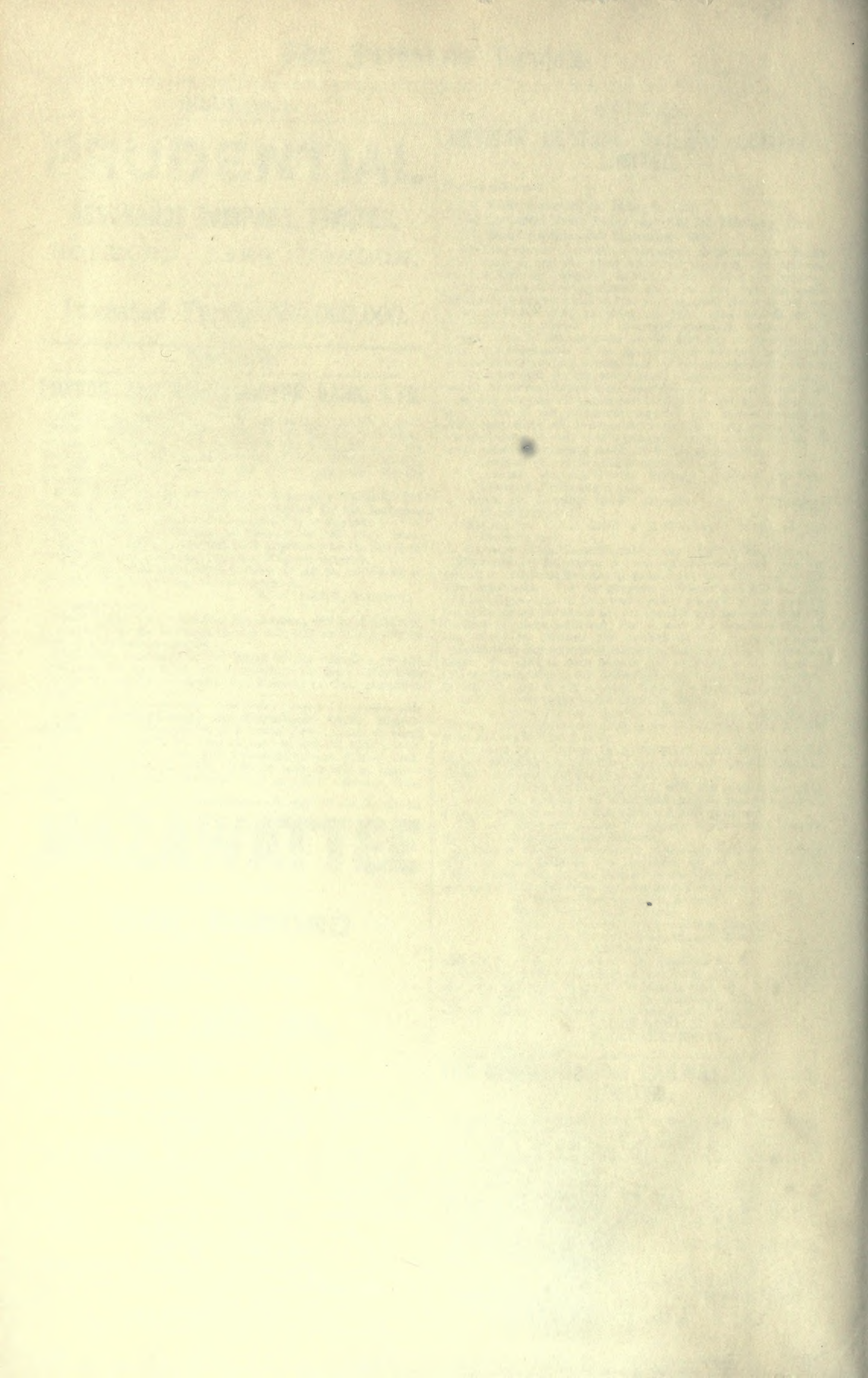
Managing Director.

Company's Offices:—

132, Gresham House,

Old Broad Street, E.C., London,

23rd June, 1906.



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The Investors' review

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